

# CLOSING THE GAP AND HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE LONG LEARNING: AN INITIATIVE FOR CURBING THE VULNERABLE YOUTH IN NIGERIA

Chigbu NJIKE & Jennifer Eziaku Chigbu  
(NIGERIA)

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- ▶ CURBING YOUTH RESTIVENESS THROUG LIFE LONG LEARNING AND EDUCATION.
- ▶ CONCLUSION

# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury but a prerequisite for adaptation to the professional, social, economic and informational demands. Lifelong education has become a priority for education systems globally.
- ▶ Even if the role of basic education and of the formal education remains essential, lifelong learning has developed skills as closer as possible to market and society demands



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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Education for sustainable development should pay attention to other segments of the population.
- ▶ Farmers, for instance need basic literacy and numeracy to effectively adapt to new agricultural methods, gain entitlement to their land, apply for credit facilities from lending institutions to enhance their living.
- ▶ The strength of the restive and vulnerable youths in oil rich Niger-Delta region and the insurgence of the Boko-Haram sect in the Southern and Northern parts of Nigeria can be harnessed positively for national development through well-developed operational strategies and concrete policy initiatives on lifelong learning



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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Lifelong initiative should cover educational programs that contribute to adult literacy, basic education for those who have left the formal educational system (like the vulnerable youths), to improve life skills, workplace skills and also will improve the general knowledge of the youth (learner).
- ▶ This paper is an advocacy tool aimed at closing the learning gap and the inevitability of harnessing the gains of lifelong learning as a good and concrete initiative for curbing and stemming the tide of youth restiveness and religious insurgences in Nigeria.



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## BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF LLL

- ▶ Life Long Learning is the process of keeping your mind and body engaged at any age by actively pursuing knowledge and experience or it is the "ongoing, voluntary and self-motivated" pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons.
- ▶ Therefore, it does not only enhance social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development, but also self-sustainability, rather than competitiveness and employability



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# BASIC PHILOSOPHY

- ▶ The term “life-long learners” was created by Leslie Watkins and used by Professor Clint Taylor (CSULA) and Superintendent for the Temple City Unified School District’s mission statement in 1993, the term recognizes that learning is not confined to childhood or the classroom but takes place throughout life and in a range of situations.
- ▶ During the last fifty years, constant scientific and technological innovation and change has had a profound effect on learning needs and styles.
- ▶ Learning can no longer be divided into a place and time to acquire knowledge (school) and a place and time to apply the knowledge acquired (the workplace). Instead, learning can be seen as something that takes place on an on-going basis from our daily interactions with others and with the world around us.



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# BASIC PHILOSPHY

- ▶ Lifelong learning is recognized by traditional colleges and universities as valid in addition to degree attainment.
- ▶ Learning is accomplished in segments or interest of categories and it will still be valuable to the individual and community respectively.
- ▶ In the face of increasingly fierce international competition, these countries are setting up lifelong learning systems as an essential national policy for maintaining their global competitive advantage



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## 4 PILLARS OF LIFE LONG LEARNING

- ▶ THESE PILLARS ARE:
- ▶ LEARNING TO KNOW–Mastering learning tools rather than acquisition of structured knowledge.
- ▶ LEARNING TO DO–Equipping people for the type of work needed now and in the future, including innovation and adaptation.
- ▶ LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER AND WITH OTHERS–peacefully resolving conflict, discovering other people and their culture, fostering community capability, individual competence and capability, economic resilience and social inclusion.
- ▶ LEARNING TO BE–Education contributing to a person’s complete development, mind and body , intelligence, sensitivity, aesthetic appreciation and spirituality.



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## AIM OF THIS STUDY

- ▶ This paper is an advocacy tool aimed at closing the learning gap and the inevitability of harnessing the gains of lifelong learning as a good and concrete initiative for curbing and stemming the tide of youth restiveness and religious insurgences in Nigeria.



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# THE BENEFITS OF LIFELONG LEARNING

The followings are benefits of lifelong learning:

- ▶ Keeps the mind sharp
- ▶ Improves memory
- ▶ Increases self-confidence
- ▶ Offers an inexpensive way to try something new
- ▶ Saves money as you learn to “do it yourself”
- ▶ Gives you a feeling of accomplishment
- ▶ Helps you meet people who share your interests
- ▶ Builds on skills you already have
- ▶ Offers an opportunity to learn a new skill or trade and increase your income
- ▶ Gives you a new interest that you can share with family and friends



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# THE BENEFITS OF LIFELONG LEARNING

- ▶ YOU WILL LEARN MORE
- ▶ YOU WILL BE MORE INTERESTING AND CHARISMATIC
- ▶ YOU WILL BE A BETTER LEADER
- ▶ YOU WILL BE INDEPENDENT AND HANDY
- ▶ IT KEEPS YOUR BRAIN HEALTHY
- ▶ YOU WILL BECOME MORE HUMAN
- ▶ YOU WILL FEEL MORE SATISFIED WITH LIFE



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# SOURCES OF LIFE LONG LEARNING

- ▶ THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH:
- ▶ OPEN STUDY (CORRESPONDENCE, OPEN UNIVERSITY, ON LINE PROGRAMME, EXTENSION SCHOOLS), ETC.
- ▶ CODE ACADEMY
- ▶ CREATIVE LIFE
- ▶ MCPDS
- ▶ I TUNES( U TUBE EDU), ETC.



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## HOW TO BECOME A LIFE LONG LEARNER

- ▶ FOSTER A GRWOTH MINDSET–THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH:
- ▶ DEVELOPING RESILIENCY
- ▶ TRYING NEW THINGS
- ▶ READING AND EXTRACTING LESSONS FROM OTHERS WITH GROWTH MINDSET
- ▶ RESEARCHING AND BELIEVING THAT GROWTH IS POSSIBLE.
- ▶ (<http://www.artofmanliness.com/2013/03/18/how-and-why-to-become-a-lifelong-learner>)



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# DEVELOPMENT AND THE NIGERIAN YOUTH

- ▶ The adopted National Youth Policy states "youths comprises of all young persons of ages eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35) years, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- ▶ Youths are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have" As the future, and the pillars on which a nation would eventually rest, the youths possess a place of importance in the structure of a nation.



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## Development and Nigerian Youth

- ▶ Izibili et al is of the view that development is the ability of people to live in modern or civilized world, by getting access to some basic necessary facilities or necessities like having good roads, qualitative health care service/education, good pipe borne water, even to the extent of having enough food.
- ▶ Some scholars also explained that it implies equal distribution of goods and services, and Dudley Seers, placed emphasis on equality as well as growth.
- ▶ However a careful study of African State has revealed that her problem, though numerous, chief among them is that of development of the human sector.



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## UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGERIAN YOUTHS: CAUSES.

- ▶ Lack of adequate educational foundation, the home (unsatisfactory parental affection), economic deprivation, political instability, and youth's vulnerability to choose between what is morally good and evil.
- ▶ Lack of positive orientation within the home, conflict between the parents or other disturbing interfamilial relationships, such as serious poverty, deprivation.



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- ▶ This is true in the case of Nigeria, where the economic conditions have made many youths to become street traders, hawkers, prostitutes, Almajirai in the Northern parts of Nigeria and area boys in the south.
- ▶ Unhealthy political system and violation of rule of law and electoral process could also be a factor where those in power today would not like to perpetuate themselves in office.
- ▶ Political motivations and religious inclinations.



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# CURBING YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN NIGERIA THROUGH LONG LIFE LEARNING

- ▶ The National Youth Policy (2001) affirms that the extent of the youth's “responsible conduct and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country”.
- ▶ The role of long life learning in taming youth restiveness should not be overlooked. Government needs to overhaul her policies in relation to curbing high crime rate, youth restiveness and agitations which has plunged the country into a serious crime ridden community.



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- ▶ The restive can still rediscover himself if the enabling environment is created. Our problem has been long period of military misrule and hijack of democratic process by unpatriotic rulers (not leaders).



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GOVERNANCE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO YOUTH VULNERABILITY.

- ▶ The World Bank (1992) identifies the main characteristics of bad governance to include:
- ▶ failure to properly distinguish between what is public and what is private,
- ▶ leading to private appropriation of otherwise public resources;
- ▶ inability to establish a predictable frame work for law and government behaviour in a manner conducive to development,



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## CONTD

- ▶ or arbitrariness in the application of laws and rules;
- ▶ excessive rules, regulations, licensing requirement and so forth which impede the functioning of markets and encourage rent-seeking;
- ▶ priorities that are inconsistent with development, thereby resulting in misallocation of national resources;



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# OTHER CAUSES

- ▶ UNEMPLOYMENT
- ▶ POVERTY
- ▶ INADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES
- ▶ LACK OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE
- ▶ INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION FLOW



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# HOW TO CURB RESTIVENESS AMONG YOUTHS IN NIGERIA

- ▶ OFFICIALS SHOULD:
- ▶ Enhance information flow among youth through seminars, workshops, and lectures;
- ▶ Ensure equitable distribution of information and telecommunication facilities in both urban and rural areas;
- ▶ Ensure that every youth development policy has an information and communication component;
- ▶ Increase opportunities for entrepreneurial development among youth;
- ▶ Give access to credit facilities and other support mechanisms to young investors;
- ▶ Increase allocations for youth development and youth-related programme;
- ▶ Use all channels of information to enlighten youth on the adverse effects of acts of rebellion and insurgency, and crime.



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# CONCLUSION

- ▶ This topic work has attempted to capture the place of long life learning in curbing youth restiveness in Nigeria.
- ▶ The future belongs to youth who make productive use of their opportunities.
- ▶ Nigerian youth can achieve their potential and participate actively in local and international affairs in they can embrace the rich potentials and opportunity offered by education. Education is power and who can distill its potentials.



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▶ THANKS

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