

Rebuilding Higher Educational Institutions in Nigeria: Edeh's Responsive Approach

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Abstract: *This study is on rebuilding higher educational institutions in Nigeria: Edeh's responsive approach. Descriptive survey research design was used for this study. Between 1990 and 1999 Edeh saw Nigerian higher educational institutions in a state of quagmire due to poor funding, frequent flight of lecturers to Diasporas countries of the world in search of rewarding academic jobs, cultism, rape, thuggery, inadequate facilities, dilapidated equipment and facilities among others. These issues and problems prompted Edeh to establish private higher educational institutions where cultism, rape, stealing, examinations malpractices, strikes, frauds would be forbidden. Two research questions were raised by the researcher as; what are the causes of inordinate attitudes in Nigerian educational system?, What are the issues retarding effective administration of higher educational institutions in Nigeria? Findings from this study revealed that inadequate administration of higher educational institutions is the major causes of rape, cultism, inadequate infrastructural facilities, under funding in higher educational institutions in Nigeria. Findings of this study revealed that rape, cultism, smoking, underfunding, inadequate infrastructural facilities, incessant strikes, were the issues / problems retarding effective administration of higher educational institutions in Nigeria. It was recommended from this study that higher educational institutions heads should buy Edehs educational ideas to stop rape, cultism, stealing, underfunding, inadequate infrastructural facilities in Nigerian higher educational institutions through effective students' enlightenment campaigns, conferences, symposiums, team building to ensure sanity in higher educational institutions in Nigeria. It was also, recommended from this study that government should provide facilities, equipment, effective funding in public higher educational institutions in Nigeria. This would reduce influx of dilapidated building and poor staff remunerations in public private universities in Nigeria. It was also, suggested in this study that proprietors of private higher educational institutions in Nigeria should embrace positive change through provision of needed facilities, equipment and eradication of rape, cultism, stealing in private universities in Nigeria*

Keywords: *Concept of Education, Concept of Higher education, Edeh's Educational Revamping in Nigeria.*

INTRODUCTION

Revamping means the process of adding more values to a physical state of a phenomenon. It can also be defined as the process of bringing a

positive change to a phenomenon to enable the phenomenon become more functional and interesting for use. The sense of revamping here

should be understood from an educational perspective hence, the need for revamping higher educational institutions in Nigeria. Nigeria educational system has been devastated with some negative infractions which include: cultism, gross under funding, rape, stealing, incessant strikes, inadequate facilities, equipment and flight of erudite Nigerian academicians out of Nigerian shores. These issues and problems have tremendously caused inadequate delivery of instructions to students in public higher education institutions in Nigeria among others. Before digressing further to this article, definitions on the concept “education” is paramount to provided needed links to the problems and issues in higher educational institutions in Nigeria.

Education is the process whereby an individual or group of individuals who committed themselves to learn are developed intellectually, physically, morally, culturally and philologically to fend for themselves, their immediate and extended family members. Education is the eye and the way human being uses to actualize their needs. Education adds more values to human existence. It acquaints human beings with the opium to discern between evil and good thus, remolding negative human taught and actions. It is the process whereby academicians use schools, colleges, and universities to transmit cultural heritage to children and young adults who becomes well fitted and useful members of the society (Iwuchukwu, 2003). Education is the process of socializing the younger generations to acquire religious and moral lives in the society where they live (Uruakpa, 2005). However, from the above expositions, education is the aggregate of all the processes by which an individual is capable of developing intellectual, skillful abilities and other positive values as a

member of a society (Ukrebor & Nnajieto , 2005).

Education is the eye and the way people can use to make better use of the future (Anyago, 2021). Education is a means of socializing the adult members of a society, for upholding some cherished customs and traditions as well as modifying and changing same in conformity with existing ideologies. Education concerns every individual. It is the cornerstone for development future elites of societies. It is the systematic development of the mind through instruction or study. Education is of different forms. This means that education is wide in accordance with its philosophy, contents and method. Education is pursued based on different human personal social and economic needs. Education is an instrument for effecting national development. Education is gradually reproducing and developing knowledge according to people’s technological, social, physiological and intellectual needs. Education assists people that have acquired it to maintain social structure thus, paving way for social order and changes in the society.

Concept of Higher Education

Higher education differs according to different human needs. Higher education refers to post-secondary education where diploma, certificate, degree, masters, PhD and post-doctoral degree are offered. Higher education include: Polytechnics, Colleges of education, technical colleges, colleges of technology, distance education centers, Institutes and Universities. The National policy on Education (FGN, 2004) , defined higher education as the post-secondary section of the National Education system, which is giving at universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, colleges of technology, correspondence colleges and institutions allied

to higher education. Each educational sectors derives their philosophy the National policy on Education in Nigeria.

Higher educational institutions are fundamental to construction and restructuring of knowledge economy in society in the whole world. All nations looks up to higher educational institutions through their traditional functions of teaching, research, community service, development of manpower and dissemination of worthwhile knowledge needed in industries and other sectors of the economy. Higher educational institutions are made up of community of scholars, pursuing knowledge with vigor.

Problems of Higher Educational Institutions in Nigeria

The present condition of public higher educational institutions in Nigeria are alarming due to inadequate funding, incessant strikes, inadequate equipment and facilities and underfunding which reflected on dilapidated classrooms, administrative offices and inability of higher educational institutions to meet up with comparable educational standards. From public primary to secondary and higher educational institutions in Nigeria there are tales of woe due to inadequate funding, impalpable actions of cult groups, maiming, killing, rape kidnapping, underfunding and incessant strikes. In Primary and secondary schools, insufficient classrooms for learning due to high dilapidation of classroom facilities, insufficient desks, instructional materials, limited number of teachers have caused students to roam on streets. Some students retire back to their homes before the closing school hours. Students especially in the rural areas, carry their desks and chairs from home to school every day. Some students are taught only

one subject for weeks and months. School facilities have decayed thus affecting school standards.

In the Higher educational institutions, the standard of education has fallen, cultism has reared its ugly heads mostly in higher educational institutions. Public higher educational institutions in Nigeria are in a state of comatose and perpetual crises due to high incidences of cult actions and funding, incessant strikes, inadequate facilities and quipment (Omolayole, 1998). Some public universities have decayed so much that rehabilitation is almost impossible given to the level of current under funding. Lecturers of higher educational institutions are dissatisfied and demoralized owing to the level of dilapidated facilities, shortage of academic staff with no recruitment to replace some staff vacancies. In Nigeria, practice of two trade union activity have not helped matters, rather they have produced more disaster than succor due to their free rein attitudes to the plight of university staff. Science and technology in public higher educational institutions are below what are expected in technological and educational institutions in Nigeria. Bits of money allocated to public higher educational institutions in Nigeria are sometimes, mis-managed or plundered for individual's private use. Even though there appears to be absolute increase in fund allocation to the education sectors over the years, yet there are still financial crisis in Nigerian higher educational institutions (Uzoka, 2007). Nigerian public higher educational intuitions where the highest manpower are expected to be bred, have become places of discontentment, rape, stealing, kidnapping, maiming, cult actions between students verses students, lecturers verses lecturers till today.

Exodus of Nigerian Lecturers Out of Nigerian Shores

Frequent exodus of lecturers from education institutions in Nigeria is alarming. These have caused inadequate training to some graduates in Nigeria. Many experienced lecturers in Nigeria have fled to more rewarding lecturing jobs in higher educational institutions abroad due to unfavourable universities politics, incessant strikes, poor remunerations, public universities under funding in Nigeria (Odetunde, 2004). These are the grim state of public universities bad conditions in Nigeria. Questions put forward here is: Should the educated elites in Nigeria continue to watch till Nigerian educational system gets collapsed without rising to speak on its renovation? These anomalies calls have called for effective educational revamping in Nigeria.

Edeh's Educational Institutions Revamping in Nigeria

Madonna University has peaceful and serene environment that promotes effective teaching and learning. Madonna University scholarship and work study schemes have continued to bring succor to the less privileged students in Madonna University. The University has continued to maintain her position as the cheapest private university in Nigeria in terms of school fees. Her insistence on academic excellence, decency in education and morals have endeared the university enormous prestige in Nigeria as a catholic university. Management of Madonna University pays equal attention to education and rewards the deserved students during convocation ceremonies and more. Students of Madonna University are known for modest dressing and respect. Rules and regulations are provided to guide against indecent dressing among students

in Madonna university activities such as, classroom attendance, seminars, defense and church activities. The way a person has dressed speaks volume of whom he or she is (Obinna, 2020). Immoral dressings are not allowed in Madonna University.

Both male and female students of Madonna University Nigeria, have keyed to Madonna University rules and regulations. Madonna University mission, vision and motto are still the same up till date. Madonna University has continued to provide quality education blended with morals that propel the graduates of Madonna University as quality entrepreneurs in different field of human endeavours. Edeh, had at the early beginning of Madonna University, provided rules and regulations for the management of Madonna University (Edeh, 2004). The National Universities Commission has perused at Madonna University rules and regulation and found it worthy to tackle the teeming youth's academic and moral problems in Nigeria. Management of Madonna University has provided quality classrooms for teaching and learning. Compulsory residency of all Madonna students in Madonna University Campuses in Elele, Okija and Akpugo, have ensured zero tolerance to cultism and infectious diseases. Weekly orientations and sports are unique factors that aid the formation of good characters in Madonna University Nigeria. Students of Madonna University have strongly abided in rules and regulations. Courses offered in Madonna University are on full accreditation status. Her graduate schools features almost all her programmes at PGD, MSC, MA, MED, MLL and PHD levels.

Madonna University has zero tolerance to smoking, use of illicit drugs, rape, stealing, cultism, fighting, examination mal practice and thuggery of all forms. All forms of

examinations mal practices whether manual or electronics are forbidden in Madonna University Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations guided this paper

1. Cultism, rape, killing, maiming and smoking and intake of hard drugs should be checkmated in public universities in Nigeria just the way Madonna University has frowned at those unruly behaviours.. This would help to reduce inordinate activities in public universities in Nigeria.

2. Adequate infrastructural facilities in public universities are paramount for effective teaching and learning in public universities in Nigeria. Government should provide new facilities and adequate finances to public universities in Nigeria. These would reduce exodus of lecturers to Diasporas communities in search of better remunerations, facilities and equipment.

Conclusion

Education is defined as pivot an individual can use to see the gains of the future. Education is imperative for sustenance of any nation's economy. Be it developed economy and underdeveloped economy. In Nigeria, Edeh has provided quality education so that the products of his educational system would compete favourably with their local and foreign graduates academic and moral in varied forms. in 1999, Edeh showcased that one man can provide resources for management of education in Nigeria. Today, many investors in education are emulating these positive giant strides in Nigerian educational system. Edeh has also, made it imperative that cultism is idolatry and

barbaric in Nigerian education institutions. Though, resurgence of inordinate attitudes in public universities after Edeh's positive actions in revamping Nigerian public universities are taking bad shapes. However, private universities in Nigeria especially, Madonna university in Elele, Okija, and Akpugo campuses, college of education and polytechnic are excluded from rape, cultism, maiming, killing, inadequate facilities, incessant strikes resurging or beholding in public universities in Nigeria. It is hoped that both federal, state government of Nigeria would bring a positive change to public universities in Nigeria.

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