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BETTER ALTITUDE ATTAINMENT IN TEACHING AS A CHOSEN PROFESSION

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Many problems that confront human beings cannot be adequately tackled due to the level of ignorance and, in most cases, the society's feeling that the school should provide a solution to societal ills through different curricular activities under the control of teachers. As a result, schools are saddled with the sole responsibility of molding the life of citizens via the different subject areas like sciences, arts and social sciences. Teaching is a profession which ensures meaningful interaction between two or more people, with the aim of bringing out desirable outcomes in the learners.

As one of the noble professions from time immemorial, teaching has gone beyond the ordinary talk and listen between the teacher and the students. Instead, it is a meaningful interaction of many variables that could lead to a desirable change in the behaviour of the learners, who in turn are intended to contribute meaningfully to the progress of the entire community. Meanwhile, teaching is said to be effective whenever the wastage is minimal or non-existent. Wastage in education refers to the failure of students, and the factors responsible for it are multifarious. Prominent among them is the mode of instruction of the teachers as they disseminate information and the quality of their delivery.

The concept of quality in education is subject to different interpretations. According to the Oxford Dictionary of Current English, quality is defined as goodness or worth, something that is special or superior that distinguishes a person or thing.

Corroborating this, Madugud and Guyii (2003) opined that quality could be regarded as the high standard reached when necessary and sufficient inputs have gone into the final products for consumption or use. Low quality is thus achieved when necessary inputs into products are insufficient and, thereby, not capable of satisfying the needs of the people as required.

To achieve quality in education one attempts to transform the degree of performance of the teachers to satisfy the needs of the learners. The quality of teachers and other infrastructural facilities available determine the standard of the service rendered. In the perception of Beeby (1966) and Coomb (1968), as quoted by Madugud and Guyit (2003), quality in education has three attributes. The first attribute of quality refers to the perception of school inspectors when they visit a school, in terms of its performance in the 3Rs, acquisition of a given level of liberal and science concepts by the students, assessment of idleness and punctuality, to mention a few.

On the other hand, quality could be viewed from economic and productive angles, where quality is seen as the rate of return to the economy for the investment made. The conception held here is that 100 per cent success of students in public examinations that result in students having no functional use is no longer quality education. The use of the term 'quality refers to the ordinary use of the term in education to mean' now that one has finished schooling, what next?

By combining these three attributes of quality in education, it is judged by the performance of students in examinations, as set by external bodies, likewise the quality of the school and the teachers. Furthermore, quality is ensured when the school's products are able to satisfy the needs of the economy of a given society and are not

solely dependent on the society. This shows the lack of quality in the former UPE to solve the societal problem. Instead, it added to part of the problem, which is one of the main reasons why the present UBE is committed to compulsory education, as against the previous voluntary one of UPE towards addressing the lingering problems of Nigeria as country.

The concept of an illiterate does not only refer to anyone who has never learnt to read or write or been to school, but also includes those who refuse to drink from the wisdom of knowledge or prefer to die of ignorance. Quality in education refers to a situation whereby wastage is controlled to the lowest level or eradicated completely. This is achieved through a concerted effort of all education stakeholders – teachers, parents and government.

Dear students, consider yourselves to be lucky as good teachers can be likened to a candle that consumes itself to light the way for others. The future of the world is in the classroom, a future with the potential for good or bad.

As a teacher, you have the power to educate, to inspire, to challenge, to comfort, to reassure, to enable and change the world. Teachers who inspire know that teaching is like cultivating a garden and those who would have nothing to do with them must never attempt to gather flowers.

Let me reiterate at this juncture that the pendulum of the mind alternates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong. Grab your future with both hands and mould it into what you want. The concept of 'Teacher' connotes strength, but the attitude of the people tends to lower the noble profession. T stands for Trustworthy, E for Energetic, A for Approachable, C for Courageous, H for Her, E for Enthusiastic and R for Resourceful. These attributes are the product of education and, by implication, education is a social process, education is growth, education is not a preparation for life, but life itself.

As teachers to be, always have a distinct character like salt, whose presence is not felt, but its absence makes all things tasteless. You were born with potentials, you were born with goodness and trust, you were born with ideals, you were born with wings, so learn to use them and fly. Your attitude towards your chosen profession determines how you prize yourselves among other professions. Never feel inferior to others in any human endeavour and time-frame. The beauty about time is that be it good or bad, it never stops. Do not be like a parrot but like an eagle. A parrot speaks but cannot fly high, whereas an eagle is silent and has the will power to touch the sky. The form of education you are about receiving today is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army. To acquaint you more with the need to ensure qualitative attitude in your chosen profession, there is a need to illustrate three questions via the simple 26 English letters of the alphabet, so that everyone will know that the only thing that is 100% in this world is the attitude to ones chosen profession. (1)What is less than 100%? (2) What equals 100%? (3) What is more than 100%?

Many human endeavours are either less than perfect or perfect, but only those that are 100 per cent is ones attitude in life. The 26 letters of the English alphabet is in a better position for more explanation with few concepts chosen. Here is a little mathematical transformation that might help answer these questions via the beauty of the 26-letter English alphabet.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. SCIENCE = $19 + 3 + 9 + 5 + 14 + 3 + 5 = 58\%$
2. KNOWLEDGE = $11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\%$

3. WISDOM = $23 + 9 + 19 + 4 + 15 + 13 = 83\%$
4. CHANGE = $3 + 8 + 1 + 14 + 7 + 5 = 38\%$
5. ATTITUDE = $1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\%$
6. PERMANENT = $16 + 5 + 18 + 13 + 1 + 14 + 5 + 14 + 20 = 106\%$
7. CHEMISTRY = $3 + 8 + 5 + 13 + 9 + 19 + 20 + 18 + 25 = 120\%$
8. TECHNOLOGY = $20 + 5 + 3 + 8 + 14 + 15 + 12 + 15 + 7 + 25 = 124\%$
9. INTEGRATED = $9 + 14 + 20 + 5 + 7 + 18 + 1 + 20 + 5 + 4 = 103\%$

Going by the aforementioned transformation, it should be emphasized here that attitude is the only perfection that could make man attain his desired altitude, and this is why it is imperative to see yourselves as lucky ones and develop a positive attitude towards your chosen career

Let me seize this great opportunity to congratulate our noble students that are matriculating today, and advise them that they should focus on their studies, which will make them sterling products, not only of the college, but of the nation in general.

Reference

Madugud, J.E. and R. Guyit (2003). *Preparing Teachers for the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme: An Examination of the Quality of Pivotal Teacher Training Programme (PTTP)*. Sanicz Publication Nigeria Ltd, Nigeria.