

## **A REVIEW OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION FOR AFRICA: A CRITICAL PROPOSAL**

**Paper Author:** Jude I. Onebunne\*

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**Reviewer:** Chinwe F. Nwakesiri\*

The paper published in 2020: Nnadiabube Journal of Africa (NJEA) noted that African philosophy deals on wisdom which dwells more on the worldview of the people especially the culture of the people (Africa). Africa is known to be a great continent and the cradle of ancient civilization but it is perilous to say that even in this 21st century, we are yet to unveil who we are and what is happening in our society but that which is lucid to all is the issue of neo-colonialism, racism and political inefficiency. In a bid to answer the questions of who we are and what is happening around us, we advocate for change in the educational system through the use of African philosophy of education so as to clear the confusion caused by colonial education on Africans.

African philosophy of education for Africans determines the height which the society can attain in all aspects because it is said that no nation can rise above the quality of the content of her education but It is appalling and disheartening to say that the philosophy of education in Nigeria and Africa as a whole is still that of the colonial masters and this is a cankerworm eating deep into the lives of our people. How then can we attain these heights when the educational system is not ours? This leaves us to the answer while introducing African philosophy of education strictly for Africans. Significantly, Africa is said to have gained her independence, but the big question is, Are we truly independent? This leaves us to the answer that with African philosophy, Africans can unveil who they are, identify with their environment, open their eyes and minds to opportunities and creativities that were stolen by their colonial masters. With these, development sets in, amazing educational system established and greater heights will be attained for Africans.

Introducing African philosophy of Education would be imperative and highly appreciated as it will enable Africans to reflect upon, analyze and criticize the current African situation and her educational system. This will enable the needed breakthrough amidst the inherent mayhems. Therefore, African philosophy of education to be able to confront realities it should be dynamic, progressive and enthusiastically historical, developmental in scope and apologetic in style as it exposes Africans to their past glory and assures them of a prospective future in view of exploring the world. Such Philosophy of Education as proposed must borrow heavily from African philosophy as reiterated above.

African philosophy of education is most *ad rem* for resolving the crisis of national developmental after these years of slavery, colonialization, and continued capital flow. Such African philosophy of education will address and attend to African problems from African

point of view. This implies that African philosophy of education will be credible for African education. The guiding philosophy should be that of Pan-Africanism which is centred on African socialism and promoted by African unity, the communal characteristic and practices of African communities, and a drive to embrace Africa's culture and common heritage. In Agreement with the lamentation made by Ezeani, E., (2013:23) that "for a good number of Africans, adoption of anything foreign is a mark of *onye ma ife* (educated or civilized person) as this is interpreted to be a symbol of education...education became associated with western knowledge and culture." By this we become inferior to them losing our sense of worth. But this was not what education ought to be. It ought to be integrally holistic and sums up every facet of the societal life. Ezeani, E. (2013:25) continuing laments thus: "one of the most serious negative impacts of colonial education on Africa is de-Africanization of Africa-a process which dispossessed the people of their culture, values, languages and human dignity." What then remains of an African person? Unfortunately Africa is yet to recover from the Whiteman's plundering of and the consequent capital flow from Africa in the name of colonization after years of slavery. African still suffers the effect of stolen legacies and the inherent indoctrinization that everything black is evil alongside the confusion in our founding fathers that were trained in European mentality and clothed with colonial garb to witch-hunt their brother back home. This explains why we are in the horrifying situation we are today! Essentially, African philosophy of traditional education was quite pragmatic and aimed at providing a gate way to the life of the community. It was based on the philosophy of productivity and functionalism, practicality and workability. it was utility based and in Onebunne's African Philosophy of Education for Africa: A Critical Proposal, there is an end in view such that anyone who has undergone this level of education will be expected to have acquired the competence and shows it in the course of his performance. There should a return to African Traditional Education which remains a practical means of inculcating knowledge, skills and gaining the expected empowerment. This article did justify the need for Africa philosophy of Education for Africans.

**\*Chinwe F. Nwakesiri**

Department of Educational Management & Policy  
Faculty of Education, University of Uyo, Uyo