

## Education for Globalization: Challenges and Prospects

Zainab Ibrahim Ciroma

Hafsat Ahmad Abubakar

Abdullahi Kaigama

The Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu

Jummai Ciroma

Kashim Ibrahim College of Education, Maiduguri

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### Abstract

*Education for globalization is a new way of bringing education to all and sundry. It is a catalyst for the improvement of education and looking at new horizons in the education sector. To achieve global education there is need for an all-inclusive curriculum that can cater for all and at the same time be on the same level all around the world. This paper examines the challenges and prospects of education for globalization in a developing nation like Nigeria and to see what can be done to achieve this goal.*

### 1. Introduction

The concept of education has been defined by different scholars. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary defines Education as the process of teaching, training and learning especially in schools or colleges to improve knowledge and develop skills. Ukeje (1978) opines that education is a key to social reconstruction. In the same vein Erder, (1966) sees it as an instrument for conserving, transmitting and renewing culture. Education involves two stakeholders, the teacher and the learner. Its main thrust is to bring about change in the behaviour of the individual for the attainment of development, stability, social and economic and moral upbringing. Education is derived from the Latin word *educatum* which means the 'act of teaching or training'. Some educationists say that it has come from another Latin word '*educare*' which means to bring up or to raise. The term education in its entirety is a means of knowing the nature of all things and to subdue it to the use and benefit of mankind. On the other hand, globalization is the tendency of business, technologies or philosophies to spread throughout the world, or the process of making this happen. It can be used in a positive or negative way. However, there is an agreement among all theorists that globalization has had an enormous impact on societies at the economic, political and cultural levels. This is as a result of the transformation of the world to a small village, global village. This means that borders are no longer insurmountable barriers to any kind of connections and integration between nations. Khalaf (2011) defines globalization as the speedy, free movement of people, services, capital, goods, ideas and knowledge across national borders encompassing the entire globe.

The bond between education and globalization has been studied by different scholars and much has been written in recent years examining how education has been affected. Marginson (1999) states that education has become a primary medium of globalization and an incubator of its agents. Jones and Coleman said that no education system globally can survive and stay unaffected by globalization. From the above mentioned definitions on education and globalization, it is imperative to note that the two go hand in hand. The existence of globalization makes education easy to spread and to acquire knowledge from other means other than the conventional teaching methods. Yet, it is also evident that global education has not been realised; to achieve global education there is need for all stakeholders to take into consideration using the same curriculum, literary studies, cultural, comparative religion and social harmony. This can be done by exchanging curriculum ideas at the global and specific levels. Although the relationship between education and globalization is complex, research shows that education is key to a nation's ability to develop and achieve set targets. Research has shown that education can improve agricultural productivity, enhance the status of women, reduce population growth rates, enhance environmental protection, and generally raise the standard of living. This study looks at

the challenges and prospects of education for globalization and seeks to highlight these points for a successful imparting of knowledge globally.

## 2. Challenges of Education for Globalization

Perhaps one of the most challenging aspects of education for globalization is the motivation of learners. Learners have considerably lost interest in learning. There are several reasons why this is so;

- i. The environment is not conducive for learning to take place. Teachers also lack the zeal and enthusiasm to impart valuable knowledge
- ii. Infrastructure decay is in fact, so evidently lacking in all the levels from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.
- iii. Non availability of reading or instructional materials is making learning cumbersome.
- iv. The take home pay of teachers is in a pitiful state. It does not provide the adequate needs of the teachers.
- v. The corrupt tendency of the learners of late is breeding a new trend in the society.
- vi. Parents contribute to the lack of seriousness of learners. Some parents go as far as buying question papers and results for their children. All this will not augur well for a society that wants to go global where there is no room for malpractice or criminality. What will sell is intelligence, hard work and ingenuity. The big question is how can the learner be motivated? This requires a convincing answer. The learner can be motivated by creating a conducive atmosphere where he can enjoy lessons without hindrance. Secondly the learner must access all relevant books that will help him/her study and finally the teacher should not be biased in his/her relationship with the learner.

Another problem is the lack of support from public and private sector.

Education is not a one man business. It involves several stakeholders. These stakeholders can be from the public or private sector. Their contribution to the education sector is relevant because it will guide and channel the type of knowledge to be imparted to the learner. They can also contribute in building infrastructures, employ teachers that the school lack in relevant subjects. They can also sponsor intelligent students and organize sports competition, debates, quiz to raise the intellectual capability of the learners. In any event if there is no support from the public private sector education for globalization cannot be achieved. For example, MTN is a Telecommunication Company which provides support for education by locating programmes that the learner can benefit for example (who wants to be millionaire) for children. It tests their capability at the same time reward them with cash gifts so that they can achieve their dreams.

Another Private Sector Company that is imparting on education is Zenith Bank. They provide computers to schools to help the learners to become IT literate.

In essence, the public and Private Sector contribution in the education sector will go a long way in improving the level of education which includes exposure to different authors and people around the globe. The education for globalization can be achieved with their help.

## 3. Inadequacy of Instructural Materials

Instructional materials are those tools or equipment that is used to impact knowledge. In this sense, one of the basic tools to be wired to achieve education for globalization is the laptop, or desktop. The laptop is more preferred because it can be moved from one place to another. Research is made easy with the laptop but of cause there is a need for a Wifi connection or data bundle for browsing. These two go hand in hand, without the Wifi connection or data bundle one is not at liberty to browse and get certain information.

This brings us to a crucial point, how fast can one connect to the global village? In Nigeria, this service is not really fast and available. For education to become global, this service is very important to the learner. Education and globalization serve to bring education on a global plat form for all and sundry where one is familiar with what is thought in other schools around the globe or better , one can join the class on line without the problems of paying school fees. It can be done in such a way that the data bundle or Wifi connection is sufficient payment for the learner to join any class he/she wishes.

This is achievable, in the global village, since, now there are courses done on line and certificate awarded for the courses studied. It is absolutely necessary for the learner to purchase a laptop or desktop and a Wifi, connection for easy study and browsing. This must be available if Nigeria seeks to be on the global platform on education.

#### **4. Insecurity**

Recently, the state of insecurity across the country is over whelming, today, it is the north-east, tomorrow the Niger Delta – insecurity does not yield progress and stability. For education to thrive and blossom, security challenges should be eradicated. In the north-east for instance some schools are completely halted others have part time studies while some are undergoing an extended semester due to closure or attack from the insurgents. insecurity brings mayhem, chaos, fear into people, as such education cannot take place. Nigeria is looking towards achieving education for globalization, the issue at stake is for all relevant bodies entrusted with protecting the country should saddle up and bring it to an end.

#### **5. Prospects of Education for Globalization**

Globalization has brought information technology to our doorstep. From the definition of globalization as the speedy, free movement of people, services, capital, goods, ideas and knowledge across national borders . now this speedy movement is also applicable to knowledge in which a click or two and bingo you're on your way to a whole new world. In this scenario education can be realised and the harmonization of the curriculum will create a balance around the world to get the same results.it will be interesting to acquire fresh knowledge from other countries, their scientific advancement and literature

#### **6. Distance Learning**

Today,more than anything there is a refreshing need for people to be educated to old age. The thirst for knowledge never ends and to be up to date one requires to look at all spheres of endeavour. Distance learning is making it easy to acquire degrees, masters and ph.ds. Implementing a central curriculum will go a long way in making education global. It is safe harzard free and cost less. It would be a brilliant idea if all universities around the world provide avenues for distance learning. Congestion will be less in the universities at the same time people can have a life long study of different courses. there should be no difference in the certificate presented whether online or offline. The main thing is that there has been interaction at what ever level and assessment made on that interaction.

#### **7. Achieving Uniformity in Education from the Global Perspective**

Uniformity in education from the global perspective is a dream that there is hope of fulfilling. Though obstacles may prevail it can be overcome and made perfect. How can this can be achieved? The world has become a global village and finding resources,information and answers to various questions are readily available. What is pertinent now is for this knowledge to reach new horizons from class to those attending distance learning. Teachers have a task of renewing this knowledge from time to time and setting continuous assessment and examinations both on line or offline. The issue here should not be the paper qualification but of professionalism and practicality. Developing nations can use this medium of uniformity to achieve success in educating their people and raise the rank to become a developed nation. It may be widely criticised that there is a long way for developing nations to go but in essence with the globalization of education it will not be long when the desired results can be achieved.

#### **8. The Future of Education**

The future of education looks promising like a rainbow in the blue sky. This dream of achieving education for globalization is just a matter of time because all the resources are in place; it only remains for the commitment of our educational systems, public-private support, teacher-learner cooperation and the availability of Wi-Fi connection that will make all things possible in the shortest time. Education will be less tedious, cumbersome and qualitative. The joy of learning will not be restricted to seasons or semester but a lifelong experience which will continuously bring new facts and information for use. Knowledge is like thirst which is only quenched with more knowledge. The search for knowledge never ends and in return the use of any knowledge is for the benefit of man and the society at large.

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