

BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; THE NEED FOR SYNERGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper looked at the concept of Business Education with a view to see how useful would it be in enhancing economic growth the concept of Sustainable Development was also reviewed as well as that of Economic growth. The paper discussed how Business Education could be used to for sustainable development and ultimately for enhancing economic growth in Nigeria. Conclusion was drawn as to the best instrument enhancing economic growth would be business education program, on the basis of the conclusion drawn some recommendations were made one of which was government should emphasize on skillful education like business education for our youths in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic growth, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

The need for education in instituting government policies and programs is paramount. Educational Institutions remained one of the major agents of inculcating and instilling new ideas attitudes and charges governments of different levels want to introduce. The educational programs run in Institutions of higher learning in particular are to train individual in different kind of vocations.

Business education program is those educational programs run in Nigerian tertiary institutions. It is that aspect of total educational program which is aimed at training individual to acquire necessary skills and competencies to work and operate as self-reliant not even that rather to give employment to others. Udo (2015) defined Business education is a comprehensive activity-based occupational education programme that is concerned with the acquisition of practical skill, abilities, understandings, attitudes, work habit and competencies that are requisite to success in any chosen business occupation. It equips the recipients with practical skills in the areas of accounting, marketing, distributive, trade, management and office technology information and communication technology, economics and entrepreneurship. Hence, Business education is the education for skill acquisition and competencies i.e it is education for employment immediately after graduation.

Sustainable development as a concept emerged in the context of growing awareness of an imminent ecological crisis, it is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Sustainable development implies economic growth together with the protection of environmental quality each reinforcing the other sustainable development has some objectives among which were provision of employment and eradication of poverty.

The fact that Business education is about training individuals for skills acquisitions and self-employability, it means it can be useful machinery for achieving the goals of sustainable national development in Nigeria. This is the objective of this paper, i.e to see to how the

interplay between business education program and sustainable national development would yield the desired objectives of sustainable national development in Nigeria.

Concept of Business Education

Nanacy in Bala (2015) described Business Education "as that aspect of the total Education programmes that provide that knowledge, skills, understanding and attitude needed to perform in business world as a producer and as a consumer of goods and services that business offers".

The National Policy on Education (1998) revised edition described business education as a technical education and so defined it as "that aspect of education which leads to the acquisition of practical and applied skills as well as basic scientific knowledge". Akanbi and Ogunleye (1996) in Bala (2015) from the policies commission for business and economic education of 1975 said:

"Business Education represents a broad and diverse discipline that is included in all types of education delivery system, elementary, secondary or post-secondary..... Business Education can begin at level it can be continued throughout the life span of an individual. Business Education includes education for office occupations, business teaching, business administration and economic understanding.

It can be summarized that the Mission of business education includes: -

- a) Educating individuals for and about business
- b) Providing a continuous programme of planned experiences designed to equip individuals to make judicious socio-economic decisions as citizens.

Objectives of Business Education:

The general objectives of business education have been summarized by Popham (1975), in Bala (2015) irrespective of whatever levels it is studied as follows:

Personal Competence; initially when Business Education was first introduced in school and it was strictly vocational in aims. But later many non-business educators soon discovered some of the courses like Book-keeping, Type-writing, Salesmanship could be useful to them, hence it is not surprising seeing a physician studying Book-keeping or a journalist studying short-hand or a lawyer learning how to type documents. For consumer Business Competence; Traditionally Business Education meant education for the producer, for the distributors and not for consumers. However, recognition has been given to the fact that everyone is a consumer, and that business education plays an important role in our daily life. Consequently, courses have been developed and curricular have been revised in an attempt to develop students in the method of buying goods and services, and also efficient use of these goods and services. For vocational competency; this is simply to prepare the recipients for office occupation in such areas in Book-keeping, Stenography etc. it is pertinent to note that Business Education provides greater responsibility in the area of occupational education for future employees of business to gain a higher level of education and more completely developed skills to meet the new demands of jobs entry.

For Socio-economic Competence; Business is an exchange of Value between people and it is both economic and social in nature. Business Education as a part of general education, therefore, is in a position to make a major contribution to the development of socio-economic competence by helping the recipients to develop a clear understanding of the nation's economy. This means that exchange of values among people of various culture leads to interactions or friendliness.

Concept of Sustainable Development

The term sustainable development has been defined by many authors. Among the most widely used definition is the one from the world Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) presented in 1987. The definition stated that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, sustainable development promotes the idea that social, environmental and economic progress are all attainable within the limits of our earth's natural resources. Its approaches the world as being connected space, time and quality of life. Sustainable development constantly seeks to achieve social and economic progress in ways that will not exhaust the earth's finite natural resources. The needs of the world today are real and immediate, yet it's necessary to develop way to meet these needs that do not disregard the future. The capacity of our ecosystem is not limitless, meaning that future generations may not be able to meet their needs the way they are able to now. According to the submission from WCED some of the examples of sustainable development practices are:

- Solar and Wind Energy: Energy from these resources is limitless, meaning we have the ability to eliminate dependence on non-renewable power sources by harnessing power from renewable resources.
- Crop Rotation: Many farmers and gardeners are using this method as a chemical free way to reduce diseases in the soil and increase growth potential of their crops.
- Water Fixtures: Water conservation is critical sustainable development, and more and more products that use less water in the home such as showers, toilets, dishwashers and laundry systems.

The worlds resources are finite and growth is unmanaged and sustained will lead to increased poverty and decline of the environment. We are owe it is future generations to explore life systems and paths of development that effectively balance progress with awareness of its environmental impact. In order to preserve the future, sustainable development implies economics growth together with the protection of environmental quality, each reinforcing other. The term sustainable development also refers to achieving economic and social development in ways that do not exhaust a country's natural resources. It could also be seen as a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as the present needs.

The sustainable development in Nigeria is about judicious utilization of natural. Sustainable development according to International Institute for Sustainable Development IISD it contains within it two key concept.

- The concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment ability to meet present and future needs

Sustainable development according to the dictionary asks come are of four main types i.e human, social, economic and environmental.

Pack and Douny (2014) highlighted that there are some major features of sustainable development as:

1. Ecological protection
2. Density and Urban Design
3. Urban Infill
4. Village Centres
5. Local Economy
6. Sustainable Transport
7. Affordable housing
8. Livable Community
9. Save and Storm water

The attainment of sustainable development could be done through variety of strategies for example where according to Kanayo, Kizito and Patrick 2013 the concept of sustainable development agriculture.

The objective of Sustainable National Development as posted by Adegblu (2015) in Osuorji and David (2017):

1. End poverty in all its form everywhere
2. End Hunger and achieve food security
3. Ensure well being for all at all stages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use resources for sustainable development
15. Protect restore and promote use of ecosystem
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

It is apparent and could be inferred from the above stated objectives of sustainable national development that the achievement of the objectives could only be possible when the overwhelming number of our youths are employed. This is so because issues like poverty, food security, sound education, portable water, economic growth, a peaceful society and so on and so forth are all output of productive society.

Economic Growth

Economic growth has been subjected to different definitions, at the first place, it has been defined as sustained annual increases in an economy's real national income over a period of time or in other words, it means rising trend of net national product at constant prices Guru (2017). Lewis (2017) looked at economic growth as the growth of output per head of population. The main aim of economic growth is to raise standard of living of the people. Economic growth simply refers to an increase of the national income per capita, and it involves the analysis especially in qualitative terms of this process, with a focus on functional relations between the endogenous variable, in a wider sense, it involves the increase of a Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP) and National Income (NI), therefore for the National wealth, including the production capacity, expressed in both and relative size, per capita, encompassing also the structural modification of economy.

Hence, economic growth is the process of increasing the sizes of national economic, the macro-economic indications, especially the GDP per capita, in an antecedent but not necessary linear direction, with positive effects on the economic-social sector.

Economic growth is defined in investor words as a positive change in the level of production of goods and services by a country over a period of time. It further categorized economic growth as to either be nominal or real growth. While nominal growth is define as economic growth including inflation, real growth is refers to economic growth minus inflation. The Business dictionary looked at economic growth as the increase in the capital stock, advanced in technology and improvement in the quality and level of literacy. The English Oxford living dictionaries defined economic growth as an increase in the amount of goods and services produced per head of population over a period of time. An economy can be referred to as grown when an increased output of a nation of goods and services are available to satisfy the material wants of people. It is that time that all the indices of economic growth like GDP, GNP per Capital etc remained hunky dory.

In Nigeria, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded in the third quarter of year 2017 over the previous quarters. GDP being one of the indices of growth, growth rate in Nigeria averaged 1.44 percent from 2010 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 10.59 percent in the third quarter of 2010 and a record low of 13.98 percent in the first quarter of 2016. The growth in the economy is as a result of an extended output from mining and quarrying, agriculture recovered for and accommodation services, entertainment and recreation etc.

Business Education for Sustainable National Development and Economic Growth in Nigeria

The use of education for development economic growth is indispensable. Business education as that aspect of total educational programs that prepares individual for self-employment and self-reliance could be the best instrument to curtail redundancy among youths, reduce the level of social vices, instill discipline among and between our teaming youths which are all resulting from joblessness among our younger ones. It could also be used to address the threat of hunger in our Country. Business education is not only meant to impart skills to our youths but also to enhance their academic excellence i.e to enable them to advance their level of education to meet up the contemporary academic challenges in our societies. Business education advantages are not imaginary rather realistic, to say

business education is the best instrument for actualizing sustainable national development as well as enhancing economic growth which are both talking on the same page is not shadow chasing. All the objectives of Sustainable development are those things that will give birth economic growth i.e literacy to citizenry, portable water, employment for all, security to mention but a few. Hence, economic growth is a product of sustainable development.

In light of the foregoing therefore, the synergy between business education program and sustainable development would be a very important and useful machinery for economic growth of any nation and Nigeria in particular. A comprehensive package of business education program if obtained would undoubtedly enable graduate to be self-reliant, and if graduated such an individual would definitely not complain of unemployment. This issue of self-employment has serious multifold impact because when majority of youths in a society are employed there would not be cases of insecurity, social vices, in the contrast there would be access to portable water, sound education and so on and so forth simply because majority earn salaries, wages etc. The economic engagement that people are into would ultimately improve GDP and per Capita, an improvement in these indices would automatically signified improvement in the economic growth in the respective country Business education therefore, remains the best tool to realize sustainable development in Nigeria and the realizations of sustainable development is what would improve wonderfully economic growth in Nigeria, so by extension business education program and sustainable development would enhance economic growth in the country.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively this paper looked into how both Business education and Sustainable development would enhance economic growth in Nigeria on the basis of this, the paper concluded that unless emphasis is embarked on education and business education in particular the economic growth in Nigeria would be sluggish.

RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the conclusion drawn the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should emphasize in skillful educations like business education for our youth in Nigeria.
2. Government should provide necessary facilities for effective teaching of skillful education like business education.
3. Curriculum should be redirected towards achievement to sustainable development.

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