EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY:
IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Many values mark out democracy as a universal norm: democracy affords both the majority and the minority opportunities to assert themselves, it is relative to cultures, it prioritizes the well being of every individual, has internal mechanisms and dynamics for self correction, preserves and respects the rights, freedom and privilege of individuals, upholds accountability, makes a case for justice and egalitarianism as well as works out through compromises. Regrettably, democracy in most states operates without democrats as most people, especially in developing states who claim to be practicing democracy are autocrats who lack the rudiments of democracy. As education is central in bringing about positive changes and guiding man to embrace behaviours that are conducive for sustainable human development, this paper makes a case that educational provision that is deep-rooted in democracy and fosters the mastering, knowledge and dynamics of democracy can provide thresholds and safe landing platforms for national reconstruction especially in Nigeria where ethnic rivalry, multi-religious, and multi-cultural and multi-linguistic composition disastrously threaten national unity and national integration. The paper recommends that innovations in education for national reconstruction targeted through democracy must make provisions where justice, respect for human rights, tolerance, diversity, peace constructive criticism etc occupy enviable positions in such educational arrangement.

Keywords: Education, Democracy, National Reconstruction, Nigeria.