

THE PLIGHT OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

Education, according to various scholars' definitions across times and climes, carries different meanings. It is to Fafunwa "the aggregate of all the processes by which a child or young adult develops the abilities, attitudes and other forms of behavior which are of positive value to the society in which he lives".⁽⁵⁾ Fafunwa further adds that education is "a process for transmitting culture in terms of continuity and growth and for disseminating knowledge either to ensure social control or to guarantee national direction of the society or both".⁽⁶⁾ Unfortunately, it had been hit harder by corruption that has already marred Nigeria to the extent that the surviving strength is slim because it has eaten deep into the nation's life. Theoretically speaking, Khan sees corruption as an act which deviates from the rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private motive such as wealth, power or status."⁽⁷⁾ It is a common phenomenon in the public sector. The political office holders both at the local, state, federal level, as well as the educational sectors engage in be wilding corruption. A situation where this prevails, much will not be expected from the youths and this is detrimental to the survival of the society.

According to Garlick, the relationship between tertiary institution and its community can be described in three different ways: "it can be describe through the structural perspective as a situation in which tertiary institutions are seen as economic boosters, through the spatial perspective as the association with equity measures such as students placement and also through a third stream perspective which is based on the appreciation of the importance of a region to the tertiary institution that are located there".⁽⁸⁾ However, Tertiary institutions and their roles in local, regional and central development to be engulfed around four basic themes, namely; the notion of centrality of a university; its meaning and purpose; its mission and operations; and, its innovation agenda and new modes of governance. Thus, higher institutions have always had an impact on the local, regional and central development apart from producing trained and educated skilled labour. University research and innovation are often seen as engines of growth and regional development while peaceful coexistence is given priority.⁽⁹⁾ This and every other benefits arranged for the people in the catchment area of a tertiary institution can only be accessible among the individual with selfless ambitions and good character. But in a situation where by bribery and corruption has become so endemic, it takes the populace to call for perpetual reorientation and research to provide answers to some pressing issues generated through the menace.