

Of Evangelism or Merchandise? The Role of Selected Christian Faith-based Schools in Nigerian Education

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Abstract

There is no doubt that Christianity had contributed immensely to the religious, political, educational, and socio-economic development of Nigeria. However, the story is not holistic. Hence, this paper critically examines the role of both mainline and Pentecostal churches in education in relation to National development in Nigeria. It examines the contribution of faith-based schools in southwestern Nigeria to education. Data for this research obtained through primary and secondary sources. Primary source includes in-depth interviews with the owners of the selected faith-based schools. Secondary source includes books, journal articles, the Internet, and structured questionnaires as tools for producing information. In addition, all relevant documents of the selected institutions were collected. Data collected were analyzed through the sociology of religion. The study concludes that the mission schools have seriously deviated from their primary aim of using religion as a channel to evangelize but have turned to real enterprises. In addition, it shows that the entrepreneurial sense of the Pentecostal churches is higher than that of the Orthodox missions, especially when we examine the school fees that they charge students in their schools.

Keywords: Christianity, Education, Faith-based, Schools, Nigeria

Introduction

Education is an instrument for national development, social change, and sustainable development. It goes beyond classroom teaching and the acquisition of knowledge. Eluu, Patrick E. (2016:64) has this to say about education:

Education is the transmission of values and accumulated knowledge of a society. It is a societal instrument for the expansion of human culture, which may be formal, or informal. Some people regard education as information giving, some regard it as a preparation for life, while others regard it as a process that provides children with knowledge, skills, and values that society believes to be necessary.

In this regard, the role of formal or informal education cannot be overemphasized in human development.

The history of education in this country cannot be written without mention of the important role played by the Church. In fact, education was central to the mission of the missionaries, who brought Christianity in the 19th century. Mission schools were a strategy adopted by early missionaries to get converts into Christianity (Omoloye and Opoola, 2012). Hence, “mission schools in the past were reputed for moral and academic discipline, low costs training...The managers of these schools were so mindful of the spiritual growth and development of students...” (Omede, 2017:506-507).

Mission schools, which since the 1800s offered free or low-cost education to the majority of Nigeria’s youths, nationalized after the West African nation’s civil war ended in 1970 in an attempt to defuse tribalism. Okpalike and Nwadiolor (2015:164) opine that, “Before 1900 the western form of education was appreciated and patronized since Nigerians looked upon mission education as the only agency that could bring about the social and political revolution they envisaged for Nigeria”

At the inception of Christian mission schools in Nigeria, the major target was to evangelize to the people, using Mission schools as the major tool. Fa-funwa (1981) affirms that the missionaries without exception used the school as a means of conversion and evangelism. In a similar but relatively divergent view, Adebayo (2009: 2) maintains that:

Since the early 1900s, private ownership and control of schools are becoming (or have become) very popular. Privately run schools are looked upon to correct the ills and lapses by the long years of government involvement

in the running of schools, we are now witnessing a situation whereby, faith-based or missionary schools that were wrested from their founders by the government are now being returned to their former owners...

The above view of Adebayo portends that the popularity of the private schools in the nation is large because of the failure of the government to adequately support education.

Omede (2015:103) maintains that, "if the federal, state and local governments had not failed in their primary responsibility of providing qualitative education to the citizenry, the private sector wouldn't have taken the advantage."

One can say that the missionaries gave the ever-increasing number of Nigerian adherents a powerful weapon through the provision of western education because education was the main instrument used for establishing and maintaining the new values. Literacy was actively pursued as a means of gathering the converts to read the Bible for themselves and to inculcate the importance of responsible personal conviction and decision in religion as in other matters (Okpalike and Nwadiolor, 2015:166).

Recently, there have been little interest in starting Christian schools as evangelistic outreach tools, especially in Nigeria as a country already having a well-developed school system. It is evident in the contemporary Nigerian society that there is deviation from pursuing this once vital part of mission work. Statistics certainly give some insights into the current praxes of the Christian mission schools in Nigeria, especially in the southwestern part.

When the Christian missionaries came to the African continent, one of the inducements used to lure Africans was formal education, which they freely made available. As time went on, the schools became popular, due largely to their high academic and moral standards, which were some of the distinguishing qualities that set them apart, aside from the little or no school fees.

This work engages the engagement of Mainline and Pentecostal Churches in tertiary education in relation to their professed notion of civic engagement. Thus, the study examines the participation of the Christian mission schools in tertiary education in Nigeria and its implications for sustainable national development.

Research Methodology

The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary source includes in-depth interviews with the owners of the selected faith-based schools. The secondary source includes books, journal articles, the Internet and structured questionnaires as tools for eliciting information. In addition, all relevant documents of the selected institutions were collected, a sociology

of religion was used to analyze the data. Seven faith-based tertiary institutions were purposively selected for this study, including those established by the Pentecostal and Mainline churches. The Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo state established by the Church Missionary Society; Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo, Ondo State, established by the Methodist Church of Nigeria; Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo, Ogun state established by the Seventh-Day Adventist church; Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, established by the Living Faith Church; Landmark University, Omu-Aran, established by the Living Faith Church; Mountain Top University, Makogi Oba, Ogun state, established by the Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministry; and Redeemers University, Ede, Osun state, established by the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The study was principally qualitative in nature based on qualitative techniques of data analysis.

Discussions/Data Analysis

In Babcock University, the school fees range between six hundred and twenty thousand (620,000) and three million Naira (3000000). The breakdown of the school fees goes thus: Medicine, 3 million naira; Law, 2 million naira; Accountancy, 1.5million naira; Nursing, 1million naira, other faculties pay between eight hundred and sixty thousand naira (860,000) and six hundred and twenty thousand naira (620,000).

Table 1: Babcock University 2016/2017 Academic Session

D. Faculty of Natural Sciences	100 Level	200 Level	Fresher (DE)	200 Level	Return- ing 300 Level 400 Level
School Fees Per Annum (Tuition & Related Fees)	452,000	462,000	422,000	429,000	424,000
Mode of Payment					
1st Installment (Payable in September before resumption)	226,000	231,000	211,000	214,500	212,000
2nd Installment (Payable on resumption 1st week, January)	113,000	115,500	105,500	107,250	106,000
3rd Installment (Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester)	113,000	115,500	105,500	107,250	106,000
Faculty Of Law	100 Level	200 Level	Fresher (DE)	200 Level	
School Fees Per Annum (Tuition & Related Fees)	695,000	695,000	670,000	670,000	

Mode Of Payment				
1st Installment (Payable in September before resumption)	347,500	347,500	335,000	335,000
2nd Installment (Payable on resumption 1st week, January)	173,750	173,750	167,500	167,500
3rd Installment (Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester)	173,750	173,750	167,500	167,500
2. Accommodation Fee For All Students				
	Total	1st Semester (September)	2nd Semester (April)	
Total Accommodation Fee per annum	105,000	52,500	52,500	
3. OTHERS				
a. Acceptance Fee for NEW students ONLY (Non-refundable)	20,000			
b. Field Trip for Geology students ONLY - (100 – 400 Levels) per Annum	40,000			
c. Annual Parents/Sponsors' Forum Fee	10,000			

Findings of Babcock University school fees as of the 2016/2017 academic session for 100 students was between 400,000 thousand naira to 452,000 thousand which could be paid in installment. Further findings of Babcock University school law student fees as of the 2016/2017 academic session for 100 students was between 670,000 thousand naira to 695,000 thousand which could be paid on installments.

Table 2: Covenant University 2016/2017 Academic Session (School Fees Structure for 100 Level 2016/2017 Session (Subject to Change in 2017/2018 Session))

S/N	Programs	School Fees
1	Accounting	799, 500
2	Banking and Finance	779, 500
3	Business Administration	779, 500
4	Demography and Social Statistics	779, 500

5	Economics	779, 500
6	Industrial Relations and human resource management	779, 500
7	International Relations	789, 500
8	Marketing	779, 500
9	Policy and Strategic Studies	789, 500
10	Political Science	789, 500
11	English	789, 500
12	Psychology	794, 500
13	Sociology	779, 500
14	Mass Communication	804, 500
15	Architecture	819, 500
16	Engineering Courses	819, 500
17	Computer Science	799, 500
18	Biochemistry	799, 500
19	Microbiology	799, 500
20	Industrial Physics/Mathematics/Chemistry	789, 500
21	Building Technology	799, 500
22	Management Information System	789, 500
23	Estate Management	799, 500
24	Biochemistry	799, 500
25	Microbiology	799, 500

Findings on the School Fees Structure for 100 Level 2016/2017 Session (Subject to Change in 2017/2018 Session) of Covenant University 2016/2017 Academic Session are as following; Accounting-799, 500, Banking and Finance-779, 500, Business Administration-779, 500. Demography and Social Statistics-779, 500, Economics-779, 500, Industrial Relations and human resource management-779, 500. International Relations-789, 500, Marketing-779, 500, Policy and Strategic Studies-789, 500, Political Science-789, 500, English-789, 500, Psychology-794, 500, Sociology-779, 500. Mass Communication-804, 500, Architecture-819, 500, Engineering Courses-819, 500, Computer Science-799, 500, Biochemistry-799, 500, Microbiology-799, 500, Industrial Physics/Mathematics/Chemistry-789, 500, Building Technology-799, 500, Management Information System-789, 500, Estate Management-799, 500, Biochemistry-799, 500, and Microbiology-799, 500. In all, Mass Communication, Architecture, and Engineering Courses are more expensive than every other course in the school. Covenant University's 2016/2017

Academic Session fees are more expensive compared this indicator to that of Babcock University.

The Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo was established by the Supra Diocesan Board (West) of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), has its origins in the defunct CMS training institution, Abeokuta and the defunct St. Andrews College, Oyo.

The University started as CMS Training Institution in Abeokuta in 1853 thereafter it relocated to Lagos (1868 to 1896). In March 1896, was transplanted to Oyo retrospectively in 1920. At inception, St. Andrews College, Oyo produced holders of Grade II Teachers Certificate while the Divinity Course for training church ministers added to the curriculum between 1910 and 1942 and the proprietorship of the College transferred from CMS, London to the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

In 1977, Government took over the control and administration of all schools in the Nigerian Federation and with this development, the Church of Nigeria was stripped of her Proprietorship of the College. However, the St. Andrews College Old Boys Association (SACOBAs) interest and by extension that of the Church, in the growth and development of St. Andrews did not wane. Thus, in response to SACOBAs petition, the erstwhile Oyo State Government upgraded the Institution to an NCE campus in 1980 and to the full-fledged College of Education in 1985.

On 7 September 1999, the Church of Nigeria granted SACOBAs request for the establishment of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo at the site of the former St. Andrews College, Oyo under the proprietorship of the Church. Having satisfied the rigorous criteria prescribed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for the establishment of Universities in Nigeria, Ajayi Crowther University (ACU) granted the license to operate as a Private University in Nigeria on 7 January 2005.

The University named after the late Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first African Bishop who first translated the bible into Yoruba. His Episcopal Ministry covered the entire West African sub-continent.

Table 3: Highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University Oyo

1. School Fees					
A. Faculty Of Humanities	100 Level	200 Level Fresher	200 Level Returning	300 Level	400 Level
School Fees Per Annum (Tuition & Related Fees)	390,000	400,000	360,000	400,000	402,000

Mode of Payment

1st Installment (<i>Payable in September before resumption</i>)	195,000	200,000	180,000	200,000	201,000
2nd Installment (<i>Payable on resumption 1st week, January</i>)	97,000	100,000	90,000	100,000	100,500
3rd Installment (<i>Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester</i>)	97,000	100,000	90,000	100,000	100,500

B. Religious Studies Department Only	100 Level	200 Level Fresher	200 Level Returning	300 Level	400 Level
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School Fees Per Annum (Tuition & Related Fees)	223,600	233,600	208,600	205,600	195,600
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Mode of Payment

1st Installment (<i>Payable in September before resumption</i>)	111,800	116,800	104,300	102,800	97,800
2nd Installment (<i>Payable on resumption 1st week, January</i>)	55,900	58,400	52,150	51,400	48,900
3rd Installment (<i>Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester</i>)	55,900	58,400	52,150	51,400	48,900

C. Faculty Of SMS	100 Level	200 Level Fresher	200 Level Returning	300 Level	400 Level
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School Fees Per Annum (Tuition & Related Fees)	437,000	447,000	407,000	419,000	414,000
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Mode of Payment

1st Installment (<i>Payable in September before resumption</i>)	218,500	223,500	203,500	209,500	207,000
2nd Installment (<i>Payable on resumption 1st week, January</i>)	109,250	111,750	101,750	104,750	103,500
3rd Installment (<i>Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester</i>)	109,250	111,750	101,750	104,750	103,500

D. Faculty Of Natural Sciences	100 Level	200 Level Fresher	200 Level Returning	300 Level	400 Level
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School Fees Per Annum (<i>Tuition & Related Fees</i>)	452,000	462,000	407,000	419,000	414,000
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Mode of Payment

1st Installment (<i>Payable in September before resumption</i>)	226,000	226,000	203,500	209,500	207,000
2nd Installment (<i>Payable on resumption 1st week, January</i>)	113,000	115,500	105,500	107,250	106,000
3rd Installment (<i>Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester</i>)	113,000	115,500	105,500	107,250	106,000

E. Faculty Of Law	100 Level	200 Level Fresher (DE)	200 Level Returning	300 Level
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School Fees Per Annum (<i>Tuition & Related Fees</i>)	695,000	695,000	670,000	670,000
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Mode of Payment

1st Installment (<i>Payable in September before resumption</i>)	347,000	347,000	335,000	335,000
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2nd Installment (<i>Payable on resumption 1st week, January</i>)	173,750	173,750	167,500	167,500
3rd Installment (<i>Payable 1st April, i.e. 2nd Semester</i>)	173,750	173,750	167,500	167,500
<u>Excluding=Miscellaneous 70,000 and Accommodation=105,000 per session</u>				

Findings of highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo for the faculty of humanities 100 students was 390,000, 200 level was 400,000, 300 level was 400,000 and 400 level, 402,000, and they can all pay on installment with a date. Highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo for the religious studies department 100 students was 223,600, 200 level was 233,600, 300 level was 208,600 and 400 level, 195,600, and they can all pay in installments with a date. Further findings of highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo for the faculty of SMS, 100 students was 437,000, 200 level was 447,000, 300 level was 419,000 and 400 level, 414,000. Also, findings of highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo for the faculty of Natural Sciences, 100 students was 452,000, 200 level was 462,000, 300 level was 419,000 and 400 level, 414,000. In a nutshell, findings of highlights of the 2016/2017 Academic Session Fees of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo for the faculty of Law, 100 students was 695,000, 200 level was 695,000 and 300 level was 670,000.

Table 4: Mountain Top University Tuition Fees 2016/2017 Session

	Full payment	Two-time installment payment	
		First installment (55%)	Second installment (50%)
S/N	College of Basic & Applied Sciences:		

1	Applied Geophysics	520,000	286,000	260,000
2	Biochemistry	520,000	286,000	260,000
3	Biology	520,000	286,000	260,000
4	Biotechnology	520,000	286,000	260,000
5	Computer Science	520,000	286,000	260,000
6	Food Science & Technology	520,000	286,000	260,000
7	Mathematics	520,000	286,000	260,000
8	Microbiology	520,000	286,000	260,000
9	Physics	520,000	286,000	260,000
10	Chemistry	520,000	286,000	260,000
	College Of Human- ities and Manage- ment Sciences			
11	Accounting	520,000	286,000	260,000
12	Banking & Finance	520,000	286,000	260,000
13	Business Administration	520,000	286,000	260,000
14	Economics	520,000	286,000	260,000

15	Industrial Relations & Personnel Management	520,000	286,000	260,000
16	Mass Communication	520,000	286,000	260,000
17	Public Administration	520,000	286,000	260,000
18	English	450,000	247,000	225,000
19	Music	450,000	247,000	225,000
20	Religious Studies	450,000	247,000	225,000

Results on Mountain Top University Tuition Fees 2016/2017 Session revealed the following. Applied Geophysics- 520,000, Biochemistry- 520,000, Biology- 520,000, Biotechnology- 520,000, Computer Science- 520,000, Food Science & Technology-520,000, Mathematics-520,000, Microbiology-520,000, Physics-520,000, Chemistry-520,000, Accounting-520,000, Banking & Finance-520,000, Business Administration -520,000, Economics-520,000, Industrial Relations & Personnel Management-520,000, Mass Communication-520,000, Public Administration-520,000, English-450,000, Music-450,000 and Religious Studies-450,000.

Table 5: Redeemers University 2016-2017 Admission Fees for New Students (Payable Only in The First Semester of the Year of Admission for all Colleges)

S/N	Item	Male	Female
		N	N
1.	Acceptance Fee (Non-Refundable)	50,000.00	50,000.00
2.	Caution Fee	20,000.00	20,000.00
3.	Medical Examination	8,800.00	8,800.00
4.	Immunization (Hepatitis, Typhoid)	8,873.00	8,873.00
5.	Immunization (Cervarix)	–	15,411.00
6.	Matriculation Fee	5,000:00	5,000:00
	Total	92,673.00	108,084.00

B. Fees for 100 – 400 Level Students (College of Management Sciences)

1st Semester	2nd Semester
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Tuition	100%	60%	40%
Registration	325,000.00	195,000.00	130,000.00
Development Levy	25,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Workshop & Laboratory	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Library Fee			
Medical Insurance	15,000.00	9,000.00	6,000.00
Id Card	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sports	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sub Total	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Tuition	415,000.00	249,000.00	166,000.00

C. College of Management Sciences

		1st Semester	2nd Semester
Tuition	100%	60%	40%
Registration	325,000.00	195,000.00	130,000.00
Development Levy	25,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Workshop & Laboratory	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Library Fee			
Medical Insurance	15,000.00	9,000.00	6,000.00
Id Card	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sports	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sub Total	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Tuition	415,000.00	249,000.00	166,000.00

D. College of Natural Sciences

		1st Semester	2nd Semester
Tuition	100%	60%	40%
Registration	330,000.00	198,000.00	132,000.00
Development Levy	25,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Workshop & Laboratory	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Library Fee	15,000.00	9,000.00	6,000.00

Medical Insurance	15,000.00	9,000.00	6,000.00
Id Card	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sports	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Sub Total	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Tuition	435,000.00	261,000.00	174,000.00

E. Other Fees for 100 – 400 Level Students (College of Natural Sciences)

	100%	1st Semester 60%	2nd Semester 40%
Accommodation	120,000.00	72,000.00	48,000.00
Family Forum Levy	4,000.00	4,000.00	
International IT Certification	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Entrepreneurial Studies	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Meals (Twice/Day)**	60,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total	224,000.00	130,000.00	94,000.00
Grand Total	619,000.00	367,000.00	252,000.00

F. College of Natural Sciences

	100%	1st Semester 60%	2nd Semester 40%
Accommodation	120,000.00	72,000.00	48,000.00
Family Forum Levy	4,000.00	4,000.00	
International IT Certification	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Entrepreneurial Studies	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Meals (Twice/Day)**	60,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total	224,000.00	130,000.00	94,000.00
Grand Total	639,000.00	379,000.00	260,000.00

G. College of Natural Sciences

		1st	2nd
	100%	Semester	Semester
		60%	40%
Accommodation	120,000.00	72,000.00	48,000.00
Family Forum Levy	4,000.00	4,000.00	
International IT Certification	30,000.00	18,000.00	12,000.00
Entrepreneurial Studies	10,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00
Meals (Twice/Day)**	60,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total	224,000.00	130,000.00	94,000.00
Grand Total	659,000.00	391,000.00	268,000.00

* Mass Communication, Transport, and Tourism Students would pay an additional N10, 000 for Practical & Field Trips.

** Cost of meals (twice per day) subsidized by the University. The request for an additional meal is N200/plate

The proprietor of Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo is the Methodist Church of Nigeria. The Methodist Society from Great Britain established the Methodist Church of Nigeria in 1842 by. While engaging in their main goal of evangelizing and converting the people, the Methodists recognized the need to train a number of people who can read the Bible and serve as assistants to the Missionaries. The Methodists ventured into the education of the people and set up the first “Nursery of the Infant Church” in Badagry in 1843. This marked the first initiative at establishing schools in Nigeria.

Over the years of its existence, the Methodist Church has shown interest and (had in fact) participated in the development of Education, Health, and Agriculture in the country with the establishment of Primary and Secondary Schools, Teacher Training Colleges, Theological Institutions, Hospitals, Leprosy Centers and various agricultural projects.

From the historical viewpoint regarding the Church as a preserver of knowledge. In the world today, people view education as vocational training for the young, an education that disciplines the mind, develops the reasoning power, and enables the young graduate to find employment and be of good service to the Church and the community.

To this effect, following the decision of the Federal Government of Nigeria to permit the establishment and running of private Universities by individuals or organizations. Based on Federal Government's criteria through the National Universities Commission, the Church decided to establish Wesley University of Science and Technology, expected to be a center of excellence, committed to the regeneration of good moral standards among the youths. MCN also observed the need to provide an improved standard of delivery as well as provide additional places for the teeming population of young people who cannot be enrolled in the existing institutions.

The National Universities Commission (NUC) granted an official license to the University on May 17, 2007. Consequently, the official opening ceremony took place on May 14, 2008, at the University site in Ondo town, while full academic activities commenced in October 2008, with the admission and resumption of the University's pioneer students.

The University strives to provide the enabling environment for effective teaching and research in cutting-edge science and technology for sustainable development. The Wesley University of their dream is not just a university that provides facilities for teaching and research but one in which the moral regeneration of our children would be approached through formal and informal means, so as to ensure stimulation of interest in national development from moral, cultural, and religious perspectives.

Table 5: Summary

S/N	Name of School	Minimum charge in Naira	Maximum Charge in Naira
1	Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo	390,000	462,000
2	Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo	620,000	3 million
3	Covenant University, Ota	799,000	819,000
4	Landmark University, Omu-Aran	556,000	639,000
5	Mountain Top University, Makogi Oba	450,000	520,000
6	Redeemers University	556,000	669,000
7	Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo	375,000	465,000

Note: Feeding and accommodation are not included in the above charges

In all, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo's minimum charge in naira is 390,000, Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo minimum charge in naira is 620,000, Covenant University, Ota minimum charge in naira is 799,000. Landmark's University, Omu-Aran minimum charge in naira is 556,000, Mountain Top University, Makogi Oba minimum charge in naira is 450,000, Redeemers

University minimum charge in naira is 556,000 and Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo minimum charge in naira is 375,000.

One can clearly observe that the charges by the Pentecostal churches are higher than that of the mainline churches. This portends that the materialistic tendency is among the Pentecostal churches than the mainline churches, looking at the charges by the duo.

During our visit to these schools, it was evident that most mission schools are better equipped the public schools. However, most of the respondents maintain that the owners of the mission schools should have told the public that they are running profit-oriented schools from the outset, instead of using the word *mission* to raise money, get public support, and turn around to become unaffordable to many members of the public.

Many church members complained that they could not afford to enroll their children in these schools saying that these schools are not for the poor; they are too elitist, and that even members who donated toward their establishments cannot even send their children to these schools. The high cost of quality education places it well beyond the reach of the poor. Hence, one can conclude that the main aim of establishing these schools is more merchandise.

The owners of mission schools have contributed immensely to tertiary education in Nigeria. They have helped greatly by running stable academic calendars; monitor and supervising academic proceedings for quality delivery. However, as laudable as their roles in Nigerian education are, the mission schools are surrounded by some unwholesome practices such as charging exorbitant fees and widening gaps between the rich and the poor.

Most mission schools in Southwestern Nigeria have become so expensive, financially discriminatory, and far from seeing provisions of education as a social service that it ought to be to the people. Owning, a private school in Nigeria now is a very lucrative business (Toscany Academy, 2012). This shows that there is a shift from the initial purpose for creating schools by the missionaries to evangelize people to making it a merchandise.

Conclusion

If we access the Mainline and Pentecostal church's school fees charges, one may want to conclude that their primary aim and objectives in establishing the 'so-called mission schools' is merchandise and not evangelical. We can say that they are after financial gains and not just after evangelical pursuits. Nonetheless, they contribute to the spiritual life of the students who attend their schools by inculcating religious ethics. Many of the students they produce in turn grow up strongly grounded in faith in Jesus Christ and rely on the Word of God as their guideline for life and services, and they are able to

withstand all forms of negative pressures and ungodly beliefs and practices. The positive fruits of mission schools seen as highly beneficial giving an average citizen an opportunity to be trained in a Christian school environment without being limited and constrained by exorbitant school fees which all of them are charging now.

Recommendations

- The government of Nigeria should create an enabling environment for the mission schools to blossom so that they can mobilize resources to develop their infrastructure and human resources.
- Faith-based schools should reduce their charges and be more concerned with their primary aim of civic engagement
- There should be legislation made to reduce tuition, accommodations, and feeding fees that are highly exorbitant.
- Education is germane to sustainable national development. The good health of a nation is largely dependent on the quality of education of its citizens. It is obvious that government cannot single-handedly provide the education needed in the country to achieve national development. This portends that the Government's sole funding of education is not realistic in our present circumstances.

In conclusion, all hands should be on deck to provide functional education to the citizens of the country with a view to achieving the much-needed sustainable national development.

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