

Text N°1: Teaching Our Kids Real World Skills

Over millions of African children are not at school. Many of them are girls living in rural areas. Others have education but it is not quality education. As a scholar complains, we need to give our children education, and not just book or certificate education, but “real education”. He complains of the poor state of African education institutions from secondary to tertiary,
5 characterized by poor facilities, outdated curricula, and limited internet access.

Another issue for the poor performance of the education system in Africa is the payment issue of teachers or people in charge of the educational system and this must be addressed. As an education expert says: “when teachers are not well paid or are not paid on time, there will not be an incentive to work. Many of them have families and they have to look for other means of
10 making money.”

A man who is in charge of book publishing house laments the death of higher education in Africa. He says that universities tend to be the epicenter of radical protests, extremist protestors, manipulated politicians, sect gurus or so. He concludes saying: “our universities used to produce Nobel laureates. What they are producing today if it is not people who take the
15 shortcuts of life and become sect followers, politicians or their sycophants?”

Adapted from The Africa Report N°29, April 2011.