

**MANAGEMENT OF YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:
EDUCATIONAL ISSUES,
CHALLENGES AND
STRATEGIES**

BY

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in Africa: Educational Issues, Challenges
and Strategies.**

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ISBN: 978-978-772-131-5

Printed and published by:
CIDJAP PRESS NIG. LTD 1
– 3 CIDJAP Street
Uwani, Enugu.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Africa Youths, People and Leaders.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In deep reverence and appreciation, we first acknowledge the Almighty God for our lives, good health and wisdom to articulate this book. He remains the Author and Finisher of creativity.

Our families have remained our strength. We appreciate our nuclear families - the Mogboh family, the Ekoh – Nweke family and the Agu family for their patience and encouragement during the long period of putting together this book.

We thank the administrative heads and staff of various institutions including Godfrey Okoye University Enugu; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia state and UNICEF for the opportunity to pull together our thoughts on youth organization and development. We acknowledge the research materials made available at our disposal for documented evidence.

We conspicuously acknowledge and appreciate these great minds for their efforts in our quest for youth development. They are: Prof Biko Agozino for his continuous inspiration and moral support. Very Rev. Msgr. Prof. Obiora Ike and CIDJAP organization for their unquantifiable effort at seeing to the realization of our dream through the publication of this book.

Indeed, all things work together to the glory of God!

FOREWARD

By Biko Agozino

"It was part of the independent movement that there should be education. Chief Awolowo and his colleagues ensured free education at all levels. Education was seen as a very fundamental part of the liberation. We have over 13 million children in Nigeria who are not in school. I mean that's a crime. All children should be entitled to schooling up to a certain level. We have hundreds of millions taken away for all kinds of processes and not educating our children. I just feel like we've got some fundamental work to do. If the children are not being educated, what's the prospect of them going forward? It is a loss to the society if they cannot function at a certain level. I wouldn't be here in front of you if it was not for an insistence on education." – [Richard Joseph](#) (2022).

The above statement was made by a Trinidadian, Richard Joseph, at the Toyin Falola Interviews Series in March 2022. He was echoing the astonishing importance that people of African descent

placed on learning especially in the Diaspora where it was made a crime for the enslaved to learn to read and write. As Du Bois reported:

"The mass of the slaves could have no education. The laws on this point were clear and severe...All the slave states had such laws and after the Nat Turner insurrection in Virginia, these laws were strengthened and more carefully enforced." W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America, 1935, p. 570.

Eric Williams, the Father of Trinidad and Tobago, characterized education as the inner hunger that he tried to quench with scholarships all the way to Oxford University before he came to abolish school fees in elementary and secondary schools, later extended by his party, Peoples National Movement, to the university level in Trinidad and Tobago. Fees Must Fall, South African students demanded during the Rhodes Must Fall campaign.

Another Diaspora African, C.L.R. James, also emphasized the importance of education in *Nkrumah and the Ghana Revolution*. The colonizers had expelled students and teachers who were suspected of supporting the nationalist movement. They went to Nkrumah and asked him what to do. He told them to start the National School Movement to educate the people. James concluded that if any regime succeeds only in providing education for all, it would be most welcome. Ghana may be reaping some of the benefits today as they produce highly educated leaders compared to most other African states. Yet all African countries are in desperate need of the education of the young and the education of adults too, not only in reading and writing, but also in sports, arts and culture, and in entrepreneurial activities.

This book looks at the multiplicity of youth policies across Africa to indicate that the problem may lie in the implementation or no implementation of policies. Yet, in Africa, it should not be forgotten that the colonizers were suspicious of education and it was up to the people to build their own schools as Walter Rodney observed in *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. The education system in Africa should be decolonized further by teaching the history of Africa more than the teaching of European history, by teaching critical thinking and study skills, by teaching more about the African environment and technology in use. It is a failure of the educational system that our farmers still use the hoe and the cutlass for hundreds of years while the rest of the world has mechanized agriculture, partly because the colonizers kept Africa underdeveloped according to Rodney.

No wonder the youth are i shying away from farming and are risking their lives crossing the Sahara and drowning in their thousands in the Aegean Sea to reach fortress Europe and seek work to care for the aged or to do anything to support their families back home. Surprisingly, the countries that they are migrating to do not always have a youth ministry nor a ministry of women's affairs but are benefitting from centuries of the unequal exchange between Africa and Europe. 'In A Letter to the Youth of Africa', Frantz [Fanon](#) (1967: 117) stated as follows:

"The future will have no pity for those men who, possessing the exceptional privilege of being able to speak words of truth to their oppressors, have taken refuge in an attitude of passivity, of mute indifference, and sometimes of cold complicity."

This book should challenge the youth of Africa to ask themselves what kinds of truth they are speaking to their oppressors today or are they passive and mute, indifferent or even in complicity with their oppressors? When Azikiwe returned to lead the nationalist movement in West Africa with

his chain of newspapers and with his campaign for each one to teach one, he was still a youth man just like those he inspired to pursue further education in preparation for leadership across Africa. The military officers who seized power across Africa to truncate the decolonization and democratization processes were also young officers. It is not the chronological age that matters but also the courage to speak truth to power and organize for a better future. The #EndSARS protest demonstrated that our young women and young men are effective leaders when organized.

The key to effective youth policies is in education for all Africans, starting in early childhood and continuing to university at public expense for those who are qualified and who desire advanced education. This is something that can be attained in a short while even if there are not enough jobs for the graduates. It is better to be educated and unemployed than to be uneducated and unemployed. The Nollywood industry that is run by young people shows that with education, some of the youth can become self-employed in different industries and also can create jobs for others. Education will help to hone the natural talents that abound in different areas of life to prepare our youth for leadership across Africa.

To be effective, youth policies (education) should be implemented as if there are no colonial boundaries dividing and weakening Africans. Just as in China, India, or USA, any student in Africa from home or abroad should be able to travel across the United Republic of African States to study, work, trade, play sports, or run for office as a free citizen.

Dr. Agozino is a Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA. He is the author of *Black Women and the Criminal Justice System*, and of *Counter-Colonial Criminology*, among others.

PREFACE

The Management of Youth Development in Africa: issues, challenges and strategies is a book designed to proffer solution to developmental problems of Youths in Africa. In Nigeria, the revision of Universities Educational curricular by National University commission (NUC) introduced innovations for higher education, prominent among them is entrepreneurship which is meant to develop the Youths and equip them with relevant skills, for productive life. The ethical dimensions are deemed to be grounded and ingrained in the process of this transformation, re-engineered and potentiated.

The desire to curb the ⁱ social menace in our society, youth restiveness unemployment, underemployment amidst global trends, engendered the yearning to write this book. The text is beneficial to all Youths, students and individuals looking forward to develop themselves and have meaning to their youthful age at higher education level and outside the university, at Town and Gown settings. It is also of immense benefit to individuals undertaking studies in youth development for personal gain and directions in handling Youths in their communities. In particular business men and women, administrators, and professionals in various fields of endeavor will find this book very essential for the shaping and molding of our Youths in their day to day contacts, career choices and productive engagements. This Five - chapter book deals in details on many youth development issues, Challenges and strategies in our communities, Nigeria, Africa and around the globe.

Chapter One discussed conceptualization of youth in their biological/age perspective, Sociological and popular/media conception of youth.

Chapter Two discussed efforts at creating youth policies in Africa, evidenced in the United Nations youth policies, Africa Union youth policies, African Regional youth politics, lineages and linkages with National, Regional, Global policies, strategies, treaties and protocols. ,ECOWAS youth policy ,Nigeria's and other African countries National policy on Youths, the steps in formulating implementable National youth policies, and some international practices of implementing youth policies.

Chapter Three examines issues and challenges facing African youth as it concerns poverty, unemployment, illiteracy ,poor education system, non acquisition of relevant skills, poor Healthcare system, effects of war on African youth, non--participation in decision making, politics and economic enterprises.

Chapter Four evaluated strategies and best practices of youth development as in areas like Nigeria youth investment fund, youth development and Education, Education pillar, Economic empowerment pillar and engagement pillar.

Chapter Five exhorted our youth, our future and our present in the cultural innovations in the youth and youth development in Nigeria, Africa and around the globe.

Lastly, this Chapter discussed many innovations that will help our Youths in fulfilling their youthful energy and synergy and be useful to themselves and the society. You will agree with us that this book is an eye opener, a guide and inspiration to the Youths in Nigeria, Africa and around the globe. Please read it and act on it, especially with the next to be published book on the development of youth centers.

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