

INTEGRATION OF TVET FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS: THE NIGERIA SITUATION

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Abstract

The paper discussed on Integration of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Sustainable Development and Global Competitiveness: The Nigeria situation. The integration of TVET in this present economy in Nigeria is paramount for sustainable development and global competitiveness. In this paper, basic concepts such as; Integration, TVET, Sustainable Development, Global Competitiveness were discussed. Five broad areas of TVET were briefly touched, these include; Agricultural education, Business education, Computer education, Home-Economic education and Technical education. Two skills from each area were mentioned. Other areas in line to support TVET were examined, which bothered on Funding of TVET programmes, Employability Skills, Reduction of Brain Drain, Creativity Skills and Security provision. In conclusion, it was noted that Nigeria has among others, serious unemployment problem which can be comfortably addressed by TVET. This stems from the fact that TVET programmes have many skills which lead to self-reliance, self-employment and job-creation for others. In this process, economic growth will occur and the rate of unemployment problem will be reduced. The excess goods and services produced will be consumed now and the left over will remain for future use by the next generation. Suggestions among others were (a) that the Federal and State governments should provide funds for TVET programmes, functional facilities and payment of salaries and allowances to TVET teachers and lecturers (b) issues of insecurity should be addressed through retraining of soldiers and purchase of sophisticated weapons for their services. By so doing, issues of sustainable development and global competitiveness will be achieved.

Key words: Integration, TVET, Sustainable Development and Global Competitiveness.

Introduction

In order to bring a positive change to the present economic and unemployment problems in Nigeria, it is necessary to integrate Technical Vocational Educational and Training (TVET), so as to promote individual skills. Azuka and Nwosu (2018) supported the idea that integration of academic and vocational education will help to produce graduates in head skills and in hand skills for acquisition of balanced skills. The integration of TVET will bring a face-lift to the present situation because it will generate employment by itself through individual skills practices. Integration

involves ability to bring into pre-arranged plan(s) or current plan of action. As noted by Maduka, Okafor, Nnawuihe and Nzeh (2018), TVET is that form of education, which emphasizes the preparation for occupational skills either in the formal or informal sectors. The authors added that it is the preparation for skilled-worker occupations and entails practical training and knowledge given in schools and training centres.

Technical Vocational education and Training (TVET) has many areas of skills occupational training such as, Agricultural education, Business education, Computer education, Home-economic education and Technical

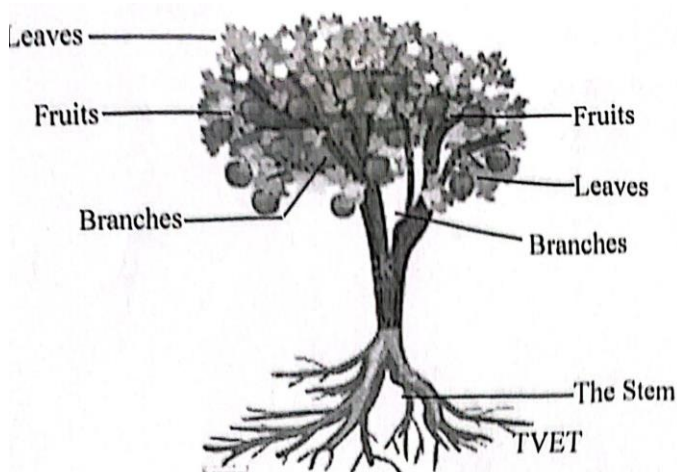
education, all with different skills. Agricultural education (skills in animal production, skills in crops production, Business education (accounting skills like skills in posting of transactions into cash book, skills in posting of items into Ledger, Management skills like proper handling of files and other office documents). Computer education (skills in word processing, skills in scanning of documents), Home-economics education (skills in home management and skills in measurement of fabrics), Technical education (skills in fixing of electrical appliances and skills in wood measurement). Other concern areas discussed in this paper include; Funding of TVET, Employability Skill, Reduction in Brain Drain, Creativity skills and Security Provision.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) may come in different forms of skills acquisition or by upgrading

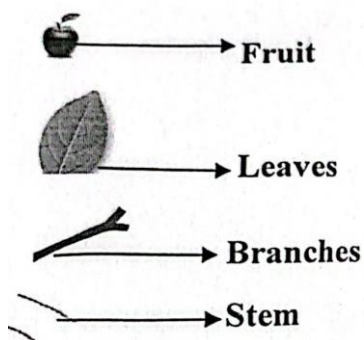
and retraining. The Federal Government of Nigeria (2013) defined TVET as those aspect of educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and the acquisition of practical skills, attitude, understanding and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life. It has be noted that TVET involves theory and practical that leads to skills acquisition in different areas of specialization. As it stands, there is a clear indication that the integration of TVET programmes in Nigeria can result to sustainable development and global competitiveness.

All these areas and more have skills that can address the issue of sustainable development and global

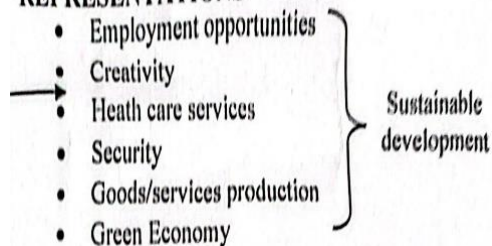
TVET TREE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



SIGNS



REPRESENTATIONS



- Skills in animal production
- Skills in crops production
- Skills in posting transaction into cash book
- Skills in posting items into ledger book
- Skills in handling office files
- Skills in conducting management meetings/ decision making
- Skills in word processing
- Skills in scanning of documents
- Skills in home management
- Skills in measurement of fabrics
- Skills in fixing of electrical appliances
- Skills in word measurement

There are so many other skills not mention here

Branches are the different TVET programmes; Agricultural education, Business education, Computer education, Home-economic education and Technical education.

STEM-TVET = This is the house in which every activities of TVET are found.

Usen (2023) Field Work

All these areas and more have skills that can address the issue of sustainable development and global competitiveness. Here, Offiong, Essien and Job (2020) stated that globally, instructional deliveries to TVET students, are taking a new trend by the introduction of technology into the classroom. That this approach is gradually giving way to a new form of electronic literacy as more programmes and education materials are made available in electronic forms. The utilization of electronic materials in teaching students, expose them to the use of digital tools and familiarity with them. Students trained in this way to acquire skill will eventually be able to compete with others outside the country. The graduates with skills will be well equipped with theory and practical and can produce what others outside (other countries) produce for now and sustainable development.

Bashir (2017) submitted that sustainable development is an organizing principle that aims to meet human development goals while also enabling natural system to provide necessary natural resources and ecosystem services to humans. It seeks to use resources without upsetting the stability and balance of the natural system. Sustainable development has become a popular catchphrase in contemporary

development discourse. It is crucial because it is essential for the long term prosperity of businesses, individuals and economies. Sustainable business practices can increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve customer loyalty. It is the ability to maintain the present economy with all its benefits without causing any harm to the future. Also, it can be said that, it is a situation whereby the citizens enjoy or live without jeopardizing the future economy. It could be the proper management of the present economy through good governance, for global competitiveness and for meeting future needs of the citizens or next generation.

Challenges

Life in Nigeria now is costly and challenging. There is lack of proper funding for educational programme such as TVET, many specialists (skilled workers) are leaving the country for greener pastures in other places like, Europe, America, Canada and others, these actions result to brain drain in our society. Absolutely, there is insecurity everywhere in our land. No plan by our leaders to solve employment problem, no functional facilities including text books, classrooms and digital tools for teaching and learning. The lecturers and teachers of TVET are not well-catered for in terms of regular payment of salaries and promotion as at when

due. Skills implementation becomes very difficult due to epileptic and exorbitant electricity bills, high cost of house rent and that of workshops. The cost of living is unbearable which has led to high rate of students drop-out from schools and apprenticeship programmes. Even the proposed student allowance came with strings. At this point, it is necessary to ask some pertinent questions;

- (a) How can Nigeria redeem itself from the present predicament?
- (b) What are the necessary tools to be adopted to take us to a new progressive society and a green economy?
- (c) Can integration of TVET programme give solution to this bleak situation?

Certainly, Nigeria can redeem itself from the present predicament by way of addressing seriously the issue of unemployment especially for graduates, encourage Agriculture to bring food security into our land.

The necessary tools to be integrated will be TVET programmes. These programmes in areas of Agricultural education, Business education, computer education, Home-economic education and Technical education are skilled oriented. TVET with its diversified areas of skills can prepare individual to be self-employed and job creator. For the government and the society, TVET integration will bring economic growth, national development and create rooms through individual's competency for global competitiveness.

Funding of TVET for Sustainable Development

In any project, funding is very important for survival. The funding of TVET is highly necessary if it must survive and contribute to sustainable development. With this, Job and Olumuyuwa (2021) wrote that funding of TVET could be through improving the cost- efficiency of public resources, supporting the development of income generating activities by training providers and by mobilizing the industry

through the introduction of tax or levy systems. Here, there is need for provision of facilities for proper teaching and learning, payment of lecturers' salaries and allowance to boost their energy, encouragement and eagerness to attend to students' needs. There is need for functional workshops (Laboratories, libraries) and even field trips for exchange of idea programmes and experiences. In support of this, Usoro, Akpan and Usen (2020) wrote that functional facilities are school facilities that are useful for teaching and learning for work or serve the purpose for which they were designed for effectively. Azuka and Nwosu (2018) wrote that without proper funding of TVET, it will be difficult to achieve the outcome of a good curriculum. All these activities are good practices to promote TVET for sustainable development. For skills to be achieved, there is need for practicals in well-equipped laboratories where modern equipment are set. Students and lecturers need to see, know the names, manipulate and get familiar with them. The students need to go for experience in the industry so that theories and practicals can be marched. This will avail the students the opportunities to be well prepared for the world of work. Equally, it will help graduates to work now to meet their demands and, as well as make provision for the future generation.

Employability Skill for Sustainable Development

Employability is related to work and ability to be employed. Employability skills are the essential skills, personal qualities and values that enable individuals to exist comfortably in any work place. Essien and Udouo (2020) stated that employability refers to those attributes that qualify an individual for employment. Employability components include; career identity, personal adaptability, social and human capital. These skills make individuals impactful employee. When an individual stays on the job because of possession of employability skills, such an individual can make impactful mark on the job. This impact can be through contributions of new ideas, knowledge, teaching of other

workers on how to manipulate modern equipment for faster or increase production. Employability skills can lead individual to cooperate and encourage team spirit that will hinge on success and achievement of the organizational goals or meeting of the organizational targets.

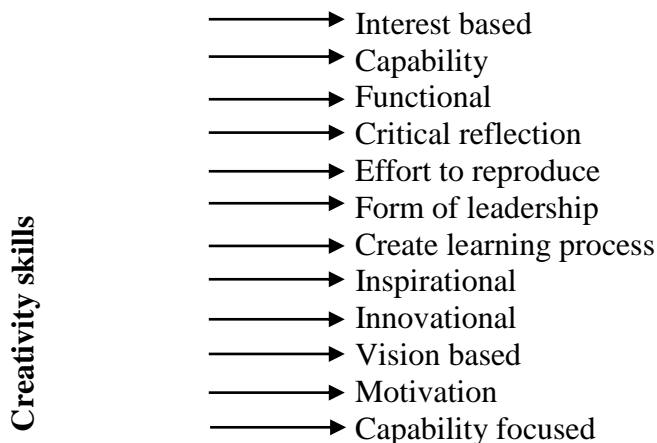
Employability skills can lead to sustainable development in the sense that, when an individual worker, is stable and adapt comfortably in a work environment, that individual can certainly make positive contributions in different areas such as education, commerce industry among others. It can be impartation of knowledge to students for use now and future after graduation. In the area of commerce, individual can make goods available at affordable prices for rural dwellers, this will help them to generate income to carter for themselves now and left over for future use. For industrial work, the individual can guide the industry on the level of production possibility through effective and efficient utilization of available resources. This arrangement will help the citizens to enjoy goods and services now and even in the future period without causing any harm for new generation. With this, sustainable development can be achieved or attainable. Also, looking at our environment, there are frequent migration of professionals (skill workers) leading to brain drain from Nigeria.

Reduction of Brain Drain for Sustainable Development: The act of brain drain involves the movement of technical teachers, lecturers and other specialists from Nigeria to outside countries for greener pastures. According to Longe (2020) Brain drain is the migration of educated and professionals from one country to another usually for better living condition. These specialists are the groups which the country needs for socio-economic and technological development. It is also referred to as human capital flight.. On daily, monthly and yearly bases, Nigeria professionals have continued to migrate to other countries like Europe, America and other African countries, where they will be well paid and serve with better equipment/facilities for satisfactory

practices. Government of Nigeria can reduce these movements for the sole objective to support sustainable development in the country. These specialists (skilled workers) need to be well catered for, through provision of conducive service environment. This will go a long way to discourage and reduce their eagerness for outside attraction. Their production of goods and specialize services will lead to human capital maintenance, capacity building, availability and satisfaction of economic needs of the citizens now and by extension for future development. Sustainable development will continue to be when these specialists stay in Nigeria. The existence and contribution of specialists in the country will boost rapid economic sustainable development in the sense that they will avoid economic waste and make proper use of the available raw materials for production either in business or industry for satisfaction of human needs. Hence, there is need to look inward by the government to give the much needed attention to Nigeria skilled workers. Therefore, there is need for government to execute attractive welfare packages so as to reduce brain drain and encourage creativity skills implementation that will pave way to self-employment, job-creation, employment of others within the country so as to achieve sustainable development.

Creativity skills implementation for sustainable development:

Creativity involves thinking and then production. It requires passion and commitment. Creativity means bringing to our knowledge, what was previously hidden and point to new life. Here, Usen, Usoro and Charles (2020) noted that creativity is the ability to bring on board new ideas, to think deep, brainstorm in order to solve an impending problem using new method such as problem solving skill. In consonance with this, Ekong (2018) agreed that creativity skill implementation can lead to sustainable development in Nigeria. The author believed that the following characteristics of creativity are the ingredients which a country can utilize to reach sustainable development, these include;



With the above mentioned characteristics of creativity, the country can bring in innovative ideas/ new methods which stem from creativity skills of professionals (skills workers). In these ways, Nigeria will rise to an enviable stage where foreigners accept invest, stay on for other businesses. It will become an environment where the citizens can comfortably enjoy low cost of living, health care services and green economy can be reached for future life. In the area of security, the government and individuals should contribute their own quota to make sure there is peaceful environment, peaceful co-existence, respect of law and rules. Hence, security is an important element for skills implementation to thrive in Nigeria.

Security Provision for Sustainable development

Security generally could be seen as the act of one being in an environment free from danger and harm (Chukwurah, 2022). It is a situation where one’s life and properties are safe from being destroyed, killed or stolen. Bashar (2017) wrote that security is the act of being safe from harm or danger, protection and preservation of values and the absence of threats to acquire values. There is absolute need for security if the country is aiming to achieve sustainable development. As at now the following security agencies are available both at State and Federal levels, these include;

- i) The National Security Agency (NSA)
- ii) The National Intelligence Agency (NIA)
- iii) The State Security Service (SSS)

- iv) The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
- v) The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
- vi) The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)

These are the different security agencies that can provide security in Nigeria. According to Usen, Akpan, Abiodun and Samuel (2022), the development and security of any nation hinges on the social and economic contributions of her citizens. In an environment where one sleeps with one eye without relaxation is an environment where progress can not be obtained. It can be said that there will be no sustainable development in such environment. Nigeria can achieve sustainable development through provision of security to its citizens. Where is secure, peaceful and calm environment, skilled workers will relax and do work. Ettah, Akpabio and Eyo (2022) opined that safety is very important in every aspect of human life. A secured environment will allow specialists (skilled works) ample opportunities to relax and think critically in order to solve problems. With secured place of work or secured country, work can go on effectively and efficiently to produce excess goods and attain sustainable development.

Conclusion

TVET programme is on the preparation of individuals for skill acquisition in different areas of human endeavours in broad areas, it includes; Agricultural education, Business education, Computer education, Home-economic education and

Technical education. The integration of these skills can lead to sustainable development in Nigeria. It is noted that skill workers or professionals/specialists through their work can contribute immensely to promote economic growth for immediate satisfaction and for future use without jeopardizing the next generation. Through creativity skills, new ideas and knowledge can emerge to solve human problem(s). But, all these achievements can only be, if there is security of life, property and safe environment. Brain drain can be reduced drastically when the professionals (skilled workers) are given attractive package, conducive working environment and functional modern equipment for their practices. With this, the citizens will be fulfilled, satisfied with the present condition of life and allow sustainable development to thrive.

Suggestions

1. The Federal and State Government should fund TVET programmes through provision of functional facilities and payment of good salaries and allowances to TVET lecturers and teachers.
2. In order to avoid Brain Drain from Nigeria, government should prepare a special welfare package for TVET lecturers and professionals that will be attractive to sustain them within the country.
3. On the issue of security, the Nigeria government should allocate funds for purchase of sophisticated equipment and re-training of Nigerian soldiers on modern tactics.
4. NGOs and philanthropists should help to give take-off grant to graduates of TVET programmes to enable them start their business and self-reliant/self-employed hence contribute to economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria.

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