

EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES

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Abstract

This study sought to found out the effectiveness of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for socio-economic development in the era of economic uncertainties. The population of the study was 98, comprising of 57 TVET lecturers from Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun and 41 TVET lecturers from Sikiru Adetona College of Education, Science and Technology, Omu-Ajose. The two institutions are in Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State in Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted to achieve the purpose of this study. Two research questions were formulated to guide the study. The entire population of 98 was used for the study, since the size was considered manageable. Thus, the author of this present study employed census sampling procedure. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire items which were based on five-point Likert scale with response ranging from Strongly Agreed (5), Agreed (4), Undecided, (3), Disagreed (2), and Strongly Disagreed (1). The instrument was face validated by two experienced and senior TVET Lecturers. The reliability of the instrument was established by administering 25 copies on TVET lecturers who were not part of the sample. Cronbach's alfa was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument items; which yielded a reliability co-efficient value of 0.82 and was further considered high enough to judge that the instrument is reliable. Mean was used to analyse the homogeneity or merge of the respondents' rating. The decision rule for the research questions was any item with Mean response value less than 2.50 was disagreed while Mean response value equal to or greater than 2.50 was agreed.. It was found out that TVET is very vital in economic development of a nation and using TVET for economic stability during uncertainty in the country is possible. Among the recommendations were that TVET should be made more effective for the purpose economic stability during uncertainty in the country and strengthened to avert the problems which may be resultant effect of economic uncertainty in a society.

Keyword: Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Economic Uncertainty and Socio-Economics development

Introduction

The major focus of every society is to ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the citizenry. This is a situation whereby people in the society are comfortable with basic survival needs, such as having sustainable income and assets that can make them prosper. Thus, every activity in different sectors of a society; in particular, Education sector needs to keep working toward socio-economic wellbeing of the society. Montano (2021) stated that economic wellbeing is measured with two indicators which are life satisfaction and satisfaction with health. The author added that education is among the needs that makes an individual feels comfortable in a society. Sachs (2024) stated that education is the most important determinant of economic wellbeing. The clear indication of the above fact is that education determines what an individual would be in a society. It is a particular type of education chosen by every individual in a society that

makes it possible to function at different places of work which in turn makes livelihood possible. The present situation of economic uncertainty Nigeria causes changes in prices of commodity on almost daily basis is due to unforeseen circumstances. This has been posing difficulties on how to control the economy of the nation. However, because Technical and Vocational Education is education for work; it is meaningful to embark on a research towards investigating how this type of education can be effectively used to foster development in an uncertainty situation of economy. Recently, economic situation has not been stable in Nigeria; the causal of which is traceable to the global economy.

Economic situation at global level is not stable, the resultant of this reflects in the economic wellbeing of every nation in the world which includes Nigeria. Bobasu, Geis, Quaglietti, and Ricci (2021) pointed out that the outlook for euro area activity has become increasingly uncertain in the recent years, reflecting global and domestic headwinds such as escalating trade conflicts, moderating Chinese demand, geo-political tensions and stress in several emerging economics. Bobasu et al (2021) viewed the issue of economic uncertainty beyond euro area and discovered that the uncertainty is a global issue which affects every nation across the globe. Kaunska, and Feingold (2024) also have it in record that there is clouds of uncertainty over the economic outlook at global level. Kaunska et al (2021) revealed that global economic activity remaining slow, financial conditions remaining tight and geopolitical tensions growing. The rate of change in economic situation at global level is making life difficult for the citizenry in different nations. There has been unrest in Nigeria due to instability price of commodities as a result of fuel subsidy removal since May ending 2023. For instance, Oyeiwu (2024) commented on the fuel subsidy removal in 2023 as what caused protests in the county and high cost of commodities. The issues surrounding economic uncertainty in Nigeria spurred the author of this present study to embark on the possible role of TVET as an instrument to surmounting these challenges in the era of economic uncertainty.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training is a type of education among every others that fosters the economic growth of a nation. Government of Nigeria recognises the importance of TVET as a vital type of education for the economic growth and development. For instant, the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2014) in its education policy document described TVET as that aspect of education which leads to the acquisition of practical and applied skills and basic scientific knowledge. Thus TVET is basically practical based type of education. TVET can also be seen as that type of education that equips an individual with the necessary skills and knowledge for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. Every occupation under TVET provides the necessary skills and knowledge needed in different sectors for the development of a nation. Dagar (2017) stated that education is an unfolding of what is already enfolded in the gene. Education is the process through which the potentials of a child become exposed for the benefit of the child and the society at large. By this definition; it implies that education makes the potentials of individuals known in an area of study. It is a process through which the awareness is created about issues and makes them known to the learners. Every type of education that includes TVET; transfers useful knowledge to individuals that desired it in every nation. In this context, the main focus of TVET is to equip individuals with all the needed knowledge and skills that is useful in seizing an employment opportunity.

The influence of TVET in generating employment that are gainful in nature for the citizenry cannot be overemphasized. TVET possesses different occupations with which individuals can be employed in an establishment or be self-employed. Kwami (2024) believed that career in TVET and entrepreneurship has the tendency of to functionally engage the youth and not just take them off the streets, but assist them to contribute meaningfully to societal development as well. Obidile, Obi, and Nkpak (2020) mentioned that TVET serves as one of the ways to address the problems of economic challenges, socio-cultural challenges, developmental challenges, and insecurity challenges among others. This implies that TVET as a

major tool used to combat unemployment also negate the activities of youths in social vices in the society. TVET upon which individuals acquire skills and knowledge for employment requires the attention that will always make it functioning effectively in the society. The goals of TVET stated in FRN (2014) are to provide trained manpower in the applied sciences, technology and business particularly at craft advance, craft and technical level; provide the technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agricultural, commercial and economic development; and to give training and impart the necessary skills to individual for self-reliance economically. The afore mentioned goals show that it is necessary for the experts in the field of TVET to keep researching on how TVET can play a great role in surmounting the economic problems of various types in the Nigerian economy.

Uncertain economic situation requires a dynamic approach to make life easy for the people in a society. The potential benefits of TVET in fostering economic growth and development of a nation require an empirical investigation on how to use TVET in combating any problem that may emanate through an uncertain economic situation. TVET as a type of education that provide individuals with necessary skills and knowledge in different professions and occupations is recognized as a potential tool of economic growth and development in a society. The UNESCO (2022) recognized TVET as an aspect of education that play critical roles in helping the youths and young adults to acquire skills needed for employment, fulfilling work and entrepreneurship. In a situation that relates to economic uncertainty, it is necessary for the government to find means of making life easy for the citizenry. Hence, TVET as one of the most recognized tool of economic growth has to be investigated towards finding its effectiveness in socio-economic development in the era of economic uncertainties. Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of TVET occupational programmes in the era of economic uncertainty; using ijebu-Ode metropolis as a case study.

Statement of Problem

Since May 2023, cost of living started to go up progressively and led to series of unrest in the nation. Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State in Nigeria is not left out in the cry to government to find means of making life easy for the populace. Up to this moment, government has been making promises to find solution to the problems faced by the citizenry but price of fuel continue to increase which in turn causes the increase in the cost of every other essential commodity. There are lots of tensions all over the country that include calls for protest by different group of people in the nation. Omonobi (2024) reported the issue of a protest on the streets of Abuja recently when groups of people were seen on the streets carrying banners with slogans such as we are tired of fuel scarcity, End hunger, and reverse fuel subsidy removal among others. This show that the problem of uncertainty cost of living still linger. Since the fact remains that there is no problem without solution; It is necessary for TVET researchers to find out the effective means of using TVET to reduce or elimination the tensions caused by the uncertainty situation of economy in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the effectiveness measures of TVET occupations in socio-economic development?
2. How can the effectiveness of TVET be directed to eradicate or eliminate societal problems in the era of economic uncertainty?

Methodology

A descriptive survey research design was adopted to achieve the purpose of this study. The study was carried out in all the government-owned tertiary institutions offering TVET

programmes in Odogbolu Local Government area of Ogun State. The two institutions used in this present study are Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun and Sikiru Adetona College of Education, Science and Technology, Omu-Ajose in Odogbolu Local Government Area. The population of the study was 98 TVET lecturers, comprising of 57 TVET lecturers from Tia Solarin University of Education, Ijagun and 41 lecturers from Sikiru Adetona College of Education Omu-Ajose. The entire population of 98 was used for the study, since the size was considered manageable. Thus, the author of this present study employed census sampling procedure. Data for the study was collected using a structured questionnaire. The instrument was titled “Questionnaire on Technical and Vocational Education and Training for Economic development (QTVETED)”. The instrument contains demographic information of the respondents and the items on the effectiveness of TVET on the socio-economic growth and development in Nigeria and how to eradicate problems of civil and social unrest during an era of economic uncertainty. The questionnaire items were based on five point Likert scale response ranging from Strongly Agreed (5), Agreed (4), Undecided (3), Disagreed (2), and Strongly Disagreed (1). The instrument was face validated by two experienced and senior TVET Lecturers. The reliability of the instrument was established by administering 25 copies on TVET lecturers who were not part of the sample. Cronbach’s alfa was used to determine the internal consistency of the items in the instrument which yielded a reliability co-efficient value of 0.82. This was further considered high enough to judge that the instrument is reliable. Mean was used to analyse the homogeneity or merge of the respondents’ rating. The decision rule for the research questions was any item with Mean response value less than 2.50 was disagreed while Mean response value equal to or greater than 2.50 was agreed.

Results

The study’s results were organized in accordance to the research questions formulated for the study.

Research Question 1

What are the effectiveness measures of TVET occupations in socio-economic development?

Table 1: Shows the Mean Responses on the effectiveness measures of TVET Occupations in Socio-Economic Development.

S/N	Measures of TVET Occupations in Socio-Economic Development	Mean	Remark
01	TVET equips individuals with the needed skills for skilled workforce.	3.81	Agree
02	TVET equips individuals with the needed skills for employment.	2.88	Agree
03	TVET enables to generate works by the citizens.	3.04	Agree
04	TVET provides means of self-employment.	3.70	Agree
05	TVET provides for human needs.	3.67	Agree
06	TVET is dynamic with change in technology.	2.78	Agree
07	TVET provides skilled workers for different economic sectors.	3.07	Agree
08	TVET is education for both young and old individuals.	3.11	Agree
09	TVET limits the incidence of social vices.	3.01	Agree
10	TVET encourages investments.	2.83	Agree
	Grand Mean	3.19	Agree

N = 98

Table 1 shows that all the mean values were greater than the criteria mean 2.50. Therefore, the whole of the items in table 1 agreed with items on the effectiveness measures of TVET occupations in socio-economic development. The implication was that the effectiveness measure of TVET occupations possessed vital attributes for socio-economic development of a

nation. Thus, effective TVET occupations are very essential in the growth and development of socio-economic development of a nation.

Research Question 2

How can the effectiveness of TVET be directed to eradicate or eliminate societal problems in the era of economic uncertainty?

Table 2: Mean responses on the directing of Effectiveness of TVET for socio-economic stability during uncertainty.

S/N	Effectiveness of TVET for Socio-Economic Stability during uncertainty	Mean	Remark
01.	TVET makes livelihood possible for individuals in the society	3.67	Agree
02.	TVET provides for the citizens at the point of needs	2.92	Agree
03.	TVET adaptable to the changes in the society	3.07	Agree
04.	TVET makes people comfortable in the society	3.73	Agree
05.	TVET provides means of life and health satisfaction	3.82	Agree
06.	TVET reduces unrest during uncertainty economy in a nation	3.10	Agree

N = 98

Table 2 reveals that the mean values on the use of TVET for socio-economic stability during uncertainty shows that all the mean values were greater than the criteria mean of 2.50. The implication was that effectiveness of TVET possessed very vital attributes that can be directed to eradicate or eliminate societal problems in the era of economic uncertainty in a nation. Thus, effectiveness of TVET is very essential in combating problems that may be negating the growth and development of socio-economic development of a nation.

Discussion

To answer research question one, the mean score analysis reveals ten means of using TVET for economic stability during uncertainty in Nigeria. Thus, the effectiveness measure of TVET occupations possessed vital attributes for socio-economic development of a nation. These findings revealed the reason for recognizing TVET as such type of education that gives training and impact the necessary skills and knowledge to individuals for self-reliance economically (FRN, 2014). Thus Federal republic of Nigeria sees TVET as a very vital type of education in the economic growth and development of a nation. Sachs (2024) pointed out that education is the most important determinant of economic wellbeing. Thus, education determines what an individual would be and do in a society. In addition, contribution of every individual in a society is a factor of economic growth and development. Therefore, the findings implied that the effectiveness of TVET is very vital in the economic growth and development of a nation. Research question two sought to determine how TVET effectiveness can be directed to eradicate or eliminate problems during uncertainty economy. The findings reveal that effectiveness of TVET possessed very vital attributes that can be directed to eradicate or eliminate societal problems in the era of economic uncertainty in a nation. It is obvious that uncertainty in a society may bring about unrest of different kinds that includes protests; these findings show that unrest can be averted through TEVT. The UNESCO (2022) pointed out that TVET is an aspect of education that play critical roles in helping the youths and adults to acquire skills needed for employment, fulfilling work and entrepreneurship. If the citizens are gainfully employed and busy doing something worthwhile in the society; the issue of unrest would not feature be at a barest minimum. Hence, for the possible situation of economic uncertainty; it is necessary for the government to ensure that TVET is well attended to all the time for effectiveness reason.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the conclusion was that effective TVET can be used for economic stability during uncertainty in the country. Since TVET is known to be very important for socio-economic growth and development; it is important to focus on TVET to avert any possible unrest during economic uncertainty in the country. It is possible to make life comfortable using TVET as a tool of development. If TVET can be better focussed and strengthened; it would be more effective in enhancing the socio-economic growth of Nigeria. Among the attributes of TVET on the effective growth and development of economy is the provision of needed skills for employment, generation of works for the citizenry, making people comfortable in the society and provision of life and health satisfaction.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this present study, the following recommendations were made:

1. TVET should be made more effective for the purpose economic stability during uncertainty in the country
2. TVET should be strengthened to avert the problems which may be resultant effect of economic uncertainty in a society.
3. There should be means of effective training of good quality TVET graduates that are capable of functioning well in the society as against committing crime in the society.
4. Government should ensure that TVET needs are well attended to, at all time to enhance the effectiveness.

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