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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Institute Journal of Studies in Education (IJSE) is repositioned as a repository for scientific information in the general field of education and related discipline.

In keeping with international status of the Journal, IJSE is peer-reviewed and is under consideration to be hosted by African Journals online at <http://www.ajol.info>. Our editorial team cuts across scholars from different parts of the world with article contributions from the international community as well.

With the publication of this issue, the broad goals of Institute Journal of Studies in Education (IJSE) to advance a wide range of theory, empirical research, sound methodology and research-to-practice, are further reinforced.

We present for your reading and research pleasure, Volume 5, No. 1, 2015. This is a bumper edition containing 10 (8 empirical; 2 theoretical) incisive and variegated articles from erudite scholars across the globe.

Happy reading

Prof. Mudasiru O. Yusuf

(Director, Institute of Education, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.)

Editor - In - Chief

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HUMAN RIGHTS: IMPERATIVE FOR GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Human Rights education x-rays the rights of citizens especially the girl-child in the community, society, and the world at large. It assists to develop the girl-child holistically in her social well being, respect for human rights and enhancing her right to education. It also centered on universal values, equal opportunities, respect for diversity and non-discrimination, equality, protection of human rights at all levels, developing solidarity, prevents conflict, sharing of knowledge, impacts skills and moulds attitudes in both formal and informal contexts. The paper therefore examined the goals, objectives, importance of human rights education for the girl-child. This is based on the fact that knowledge and understanding of human rights education will be an essential tool not for only girl-child and the entire citizen to survive as an entity in all spheres of life and to have relative complete peace in our country Nigeria. The education of human right should be made compulsory for all and sundry in both formal and informal education as this will assist to develop the girl-child and the entire populace irrespective of gender, race, creed, ethnicity, status and ability which will curb conflict and mould the attitude of people towards one another generally.

Key words: Human Rights, Imperative Education, Girl-Child.

Introduction

The education that trains, informs and geared towards building an accepted culture of peace, security, freedom, prosperity, respect for human rights, tolerance equity for the entire society, and global world is what human right education is all about. Human rights education universally starts from the little places like the home, schools, work place and the society at large.

Human rights education means understanding and embracing the principles of human equality and dignity. Human right education will create commitment in people

aware of her rights; it empowers her socially, economically and financially. The girl-child will be empowered to participate fully in her society if educated (UNICEF, 2000; Okafor, 2013) sees education as a fundamental human rights and a main tool to curb poverty, child labour and a means of promoting sustainable development for all. In spite of the presence of human right laws in our society today, girl-children still suffer from homelessness, abuse, neglect, violence, unequal access to education and justice system that do not take their special needs into consideration. These problems occur everywhere both in developed, industrial and developing societies (Owoeye, 2007). Some families lay more emphasis on their economic lives to the detriment of their children's education. Some parents even go as far as engaging their girl-children in child labour, prostitution and slavery. Early marriage also prevents the girl-child from acquiring formal education. Owoeye (2007) further stated that some parents are more concerned about maintenance and so deny their children education. He also stated that some parents see their girl children as property and further stated that ignorance and poverty can be part of the causes of this attitude towards girl-child's right generally.

The Concept of Human Rights

Human rights have been viewed from different angles such as sociological, political and philosophical. Human rights is a concept which regards human beings as having universal rights or status, regardless of legal jurisdiction and other localizing factors like ethnicity and nationality (Yusuf, 2013). Human rights which relied on the social contract theories and what they perceive as natural rights. Human rights are rights which all human beings will benefit, which include civil, political, social and economic rights. These rights are vital and entitled to every living human being. One among those rights accorded to humans is the right to education.

United Nations Declaration on Human Rights article 26 stated the following:

- ◆ all humans have the right to education and it shall be free education from primary to lower basic.
- ◆ primary education shall be made available everywhere.
- ◆ higher education shall be accessible based on merit. The importance attached to education is the bedrock of the declaration (Myrdal, 1965).
- ◆ education is the level that improves the quality of human beings and all achievement one makes depends on one's level of education.

New York and Geneva 2012

The global world needs human rights education in schools at all level to combat all the numerous problems in the globe. If schools at all levels can educate and give information to enable better building of a universal culture of human rights, then the channel of sharing knowledge and impacting skills molding of attitudes, strengthening

respects for human rights, freedom, tolerance, equality, peace among all and sundry, in every society, nation will be fostered. If this can be fully put into practice the world at large will be a better place, the egalitarian society will not be a mere dream but a realistic achievement for us all. This will be a place where humans will sleep with both eyes closed. With HRE, conflict will be at its bare minimal, graduates at different levels of schools will come out with skills of different kinds, people will see one another as human notwithstanding your creed, race, tribe, ethnicity, gender and ability.

General Human Rights

1. The rights to due process of law
2. The rights to respect for human dignity
3. The right to health
4. The right to life and integrity of the person
5. The right to be free from torture or all treatment.
6. The right to freedom from discrimination of any kind.
7. The right to freedom of conscience and thought
8. The right to freedoms of religion
9. The right to respect for family life and visit
10. The right to freedom from slavery
11. The rights to self-development (Olagunju & Hammed, 2011).
12. The right to education.

Application of the Rights to Education

All citizens including the girl- child needs and have the right to education so as to acquire knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes to enable them live peaceful, happy and productive adult life in the society.

Human Right in a domestic sense according to Yusuf (2013) is a safeguard for a person against arbitrary use of power by government in relation to:

- ♦ The well- being of individuals;
- ♦ The freedom and autonomy of individuals; and

The representation of human interest in government. It also deals with a little subject of values that should be available for implementation by a person, other persons, or government. All these values are based on the legal and political tradition of every country and it is stated in the constitution clearly.

Human beings all over the world suppose to enjoy these rights irrespective of their religion, race, ethnicity, gender and status (Yusuf, 2013). The term "Human needs

active violence. Peace is built when the society is internationalized with the values that can bring peace and some people can also sponsor the Nation to achieve peace.

Education enhances people to live in peace and not in war irrespective of their differences. The family and home have greater roles to play in order to sustain peace in our society. The sociologist strongly believe that the family is the primary socializing unit and that whatever impression made by the home to the child is what he or she will exhibit outside her home. We must achieve peace from all angle, it is not something that can be achieved in one direction. In spite of the rate of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, diversity in culture, creed, and ethnicity we all need to be one and live in peaceful environment. Initially, peace has been taken for granted.

The media should project peaceful invent and not war. In Nigeria we have relative peace and not complete peace. Sociologists believe that complete peace can be achieved through Civic Education if the society can adhere and live by sociological concepts. This can be achieved if we can respect people's culture, play our role and status in the society effectively. Peace can still be achieved in Nigeria if the Nation can uphold her values, norms, belief system, and be socially controlled by social action in the society.

Conclusion

Human Rights Education is supposed to be a training programme, which all human beings will benefit from. These include civil, political, social and economic rights. These rights are vital and a right to every living human being. One among those rights accorded to humans is the right of education to the girl-child which can be either formal or informal.

Human Rights Education is aimed at building a universal culture of human rights through the sharing of knowledge, imparting of skills and molding of attitudes to prompt action directed at strengthening respect for human rights, fundamental freedom, tolerance, equality and peace among individual, within societies and among nations. If HRE is taught in schools at all levels, it will also assist in giving the girl-child serene peace.

Recommendation

The following recommendations were made for relative peace to reign in Nigeria: Human Rights Education should be included in school curriculum at all levels so that people will know their rights and how to exercise them. Government at all levels and stakeholders in education should be good role model in promoting the rights of the girl-child and all citizens so that peace will reign. Dialogue should be used in relating to the matters of girl-child to make sure that they express their opinions and views. The society should be sensitized on the rights of individuals generally and how not to infringe on people's right especially the girl-child. The society should be sensitized on

the rights of the citizens and girl-child in particular. Seminars should be organized regularly and adverts on radio, televisions, bill boards, posters and drama plays on the importance of peace and education of the girl-child in Nigeria should be encouraged.

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