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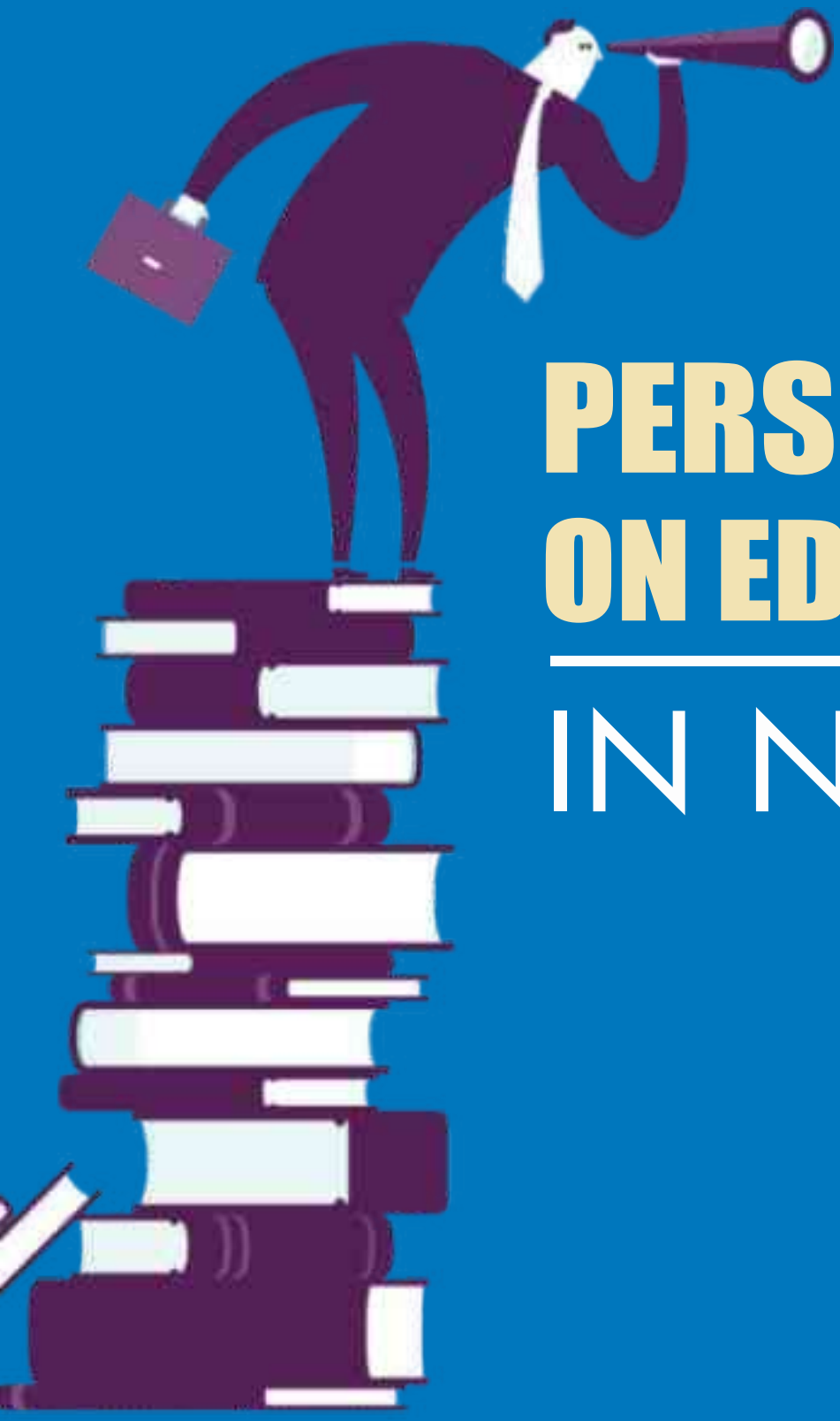

# PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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**BOOK CHAPTER**

# PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

## VOL-3

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CHAPTER FIVE

# EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

**BY**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Education is universally recognized as a cornerstone for social progress, national development, and individual empowerment. In Nigeria, a country endowed with vast human and natural resources, education serves as a vital instrument for building human capital, fostering innovation, and promoting economic growth. Since independence, successive governments have emphasized the importance of education through various policies, reforms, and expansion of institutions. However, despite its acknowledged role in national development, the Nigerian education sector continues to grapple with numerous challenges that hinder its effectiveness and global competitiveness.

The problems facing education in Nigeria are multifaceted and deeply rooted in structural, political, and socio-economic realities. These include inadequate funding, dilapidated infrastructure, shortage of qualified teachers, frequent strikes, poor curriculum implementation, corruption, insecurity, and unequal access between urban and rural areas. The crisis is further exacerbated by high dropout rates, gender disparities, and the large population of out-of-school children—the highest in the world. These challenges not only weaken the quality of education but also limit the capacity of the system to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for active participation in a rapidly changing society.

Yet, amid these obstacles, solutions exist that can transform the education landscape in Nigeria. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic and sustainable approach that involves all stakeholders—government, private sector, civil society, communities, and international partners. Strategic solutions such as increased investment in education, teacher development, curriculum reforms, integration of technology, improved governance, and inclusive policies can reposition the system to meet contemporary demands.

This chapter examines the major problems confronting education in Nigeria and explores practical solutions for overcoming them. Thus, this chapter is discussed under the following subheadings.

1. Concept of education
2. Concept and Formal and Informal Education
3. Importance of Education
4. Problems facing Education in Nigeria
5. Sustainable Strategies to the funding of tertiary Education in Nigeria

## Clarification of concepts

### 2.0 Concept of education

Education can be seen in this paper as the as a process that transfer knowledge, skills, and character traits that comes or manifests in various forms to empower the individual to be social and economic useful to himself or herself and the society. Education is an organized and planned process that leads to acquisition of knowledge from an institute of learning for personal and national development. Education is an organized learning process that facilitate acquisition of general knowledge, development of intellectual and skills for personal development as well as community development.

Education is the most important weapon that individuals and the society can use to fight different forms of vulnerabilities. Education paves way for the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are worthwhile. Education is regarded globally as a potent instrument for introducing and sustaining social change in human societies as well as shaping its destiny. Apart from serving as a vehicle for enhancing upward social and economic mobility, education has been widely adjudged as the most vital instrument for human development (Eze 2011). Education encompasses a broad range of activities and processes that facilitate learning and promote intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development (Verma, Doharey, & Verma, 2023).

Education involves the transmission of knowledge, values, and skills from one generation to another, ensuring the continuity and advancement of civilizations. Education goes beyond formal schooling, extending to informal and non-formal learning experiences. Education is the acquisition of information that include cultivation of critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and ethical decision-making. Education empower individuals to become lifelong learners, adaptable to the challenges of a rapidly evolving world (Verma, et al 2023). Education means studying in order to obtain a deeper knowledge and understanding of a variety of subjects to be applied to daily life. Education is not limited to just knowledge from books, but can also be obtained through practical experiences outside of the classroom (University of the people 2024). Education is the process where an individual acquires or imparts basic knowledge to another. It is also where a person develops skills essential to daily living, learns social norms, develops judgment and reasoning, and learns how to discern right from wrong. The ultimate goal of education is to help an individual navigate life and contribute to society once they become older (Worldvision, 2023).

### 2.1 Concept and Formal and Informal Education

The concept of formal education and informal education have long been debated in the field of academia. While formal education is often associated with structured learning in educational institutions, informal education is often seen as self-directed and experiential learning outside of traditional classroom settings.

Formal education provides a foundation for academic knowledge and skills through a structured curriculum and standardized assessments. It is often considered the primary means of obtaining a degree or certification in a specific field. However, it is not the only source of knowledge and skills, as informal education also plays an important role.

Informal education includes various learning opportunities such as self-learning, apprenticeships, and hands-on experiences. It allows individuals to acquire skills and knowledge through real-life experiences, which may not be available in a formal educational setting. This type of education is highly personalized and can cater to the individual's interests and needs, making it a valuable supplement to formal education

### 3.0 Importance of Education

Education is more than just a process of acquiring knowledge; it is a powerful tool that shapes individuals, societies, and nations. It equips people with the skills, values, and perspectives needed to live productive lives and contribute to the progress of their communities. Its importance cannot

be overstated, as it touches nearly every aspect of human development and national growth. Below are seven detailed areas where education plays a crucial role.

**Personal Development and Empowerment**

Education helps individuals discover their potential, build self-confidence, and develop critical thinking skills. It fosters intellectual growth by broadening one's understanding of the world, while also nurturing emotional intelligence and decision-making abilities. A well-educated person is empowered to question harmful traditions, challenge inequality, and pursue opportunities that lead to personal fulfillment. For children, education instills discipline, curiosity, and lifelong learning habits that shape their future.

**Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction**

Education is a proven driver of economic development. It equips people with the knowledge and skills required to secure jobs, increase productivity, and improve earning power. Countries with higher literacy rates generally enjoy stronger economies because educated citizens create businesses, drive innovation, and strengthen industries. At the individual level, education breaks the cycle of poverty by enabling people to access better employment opportunities. For example, vocational and technical education equips young people with practical skills that make them self-reliant and less dependent on unstable job markets.

**Social Equality and Inclusion**

Education promotes fairness and equal opportunities by bridging social and economic divides. It reduces gender inequality by empowering women and girls to access the same opportunities as men. Inclusive education systems also integrate children with disabilities and marginalized groups, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through education, stereotypes and prejudices are challenged, creating a more just and tolerant society where individuals are judged by their abilities rather than their background or status (Ejiofor, & Okonkwo, 2013).

**Promotion of Peace and National Unity**

Education is essential in building cohesive societies. By teaching shared values such as tolerance, respect, and cooperation, education helps reduce conflict and promotes peaceful coexistence among diverse groups. In multi-ethnic countries like Nigeria, education fosters national identity by teaching common history, civic responsibilities, and cultural appreciation. It helps citizens understand the importance of unity in diversity, thereby reducing divisions that often lead to strife (Eze, & Anthony, 2011).

### Improvement of Health and Well-being

Educated individuals are more likely to make informed decisions about their health, hygiene, nutrition, and family planning. Education reduces infant and maternal mortality by equipping women with knowledge about healthcare and reproductive rights. Literate populations also respond better to health campaigns, as seen in efforts to combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and more recently, COVID-19. Furthermore, education contributes to mental well-being by giving people hope, purpose, and resilience in the face of challenges (Ideumange, 2024).

### Civic Participation and Good Governance

Education cultivates informed and responsible citizens who can actively engage in governance. Literate individuals are more likely to vote, hold leaders accountable, and participate in community development projects. They understand their rights and responsibilities, which strengthens democracy and reduces corruption. Through civic education, schools nurture future leaders who are equipped to make ethical decisions and promote policies that serve the public good.

### Innovation, Science, and Technological Advancement

Modern societies thrive on innovation and technological progress, both of which are rooted in education. By encouraging research, creativity, and problem-solving, education drives scientific discoveries and advancements in technology. From medicine and engineering to information technology and renewable energy, education provides the foundation for breakthroughs that improve quality of life and address global challenges such as climate change. Nations that invest in education often lead in innovation and enjoy global competitiveness.

## 4.0 Problems facing Education in Nigeria

Education in Nigeria is often described as the “hope for the future,” yet for millions of children and young people, it feels more like a broken promise. The problems facing the sector are not abstract statistics; they are lived realities for students who sit on bare floors to learn, for teachers who go unpaid for months, and for parents who struggle to afford basic school supplies. These challenges are complex and interconnected, and they continue to limit the country’s ability to harness education as a tool for national development.

### Inadequate Funding

One of the most critical problems is chronic underfunding. The education budget in Nigeria consistently falls below the UNESCO recommended 15–20% of total national expenditure. As a result, schools lack essential facilities, from classrooms and libraries to laboratories and ICT equipment. In rural areas, it is common to find children learning under trees or in dilapidated

buildings with leaking roofs. Teachers are often underpaid, which demoralizes them and pushes many to seek alternative sources of income, leaving learners neglected (Akuh, 2024). Inadequate funding is a major problem facing Nigeria. This issue has been a longstanding obstacle in the efforts to improve the quality of education in the country (Ogunode, Hauwa, & Muhammad, 2023).. The lack of sufficient funds and proper infrastructure has resulted in overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, and inadequate facilities for students. As a consequence, the quality of education has greatly suffered, leading to a decline in academic performance and a high drop-out rate. Furthermore, inadequate funding and poor infrastructure have also hindered the development of new educational programs and the recruitment of highly qualified educators (Nwafor, Uchendu, & Akani, 2015; Ogunode, & Ukozo, 2023; Ogunode, Ukozor, & Ayoko, 2023a). This, in turn, has negatively impacted the growth and progress of the education system in Nigeria. Simply put, without adequate funding and proper infrastructure, the education sector in Nigeria is unable to provide students with the resources and support necessary for their academic success. It is crucial for proper funding and infrastructure to be prioritized in order to address this pressing issue and improve the overall state of education in Nigeria (Owobamigbe Ohunene, & Ogunode, 2021).

**Poor Infrastructure**

The state of educational infrastructure is a visible reflection of the crisis. Many schools, especially public ones, lack adequate seating, clean water, functional toilets, and electricity. Students in overcrowded classrooms sometimes share desks meant for two with four or five peers. This not only diminishes learning but also sends a message to children that their education is undervalued. For students with disabilities, the absence of inclusive infrastructure makes education almost inaccessible, further deepening inequalities (Ahmed, & Tochukwu, 2024). The lack of proper infrastructure in Nigeria has been a major issue facing education in the country. This problem has hindered the growth and development of the education sector, making it difficult for students to receive a quality education (Ishaya & Ogunode, 2021). Poor infrastructure, such as inadequate classrooms, lack of electricity and internet, and dilapidated school buildings, has limited the learning opportunities available for students (Ikechukwu, & George, 2023).. As a result, students are unable to fully engage in their studies and are not able to reach their full potential. This issue is not only affecting students, but also teachers who are not able to provide effective teaching due to the lack of resources (Isife, & Ogakwu, 2016). This has created a cycle of poor education outcomes, leading to a decrease in the overall quality of education in Nigeria. In order to address this problem, it is crucial to invest in and improve the infrastructure in schools, providing students and teachers with the necessary resources to excel in their education (Akin-Ibidiran T. Yemi, Ogunode & Ibidiran ; 2022; Ejike, & Ejike, 2018).

### Shortage of Qualified Teachers

A strong education system relies on competent teachers, yet Nigeria faces a massive shortage. Many classrooms are managed by unqualified or undertrained teachers, particularly in rural areas. Even where qualified teachers exist, the teacher–student ratio is often overwhelming, making personalized learning impossible. Teachers who are overworked and underpaid frequently lose motivation, and in extreme cases, abandon the profession altogether. This leaves children with little guidance and weak foundations for lifelong learning (Afolabi, 2024). The education system in Nigeria is currently facing a major issue with the shortage of qualified teachers. This problem has been identified as a key factor in hindering the overall development and progress of the country's education system. The lack of qualified teachers has resulted in a decline in the quality of education being provided to students. This issue has also led to a decrease in the number of students interested in pursuing a career in education, further exacerbating the shortage of qualified teachers. As a result, students are not receiving the necessary level of education and guidance they require to reach their full potential (Ogunode, & Agwor 2021). This shortage of qualified teachers not only affects the education system in Nigeria, but it also has a ripple effect on the country's economy and future development. It is crucial for measures to be taken to address this problem and ensure that the education system in Nigeria has a sufficient number of qualified teachers to provide quality education to students (Ogunode & Ohiosumua 2023).

### Frequent Strikes and Instability

Industrial actions by teachers and lecturers, especially in tertiary institutions, have become a recurring nightmare. Strikes disrupt academic calendars, prolong students' years of study, and erode confidence in the system (Ogunode, Jegede & Musa, 2021). For many young people, repeated disruptions lead to disillusionment and, in some cases, permanent withdrawal from school. Parents and students often bear the emotional and financial brunt of these conflicts, while the quality of education steadily declines (Ogunode,, Jegede,, Adah,, Audu, & Ajape, 2021). The frequent strikes and instability facing education in Nigeria pose significant challenges for students, teachers, and educational institutions. These disruptions often lead to delayed or incomplete education, hindering students' academic progress (Ogunode, Jegede & Musa, 2021). Additionally, the instability can be a major source of stress and uncertainty for everyone involved in the education system. In order to address this problem, it is crucial to identify the root causes of the strikes and instability and work towards finding sustainable solutions (Odim, Annastashia & Solomon 2018). Some potential solutions may include improving the working conditions for teachers, providing better resources and infrastructure for schools, and promoting open and effective communication between all stakeholders in the education system (Saharareporters 2022; Okoli, Ogbondah, & Ewor, 2016).

### Insecurity and Violence

The security situation in Nigeria has had a devastating impact on education. In the North-East, the Boko Haram insurgency deliberately targeted schools, with the infamous slogan "Western education is forbidden." Thousands of schools have been destroyed or closed due to attacks, abductions, and displacement (Mbah,, Egwu, & Emesini, 2018*)*.. Banditry and communal clashes in the North-West and North-Central further worsen the situation, forcing children to abandon classrooms and flee for safety. In conflict-prone areas, education becomes a luxury rather than a right. Insecurity and violence have become a major problem facing education in Nigeria (Adams,, Adedeji,, Majekodun, Kehinde, & Adams, 2021). The constant threat of violence and the fear of insecurity have negatively impacted the educational system in the country. Teachers and students are often targeted and attacked, leading to a disruption in the learning process. This has resulted in a decline in enrollment rates and academic achievement (Manga, 2020 Manga, 2019)... Additionally, the quality of education has been affected as teachers and students are unable to focus on their studies due to the constant threat of violence. Furthermore, the lack of safety and security in schools has also led to the closure of many educational institutions, depriving students of their right to education. This issue has not only affected the education sector, but also the overall development and progress of the country (Ekpoh,  Edet, & Ukpong, 2020; Enang, 2019).

### High Out-of-School Population

Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world, with estimates exceeding 10 million. These children are not just numbers; they are boys and girls whose dreams of becoming doctors, engineers, or leaders are cut short (Oluwuo 2021).. Many are forced into child labor, street hawking, or early marriage. Poverty plays a major role, as families struggling to survive often cannot afford school fees, uniforms, or textbooks (Piogroup 2023;. The cycle of poverty and illiteracy continues, generation after generation. High out-of-school population is a major issue affecting the education system in Nigeria. This problem significantly impacts the progress and development of the country. It refers to the large number of children and adolescents who are not enrolled or attending school (Oyekan, Ayorinde, & Adenuga, 2023). This issue is a result of various factors, including poverty, lack of infrastructure, and cultural beliefs. The high out-of-school population in Nigeria has led to a significant gap in literacy rates, hindering the country's progress towards achieving a more educated and skilled workforce (Ojelade, Aiyedun, & Aregebesola, 2019; Okoko,2022).. The consequences of this problem are far-reaching and require immediate attention from the government and education authorities (Suleiman, B; Fagbemi, S; Oyebani, K.A; & Suleiman, S. (2018).

## Gender Inequality

Girls in Nigeria, especially in rural and conflict-affected areas, face additional barriers to education. Early marriage, cultural norms, and domestic responsibilities often keep them out of school (British Council, 2014).. Even when girls enroll, they are more likely than boys to drop out before completing their studies. This gender disparity not only denies millions of girls their basic rights but also robs the nation of their potential contributions to society and the economy. Gender inequality is a significant problem that is affecting education in Nigeria. This issue has been a long-standing challenge that has hindered the progress and development of the country's educational system (Dada, Ogunode, & Ajayi, 2022). The root of this problem lies in the unequal treatment and opportunities given to students based on their gender. Women and girls in Nigeria face a multitude of barriers that prevent them from accessing education and achieving their full potential (Federal Republic of Nigeria 2013). They are often subjected to early marriage, domestic responsibilities, and societal expectations that prioritize their roles as caregivers and housewives over their education. This results in a lower enrollment rate for girls compared to boys, and a higher dropout rate due to pressures to conform to traditional gender roles. Moreover, gender stereotypes and biases also play a role in perpetuating inequality within the educational system. Ayeni, Ogunode, and Nonyelum, (2024) opined that Girls are often discouraged from pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects, which are seen as more suitable for boys. This limits their opportunities for future careers in these fields and perpetuates the gender gap in these industries. Furthermore, Ahmed, (2020) noted that the quality of education is also affected by gender inequality. Girls are more likely to attend schools with inadequate facilities and resources, which directly impacts their learning and academic performance (Anthony & Deni, 2016). This further widens the gap between male and female students and hinders the country's progress in achieving gender parity in education. In conclusion, gender inequality is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed in Nigeria's education system. It not only deprives girls of their right to education, but it also hinders the country's overall development (Amadi, 2017).

## Curriculum and Quality Issues

The curriculum in many Nigerian schools remains outdated and disconnected from the realities of the modern world. Students are often burdened with rote memorization rather than problem-solving, critical thinking, or digital literacy skills (Isife, et al 2016). This mismatch between school learning and the demands of the labor market contributes to high unemployment among graduates. Employers frequently lament that graduates are “unemployable,” highlighting a systemic failure to align education with national development needs. The Curriculum and Quality Issues in education have been a major problem in Nigeria. This has been evident in the poor quality of education and lack of relevance of the curriculum in preparing students for the real world (Ejike,

et al 2018). Many schools lack sufficient resources and trained teachers, leading to inadequate education for students. There is a lack of standardization in the curriculum, with different schools and regions using different systems. This results in a disjointed education system and students struggling to transition between schools. There is a lack of focus on practical skills and a heavy emphasis on theoretical knowledge, hindering students' ability to apply their education in real-world scenarios (Akin-Ibidiran, et al 2022).

**Corruption and Mismanagement**

Corruption further undermines the education sector. Funds meant for building schools, supplying materials, or training teachers are sometimes diverted, leaving schools and students without resources (Nwankwo, & Nweke, 2016). Admission processes in tertiary institutions are often riddled with nepotism, favoritism, or bribery, discouraging merit and fairness. This erodes trust in the system and breeds a culture of mediocrity (Ogunode, & Stephen, 2021). The issue of corruption and mismanagement in the Nigerian education system has been a long-standing problem that has greatly affected the quality and accessibility of education in the country (Nwaokugha, & Ezeugwu, 2017). Despite government efforts to address this issue, corruption and mismanagement continue to hinder the progress of the education system in Nigeria. It has been widely recognized as one of the main obstacles to achieving educational development and is a major concern for policymakers, educators, and the general public alike (Nwaokugha, et al 2017). Corruption in the education sector takes many forms, including embezzlement of funds, nepotism in hiring practices, and lack of transparency and accountability in decision-making processes (Ogunode & Josiah, Ajape, 2021). This has resulted in a lack of resources, dilapidated facilities, and a decline in the quality of education, ultimately affecting the future of the country. The rampant mismanagement of funds and resources has also led to a wide disparity in educational opportunities, with marginalized communities and regions suffering the most (Ogunode, & Johnson, 2021).

**Digital Divide and Technological Gaps**

In today's world, access to technology is vital for learning. However, in Nigeria, many schools lack even basic computers or internet facilities (Ogunode, Olowonefa & Ukozor. 2025). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide became glaring: while children in wealthy homes could attend online classes, millions in rural or poor urban communities had no access to devices, electricity, or stable internet. This widened the inequality gap, with disadvantaged children falling further behind (Ogunode, 2025; Ocaña, Valenzuela, & Morillo, 2020). The digital divide and technological gaps are major challenges that are currently facing education in Nigeria. These issues refer to the disparities in access to and use of technology among different groups of people, particularly in the educational context (Olatunde, Ogunode, & Eyiolorunse, 2021). They are a

result of unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, such as access to computers, internet, and digital skills training (Olatunde-Aiyedun, Eyiolorunse-Aiyedun, & Ogunode, 2021).. This has led to inequities in educational outcomes, as those with limited access to technology are at a disadvantage compared to their peers who have better access. Moreover, Onyia, (2020) noted that the digital divide and technological gaps have also created barriers to quality education, as students without adequate access to technology struggle to keep up with the fast-paced digital world (Ogunode, Abdulrazak, & Abubakar, 2023).

## 5.0 Sustainable Strategies to address Educational problems in Nigeria

Education in Nigeria requires more than temporary fixes or stop-gap measures. The problems are deep-seated, ranging from underfunding and weak infrastructure to insecurity and inequities in access. For solutions to be effective, they must be sustainable—rooted in long-term vision, inclusive planning, and consistent implementation. Sustainable strategies focus not only on addressing immediate challenges but also on building resilience in the education system so it can withstand future shocks and continuously serve as a driver of national development.

### Increased and Sustained Investment in Education

One of the most sustainable strategies is committing adequate funding to the sector. Allocating at least 15–20% of the national budget, in line with UNESCO recommendations, would enable meaningful improvements in infrastructure, teacher salaries, and learning resources. Beyond budgetary allocations, transparency and accountability in the use of funds are crucial to prevent leakages. Establishing independent monitoring mechanisms, involving civil society, and embracing digital tools for tracking expenditure can ensure resources reach schools where they are most needed.

### Strengthening Infrastructure and Learning Environments

Modern and resilient school infrastructure must be a priority. This includes building classrooms that are safe, climate-resilient, and inclusive for children with disabilities. Investments in clean water, sanitation, and electricity are equally important for a conducive learning environment. For sustainability, schools can integrate renewable energy such as solar power to overcome electricity shortages and incorporate community ownership models so that locals take responsibility for maintenance.

### Teacher Training, Welfare, and Motivation

No education system can rise above the quality of its teachers. Sustainable strategies must prioritize continuous teacher training, professional development, and the use of modern teaching

methods. Teacher recruitment should be based on merit, with deliberate efforts to post qualified educators to rural areas where the gaps are widest. Improving welfare packages—regular salaries, incentives, housing, and health benefits—will reduce brain drain and motivate teachers to remain committed. Digital literacy programs should also be expanded to equip teachers for modern classroom practices.

**Curriculum Reform and Skills-Based Education**

Nigeria's curriculum must be restructured to meet 21st-century demands. Sustainable reforms should integrate problem-solving, digital skills, entrepreneurship, climate education, and vocational training alongside traditional academic subjects. A skills-based curriculum prepares learners not only for white-collar jobs but also for self-employment, innovation, and adaptability in a rapidly changing economy. Regular curriculum reviews involving educators, industry experts, and communities will ensure relevance and alignment with national development goals.

**Promoting Equity and Inclusive Education**

Addressing disparities in access is central to sustainability. Strategies must target vulnerable groups, including girls, children with disabilities, and internally displaced persons. Incentive programs such as conditional cash transfers, scholarships, school feeding schemes, and provision of sanitary products can encourage enrollment and retention, especially for girls in rural and conflict-prone areas. Inclusive infrastructure, specialized teacher training, and adaptive technologies can help integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools, ensuring no child is left behind.

**Leveraging Technology and Digital Innovation**

Technology provides a powerful tool for bridging gaps in access and quality. Sustainable strategies should include the establishment of e-learning platforms, digital libraries, and community learning hubs equipped with solar-powered devices for rural areas. Partnerships with tech companies can provide affordable devices and internet access for schools. Digital skills must also be incorporated into the curriculum to prepare students for the future workforce. Importantly, the digital divide must be deliberately closed to ensure equity between urban and rural learners.

**Addressing Insecurity and Ensuring Safe Learning Spaces**

Security challenges have severely disrupted education, especially in Northern Nigeria. A sustainable approach involves coordinated action between government security agencies, local communities, and humanitarian partners to protect schools. The implementation of the Safe Schools Initiative should be scaled up, with investments in school fencing, community policing,

and emergency preparedness training for staff and students. Peace education programs can also help promote tolerance and conflict resolution among learners, addressing root causes of violence in the long run.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs**

Sustainable progress requires collaborative efforts between government, private sector, and civil society. PPPs can mobilize resources for infrastructure, provide scholarships, and support teacher training. Corporate organizations can contribute through corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects targeted at underserved communities. Partnerships with NGOs and international agencies can also strengthen capacity and introduce innovative practices tailored to local needs.

**Tackling Corruption and Strengthening Governance**

Corruption and mismanagement remain obstacles in Nigeria's education sector. Sustainable strategies must strengthen governance structures to ensure transparency. Introducing automated systems for school admissions, teacher payroll, and procurement processes can minimize human interference and reduce opportunities for fraud. Empowering school management committees and local education authorities to oversee resources and decision-making creates accountability and fosters community trust.

**Community Engagement and Ownership**

Sustainable education reforms cannot succeed without active involvement of local communities. Parents, traditional leaders, and community-based organizations should play central roles in managing schools, encouraging enrollment, and preventing dropouts. Community ownership fosters sustainability because when people see education as their collective responsibility, they protect schools, support teachers, and prioritize children's learning. Adult education and literacy programs can also be introduced to build intergenerational appreciation of learning.

**Long-Term Policy Commitment and Implementation**

Nigeria has produced several sound education policies, but weak implementation has been the main challenge. Sustainable change requires consistent policy enforcement, political will, and long-term planning that transcends election cycles. Education roadmaps should be shielded from political interference, with strong institutions ensuring continuity of programs regardless of changes in government.

## 6.0 Conclusion

Sustainable strategies for addressing educational problems in Nigeria must go beyond rhetoric. They require adequate investment, innovation, inclusion, and accountability. Most importantly, they must place learners and teachers at the center—acknowledging their human experiences, challenges, and aspirations. By combining government commitment, community involvement, and strategic partnerships, Nigeria can transform its education sector into a resilient system that not only solves present problems but also equips future generations for national transformation and global relevance.

Personal development and empowerment, economic growth and poverty reduction, social equality and inclusion, promotion of peace and national unity, improvement of health and well-being, civic participation and good governance, civic participation and good governance innovation, science, and technological advancement as importance of education

Inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, shortage of qualified teachers, frequent strikes and instability, insecurity and violence, high out-of-school population, gender inequality, curriculum and quality issues, corruption and mismanagement and digital divide and technological gaps are some of the challenges facing education in Nigeria.

Increased and sustained investment in education, strengthening infrastructure and learning environments, teacher training, welfare, and motivation, curriculum reform and skills-based education, promoting equity and inclusive education, leveraging technology and digital innovation, addressing insecurity and ensuring safe learning spaces, public-private partnerships (ppps), tackling corruption and strengthening governance, community engagement and ownership and long-term policy commitment and implementation

## Revise Question

1. Define education
2. Differentiate between Formal Education and Informal Education
3. Outline five Importance of Education
4. Highlight five Problems facing Education in Nigeria
5. Discuss five Sustainable Strategies to enhancing Education in Nigeria

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