

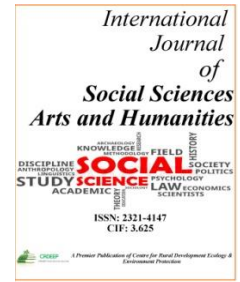
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## Review Paper

# Educating the Self for Economic Viability in Nigeria: a Review

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### ABSTRACT

The problem surrounding the self has been a serious issue that has occupied the mind of array of philosophers of Education from antiquity till date. It has been argued if the self can take any decision in any society without the influence of other members of the same society. In other words, that society determines decision for the self. One will make attempts to argue against seeing the self as passive in decision making going by the Platonic understanding of the self. For instance, Plato avers that self is the primordial factor in education. The self as individual personality is very important in the idealist metaphysics and education; hence the process of education is very much the efforts of developing or educating that self. It is what the individual learner makes of what is presented to him that constitutes his knowledge, the ultimate responsibility of learning rests on the self. The paper, being a qualitative one, through the method of philosophical analysis, examines the concept of education, dwells on the economic viability, makes an analysis of self and corruption as the bane of economic viability in Nigeria, also examines self-education and economic viability. The results are that of two folds as obtained in this paper- that educating the self aids economic viability and in turn moves for the betterment of the self as a contributor to the growth of the nation. The paper concludes that without proper education of self, peaceful coexistence may be a mirage and economic viability may be non-sustainable.

## Introduction

Education has been interpreted in various ways. Etymologically, education as a concept is derived from the Latin words. 'Educare' 'Educare' meaning to draw from within. To be clearer, each child (the self) is born with some innate capacities, tendencies, inherent powers and ideas. Education brings out these attributes and develops them to the full. It is through education that the qualities of the self such as his emotional, mental and physical make-up as well as personality are developed (Uwadia, 2010). The aim of education is to awake in the child (the self) those qualities which are required of him by his society and as well as the society for which he is specially destined.

The process of education develops the self to become the sort of person who will be free to make rational decisions. He acquires this freedom by taking responsibility for himself, others in the society he finds himself and through bringing his own individuality to the projects which he has to undertake in any institution of learning. In any of these institutions, the self is developed indirectly when he is encouraged to form his own taste, values attitudes by studying exceptional people in history and literature. (Fila, 2021) Education is necessary for a person's physical, mental and social development. It shapes the self personality as well as develops discipline in his life. The innate powers of the individual (the self) should be properly cared and given scope to be developed but by who? It is possible through education and active co-operation of the teacher who is believed to be more matured than the learner. From the above etymological meaning, one can understand that education is sacrosanct for a progressive society devoid of corruption and targeted to bringing prosperity to the individual by unfolding his potentialities.

## Concept of Self

One can say self and soul are synonymous going by the conception of Plato. This is because one cannot study the self in platonic philosophy without referring to the soul. Plato contends that the true self of a man is the rational part of the soul which is the seat of wisdom and this is separated from the body. This is knower and it guides all the rational activities carry out by an individual. The rational soul (the self) is located in the head and it enables man to think, reflect, analyse and do other cognitive functions. The rational soul as the true self must be capable of controlling the spirited and appetitive parts of the soul at all time to attain a well balanced individual. Educating the self can be made possible when one is conscious of oneself and ready to be disposed to that education. Self consciousness can be understood as self awareness and it is this self awareness that can lead to the awareness of

one's his nature and environment most especially the awareness of individual's country needs in terms of economic viability. Social and emotional learning start with self awareness, this is an important skill needed by every individual to actualize his potentiality.

Social-emotional and self awareness mean having the capability to understand individual thought, values and emotion as well as knowing how those characteristics influence one's attitudes. One can see understanding as the ability to realistically and open mindedly assess one's strengths as well his weaknesses keeping in mind his confidence, drive and desire to develop. Singh (2007) maintains that self awareness enhances self realization which leads to self knowledge. One may at this juncture construe education as an essential instrument to develop the self higher and higher till self-realisation is achieved for the sustainability of economic viability of any nation.

### **Education and Economic Viability in Nigeria**

Education has been widely recognized as a veritable and strategic venture pivotal to economic formation and transformation of any nation (Odeleye, 2021). Education forms, informs and transforms any nation for economic viability. The importance of education in the national development cannot be overemphasized. It has been established that no country can develop beyond her education since it is the aspiration, belief, fear and philosophy of a nation that mark her education. Hence, the actualization of the economic viability of any nation is a function of educational policy and capacity to implement the policy formulated. The significance of education is not only in the area of supplying the much needed human resources or capital but it also act as an instrument of developing the necessary technological tools and know – how for economic viability. There is no doubt that high level of education may stimulate economic growth. Equally true too is the basic assumption that a highly developed economy could provide the necessary impetus for educational development. Education leads to economic viability in the sense that education changes behaviours and that such behavioural changes result in the production of more goods and services (Owoseni 2006). In Nigeria society, the educational system is expected to supply adequate manpower to different sectors of the economy. This is generally referred to as the manpower functions of education and is achieved among other things. The policy on education (2014) clearly stated that allowing private entrepreneurs in the running and provision of higher education is a step in that direction. Adepoju and Okoyoni (2018) also maintained that education plays a significant role in promoting economic viability and contributing to poverty alleviation. One may not argue this assertion provided the self is favourably disposed to learning. Moreover, it is recognized that higher education has the potential to enhance socio-economic development and contributes to human capital formation; provides the foundation for democratic and knowledge driven societies; and plays a key role in achieving the national development. Accordingly, there is a high expectation in many policy frameworks that education can and must play a decisive role in addressing the challenges of economic viability and social development to achieve the knowledge economy and national development.

One can justify this with the action of World Bank by acknowledging and incorporating this understanding within its Africa Action plan for 2006 – 2008. One can say that the plan specifically highlight the significance of higher education under its strategic aims of building skills for competitiveness, sustainability, growth and development. These include proper provision of relevant skills for the capability to assess existing information, generate new understanding through research; assess labour market and build a much closer working relationship with the productive sectors of the economy. The plan also reiterates the basic important of encouraging primary education and of linking secondary education to a range of employment opportunities. In short, a more balanced, strategic and profitable approach to human capital development is sought in an effort to boost the prospects for economic growth and development in Africa. Although, much has been learnt about development process over a few decades ago, despite the effort made, there is still a missing gap in understanding the process. One of these concerns the interactions among educational achievements improved national income and output performance. The implication of this is that education at all level should be strengthened in this direction. The effort will surely have significance and multiplier effects on knowledge economy and economic viability.

### **The self and corruption as the bane of economic viability in Nigeria**

All nations of the world most especially Western and Eastern civilization, Nigeria inclusive have been occupied with self-knowledge and underscored its significance to the economic viability. For societies, the goal of philosophy and education is the examination of “the self”.Lao Tzu, in his Tao Te Ching, says “knowing others is wisdom. Knowing the self is enlightenment (education). Master the self require strength (Laozi, 1989).The self is one's sense of who one is, deep down – one's identity. When one let someone else know him, he reveals his true self to that person. Psychologists also study the development of the self or the beginning of self awareness.

In Nigeria, all forms of corruptions emanated from the self. This self is perceived as the bane of economic viability. Corruption connotes different meanings to different people based on their cultural perceptions. What is considered as a corrupt practice in a particular place may not be in another setting (Gym ah, 2002). On his point, Jain (2001) considered corruption as the use of the power of public office for personal gain in such a manner that contravenes the rules of the game. For instance, one can observe what is currently going on in Nigeria National assembly as the law makers amend the constitution to favour themselves at the expense of two(200) millions Nigerians. Whichever angle one is looking at corruption, the consequence of it is the same, and that is the misallocation of resources and reducing efficiency of the system for the self (personal gain) as the detriment of the economic viability of the nation.

According to Kunhiyo (2008), Africa is neck deep in corrupt practices in all spheres, especially in social, political and even religious life, with disastrous consequences. It is not only working against economic viability, but also increases poverty by making a few individuals ricker and at the expense of many people. Corruption is making some one (self) unable to fetch for  
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himself and family, spiritually barren, morally bankrupt, and academic without moral transformation. Corruption involves cheating of all sorts, engaging in internet fraud as we can observe in the attitude of our youth, embezzlement of public funds bribery, extortion, nepotism, kickbacks, prostitution, outright theft, match fixing, treasury looting who are intellectually barren but using the ill gotten wealth to oppress the citizens of the country, disobedient to court order, examination malpractices, sex for marks in our tertiary institutions, illegal awarding of contracts, stealing in the name of God by the self acclaimed spiritual leaders and mal-administration. Bribery, for instance is giving money or favour to someone who is a position of trust in order to make a person (the self) acts contrarily in the laid down rule and regulation, unjustly or inhumanly. Both the giver and the recipient are responsibility for the evil effects of bribery and corruption. Grenz and Smith (2003) traced the word extortion to its etymological point of view. To him, it means “to squeeze”; and this is refer to “the act of wrongly obtaining something, such as money from an entity whether a person, group of persons, corporate body or institution through cajole, force, violence or the abuse of authority. Buttressing the above assertion, Nmah (2017) maintained that fraud includes crimes such as cooking scores for students by lecturers, forging cheques, making love in the public offices and inflating costs. It occurs also when funds that are being raised for public interest such as Covid-19 palliative, maintenance of internally displaced people camp, relief package, fund for indigent students donated by spirited individuals, bursary for poor children’s schools’ fees and funds to assist the disabled within society are not put to the intended use. Corruption also occurred when the non-qualified people or appointed persons lack the capacity to direct the said organization. This often has negative effects on the economic viability of the nation in question.

Kleptocratic capture of political part structures is a sine qua none of controlling the government apparatus for personal gain (the self) and thereby encouraging corruption by spreading same opportunities across a range of other sectors. Little differentiates Nigeria’s two major political parties A.P.C. and P.D.P. (All progressive congress and people’s Democratic Party) in this regard. Both are none structured and lacking in genuine political ideologies. The individual (self) involves rely on the misappropriated public fund which they had earlier accumulated to finance election campaigns (Adebowale, 2016). To make things worse, the press most of the time used this opportunity to make money by drawing the attention of the politicians either by writing in the press or by sponsoring public protests – with the pretence of embarrassing or discrediting a political elite or government entity. By accusing corrupt politicians publicly, an individual (the self) can extort money from their targets, which are always ready to buy their silence in exchange for averting potential reputational damage and negative press coverage. This also contributes to the failure of economic viability of the Nation. (Matthew, 2018)

Mauro (1995) finds out that the corrupt practice of individual (the self) in Nigeria, for instance, has a negative effect on the economic viability. No one can go against the fact that corruption discourages investment and distorts the composition of government spending usually to the detriment of future economic growth. Corruption aids inflation just as we are witnessing in Nigeria. Mauro argues that corruption will reduce aid flow particularly the developing countries. Even if one does not come into direct contact with corruption, corruption affects everyone. This is by making life unbearable for the large population who live from hands to mouth. Working class citizens are prone to borrowing before can get anything done. Corruption reduces overall wealth in a country since it can discourage business from operating in such a corrupt setting. For instant, majority of the companies belonging to the expatriates have been relocated from Nigeria to the neighbouring countries. Corruption causes a serious development challenges, in the political sphere, it undermines democracy and good governance by weakening political processes. Corruption in elections by individual prevents accountability and representation in policy making and distorted true representation. In judiciary, it truncates the rule of law and in the public service; it encourages maginalisation of some groups while few at the helms of affair live in affluence. Due to corrupt practices in Nigeria, foreign nationals as well as the citizens exercise caution in entering businesses and this have a lot of effects on the economic viability.

### **The Self, Education and Economic Viability**

Education of the self could be seen as very crucial to the economic viability of the developing nation like Nigeria. It is a known fact that education forms, informs and transforms. A formed individual (self) is transformed in his outlook and as well contribute selflessly to the economic growth of his nation. Education is adjudged to play an essential role in positive building of the organs of society. This is to say that Education is responsible for the socialization of the self and maintenance of social harmony. Nabi, (2019) conceived educating the self as a factor or rapid growth of industrialization and economic viability. This is because, he considered education as a major agency or socialization and only an educated self is capable on contributing meaningfully to the development of his society. One can hardly envisage social change without educating the self. Education establishing and encourages proper patterns and attitude individuals interacting in a society.

Educating the self plays innovative functions by imparting new knowledge of Science and Technology, social patterns, social institutions, behaviour, modernization and other specialized branches of knowledge for the good of the society an individual finds himself. This is because, a desirable change is brought by education in different spheres of an individual’s life and this propelled individual to participate in different activities and social works; so as to make his contribution to growth, development and progress of the society. Educating the self raises people’s productivity, creativity, promotes entrepreneurship, securing economic and social progress. (Ozturk, 2001) Education is not only the qualitative expansion of educational opportunities but also the qualitative improvement of the type of education which is imparted to the self that hold the key to economic development. Speaking on the importance of education, Adeniyi (2019) citing Harbison writes “human resources constitute the ultimate basis of production, human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic and political organizations, and carry forward national development.

### **Conclusion**

Educating the self for economic viability is predicated on the formation and transformation of individual to contribute to the growth of the economics of the nation. If education as it is said in this paper is to bring out, to train among others the innate

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potentials of the self then education is a potent factor for economic viability. Economic viability depends on the conscious and continuous process of acquiring and increasing highest number of people with requisite knowledge, education, skills and experiences. This is important because these qualities will go a long way in inculcating in the mind of individual necessary skills needed to see himself as contribution to the growth of his nation most especially in the area of economic development. It is through this that the essence of education in the formation, information and transformation of self for economic viability could be realized

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