

Is Education A Scam? A Social Psychological Implications of Abusive Lifestyle and the Way Forward

¹Ehioghiren, Efe Efosa, PhD, ²Efosa-Ehioghiren, Augustina Izehiwa. PhD

¹Department of Accountancy Shaka Polytechnic, Edo State, Nigeria [Tel:+2348034073850](tel:+2348034073850)

²Human Initiative Development and Research Centre (HIDRC) Benin City, Edo State of Nigeria

[Tel:+2348108254249](tel:+2348108254249)

Corresponding Author: Ehioghiren, Efe Efosa

ABSTRACT:- Education is a crucial sector in any nation. Being a major investment in human capital development, it plays a critical role in long-term productivity and growth at both micro and macro levels. Education of today in Nigeria and some other countries has continued to display educational character that negates the laid down educational philosophies as cherished in our National Policy on Education. Education is what each generation gives to its younger ones which make them develop attitudes, abilities, skills and other behaviours which are the positive values to the society in which they live. In our today world “education is a scam” campaign is on the increase! With various slogan “School na scam” “when you go school you de waste your time “ “see those way get money de no go school” “who school don help” are phrases you hear a lot of times these days especially from Nigerian youths. Unfortunately, the society keeps telling them that the road to success in life lies in education when they can actually see that most of their peers are doing well early in life as school dropouts, and they do not have degrees. The study examine some factors that could to associated to education being a scam as well as it not being a scam and the social, psychological, abusive lifestyle. The study recommended that education should be a tripartite affair and responsibility of federal, state and local governments. At the same time, the private sector should also be made to participate in the funding to give it the best as what it is in other develop nations of the world. The study concluded that if Nigeria continues to build infrastructure and devalue education in the process, its uneducated and half-baked graduates will destroy the infrastructures and the country will be back to square one .

Keywords: Education, Scam, Social, psychological, Abusive Lifestyle

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a crucial sector in any nation. Being a major investment in human capital development, it plays a critical role in long-term productivity and growth at both micro and macro levels (Raheem, Isah & Adedeji (2018). This explains why the state of education in Nigeria continues to be our national discourse at all levels. Consequently, the implication of the declining quality of education at all levels has far reaching negative impact on a nation’s moral, civic, cultural and economic sustainability (Onwuka 2014). However, (Ehioghiren, 2021) affirm that education of today in Nigeria and some other countries has continued to display educational character that negates the laid down educational philosophies as cherished in our National Policy on Education. Education has continued to play an essential role in the social economic development of nations. Fundamentally, (Osokoya 2010) avow that the essence of education is to run career-centred and more practically oriented programmes significantly, for the purposes of realising the whole essence and objective of education in human resource development, it is imperative for student’s knowledge and skills. Ordinarily, (Ogunkeye 2012) stated that education is exclusively used for the development of human beings in the cognitive, affective, psychomotor and psychoproductive domains. It also involves a desirable approach in human behaviour through the process of teaching and learning. Ogbonnaya (2020) defines education as what each generation gives to its younger ones which makes them develop attitudes, abilities, skills and other behaviours which are the positive values to the society in which they live. Obasanjo (2012) advocated that in our modern world “education is a scam” campaign is on the increase and as such people can spend years in school without any significant change and after all these years, they become unemployable. kayode-Olawoyin (2021) agree that there has been a lifelong debate as to

whether education is a scam or not. While some schools of thought believe that education is a scam, most people still strongly believe that education is vital to learning and becoming successful (Transparency International 2013). In our today world “education is a scam” campaign is on the increase! With various slogan “School na scam” “when you go school you de waste your time “ “see those way get money de no go school” “who school don help” are phrases you hear a lot of times these days especially from Nigerian youths (Ehioghiren 2021). Some of them try to use these slogans to justify that there are many rich people out there who are not scholarly inclined while many graduates can barely afford to feed themselves. When you ask them what they mean, they tell you that the whole hype about education being the foundation for a productive and profitable future is a lie (Yuri 2019).

That all the talks about education being the gate pass to a life of comfort are all made up. As far as they are concerned, The Nigerian educational system is teaching them things they may never need or use in life (Onalo 2020).

Unfortunately, the society keeps telling them that the road to success in life lies in education when they can actually see that most of their peers are doing well early in life as school dropouts, and they do not have degrees (Naim 2018). That is confusing!

(Rajesh 2017) added that at the same time, many young students feel as though they are forced to take subjects they are uninterested in and have no part to play in their future in the long run, analyzing these statements without picking a side. The focus of this paper is to look at, is education a scam? a social psychological implications of abusive lifestyle and the way forward.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

What is Education?

According to the Oxford dictionary (2020), education is the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school, polytechnic or university. But on a broader note, education is the art of transfer (teaching and receiving) of knowledge from one person to another. And whether we believe it or not, education brings out an inherent and permanent change in an individual’s thinking and also their talent and skill. Education is like a gold or diamond that can’t reach its full value without being refined. It doesn’t matter whatever talent or skill you have, without the right education to refine them, their true potential might not be reached.

People can spend years in school without any significant change and after all these years, they become unemployable (Nwaokugha, Nyewusira & Nyewusira 2013). Consequently, some shout the slogan “school na scam.” But going to school and not building your skills in today’s educational system is the real scam (Onalo 2020).

In today’s world where emphasis is placed on skill in addition to educational qualification, there’s the need to build your skills while getting your degrees (Nwaokugha, & Ezeugwu 2017). Reading a book, writing them out in an exam and getting good grades at the end doesn’t mean you have been educated, especially if you don’t integrate what you have read into your life and memory for personal development. Little wonder Albert Einstein said, “*Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.*” Real education therefore is what is embedded into one’s brain and anyone who understands true learning knows that it comes from repeated exposure and use of information and skills (Mumuni & Sweeney 2013).

Without education, you cannot refine your skill, you cannot become better at what you do and you can never attain an immense state of personal development, in that case, how is education or school (a place of education) a scam? Well, that may be true.

Many youths ‘doing well’ in Nigeria today are dropouts. A lot of them are into music. A lot of them got into the limelight through reality shows and they seem to be doing well for themselves.

Meanwhile, the number of graduates doing menial jobs is mounting every day. Just this last month, the story of a female graduate of the University of Calabar, who left her teaching job to drive tricycle popularly known as Keke NAPEP went viral on the social media. According to her, she took up a teaching job after she graduated but, because the pay was meager, she decided to venture into driving a commercial tricycle, which she said, brings her far more financial returns than her teaching job.

Another lady, Unyime Asuquo, a graduate of English Language, is also riding keke to earn a living because she has not been able to secure a job since graduation. If after leaving a university, all you come back to do is ride keke, why go to school in the first instance? No one needs a degree to learn how to ride keke, so why waste time and energy in a higher institution just to become a keke driver? How do you convince people like these that education is not a scam?

I know people talk a lot about the correlation between academic success and success after school. They claim academic feats rarely translate into success in life. They cite examples of first class graduates working for third class degree holders and wealthy stark illiterates employing brilliant professors and teachers (Deji-Folutile 2021).

All of this seems to further justify the phrase that education is a scam.

Ladies and gentlemen, are these enough reasons to conclude that education is a total waste of time? Definitely not! Rather, I would say what we need a more functional educational system. It is now apparent that Nigeria's current educational policy is neither satisfying the yearnings of its teeming youths nor delivering the needs of the labour market. From experience at recruiting for jobs, I can tell you for free that many people that parade themselves today as graduates are unemployable. This does not mean that these youths are not smart; they are not just groomed for the labour market.

Reasons why some believe education is a scam

i. You are exposed only to select ideas

In a schooling system, there is already a set curriculum and syllabus which students must be taught. The curriculum, in most cases, is not based on the student's interest and passion. There is no room for creative thinking. The teachers teach only some selected topics while forgetting about relevant topics and subject areas essential to the students' development. The system is designed for reading and writing, students are taught theory without practice.

Some may have been heartbroken, after dedicating their whole life studying some particular courses only to graduate and discover they are irrelevant in society.

ii. A quest for paper certificate instead of practical knowledge realizations

In the education system, passing your examination is seen as the test of knowledge. People who have excellent grades are considered the smartest students, while those with low grades are considered to be dull students. This is the biggest scam of education. An examination is not the true test of knowledge, and a certificate is not either (Abubakar 2014).

More emphasis is placed on a certificate rather than their intrinsic intelligence. The truth is that every student is intelligent, but the education system is not designed to help identify each student's uniqueness. This is why we have many first-class students working for third class students and college dropouts.

Creativity is killed in school, the system has no room for passion; the focus is only on the subjects taught in the school. For example, so many students who love and excel in sports, music, arts, technology, instead of being made to specialize in it at an early age, are forced to read history and other subjects they hate.

Little wonder you see many people dropping the course they studied to pursue their passion later on in life. This further proves that the schooling system is not designed to accept passion.

iii. You're not taught how to discover your purpose and passion

Purpose is to know the reason why you were created. And if there is any place people should discover their purpose it should be in the school. But unfortunately this is not what we see in the education system setting. The school is supposed to be an avenue where people pass through to discover themselves and what they are passionate about (Adam 2016).

Majority of the people who passed through school did not choose to. Some did not even know why they're in school. Students are forced to take courses they're not passionate about. This is why the schooling system produces millions of graduates annually who are clueless about their unique contribution to society. The parents are not left out of this blame.

iv. There is no universal standard for measuring intelligence

The only universal standard for measuring intelligence is through a certificate. The best student in one country/school/district can be the worst student in another without even knowing based on some other parameters (Adedokun & Owolabi 2014).

Even if you're the smartest person on earth, you're not allowed to teach or take up some certain jobs without passing through school and earning a certificate.

v. The quality of education doesn't seem to improve over time

The education system is too rigid, so much such that some of the principles, theories, concepts, and ideas being taught today were postulated centuries ago (Afolabi & Loto 2012). Most of those theories have become obsolete and irrelevant to the times we now live in. Yet students are made to study concepts, principles, and theories that are not relevant to the 21st century. Is not that a total waste of time?

Can you imagine being in the 21st century and learning things of the 18th century? How applicable and effective can that knowledge be? Education is supposed to always review their curriculum to prepare students for the times they live in (Deji-Folutile 2021).

vi. Many self-made individuals still make it big than certificate holders

In the world today, most of the people who are controlling the world economy are those who did not pass through the conventional education system, the once we call school dropped out. The likes of Mark Zuckerberg and Aliko Dangote. Certificate holders have no more hands-on knowledge than their other colleagues who have no certificate. In most cases, roadside mechanics perform better compared to Professors in Mechanical engineering.

At this time let also consider some arguments why people believe education is not a scam

Those in support of the education system believe that it's a place where you get to learn the foundational, basic, and necessary skills for life. They also believe that education provides better choices and opportunities in the long run for people who know what they want to do in their careers (Agbo 2014).

So, those who dropped out of school or did not go to school at all are closing doors of opportunities for themselves in the future.

No matter what you say or do, regardless of your level of expertise and skills, there are certain opportunities you can never access without a school certificate.

Whether you admit it or not, education plays a vital role in our lives. So if you think education is a scam, then why no try ignorant. When you are educated, your quality of life and your decision-making skills will be better.

Reasons why education is not a scam

1. Education Creates employment opportunities

Securing a well-paying job is difficult most times; You will have to compete for the same position with other qualified candidates as well. More so, the lower the level of education level for a particular job opening, the higher the number of applicants competing for the job. However, you stand a better chance of being considered for the job, especially when you have a higher educational qualification.

So, in the long run, school is not really a scam like you thought because it creates employment opportunities. There are certain jobs you cannot dream of applying for without a degree certificate.

2. Education Earn you a higher income

The higher your educational qualification in civil service, the higher your rank and your pay. More so, highly educated people with years of experience stand a better chance of landing a high paying job than those who are uneducated. Therefore if you study smart to gain knowledge and attain a high level of competence, your chances of securing a high-paying job become high too. As you're probably aware, most employers pay you based on your level of qualification and skills. Therefore, the higher your experience and qualification, the higher the salary you're likely to earn.

3. Education help you Develop critical problem-solving skills

One of the best benefits of schooling is that it helps you to develop critical, logical problem-solving skills. The education system will also teach you how to make independent decisions.

As you grow older, you will encounter lots of challenging situations. For instance, you will start staying alone, raise a family, provide for them, and pay bills, among others. And if you have spent time educating yourself, you will be in a better position to make sound decisions compared to someone who never attended school.

4. What about its Importance in the Society

Education and schooling play a key role in societal growth and progress (Ako 2018). If the citizens of a society are well educated, they will contribute immensely to the development of the society in their various areas of specialization such as science, technology, literature, arts, among others.

Education and learning are important for a modern society. Regardless of your position in life, you will need to learn about history, tradition, culture, and other aspects so that you can contribute your quota to the development of society. US government has once said the least education any US citizen should have is a PhD that is a county that is seen as one of the developed nation of the world.

5. Importance in Socialization

Education is synonyms' with socialization, in a clear term, socialization is a process by which we acquire the values, norms, attitudes of a particular culture, children develop cognitive skills, learn their language, and individual identity, this will not be possible without education.

The social psychological implication of victims who believes education is a scam and it abusive lifestyle.

It has been seen over the years that their lifestyle is very unethical, as they behave like uneducated people with no much enlightened perspective. Most of these people are seen to engage in internet fraud, domestic violence, robbery, 419, and a whole lot more.

1. They have their eyes on the lavish, extravagant, wasteful lifestyle that they can temporarily afford but cannot sustained. So to continue the window dressing lifestyle they are willing to engage in anything and everything abusive.

2. The wealth acquires by defrauding people end up in buying expensive cars, in clubs houses, hotels, and on high class girls and ladies. The fact remains that they did not work for such money.

3. People who believe that education is a scam, in most cases lives a violence lifestyle they believed that the way out of dispute is violence before settlement or resolution. They are influenced by the so call mirage of money they think they have.

The way forward is that the slogan "it is not your business" should be revert to "it is my Business" this set of persons will live in the society with you, marry and raised their children in the same society with you, send their

children to the same schools where yours will attend and co-habit with you. Their abusive lifestyle is capable of easily influencing and corrupting the good people around them. Therefore, all stakeholders, the government, school heads, parents, lectures, religion leaders, social media etc should be used to correct, enlighten, sensitised those who still believes that education is a scam for a rethink for better society of the dream of forefathers among which are;

Education should be a tripartite affair and responsibility of federal, state and local governments. At the same time, the private sector should also be made to participate in the funding (Denga 2011). This will be successful if government on its part shows its seriousness and commitment to the system in terms of funding. The private sector should participate more by providing research grants, awarding of scholarships and endowment of Professorial Chairs in universities. There should also be the need for strong political will among political leaders to ensure continuity of educational policies and doggedness in the fight against these issues and corruption in the country that makes students believed that they can make it through the back door. Severe punishment should be meted to discourage financial crimes and other corrupt practices associated with social psychological abusive lifestyle.

Conclusively, a Yoruba proverb says a child that is not trained well will sell off his parents' house. In other words, if a father builds a house at the expense of his child's education, that child will end up selling the house built (Deji-Folutile 2021). If Nigeria continues to build infrastructure and devalue education in the process, its uneducated and half-baked graduates will destroy the infrastructures and the country will be back to square one. A word is enough for the wise!

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Corresponding Author: Ehioghien, Efe Efosa

¹Department of Accountancy Shaka Polytechnic, Edo State, Nigeria [Tel:+2348034073850](tel:+2348034073850)