

**THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION.**

**BY:**

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**PAPER PRESENTED AT THE SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY  
CEREMONY OF CLUE CRESCENT SCHOOLS, SOKOTO**

**ON SATURDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2015**

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION.**

I want to begin this paper by quoting an elder statement, one time National Chairman of Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Chief Aminshuin: *“Whoever says education is expensive, he should try ignorance”*

It is a common knowledge that in this part of the country, people rely on government for everything ranging from health care, water, roads, security, livelihood and education to mention but a few. This trend has changed in many communities in other parts of the country. Education is the only legacy that the parents and the community can give to their children to make that community alive, a community that is not educationally up to standard can be termed a backward community that is why when discussing education at National level, you find terms like back-ward state, or on a milder language disadvantage state in education been echoed. Sokoto state is often refereed to as educationally disadvantaged, while every day we produce primary, secondary and university graduates but up to now we have not reached the standard expected why? The answer is not farfetched, the answer lies in the fact that our people have relinquished their primary role of bringing up their children to government, but can government alone continue to shoulder this responsibility considering the enormous burden of public service on government and considering the financial constraints on government.

Education is supposed to be a collective responsibility between government and parents, having in mind that, education is not confined to the acquisition of the reading and writing skills alone, it is in the words of Frankena (1975), a collective technique which a society employs to instruct its youth in the values and accomplishment of the civilization within which it exists. As a process of learning, thus education has the capability to influence the moral and constitution of the whole moral fabric of the society. If properly

developed, therefore, it is capable of correcting such social ills currently bedeviling Nigeria such as armed robbery, ethnic and religious disturbances, bloody boundary clashes, widespread immorality, area boyism and growing disrespect for law and order. If the foregoing is accepted as what education stands for then surely it is a collective responsibility of both the parents, community and government to join hands together to establish a sound education because education is the bedrock upon which all future economic, social and political pursuits are built upon, as long as it is not well received by the young minds then all other systems may not be well comprehended, therefore it suffice to say that the community have an important role in the provision of qualitative education.

The school is the pivot of delivering whatever, educational system a community or government wants to impart to the populace, as such it should be seen as the heart of the implementation of qualitative education, so while we discuss the participatory role of the community in the provision of qualitative education we should not loose sight of the school where such education is imparted, for a Sorlosky (1988:2) observed that “The fundamental responsibility of the school is the reduction of Ignorance through systematic transmission of acquired knowledge” It should however be noted that the school alone cannot be held solely responsible for the “products” . This part to be done by the community and parents to enable the school perform the fundamental responsibility expected of it would be focused in this paper. Orlosky (1988:3) went on further to assert that: Those who feel that schools have not proven their ability to perform well, may well argue that an investment in school (education) is risky business. In fact, its is a “sure thing” that those who grow from childhood to adulthood without obtaining the knowledge to participate in society will economically drain resources of the nation far beyond the cost to properly educate them in the first place. The community can respond responsibly to the educational needs today or pay more heavily tomorrow”

This statement sounds as a warning to some members of the community who think that government alone should partake in education, because the resource to be wasted on those who grew up without education by far outweighs those to be spent on the education of the populace especially on health, because the uneducated may not be in position to take pre-cautions of possible outbreaks. A case in point is, you can notice that most of the epidemics that break-out in communities are those in the rural areas where education is minimal or not there at all.

### **The role of the Community and the Development Education**

Historically, this part of the country has a renowned record of community participation in education even before the advent of Islam, where you find communities assisting to train their young ones in the various trades available like the blacksmith, fishing, farming etc, this assertion in line with what Fafunwa (1977) opined thus:- Various communities were responsible for the overall training of their young ones prior to the advent of Islam and Christianity therefore many people became more interested in contributing towards the development of education. They realized that one of the Islamic traditions states that the best man is one of who learns the QUR' AN and then cares to teach it. Islamic learning began on this prophetic advice, with the result that teaching religion to others was considered a duty for which a person should have no remuneration. Muslims contributed for the sake of God not only to the education of their individual children but also the children of others.

Since the community have always contributed in the provision of education of their wards there is nothing wrong for everyone to contribute to the educational and moral up-bringing of his ward however little it is, in this regard Bray and Lillis (1988) asserted that" people who directly pay at least small amount for education and other services come to value these services more

highly than when they are handed out anonymously and apparently without cost. Self-help projects can also promote desirable forms of social cohesion”

Since historically, it is evident that people in this part of the country have been participating in the education of their younger ones and considering the huge responsibility on government to cater for every facet of life of the populace, it would not be out place for this paper to suggest certain ways in which the community can participate in the provision of qualitative primary education in this our dear state as follows:-

1. Communities should strive to set-up strong and viable parents’ teachers associations in the various primary schools in their domains. Such PTA's should not be set-up to police the teachers but come to the aid of the schools in areas of needs such as the provision of teaching and learning materials, repairs to dilapidated structures, provision of uniform materials to children of the less privileged to boost their moral in staying with children of well-to do, who are well dressed.
2. Such PTA's members who are especially retired teachers and civil servants, should volunteer free of charge to be taking some lessons in various areas where such schools are lacking manpower.
3. The well to do among the community can even build private primary schools, employ teachers and subsidize the fees for every parents to afford.
4. Professionals groups, such as black smiths. Fishermen, Carpenters, mat makers, cloths weavers medical personnel ETC could arrange talks in their areas of professionalization for the students, so that they would appreciate the importance of such groups to the community and focus their minds on which of the professions they would want to join when their grow up.

5. Chambers of commerce, business enterprises could also make scholarships available to children of less privileged, or children of their workers who could not afford to cater for the education of such children.
6. Building and renovation of classroom blocks be undertaken by the well-to do in various communities.

Apart from the general contribution to the development of education, there are specific roles expected of parents towards educating their children such as:

1. **Role Model:** In early years, parents are their children's first teachers. When a young child begins formal school, the parents job is to show him how school can extend the learning you began together at home, and how exciting and meaningful this learning can be. As preschoolers grow into schools age kids, parents become their children learning guides. Through guidance and reminders, parents helps their kids organize their time and support the desires to learn new things in and out of school.
2. **Pay Attention to the action of your child:** One of the most important thing a parent can do is pay attention to his child. Is he a talkative or shy? Find out what interest him and help him explore it, if it is within the confines of religions and cultural conformity, if not then guide him appropriately.
3. **Be Aware f learning pattern of your child:** Many children use a combination of modalities to study and learn. Some learn visually through making and seeing pictures, others through tactile experience like building with clay etc.
4. **Don't Over-Schedule your child:** While you may want to outside activities, be judicious, about how much you let overge your child to do.

5. **Pay attention to your child's friends:** These are those around the home and those he always mention their names from the school, for such are areas a child can copy seriousness or laxity.
6. **Be careful of what your child view on TV:** This has great impact on the intellectual development of the child because the images and action films he watches continue to ring in his mind which likely draw his attention from school.
7. **Watch how child spend his leisure:** This is important because during such plays and interactions with peers a lot of things could be learnt which will take his attention away from school.

Conclusively, people in this state should appreciate the much government is doing to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our primary schools and contribute their widows mite so that together we can provide qualitative education for our future generation. No amount spent on education is too much For this, then people should always not see their contribution as a waste or too much, because the fruits are not reaped overnight but overtime, whether one is alive to witness his effort or dead surely posterity would record him among those who contributed to the development of humanity and God would reward him abundantly.

*Thank you for listening*