

Strategies for Reducing Learning Poverty for Enhanced Academic in Osun State Performance



Adebayo Oluwole, PhD
Department of Counselling and Human
Development Studies
University of Ibadan
+2348034105253
daoluwoledr@gmail.com
<https://www.positivepsychology.org.ng/>

“What Is Not Inspected Should Not Be Expected”- Anonymous



Old Ideas about school

Brian Crosby compared prisons and schools in Smart Kids, Dumb Schools: 38 Ways to Save America's Future,

Prisons	Schools
bells	bells
wardens	administrators
gates and walls	gates and walls
one unlocked door for access	one unlocked door for access
timed schedule for activities	timed schedule of activities
high inmate-to-guard ratio	high student-to-teacher ratio
lots of inmates	lots of students
a cafeteria	a cafeteria
drab-looking facades	drab-looking facades
lockdowns	lockdown drills
cramped quarters	cramped quarters
socialization mentality	socialization mentality
mass showers	mass showers (at secondary level)
cell mate	classmates
Charges and surcharges	Charges and surcharges

Learning Objectives

- Situation report
- Concept of learning poverty
- Understanding Generational Gap
- Recommendations on mitigating learning poverty for improved academic performance

Situation report

- It is a known fact that 260 million children are not even in school worldwide.
- 20 million are affected in Nigeria.
- For those in school, the World Bank posits that Nigeria is experiencing learning poverty in which 70% of 10-year-olds cannot understand a simple sentence or perform basic numeracy tasks.
- **In recent years, even though most children are in school, a large proportion are not acquiring fundamental skills.**

• **Situation report**

- According to the 2018 Education Profile Indicators published by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), 72 per cent of children who finished primary education didn't make it to high school.
- In addition, about 3.7 million children don't even complete elementary education, while out of 24.2 million who attain their First Leaving Certificate, only 6.8 million further their academics.
- The report also showed that only 86.81 per cent of primary school entrants complete primary school.
- The data showed that primary education has the highest enrolment in the country with 27.9 million in primary schools, far higher than 7.2 million in ECCDE and 6.8 million pupils in junior secondary schools.
- The enrolment rate at higher educational levels such as senior secondary schools and tertiary institutions reduces even more. For instance, 1.8 million and 1.5million students respectively registered for the 2022 and 2023 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

Situation report

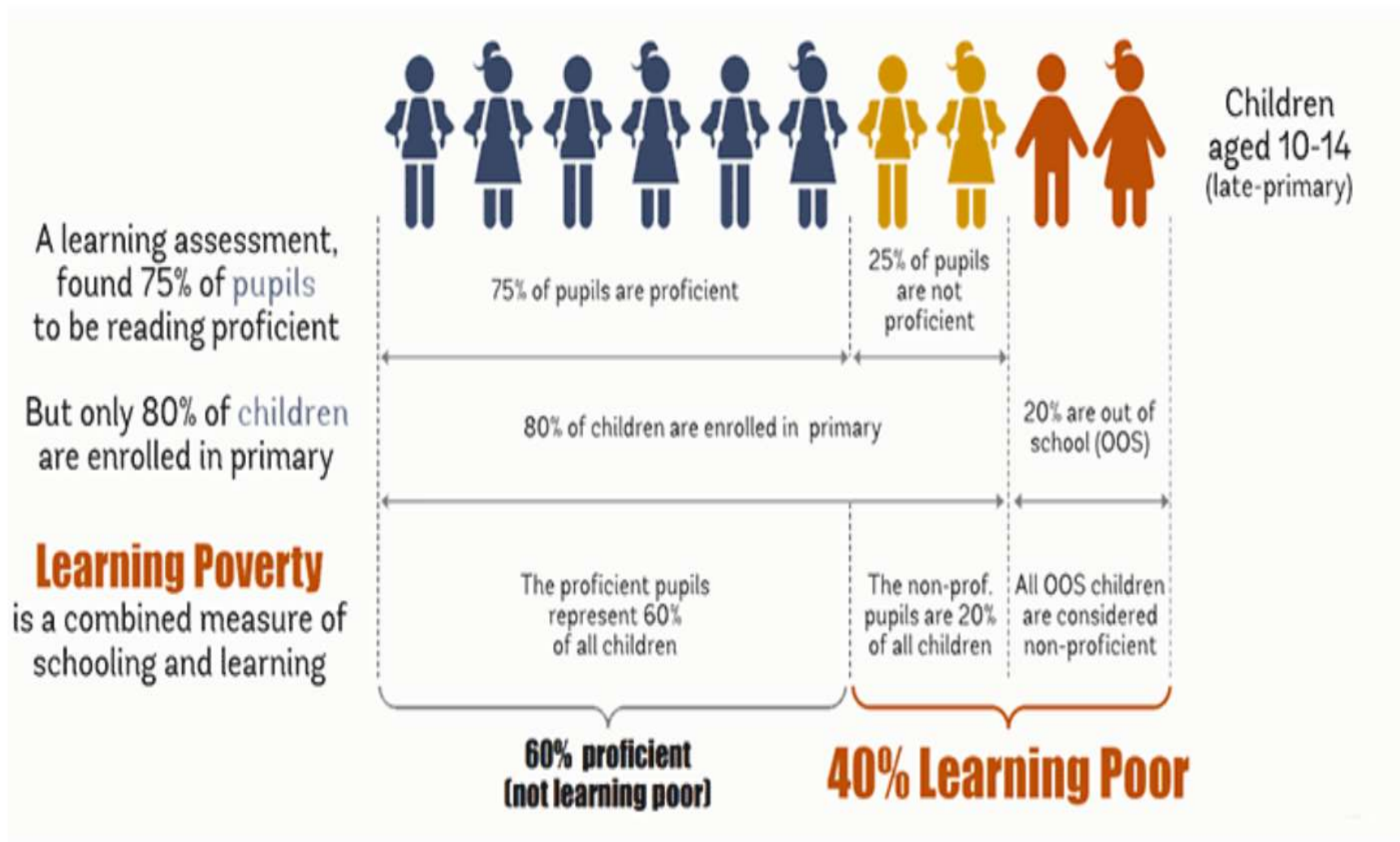
- **South-West**
- **Osun State** has the highest number of out of school children in South West. According to 2021 UNICEF report, 14.88 per cent male children and 11.5 per cent female children making 13 per cent average rate, were out of school in Osun state.
- **Ekiti State** recorded the highest percentage of child marriage in the region.
- **Ekiti, Ogun and Oyo** high on infant mortality rate.

The 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-6), a National Bureau of Statistics data supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

What is Learning Poverty?

- **How Learning Poverty is defined**
- The learning poverty indicator is calculated as follows:
- **LP = [LD x (1-SD)] + [1 x SD]**
- **LP = Learning poverty**
- **LD = Learning deprivation**, defined as share of children at the end of primary who read at below the minimum proficiency level, as defined by the [Global Alliance to Monitor Learning \(GAML\)](#) in the context of the SDG 4.1.1 monitoring
- **SD = Schooling deprivation**, defined as the share of primary aged children who are out-of-school. All out-of-school children are assumed to be below the minimum proficiency level in reading.

What is Learning Poverty?



What is Learning Poverty? (Cont'd)

- While **schooling deprivation** can be directly observed depending on whether the child is enrolled or not enrolled in school, **learning deprivation** cannot be directly observed until we engage the learners **independently to see how they fluently read simple, short narrative and expository texts.**
- Learning poverty can be improved in two ways: (i) by reducing **learning deprivation** as we raise proficiency levels for children below the minimum proficiency threshold, or (ii) by reducing **schooling deprivation** as we expand coverage and bringing out-of-school population into the system.

What is Learning Poverty? (Cont'd)

- Poverty, which forms a specific culture and way of life, is a growing issue in Nigeria.
- The number of Nigerians living in poverty is continually increasing.
- Poverty indicates the extent to which an individual goes or lives without resources. Resources can include financial, emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical resources as well as support systems, relationships, role models, and knowledge of hidden rules.
- Poverty directly affects academic achievement due to the lack of resources available for student success.
- **However, several strategies exist to assist teachers in closing the poverty achievement gap for students.**



Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.

Matthew Jacobsen

Unemployment rate

- The 2021 NBS report showed that in the first quarter, more than 60 per cent of Nigeria's working-age population is younger than 34, while unemployment for people aged between 15 and 24 stood at 53.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, and at 37.2 per cent for people aged 25 to 34. The jobless rate for women was 35.2 per cent compared with 31.8 per cent for men.
- According to World Data Atlas, in 2010, unemployment rate for Osun was 27.6 %. Unemployment rate of Osun increased from 7.5 % in 2001 to 27.6 % in 2010 growing at an average annual rate of 58.18%.

Impact of Unemployment rate

- **It is believed unemployment will continue to be a major challenge due to the limited investment by the private sector, low industrialisation and slower economic growth and the inability of the nation's economy to absorb the four or five million new entrants into the labour market every year.**
- **Note: Many of this unemployment victims falls into the category of Generation Z.**

Understanding Generational Gap



GEN X 1965 -1979



GEN Y - 1980 - 1995



GEN Z - 1996 - NOW

GENERATIONAL GAP

Seven generations to choose from: where are you as a parent?

- **The Greatest Generation (born 1901–1927)**
- **The Silent Generation (born 1928–1945)**
 - **Baby Boomers (born 1946–1964)**
 - **Generation X (born 1965–1980)**
 - **Millennials (born 1981–1995)**
 - **Generation Z (born 1996–2010)**
- **Generation Alpha (born 2011–2025)**

Who are these children?



Generation Z, colloquially known as zoomers, is the demographic cohort succeeding Millennials and preceding Generation Alpha. Researchers and popular media use the mid-to-late 1990s as starting birth years and the early 2010s as ending birth years. They are perceived as being familiar with the use of digital technology, the internet, and social media from a very young age.

Characteristics of Generation Z

1. They're money-driven and ambitious.
2. They love to travel.
3. They're prone to anxiety.
4. They're known to set boundaries.
5. They're avid gamers.
6. They're nostalgic.
7. They use social media in a unique way.

Conclusion

INVEST
IN
EDUCATION



Education as an Investment

- Investment is the act of investing money, time, energy and other valuable resources in the hope of making profit
- To invest in a child's education therefore means, to invest one's money, time, human efforts (energy) and other valuable resources in the educational development of a child.
- Decades of research and observation have shown that education can make a lasting difference in children's lives.
- But education's not just good for children, it's good for nations. Investing in education isn't just the right thing to do, it's smart economics.
- Education can put people on a path towards good health, empowerment and employment.
- It can help to build more peaceful societies.

RECOMMENDATION



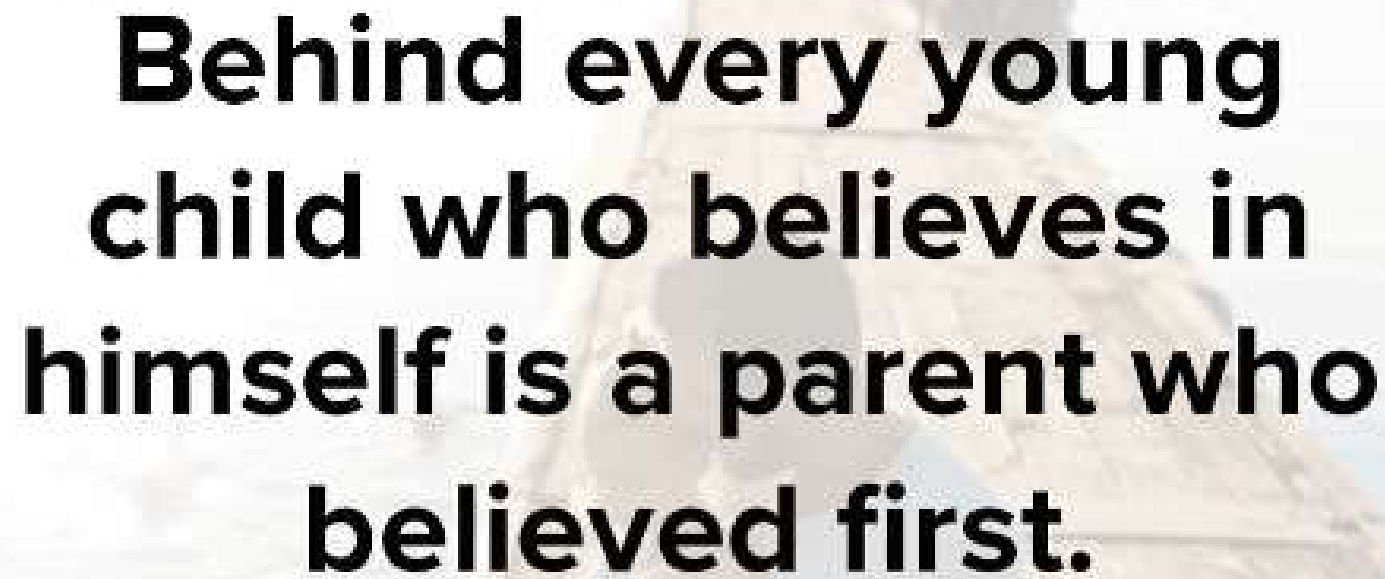
"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Jane D. Hull

- Our efforts towards child development is to provide a foundation for personal and social growth as the students' progress through school and into their adult life.
- **“Personal/social development includes the acquisition of skills, attitudes and knowledge that help students understand and respect self and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills standard for personal/social, understand safety and survival skills and develop into contributing members of our society.”**

A FATHER'S GOODNESS IS
HIGHER THAN THE
MOUNTAIN, A MOTHER'S
GOODNESS DEEPER THAN THE
SEA.

JAPANESE PROVERB



**Behind every young
child who believes in
himself is a parent who
believed first.**

Matthew Jacobson

Recommendations (Cont'd)

Strategies To Reduce Learning Poverty

- ✓ Understanding generational gap
- ✓ School infrastructure
- ✓ Teachers' welfare
- ✓ Teacher and parent collaboration
- ✓ Parent involvement discipline
- ✓ Maintaining contact via PTA
- ✓ Managing children with special needs via inclusive education
- ✓ Effective communication
- ✓ Learning about nature, values, money and practise simplicity
- ✓ Government, teachers and parents must motivate students

**EVERY PARENT IS A
TEACHER... BUT NOT ALL
PARENTS TEACH.**

ANTHONY D WILLIAMS



SIMPLE IDEAS TO IMPROVE STUDENT MOTIVATION

Give students a sense of control ~ Be clear on learning objectives ~ Create a threat-free environment ~ Change your scenery ~ Offer varied experiences ~ Use positive competition ~ Offer rewards ~ Give students responsibility ~ Allow students to work together ~ Give praise when earned ~ Encourage self-reflection ~ Model enthusiasm for learning ~ Know your students ~ Harness student interests ~ Help students find intrinsic motivation ~ Manage student anxiety ~ Make goals high but attainable ~ Give feedback and chances to improve ~ Track progress ~ Make things fun ~ Provide opportunities for success

School infrastructure

- School infrastructure constitutes a large component of the World Bank's education investment projects.
- The Bank's World Development Report 2018 titled "Learning to Realize Education's Promise" stresses the importance of making schools work for all learners and focuses on the need to ensure the high quality of education.

Negative outcomes

Studies found the most common drawbacks of poor school location and designs include:

- Higher transportation costs
- Higher administrative overheads
- lower graduation rates
- Higher absenteeism
- Higher rates of vandalism
- lower teacher satisfaction.

“The proper way of training children is identical with the proper way of treating fellow human beings.”

-Rudolf Dreikurs

Recommendations (Cont'd)

School infrastructure Checklist

It has been observed that providing access not only to school places but also to spaces that are safe and healthy positively affects pupils' academic outcomes.

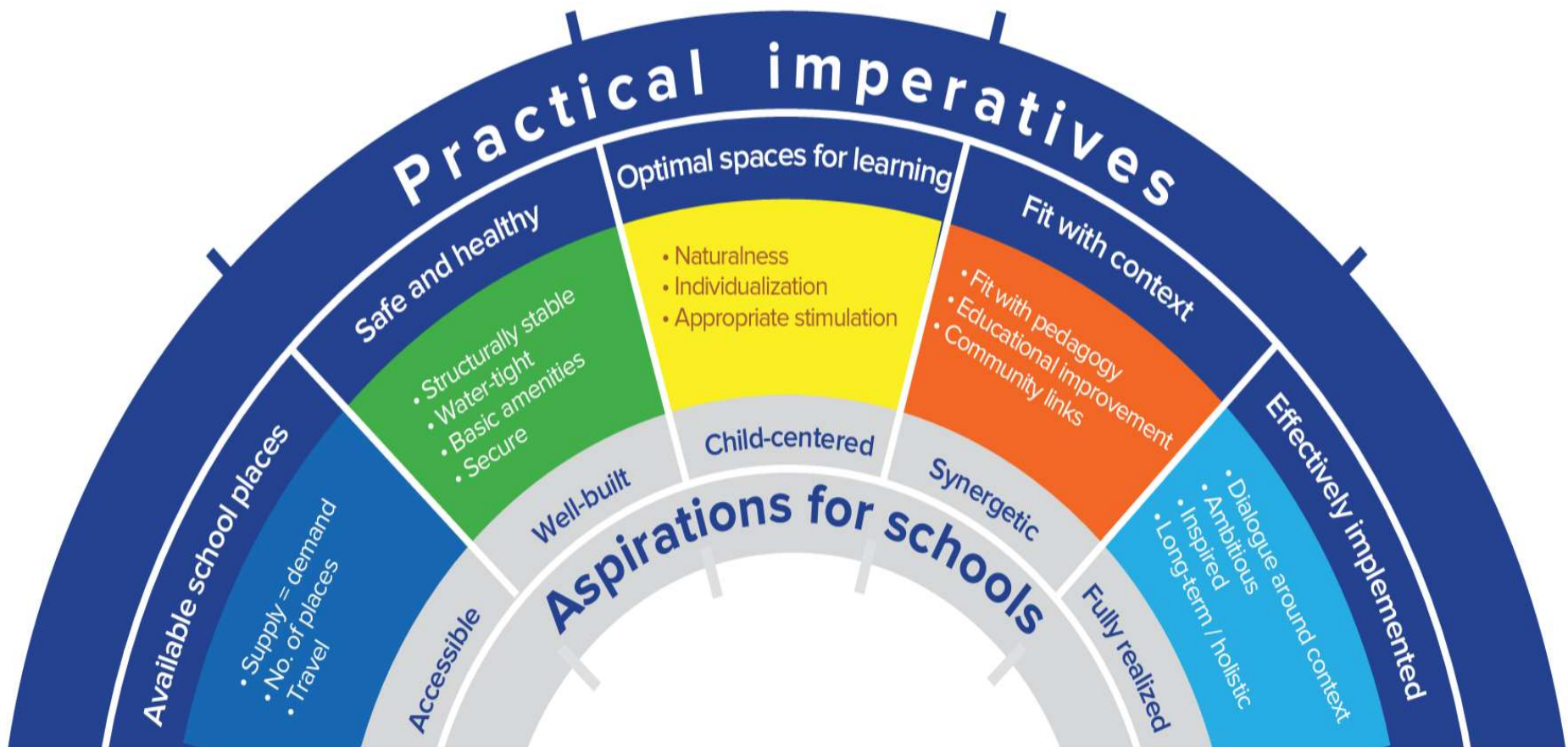
- 1) Schools that are locally distributed to maintain reasonable travel to school distances;
- 2) Schools that are relatively small;
- 3) Schools with relatively small classes and relatively low density of classroom occupancy;
- 4) That utilized for a reasonable school day length;
- 5) Schools with optimal scheduling within the spaces to release capacity to maximize educational benefits.
- 6) Schools that are soundly built to withstand natural disasters,
- 7) Good “natural” conditions such as lighting, air quality, temperature control, acoustics, and links to nature
- 8) Age-appropriate learning spaces that offer flexible learning opportunities that pupils can adapt and personalize
- 9) Connections between learning spaces that are easy to navigate and that may provide additional learning opportunities
- 10) A level of ambient stimulation using color and visual complexity
- 11) Schools that are designed from the inside out (classroom to school) so that each space meets the needs of its inhabitants
- 12) Designs that take into account local climatic and cultural conditions.
- 13) A school that provide basic services and opportunities for outside play, and have good indoor environmental quality.

Recommendations (Cont'd)

Teachers' welfare

- **Teachers' welfare scheme: FG yet to gazette law...States not keen on implementation**
- It is no gainsaying that teachers' welfare (regular payment of salary, prompt promotion, fringe benefit and /other incentives packages and in-service-training) determine the level of enhanced quality academic achievement.

Recommendations (Cont'd)



Learning environments for better educational outcomes

Recommendations (Cont'd)

We need a Boost and Boom in Technical and Vocational Education

- Technical and Vocational Education plays a vital role in human resource development of the country by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity and improving the quality of life.
- Sadly, in Nigeria, Osun State inclusive, the emphasis has been on general education, with Technical and Vocational Education education at the receiving end.
- This has resulted in large number of educated people remaining unemployed. This phenomenon should be recognised by the planners and hence there is a need for greater thrust on vocationalisation of education.
- Another shortcoming in the area of technical and vocational education is that till now, the number of engineers graduating is more than the diploma holders. This is creating an imbalance, as more workforces are required at the lower level.

Recommendations (Cont'd)

Appropriate Strategies To Be Adopted On Tve

- Expand and upgrade vocational education and training
- Expand and upgrade higher and technical education
- Promote research in educational institutions; and
- Redesign the educational pattern at the school level to facilitate skill development.
- **Government have to redefine its role in:**
 - – reforming & strengthening vocational education and training
 - – clear policy for facilitating capacity expansion through private sector participation.
 - – make more investment in vocational training institutes - For instance, we have Federal Science Technical College, Ilesa, Government Technical College, Osogbo, 3 state-owned polytechnics and 3 private-owned polytechnics.
 - – promote industry and academia interaction to narrow the existing gap between the demand and supply of the skilled

Recommendations (Cont'd)

To ensure that schools, whether new or adapted, have the maximum impact on the learning and development of their students, planners need to take into account all of the evidence, and the implementation process should have the following characteristics:

- There should be ongoing dialogue between planners, educators, and facility designers to take advantage of their complementary areas of expertise, to build in value for the wider community, and, vitally, to take account of international evidence in the context of each particular project.
- Planners should take account of examples of inventive solutions developed elsewhere around the world for inspiration in resolving their particular challenges.
- Planners should take a long-term, holistic perspective to the design of the facility, particularly with regard to building in flexibility to accommodate any demographic or pedagogical changes in the decades ahead.

Education is a shared
commitment between
dedicated teachers,
motivated students and
enthusiastic parents with
high expectations.

Bob Beauprez

Bottom-line

- **Motivation is central to all human success. Motivation is the key to student learning. Motivation has reciprocity.**
- **Government** needs to improve school environment, teacher and student welfare.
- **School** and **parents** need to play diverse roles in motivating **teachers** by supporting them.
- **Teachers** in turn need to constantly motivate the **students**, and indirectly **parents** and **school**.
- By creating trusting and supporting relationship, the **pupils** tend to copy the patterns of the respected **teachers**, which instantly motivates them to learn the selected subject.

THANK YOU

END



D.A. Oluwole, PhD.

This material and other viable materials for self-improvement are available at <https://www.positivepsychology.org.ng/>