



Impact of Quality Education on A Harsh Economy

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ABSTRACT

Education is a means by which a child or adult acquires knowledge, experience, skills and culture. This makes a person civilized, refined, cultured and educated. In a civilized and socialized society, education is the only way. Every society attaches importance to education because it is a panacea for economic and social ills. It is recognized that quality education has a major impact on a country's development goals. It is generally accepted that quality education contributes greatly to a person's intelligence and human capital. Although other factors play a similar role, school occupies a special place, indeed, education and skills development are not only the main objective, but also the content directly concerned by public policies. It is also well known that the distribution of income per person in a society is linked to the level of education received. Therefore, this article considered the meaning of education, the concept of quality education, the concept of a harsh economy, the impact of quality education on a harsh economy like Nigeria. It was concluded that quality education has the ability to transform any given nation that experiences harsh economy from the state of underdevelopment to a state of economic wellness.

Keywords: Education; Quality Education; Harsh Economy

Introduction

Education provides the skills and knowledge one needs to succeed in the workplace. It gives one the ability to think, solve problems, and communicate effectively all of which are essential skills for any job. Additionally, education can not only give one the confidence to take on difficult tasks, but also encourage him to learn new skills and stay current in any field. Investing in education is an important decision that can have a lasting impact on one's career. Investing in education increases the chances of finding a job or advancing in a person's current position. Education gives one the skills and knowledge required to qualify for specific jobs and succeed in a competitive business environment. In today's society, education is important so that everyone can lead a dignified life. Furthermore, it is widely recognized that education is an important concept that promotes the development of all aspects of society and leads to success.

The link between education and employment is a controversial topic in labor market research. Education is a means of providing skilled workers and is therefore necessary for the overall development of the economy. A well-trained and skilled workforce is essential to ensure economic growth and quality of life. At the same time, unequal access to education can lead to large differences between different groups and affect the distribution of labor in the country (Swati, 2016).

Education is an important element of human development. It is different from school education. Although education is only a means of learning, education covers the entire process of human learning through the dissemination of knowledge, training of teachers and the creation of various skills. Education is also defined as the act or process of teaching or applying discipline to the training of mind or behavior (Adesemowo and Sotonade, 2022).

Connecting students to their unique skills and interests, bridging the gap between education and work and promoting true collaboration between schools and the world of work so that young people can experience working environments as part of their education, not simply when it is time for them to enter the labor market. (Robinson and Robinson, 2022). According to Adesemowo and Sotonade (2022), the idea of education in any developing country which has undergone a colonial experience in terms of the transmission of culture should be different from that of a country that has not got this experience. Therefore, when it comes to the transmission of culture in developing countries, it must include indigenous culture and foreign cultures. Therefore, education can be considered as a real asset in instilling in people the skills, abilities, aptitudes, attitudes, interests, and values that should have worked well in the community. Education is also very important to promote all virtues in a way that benefits the generality of the society.

Education is a lifelong process. This includes all aspects of life, including the physical, social and spiritual environment. As life is a continuous process of growth and development, education is also a continuous process from the womb to the grave. People learn from the experiences they have throughout their lives. Education is not just about gathering information, it is the experience of living in a social and natural environment. It is the development of all abilities that allow a person to control their environment and realize their potential (Bassey, Inwang and Warren-Oveh, 2023).

Education is a means by which a child or adult acquires knowledge, experience, skills and culture. This makes a person civilized, refined, cultured and educated. In a civilized and socialized society, education is the only way. Every society attaches importance to education because it is a panacea for all ills. It is the key to solving many problems in life. Investing in education can help one develop skilled workers who can better understand business needs, create solutions that meet those needs, and increase overall productivity. Education promotes creativity, expands knowledge, develops skills and improves problem solving abilities. Education is an investment for the development of the country. It is the best thing that even the country is known to be behind most of the development process, such as the concern for reinvestment in education. Therefore, it can be said that the country that leaves most of its citizens uneducated is not prepared for many things, including economic growth and competitiveness, security of physical, intellectual knowledge, as well as the national integration. This situation leaves many young people unemployed to work in the intellectual and economic world. Human capital is a good idea for development because it determines power in this century and failure to achieve capital will undermine the nation's stability.

Concept of Quality Education

Quality education refers to a type of education focused on the quality of learning. It also includes the standards established for such a thing to be carried out. It also refers to the ability of schools to provide the necessary facilities to support teaching and learning that can lead to the achievement of educational objectives in accordance with international standards (Pius and Ali, 2019). Education is an important foundation of economic and social development. In other words, the development of a country is determined by its level of education. Therefore, quality education is very important at all levels of education: primary, secondary and tertiary.

The concept of efficiency is important in relation to the important role that education plays in society, which is the management and achievement of educational goals, including the use of people and materials through the use of advanced technologies. Furthermore, education should include private and public education. In reality, performance is only controlled, at best, by the state of education. Good education is seen as a balance between education (outcomes, methods and environment) and needs, objectives, rules, norms and standards. Assessment of quality of education depends on adequate funding, quality of libraries, curriculum, learning environment, reputation assessment, staff-student ratio, the doctoral/license ratio and the professor/doctoral ratio. However, these indicators are just another way of measuring education quality, as they do not measure how a university education supports and prepares students for their personal and economic development (Ihuoma and Nyewusira, 2021).

A quality education is a fundamental right of every person and is essential for personal growth and national development. The need for quality education in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized as it is important for the growth and development of the country. Quality education is about learning skills and abilities designed to meet the needs of learners and society. It is about providing people with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life and contribute to the development of their country. It is the basis of everyone's intellectual development. It trains the minds not only in wisdom but also in spirituality, morality and relationships with others.

Concept of Harsh Economy

A harsh economy is one where there is a drastic decline in economic activities that lasts for an extended period of time. Economy is considered harsh when a nation's economy experiences a persistent rise in the general prices of goods and services (inflation), negative gross domestic product (GDP), rising levels of unemployment, deteriorating health state of citizens, falling retail sales, and falling standard of living for an extended period of time. It is an expression used to describe a pessimistic or negative economic outlook.

Accordingly, Nigeria's annual growth rate continued to reach 27.3% in October 2023, the highest since August 2005 and up from 26.7% in the previous month. Inflationary pressures have intensified in recent months due to the weakness of the naira after the government removed fuel subsidies in May and the central bank's decision to reduce foreign exchange transactions in June. Food prices, the largest item in the CPI basket, rose 31.5% in October from 30.6% the previous month, the highest since August 2005, due to concerns over security in food production areas. Other CPI categories, including housing and electronics, clothing, footwear and transportation, also increased. The annual inflation rate, excluding agricultural products, rose to 22.7% in October, compared to 22.1% in September. On a quarterly basis, consumer spending increased by 1.7% in October, following a 2.1% increase in the previous month (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

The above report shows that Nigeria is in a very serious state of economic backwardness as things keep going higher each and everyday. This has an adverse effect on the general wellness of the economy. The current state of the economy has become a pain in the neck as survival becomes difficult. This has led to vices like bribery, corruption, kidnapping, banditry, cultism, vandalism, burglary, theft, etc.

Impact of Quality Education

The following are ways quality education can help ameliorate the effect of economic harshness on our nation, Nigeria.

i. Creating Equal Opportunities

UNESCO strives to ensure that everyone receives a quality education, regardless of their socio-economic status, gender, race or place of residence. Improving the quality of education for all is not only a question of equality, but also of social development and progress. Promoting gender equality in educational achievement is not only a matter of justice and human rights, but also an important factor in achieving the development of social and economic

affairs. According to Robinson and Robinson (2022), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and that "education promotes the development of human character and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".

Educational equality means that two children with the same abilities should receive equal support to develop those abilities, regardless of their parents' circumstances. Educational equality occurs when a child's education does not depend on the financial status or state of residence of their parents. Agbarevo (1996) in Chibuike (2022) argued that equity in education can also be seen as the provision of education necessary to enable every Nigerian citizen to lead a productive life in the society without disposing of his or her capabilities and its potential, discrimination based on race, religion, gender and economic origin. This means that all Nigerian citizens should be able to adapt to an education system that is inclusive of people with disabilities.

Equality in education means that the educational policy of a state or country must use a measure to achieve the environment of all citizens of the country so that all citizens of the country enjoy equality in matters of education. It is the duty of the State to ensure that this right is established and to guarantee the benefit of citizens' education without discrimination.

ii. Promotes Better Employment Opportunity

Quality education gives people the skills they need to access employment opportunities. This gives one the skills needed for many jobs and opens up opportunities for higher education and training. Quality education can help people work better and create a successful and profitable business for the future. Quality education is also seen as giving people valuable skills and tools that help them support themselves and their children. People with good education and training will have a well-paid job. The higher one's level of education and achievements, the better the chances of getting a well-paid job. People who grew up in poverty but educated themselves have the ability to change their lives, thereby helping to reduce poverty in society. Education helps a country grow economically because it allows us to acquire knowledge and being able to use it effectively in our lives while improving the lives of others.

Quality education serves to improve the skills and productivity of an individual, making him more valuable to employing enterprises. Further, the education level also serves as an indicator of a worker's marketability to the prospective employers (Swati, 2016). The relationship between education level and professional career is obvious. In the traditional economy, lower-educated workers are generally suited to less demanding or manual jobs, while higher-educated workers can perform more complex tasks. Even in times of low economic growth and low demand for labor, skilled workers remain more profitable than uneducated workers. The skills of high-skilled workers are broad and diverse, allowing them to outperform untrained workers in low-skilled jobs. Because of their broad skill sets, it is easier for employers to transfer specialized, company-specific knowledge to skilled workers.

iii. Promotes Lifelong Learning

UNESCO recognizes the importance of learning throughout a person's life and invests resources to ensure that lifelong learning is integrated into the daily agenda. Lifelong learning can be broadly defined as learning based on lifelong learning, that is, learning that is changeable, different and available at different times and places. Lifelong learning is a discipline that promotes learning beyond traditional education (Oinam and Thoidingjam, 2019). Therefore, it is argued that lifelong learning in education is linked to the curriculum and teaching methods. The curriculum changes so often that it has a huge impact, so learners learn through correlation not by memorization. Teachers must adopt a teaching method that promotes students' lifelong learning. Students should be taught that learning never stops in the classroom, but when they enter the society they will face many challenges and lifelong learning should solve this situation by finding the knowledge appropriate (Oinam and Thoidingjam, 2019).

Oinam Longworth and Davies, Thoidingjam (2019) define lifelong learning as "the utilization of human potential through a continuous process of support that encourages and motivates people to acquire and achieve all knowledge, values, skills and understanding that they need throughout their lives, and to apply them with confidence, creativity and joy in every role, situation and environment". Lifelong learning is key to keeping knowledge and skills up to date, meaning people can continue to learn when needed. The information available in all areas is constantly and rapidly evolving. The learning process is based on knowledge of information and provides skills to evaluate and use information effectively (Candy, 2002). Additionally, through the learning process, a person develops life skills such as time management, organization and discipline, which improves his skills as a reader, writer and thinker.

iv. Improves Higher Income

Quality education gives a country access to the world's body of knowledge, which facilitates the adoption and broad adaptation of technologies to a specific environment. Generally speaking, the result of a quality education is an increase in productivity and quality of work. Quality education is also recognized as affecting the economic development of a country. We know that the relationship between performance measures and economic growth has a greater impact than the impact of human capital and school quality on productivity and personal income. Economic growth determines the extent to which a society's standard of living can improve. In particular, a more educated society can lead to more change, taking greater advantage of businesses' ability to introduce new and better old ways and use new technologies more quickly (Daniel, 2014). Education is necessary to uplift a person's life, because it provides all the necessary things and knowledge on how we can use our brain and knowledge to increase our income.

The economic development of a country depends largely on the education its citizens receive. Education can have a positive impact on a person's quality of life and business results. Indeed, as seen in the United States after the Great Depression, people with higher education will earn higher and higher wages in their jobs. When many people are educated, they have the skills and knowledge to be safe at work, leading to good performance, which can contribute to increased GDP, wages, and salaries (GGI, 2023).

Quality education is an important tool for improving the income of the population and the development of the country. However, in low- and middle-income countries like Nigeria, many children do not receive a good education. The quality of education itself can be considered in relative terms, as it

varies from country to country depending on financial resources, effective methods, learning objectives and thinking. Quality education improves the quality of employees by increasing the \ levels of its skills and efficiency.

v. Promotion of Economic Development

Education is an important element of economic development in many regions. This can provide skilled workers and encourage innovation, create new opportunities and boost business. Investing in education can increase productivity and improve quality of life. Education impacts economic growth because it supports economic growth by providing people with additional skills and better access to resources that promote positive change in society. Additionally, by investing in education, the government can create a society that is educated and well-prepared for the future. This promotes economic growth and helps reduce inequality by giving people from all backgrounds equal opportunities to succeed in the career or education of their choice. Education also creates positive externalities for society by improving general knowledge, encouraging innovation, creating new businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and improving health outcomes through better access to education (GGI, 2023).

Furthermore, sustainable development requires quality education, which provides a basis for combating poverty and developing skills and self-confidence. A good education equips individuals with the skills needed to create wealth that contributes to economic growth. Quality education plays an important role in reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and improving the economy. Quality education is essential to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to create wealth and contribute to national development. The country benefits when it has enough smart and competent people to carry out the important tasks of government. Simply put, quality education triggers economic development.

vi. Promotes Better Health

Learning the importance of preventative care and a healthy lifestyle can improve overall health. Education can help people know their rights to health care and other public services and take steps to protect themselves if their rights are violated by the law. Education is a powerful tool for improving access to health care and other public services, as well as a way for people to return to well-paying jobs so they can afford these services. However, education provides individuals with the information they need about the options that allow them to access these services. Education can give people the knowledge to decide whether to enroll in a private insurance program or join public services. People who are knowledgeable about preventive measures and health-related behaviors can take responsibility for their own health outcomes and are more likely to seek treatment services when needed. (GGI, 2023).

Quality education is essential to improve health outcomes. This gives people the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. Education also promotes healthy lifestyles that can prevent disease and improve overall health. Illiteracy often leads to ignorance, and this ignorance can be dangerous when it comes to health care. Educated people know better how to protect themselves against various diseases. Illiterate and illiterate people are more likely to ignore symptoms and avoid seeing a doctor unless the problem is serious. So, through education, one will be able to take better care of himself and your family.

vii. Development of Values

Education also enhances the human values that make up good citizenship, such as honesty, selflessness, generosity, dedication, hard work and personal honesty, all of which provide rich ground for promoting a good leadership. As the researchers have already mentioned, education trains people to play a role in society. This ensures that education provides equitable training. Education occupies an important place in everyone's life today. Education is useful because it helps make people useful and full of knowledge. Education is necessary for everyone's development in life. It has the same value for everyone equally. Everyone has the right to education. Without education, life will be very difficult and it will be difficult to survive.

Conclusion

Quality education is perceived to have a strong impact on a country's development goals. It is generally believed that formal schooling is one of the key contributors to individual skills as well as human capital. Although there are other factors which play a similar role, schools have a special place, not only because education and skill creation are among their prime explicit objectives, but also because they are the factors most directly affected by public policies. It is also well established that the distribution of personal incomes in society is strongly related to the amount of education people have had. In general terms, more schooling means higher lifetime incomes. These outcomes emerge over a long term. It is not people's income while at school that is affected, nor their income in their first job, but their income over the course of their working life. Education must enable students to become financially responsible and independent. This is one of the reasons why the government cares deeply about education. Governments know that an educated workforce is essential to business success. To this end, quality education helps in creating equal opportunities, promotes better employment opportunity, promotes lifelong learning, improves higher income, promotes economic development, promotes better health and helps to develop values, all of which are capable of ameliorating a nation from their harsh economic state.

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