



The Politics of Job Creation on the Jobless Educated Citizens of Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper was objectified to investigate whether politics of job creation has impact on the jobless educated citizens in Nigeria; Two questions were raised to aid the investigators in the investigation process. A total of 2,000 sample was raised through the use of sampling technique for the study. Data were drawn from the sample and were treated and analyzed with the statistics of frequency and simple percentage on a table and a graph. Conclusion was reached that job creation has influence on the jobless educated citizens in Nigeria based on the findings. Thus the authors proffered recommendation accordingly.

Introduction

From the midnight stories through the well-articulated Bible stories to the present day research findings, it is clearly indicated that individuals must work to earn a living. Herein comes the often made statement that man must work to earn a living. In other words that he who does not work should not eat.

Nigerians as citizens of a developing country are caught in the web of confusion when it comes to work discourses. It is more confusing when it is realized that education is provided not just to boost morale, but to equip the individual recipient in performing hard and better duties. Successfully this is perhaps the reason Nigerian government seemingly has not at any time neglected the role of pursuing education for its citizenry. But the glut of manpower supply in the Nigeria society seems to turn the provision of education and employment of the educated individuals into a battle of antagonism.

Objective of the Research

The objective of this paper was to find out whether politics job creation has impact on the educated individuals in Nigeria through inadequate job provisions for the citizenry. It is often common during discussions about manpower development in Nigeria, to hear people raise

accusations and complaints against the government. The accusations and complaints are often centered on the politicization of job creation in the society especially as to how it has rendered many educated Nigerians helplessly jobless.

One school of thought believes that educated Nigerians are lazy and that as a result they are unable to provide the needs of the society. This group holds on to the argument that once an individual is educated, that, it is sufficient not only to secure some form of work but that such individual should be able to provide jobs for his or her peers and those below him or her educationally.

However, another group insists that the problem of joblessness in Nigeria is as result of politics in job creation. The group argues that educated Nigerians are efficient and effective in job performance. The group complains that the educated citizens have only been neglected with regards to jobs provision. They complain further that what Nigerian educated individuals need more than anything else which they do not have is inspiration.

The idea that the creation of jobs can be politicized to such an extent that the creation could become a problem instead of solution to human dignity through job output could have been unimaginable in Nigeria some years back. But today, politicians who want to get into power seem to get hold of the issue of provision of education and the relevant jobs to the increasing number of citizens who desire to have education and the necessary job provisions. Politicians, once they are voted into power and they start running the government, soon forget or jettison the promises they made with regards to provision of education and the necessary job creation which could enable educated individuals make contributions to national growth and development.

Considering the observations, comments, complaints, etc. Raised above and the likely effects on education and the contributions of the educated individuals to national development as well as on the dignity of labor, these researchers found it necessary to embark on the study. Thus they formulated the following questions to act as a guide in the process of the investigation:

- 1 Does politics of job creation have impact on the jobless educated citizens in Nigeria?
- 2 Are issues that determine joblessness among the educated citizens pursued in Nigeria?

It has been thoroughly researched and found out that the essence of education is to perform duties that will enable the recipients and society receive from the benefit of increase in their productivities. Thus Callender, Brickbeck and Mason (2010) assert that the United Kingdom made the plan to have a supply of 40% undergraduates in their tertiary education program through the pattern of part time. Kasworn (1993) also showed that certain policies determine education supply. An example according to the author is national commitment with entire system of universities or national higher education policy devoted to adult programs or adult access to university systems.

Governance and management of resources are a key factor among the determinants of supply of education in a society. In this regard the Unesco – Cepes (2003) persuades higher institutions of learning to develop a pattern of internal structures of learning towards the achievement of good governance and high level management. Thus according to Aston (2004) the demand for future students is hoped to depend on certain factors like attainment of

educational progress by young people, economic factors which include employment opportunities, policy initiatives, etc.

If politics of job creation is adopted as an instrument of vote catching by Nigerian national leaders, it may have negative influence on the education system, the recipients, and the society at large. Hence the national university commission (nuc), (2008) warned that no university should enroll more students than its available resources can cater for. The resources are such as classrooms, staffs, library, laboratories, etc. Also Nwadiani (1998) asserts that institutions of learning need to provide to the labor market the type of training, adequate for the new/old employees so that they could perform better on their jobs.

Ibidapo - Obe (2007) postulates that the quality of inputs in education should determine the output quality. Hence according to the author, employers of labor, academics, and others are feared to experience inadequacies in their employed educated graduates in Nigeria. This is particularly experienced, the author stressed, where the candidates are not screened before offer of admission was made to them.

Academic skills and role relevance appears to have high degree of influence on national development through the demand for education. Thus according to Saint (2003), the universities in Nigeria were persuaded in the past to ensure that agriculture and petroleum engineering structured their training requirements to produce management staffs, researchers, etc, in response to demands for employment. Similarly Abdulkareem (2001); Babalola (2009) assert that skills which are not in demand for productivity in the economy may end up without any job after all.

Methodology of the Research

The Sample, Sampling Techniques, Population and the Data Analysis

The random sampling technique was adopted in drawing the 2000 sample subjects applied in the study. The country Nigeria has six geo-political zones and four of them were selected randomly for the study. Two from the North, and the others from the South. And from each of the four geopolitical zones, 500 sample subjects were randomly selected. The sample included 1000 male and 1000 females, among whom were university undergraduates, graduate employees, employers of labor, school administrators, political/government leaders, community leaders, etc.

The data analysis was conducted with frequency counts and percentage. Question 1 was analyzed on a table while question 2 was conducted on a graph as follows:

Question 1 Does politics of job creation have impact on the jobless educated citizens in Nigeria?

Table 1:

Politics of Job Creation Impact on Jobless Educated Nigerians

Politics of Job creation	Jobless educated citizens in Nigeria		
	High	Low	Total
Promises by political class	1720 86%	280 14%	2000 100%
Job opportunities / provision	550 27.5%	1450 72.5%	2000 100%
Per capita income	250 12.5%	1750 87.5%	2000 100%

Question 2: Are issues that determine joblessness among the educated citizens pursued in Nigeria?

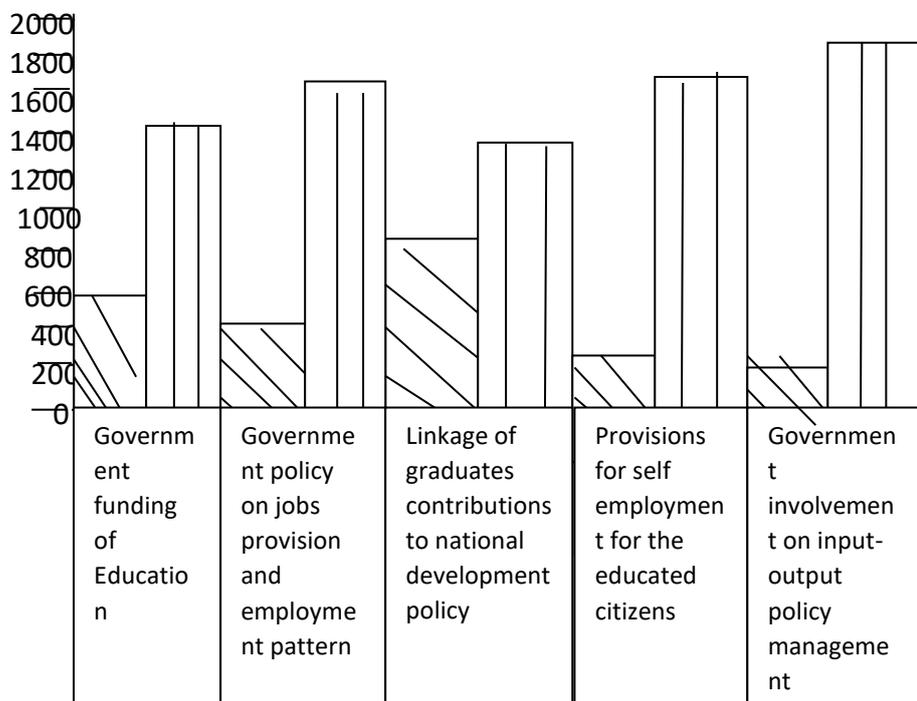


Fig1: Issues determining joblessness pursuit

Key:  positive responses
 negative responses

Discussion of Findings

The data analyzed on table 1 above revealed that the political class make high promises to create jobs but that in reality job opportunities and the job provisions are low, thus the level of per capital income is very low. Supporting this finding, Abdulkareem (2001); Babalola (2008) aver that educational skills which are not provided for in an economy do not have places of application. Also confirming the finding was the warning by national university commission (nuc) that Nigerian universities should stop enrollment of learners beyond their resources capacities.

The graph of figure 1 showed that there are determiners of joblessness among the educated citizens in Nigeria. Among the determining factors were government funding of education, government policy on jobs provision and employment pattern, government involvement in inputs output management, self employment provision policy and linkage of graduates contributions to national development. All the determining issues had negative scores. None of them had up to 50% response.

This finding was supported by Aston (2004) who states that education should be based on the progress attained by the recipients on the basis of economic factors such as employment opportunities, policy initiatives, etc. IBIDAPO-Obe (2007) also affirms the finding as the author instructs that the quality input into education should determine the output quality which was why saint [2003] also supporting the finding stated that in the past, employment requirements were the predicators of inputs and learning structures towards educational outcomes.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the above findings, the authors of this research came to the conclusion that politics of job creation has negative impact on the jobless educated citizens in Nigeria. This conclusion was strengthened by the finding on the issues which investigated whether they have influence on joblessness among the educated citizens in Nigeria and which of course were all found to have negative influence on the joblessness determination.

In consideration of the findings and the conclusion of the investigation, the researchers promptly proffered recommendations as follows: that job creation should be integrated into national development plan. That educated citizens should be adequately provided with jobs which could enable them make contributions positively to national development. And also, that Nigerian government should ensure that adequate inputs are made available while it gets involved in good governance and robust management of the nation's resources toward a realization of all necessary expected development targets in the country.

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