

THE ROLE OF BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTING NATIONAL SECURITY IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The development of skills, knowledge and competence through functional education which is the main focus of business Education programme cannot be over-emphasized. This study examined how sustainable development and national security can be improved through Business Education programme in Oyo State, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study. The descriptive research design was adopted to achieve the purpose of study, while the population consists of one thousand two hundred (1,200) Business Education Students in Oyo State. A sample size of 120 respondents was used. A structured questionnaire titled: Improving Sustainable Development and National Security through Business Education Questionnaire (ISDNSQ) validated by four expert was used for the study. Split half method was used to established reliability coefficient and the overall reliability coefficient was also established at 0.89 using Cronbach Alpha. The mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. The study revealed that sustainable development and national security could be improved through Business Education if adequate attention is given to maintenance of standard and funding of the programme. It was therefore recommended, among others, that government at various levels and other relevant stakeholders in education should endeavor to give the needed attention to adequate funding of the programme to achieve better result.

Keywords: Business Education, National Security, Sustainable National Development.

Introduction

Education is considered the cornerstone of society and a major instrument for national development by many researchers. Education is the transformation of cultural heritage and renewal from one generation to another for progress, modernization, and globalization. According to Olowe and Ogunode (2015), education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate and no despotism can enslave. They posited that upon the substantial role that education plays in national development and globalization, there has been a global quest for more functional and

qualitative education. Olawole (2013) saw functional education as a vital tool, the only means of achieving sustainable development and especially the ultimate objectives of life.

For any nation to be economically vibrant according to Fasae and Elemure (2018) each person that is a consistent of that nation must be fully equipped with skills, knowledge and aptitude that would help him function and contribute effectively both to the development and the growth of achieving the goal of production of manpower, possess the requisite knowledge, skill and attitude for harnessing other resources and bringing them into cooperative relationship, yielding the goods and services provided by the society for the satisfaction of their wants and needs. Business Education programme is a major aspect of general education believed to be playing a vital role in equipping the recipients with the ability to become economically efficient and effective which in turn help in promoting national security.

Insecurity in Nigeria has caused several problems such as political, social, and economic instability and has slowed economic growth and progress (Sani, 2021). There is no doubt that a lot of measures would have to be put in place to address security issues in the country. Folaranmi and Adegbenro (2017) admitted that graduate unemployment in the country today has become a serious problem and has posted a serious threat to the nation's economy with its attendant social problems of armed robbery, youth restiveness, prostitution, female trafficking, insurgency and advance fee fraud which has reached an alarming height and every effort the federal government of Nigeria had put in place to surmount the problems seem to have failed.

Ameh (2018) posited that matter of safety and security are topical issues in today's Nigeria and life has always been precarious in the country as it is subject to all manners of dangers. They further argued that there is the fear of kidnappers, political and economic related assassination and extra-judicial killings which have rapidly become familiar features of our landscape. The impact of this massive sense of insecurity on both psychic and overall functioning of Nigerians cannot be overestimated. In view of this, Adetokunbo (2011) admitted that there is the challenge to rethink and improve on policy and institutional means of dealing with security concerns in the country.

Olanipekun and Alabi (2017) further viewed that Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity which has ranked the country low in the Global Peace Index signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country. The most serious security threats according to them in Nigeria at the moment are those in the category of the violent religious extremism of Boko Haram, the Niger Delta militants, the discontent and separatist call by IPOB and MASSOB, high rate of kidnapping, robbery, the Fulani herdsmen and many other violent acts. The activities of these sects have led to the untimely death of many Nigerians including foreigners. The Boko Haram terrorists employ such tactics as suicide bombing, organized attacks on security men and rural communities while the militants and others engage in kidnapping for ransom.

The insecurity in Nigeria is sending a wrong signal to the international community. As a result, many international agencies and countries according to Gbadamosi and Omidiji (2017) have intensified their warning to their citizens of the risks involved in traveling and doing business in some part of the country. The question for everyone in Nigeria today is that, 'can there ever be security of lives and properties in Nigeria?' This can only be answered when attempt is made to lay emphasis on functional educational programme that can equip the teeming youths and young adults with requisite knowledge and skills to become gainfully employed and experience sustainable livelihood.

Business Education programme is vital to sustainable economic development and social development in many ways. First, it provides youth with technical and vocational skills that are needed for enterprise productivity and profitability, national growth as well as, economic

development and wealth creation. Secondly, skills enable the individuals to increase their productivity and income (Yusuf & Soyemi, 2021). Inalegwu (2016) defined Business Education as a course that prepares students for entry in advancement of jobs within business; and prepares them to handle their own business affairs to function intelligently as consumers and citizens in a business economy. Business education programme is concerned with teaching the skills, attitudes and Knowledge necessary for successful career in office and business world. Afolabi, Salami and Fawale (2021) described business education as education that enriches basic education for teaching career, entrepreneurship, business understanding, office understanding, office environment and vocational practice for sustainable development.

From the foregoing, business education can be seen as an educational programme which can provide a type of training in office education which will inculcate into people particularly the teeming unemployed youth and poverty stricken populace the competencies or skills needed for managing a personal business and at the same time, providing relevant services that will help in improving the economy of the country. Jubril (2017) averred that vocational business education could contribute in great measures to the society. Business Education stimulate industrial development by producing competent workers that are capable of developing and utilizing technologies for economic growth leading to general development of any nation towards poverty reduction.

Poverty reduction is another way through which Business Education contributes to sustainable economic development. Poverty reduction may be seen any process, which seeks to reduce the level of poverty on the individuals in a community or amongst groups of people in a country In recognition of the importance of Business Education in poverty reduction, Onyebuli (2018) posited that since education is considered the key to effective development strategies, vocational business education must be the master key that can alleviate poverty, promote peace/security, conserve the environment, improve the quality of life for all and help to achieve sustainable development.

Sustainable development as described by Umezulike and Okoye (2013) is a state of having well balanced, steady and effective use of human, material and capital resources for total economic independence and development of a nation. They maintained that suitable and sustainable development can only be achieved if government and economic policy makers should be transparent in their dealings. Bagudu (2019) pointed that sustainable development is the development geared towards the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This contain two key concepts namely the concepts of needs in particular, the essential needs of the world 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 the present and future needs.

Maureen, Oliver and Victoria (2019) defined sustainable development as a kind of development that can be initiated and managed properly in such a way that gives attention to continuity and preservation for people to explore explicitly available resources for the enlargement of their existence. Sustainable development is that development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. With respect to the enhancement of the standard of living, Business Education enhances individual creativity, improved participation in economic and social roles and improvement in the quality of life.

Despite the increased recognition of the potential contribution of vocational business education to sustainable economic development and global security in several parts of the world, the potentials of Business Education in Oyo State appear not to be fully recognized. However, for

our economy to be developed and sustained therefore there is need for a functional education that will enable the recipients to be self-reliant or self-sustained through self-employment and any education that fails this acidic test has failed all.

Statement of the Problems

There are so many challenges facing the entire world, African nations, including Nigeria today. These include slow economic development, prevalence of poverty, insurgency, terrorism, diseases and ignorance. Different continent is searching for how best to engage the teeming population of youth in technical and vocational skills; an effort which many researchers for example (Yusuf & Soyemi, 2012) agree is a panacea for many of the ills plaguing the region. A preliminary investigation revealed that Oyo State of Nigeria appear to be experiencing many societal and economic problems presently which include youth unemployment, kidnappings, insecurity, farmers'/herders crisis, industrial shrinkage, low competent and dedicated workforce and neglect of business education programme.

It is worth mentioning that these problems could be drastically reduced to a very large extent and economy can be sustained through relevant vocational and technical education programmes. Unfortunately, it appears that the potentials of Business Education programme are not fully recognized in Nigeria, especially in Oyo State. It is based on this precarious situation that the authors decided to examine how sustainable development and national security can be improved through Business Education programme in Oyo State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to assess how sustainable national development can be achieved and national security can be improved through Business Education programme in Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the potentialities of Business Education programme in a Business Education achieving sustainable national development and promoting national security in Oyo State, Nigeria.
2. Determine the measures that can be taken in the quest for achieving sustainable national development and promoting national security through Business Education programme in Oyo State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

Research Question 1: What are the potentialities of Business Education programme in achieving sustainable national development and promoting national security in Oyo State, Nigeria?

Research Question 2: What are the measures that can be taken in the quest for achieving sustainable development and promoting national security through Business Education programme in Ogun State, Nigeria?

Method

Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive survey research approach to investigate how sustainable national development can be achieved and how national security can be improved through Business Education programme. This research design involves a systematic attempt to describe the characteristics of a given population or areas of interest. Similarly, a survey research design method is adopted when the study involved using a questionnaire to collect the opinions, views, and perceptions of respondents in a study. Therefore, a survey research design was found to be more appropriate for this study.

Population and Sampling Procedure

The population consisted of one thousand two hundred (1,200) BED Students in Oyo State. 10% was used to select a sample size of 120 respondents for the study.

Validation and Reliability of Data Collection Instrument

A structured questionnaire titled: Improving Sustainable Development and National Security through BED Questionnaire (ISDNSQ) validated by three experts in the field of Business Education. A Split half method was used to ascertain the internal consistency of the items in the instrument, which yielded a coefficient value of 0.89 using Cronbach's alpha. A four-point rating scale was used with values assigned to the four response categories. The rating scales are as follows: Strongly Agree (4 points), Agree (3 points), Disagree (2 points), and Strongly Disagree (1 point).

Data Analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23.0 was used to analyze the data collected from the respondents. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. Decision criteria implied that any items with a mean score of 2.50 and above were considered an agreed, whereas any response below 2.50 were regarded disagreed.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the potentialities of Business Education programme in achieving sustainable national development and promoting national security in Oyo State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on the Potentialities of Business Education Programme in Achieving Sustainable National Development and Promoting National Security.

S/N	Items	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Empowers people with skills for self-employment thus alleviating poverty.	3.50	0.96	Agreed
2.	Offers opportunities for competitiveness in export oriented industries among the participants.	3.16	0.81	Agreed
3.	Empowers people with skills for maximal utilization of natural resources thus enhancing better living.	3.20	0.71	Agreed
4.	Equips men and women for labour market, promote human	3.37	0.69	Agreed

	resource development to combat the ever increasing national insecurity.			
5.	Prepares people for employment and the chance to advance in a professional hierarchy.	2.59	0.73	Agreed
6.	Increase employment prospects for graduates and youth	3.37	0.69	Agreed
7.	Provides a platform for technological innovations, thereby resulting in profit making ventures which in turn sustain economy	2.59	0.73	Agreed
8.	Enables individuals with saleable skills to earn more than those without skills, thus improving their standard of living.	3.50	0.96	Agreed
9.	Develops green technology to meet the needs of green economy for improved livelihood.	3.16	0.81	Agreed
10.	Enhance socio-economic development	3.20	0.71	Agreed
Weighted Mean/SD		3.08	0.73	Agreed

Result in table 1 showed the mean and standard deviation on potentialities of Business Education programme in achieving sustainable national development and promoting national security with mean ratings of 2.59 to 3.50 and weighted average of 3.08. Table 1 indicated that all the items are closely related and based on the findings, the standard deviation of all items were ranged from 0.56 to 0.96 meaning agreed.

Research Question 2: What are the measures that can be taken in the quest for achieving sustainable development and promoting national security through Business Education programme in Ogun State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on the Measures that can be Taken in the Quest for Improving Sustainable National Development and Promoting National Security through Business Education Programme

S/N	Items	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Provision of educational facilities and infrastructure implement Business Education curriculum	3.80	0.74	Agreed
2.	Adequacy and availability of teaching staff	3.86	0.93	Agreed
3.	Adequate security and proper maintenance of B ED equipment in institutions	3.66	0.71	Agreed
4.	Adequate and timely funding of Business Education programme by relevant authorities	4.08	0.63	Agreed
5.	Availability and reduction in the prices of Business Education books	4.11	1.17	Agreed
6.	Updating the knowledge of teachers through relevant developmental programmes	3.31	1.30	Agreed
7.	Ensuring strict adherence to curriculum implementation for quality output	4.09	0.73	Agreed
8.	Integration of more entrepreneurial contents into the curricula to meet current needs	4.33	0.72	Agreed

9. Appropriate policy that will encourage more enrolment in Business Education programme	4.07	0.74	Agreed
10. Establishment of vocational centers	3.64	0.76	Agreed
Weighted Mean/SD	3.90	0.84	Agreed

Table 2 revealed the measures that can be taken in the quest for achieving sustainable development and promoting national security through Business Education programme with mean ratings ranged from 3.31 to 4.33 and a weighted mean of 3.90. The standard deviation ranged from 0.63 to 1.30 indicating agreed.

Discussion

The result of the study shows that there are lots of potentials inherent potentialities of Business Education programme for achieving sustainable development and improving national security. This view was corroborated by Olafare (2017) who submitted that Vocational Business Education exposes its recipients to wide opportunities for careers in the world of work and helping them to understand what contributions these careers can make to their own lives and public welfare and it further equips its recipients with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for their contributions to nation building both as producers and consumers of goods and services. This also agrees with the view of Jubril (2017) who posited that Business education could help to reduce the rate of unemployment for national security by the development of saleable skills in students who could become employable after schooling. According to him, it could stimulate industrial development by producing competent workers that are capable of developing and utilizing technologies for economic growth leading to general development of any nation.

The result of the study also shows that there are measures to be taken in achieving sustainable development and improving national security through Business Education. This view was in agreement with the view of Akintonde (2018) who opined that for a sustainable national economy to be achieved and national security to be promoted, there is need for a functional Business Education Programme that promotes self-sustainability through self-employment which serves as part of the measures to improve the economy of the country.

Conclusion

The deplorable state of the nation economy calls for an education programme that will addresses the bulk of problems and the challenges currently facing our country. A lot of opportunities abound for recipients of Business Education programme which make them fit into many sectors of the economy having been exposed to the development of the right and needed employability and entrepreneurial skills to enable them function effectively in the world of work. To ensure that this noble objective is achieved, necessary support will be needed for the promotion of a vibrant Business Education programme in the country.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. The funds needed for the development and sustenance of Business Education programme in various institutions of learning should be adequately provided by government and other relevant stakeholders in the education sector.
2. There is need for the provision of Business Education programme in a distance learning programmes for more enrolments of young and interested youths as a strategy for sustainable development and ensuring national security.
3. There is the need for the integration of Business Education programme in all the tertiary institutions in the country including the universities.
4. There is a need for re-orientation of the public on the need to embrace Business Education programme so as to reduce the menace of unemployment and other social vices in the country.

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