

Abstract

The challenge of underdevelopment has been, generally, viewed from two main perspectives: internal and external causes. The lecture traces the root of underdevelopment both to the colonial period as well as the attendant creation of people who continue to perpetuate the underdevelopment process through the educational institution. In the educational institution, what we give our students is the 'meal ticket'. *Sabiticate* is equal to what means *wetin you sabi*? What do you know? What is the relevance of your paper certificate if you cannot empower yourself through it? And, until we begin to apply what we know to real life, we cannot develop! It argues that, contrary to the establishment of universities to provide avenue for labor creation in the colonial system, and which we continue to perpetuate, our new situation requires that we provide not just entrepreneurial students but that the criteria for admitting students need to change, fundamentally. We have to begin to emphasise practice over and above theory. As such, admission criteria into the different units need to be more flexible. As we emphasise practice, all the students should be encouraged to address societal needs with a view to create means for solving them. Such solutions must be practicable by ensuring that whatever solution is provided is also tested by the students, using indigenously available resources. Also, identifying societal problems must not be limited to departments/faculties. It is in this wise that inter-disciplinary research will be encouraged in our universities. 'Sabbiticate' should be equal to how it helps us to survive in the society, within which we live, not how much we know of other societies, which the knowledge we give our students have been concerned with, till date. To successfully achieve this, it is recommended that we go back to the basics of survival indigenous knowledge provides, learn from it and, with what we know from other climes, improve what we now know.

Rather than blaming governments, we in the so called ivory tower need a self-reappraisal. We need to reconstruct what we once gave our former students, now in important positions in the society and, first, place our life in our hands. As researchers and as an institution, what can we show for all our publications and patents? We should take small steps at personal/university level to bring our findings into effect.