

# Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

“Success is not about how much money you make. It’s about the difference you make in people’s lives.” -- Michelle Obama

## A) WHAT IS ACADEMIC SUCCESS

**A**cademic success is better considered from a broad point of view than a narrow one. When academic success is assumed to mean high scores, good grades or certificates, it becomes very misleading. Why? This is because the reasoning is narrow and shallow.

Academic success from its broad perspective or true sense of view must possess certain qualifying attributes. First, making the right choice of program, course or major. And this must be carefully selected in line with the student’s gifts or talents. Second, a thorough understanding of the chosen program, course or major. This understanding must be carried to the level of insight because it is better than understanding and sheds light on the relationships that exist between facts. Third, the right application of acquired knowledge. This has to do with using insight in a field of study or sector of the economy that will produce significant positive change for mankind. Discoveries, inventions, provision of solutions to mankind’s problems and positive generational transformations can never come to pass without wise application of acquired knowledge. These three above mentioned characteristics constitute what is termed true academic success.

## B) BORN TO SUCCEED

Academic success calls for mastery underscoring the fact that education is very demanding in terms of time and money. Fear of failure, wrong choice of program, lack of understanding of a chosen field, poor articulation, inappropriate application of knowledge and other militating problems responsible for academic failures are all surmountable. Everyone is endowed with the capability to do well in life with academic success not being an exception. Man's enormous brain capacity makes him special and a possible great achiever. The effective principles for academic success in this book can be learned and practiced by all.

Success in every aspect of life remains a matter of choice. The journey to the place of success is always a well-planned or calculated one. The choice to succeed must be backed by determination and consistently doing what is necessary to bring about the kind of success one desires.

## C) FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

The formal approach to knowledge acquisition has helped mankind. It has also made it possible to acquire general and specialized knowledge. However, there is an earnest need for programs in schools to be more solution oriented to meet needs in different sectors. Moreover, counseling must be used to help pupils and students to make informed decisions and achieve rapid progress bearing in mind the accomplishment of their life's dreams and destined purpose.

There are challenges that debar some individuals from going through the most accepted route toward being educated formally. This main pathway is starting from kindergarten to university. We should all acknowledge that acquiring education through this main pathway or spending long years in this process does not guarantee success in life. Hence, depending on one's individual circumstance, one can acquire education through shorter routes like that from primary school to vocational institute and still end up successful.

Informal acquisition of knowledge possesses very great opportunities for everyone. Self-taught individuals with professional certificates have secured high paying employment in many countries and eventually attained great heights. Solutions to certain basic personal problems could be obtained by sourcing for information online and offline (books, manuals, newspapers, etc.).

#### D) UNDERSTANDING YOUR PURPOSE ON EARTH

Everyone on planet earth has a divine assignment (destined purpose) to accomplish. There is no man without talents. However, some possess more talents than others and more talents do not always mean better success. An individual's gifts or talents are given to him to be effective and efficient in executing duties mainly in the place of his calling (occupation, profession or office). Finding oneself in the right calling creates that enabling possibility for fulfilling a destined purpose. An individual's purpose in life provides the reason(s) for efforts that will make his life meaningful. Now permit me to connect this to education. To ensure that you are on the right path to success, let all your educational endeavors be made in agreement with destined purpose. When this is done, you will hardly get tired or discouraged. You will remain motivated and enthusiastic. This is the driving force for a successful life. This can be likened to the force that propels speedboats, cars, trains, and airplanes. Whenever anyone links his education to divine assignment there will never be room for idleness, unnecessary long hours of sleep and other wastages of various forms. The heart that understands this truth remains joyful at all times.

You should not focus on high scores, good grades, certificates or money to be made after graduation. Do not get me wrong. These things are good, but they are not the main focus. You should work toward fulfilling your destined purpose. Whenever this is taken care of, all other things fall into place. Now listen. High scores, good grades, certificates, and money do not guarantee success. Destined purpose accomplished in itself is success. And only here can one find true satisfaction.