

# Global Tools for National Development in Business Education, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** Learning and teaching has changed and will continue to change as a result of the influence of information and communication technology (ICT). This change is necessary to produce graduates who could complete in the global workforce, thereby relieving the country of the stress of high rate of unemployment. This paper examined how the provision of global tools in schools could be used to achieve national development. Nigeria as a country since she attained her independence from the colonial masters advocated the type of education that would enable her achieve economic emancipation. Lack of funding and continuous changes due to technological advancement globally has made the business education programme increasingly important for preparing learners to adopt these changes. This fact has made it impossible for her despite concerted efforts. Business education reforms would help to achieve the much needed national development. This paper made case for global tools needed in teaching and learning of business education to reinvigorate business education towards attaining national development.

**Key words:** Business Education, Programme, Global, Tools, and Nigeria

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## Introduction

Business education programme is geared towards the task of producing potential youths who would take up the challenge of becoming responsible citizens, capable of making astute economic decisions that would benefit their private and professional lives. Technological advancement has continuously brought changes globally, and as such, business education programmes should be adapted to imbibe these changes.

The role of business education as a handy tool in the realization of self-reliance in a country cannot be over-emphasized. Ibigbami (200) stressed that Business education programme should be developing in response to the national demand for education reforms. Business teachers should endeavor to acquaint themselves with knowledge of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills which will help them to prepare students who can meet societal and global demands. Business education programmes in Nigeria should be continuously reviewed to assist students to competently enter and succeed in the world of work. For Business education programmes to be relevant, a strong global reform in business education programmes must be achieved. These reforms would improve the programme in such a way that the youths would graduate with competencies and skills for the attachment of self-reliance of the individual learner and the nation at large. Adequate modern technological tools should be provided by the government if business education could be compared to the type obtained globally. Business education programme should be equipped with current training facilities. Funding of Business Education programme in Nigeria is nothing to write home about and this in turn, is affecting the

procurement of equipment and facilities for the business education programmes as is found in most developed nations. The global reforms in business education calls for serious attention in reshaping Nigeria business education programme.

### **Global Tools**

Information and communication technology (ICT) has had a tremendous impact on the way we live our lives and do things and education was the most affected. Graduates expected to acquire contemporary skills and competencies which will help them to contribute their quota meaningfully to achieve national development unfortunately, this dream has eluded the educational sector as a result of challenges that could be attributed to lack of vision, corruption, reliance etc. Business education is the only passport to national development but due to lack of adequate funding of the programme, there is no financial support to acquire the much needed global tools necessary for smooth running of the programme.

Global tools are modern technologies used in teaching and learning of business education which could help the recipients to become self-employed, self-reliant, and self-independent after graduation. Our schools are characterized by lack of new equipment and materials of learning and this results to the unemployable status of our graduates. The dynamic and rapid changes in the society especially in the educational sector has made it necessary for our schools to be given high budget to alleviate these problems. Our schools lack current equipment and materials of learning which is already being taken for granted in developed.

### **National Development**

National development as a process of integrating all sectors of the economy into development for increased production, improved standard of living, employment, modernization of technology, industrialization etc. Ofe (2005) observed that national development encompasses all the aspects of national life which includes the social, religious, political and ideological citizens and government.

Schweitzer (2006) was of the opinion that business education equips individuals with tools and techniques of successfully handling of various businesses and contributing to global economy. Tominson (2006) and Schweitzer (2006) 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 etc. Hallale (1990) also included ecological development, social cultural change, improved nutrition and health, individual creativity and innovation etc. These functions leads to national development.

Oziengbe (2009) identified self-employment, technological improvement, high standard of living, self-reliance, self-independence, consumer economic efficiency, manpower skill development etc. as benefits of business education. In spite of the above, of the problem of unemployment, poor conditions of service, poor planning and implementation, poor government appreciation, poor curriculum content, non-functional libraries, epileptic power supply, and so on, still affect business education. Eric (2006) suggested that obstacles of business education include: lack of adequate, qualified and committed personnel, high rate of teacher turn over, poor condition of service, lack of adequate funds, poor planning and implementation, poor government appreciation of programme of the study, poor curriculum content etc. Eric (2006) suggested solutions of handling business education programme challenges to include provision of instructional materials and enlightenment campaign, provision of information and

communication technology (ICT) facilities in business education departments, encouraging of Federal Teacher Training Programmes to enable business education teachers to further their studies and so on.

The World Bank Policy Paper on Business Education (1991) also suggested that to get maximum benefits from business education, certain factors must be considered such as:

1. Well-timed modern courses like global demands.
2. Relevant and up-to-date business education courses need to be developed.
3. Proper justification in respect of individual country at which level of schooling is best in offering business education

Development means to evolve, to improve or expand. It could also be taken to mean to advance, to progress and broaden out. (Welsters Interrelated Dictionary and Thesaurus 2006). Thrilwall (2008) defined development as growth. Development from his view, connotes qualitative improvements. Todaro (1979) saw development as “changes in instruction, attitudes, institutions, and acceleration of economic growth, reduction of inequality and eradication of poverty”. Development can be seen to mean improvement to social, economic and political conditions available in a given society during a given epoch which should engender the eradication of such malaise as poverty, inequality, and disease. The quest for a strong united and self-reliant national as well as a great and dynamic economy can only be attained through education and by people who have received transformative education. The goals of wealth creation, generation, and poverty reduction and value re-orientation can only be attained and sustained through an efficient educational system which impacts the relevant skills, knowledge, capacity, attitudes and values. Education is the key to all development effort. All facets of national development require human capital to bring skills, knowledge and capacity in order to record improvement.

### **Concept of Business Education**

Business education is the type of education that acquaints the recipients with skills, knowledge, values and understanding that will help them to be useful citizens. It is a programme that prepares individuals to be wise consumers of goods and services. Business education is the type of education that can be acquired by both illiterate and literates. It is education ‘for’ and ‘about’ business. The nature of business education makes it imperative as a tool to achieve national development. The economy of Nigeria is nothing to write home about and business education being a skill acquisition subject is the only hope to achieve national sustenance. Business education is the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for the successful running of business enterprise.

Kann 1990 and Agbobu 2002 and Oduma 2004). Fawole (2006) define business education as a social process that helps to maintain a dynamic society since man was created. Business education is that field of vocational education that equips individuals with the necessary skills and theoretical knowledge needed for performance in the business world; either for job occupation or for self-employment. The relevance of business education in the contemporary society cannot be over emphasized. A well-articulated business education programme will produce graduates with 21st century knowledge and skills who are capable of contributing and making their mark positively to national development. Nigeria is a nation that is characterized by insecurity, unemployment, strike, unhealthy citizens, non-payment of salaries etc. A well-

structured and equipped business education programme can help to achieve all these things. Information and communication technology (ITC) has brought about and will continue to bring positive changes and challenges in the way we teach and learn and in all spheres of life. This has made it necessary to embrace enormous changes in new technology in a bid to providing quality education to student.

### **Challenges in Business Education**

The dynamic nature of the society coupled with the influence of information and communication technology (ICT) has brought about a lot of challenges in the way we teach and learn. Many new technologies have replaced and continue to replace traditional teaching and learning method. In Nigeria, the government has been making general effort to address this problems but the effort has not yield fruit because a lot of challenges still prevail such as:

1. Inadequate fund
2. Corruption
3. Lack of maintenance culture
4. Inadequate electricity supply
5. Lack of training and re training of business education teachers
6. Re design and implementation of business education curriculum
7. Teaching strategies and training of teachers.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Global tools in business education which will help to achieve the needed, prospects and adaptation has made it necessary for students to be well trained for them to be competent workers globally. Today's students are supposed to be exposed to new skills and technologies that will enhance their work performance. The paper reviewed the global changes and tools which business education students should adopt to meet current market demand. Unemployment is the bane of our society but it is defeated by acquiring new skills, knowledge, attitude and global work habit that will help to achieve national development.

1. Teachers should endeavor to become lifelong learners that are updating their knowledge and skills on new instructional materials, equipment and methods.
2. There should be close monitoring to ensure that money meant for upgrading of current facilities and equipment for laboratories, studios, and workshops are up to date
3. Government should allocate adequate funds to education to ensure that graduates are competent workers that will help to boost the nation's economy
4. There is need for business education teacher to be trained periodically in other for them to be relevance
5. Well-articulated business education programme will help to boost the image and earn the respect it deserves.

### **Global Tools**

1. Computers in the classroom

2. Class website
3. Class blogs and wikis
4. Wireless classroom microphone
5. Mobile devices
6. Interactive whiteboard
7. Projectors
8. E-mail
9. Hardware and soft ware
10. iPod
11. CD ROMs
12. Modems
13. Laser printer
14. You-tube software
15. Digital camera
16. Digital scanners
17. e-How
18. Sonnet board
19. Laboratories
20. Mimeo boards
21. Teleconferencing
22. Video conferencing
23. E-book Reader
24. Streaming Videos
25. Computer Assisted Instruction
26. Studios
27. Multimedia
28. Adequate chairs and tables
29. Colour
30. Electricity
31. Interactive whiteboard
32. Mobile furniture

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