

RE-VAMPING SECONDARY EDUCATION THROUGH GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING TO MEET GLOBAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES IN POST PANDEMIC ERA.

Christiana Apa-Ago Osaro and Helen Chibundu Asita
Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt Rivers State.

Email: osaro@iaue-edu.ng, asitahelen@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Education; the bedrock of national development, has undergone some policies before and during the era of covid-19 pandemic. This paper examined the importance of Guidance and Counselling in re-vamping secondary education in Nigeria. The paper points out the facts that crimes rate are on the increase because trained personnel are not employed in schools to guide, advice, direct and assist young people to solve their problems, to be useful to self, family and the society at large. The way that the government neglect the services of counsellors, and the trained roam for employment to no avail is alarming. It is worthy of note that covid-19 pandemic affected secondary education more than others. The impediment left is still pressing even at the post pandemic era. Therefore, Nigerian should abhor to good counsel and implement them to revamp secondary education in Nigeria to meet global needs and challenges in post pandemic era.

Keywords: Re-vamping, Secondary, Education, Guidance and Counselling, Global Needs, Post Pandemic Era.

INTRODUCTION

Education, the process of teaching, training and learning in schools, colleges and universities is the foundation of knowledge and development of a country. The educated, gain more knowledge, wisdom and skills to serve the nation. Great nation has credible education that makes it the bedrock of national development.

Nigeria is a developing nation and the education is still developing and so needed good, reliable, functional and continuous implementation of the policy until goals are achieved.

Some Definitions of Education

The following definitions will broaden the mind on education. Ighalo and Ighalo (2018). Education as a process, is an instrument used by every society to preserve, maintain and upgrade its social values, knowledge and skills so as to guarantee a continuous social equilibrium(Obindah & Osaro 2019). Education, all efforts conscience, direct, incidental and indirect training made by a given society to accomplish certain objectives are considered desirable in terms of individual's needs as well as the needs of the society common wealth based. Idaka (2015). Education is the pivot around which national development revolves. It is seen as a process thought which society passes on knowledge, values and skills from one generation to another.

A careful examination of the above definitions shown that education is one of the most importance for a nation, for such, required all attention for success.

Nigeria Education Prior to Pandemic

Education in Nigeria prior to the pandemic had some policies that would have change the school system for better but implementation of the policies is the problem of Nigeria education till today. The first policy was introduced by the British government. The 8-5-2-3 system education. Eight years of primary schools, five years of higher school and three years in the university. Ibara (2021). This colonial education inherited by Nigeria was criticized for being too theoretical to make meaningful impart in the life of Nigerians.

1976, marked the genesis of National Policy on Education (NPE). To pivot curriculum development in the country and to specifies the type and quality of instruction that should be provided to help learners at all levels of education. One of the aims is to achievement permanent literacy, numeracy and effective citizenship.

The articulation and documentation of the policy brought about lunching universal primary education (UPE) aimed at mass literacy Denga (1999) and Uzoeshi (2018). Stated that education brought about population explosion into schools. This scheme drove into primary school pupils of assorted potentials. The gifted, the normal and the sub-normal children were all admitted into schools.

In 1982, the federal government lunched another system of education. The 6-3-3-4, which means 6 years of primary, 3 years of junior secondary, 3 years of senior secondary school and 4 years of higher education. This system of education divides the secondary school into two (2) junior secondary and senior secondary education. This system of education was designed for Education For All (EFA)

In 1999 Universal Basic Education was launched (UBE). The National Policy on Education (2013) No 12. The Basic Education to be provided by government shall be free, compulsory, universal and qualitative.

It comprises of "1 year of kindergarten, "6 years of primary and "3 years of junior secondary education.

Teacher to student ratio shall be 1:35 for effective teaching and learning at junior secondary education level.

There shall be no common entrance examination for transition from primary to secondary. Assessment and school examination shall be on a ratio of 40:60. Among the goals stated; to provide the child with diverse basic knowledge and skill for entrepreneurship which will generate educational advancement.

To provide opportunity for the child to develop manipulative skills that will enable the child function effectively in the society within the limits of his/her capacity. The scheme was very good and welcome in educational system. There are some challenges. The ratio of 1:35, one teacher to 35 students. In a class have not been achieved. Population of students in a class out number 35 students by 4 times; and even more. Lack of infrastructures; such as desks, class room, and teaching materials. To mention but few.

Where are the facilities that the child will manipulate for skills development to function effectively in the society? This also is lacking in the schools. Few school have laboratory and library, but facilities are lacking; building dilapidated. These challenge impede Nigeria education.

In order to ensure free and compulsory education for every child, in 2012, the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) monitored the scheme. The Governor of Rivers State Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi viewed it best to give attention to education and spent some billion Naira on education by providing free uniform, exercise books and text books

on different subjects, and school bag, school shoes to all the children at the basic education. Also, computers were sent to schools, and computer science were taught at the basic level. Actually, pupils and students felt happy and better to attend school. These also caused increase school enrollment as many children from poor homes have opportunity to go to school.

Challenges

The beautiful scheme makes happy children enrolled into schools, now become frustrated, sad and unhappy as no continuity in the service, when another government took over the state.

Children from the poor home were not able to afford new uniform, books for the senior secondary education. Lack of maintainers of the facilities put in schools, and security as some of the facilities were stolen. Overcrowded classroom, for both the teacher and learner to interact in the classroom as some sit on floor to learn.

Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria

Convid-19 pandemic out break came to Nigeria in 2020. The pandemic affected most countries of the world and caused many dead. Tedros (2020) defined a pandemic as an infectious disease that affects significant and on-going person to person. It spread in different countries around the world at the same time. The virus was a brand new, able to infect people in an efficient and sustain able way.

Coronal virus is a great killer disease. Abdur (2020) reported that covid-19 is caused by a new strain of corona virus known as (SARS –COV-2). The initial transmission of virus is from animal to man and transmission appeared from persons to person in countries. Abdur (2020) reported cases of outbreak of covid-19 pandemic in closed sittings. Such as restaurants, night clubs, place of worship where people will be talking, singing, shouting and at work place.

This means that aerosol transmission is indoor location where there are crowded individuals and inadequate ventilation, if the infected person spends long period of time with others.

Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid -19 pandemic caused most families loss of beloved members. Ajide (2020) reported that on the height of the persisted increase and spread of covid-19 pandemic.

The federal government announced a national wide lockdown on March 30, 2020. Shut down of medical care left millions of people with other heavy conditions at risk. Lack of access to treatment, schools were shut down, universities shut down. Public places shut down; restaurants, night club markets and many other places to mention but a few.

Prevention:

Self-isolation: This means strictly staying at home or staying away from situation where an individual mixed with family members or the general public for 14days and during the period.

Physical distancing: This refers to an effective strategy to reduce physical interaction of people towards limiting the spread of covid-19 pandemic. That is a distance of at least 2 metres from others.

Protection Guide lines: Hand, became a main way covid-19 spread. Therefore, hands wash became frequently with soap under running water for 20 seconds and to avoid touching of face with unwashed hands, and wearing face mask to cover mouth and nose among others were used for self-protection and prevention.

Education in Post Covid-19 Era

Covid-19 pandemic left tremendous effects on Nigeria education. Adolescents in secondary schools were affected more than others as they could not have access to phone and to have lesson on cloud meeting. Only the rich parents could purchase android phone for their children. Parents paid hired teachers to teach children at home. In order to meet the social distancing in schools, most government schools were separated based on time of going to school. The basic open daily by 7.30am through 11.30am while the senior secondary starts daily attendance by 11.30am to 2.30pm. This system of schooling caused by the pandemic is abnormal but the government is comfortable with.

Lack of infrastructure: Seats, crowded class room environment, poor ventilation dilapidated building. Lack of laboratory and library in most schools is an impediment to Nigeria education. Vegas and Winthrop (2020) stated that in 2020, covid-19 left about 1.5 billion students out of school in the early 2020. Education was not achieving the quality needed for all to have the necessary skills to strive. It is poorest children across the globe who bear the heaviest burden. Some students under the auspices of going to school in the later hour, end up engaging on truancy and committing Juvenile delinquency. Okafor and Ugwuegbulam (2019). Stated that juvenile delinquency refers to young persons below age 18 years exhibiting behaviour that is punishable by law if committed by adults: Truancy, using illegal drugs, armed robbery, homicide, murder, assault violation of curfews and other crimes committed not consistent with the law.

Revamping Education through Guidance and Counselling.

Revamping could be defined as the process of changing the form of Nigeria education to a better acceptable, improved and organized way. Based on the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on schools, the importance of guidance and counselling in our secondary schools will assist to change the behaviour of young people in the school for future development.

Guidance and counselling is the process of services given by a counsellor to a client or group of counselees who face challenges in their personal social lives, vocational choices and education issues. The counsellor uses trained skills to assist clients to be able to solve problems that affect him/her for productive life in the society. Nwachukwu (2007). Guidance and counselling is a systematic and organized educational helping service, given by a professionally trained counsellor or therapist to a learner of any age within or outside the school walls at appropriate level. The essence is to assist him understand himself; situation in environment, discover his interests, potentialities and opportunities in life and learn how best to effectively utilize his assets as well as minimize his weaknesses to live a maximum productive life.

The importance of guidance and counselling in revamping Nigeria education starts from the home. Parents, through guidance and counselling relate to children better, and ensuring they provide the basic needs of the children to help them meet the needs of learning at school.

- a. Guidance and counselling helps the child to develop career of his interest and ability without the influence of parents.
- b. To assist young people to stop abusing drugs and substances abuse.
- c. To guide them on how to study effectively to pass examination with good grade
- d. To guide them to live in peace with friends and other students
- e. To guide them to live in harmony with parents and others in the family.
- f. To guide them to develop positive mind set to life
- g. To guide them to control their anger in school and in the society
- h. To guide them against evil intension and violence acts
- i. To help them learn to manage money and be contempt with what they have.
- j. To guide them against negative thoughts that may cause depression to life.
- k. To guide young people to develop skills of acquisition technology for national development.

The importance of guidance and counselling can only be achieved when government employed counsellors in to schools. Especially the basic and the secondary education. This paper frowns against unemployment of counsellors and teachers in schools.

Education Meeting Global Needs and Challenges in Post Pandemic Era

Global needs of Nigeria can be achieved through various area. Nwakanma and Izundu (2018). Stated that global needs to skill acquisition. Ensuring that young people acquire skills that will sustain them through technology. It will help them to develop the nation in post pandemic era Okanuma–Onah and Ezeonwuka (2018) linked sustainable development to adult education. Training adult in education is an empowerment that will uplift them socially and economically to enable them to participate fully to train the younger generation to meet global needs and challenges post pandemic era. In term of food production, the youth are required. Agriculture is one of the way Nigeria can provide food for human consumption and raw materials for industrial development. Agriculture serve as a source of employment to the youths and adults. Agriculture is the key to economic development for most countries. Agriculture is a direct link for food production for the masses for meeting global needs in post pandemic era (Obaikem etal, 2017).

The importance of guidance counsellors is not limited to school setting only. Anywhere man exist, there is need for counselling services such as the hospital, family, home, prison, rehabilitation centers, ministry of education, industries and other organizations.

CONCLUSION

Critical examination of Nigeria education prior to pandemic revealed that Nigeria education has passed through series of policies, that are good but implementation is the problem.

The effects of covid-19 pandemic is still on schools presently. It is imperative that the government should employed counsellors into all schools to assist young people develop positive mind set to life and to guide them against violence act, drug abuse and other substances abuse, when youths understand themselves and are useful to self and the society. Education meeting the global needs in the post pandemic era can be achieved. The government should train the youth to develop skills in technology that will meet global needs. The services of youth in agriculture will provide enough food for human consumption and raw materials for industrial development for meeting global needs in the post pandemic era.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the effects of covid-19 pandemic on Nigeria education.

- a. The government should employ guidance counsellors into schools to guide against dubious youth act and violence.
- b. The government should revamp Nigeria education by implementing good policy for national development.
- c. Government should invest on education of students by providing infrastructures. So that they will develop skills for national development.
- d. Government should embark on continuation by servicing education so that education for all can be achieve.
- e. Provide more infrastructure and facilities for learning

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