



Education of Women in Today's World: Implications for Counsellors

M. C. Okonkwo and Amaka Obineli

Guidance and Counselling Unit, Anambra State University

Igbariam Campus, Anambra State - Nigeria

E-Mail: Cmokonkwo@Yahoo.Com

Guidance and Counselling Department, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka - Nigeria

E-Mail: Amivictos@Yahoo.Com

ABSTRACT

This study tries to proffer Education of Women in Today's World. Three research questions guided the study. The population comprised 72 women with Ph.D. in all the Federal institutions, State Universities and Colleges of Education in Anambra State. The instrument for data collected was analyzed using mean rating and rank-order. Results showed that all listed problems were accepted as current problems of Educational Development in Anambra State except item on Rank Order '13'. The result for research questions two revealed that all the items listed were accepted as problems of women in education sector. The third research question also revealed that all the items listed were accepted as things which education has done in the lives of women in Today's World, implications for Counsellors were also highlighted, recommendations and conclusions were made.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the wings for the progress of the human being. It enables individual to attain intellectual, physical and spiritual or emotional progress. It assists the individual to live a happier life. For people without education, living comfortably turns difficult, especially in today's world where specific skills are often needed to work. Besides, education dignifies the individual. In today's World, education moves the society forward; it transforms the society and creates a better human being.

Education in our country (Nigeria) needs improvement at all levels in every aspect of being. Nigerians tend to be bold in thought but timid in action with regards to their educational system. We are standing still in a time of head long change which means that we are falling behind (Adegbite, 2007).

Implications of Women's Education for Counselors

All over the world, education has become a veritable index for determining the level of development in any society. Other sectors of any nation's economy derive enormous impetus from education, this constitutes super structure on which economic development and societal growths are predicted (Ejionueme, 2007).

Taylor in Ogbonnaya (2003) defined education as the process of changing the behaviour pattern of people. Onuoha in Onwuka (ed) (2002,) described education as a process by which the individual is enabled to develop these capabilities through the acquisition of knowledge, values, attitude both for his own benefit and for the benefit of the society.

Udokang, (2006) opined that education goes beyond literacy alone because for an individual; education means the provision of opportunity for him to realize his potentials, goals and abilities in life. He went further to say that education include the acquisition of functional skills, moral identity, and ambition to succeed in life and thereby improve the society.

Abawuna and Fanyam, (2006) opined that education is the process by which information is shared, knowledge acquired and skills developed. Achineku, (2006) described education as an instrument of social change that can create awareness into people from time to time.

Shomibare (2001) opined that reflecting on women in education today, we are celebrating an achievement which has taken time to be attained. The advent of western education have succeeded in uplifting the image of women as well as their status with education, women are no longer restricted to the kitchen or made child bearers. Through education, women are now seen as politically, socially and economically vibrant assets to the uplift of the nation.

From the foregoing, education is a powerful instrument through which a woman develops her ability to know herself and achieve her heart's desires.

A woman is that creature that co-habits the planet earth with man. Women are different from men because of their nature, roles and physiology. According to Folashade, (2000), the woman possesses less muscles and strengths than man; they are naturally designed or created to incubate the young ones. A woman is the most powerful individual despite being gentle, tender and intangible. In today's world, most societies see women as not being equal to men and so must never compete with them.

The researchers want to see the current problems of educational development in Anambra State – to see how education has helped the women of today to confront with problems created by the society, to look at the problems of women in educational system and what education has made for them.

Research Questions

1. What are the current problems of Educational Development in Anambra State?
2. What are the problems of women in education sector?

3. What are the things education has done in the life of women in today's world?

METHODOLOGY

A description survey research method was used for this study. This study involved collecting and describing data obtained from a population in order to determine the importance of education of woman in Anambra State and so, the design is ideal for this study.

Nworgu, (2006) opined that a survey design is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be a representative group of the entire population. According to Gay, (1996) a survey is an attempt to collect data from members of the population in order to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables.

The population of the study consisted of 72 woman who are Ph.D. holders who were seen by the researchers during their visit to all the Federal, State and private tertiary institutions in Anambra State. This was no sample due to the paucity of women with Ph.D. certificate in these institutions; therefore, the total population for this study comprised 72 women Ph.D. holders.

The instrument used in collecting data for this study was questionnaire titled "current problems of Education Development (QCPED). The questionnaire consisted of three (3) parts "A" and sought information on the current problems of Educational Development in Anambra State. "A" consisted of 13 items 'B' consisted of 8 items dealt with problems of women who were involved in Education, and part of 'C consisted of 7 items. It dealt on the things which education has done in the life of women in today's world. The items of the questionnaire were derived from the reviewed literature and discussions with Ph.D. holders. The responses to the questionnaire items were designed on 4 –point scale of measurement: strongly disagree (SD) –1. mean ratings above 2.50 were taken to mean agreement while men rating below 2.50 were taken to mean disagreement.

Three expert from Guidance and counselling unit all from Anambra State University, Uli validated the instrument using face and content validity. Purpose of the study, research questions and topic were given to the as a guide. The experts reviewed the content coverage and appropriateness of the language structure and expressions. Their suggestions and corrections were used in the final modification of the items of the questionnaire in testing for reliability, copies of questionnaires were administered on a sample of ten (10) women Ph.D holders in Enugu State, who state who were not part of this study. The Cronbach alpha, reliability co-efficient value of 0.81 was obtained when the responses were analyzed, this indicated that the items in the instrument were homogenous. The distributed copies were collected back from the respondents the same day by the researchers with the help of the

Implications of Women's Education for Counselors

research attendants who worked with them. Responses for the three research questions were answered using mean ratings.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that only rank order 13 ranked below 2.50, so all the other are the current problems of Education Development in Anambra State. In table 2, all the items are rated above 2.50. This means in the respondents opine, that all problems of women education sector listed above are accepted.

Table 1: Respondents mean rating and Rank Order of the current problems of Educational Development in Anambra State.

RANK ORDER	ITEMS	MEAN (X)
1	The issue of responsibility and control of the society's education: conflict between the federal state and local Government.	4.20
2	The prevalence of multiple system of education	4.10
3	Diversification of the Education System	4.00
4	Unstable curriculum and subject	3.70
5	The need to rate the school curricular to national manpower needs	3.50
6	Unstable staff	3.40
7	The poor state of the nations economy: SAP, FEM and the Financing of the education system	3.40
8	Politicization of Education	3.30
9	Procurement and servicing of equipment	3.20
10	Inadequate classroom accommodation	3.10
11	Poorly equipped libraries, laboratories an subject rooms	3.00
12	Scarcity and prohibitive cost of books at all of education	2.90
13	Stable staff	2.00

Table 2: Respondents mean rating and ranking order of the problems of women in Education sector.

Rank order	Items	Mean (X)
1	Women are regaled to the background	3.40
2	People do not even believe in he Education of their female children	3.30
3	In Muslim dominated societies in the core North women education is not taken as a necessary venture	3.20
4	Muslim parents believe that when hey send their female children to school , they could become promiscuous	3.10
5	In some Nigeria societies, they believe hat it is abomination to train a women	3.90
6	Education of women is seen as a threat to men chauvinism	3.80
7	Some people believe that women have low I.Q and as such were not expected to venture into some courses like medicine, Engineering, e t c.	3.70
8	Some people believe that positions of authority are the exclusive reserve for men.	3.60

DISCUSSION

The study revealed that Education has current problems as shown in table 1. All the items were universally accepted as current problems except stable staff. This finding is in conformity with Abawua and Fanyam (2006) who defined Education as the process by which information is shared, knowledge acquired and skills developed-when these things are not present, the problem manifests, because there is no reasonable man in the society to control.

The study records a universally accepted problem which women in the Education sector face. This was shown in table 2. All the respondents expressed their views. These findings have the support of Folashade (2000) who opined that women possess less muscles and strength than the men. This shows that women are being relegated to the background.

There is no gain saying, that if these women are not loved, educated and trained, they would become a liability to the society in which they live. Udekang, (2006) opined that education goes beyond literacy alone because for an individual, education means the provision of opportunity for him to realize his potentials, goals and abilities in life. He went further to say that education includes the acquisition of functional skills, moral identity and ambition to succeed in life and thereby improve the society.

Implications for Counselors

The findings revealed current problems facing education, problems facing women in education, and finally, what education has done in the life of educated women and in today's world. The findings portray the importance of education to women and that will serve as a good material for counselors who will now make use of these materials in educating other women who are still lagging behind. The women who were involved in education are already benefiting and are still benefiting.

Counselors should therefore wake up to their responsibilities through conferences, seminars, workshops, mass-media campaigns and other methods available to see that women excel in education, thereby contributing their own quota to national development.

Counselors should use their expertise knowledge to wake the weak women up. Counselors, encourage, assist, pilot, direct, and lead them to understand themselves using formal and non-formal education.

The counselors identify all the misinformed beliefs against women in education and create awareness using Newspapers, Radio, Television, and other means available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Government should fund education. There are many lapses on the part of government at the implementation levels.

Implications of Women's Education for Counselors

- CASSON should create awareness to the general public on the roles of counselors in the educational system
- counsellors should be include in all education policy implementation committee for the Federal, State University and College of Education.
- Guidance and counseling need to be redefined in today's world to aid development

CONCLUSION

Women Education if will continued will equip the women with more valuable skills and competence, which will enable them to perform to duties accreditably. Women education is a eye factor in their appointments to governmental post such as ambassadors, ministers, commissioners, chairmen, directors, etc

REFERENCES

- Abawuna, J.M and Fanyam, T .N (2006). The Role of women in Education in Nigeria Education for poverty Alleviation in Nigeria, Katsina-Ala C.O.E Book of Reading.
- Achinikeku, T.D. (2006). Woen Education and National Reconciliation education Democracy and National Reconciliation in Nigeria Katsina-Ala, C.O.E, Book of Reading
- Adegbite, J.G.O. (2007). The Education Reform Agenda Challenges for Tertiary Education Administration in Nigeria. Being a paper presented at the sixth Annual Seminar of the Conference of Registrar of Colleges of Education in Nigeria (South –west zone) at the college of Education, Ukere-Ikiti-Ekiti, Ekiti State, June 12 –13.
- Ejionueme, I.K. (2007). Nigeria Education in the 21 century's challenges and Reform Options. Nigeria Journal of Teachers Education and Teaching Vol. 3 (1): 78—87.
- Nworgu, B.G. (2006). Educational Research basic Issues and Methodology, (second and Enlarge Education) Ibadan Wisdom Publishers Ltd.
- Ogbonnaya, N.. (2003). Principles and Applications of Educational Policies in Nigeria, Nsukka University Trust Publishers
- Udokang, S.J. (2006). Crisis in our Educational system, challenges to guidance counsellors. A paper presented at a one day workshop for enhancing guidance and counseling in Akwa-Ibom State organized by state secondary Education Board, Uyo.