

A REVIEW OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION IN A WORLD OF CHANGE BY JUDE I. ONEBUNNE

By

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African Philosophy of Education in a World of Change is a paper written by Jude I. Onebunne and published in 2018 in *Nnadiesube Journal of Education, Vol.3 No.1*. He elaborated on a Philosophy of Education for the African society. The work addressed the poor attention and negligence of African culture, traditions, norms and skills most especially in our present school curriculum. Education should be able to address the life challenges of the people. This is why philosophers of education ought to outline a system of education and develop the content of our curriculums that will take care of the people's worldview. In our context, therefore, as Africans, we need a Philosophy of Education that is African-oriented especially in our changing world. The author did a wonderful job explaining in details the key terms to enhance better understanding. The paper is an outstanding one that commands academic accolades and real attention especially with regard to the preservation of African heritage and, of course, an Africanization of the western education so as to be simply functional. The author opines for a complement between African Philosophy of Education and that of the already existing Western Education influence. Moreover, it must be noted that any system of education that is alien to African thought system and culture would definitely do more mis-service than service to African civilization. Thus, African Philosophy of Education is most suited for the task of presentation, conservation and preservation of African ideologies, culture, traditions, norms and values.

Consequently, the paper obviously stated the negative implications of Western Philosophy of Education to African society. Nevertheless, it presumed that the positive impact of European system of education to the heterogeneous Nigerian society at large. However, rekindling African traditional education in our contemporary school system is a most welcomed development and best if appropriately implemented. However, the paper proposes thus: An African Philosophy of Education that can merge with the inherent education in a heterogeneous society like Nigeria. Such system should harness the Western system which is already impacting on our African society, thereby producing an integral African person as such. Such African Philosophy of Education will definitely project African languages and enhance effective communication among the African countries.

Again, while Western Philosophy of Education has always been blamed for the moral decadence, radicalism, unemployment, negligence to African lifestyle etc., there is this tendency to downplay the positive outturns. Take a minute example; some subjects in the curriculum like C.R.S, Civic Education, Social Studies, entrepreneurship are all basically

channelled to developing and sharpening the students' personalities. These impact healthy basic values that can be socially, culturally and national enhancing. Good enough, often these subjects are treated within the ambient of African context.

However, I maintain that the Western Philosophy of Education system may never be the problem leading to the decline in our educational system rather the problems lie on the mode of application and integration in the society. Beside, an adage obviously goes: "a valuable asset becomes useless if not properly managed". Western Philosophy of Education system would have been an added advantage to our heritage if it had been appropriately modified, adopted and applied to suit the African way of life. Therefore, the call for a conducive African Philosophy of Education becomes a worthwhile project for the mission of making education relevant in our milieu. Such Philosophy of education that is Africa related must consider seriously the Traditional Educational System that was practised by our forefathers in solving their immediate problems.