EDUCATION AND THE CHALLENGES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN 21ST CENTURY NIGERIA

UYANGA, Unwana-Obong .D1 and NWAOKUGHA, Douglas .O2

1Department of Educational Foundations, Guidance and Counselling
University of Uyo, Nigeria
2Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

There is a twist in what is eulogized about youth and the priority that is given to youth development. Rather than improve the conditions of youth by putting in place structures for youth development that can enhance the tapping of the potentials of youth, most states show regrettable acts of indifference to youth and their development resulting in challenges which undermine youth development and consequently the development of the state. This paper discusses youth and youth development and argues that the challenges facing youth and youth development can be addressed through curricular and pedagogical innovations in education. The paper maintains that curricular innovations for promoting the interests of youth and youth development can focus on developing instructional experiences which, can pragmatically empower the youth. It identifies sports, entertainment and tourism development and entrepreneurial skills development as well as inclusive pedagogical methodologies as possible areas education can be used as a tool for achieving youth development. Using education to develop mechanisms for youth development and empowerment can make efforts of states towards human and manpower capacity building relevant in the 21st century.

Keywords: Youth Development, Empowerment, Self Reliance, Pedagogy.