

Review of J.A. Akinpelu, *An Introduction to Philosophy of Education*

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Caribbean Journal of Education, 9: 152-160 (1982)¹

Can there be an introduction to *X* without an *X* to introduce? At first blush one might think not, but one should be forgiven for supposing that the philosophy of education proves one wrong. Here we have yet another Introduction to Philosophy of Education that introduces us to the introductions; when shall we ever find the real thing? It is true that there are a few genuine works in the genre, and we even have a volume in the Oxford Readings in Philosophy, but for all that the philosophy of education must have one of the highest ratios of introductions to real works of any area of human endeavour.

Akinpelu's excuse for further distending the relationship is that students in Nigeria have a hard time gathering together and making sense of the existing introductions, which are all geared to "first world" conditions and students, and which have in general dispensed with the obvious prescriptions of earlier generations. They are also hampered by the variety of topics that Nigerian examiners expect to be covered in a philosophy of education course. I am unable to judge how far Professor Akinpelu has succeeded in covering the standard Nigerian syllabus, though he certainly mentions a good number of different topics, and for no other reason that I can see; but in other respects his is an undistinguished contribution which appears to have missed most of the opportunities a genuinely non-Western focus would offer, and which contains too many inaccuracies and too much sloppiness for one to be happy recommending it to any students anywhere.² His claim to refocus the subject does, however, raise more compellingly the question of what contribution philosophy should make to the preparation of a teacher, and I shall attempt to address this question in the sequel.

But first to describe Akinpelu's own solution. After a short chapter on philosophy and how it might relate to education, he gives us two long chapters on "Educational Thinkers" (Plato, Aristotle, Isocrates, Quintilian, Comenius, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel, and Herbart, in chapter 2; Whitehead, James Africanus Beale Horton, Bishop James Johnson, E.W. Blyden, Henry Carr, and Nyerere, in chapter 3). He then treats "Schools of Philosophy of Education" – idealism, something he calls "realism", pragmatism (i.e. Dewey), and existentialism – before offering two chapters of philosophical analysis, one on a few of the standard concepts (education, teaching, and learning)

1 *An Introduction to Philosophy of Education* by J.A. Akinpelu, (Macmillan Nigeria, London and Basingstoke, 1981, pp. Xii & 252).

2 Philosophers should not be found claiming that the labels "pragmatism", "instrumentalism", "epidemicism" and "experimentalism" are really synonymous, as Akinpelu does on p. 142. Akinpelu's "realism" endorses common-sense, science, and objective values (p. 138) which has been impossible since Galileo and was awkward even for Aristotle. Talking of rights, Akinpelu says that if one has a right "someone else has a duty to provide what one is entitled to" which is immediately waved down to facilitating one's claims (p. 214); but even that is too much – if I have a claim right to do something, others have a duty to refrain from stopping me, but not necessarily any duty to positively facilitate my doing it. On the same page Akinpelu confuses the opportunity to take an examination with the chance or opportunity to pass it. If we must go in for "who was the best ...?", I would have thought Demosthenes stood a better chance as an orator than as a lawyer (p. 36) but this is to descend to trivia. Speaking of trivia, there are a few obvious misprints, and more seriously, a garbled paragraph on the bottom of p. 192.

Akinpelu Philosophy

Wilfred Legotlo



Akinpelu Philosophy:

An Introduction to Philosophy of Education Ronald Woods, Robin Barrow, 2002-09-11 Published in the year 1988 An Introduction to Philosophy of Education is a valuable contribution to the field of Education *Revitalizing Nigerian Education in Digital Age* Soji Oni, 2012 Revitalizing Nigerian Education in Digital Age What most of the papers in this book have in common is the concern for the revitalization of Nigerian education in the digital age through ICT and other modern methods of making education functional and effective in the new modernity While some of the chapters deal with conceptual issues others consider the various role of education in this digital age and how Nigeria can be relevant Most of the chapters present well researched detailed and informative papers on how to reposition Nigerian education in the digital age Specifically the role of education in bringing Nigeria s new world about are discussed in simple language and then taken up in different forms all through the book Since Nigeria has to act fast and decisively to be on the same development and education wavelength as the other members of today s global family serious actions are being suggested in this book Revitalizing Nigerian Education in Digital Age simply means taking the above desiderata seriously Nigeria has a daunting task here in view of the heavy education burden This is the message that this book puts across **African Democracy** Jonathan O. Chimakonam, Isaiah A. Ngedu, 2023-09-21 There are numerous different democratic systems in Africa from the Igbo institutions that date back to the 15th century to Western style democracy introduced by colonial powers But what does democracy really mean for African nations And what effect does it have on the lives of their people This is the first comprehensive examination of the social and political consequences of democracy in Africa Written from an African philosophical perspective leading and emerging scholars explore the impact of democracy in a continent dealing not only with the perennial issues of leadership failure poverty and corruption but also with contemporary global concerns such as immigration digital media and COVID 19 With a focus first and foremost on the African people this pioneering volume investigates how the challenges of democracy as a system affect their lived experience Looking in particular at the sub Sahara it reveals the influence that the failures of democracy have on fundamental needs including allocation of primary resources autonomy welfare free speech and women s rights **African Democracy Impediments Promises and Prospects** gives an unflinching insight into the struggles caused by democratic governance in Africa whilst also crucially pointing to its accomplishments and the future possibilities for African nations **A Workshop on the New National Policy on Education** ,1977 **Caribbean Journal of Education** ,1981 **Africa's Radicalisms and Conservatisms** ,2022-10-31 Volume II of Africa s Radicalisms and Conservatisms continues the broad themes of radicalisms and conservatisms that were examined in volume I Like volume I the essays examine why the two isms of radicalisms and conservatisms should not be viewed as mere irreconcilable conceptual tools with which to categorize or structure knowledge The volume demonstrates that these concepts are intertwined have multiple and diverse meanings as perceived and understood from different

disciplinary vantage points hence the deliberate pluralization of the terms The twenty two essays in the volume show what happens when one juxtaposes the two concepts and when different peoples lived experiences of politics pop culture democracy liberalism the environment colonialism migration identities and knowledge etc across the length and breadth of Africa are brought to bear on our understandings of these two particularisms Contributors are Adesoji Oni Admire M Nyamwanza Akin Tella Akinpelu Ayokunnu Oyekunle Bamidele Omotunde Alabi Charles Nkem Okolie Craig Calhoun Diana Ekor Ofana Edwin Etieyibo Folusho Ayodeji Gabriel Akinbode Godwin Oboh Joseph C A Agbakoba Julius Niringiyimana Lucky Uchenna Ogbonnaya Maxwell Mudhara Muchaparara Musemwa Nathan Osareme Odiase Obvious Katsaura Okpowhoavotu Dan Ekere Olaniran Olakunle Lateef Omolara V Akinyemi Owen Mafongoya Paramu Mafongoya Philip Onyekachukwu Egbule Rutanga Murindwa Sandra Bhatasara Takesure Taringana Tunde A Abioro Victor Clement Nweke William Muhumuza and Zainab M Olaitan **Institute Journal of Studies in Education** ,2013 **Educational Foundations** M. S. B. Tal Pokalas,E. A. Ojile,M. G. Kazeem,2010 **Socialism & Education** Takawira C. Gwarinda,1985 **Educology** ,2005-10 Philosophy of Nigerian Education in Modern Times E. M. Nwabuisi,1992 *Priorities for the Development of Akwa Ibom State* Ignatius I. Ukpong,1991 **Nigeria and the Classics** ,1962 **African Institutes of Education** Enoka H. Rukare,1975 **Ondo Journal of Arts & Social Sciences** ,2003 *West African Journal of Education* ,1957 **Theory and Practice of Education** Gerard Bennaars,James E. Otiende,Raymond Boisvert,1994 Issues in Nigerian Education ,1992 Values and National Development S. Iniobong Uboidem,1992 *Muslim Educational Reform Activities in Nigeria* Baffa Aliyu Umar,Salisu Shehu,Mansur Usman Malumfashi,2005

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