

## **SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT**

**BY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The idea of impacting positive attitudes and values in individuals, especially among secondary school students can conveniently be achieved through social studies education with the use of technological advancement. The decision of what to teach in the cognitive, psychomotor as well as affective domains require attitude, values and use of media aids judgement. In this paper, the role of social studies education towards achieving positive change in our educational system, which may wipe away indiscipline, dishonesty and other social ills among the secondary school students, was discussed. The part played by technology in enhancing and effecting desirable changes in social system was also highlighted.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In every state of the federation one observes quite a great number of secondary schools in existence. In this level of education, interest is relatively new and rapidly growing due to factors such as speed in technological advancement, attitudes, value system, belief, and family life-style of Nigerians. In general and most importantly, the realization of the importance of this level of education through media aids, has increased the development of a student character and wellbeing.

In Nigeria today, values, attitudes and life style of students in the school appear to be quite different from what they used to be in the past, For instance Dunfee and Grump says that the acquisition of values and attitudes is that which every man consciously or unconsciously struggles for constantly but at the same time may be difficult if the mode of imparting such knowledge is lacking. They went further to say that social studies education has basic idea about what is right or good and what is wrong or bad. Individual character influence their orientation towards what they do.

In order words such characters are served as internalized guide to human behaviour and action which is also based in the national policy on education. Since a

national policy on education is governments way of achieving its national objectives no policy can be formulated without first identifying the overall objectives of the Nation. The five main National objectives of Nigeria as stated in the National development plan, and enclosed as the necessary foundation for the National policy on education, are the building of:

- a free and democratic society
- a just an egalitarian society
- a united, strong and self-reliant nation
- a great and dynamic economy
- a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens education.

Social studies education and technological advancement therefore, is based on the integration of the individual into a sound positive attitude and values especially at secondary school level both outside and inside the formal school system. The introduction of new media aids system enhances inculcation of the following values

- Respect for the worth and dignity of the individual
- Faith in man's ability to make rational decision
- Moral and spiritual values in inter-personal and human relations.
- Shared responsibility for the common goods of society.
- Respect for the dignity of labour.
- Promotion of the emotional, physical and psychological, health of all students.

For social studies education and media aids to be in harmony with Nigerians National objectives to impart these values, it has to be geared towards self-realization, better human relations, individual and national efficiency, effective citizenship, national consciousness, national unity as well as towards social, cultural aspect of life of the individual.

#### **The role of social studies education and technological advancement.**

Social studies education as it is in the curriculum of the junior secondary school has its recognition as a core subject and indication of importance and potentials for bringing about desirable changes in the behaviour of the young learners for whom the subject is meant. Generally, the syllabus for junior secondary school social studies education contains such topics as:

- Social Environment: primary social organizations and secondary groups. Example voluntary organizations, the family and community relationship, marriage.

- Physical environment, local features, bodies of water, highland, lowland, settlement patterns, sanitation, winds and weather and their effect on man's life, co-operation and conflicts, moral and social responsibility, social instability/crimes.
- Nigerian cultural patterns and origins, ethnic groups, attitudes, values, norms, beliefs, common heritage, hand national symbols such as the national flag, national anthem and coat of arms including the pledge, leadership and fellowship.
- Science, technology and society. Meaning and application of science and technology in past, present and future societies.
- Development and social change, political, social economic and cultural development overtime.
- World transport and communication. Transport system, railway, water, road and air system. Telecommunications, postal system and mass media.

The world and its people: resources of Africa, races and cultures, cultural co-operation, human resources.

Its content is of immense value in guaranteeing the production of a disciplined, attitude, respect among the students which is the dream of the National policy on education. The subject social studies is concerned with the study of man in the society including his attitudes, discipline, values and respect. It teaches how man exists and ought to exist in this physical and social environment. Social studies education stresses those values by which we should live as people in quest of a most orderly and peaceful society. Effective communication skill rank very high as the basic requirement and concept which students need for the appropriate execution of their daily tasks in order to achieve complete comprehension and perception of concepts and values. It is the function which links or disintegrates all activities. According to Mkpa (1999), if the listeners actually receive the intended ideas, then communication will link up all the activities in a chronological order but, where the information received or interpreted differs in meaning from the intended, then disintegration and dichotomy will arise.

Technological advancement is therefore the application of media aids in the areas of curriculum, courses and instructional planning and development.

This involves:

- The identification of appropriate aims, goals, and objectives
- The selection of relevant and suitable subject-matter.
- The choosing of effective and contrasting learning and teaching strategies, methodologies activities and expenses and
- The evaluation of not only the success of the resulting learning outcomes but also the effectiveness of the very strategies employed.

Social studies education seek to introduce the learner to the rich heritage of his culture so that he cannot only learn and appreciate that culture, but also demonstrate the ability to defend it which can be achieved through media aids such as projected aids.

The students learning social studies are made to recognize the need for various national aspirations and values as national unity and integration, nationalism, patriotism, co-operation, tolerance, honesty, self-reliance, integrity, responsibility and so on with application of technology. Also education of social studies education reflects those subject matters which are considered useful in bringing about these types of behaviour changes. Various cultural practices that seek to inculcate the desirable values and attitude of an ideal society are included in the curriculum of social studies and can be achieved through the use of media aids. If properly taught with the media aids the objectives would be achieved and the subject is likely to prove more effective than military degrees and tribunals in bringing about a discipline Nigerian society.

The education of social studies introduces man to the physical environment. Certain aspect of the subject focus on the physical features and explains the influence of the physical feature on the life of man in urban and rural areas. Such physical elements as climate or weather, natural resources like mineral resources, forest and water resources are as well covered by the syllabus of social studies which can be taught with the use of motion pictures or slides and projector sharing physical process.

The study of man and his social and physical environments, the subject teaches mans interaction with science and technology. This content is introduced to the learner as they study transportation system of the world and national economic life as it is contained in the social studies syllabus and can be imparted through films and

film stripe including slides and various type of projectors for motion and still pictures.

Social studies education calls for the effective use of various type of technological application such as communication to promote more meaningful teaching and learning. Technology provides direct experience with reality and the social physical environments. It facilitate learning by introducing to students things and ideas that would have been abstract and inaccessible materials. For instance, media aids when properly used stimulate and encourage active participation especially when students are allowed to manipulate the media aid used. (Green, 1971) says, it also makes the teacher is work lighter since he can conserve time and energy. This is so because media serve to concretize concepts and ideas that would have been too abstract for students to understand. Some processes of instructions and social activities are better learned through the use of relevant media aids rather than through verbal illustrations and descriptions by the teacher.

A wide range of media aids should be utilized for social studies education according to the range of topics or content area covered by the syllabus.

Mkpa (1999) undertook and analysed the junior secondary school social studies curriculum to identify the educational technology materials that could be effectively employed in imparting various specific content or subject matter. He then showed that for every unit or topic, both projected and non-projected aids can be effectively used for teaching. For instance, the topic "How physical features affect man's life" may be taught using a variety of media aids, such as motion pictures, slides and projectors showing where certain physical features exist. There are also projected aids such as video recordings of certain events in the society, films and film strips as well as slides and different types of projectors for motion and still pictures which also are used in social studies education for enhancement of proper teaching.

In the area of institution which is described as a practice or pattern of behaviour that has served the needs of a group of people for such a long time that community has developed a strong faith in it as a desirable component of the lifestyle of the people. According to Hale institution exist in several forms. Examples of such institutions are religious, economic, political, social and health institutions and Nigerian religion is a strong institution that is associated with three important beliefs- Christianity, Islam and traditional religion. Each of these three religions have places



of worship which can be taught with the use of projected aids where different religious institution is projected to promote effective learning.

Financial or economic institution is important in social studies education as it is included in the syllabus to help in teaching transactions, markets, factories, banks and so on and conveniently imparted by proper recording of such economic institution in the society. Projectors for motion and still pictures for adequate enhancement of knowledge and understanding of such topic would also be utilized.

#### **Importance of social studies and technologist expertise.**

The importance of social studies and technology expertise or professionals cannot be overemphasized since they are considered knowledgeable enough to be useful to the schools. They are set of people who possess the needed information that schools would want to communicate to students. This group of people possess some needed information and skills, and are willing and able to make them available to learners. In social studies education and technological advancement teaching and learning with media aids are very useful in the social studies syllabus and better handled by persons who possess more authentic knowledge than classroom teachers in those topic with appropriate media aids. Undoubtedly, a teacher may read up from textbook the ideas related to physical environment and may not actually know the type of media aid that may be appropriate for effective promotion of students knowledge on that particular topic but with the professional, that could be done without much stress.

In recognition of the important role of professional the junior secondary school Social studies syllabus recommends their effective utilization in implementing the curriculum. The schools need to examine the content of the subject to determine the aspects of it in which the services of professional would be needed. The professionals available in the society should also be identified so that a harmonious relationship can be created between them and the school as a whole. By so doing, this will enable the individuals get more involved in the affairs of the school thereby promoting and encouraging more participation among the students, the professionals and the teachers.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- There should be pre-planning if social studies education and media aids are to be effectively utilized.

- Classes should be reconstructed in a way that there should be more space to accommodate some media aids such as projecting machine which should be made use of at any point in time.
- The use of syllabus in the schools should be strictly adhered to for effective teaching and more use of media aid as new improvement towards teaching.
- Government should pay more attention in media aids by providing them in the schools since it promotes teaching and learning efficiently.
- Teachers should always arrange their media aids especially slides when presenting information with it, so that the students may not get confused.
- The professional should always be ready to coach the teachers and should be readily available in case of emergency.
- The use of media aids should be encouraged in schools since information learnt can last longer in memory than mere verbal communications.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Social studies education should be perceived as a large laboratory for technological advancement since most of the topics in the syllabus can be taught with media aids and the learners in the same manner can easily grasp what is being projected than mere verbal communication.

No wonder Willson and Galt (1971) said that a learner remembers 89% of what he sees with his eyes and 10% of sound and 50% of what he hears.

Green 1971 claims that if teachers capitalize on the capabilities of media they can easily promote the learners perceptions, understanding and transfer to learning, pictures at the same time provides a link between an object and its orthography which very is important in teaching and learning situation.

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