



Business Education As An Instrument Par Excellence For Achieving National And Economic Development In Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Business Education is a broad area of knowledge that deals with a nation's economic system, prepares individuals for effective management of private businesses, working in public offices and as citizens, workers and consumers. This owes to the fact that Business Education leads to creativity. Development of every nation depends largely on the successful performance of Business education as it equips a person with relevant skills which would lead him/her to better performance in chosen career. With the improved contents of Business Education programme, the course comprises different area with potentials of equipping the recipients with skills in Office Management, ICT Office Applications, Book-keeping/Accounting, Business Management, Marketing, Business Communication, Records Management among others, which are all necessary for the promotion, survival of enterprises, as well as needed competences needed for job place and career success. Individuals equipped with tools and techniques of successful handling of various businesses can contribute to national economy. Against this background the paper looks at the issues, development, national development, problems of national development, Business education, national and economic development, implication of business education on national and economy development, contribution to national and economy development, and prospects of business education involved in making business education a bedrock to national development.

Keywords: Business Education, Instrument, Par Excellence, Development, National, Economic Development

INTRODUCTION

There are a plethora of definitions of the term education as there are many scholars in there are many scholars in this aspect of human endeavour. However, these myriads of definition have one thing in common; through it cut across all creatures yet, some in broad sense and others in narrow sense. Also different educationists across the globe have explained it in accordance with the need of time. According to Parankimalil (2012) in Ogwuogo (2013), the word education has been derived from Latin words which means:

- ‘educere’, meaning to bring out or to nourish’.
- ‘educare’ meaning to lead out or ‘to draw out’.
- “educatum” meaning act of teaching or training’
- ‘educatus’ meaning ‘to bring up, rear, educate’.

In consideration of the origin, the word ‘education’ has since assumed a wider definition and meaning. Education in a broad sense is a process by which an individual acquires the many physical and social capabilities demanded by society in which he/she is born into to function. Ogwuogo (2013) sees education as a systematic process through which a child or adult acquires knowledge, experience, skill and sound attitude. It is concerned with the development of all faculties of the child. It performs the functions of the physical, mental, aesthetic, moral, economical and spiritual development of the individual so that the individual may get rid of his animalistic instincts by sublimating the same so that he becomes a civilized person. This justifies the statement that ‘plants are developed by civilisation and men by education’. Parankimalil (2012), the fundamental aim of education is the physical, intellectual, mental, emotional and ethical integration of the individual as a social instrument for developing human resources and for human capital formation. It is considered as the important factor for development as well as for empowering people.

Nwosu and Ojo (2015), education in Nigeria is an instrument “par excellence” for affecting both national and economic development. The nations philosophy of education believe amongst others, that education foster the worth and development of the individual for the general development of the society (Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN), 2014). The national philosophy and goals of Nigeria education amongst others include the:

- a. Inculcation of the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of individual and the Nigerian Society and
- b. Acquisition of appropriate skill and the development of mental, physical and social abilities and competences as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society (FRN, 2014).

In order to have a purposeful education for the promotion of a progressive and self-sufficient galvanised Nigeria into the introduction of the Business education programme a few decades ago. Business Education as a course of study is a broad and comprehensive discipline whose instructional programme encompasses the acquisition of appropriate skills and competences needed by all citizens in order to effectively manage their personal business and contribute to the society. According to Ojo and Ekpenyorg (2009) as cited by Nwosu and Ojo (2015) the major goals of business education include:

- a. Preparing professionals to teach business subjects in the secondary schools and other related educational institutions;
- b. Adapting the various business concepts acquired in class to real life situation;
- c. Acquiring skills and competences required for the performance of basic business jobs such as taking simple administrative decisions and dealing with correspondence;
- d. Playing productive roles in a free enterprise economy

In order for one to effectively and efficiently manage one’s personal business and contribute positively to the development of the society, self-employed people work for themselves, and are responsible for generating their source of income, supplying their own space/place and all services, materials, equipment, sub-contracting to mention but a few. They might be financial analysts, business centre operators, business/technology consultants hired by companies. They might also be entrepreneurs if they started their own business or developed a product or service. A person is considered self-employed for tax purpose if that person is running a business as a sole proprietorship, independent contractor, as a member of a partnership or as a member of a limited liability company that does not elect to be treated as a corporation (Nwosu and Ojo, 2015).

A proprietorship is a man or woman working for his/her self rather than for another person as an employee. Anyone who employs his/her own resources or borrowed funds for income generation in

activities other than wage or salaried employment is self-employed. The essential qualities needed by self-employed include

- a. Total commitment to hard work
- b. Acceptance of uncertainty
- c. Self-discipline
- d. Originator/investor characteristics
- e. Planner/organizer characteristics

Ojo and Ekpenyong (2009) opined that the benefit of being self-employed includes

- i. Not having to work for somebody;
- ii. Self-fulfilment;
- iii. Making complete use of one's experience, talent and abilities;
- iv. Financial freedom;
- v. Elastic working hours;

The disadvantages of being self-employed include the following

- a. There is no holiday, no sick pay
- b. No pension and no regular income
- c. Chances of having to work longer than necessary, irregular hours and sometimes weekends
- d. Payment of personal income tax account
- e. Death may bring the business of the self-employed to a halt.

Concept of Development

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the additions of physical, economic, environmental, social, and demographic components. The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local, regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment. Development is visible and useful, not necessarily immediately, and includes an aspect of quality change and the creation of conditions for a continuation of that change (Vaizey, 2021).

The international agenda began the focus on development beginning in the second half of the twentieth century. An understanding developed that economic growth did not necessarily lead to a rise in the level and quality of life for populations all over the world, there was a need to place an emphasis on specific policies that would channel resources and enable social and economic mobility for various layers of the population.

A multitude of meanings is attached to the idea of development, the term is complex, contested, ambiguous, and elusive. However, in the simplest terms, development can be defined as bringing about social change that allows people to achieve their human potential. An important point to emphasize is that development is a political term it has a range of meanings that depend on the context in which the term is used and it may also be used to reflect and to justify a variety of different agenda held by different people or organizations. The idea of development articulated by the World Bank, for instance, is very different from that promoted by Greenpeace activist. This point has implications for the task of understanding sustainable development, because much of the confusion about the meaning of the term sustainable development arises because people hold very different ideas about the meaning of development. Another important point is that development is a process rather than an outcome: it is dynamic in that it involves a change from one state or condition to another. Ideally, such a change is a positive one and improvement of some sort (for instance, an improvement in maternal health). Furthermore, development is often regarded as something that is done by one group (such as a development agency) to another, (such as rural farmers in a developing country) again, this demonstrates that development is a political process, because it raises questions about who has the power to do what to whom.

Vaizey (2021) while elaborating on the meaning of development suggests that while there can be value judgements on what is development and what is not, it should be a universally acceptable aim of

development to make for conditions that lead to a realization of the potentials of human personality. Vaizey outline several conditions that make for achievement of this aim.

- i. The capacity to obtain physical necessities, particularly food;
- ii. A job (not necessarily employment) but including studying, working on family farm or keeping house;
- iii. Equality, which should be considered an objective in its own right
- iv. Participation in government
- v. Belonging to a nation this is truly independent, both economically and politically and
- vi. Adequate educational levels (especially literacy)

The people are held to be the principal actors in human scale development. Respecting the diversity of the people as well as the autonomy of the spaces in which they must act converts the present day object person to subject person in human scale development. Development of the variety that we have experienced has largely been a top-down approach where there is little possibility of popular participation and decision making.

Human scale development calls for a direct and participatory democracy where the state gives up its traditional paternalistic and welfarist role in favour of a facilitator in enacting and consolidating people's solutions flowing from below. Empowerment of people takes development much ahead of simply combating or ameliorating poverty. In this sense development seeks to restore or enhance basic human capabilities and freedoms and enables people to be the agents of their own development.

National Development

National, according to Lawal and Abe (2011) is a phenomenon that embraces a whole nation. National development is the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. This is best achieved through development planning, which can be described as the country's collection of strategies mapped out by the government.

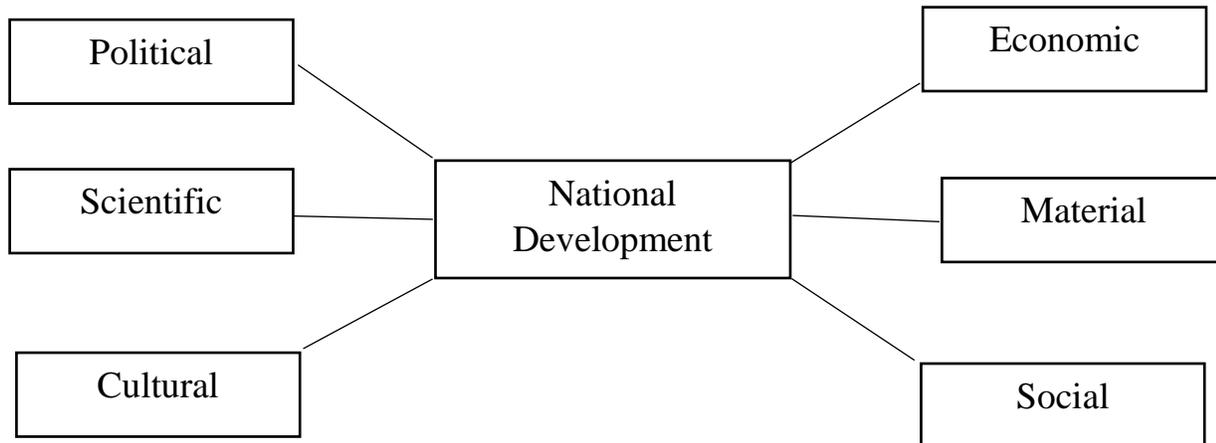
According to Adebayo, Kehinde and Okusanya (2016) in Oluwole and Adabayo (2018), is a dynamic process. A multidimensional process that involves the exploitation and utilisation of both human and material resources to improve the lots of the nation. It involves the sustained elevation of the entire society and social system towards a better or human life. National development empowers people and promotes important changes in their lives. From purely economic perspective, national development brings about improvement in human welfare, quality in life and social wellbeing. It is about a nation's ability to satisfy the population's needs and wants. (Ogwuogo (2013) national development is measured using a range of economic indicators such as;

Gross domestic product (GDP): This is the total value of goods and services, produced in a country (US\$).

Gross National Product (GNP): Total value of goods and services produced in country, including income from investment abroad (US\$).

Purchasing Power Parity: Takes into account local cost of living and is usually expressed per capital income.

Vaizey (2021) notes that the term national development is very comprehensive. It includes all aspects of the life of an individual and the nation. It is a holistic in approach. It is a process of reconstruction and development in various dimensions of a nation and development of individuals. It involves full growth and expansion of our industries, agriculture, education, social, religious and cultural institutions. Moreover, national development implies development of a nation as a whole. It can be best defined as the all-round and balanced development of different aspects and facets of the nation namely, political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material.



Facets of National Development.

Vaizey, notes, economist defines: National development is the total effect of all citizen forces and addition to the stock of physical, human resources, knowledge and skill. “National development is growth plus change. Change in turn is social and cultural as well as economic and qualitative as well as quantitative.

Broadly, development of the nation encapsulates such parameters as:

- i. Development through a planned national economic,
- ii. Increase in agricultural production through application of modern technical know-how,
- iii. Harnessing industrial production
- iv. Development of human resources
- v. Application of science and technology in production sector
- vi. Provision of mass education and
- vii. Provision of various facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of disadvantages, deprived and poorest of the segments of the population (DSEDP, 2018).

Apart from economic indicators, there are other social indicators linked to the economy that are used literary rate, pollution level, number in higher institutions, energy consumption, mortality rate, life expectancy, environment, politics, technological advancement and rate of industrialization, respect for rights, freedom, equality, justice. Anyeaench and Nkegwu (2015) stress that a developed society is the one that has succeeded in providing a source of living for the majority of its inhabitants and that in such society, premium is attached to elimination of poverty, provision of food, shelter and clothing to its members.

Benjamin (2013), Nigeria is no longer a stranger to developmental efforts and reforms. Nigerian economy has undergone many upheavals from the traditional buoyancy through imperial exploitation, oil boom, indigenization, oil glut, austerity, counter trade, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), privatisation and commercialization, vision 20:20:20, SEED, NEEDS, 7-Points/Transformation Agenda to unguided deregulation. The aim was to develop blueprints that will transform the nation and place it firmly on the route to becoming a developed nation. These have led the nation to so many predicaments ranging from poverty, huge foreign debts, low levels of employment and industry capacity utilization, low value of the national currency (Naira), balance of payment squeeze, high inflation and ultimately declining standard of living.

Benjamin (2013) further submits that any nation with the above dominants can never talk of development, as there is headway for them. However, education, especially Business, education can enable a nation to

wriggle out of these considering the skills, ingenuity and the technical know-how that abounds in the course.

Problems of National Development

- i. Tardy economic growth in terms of G.N.P and standard of living
- ii. Large scale unemployment and under-employment.
- iii. Large pool of illiteracy
- iv. Rapid growth of population
- v. Challenges of national and emotional integration
- vi. Inertia to change process
- vii. Slow process of modernization
- viii. Problem of evolving a democratic, socialistic and secular order.
- ix. Incidence of poverty and poor standard of living
- x. Phenomenon of urbanization and its allied malaise
- xi. Lethargic attitude of people to the core value of work and unwillingness to take responsibility.
- xii. Mismatch between moral and scientific values.
- xiii. Rise of phenomenon of brain – drain
- xiv. Useless and low quality products of institutions of higher learning.

Business Education

Business Education is one of the major components of vocational education in Nigeria, Business Education is offered at both the secondary and tertiary levels of education. Business education is one of the basic foundations upon which the students build an awareness and understanding of business concept. Business education is an aspect of total educational programme which provides the recipient with knowledge, skills, understanding and attitude needed to perform well in the business world as a producer or consumer of goods and services. Business Education is a broad area of knowledge that deals with a nation's economic system, prepared individuals for effective management of private businesses, working in public offices and as citizens, workers and consumers. This owes to the fact that Business Education leads to creativity. Development of every nation depends largely on the successful performance of Business Education. Business education also equips a person with relevant skills which would lead him to better performance in his chosen career (Oluwole and Adebayo, 2015).

Business education is a form of vocational education that is directed towards developing and equipping the learner to become productive in teaching, various forms of paid employment, self-employment and sustainable living. Business education as a programme of instruction designed with the deliberate intent of equipping students with

- Requisite knowledge for making rational decisions in the business world
- The skill of inter personal relationship for effective management and communication of business operations and the attitudes of creativity.
- The innovation and adaptation contingent with changes in the world of business that leads to proficiency in analysing and operating business activities.

Business Education, National and Economic Development

Chukwurah (2013) in Oguejiofor and Umeh (2019) education is a life-long process through which individuals acquire relevant knowledge and value which enable them to become useful to themselves and the society in which they are domiciled. Education opens the doors for all citizens to participate in development activities and when citizens are denied education, they are excluded in the emerging knowledge society.

Business education therefore can be described as a process through which individuals acquire necessary skills knowledge, attitudes and values that will enable them handle the challenges of life as they come and

be able to contribute their own quota towards economic growth. Business therefore is economic money oriented activities that are geared towards profit maximization. Business education equips individuals with tools and techniques of successful handling of various businesses and contributing to global economy. Oguejiofor and Umeh (2019) outlined the following as the functions of business education; development of mental and physical skills of an individual, provision of goods and services, information acquisition, employment, technological improvement, high standard of living, self-reliance, consumer economic efficiency, man power skills development are all benefits of business education that lead to economic growth of a nation.

Business education is a form of vocational education that is directed towards developing the learner to become productive in teaching, paid employment and self-employment. It prepared the beneficiaries for gainful employment and sustainable livelihood. It is generally seen as education for and about business. It is that aspect of vocational education which provides instruction and preparation for office occupations such as secretary, shorthand typist, stenographer, bookkeeper, data processor, word processor, computer analyst and accountant. On the other hand, education about business provides knowledge and understanding of the economic, financial, marketing, accounting, management system and other branches of business endeavour. In other words, education about business prepare students to function as intelligently as consumers and citizens in a business economy. (Ogundola and Adeyeye, 2021).

Okoye (2017), business education is made up of two overlapping sets: Business, and Education. To construct a logical, Socratic thinking process, the concept would be deconstructed into three socio-economic development rate sub-questions, leading to the title question is business education important? Business education is only a subset of education as a whole. Therefore, the question would be reformulated into: should one learn about Business? Considering that business education includes all management related subjects, not to mention quite a few self-development topics, the answer should again be self-evident. It is apparent to note that business education goes beyond secondary and tertiary institutions. Just as education is a continuous process in everyday life so is business. That is to say that business education is a continuous learning process. Successful individuals in the business environment usually have a mix of education and experience relating to business education concepts and principles. Business education involves teaching students the fundamentals teaching skills, theories and processes of business. Today, students hone their skills through practical experience, which is a part of business education these days.

The business education courses build a strong foundation for those who wish to move on to business occupation. It is an aspect of education that gives individuals at any stage of life the required skills, values, knowledge, attitudes and helps in expanding one's ideas. At higher institution level it also provides practical skills for those who wish to enter and pursue a career in business. They acquire skill to perform as teachers, lecturers, managers, accountants, secretaries, marketers and business executives in different works of life. Business education programme provide rich opportunities for relevant, real world learning experiences. These programmes provide pathways to specific apprenticeships and workplace destinations along with valuable information and connections that help them to explore potential work and business opportunities.

Business education as a programme of study is one of the most crucial/environment that helps to achieve the following goals:

Gaining the knowledge of business concepts through the study of different business subjects.

To achieve business financial, economical, and digital literacy

To develop technological skills, this helps in the overall productivity of the organization.

To develop teaching skills, this would probably enhance your commination skill.

From the perspective of a business educator, business education goes beyond just imparting knowledge but also to create value by showing/imparting on the students the following;

How the knowledge is used by others': The lecturer would not just teach but also show or allow the students to practicalize what they learnt also witness how others use their knowledge.

What they do with knowledge: The lecturer should also act as a guardian to the student. Guiding the students on how and what they do with the knowledge acquired. This stage is very important to both the lecturer and students. Because any misguided conception of the value created through communication could lead to hazardous effects to mostly the students then the lecturer.

How the students can use the knowledge and benefit from it and enhance its environment. The way a student create knowledge and apple values to it should be guided/influenced by the lecturer.

Lecturers should make students understand and attain certain knowledge to develop its environment and also benefit from it (Okoye, 2017).

Implications of Business Education on National and Economic Development

Oluwole and Adabayo (2018) contend that human resources not capital, nor income nor material resources constitute the ultimate basic of the wealth of nations. Capital and natural resources are passive factors of production, human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic and political organizations and carry forward national development. In emphasising the connection between technological skills and national development, modern civilization demands knowledge, understanding and technological skills. Development of these through education provides opportunity for progress. Neglect invites misery, exploitation and eventual disaster. These persuasive arguments in favour of human resources development as an investment in the future development and prosperity of nations has received as fast and wide acceptance in developing countries like Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria convinced that skilled human resources are indispensable to economic development and growth has noted in the national policy, document on education that “Education in Nigeria is more a private enterprise, but a huge government venture that has witnessed a progressive evolution of government complete and dynamic intervention and active participation. The Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted education as an instrument par excellence for affecting national developments.

The acceptance of human resources as the purveyor of national development and technological advancement in Nigeria makes it imperative that business education should be encouraged and relied upon as the fulcrum for the production of adequate trained labour force for the development in commerce, industry and public service in Nigeria.

Contribution of Business Education to National Development

Oluwale and Adebayo (2018) highlight some of the areas Business Education has contributed to national and economic development in Nigeria

Increase in Labour force: Business Education contributed its quota on this issue and will continue to contribute as the world is still broadening both in population and in technological advancement. This fact is claimed as virtually no organization irrespective of how minute it is that does not make use of business education products.

It has provided education opportunities for the students preparing for careers in fields other than business to acquire business knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in those careers

Inculcating appropriate work habits and social values: Business Education programme avails its students the opportunity for an on-the-job training thereby giving them in feeling of working on actual jobs situation before completing their studies. Business education has wide ranging academic activities that include field study trips, seminars, workshop, conferences, Students’ Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES). These activities give the individual a taste of feeling of working in real job situation before taking full time job. Through the activities, the individual acquired such traits as cooperation, loyalty, accountability, prudence, personal character, business and etiquette. The inculcation of these traits goes a long way in increasing productivity at the workplace, vis-à-vis national development.

Economic Awareness: The study of Business Education has helped in creating economic awareness to all the citizenry that embraced it. This implies that Business Education is one of the economic literacy which

encompasses bodies of knowledge on how wealth of the nation is derived, how it is distributed and the place of the individual in the scheme of the economy.

Prospects of Business Education

Several fields of endeavours abound in business education like Accounting, Secretary ship, Finance, Banking, Insurance, Marketing, Data Processing, Management mention but quite a few. These are distinct but integral disciplines which are capable of sustaining one's life. They are all offshoots of Business Education. To further buttress this, virtually every organization whether profit and non-profit oriented in one way or the other requires the service of Business Education products. By the virtue of this assertion, it can easily be said that business education contributes tremendously to economic development and consequently to national development.

Ogundola and Adeyeye (2021), it is very disheartening that most business education products do not know that there are various job prospects available to them after graduation, business education offers the beneficiaries the ability to be self-reliant, job creature, and employers of labour. Some of these graduates roam about cities seeking for white collar job because they are ignorant of job opportunities available for them. Apart from these job opportunities, business education offers individuals with vocational and professional skills that enable them to prepare for business career and teaching of business subjects.

Furthermore, business education aims at equipping students with skills, knowledge and competences necessary to perform in business occupations and for entry into employment either as self-employed or an employer of labour. Business education graduates or experts hold the best job prospects, climb to the top of their pick from a variety of possible career, paths, beginning with practical training programme in major offices/companies, they can be an analysts, managers and consultants. Graduate of business education may work in manufacturing sectors; distribution sector; education sectors; ICT sectors and government business sectors.

There is a great opportunity for career selection in business education, one can opt for teaching or become a business owner and be self-employed, work with a company or pursue careers in marketing and public relations.

CONCLUSION

Business Education is an imperative to national development as it provides knowledge, skill, attitude and understanding needed to performs in the business world as a producer or consumer of economic goods and services that business offers. It is one of the paramount foundations of human resources and for sustainable socio-economic development of any nation. Development is a purposeful change in a society that contributes to social, economic wellbeing and advancement of its people without creating any disharmony.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The role of leadership in national development cannot be overemphasised, therefore all efforts towards development must be coordinated and directed by leaders.
2. Development plan in Nigeria should not be exclusively regarded as an economic issue it should be seen as holistic and encompassing national issue that cuts across economic, social, political and psychological aspects of human endeavour.
3. There is need for attitudinal change. Nigerians must as a matter of fact change their pessimistic attitude towards development.
4. Citizenship should be promoted over indignity in order to achieve cooperation and participation of all communities in development process.
5. The need to reform electoral process is imperative for socio-economic and political development as electoral fraud is one of the banes of Nigeria's development.

6. "Nigerian factor" should be discouraged as development is achieved through internal activities rather than from external influences.
7. It is reasonable that Nigerians should inculcate a high sense of patriotism as demonstrated by the Japanese and Chinese.
8. The Federal and State Governments should improve on the incentives and remuneration of Business Education lecturers.
9. No interlopers should be employed to teach business education courses, only qualified business educators should be recruited to teach business education courses at all educational levels. The already recruited ones should as a matter of urgency go for retraining, especially in the use of ICTS.

If the above recommendations are practically implemented is a sure way to ensuring that Business Education is an imperative for national and economic development in Nigeria.

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