

The Nation That Never Existed

[Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.]

Despite the reiteration of her economic eminence and grassroots grandeur, she remains negligent about her knowledge decay and disintegration. Here's the awestruck reality; with a gross number of out-of-school children in the world totalling at 262 million, a large majority of them ranging as high as 13.2 million are in Nigeria. 30%+ Nigerians can't read nor write, while over 12 states of the federation proudly owe teachers of their earned salaries and allowances. In the same vein, 2 in 3 Nigerian children don't have access to early childhood education.

Without reflecting on past culmination, Nigeria's present education expenditure from the national budget of the federal government shares a total of 7.12%. All these show to a great extent her paradigm for education. This is beyond going to school, this is mind and intellectual empowerment. Nigeria's deficient learning system can be solved through the following collective ideas.

- **Retraction of our education USP (Unique Selling Proposition):** In business a unique selling proposition is a factor that differentiates a product from its competitors, such as the lowest cost, the highest quality or the first-ever product of its kind. There are over 1.8 million bachelor students in Nigeria at present, yet an administration never necessitated the essence of ensuring these students get back to school to accord their willingness to learn. ASUU strike is never a propagation of incessant demands or a cause of a poor government but a prove of our national academic valuation. Idowu Koyenikan reflected on this when he penned "A highly developed values system is like a compass. It serves as a guide to point you in the right direction when you are lost." Value is everything! When we increase it, then certainly the compass will redirect to uphold the plight of our education sector.
- Considering socioeconomic factors, 8.2% children work without attending school, 31% are child workers while veritably, 32% children are with little or inadequate supervision. This is despite the free education the government offers for basic education. These factors will be eliminated through the right involvement of active and functional education agencies who will ensure such factors don't

prevail further. Albert Einstein would rather whisper as regards this with his favourite letterhead "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school."

- With a 1-6-3-3-4 academic learning approach of the ancient British conical system, Nigeria presently sits at this retrogression despite the rejuvenation of learning hurdles as regards the vast and fast innovation and knowledge-acquiring mediums of the 21st century. A good way to start is by reinventing the wheel, thus, making due changes on our academic curriculum from the least to the most in the chart to encompass recent learning trends and reflect the present professional needs of the world.
- Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. Benjamin Franklin got the right inspiration. Teaching is the greatest act of optimism, a profession that creates all other professions.

The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you onto the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth. What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches and this should be a metric to assess teachers before employment and even afterwards, there should be regular training and bootcamps to enable social learning diversities and ignite the right learning trends. It takes a big heart to help shape little minds, that's why not everyone is called to be a teacher.

Aristotle wasn't wrong when he perhaps envisioned the ebb of a snafu education system as ours, "Education is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body". Education is meant to develop man's faculty, especially his mind so that he may be able to enjoy the contemplation of supreme truth, goodness and beauty of which perfect happiness essentially consists". Insecurity, embezzlement, fraud amongst the youth and all other social vices are bound to disseminate once there is proper enlightenment of the mind. Education is actually the vaccine of violence and if we must survive then learning is compulsory.