

ADULT AND NON- FORMAL EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: A MEANS OF EMPOWERING THE ADULT LEARNER IN A DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

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Abstract

Education is the process through which individuals are made functional members of their society (Ocho, 2005). It is a process through which the young, middle aged and adults acquire knowledge and realize their potentialities and use them for self – actualization and be useful to themselves and others. Adult education which is an aspect of education is specialized in educating those who didn't have the privilege of passing through any formal education, those who prematurely dropped out of school and those who have completed their school but wish to further improve on their knowledge. In Nigeria, the existing institutions are used as venues for adult education classes especially in the evenings. The objective of this research is to ascertain the extent to which adult learners who had been empowered through education will contribute their quota in the economic, social and political development of their country in a democratic era. In fact, the extent to which a society is democratic can be measured by the extent to which various groups in the society (men/women, employers/workers etc) are completely empowered. (Henkin and Dee 2001). Democracy on its part is defined as a form of government in which the people exercise their powers either directly or indirectly through their representatives. Democracy provides institutions for people to express their will on basic issues bordering on socio-political, economic and educational well being of the citizens. This research will be carried out by analyzing the data generated in six local government areas of Enugu state of Nigeria. The six local governments were randomly selected out of the three senatorial zones of the state. The performances of the adult learning centres were analyzed visa-viz the reports collated from the facilitators. The expected results were that more than sixty percent of the centres are not functioning well due to lack of adequate funding by the local government chairmen. Therefore, the Nigerian government cannot meet the MDG target of education for all by the year 2015.

Keywords: Adult education, Empowerment, Democracy.