Education Crisis in Nigeria Challenges of Reality and Future Prospects

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Abstract-_The education crisis is one of the most serious crises that Nigeria has faced since its independence, due to the fact that the progress of nations and peoples is dependent on development in the field of education, and accordingly that crisis had a profound effect on the deterioration of the social, economic and political conditions, which contributed to the continuing phenomenon of instability in the country, despite many programs and plans developed by successive governments to stop the deterioration in the education sector and work to develop it._

Keywords: Education crisis, Independence, Nigeria, Degradation, Development

Introduction

Education is the cornerstone of social, economic and political development, as no country can develop except by raising its level of education, and education plays a major role in solving the problems that society suffers from such as poverty and unemployment, the development of the agricultural and industrial sector and raising my cultural, political and other levels, which leads to the establishment of The state of stability if employed scientifically and properly.

As far as Nigeria is concerned, because of the exacerbation of an education crisis and its obsolescence, it is still suffering from cultural backwardness, the increase in social problems, the economic decline and the low level of public services, despite the presence of some plans drawn for the development of the education sector and encouraging students to enroll in primary and middle schools, but it is still close to (10.5). Therefore, this paper is an attempt to diagnose the reality of this crisis, and what are its future paths, and accordingly we will address the educational system in Nigeria, and then we will address the challenges facing this sector, then we will address education reform and its role in comprehensive development, through the following demands:

The first Enquiry - the education system in Nigeria: The education system prevailing in Nigeria is a system inherited from the colonial stage, as there was no development or modernization of the education sector after independence, and thus this system did not contribute to the upbringing of pupils and students on the original values that make them harmonious and integral members in this system did not give them the knowledge and skills[i].

Education began in the southern region, especially in the city of (Lagos) when they entered this region and wanted to resettle slaves. Schools is to spread Christianity, and the colonial administration's decision regarding these schools had another goal that also did not stem from its interest in the local community and the population, but rather to create a specific type of craftsmen to help it manage the Nigerian lands that it seized[ii]

In the end, the Nigerian educational system has not developed since independence, but rather has taken a course in line with the British colonial approach,. [iii]

The structure of the educational system in Nigeria has undergone several changes after it was previously followed by the (6-3-3-4) system, but nowadays the system (9-3-4) is followed, this means that basic education is for a period of (nine) years. As for secondary education, it does not exceed (three) years, in addition to higher education, whose duration according to specialization ranges from (four) to seven years[iv].

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As for universities and colleges, the (Yaba) Governmental College was established in (1934) and this was before the emergence of universities, but in (1948) the first university was established, namely the University of Ibadan, and this university was shared with the British colonial government at the time, as well as And it was established in 1960 (University of Nigeria) and (University of Eve) in the western region, and (Ahmed Bello University) and (University of Lagos) were established in (1962) in Zaria region in the Northern Territory[v],

In addition, there are many universities that have been established to the present time, until the total number of (2017) reached (141) universities spread throughout the country, including (40) federal universities, (40) universities affiliated with the state government and (61) private universities, The number of institutes reached (72) institutes, after in 2011 the number of universities was (117), of which (36) federal universities, (36) universities affiliated with the state government and (45) private universities, besides the universities there were (59) An institute of the federal government, the state government and private institutes, and among the federal government's plans was to establish six regional gigantic universities ready to receive students from (150,000 - 200,000) by (2021).[vi]

The government allocated 10.7% of the total budget in 2017 compared to what was allocated. In the year (2013), when the percentage of spending on education reached (8.7%)[vii], The number of participants to take the exam in universities in (2017) reached more than (10) million students, but Nigerian universities only accepted (26%), while (74%) did not obtain an acceptance, this system will produce a number There is a large number of unemployed people, so the available local talent will be very shallow and the jobs will remain vacant, and as a result, not having these jobs will expose millions of Nigerians to destitution and poverty[viii].

The second Enquiry- Challenges facing education in Nigeria: The British administration considered education in Nigeria one of the most important tools that it could employ to achieve its interests after granting independence to this country due to its enormous wealth, and despite the attempts made by successive governments since independence to this day - the last quarter From the year 2020 - aimed at reforming this sector, but most of those attempts failed, and despite the success of some of those attempts, they did not contribute to the development of this sector as the necessary tool in achieving comprehensive development, due to the size of the challenges that faced these endeavors. Thus, the role of educational institutions in Nigeria declined and lost their continental and regional status[ix].

The Nigerian education system - according to specialists - is of a poor level, because it is not compatible with technological development, in addition to the informal school system and the deterioration of the infrastructure, so Nigerians are forced to choose to study abroad[x].

In the face of this, the government found itself obligated to apply governance in education standards and follow a unified system, but it failed in this approach due to the presence of many problems, including those related to financing due to the enrollment of large numbers of students in schools greater than the government's ability to do so[xi].

Nigeria has witnessed a major deterioration in the years of conflicts and crises[xii], and this was reflected in the level of service provision in education for many reasons. These reasons were topped by the heavy population growth and because of the increase in population growth, the primary education system failed, as nearly (10.5) were not enrolled. One million children in primary school in (2018)[xiii],

Which made Nigeria the country with the largest number of children who are not enrolled in school, and that poor education in turn weakens the Nigerian system, and that the financial crisis that the country went through in (2016) burdened the government, which made it lagging in building thousands of new schools, and in recent years The enrollment rate at the primary stage reached (63.8%), and this confirms that a quarter of the pupils leave primary school, and from here the illiteracy rate has increased Literacy rates for adults reached in (2015) (59.3%) [xiv] and this affects university education in terms of advanced numbers for completing university studies[xv].

About (60%) of the children out of school are girls, and the reason for leaving school is to resort to early marriage, and the percentage of males enrolled in the study ranged between (60-70%), and each teacher had (100) students[xvi].

The education system in Nigeria is exposed to confusion for students studying inside or outside the country. The financial crisis caused by the drop in oil prices has affected the movement of foreign students, as scholarships have been reduced and some of them have been completely canceled due to the crisis, as was the collapse of the exchange rate in general (2016) a large and direct role for foreign students and Nigerian students, and universities in Nigeria suffered great losses, including the lack of funding that made them unable to receive Nigerian students, [xvii]

The lack of education in Nigeria from school buildings has led some students to practice education under trees or in mud schools, in addition to the exposure of schools in some areas in Nigeria, especially the northeastern part of the country, to burning and sabotage by terrorist movements to prevent children in this region From the practice of education, and this was reflected in the rate of their enrollment in schools[xviii].

Among the other challenges that faced education and was the reason for the decline in education in Nigeria are the disturbances and strikes that occurred during the study. The university movement was paralyzed and the staff and teachers kept in their homes, and this affected their income, and the great crises that Nigeria went through had an impact on the lack of development Education and its delay compared to the universities of its neighboring countries[xix], in addition to that and what made matters worse is the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, which has had a great impact on this sector at a time when the latter suffers from deterioration and deterioration and lacks technology and bad communication networks, which constituted an impediment to continuing permanently in institutions Educational[xx].

The third Enquiry: education reform and its role in achieving comprehensive development: Education in Nigeria is the vital artery in which comprehensive development is achieved, as the development of education contributes to preparing qualified personnel to manage the country in all specializations, and educational reform provides harmonized solutions for cooperation between the public and private sectors and relying on modern technology in education[xxi].

Quality education also contributes to solving a number of challenges that have faced the country since independence until now, and among the most prominent of these challenges are ethnic and tribal conflicts, as well as security challenges, in addition to the undesirable phenomena in Nigerian society that it inherited from the colonial period, including intolerance, hatred, marginalization and the rejection of the other [xxii]

In order to develop a solution to overcome these challenges, it is necessary to go to education and place it within the strategic plans.[xxiii].

Promoting stability and lasting peace, all of which provides decision-makers with a healthy and appropriate environment to implement a public policy that contributes to achieving comprehensive development in all political, social, economic and security fields[xxiv].

Conclusion: Despite what Nigeria possesses in terms of material and human resources and capabilities, it is still among the backward states, due to the size of the challenges and crises that have plagued it since independence until today, and the education crisis tops the list of those crises, and even though successive governments have made unmitigated efforts to reform this sector, through the plans and programs that it announced, and it tried to implement those plans and programs, but it faced - and is still facing a number of challenges that prevented the development of this sector at the required level. In it, the government, parliament, opposition parties, interest groups, and the general population of different affiliations, regions and orientations, provided that the focus is on the advancement of educational reality.

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