

# STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING WOODWORK IN TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN DELTA STATE

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## Abstract

The purpose of the study was to identify strategies that will improve the provision of facilities for teaching and learning wood work at Technical Colleges in Delta State. Three research questions were postulated for the study. The instrument used was a questionnaire which was made up of 29 items. The study's data was collected from 60 respondents made up of principals, vice principals and teachers at Technical Colleges in Delta State. The data collected were analyzed using simple frequency and percentage to answer the research questions. The study revealed that government should set-up policies that will make non-governmental establishment to provide woodwork facilities to technical colleges, school administrators should request oil and gas exploration companies to donate woodwork facilities and old students association should donate woodwork facilities to technical colleges. It was recommended among others that school administrators should engage in viable economic activities that will generate internal revenue for the provision of facilities for teaching and learning of woodwork in Technical Colleges.

## Introduction

Technical Education programme in Nigerian Technical Colleges are concerned with equipping persons with skills, knowledge and altitude that will enable them enter into and progress as technicians and instructors in their chosen areas of course specialization (Uwaifo, 2009).

According to National Policy on Education (NPE) (2004) Technical Education offers Building Construction/Woodwork, Applied Electricity/Electronics and Metal/Automechanics as main course areas; leading to the acquisition

of mastery of skill and competence in chosen area of trade. The objectives of Technical Education include:

- i. To provide manpower in applied science, technology and commerce particularly at sub-professional levels.
- ii. To provide the technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for Agriculture, Industrial, Commercial and Economic Development.
- iii. To provide people who can apply scientific knowledge to the improvement and solution of environmental problems for the convenience of man.
- iv. To give an introduction to professional studies in engineering and other technologies
- v. To give training and impart the necessary skills leading to the production of craftsmen, technicians, and other skilled personnel who will be enterprising and self-reliant, and to enable young men and women to have an intelligent understanding of the increasing complexity of technology.

To achieve the above objectives of technical education in Nigeria, there is need to improve the funding and management of technical colleges across the country. In addition, facilities in form of tools, machines, infrastructures, and equipments are very vital features that enhance the teaching and learning of woodwork. Adequate and functional provisions of facilities are required in Technical colleges for meaningful teaching and learning of woodwork. Acquisition of skills, aptitude, knowledge and experience of the practice of woodwork by both woodwork teachers and students can be anchored on improved facilities.

As posited by Robert (2003), the importance of facilities cannot be overemphasized, since no woodwork teaching and learning can be successful without the

provision of the required facilities. According to Hinchliffe (2002), the funding of schools is mainly by the government (local, state and federal government), through revenue generated from tax, sales of crude oil, loans and grants from international organization such as United National Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank. The funding is implemented through various education agencies such as; Federal Ministry of Education (FME), State Ministry of Education (SME), Post Primary Education Board (PPEB) and Local Education Authority (LEA).

From the above, government is responsible for the provision, installation and maintenance of facilities for schools. Government has not been able to fulfill these responsibilities because of so many factors, some of which are; poor state of the nation's economy, poor implementation of the National Policy on Education, embezzlement of fund for educational project and tax evasion by corporate organizations and businessmen. These problems call for adequate measures to improve the funding of schools which will in turn, bring improvement in respect to facilities provision for teaching and learning of woodwork at Technical colleges.

According to Oxford Dictionary of Current English; strategy simply means a plan designed for a particular aim or purpose. The researcher sees strategy as ways or methods of doing things. Also, it is a plan of procedure of doing things to achieve stated goals and objectives.

In this research, strategies mean the methods or ways for improving the provision of facilities for teaching and learning woodwork in Technical colleges.

Adeyinka (2009) opined that some of the problems of educational development include scarcity and prohibitive cost of facilities in addition to poor state of the nation's economy.

On challenges of vocational and technical education, Idialu (2007) perception include:

- i. Low level of funding
- ii. Poor strategic planning for the provision of facilities
- iii. Inadequate financial support from the government
- iv. Inadequate internally generated revenue and erratic allocation of funds

Oyeshola (2003), Odia and Omofonwan (2007), Suobene (2008), Olaniyan and Ojo (2008) agreed that the problem of technical and vocational education is inadequate funding of technical colleges, also the nonchalant attitude of government, school administrators and the society towards technical education. Duncan-Adenusu (2006) opined that some of the ill-state of technical colleges in Nigeria include inadequate capacity to manage available facilities. With less reliance on government, Aniagboso (1993) posited that securing old students support through donations can bring about improvement of facilities in schools.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to identify how government, school administrators and Old Students Association could improve the provision of facilities used in teaching and learning woodwork at Technical colleges in Delta State.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

- i. How can government improve the provision of facilities used in teaching and learning woodwork at Technical Colleges in Delta State?
- ii. How can school administrators help to improve the provision of facilities used in teaching and learning woodwork at Technical Colleges in Delta State?

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- iii. How can Old Students Association help to improve the provision of facilities used in teaching and learning woodwork at Technical Colleges in Delta State?

**Method**

In order to collect data, the researcher used a survey method in which no variables would be manipulated. Consequently, data was collected from principals, vice principals and teachers from three technical colleges, namely:

- i. Sapele Technical College, Sapele
- ii. Ofagbe Technical College, Uzoro
- iii. Agbor Technical College, Agbor

**Population for the Study**

The population for this study consisted of all the principals (12), vice principals (8) and teachers (40) in the three technical colleges. The criteria for selection of the three technical colleges is based on the three senatorial districts (one college from each senatorial district).

**Sample for the Study**

The sample for the study was 60, that is, the entire population was taken as the sample for the study.

**Method of Data Analysis**

The method of data analysis is the simple percentage in which simple frequency count was assigned to responses.

**Instrument**

A twenty-nine (29) item questionnaire titled “Strategies for Improving the Provision of Woodwork Facilities at Technical Colleges in Delta State” was used to collect data. The items were arranged/organized in four (4) sections; Section A sought personal data of the respondents, while Section B, C and D contains items on strategies for improving the provision of woodwork facilities.

The questionnaire was subjected to face validation by three (3) lecturers from the Technical Education Unit of the Department of Technical and Business Education, Delta State University, Abraka. The reliability of the instrument was established using a reliability coefficient of 0.88.

Frequency and percentage distribution were used to answer the research questions.

**Decision Rule**

Any item with percentage rating of 44.44 and above was regarded as agreed while any item with percentage rating of less than 44.44 was regarded as disagreed.

**Data Collection**

Data collected was organized according to the research questions that guided the study.

**Result**

**Table 1**  
**Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents Personal Data**

No	Statement	Frequency	Percentage	
1	SEX	Male	46	76.66
		Female	14	23.33
2	RANK	Principal	12	20.00
		Vice Principal	8	13.33
		Teacher	40	66.66

**Research Question 1**

How can government improve the provision of woodwork facilities at Technical Colleges in Delta State?

The data in Table 2 provided answers for research question 1 as shown below

**Table 2**  
**Frequency and Percentage of Responses on**  
**How to Improve the Provision of Woodwork**  
**Facilities at Technical Colleges in Delta State**  
**by the Government**

Nos	Statement	Yes		No		No Response		Decision
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
3	Government should introduce 0.1% Technical Education Facilities Tax to all workers in both government and non governmental establishment	29	20.00	30	66.66	6	13.33	Disagree
4	Government should set up Technical Education Development Bank which will give grants/loans to Technical Colleges for Procurement of Facilities	16	35.55	26	57.77	3	6.66	Disagree
5	Government should use 0.05% of the 13% oil derivation to build and equip Technical Education workshops at all Technical Colleges	35	77.77	8	8	2	4.44	Agree
6	Government should import in bulk woodwork facilities and distribute to Technical Colleges	28	62.22	7	7	10	22.22	Agree
7	Government should allocate money for servicing and maintenance of woodwork facilities	32	71.11	13	28.88	0	0.00	Agree
8	Government should set up bodies that will monitor and provide facilities for Technical Colleges	37	82.82	3	6.66	5	11.11	Agree
9	Government should set policies that will make non governmental establishment to provide woodwork facilities for Technical Colleges	33	73.33		13.33	6	13.33	Agree
10	Government should seek help from international bodies such as UNDP (United Nation Development Programme) to donate woodwork facilities for Technical Colleges	40	88.88	0	0.00	5	11.11	Agree
11	Government should include the procurement and maintenance of woodwork facilities in his annual budget	40	88.88	0	0.00	5	11.11	Agree

Date in Table 2 show that the respondents disagreed with items 3 & 4 and agreed with items 5 – 11

**Research Question 2**

How can school administrators help to improve the provision of woodwork facilities at the Technical Colleges in Delta State?

The data in Table 3 below answer the research question 2.

Nos	Statement	Yes		No		No Response		Decision
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
12	School Administrators should inform the government on the state of woodwork facilities at Technical Colleges in Delta State	39	88.66	0	0.00	6	13.33	Agree
13	School Administrators should seek aid from political and traditional elites to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	21	46.66	16	35.55	8	17.77	Agree
14	School Administrators should seek support from political parties to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	29	64.44	5	11.11	11	24.44	Agree
15	School Administrators should seek support from religious institution to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	35	77.77	6	13.33	4	8.88	Agree
16	School Administrators should seek aid from financial institution like banks to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	28	62.22	9	20.00	7	15.55	Agree
17	School Administrators should seek aid from Oil and Gas Exploration Companies like NNPC, SHELL and CHEVRON to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	37	82.82	6	13.33	2	4.44	Agree
18	School Administrators should seek aid from philanthropic organization to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	26	57.77	4	8.88	15	33.33	Agree

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19	School Administrators should seek aid from government development agencies such as NDDC (Niger Delta Development Commission) and DESOPADEC (Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission) to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	38	84.44	0	0.00	7	15.55	Agree
20	School Administrators should use internally generated revenue to procure woodwork facilities for Technical Colleges in Delta State	39	88.66	6	13.33	0	0.00	Agree

Data in Table 3 show that respondents agreed with all the items (12 – 20) as strategies that can improve the provision of facilities for the teaching and learning of wood work at technical colleges in Delta State.

**Research Question 3**

How can Old Students Association improve the provision of woodwork facilities at the Technical Colleges in Delta State?

The data in Table 4 below answer research question 3.

**Table 4  
Frequency and Percentage of Responses on How to Improve the Provision of Woodwork Facilities at Technical Colleges in Delta State by the Old Student Association**

No	Statement	Yes		No		No Response		Decision
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
21	Old Students Association should partner with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	31	66.88	5	11.11	9	20.00	Agree
22	Old Students Association should seek aid from traditional and political elites to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	20	44.44	11	24.44	14	31.11	Agree

23	Old Students Association should seek aid from government agencies like DESOPAEC and NDDC to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	5	11.11	27	60.00	13	28.88	Disagree
24	Old Students Association should organize seminars on how to improve the provision of woodwork facilities in Technical Colleges in Delta State	37	82.22	3	6.66	5	11.11	Agree
25	Old Students Association should seek aid from successful members to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	40	88.88	0	0.00	5	11.11	Agree
26	Old Students Association should donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	37	82.22	0	0.00	8	17.77	Agree
27	Old Students Association should organized launching and appeal fund raising ceremony bi-annually for the procurement of woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	1	2.22	43	95.55	1	2.22	Disagree
28	Old Students Association should seek aid from international organizations like World Bank to donate woodwork facilities to Technical Colleges in Delta State	33	73.33	4	8.88	8	17.77	Agree
29	Old Student Association should appeal to government to provide woodwork facilities for Technical Colleges in Delta State	10	22.22	30	66.66	5	11.11	Disagree

Data in Table 4 show that the respondents disagreed with items 23, 27 and 29 and agreed with items 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 and 28.

**Discussion and Findings**

In response to the findings in research question 1 above, it was found that government should provide adequate fund to improve the

provision of woodwork facilities at the technical colleges in Delta State. From the findings, government is to achieve this by engaging in a host of activities and policies aimed at providing enough fund.

The finding is not in doubt. The findings agreed with Igberadja (2009), who found in a study that government should be involved in improving the provision of instructional materials for schools. Arogundade (2010) also posited that government should include in its annual budget sufficient fund for the provision of facilities in schools.

The findings in research question 2 indicated that school administrators can help to improve the provision of facilities for wood work in technical colleges in Delta State by asking for donations from philanthropic organizations, seek for aid from financial institutions and oil and gas exploration companies such as Chevron, NNPC and Shell. The study also found out that school administrators should engage in economic activities that will generate revenue to be use to procure facilities for wood work in technical colleges in the state.

The finding is supported by Igberadja (2009) who found out in his study that revenue generated internally should be used to improve the provision of facilities in schools.

The finding in research question 3 indicated that old students association can help to improve the provision of facilities for teaching and learning wood work at technical colleges in Delta State through individual and collective donation of facilities to school. This study is supported by Aniagboso (1993) in a study which revealed that old student support can improve the provision of facilities in technical colleges in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

The study found out that wood work cannot be taught in technical colleges without

the provision of adequate and functional facilities. This is very important because the mission of wood work education as an essential educational programme with structural practical courses will not be functional when woodwork facilities are not adequately provided.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been made:

- i. Government should properly fund Technical Education Programme to enhance adequate provision of facilities at Technical Colleges.
- ii. Government should set up bodies that will monitor and provide facilities for Technical Colleges
- iii. Government should involve non-governmental organization and international organization to donate facilities to Technical Colleges
- iv. School Administrators should inform the government on the state of facilities at Technical Colleges
- v. School Administrators and Old Students Association should seek financial aid from government, development agencies, oil and gas exploration companies, non-governmental organizations and international organization to procure adequate facilities for teaching and learning of woodwork in technical colleges.
- vi. School administrators should engage in viable economic activities that will generate internal revenue for the provision of facilities for teaching and learning wood work in technical colleges.

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