

BUSINESS EDUCATION: AN APPLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Dr. Nwanaka, Chigozie
Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Science
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt,
Rivers State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This paper looked into the concept of Business Education with a view to understanding its meaning and objectives. It also looked into the concept of Sustainable Development i.e its meanings purpose as well as its futures. It went ahead to discuss the Business Education being a Strategy for Sustainable development. Finally, some Conclusion was made and recommendation were also made, among the major recommendations was that effective teaching of business education should be encouraged by our government to enable youths to acquire Skills.

Keys words: Business, Sustainable, and Development.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of any educational pursuit is to impart changes in an individual concerning social, psychological, as well as economical way of life. Any well designed Curriculum should be in conformity with the set national educational objective and national goals at large.

The National objectives and philosophy of education of Nigeria include a free and democratic society, a just and egalitarian society, a united, strong and self reliant Nation, a great and dynamic economy and a land full of bright opportunities for all citizens (FRN 2004). The objectives are leading towards developing. The best way however, to have development in economy and otherwise is to embark on quality education. That is why Adeyemi and Oribobor (2008) asserted that education remained the most effective instrument to improve development in any society.

Development is a complex issue, which refers to act of improving by expanding, enlarging and refining. It is the act or process of growing of or makes it to become more advanced. When talking about development, the issue of its sustainability most not be done without. Hence, sustainable development is that aspect of without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. The concept of this definition therefore, highlighted that sustainable development emphasize in judicious utilization of available resources in order not to destroy the opportunity of future generation.

Business education on the other hand is that aspect of general education which deals with imparting knowledge and skills necessary for self-reliance. Its concept is

designed to give individual both the knowledge and technicalities required for one to be self-reliant.

Looking at these two concept i.e sustainable development which is not only about judicious usage of natural resources rather incorporating even the issue of job security, good health among others and the one for business education which involve giving one education for self-reliance and self-employment, one could easily see the need for applying business education program to achieve the objective of sustainable development and that the aspect that this paper tries to look at.

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 world's resources are finite and growth is unmanaged and sustained will lead to increased poverty and decline of the environment. We owe it to 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 economic growth together with the protection of environmental quality, each reinforcing the 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 resources. Sustainable development according to International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) contains within it two key concepts.

- 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's ability to meet present and future needs

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

Pack and Duncy (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. Safe and Storm water

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

An Overview of Effective Teaching

Teaching is an academic activity meant to impart knowledge to Student. The Oxford Dictionary defines teaching as ideas or principle taught by an authority. The Collins dictionary looked at the term teaching as the work that a teacher does in helping Students to learn. Smith (2017) defining teaching as an act which results in learning. However, one can observe some drawbacks in this definitions, it showed that learning the responsibility of the teacher that is to say if students did not learn is the responsibility of the teacher. Which on the contrary the teacher may be willing and ready to teaching while the students are willing to do so. Another observed gap is that of the issue of Curriculum i.e Content to be taught and a place to teach it. Teaching could in a more elaborate

way be defined as the act teaching planned and unplanned experiences within and outside School environment. In essence for teaching, teaching to take place there ought to be some elements like content, the teacher, and learner.

Effective Teaching

Teachers are one of the key elements in any School. Effective teaching on the other hand is key propellers for School Improvement. Effective teaching is a teaching that create supportive climate in which Students feel comfortable asking questions and contributing to lesson, design lesson that students are actively involved and provide frequent opportunity to provide instruction on targeted concepts and knowledge.

Budgur (2002) identified the four Aces of effective teaching as:

1. Outcomes
2. Clarity
3. Engagement
4. Enthusiasm

In essence, any effective teaching should geared towards achievement of the aforementioned aces.

Effective Teaching in Business Education

As earlier noticed effective teaching of any achievement of its set goal. Business education programme would not be exempted from the scenario. The four Aces for effective teaching are the benchmarks which would be used to determine whether or not business education has been effectively taught or not. These refer:

1. The outcome of teaching business education student one can say business education has been effectively taught when the outcome of teaching is positive
2. Clarity of the teaching in other words we cannot say business education is effectively taught when there is no clarity in the teaching.
3. Engagement of Students in the teaching i.e involvement of business education student in teaching is another.

4. Enthusiasm from the part of the students shows the level of Students understanding of the teaching and hence effective teaching

Business Education as Strategy for Sustainable Development

Nations building or development has to be sustainable in practical terms. This, however, is dependent on available resources, the ability to optimize the application of these resources beneficially as well as keeping the physical environment safe, healthy, stable and highly conducive. Sustainability, according to the world commission on Environmental and Development (1987), is the development that meets the needs of the present without comprising future generations opportunities to meet their own needs. Sustainable includes a just and peaceful society, gender equality and intergenerational equity. Business education constitutes a vital engine for economic, social, practical and all round development of any nation. It has been identified as a tool for sustainable, virile and stable economy. In Nigeria, business education was previously not seen as fundamental to national development or for the economic development but for the School dropouts and individuals. Hallak (1990) in Bala (2015) argues that business education is also linked to human resource development and that it impacts on more than just economic growth it also impacts overall development of the individual and society. Akpomie (2009) asserts that no nation can move forward technologically, industrially and economically without developing a strong partner initiative in the creation of wealth, poverty reduction and employment generation with required skills. These skills include technical human and specific skills to cope with the challenges of the future hence business education is a tool for sustainable advancement of any nation.

Business Education as an aspect of Vocational and Technical education thus;

1. Serve as learning and training centre for the translation of dreams and ideas into successful ventures.
2. Builds technical and conceptual skills in the individual that prepares him for today's world of work
3. Leads to technological advancement
4. Reduces poverty and idleness
5. Direct towards self-reliant sustainable means of livelihood

If business education is efficiently implemented, it could assist the nation to overcome poverty and its associated problems.

CONCLUSION

Education is a vital tool through which any nation can experience growth and development. Job creation is only vital if business education is carefully conducted in our Schools. Occupational skills enable one to overcome the problem of unemployment. Based on the foregoing, it is observed that business education occupies an important position in the sustainable development of the nation. It is also found that the major procedure of enhancing effective sustainable development

is embarking on sound and goal driven business education programme if not the development to be attained will be half way.

RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the above, it is recommended that;

1. Business education program should be encouraged by our governments to enable youths to acquire skills
2. Specialist in business education should be involved in making policies regarding sustainable development
3. Both government and private sectors should provide equipment and facilities in business education for the acquisition of skills.
4. Effective teaching of business education should be enforced by government to ensure its goal achievement.

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