



Teacher's Behaviours towards Teaching Profession in Sokoto State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the teachers' attitudes towards teaching profession in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The paper focuses on the need for teachers to show interest and passion for their job and be respected and regarded as the most important people in the society and the need for government and other stakeholders to show concern on teachers and teaching in Nigeria. The paper recommended that Government and stakeholders should provide adequate fund at this level of education and equally give grant, incentive and remuneration to the teachers for effective service delivery.

ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: June, 2019

Received in revised form: July, 2019

Accepted: August, 2019

Published online: September, 2019

KEYWORDS

Behaviours, Teaching, Sokoto

INTRODUCTION

Almost all occupations of the world have bodies that guide, regulate and direct their activities. The teaching profession is not an exception. The teaching profession therefore has codes of conduct and these are being enforced by the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) and the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT). The enforcement, restriction and protection of the ethics of the teaching profession and conduct are the sole responsibility of the employer (Mahuta 2009) In this case, teaching profession will be guided and saved from unnecessary movement or migration to other profession.

People take up teaching for various reasons. For economic reasons just to earn a living, but some people chose to become teachers as a last resort, when they are unable to secure other jobs which offer them higher salaries and prestigious than teaching which might have resulted from inability to secure good Senior Secondary Certificate passes to qualify one to continue one's education. (Tamakloe, Amedahe, Atta 2005).

It is pertinent to believe that for any profession to claim its status it must be based on the interest of its actors. It is common and known to everyone that lawyers dressed in coat and wigs, doctors in their lab coat, stewards in their aprons and mechanics in their long and dirty uniforms, just to show the society that they have passion for their profession, but teachers have nothing to show that they are teachers, and they feel shy to tell their friends that they are teachers, even though they are nation builders. This motive of entering teaching as a resort is based on lack of guidance. It is hoped that when guidance and counselling have taken roots in the schools, the right candidates for teaching will choose the profession for the interest they have for it.

(Tamakloe et'al 2005). People chose teaching because it served as a "stepping stone" to other occupations. At that time people entered teaching in order to pursue further education under "sponsorship" After their courses they served for a time and then left for other occupation. (Tamakloe et'al 2005). It is unfortunate and scaring for one to live uptill this generation where a classroom teacher will drop chalk and embrace Machine gun and other deadly weapons, leaving the most peaceful profession in the world to the most dangerous profession.

CONCEPT OF TEACHER

Prasad, (2008) believed that, the successful teacher is one that perfectly fits the educational system designed for a country and has demonstrable ability to accomplish expected educational results. Teachers are known to be men of integrity and models to their pupils, they are highly respected due to their wisdom and their moral courage. An ethical teacher according to (Nduanya 2001) is one who observes the code of ethics of the teaching profession is, of course, to say the obvious; by being ethical he is already attending to professional ethics. But to add to it is to emphasize the need for the teacher to familiarize himself with the provisions of the up-to-date code of Ethics of his profession, having done so, he now finds it easy to allow his professional behaviour to be always guided by those provision. Therefore he may not think of leaving the profession because he will be guided by the teaching ethics.

A teacher is someone who passes knowledge that he has acquired on to others with the hope that they will use it for their benefit and for a successful future. A teacher is a person who cares for children and dedicates his time to improving the knowledge of his students. A

teacher is a person who cares for children as well as good morals by setting good examples. He teaches discipline, encourages good habits and discourages bad ones, both within and outside the classroom which will help the pupils not only in the school, but even in their various communities (Mahuta 2009). A situation where by teachers abandons their place of work or absent themselves from the school while lessons are going on point to the fact that they lack interest in their profession, which in turn affect the whole system. Uwazurike (1991) believed that system (teaching) is for the most time what teachers make it. The system may suffer because of teachers.

The following are the characteristics of Ideal teachers as highlighted by (Mahuta 2009):

1. The teacher must be one that has the ability to identify children's difficulties and problems and must be ready to help them.
2. An ability to be at peace with himself, parents, pupils and work mates or colleagues. An emotionally unbalanced teacher is usually pleased with everybody and rejects himself in a long run. Hence, such a teacher lacks good self-image, and therefore, the likelihood for such teachers to perform well is slim.
3. The teacher must adequately know his subject. It gives him confidence in his work.
4. The teacher must be able to express himself and so carry out his ideas and feelings to others.
5. The teacher must be ready to learn through criticisms by colleagues or pupils. He must first learn to accept such criticisms and so profit by them.
6. The teacher must be interested in proving his teaching through reading, seminars, workshops, imitation, assimilation, innovation and so on.

A teacher who possess this traits will find it difficult to quit teaching profession. This is because he already have the passion and interest in teaching.

CONCEPT OF TEACHING

Teaching can be understood and interpreted base on the following teaching as an occupation or profession; the teaching enterprise; and the very act of teaching (Akinpelu 1981 in Bagudo 2006). An adequate definition of teaching must connote at least four things:

- ✓ There is a person who is consciously and deliberately doing the teaching;

- ✓ There is another person who is being taught;
- ✓ Some contents or material information, knowledge and so on, that is being imparted; and
- ✓ There is at least an intention on the part of the person doing the teaching that the recipient should learn (Akinpelu 1981 in Bagudo 2006).

Teaching can also be referred to as an activity for helping other people to learn skills, bringing out their potentials and shaping or giving positive direction to their minds and their abilities so as to help them become mature and useful adults who have a better understanding of the world around them. It is also the act of getting pupils to learn and perform tasks and skills, which they could previously not do (Mahuta 2009) He further identified the qualities of good, ideal teachers in the context of teaching or subject delivery as follows:

- ✓ Good knowledge of the subject matter
- ✓ Good communication skills
- ✓ Interest in teaching and
- ✓ Respect for students and their learning conditions.

A teacher is expected to inspire the learners (pupils in this case) and impart knowledge, skills, norms and values that will help him transform his (pupil) society. This can only be possible if there is interest in teaching.

Teaching as Profession

Profession means a job that requires extensive and prolonged training and study as well as mastery of specialized knowledge and skills. There are certain features that qualify a profession and these include among others; Professional association, ethical code of decorum and process of certification or licensing. (Mahuta 2009). This will prevent teaching from being stepping stone, last hope and help minimize the migration from teaching to any other profession in Nigeria.

Teaching as a Profession in Nigeria

Teaching is an old profession and it is a profession with its own claim of specialization and training or education. Educationist are believed to be the real teachers. They get their training from teachers training institution where they are prepared to take up the challenges of teaching and learning in the society. As a profession ethics are established; there is a union as well as a sense selection with regard to the entry of profession (Mahuta 2009). Therefore there is a need for a teacher to undergo a certain program to make him

qualified and effective teacher in primary schools and these are courses in colleges of education and education related courses in the universities, courses like Educational Foundations, Primary Education, Adult Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Curriculum Studies and Science Education which are essential for teacher training and effectiveness.

However, (Mahuta 2009), posited that one of the major steps taken in this direction is the establishment of teacher's registration council of Nigeria (TRCN). Other majors put in place to better professionalized teaching in Nigeria are, namely;

- ✓ The various educational reforms in Nigeria.
- ✓ Mass recruitment of teachers to take care of the shortage of teachers in Nigeria.
- ✓ Training and re-training of teachers at various levels of our educational system.
- ✓ Provision of special packages and incentives for teachers.
- ✓ Control of entry which is restricted to only those that are trained to be teachers. While those that are already in the job and have no teaching qualification are reacquired to do so within a specified period of time.
- ✓ Efforts to provide teacher salary scale (TSS)

TEACHERS' BEHAVIOUR TOWARD TEACHING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lack of Passion

Teachers in Nigeria shows no interest to their profession, as a result they are ever ready to quit for another profession in respect of the safety or risk in the profession imagine a teacher living the most peaceful profession to the most dangerous one *"live the chalk take the gun"* Therefore any chance to live the profession will be welcome they see it as a last resort. The issue of given out their daughters to primary school teachers is another problems

Salary Scale/ Earning

The minimum wage in primary school is Eighteen Thousand Naira (₦18000), in Sokoto State, and the amount is not enough for teachers to cater for themselves and their families. They don't have any source of income; they rely solely on the salary, live is very difficult for teachers in Sokoto, no remuneration, loan, that will motivate them which in turn affect all their actions in primary schools, while other profession are receiving almost double of teacher's salary, remuneration, responsibility allowances, hazard

allowances and leave grants are not given to teachers in Sokoto State.

Community Perception towards Teachers

Like in other communities, teachers in Sokoto are not regarded as civil servants, they are not given due respect they deserved. Parents send their children to school in the day time, teachers handle the pupils for good five hours, they teaches and counsel them how to serve their communities, they also bring community very close to the school vice-versa, but still teachers are not respected. It is known to everyone in Nigeria that Majority are not interested in teaching. Ask your pupils who want to be a teacher? Their response will be very low! We live in a generation where very few girls can marry a teacher. There is always a negative stories and perception against the teachers.

Broken and Unfulfilled Promises by Policy Makers

It is believe that Political leaders make public pronouncements about educational policies without any regard due process. They do this to score political points. In situations like this, plans are never made for implementation resources and therefore it is a failure Peretomode (1995) Imagine in Nigeria there are seven different edition of National Policy of Education in four decades. Education is in the state of Emergency in Sokoto state, but still pupils are sitting on the bare sandy floor, teachers are not effective enough to teach in primary school. Supervisors are going round the school for fault finding, parents are not sending their children to school on time and pupils live the school before the closing time.

CONCLUSION

Teachers are the builders of the nation As Nigeria continue to face the challenges of the present knowledge based economy and globalization and security issues, there is need to increase the effort of teachers and their development from the beginning through training, skills acquisition and positive attitudes to boost their morale. Primary school teachers should be prepared to teach in our primary schools for the pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them become self-reliant in future and adapt to the changing needs of the society due to globalization and integration processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Teachers should respect and have passion for their profession for them to earn recognition in the society
2. Government and stakeholders should provide adequate fund at this level of



- education and equally give grant, Incentive and remuneration to the teachers for effective service delivery
3. Conducive Learning environment and facilities should be provided in primary schools such as modern building, toilets, desk, tables and constant power supply etc.
 4. School community relationship should be sustain by preparing teachers to know more about the needs of the community and provide the services that will bring community to the school.

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