

EDUCATION ETHICS

HIGHER EDUCATION IN CRISIS

SUSTAINING QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
INNOVATION IN RESEARCH THROUGH
APPLIED ETHICS

IKECHUKWU J. ANI / OBIORA F. IKE (EDITORS)

Globethics.net

5

ISBN 978-2-88931-324-2



HIGHER EDUCATION IN CRISIS

SUSTAINING QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INNOVATION
IN RESEARCH THROUGH APPLIED ETHICS

cause
s into the heart
transmission from
gap. It contains
ts and educationists,
g policy makers and ethic
provoking ideas help
course of pushing the agen

IKECHUKWU J. ANI



is the Director of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Godfrey Okoye University Enugu. He is presently the National Chaplain of the Young Catholic Students of Nigeria (yCSN) and has over 25 years of experience working with youths.

OBIORA F. IKE



is the Executive Director of Globethics.net. He is President of the Club of Rome (Nigeria Chapter) and chairs the government of Enugu State Economic Advisory Committee. He is Professor of ethics at Godfrey Okoye University.

Globethics.net

2 INTRODUCTION

Ikechukwu Ani / Obiora F. Ike'

*"Education without values, as useful as it is,
seems rather to make [human] a more clever devil. "
(C. S. Lewis)*

At this period of world history with its crazy global developments, much of humanity stand in trepidation and crisis, occasioned by the crossroads of a general gap of persons lacking in the practice of ethical values. Crisis is in the air - everywhere. There is Economic and Political Crisis. Financial and Banking Crisis. Religious and Cultural Crisis. Institutional and Family Crisis. Stress and Personal crisis. Whichever way one tries, there is this growing gap of a world yawning for help. The gap is caused by lack of ethical values, thus the observed dissatisfaction of people in dysfunctional societies; raging internal and open wars; the monumental and unbridled corruption beyond sense and reason among peoples of many developing countries, but also found in every race and class and culture at this time.

² Ikechukwu J. Ani is Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Godfrey Okoye University Enugu. Obiora Ike is Executive Director Globethics.net Geneva and Professor of Ethics/ Intercultural Studies at the Godfrey Okoye University.

16 Quality Assurance Embedded in Ethics Applied Across Sectors

What is ETHICS? A question frequently asked with myriad of responses of thinkers through the ages and from various world-views and cultures, value-systems and traditions, civilisations and historical experiences. Ethics thus emerges as the search for and the study and discipline that is founded in rational reflection on how Life, ALL LIFE can be better lived, nurtured, enhanced and developed for the COMMON GOOD of all. By doing the right, the "Ought" or to use the language of Aristotle, the GOOD (Nicomachean Ethics) one approaches the domain of ETHICS which is applied into every action of humankind.

Ethics is thus the establishment of right and wrong, founded on reason and what "ought" be done - a category of good conscience, sound moral judgment and the free choice of the rational mind. Ethics is built on principles and values that distinguish unethical conduct from ethical actions. It is therefore the constant basic need, which guides personal conduct, governs common interests including public, state and corporate actions and indeed is applied to everything that serves life, not just human but indeed every Life. Although expressed in different ways in each individual, culture, custom and forms of diversity, the human heart is essentially one-and-the-same, for it reflects the same substance and finding Ethics and behaving ethically is possible for each person and all persons. But it needs a cultivated education to nurture and grow.

Education is therefore at the centre of every human settlement. It is necessary for character formation and through education; the realisation of meaning and purpose of the trained agent is achieved. Education in Ethics, if acquired, increases the value chain of any nation because Education founded on values brings values-driven-principles into the heart of humans and makes them original, ethical, healing and beneficial to all. Every useful effort therefore made to embed Higher Education with applied ethics serves society as a whole. It translates into Empowerment,

Transformation, Holistic approach, Integrity, Competence and Sustainability of the student, teacher, professional and institutions³.

We are aware of the gaps in values transmission from one generation to the next. This has consequences on the economic, social and political upheavals in our time. How do we otherwise explain these issues? In a recent column, Karnran Mofid, economist and thought leader has written (His Charge Sheet, www.gcgi.info) so articulately formulated in the following:

"when education is not for the pursuit of wisdom, virtues and beauty; when students are called customers and education becomes a commodity; when universities become service providers and centres of business, trading in "commodities", buying them cheap and selling them to the highest bidders; when teaching is not a vocation; when learning is not sacrament; when education is all about rankings and targets; when it all becomes about running low quality courses, with no heart, spirit and meaning, just to get 'bums on seats', taught and stressed, fatigued, overworked and not-valued-faculty; when it is all about delivery at the lowest possible costs, and exam results are hugely inflated, to keep the customers happy and not complaining; then, we have opened the doors to the destruction of all that makes life good and worthwhile" .

It is this situation that leads to growing discontent and unhappiness, equivalent to meaninglessness, social upheavals and anxiety often among the youth but also amongst the aged? From a global perspective, there is noticeable rejection of the world and its governance structures as currently practiced because many believe that it was meant to be much better and indeed different.

18 Quality Assurance Embedded in Ethics Applied Across Sectors

The book you have in your hands is a response to this gap. It contains reflections by professionals, teachers, research students and educationists including policy makers and ethicists whose thought provoking ideas help the discourse of pushing the agenda that Ethics Matters. In 10 chapters, contributors ruminate the topic of quality assurance in Higher Education. Issues of growing global poverty and inequality are real and challenge the scope of discourse beyond offering simple research solutions. What does poverty alleviation and poverty eradication mean for the African continent in view of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 and in view of the Africa Union Agenda 2063? This is the contribution of Paulinus Chukwudi Nweke who teaches and works at the Vatican university in Rome. It is complemented by the rich and highly researched writing of newly promoted Dr Maryann Ijeoma Egbujor, (DDL) whose recent dissertation submitted for the doctorate degree at the university in Germany makes good reading.

Using the rich heritage of Catholic Social Ethics as a resource and guide for Quality Assurance, the issue of values-driven- professionalism and professionalization of education including mass communication and journalism takes centre stage.

It is through the means of social communication that we learn, are influenced, receive information and even are formed in our opinions and thinking.

The leadership of the private Higher Education institution Godfrey Okoye University had the purpose of empowering participants with the knowledge of best practices in areas of Quality Assurance and Innovative research methodologies. Godfrey Okoye University believes that addressing Higher Education and the Role Ethics plays in it helps the building of a future generation of responsible leaders and citizens. The title of the book bears the theme of addressing: *"University Education in Crisis - Sustaining Quality Assurance and innovation in Research*

through Applied Ethics". The overall outcomes for research, teaching and training are:

- to review the state of quality assurance in Nigerian Higher Education Institutions with the view of sharpening the mechanisms towards effective and efficient academic planning and quality assurance models in Nigerian Universities.
- To review the paradigm of innovative research in Higher Education Institutions in Africa in the context of Economic Recession.
- To proffer models of Innovative Curriculum Development and Research Initiatives.
- To review the Accreditation of Academic programs in Nigerian Higher Institutions with the view of making adequate preparations for the peer review exercise.

Making ethics a way of life therefore, Higher education institutions are the places where ethics are nurtured through research, training, teaching and administration. Such ethics education affects the lives of the next generation and contribute to responsible leadership much needed today as the foundation for a better society.