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**BUILDING A
SAFER
WORLD
THROUGH
EDUCATION**

Edited by
**M.K. AKINSOLA
K.O. OJOKHETA
J.A. ADEMOKOYA**

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TOWARDS A SAFER WORLD: THE IMPERATIVENESS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF 3HS

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Abstract

This paper x-rayed how the educational philosophy of the 3H-s could help to build a safer world. The theme humanistic philosophy in regards to building a safer world is worth critical study. The world has remained volatile and vulnerable with series of kidnapping, arm conflicts and unrest in the society which has affected the population. Education has been regarded as a basic component of human development and single most important means for empowerment and sustained improvement in all well being. 3Hs of Educational Philosophy which are Humane society, Human commonwealth, and Humanistic tendencies are highly imperative in combating and resolving the unrest and building a safer world. This study concluded that Nigerian educational system should tailored her educational philosophy using 3Hs will not only help in building rational human being that will contribute meaningfully to the development of the society but also in the building of a safer world. 3Hs could be seen as an alternative for building a safer world.

Introduction

Overview of Educational Philosophy

Every nation has educational philosophy well entrenched in each nation's National Policy on Education. The educational philosophy clearly specifies the goals and objectives of the educational system and the mechanisms for achieving the goals and objectives. In Nigeria for example according to NPE (2004) education is an instrument "par excellence" for effecting national development. It is, therefore, the most important instrument of change. The philosophy of Nigeria's education is based on:

the development of the individual into a sound and effective citizen;
the full integration of the individual into the community; and the pro-

vision of equal access to educational opportunities for all citizens of the country at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels both inside and outside the formal school system.

National Education Objectives

According to the National Policy on Education (2004), the objectives are as follows:

the inculcation of national consciousness and national unity;
the inculcation of the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society;
the training of the mind in the understanding of the world around;
and the acquisition of appropriate skills and the development of mental, physical and social abilities and competencies as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society

Most countries Nigeria inclusive pay much emphasis on the intellectual or cognitive knowledge; that is learning of the subject-matters that is skills people must have or know to deal with future while less emphasis is usually accorded the non-intellectual or affective dimensions of learning.

Intellectual or cognitive knowledge; - includes content knowledge and the development of intellectual skills. This includes the recall or recognition of specific facts and concepts that is developing intellectual abilities and skills. There are six major categories, starting from the simplest behavior (recalling facts) to the most complex (Evaluation)

Non-intellectual or affective dimension: includes feelings, values, appreciation, enthusiasms, motivations, and attitudes.

The intellectual/cognitive learning most emphasized upon has some shortcomings which includes individual learning, competitive learning and massive use of norm-referenced evaluation as evaluation pattern of learning (where learners are compared and evaluated based on the progress and accomplishments of other learners). The implication of this is the production persons who un-

derstand and pay attention to themselves but usually fail to understand and pay attention to others as well as the difficulty in relating to and with others.

Towards a New educational Philosophy

A new educational philosophy must be developed to pay equal emphasis and attention to both intellectual or cognitive knowledge and non-intellectual or affective dimensions. Such educational philosophy must be based on 3Hs: Humane society, Human commonwealth, and Humanistic tendencies. To achieve humane society, the society needs commonwealth of all humans who have humanistic tendencies (the preservation and enhancement of all things human). An humane society is where people develop to understand others, values each other respecting the personhood and dignity of fellow human beings, relate better with each other, and live together with others as fully functioning individuals. To achieve humane society, Nigerian educational system and philosophy must be structured in line with humanistic education to stop or minimize cruelly as human beings are the most curious and capable curators of knowledge in the known universe.

Humanistic Education

Humanistic education (also called person-centered education) is an approach to education based on the work of humanistic psychologists, most notably Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers. Carl Rogers the "Father of Humanistic Psychology" and devoted much of his efforts toward applying the results of his psychological research to person-centered teaching where empathy, caring about students, and genuineness on the part of the learning facilitator were found to be the key traits of the most effective teachers. Humanism, a paradigm that emerged in the 1960s, focuses on the human freedom, dignity, and potential. A central assumption of humanism, according to Huitt (2001), is that people act with intentionality and values. Humanists also believe that it is necessary to study the person

as a whole, especially as an individual grows and develops over the lifespan. It follows that the study of the self, motivation, and goals are areas of particular interest. Key proponents of humanism include Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. A primary purpose of humanism could be described as the development of self-actualized, autonomous people (Rogers, & Freiberg, 1994). In humanism, learning is student centered and personalized, and the educator's role is that of a facilitator. Affective and cognitive needs are key, and the goal is to develop self-actualized people in a cooperative, supportive environment (DeCarvalho, 1991). In humanistic education, emphasis is placed on the good and welfare of the learners rather than the body of information/knowledge to be learnt. In a more general sense the term includes the work of other humanistic pedagogues, such as Rudolf Steiner (1984), Trahair (1999), Timothy Leonard, (2008) and Maria Montessori. All of these approaches seek to engage the "whole person" the intellect, feeling life, social capacities, and artistic and practical skills are all important focuses for growth and development. Important objectives include developing students' self-esteem, their ability to set and achieve appropriate goals, and their development toward full autonomy.

The Focus of Humanistic Education

Lei (2007) submitted that the Humanistic approach, on which humanistic education is based, emphasizes the importance of the inner world of the learner and places the individual's thought, feelings, and emotions at the forefront of all human development. Aloni (2007) remarked that unlike the previously authoritarian educational traditions, which overlooked physical or psychological humiliation of unruly students, humanistic education is after all committed to a social and intellectual climate defending students against intellectual oppression, physical punishment, and dishonor. According to the humanistic stance which says that people's unique dignity remains in their creative imagination, critical reason, moral sensitivity, autonomous will and unique personality, it is crucial for humanistic educa-

tion to prioritize the value of human dignity over any other economic, religious, nationalistic or ideological set of values (Aloni, 2007). Humanistic education contribute to the development of energetic, positive, self-respecting caring human beings who can meet all challenges.

Principles of Humanistic Education

There are five basic principles of humanistic education:

- * Students should be able to choose what they want to learn. Humanistic teachers believe that students will be motivated to learn a subject if it's something they need and want to know.
- * The goal of education should be to foster students' desire to learn and teach them how to learn. Students should be self-motivated in their studies and desire to learn on their own.
- * Humanistic educators believe that grades are irrelevant and that only self-evaluation is meaningful. Grading encourages students to work for a grade and not for personal satisfaction. In addition, humanistic educators are opposed to objective tests because they test a student's ability to memorize and do not provide sufficient educational feedback to the teacher and student.
- * Humanistic educators believe that both feelings and knowledge are important to the learning process. Unlike traditional educators, humanistic teachers do not separate the cognitive and affective domains.
- * Humanistic educators insist that schools need to provide students with a nonthreatening environment so that they will feel secure to learn. Once students feel secure, learning becomes easier and more meaningful.

The five basic principles of humanistic education can be summarized as follows:

- * Students' learning should be self-directed.
- * Schools should produce students who want and know how to learn.
- * The only form of meaningful evaluation is self-evaluation.
- * Feelings, as well as knowledge, are important in the learning process.
- * Students learn best in a nonthreatening environment.

The Goal of Humanistic Education

The goal of humanistic education, according to Maples (1979), moves beyond cognitive and intellectual education to let in the education of the whole person. It regards personal growth and the growth of creativity and to some extent the self-directed learning. The end of education is the same as the end of psychotherapy: making a fully functioning person. Receptiveness to experience, an existential path of living in which life is ongoing, flexible, adaptive process, and faith in the organism as the foundation for behavior are characteristics of the person who is able to learn and to conform to change. Lei (2007) maintains that the humanistic education is characterized by learner-centeredness in which the aim is not merely developing the cognitive and linguistic capabilities of the learners but also paying attention to the learners' emotions and feelings.

In summary, the goals of humanistic education is :

- The development of persons who are open to change and continued learning.
- The development of persons who strive for self-actualisation.
- The development of persons who can live together as fully functioning individuals.
- Assisting learners to grow and develop in accordance with their needs and interests.

How to achieve Humanistic Education

- Teachers must teach subjects in a more humane manner that is not being a judgmental but understanding.
- Teachers must recognise and value the uniqueness of each learner.
- Teachers must be encouraged to make use of criterion referenced evaluation in the assessment of learning.
- Teachers must work on the self-concept of all learners as part of the teaching-learning process. A positive and negative self-concept can promote or inhibit learning.

- Teachers must strive in educating the non-intellectual or affective aspects of the learners, that is learners who understand others and can relate very well with others.
- Teachers must place responsibility of learning on the students.
- Emphasis of teachers must be on learning rather than teaching.
- Emphasis of the teacher must be on the students-their needs, interests, desires, and welfare-rather the instruction or body of knowledge.
- The act of learning must be based on experimentation and discovery rather than strict teaching of subject matters.
- Teachers must encourage group learning since the best ways to foster growth and cooperation among learners through groups in order to develop social and effective skills.
- Therefore, teachers must make use of discussions, small group projects, committees and teams as instructional techniques to avoid competition thereby learners learn together and encourage each other.
- Teachers must begin to see their role in the classroom as that of a helper and partner in the learning process. Teachers should allow students to have a choice in the selection of tasks and activities whenever possible help students learn to set realistic goals

The connection among the 3Hs

Education remains a powerful means for producing an humane society that is why Aghenta (2006) submitted that trained personnel bring about national development. The level of education of an individual in any society determines the level of development in that society. In the same vein, Akinpelu (2001) and Oyedepo (2011) sees education as the foundation of the great transformation of every nation. People who are educated in their cultures should be generally seen as the best of humanity. Educated people should be able to understand and adapt to the life situations in their immediate society and should be able to contribute to its development. Dienye, (2012) submitted that educational system that does not provide humane society become suspected.

An humane society is made up of commonwealth of humane individuals who understand others and relate positively with them. The humane individuals can better be produced through humanistic education. Dienye (2012) submitted that society has vested the educational institution with the responsibility of moulding the ideas, habits and attitudes of learners so as to produce well balanced personalities that are physically strong, mentally alert, emotionally stable, culturally sound and socially efficient. In essence, when the 3Hs are in place, only then can we begin to think of a safer world.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Human beings are the ones building nuclear weapon from the intellectual knowledge, primary problem of human beings are no longer physical but human ones ecology, starvation, overpopulation, nuclear power, atomic bombs. Therefore, to achieve a safer world requires responsible citizens that is people of goodwill, caring people, willing and able to pull their skills into society that is where humanist education comes into relevance.

Education is not only a pivotal tool in preventing and combating unrest and violent in society, it shapes behaviours and identities (Smith, 2011; Odubo & Tobor, 2016). As a result, such education should start from the family where family could learn to love one another, share items and things, problems and imbibe into their children the spirit of love for one another and for those around them. Also, in situations where families are experiencing divorce, violence and instability the component of humanistic education should cater for such categories of families as they could pose a threat to continuous stability of society due to the social problem associated with such families. 3Hs of Educational Philosophy (Humane society, Human commonwealth, and Humanistic tendencies) has potential of building a safer world because it will not only help to resolve conflicts and unrest within the family but also provides opportunities for betterment of life towards producing individuals

with capabilities to live at peace with one another and such individuals will be endowed with freedom of will, rational thinking, moral conscience as well as empathic. It is therefore recommended that policy maker should work towards the development and adoption of the humanistic educational system into the school curriculum starting from family to the tertiary level.

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