EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIO – CULTURAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract: *The paper focused on the influence of educational technology as a tool for realization of socio-cultural and sustainable development in Nigeria. The paper identified and discussed the challenges to acceptance of technology innovations. Education was highlighted in the paper as a strong tool that can determine the success of sustainable technology driven development. The impact of technology on sustainability and socio-cultural development of Nigeria was also discussed. In order to achieve the goal of this paper, the authors suggested the following; the need to develop indigenous technologies that will be consistent with African cultural values, come up with an indigenous education curriculum for use from primary to tertiary levels of education in addition to the use of educational technology media as a veritable tool for socio-cultural development and as a means of enlightenment in the society with a view to overcome technology innovative resistance thereby promote socio-cultural growth and sustainability driven development in Nigeria.*

Keywords: *Educational Technology, Socio- cultural, Sustainable Development*

Introduction

Technology acceptance has attracted comments, reactions and contributions from scholars as basis that determines sustainability and socio–cultural development of any society or nation in the world. Nigeria is not an exception. Technology and education are important tools responsible for the growth, socio-cultural development and wellbeing of any society in the world. However, the success of technology acceptance in any society depends largely on a number of factors such as the type of technology, societal receptiveness, government policies and a number of socio-cultural factors. The cultural origin of the members of a society has a very strong influence on the way technology adoption takes place. The culture of a society also influences attitude, norms, ideologies, values, ideas, belief system and behavioral intention towards technology innovation and acceptance which have shown to affect decision to adopt (Eseonu & Egbue, 2014).

Educational technology

Pedagoski (2015) defined educational technology as a systematic and organized process of applying modern technology media to improve on the quality of education. Educational technology exposes students to skill acquisition such as craft work, photography, computer, video coverage, videotaping. All these aspect of educational technology helps students to be self-employed and create opportunities for others. It affords students opportunity after graduation to be self-employed, self–reliance, independent and active participants and contributors to nation building and economic empowerment. Educational technology has relationship with the present study hence, it is seen as a veritable tool for fostering development and acquisition of entrepreneurial skills for economic growth and sustainable development of any society.

Socio–Cultural - Eseonu and Egbue (2014) defined society as people living together or less ordered community while Montgomery (1990) defined culture as "way of life" including the way we eat, live, communicate, spend leisure time etc. Cultural aspects of a society include beauty, education, language, dressing, law and politics, religion, social organizations, technology and material culture, values and attitudes. This implies that, the cultural origin of the members of a society has a very strong influence on sustainable technology driven development. It is therefore right to say that society and culture can shape the way we see the world, it has the capacity to bring about sustainable change of way forward for life on the planet.

*Sustainable–Development-*World Commission on Environment and Development in conjunction with United Nations (1987) defined sustainable - development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development should not only aim at improving the quality of life, but also compliance with the capacity of the ecosystems, and the earth as a whole. Sustainable development suggests developing a global consciousness rendering an account of caring for the needs of citizens. Sustainable development also implies devising a social and economic system which ensures that real income rise, educational standard increase, health of a nation improves and the general quality of life is advanced.

Challenges of technology acceptance and its impact on socio – cultural development of Nigeria

Olaniyi (2006), Okon, Chika and Emmanuel (2007) identified the following as factors influencing technology acceptance in the Nigeria society. This include peoples attitude and fear towards new technologies (Technophobia), poor level of awareness, government negative attitude towards rural areas, inappropriate ICT policies and poor implementation of the policies, poor power supply, poor internet services and inadequate financial capacity to coop with the new devices, poor access, poor skills to use, low government commitment to education, poor technical assistance and maintenance among others. Nigerians non-acceptance of new technologies rest on the fact that they affect or compel us to abandon our cultural values, norms, ideologies and lifestyles including dressing and natural environment to adapt the new technologies.

The most recent innovation is the invention of a more portable mobile phone, which did, and still do greatly influence society and the way people communicate. Technology devices enables Nigerians to be heard on radio, seen on television and internet globally showcasing our dress styles, traditional marriages, hair styles, food, music etc. Technology has impacted on the lives of Nigerians across agriculture, business, entertainment, healthcare, government and security sectors. Financial transactions can be carried out on mobile devices, and business transactions can take place across different boarders in the world without face to face interaction while reading and writing can be done outside of physically attending a school. Suleiman, Manir and Muhammad (2012) in their contribution on the impact of technology to development and sustenance of Nigeria socio- cultural wellbeing x-ray ICT as a veritable tool for enhancing teaching, learning and research, the authors explained that technology has dramatically transformed educational pedagogy and global development challenges in the 21st century.

Nigeria lags behind in harnessing its appropriate indigenous technology. Therefore it depends on western technology. This dependency syndrome poses challenge on Nigeria cultural values. Western technologies have also impacted negatively on Nigeria values for instance, Abanyam (2012) posits that, before the advent of modern science and its' application technology, Africans had known how to brew beer, distill local gin, preserve corpses, weave cloths, make pots of different shapes, colors and sizes, build houses, make astronomical observations, heal disease of different types through herbs and roots, rear cattle among other. Some of them have disappeared because of the influence of western technologies.

The major problem with western technologies is that the youths appeared to be the most vulnerable group affected by the influx of these western technologies. Pornographic movies or materials exposed young people to adult issues at impersonate age. African societies are now facing many problems such as imported computer scraps in the name of advancement, sex abuse among others. This has negative effect on Nigeria socio- cultural development. Another adverse effect of technology is indecent dressing in the society like mini-skirts and skinned tight cloths that exposes breast, chest, belly, upper arms, armpit and bottoms are common among Nigerians and are seen as modern fashion. Etobe (2002) explained that western technologies have adverse health implication on African cultural values for instance, agricultural chemicals such as pesticides imported into Africa are used in poisoning bees in their hives for easy catch and fishes in water die in large quantity for human consumption. According to Etobe (2002) the consequences of these behavioral patterns are serious and disturbing on African health-care planners and sustainability.

Conclusion

Western technologies brought blessings and curses on Nigeria; such as reduction in human labor, improved usage of agricultural farm tools and chemicals for increase food production, improved health-care services and communication systems. The paper noted that the use of technology in education is also of great assistance to achieving socio-cultural and sustainable development in any society. The paper advised Nigerians to be conscious of the kind of technologies imported into the country rather than outright rejection of such technologies. This can be achieved by putting up a mechanism that will monitor and determine the sustainability of any technological product before such is imported into the country.

Recommendations

1. Government should encourage the development of indigenous technologies that are consistent with African cultural values. This way the country will gradually move away from the adverse effects of western technologies.

2. Curriculum designer and educationist should develop a comprehensive cultural education curriculum for use from primary to tertiary level of education in Nigeria.

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