
REVAMPING VALUE EDUCATION AND DIGITAL INNOVATION IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The paper is on revamping value education and digital innovation in language education for sustainable democracy and security. Since language is every human's property, it can be used as a source of maintaining peace and security. Every thought or action starts with language. Language education is a system of communication employed by human being in the expression of thoughts, feelings, ideas and intensions. Insecurity, developments and good governance are all intensions that are conceived in the mind, using words in any language for instructions, direction or commands to carry out the intentions. In realization of this fact the Nigerian constitution regards security as a fundamental objective of state policy. It is also observable that the Government should adopt some measures which include political, economic, military, civil, diplomacy, dialogue and other intelligent tactic to safeguard the security of the nation. In all, language education provides the skills, information, education, debate forum, knowledge, sensitization and creativity to develop new approaches that are necessary for sustainable security and national development.

Keywords: Revamping, Value education, Language Education, digital innovation, Sustainable democracy, Security

Introduction

Education has been used and will continue to be utilized as a tool for sustainable development and security by various countries of the world, be it indigenous or modern. According to Nateinyin & Toinpre (2020), education determines sustainable security of a nation. The benefit of investing in education to every society is all encompassing. They further went to state that, investing in education benefits society and world as a whole, that broad-based education of good quality is among the most powerful instruments known to reduce poverty and equality. With proven benefit for personal health, it also strengthens nation's economic health by laying growth for individual and nations. It is to key to creating, applying and spreading knowledge and thus to the development of a dynamic globally competitive security development.

Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interactions of humans. It is the means by which they communicate with one another. The importance of the relationship between language and society cannot be overemphasized in the growth and development of a community. Language is an essential tool in the development of a nation especially a nation like Nigeria. Language can be seen as a lubricant that makes activities in a society flow smoothly. Uga & Fanan (2021) assert that an individual uses language to communicate his thoughts, inner feelings and psychological experience. Also, in order to establish social relationship and maintain peace and security, language is essential. It is a tool with which people express their ideas and feelings, thereby, achieving effective communication for peace talk and security development. Revamp language education is a challenging task which stakeholders should consider as a serious business, revitalizing is the act of putting back to new life, (Philip and Arthur, 2016).

Almost all majority development institutions today say that promoting good governance is an important part of their agendas. This review suggests this is an extremely elusive objective: good governance means different things not only to different organizations, but also the different actors within these organizations. Working uses of the term good governance by donor institutions tent to highlight seven key areas: democracy and representation, human rights, the rule of law, efficient and effective public management, transparency and accountability, develop mentalist objectives, and a variety of particular economic and political institutions, (Keefer 2019).

In the community of nations, governance is considered good and democratic to the degree in which a country's institutions and processes are transparent. United Nations state that good governance promoted equity, participation, pluralism, transparency, accountability and the rule of law, in a manner that is effective, efficient and enduring.

Concept of Revamping

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2021), Revamping is the process of making something grow, develop, or become successful again. It is also the ability to make something stronger, more active or healthier. It is the bringing again into activity and prominence. Looking at the state of education in Nigeria today, even though technology has so much improved, the standard of learning, education in general has suffered serious setbacks in terms of producing sound graduates and impacting knowledge to the students.

This is due to the sickening insecurity situations across the states in Nigeria, where schools are closed for months because of kidnappings, wanton killings of students and banditry in the school environments. The quality of learning in the past was more than the present standard, (Musa, Fibisola & Ibrahim, 2021). As the world is fast growing in both technology and the world of science in general, the system of education needs to be revitalized in order to meet up with the fast growing standards, language education is the only source. Therefore, revamp in the process of re-strengthening the policy of activities that govern education here in Nigeria in order to produce sound and quality graduates that will be able to fit into the technology society (Musa, Febisola & Ibrahim2021).

Language Education

Language is man's greatest endowment which enables man to communicate with one another as passed on the age-long heritage from generations. The possession of the power of manipulating language to suit one's different purpose confers on one the ability to fit into many aspect of life where the delicate, accurate and flowery use of language may be needed, (Grace and Kenneth, 2017).

In the present day society that is being gradually overtaken by urbanization, the search for those whose oral and writing skills overflow is gathering momentum. Thus, those who have these skills are offered rich employment opportunities and avenues for wealth creation and self-reliance through opening up of private language clinics. In the education enterprises, the discipline that has the mandate of inculcating these skills among students is "Language Education". What then is language education? Language Education refers to the study of the arts of language. It involves the study of nature and importance of language, the theories and process of language developing the skills and deeper understanding of practical approaches, competence and problems in the language acquisition process, (Charles – Zalakoro ,2020).

Grace and Kenneth, (2021) also said that language education provides the learner with a deeper understanding of the science of language and equip the individual with the skill for achieving greater proficiency in manipulating the language art. In universities language education and Igbo

education are not offered as course. These entire language education programs are house in the department of Arts education of the universities (Lendzemo 2017).

Revitalizing Language Education for Democracy and Security

Language education means language studies or linguistics which is the scientific study of languages, it can also be defined as teaching and learning of languages. Mary Patricia (2021), defines language studies as a “field of scholarly endeavor”. Language is a system of communication employed by human beings in the expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas and intentions etc. It is defined as “the system of communication, speech and writing that are used by the people of a particular country. This definition may be the reason behind some language teachers’ action to concentrate on making the language learner’s interest in speech and writing without an in-depth knowledge of non-verbal communication or forms of language. Language education means scientific study or teaching and learning of languages. Revitalization is the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality. According to Uga & Fanan, (2021) revitalization means to impact a new life or vigor to something. Uga & Fanan sees revitalization as a process of change. It involves changing of the nature, content or strength of something to get a desired new nature, strength or content which will satisfy the need for it, (Mary Patricia 2021). When something is revitalized, it does not remain the same, quantity, strength and power which will lead to its effectiveness are added to it to meet the individual or need at the time. Therefore, revitalization is a process which is geared towards changing the nature, methods or activities in the curriculum of language as a course to meet the demand of the time.

Language education ought to be studied as a course without being housed in education faculties of universities. When there is adequate and required revitalization, a sustainable output is realized which will solve the problem at hand. Revitalization is sustainable when it is able to solve the present problem and extend to future generation with hindering its development. Nigerians need sustainable education especially for security development. This generates thoughts for solution in the hearts of Nigerian populace. The role of language in National security is not just to spread people but to offer a holistic approach around all aspects of the policy of the country called Nigeria, (Kangyyan & Aipe, 2021). Kangyyan & Aipe further states that currently, the war on terror, banditry, kidnapping and attacks on innocent communities displacing children and parents is not only fought by the armed forces but the whole nation is engaged in the economic, scientific, political and social activities especially education and happenings in all practicable fields of life.

Sustainable Security

Sustainable security is a prerequisite for development. Sustainable security is one that endures and lasts, one that will not role back or recede, even in the face of threatening reversal waves. It is a kind of development which can assure the security and protection of the environment and its

resources presently and subsequently. When the security of any nation is threatened the development of such a place is grossly affected, (Ogechi, 2021).

Sustainable security” A clear understanding of each of these two component word is necessary to make this discourse more meaningful. The literary meaning of “Sustainable” is that which can continue or continued for a long time; capable of being maintained at a set level, keep up assumed role competently. (The American Heritage Dictionary, 2000; the 21st Chambers Dictionary, 2001; Longman Dictionary Contemporary English, 2003; Hornby, 2005) in Abraham (2012). Establishing relationship between education and security for sustainable economic development requires peace and harmony to function. Sustainable security and development through education foster healthy and safe environment where people can thrive and function in a sustainable way. Viewed from this perspective, security is one of the most basic needs of people no matter the age bracket of status and also the territorial; environment. In Maslows hierarchy of needs, it is ranked second to physiological needs that is security and safety. People want to experience order, peace predictability and be in control of their lives, (Ogehi 2021).

Therefore, security is also a political issue on account of the key decisions that need to be made by Nigerian authorities to regard a particular issue as a priority. Nigeria is presently grappling with gross underdevelopment, killing, kidnappings, murder, poverty, inequality, hunger, banditry and gross insecurity, violence, ethnic conflicts and crisis. For instance, the activities of Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, fake prophets and other secrets gangs are getting out of hand. In September 5th 2021, in Adamawa State, more than fifty schools were closed down. Niger State Traditional Rulers were kidnapped. Katsina State lawmaker’s wife was attacked and road killings. This led the states Governors of Kaduna and Plateau States to combine to fight killing on the road because they have ethnic and Geographic boundaries and joints for strategies to manage their boundary. Nigeria had under siege join strategies (Ogechi, 2021).

Ensuring security is regarded as one of the most fundamental objectives and functions of the country. Generally, it depicts protection against military attacks, but includes security from terrorism, economic security, food security, cyber security, territorial/ environmental security, maintenance of independence and sovereignty of the nation and security for natural disaster; security becomes the core fulcrum on which revolves all other developmental indices of a state or nation. The economic, social, political and indeed every other dimensions of development are all anchored on security. In realization of this fact the Nigerian constitution regards security as a fundamental objective of state policy. It is also observable that the Government should adopt some measures which include political, economic, military, civil, diplomacy, dialogue and other intelligent tactic to safeguard the security of the nation. In all, language education provides the skills, information, education, debate forum, knowledge, sensitization and creativity to develop

new approaches that are necessary for sustainable security and national development. A paradigm shift is only possible through critical conscious and innovative citizens, (Ogechi 2021).

Values of Education

Ideally, from a young age efforts are supposed to be put in place by government of educational institutions to provide values of education to young Nigerians. The school is expected to provide professional and conducive environment for student/learners to acquire effective and practical values of education through school subjects like Social Studies in order to mold good character in Nigerians. There seems to be failure on the part of the school system in achieving this. As a result of this failure, the country has witnesses' serious security problems such as election crises, tribal and ethnic disharmony, banditry, terrorism, kidnappings, religious crisis, endemic corruption, leadership crisis, sluttish killings, misappropriation, hatred, sowing seed of deceit and discord and many more. These problems have not only affected the development of the country it had eaten deep into the political, economic, religious and other aspects of the Nigerian society.

Similarly, parents are no more actively involved in inculcating values and good character into their children. Our youths are so valueless they take to all forms of crime such as armed robbery, banditry, kidnappings, killings, rape, extortion and advance fee fraud popular called "yahoo yahoo". Many are not serious with acquiring education or learning a skill, they prefer to take to different shades of crime and frivolous lifestyle. These deviant behaviors that were hardly seen in the past is now the order of the day in Nigeria. Therefore, values of education are what the youths of Nigeria need as Uga, & Fanan, (2021) posited that sustainable national development can only be actualized when the people in a society are exposed to proper value orientation through education.

For the goals of sustainable development to be achieved, there is need to develop a good knowledge base of values and character through classroom experience. There can also be religious dimension to values of education as Uga, & Fanan, (2021) submitted that in countries with strong religious education like the United States, Israel and Italy, values of education programs are normally sponsored by government and religious organizations. Thus in Nigeria the government should contemplate the assistance of religious bodies in enhancing values of education. With this in mind the objectives of values of education should be built around individual's personality to express good morals and behavior.

Values of education is the process of providing awareness of practical values such as dignity, love, honesty, peace, communal living and cooperation which at the end would result to good behavior and character formation. Values of Education is a process where younger or even older people in some cases are helped by qualified professionals (teachers) in schools, parents at home and religious bodies to understand explicit values expressed in their own behaviors and attitudes

(Ogechi, 2021). Values education influences the attitude and behavior of learners for the better, through an array of teaching methods which include critical value reasoning and values related issues.

Conclusion

Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interaction of humans. It is only language that can persuade a neighbor, friends, a relationship, uncle, aunt, brother and sister not to do something harmful to another person. So insecurity in the nation can only be curbed if the government with the people come together with all seriousness to insecurity with orientation on the ills of insecurity with all native language that those having intention to kidnap, kill and destroy belongs. It is the thoughts of whoever is at the helm of affairs that cannot do for themselves. Since the security of life and property in the present situation can be done by the government, it can expedite actions by giving the individuals safe environment, that language education can do for this generation and the future generation.

Sustainable security is a prerequisite for economic development. Sustainable is one that will not role back or recede even in the face of threatening reversal waves. It is a kind of development which can assure the security and protection of the environmental and its resources presently and subsequently. When the security and protection of any nation is threatened, the economic development of such a place is grossly affected.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are proffered for the subject under review.

1. Language education and its components should be introduced as a course of study in the university curriculum.
2. Government at all levels in Nigeria, should take national security, a top most priority and enforce the curbing of all forms of threat to life and social insecurity.
3. Government should take a proactive measures to ensure that its policy thrusts and decisions should bring about sustainable developments that will positively affect future generations.
4. The ethos of good governance should be inculcated and maintained in every public agency, for the purpose of equitable delivery of social goods and services, for all in the society.

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