

Globalisation, Educational Attainment and Workforce Preparedness among the Igala of Kogi State

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Igala tribe is among the great iron-ore technology states that rose to power between 1400-1700AD, alongside with the Benin, Nupe and Oyo empires. Presently they form the vast majority of Kogi state. The Igala speaking people of Kogi state are underserved in all administration in the nation, both in military era and the present democratic dispensation. Prior to the creation of the present Kogi state in 1991, the people of this region moved from Kware state to Benue state where other tribes are considered majority and they are classified as minority tribe.

As a consequence, their quality of life suffered relative to that of others in this country. Today, Kogi state remain the nations largest and poorest state, and as much of this impoverishment is concentrated in Kogi East, because Kogi state is home to persistent poverty, poor employment, unemployment, limited education, Academic laziness, High school drop-out and heavy dependence on subsistence Agriculture.

QUALITY OF LIFE

The present employment situation and preparation for meaningful employment by many Igala speaking people of Kogi state are among the regions worst condition and the worst in the nation. Unemployment for the Igala in Kogi state is high relative to that of Okun and other minority tribes in the state and Okun in Kogi state have the lowest rate of unemployment within the state and anywhere in the nation. For many Igala's jobs of any kind in Kogi state are quite scarce.

The educational levels of the region also show contrast between the Igala's and the Okun,

and show that many Igala are ill prepared for meaningful employment. Anchor in Egbunu 2011 corroborated this view, he revealed that 'professors from Ogori and Magongo alone compete favorably with the total number from the entire Igala land. He further confesses that Kogi east is probably the only factor for considering Kogi state as an educationally disadvantage state'.

GLOBALISATION

In the light of current and pending technological boom around the world, few will have the education that is needed for them to participate in high-tech workforce of the larger economy-readiness for global competition among the Igala's is low. Without significant improvement in education, the present and next generation living in Kogi East communities and the house-hold can expect to become further disadvantage and left unemployment into the next decade meanwhile, there is a deficit of well- prepared Igala sons and daughters' workers for high-tech and other skilled jobs, and qualified workers from other states are being recruited to fill these needs. I ask, does the Kogi state government have the public and political will to make investments in its own human resources in order to be competitive in the country and global society?

THE IGALA'S AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Education, no doubt, enhance human capital, human capital theory according to Becker 1946 suggests that individual and firms invest in education and training in order to boost their earnings and productivity respectively and thereby improve their relevance in the society. The wage

gain from the year of extra schooling is certainly substantial. According to Card 1999 and Harmon and Walter 2000, an individual gains up to 5-10 percent earnings per year of education. As a matter of fact, formal qualification (education) attracts large wage premium in any country- Nigeria inclusive Blundell, Dearden and Sianesi, 2001 and Dearden, Mchtoosh, Myck and Vignoks 2002. It is therefore, worrisome that despite these advantages that Kogi East indigene leave school with few or low qualifications. It is obvious that they will go on to be disadvantaged in the labor market in terms of their earnings, employment and political prospect.

II. THE FUTURE

Without such meaningful employment, without adequate preparation for high-tech and globally competitive jobs and without years of extra schooling the present inadequate earnings per month will only make the present condition worse in the future for those already in service, considering the sudden increase in Kogi East population as a result of early marriage and lack of proper birth control.

The region, Kogi East will continue to be underserved and disadvantage if effective policies and programs are not established to intervene and end this long-term cycle.

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