

# REVITALIZING FINE AND APPLIED ARTS IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATE

By

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## Abstract

*Fine and Applied Arts provide rich educational values that create job and a means for promoting unity in diversity which is seen in Nigeria society today. Arts works are used for many purposes including promoting sustainable security and economic development. The main purpose of the study was to identify the measures for revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts education for sustainable security and economic development. Based on the finding made, the study art creates job, markets and provide means of security for economic development. The study identified the Lecturers measures, institution administrative measures and government measures of revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts education for sustainable security and economic development. Based on the findings of the study recommendations were made among which include; teachers/lecturers should give adequate attention on the use of innovative instructional facilities in teaching Fine and Applied Arts for sustainable development and government should provide enabling environment for Fine and Applied Arts teachers and students to develop and practice their skills.*

**Keywords;** Revitalizing, Fine and Applied Arts, sustainable security and economic development

## Introduction

Education in recent times has been facing a lot of challenges as a result misplaced value system, insecurity, technological innovation, poor rating, lack of qualified teachers, poor infrastructure, corruption among others. In spite of these challenges, education still remains the key to achieving sustainable development in the society. According to Mbah (2016) education plays a key role in promoting security unity and inculcation of proper value system in the younger ones even when the government is paying less attention to it. The achievement of high technological and economic development depends on the provision of quality education programme. Onyebuenyi, Mbah and Odeluga (2017) noted that education is the medium of acquisition of minimum ethical

standard that can propel individual towards the development of oneself and nation at large. Education provided to students may exist as formal or informal education.

Formal education has been the central focus in developing the human capital for development. Formal education according to the Mbah, Nnadi, Ohagwu and Aduhuekwe (2020) is education that impacts the citizens with employable skills, knowledge to function in the world of work. Formal education exists at various levels which includes primary (basic education), secondary and tertiary. The tertiary education is a post secondary education provided to secondary school graduate to improve their knowledge, skills and become professional in their future career or work. It leads to the acquisition of higher certificate like Nigeria Certificate in Education, Bachelor of Science degree and ordinary or higher national Diploma (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2013). In which every way, it is noticeable that the students are provided with different learning programmes in disciplines for them to become employable and master skills relative to an occupation. Among the courses or discipline provided to students in tertiary institutions are Business Education, Accounting, Medicine, Pharmacy, Mathematics, Industrial Physics, Micro Biology, Science Education, Technical Education, Fine and Applied Art and more.

Fine and Applied Arts is a programme of instruction that avail the learners the opportunity to acquire appropriate skills, abilities and competencies both mentally and physically in cultural creative image making and thinking. According to Olowoyey (2016) Fine and Applied Arts contributes to visual and cultural awareness, visual communication and diversity in private and public environment. Fine and Applied Art include programme of artistic expression using various techniques, oil painting, acrylic colours, charcoals sculpting, ceramic etc that provides students the opportunity to express their artistic and interest for artistic expression, encouraging imagination through the richness of forms, lines, colours techniques, with the goal of forming elementary esthetic culture. It provides the trainee with the skills and acquaintances in managing drawing and painting, sculptural ceramic (pottery wheel, shaping clay, clay burning in ceramics oven and glazing), silk painting and to engage in design and construction of products for marketing.

Fine and Applied Arts is often mistaken to be one but there is a thin line difference which separates the two. While Fine Arts deals with the traditional artistic field, Applied Arts deals with creativity which is commercialized and materialized such as architecture, graphic designing, interior designing, fashion designing among others (Olowoyeye, 2016). The creativity applied in Applied Arts makes it unique and be technical rather than free hand in Fine Art. Among

the objectives of Fine and Applied Art in school according to FRN (2013) include the production of self-reliant, resourceful, creative people with initiative and understanding of the need to create and the development of aesthetic awareness in the general public with regard to the products of industry and environment. Much improvement is yet to be seen in the Fine and Applied Arts as the programmes potentials which will prompt economic development are not harnessed by the students and general public.

Moreover, the teaching and learning of Fine and Applied Art in tertiary institution have not yield the desired result as fine and applied arts has the capacity to create job and employment to the increasing population. Fine and Applied Art institutions and products have significant impact in the creation of artistic environment, job creation, employment generation and well creation. Many countries without natural resources depend on what the human brain can offer in different fields. The activities of Fine and Applied Art education needs to be revitalize for meeting the objectives of economic sustainability and global competitiveness.

Revitalization is the repositioning, improving for better performance. Hornby (2012) defined revitalizing as the act of giving new life, energy, activities or success to something, Revitalizing fine and applied art require the participation of stake holders including students in transforming the discipline for addressing the needs of the nation. Therefore the study will consider the measures that will be adopted in revitalizing fine and applied arts in tertiary institutions for sustainable security and economic development.

Sustainability in educational programme is training the meets the needs of society without compromising the ability of future generation. Sustainable security is the protection of values in present time and given consideration for the future generation security challenges. Sustainable security may be seen in proper training and education of the citizens, job creation and using art works (drawing, painting, molding of status) to promote and communicate peaceful co-existence. Sustainable security promotes economic development in a state. Economic development according to Onoh (2011) is the creation of wealth from which multiple benefits are realized. It is an investment activity in growing the economy and enhancing the prosperity and quality of life for all persons. Revitalizing fine and applied art education have positive impact in promoting sustainable economic development as Mbah (2016) opined that functional education create wealth and makes graduates productive element of the economy.

### ***Fine and Applied Arts and Sustainable Security***

Fine and applied arts has been identified as a course that promotes creativity and manipulation of objects, shapes and figures to provide necessary human experiences. Arts denote literacy (Music and dance performing) graphical, ceramics, textile, painting and sculpture. Okorie (2007) postulated that Fine and Applied Arts is an aspect of cultural and creative arts that provide significant contributions to the development of an individual. The author believed that art results form an act of self-expression involving emotions and intellect. This led them into a definition of art as a form of expression that gives order to a human beings reaction to the environment.

The indication of the above assertion is that fine and applied art not only create job for the jobless but may be used in communication expression of emotions. The high level of insecurity in the nation is attributed to unemployment and unproductive youth generation who want money but cannot work. Fine and applied art may be used to express the danger, peaceful co-existence and reward for productive work through different art works. Developing the artistic skills of the youth will create job and reduce the level of unemployment that have give rise to insecurity.

#### ***Fine and Applied Arts and Sustainable Economic Development***

Fine and Applied Art have been identified as an education programme that equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills for the promotion Nigerian and World's artistic and cultural heritage. It is aimed at developing student's aesthetic perception, artistic talents and expression as well as stimulates interest and enquires in practical and theoretical areas (Okorie, 2007). It simple means that fine and applied arts is a critical tool in training responsible citizens that will productively contribute to economic development. The job opportunities in Fine and Applied Arts include;

1. Becoming entrepreneurs who will develop private business and create jobs.
2. Teaching opportunity in secondary tertiary and primary schools
3. Working in research institutes or Museums
4. Selling and marketing of arts materials used both in textile, sculpture etc.

Promoting economic development depicts that fine and applied arts empower the trainee to become employable and contribute to economic development. This shows that revitalizing the programme in schools for proper training would influence development of culture, aesthetic and artistic design which will in turn create sustainable economic development. Therefore, effort

must be made to consider the various measures that would be used in revitalizing fine and applied Arts in Schools.

***Measures for Revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts for Sustainable Economic Development***

In revitalizing the teaching and learning of Fine and Applied Arts in education system which has not been given adequate attention, there are measures that need to be adopted. Eze (2016) pointed that in repositioning any educational programmes in Nigeria, the government, teachers and administrators need to be given attention as they have strong influence on the success or failure of any programme. Therefore, the study considered the government measures, teachers' measures and school administrative measures for revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts for sustainable security and economic development.

***Government Measures:*** The government is the primary owners of institutions and helps to finance its activities of all the public institutions. There are policies which the government has put in place for the smooth running of Fine and Applied Arts education. Such factors do affect teachers and school administrators in achieving quality teaching. The policies include funding, provision of tools, infrastructure and equipment for instructions in schools. Uwaifor (2009) noted that the government contribution to education has not yielded a positive correlation with the population of students, dilapidation of existing ones and improvement on the existing ones. In most public institutions, the government provides facilities, tools and equipment needed for teaching. Politicization of educational development projects by the government has influence the availability and utilization of facilities in schools. There is great need for more expansion and upgrading of educational facilities to accommodate completely the increasing population in a safe manner in this 21st century for quality education service delivery and sustainable development. Okafor (2009) stated that there is need for the government to support both the public and private schools in order to achieve success in the overall development of the citizenry. Etuk (2005) pointed out that the government measures towards achieving quality education include; employment of qualified staff, provision of ICT facilities, increasing the funding and budgetary allocation to schools, supervision of facilities and instructional development through the education ministries and construction of classroom facilities and offices.

***Teachers Measures:*** A teacher is an individual who is trained in pedagogy and teaching areas of a particular subject to impart knowledge, skills and attitude to

the students in an institution. According to Olaitan, Alaribe and Nwobu (2009), a teacher is a person who communicates knowledge, skills and attitude to someone in a school. Okute and Agomuo (2010) noted that a teacher is a facilitator of learning, who helps students to realize their full potentials educationally, emotionally and socially in selection and transition. A Fine and Applied Arts teacher is one who possesses practical and theoretical knowledge of Fine and Applied Arts vocation with clear understanding of the students. For effective teaching of Fine and Applied Arts to take place, the teacher is expected to plan the instruction and ensure that the needed learning facilities are available for presenting such content to the students. The teacher's measures for achieving quality instruction according to Ogbodo (2016) include: adopting good teaching methods, developing and planning for instructional delivery, understand the learner's abilities and difficulties in their learning activities, utilization of relevant instructional materials while teaching and conducting effective evaluation of instruction. These measures have implication in effective teaching of Fine and Applied Arts in Nigerian education.

**School Administrative Measures:** Fine and Applied Arts programme is one of the vocational subjects offered to the students to acquire basic skill and knowledge for a successful living. It is managed by the Dean, Heads of Departments and teachers or lecturers. The teaching and learning of Fine and Applied Arts is influenced by the administrative measures such as supervision, management of teaching facilities and quality and leadership style of the Dean or Head of Department. Thus, the expectation that school administration today should be effective and involve to a large extent, the functions which require modern management technique, that is a combination of skills required for managing not only human, financial and material resources but also time and change. Undoubtedly, effective school administration is indispensable today for effective realization of the educational policy statement (Nwaka, 2010). In fact, there would be no meaningful/purposeful self and national growth and sustainable development in the society without effective school administration. It is the school administrator that gives direction to education policy implementation and change management. Eya and Leonard (2012) opined that school administrator is anyone assigned the function of helping others to improve on their instructional competencies. He needs to be honest, objective, fair and firm. The school administrator has the enormous task of leading efficiently and effectively in the development and management of school resources and time. Therefore, to revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts education, the school administrators need to rise up to their work.

Furthermore, other important measures are the students' measures and facilities in studying Fine and Applied Arts as their interest and affinity to it will promote sustainable development. The teaching in modern age requires the use of information and communication technology (ICT) facilities in teaching. ICT facilitate resource sharing, use of computer aided tools and innovative teaching approaches to impact skill and knowledge to the students. These measures have implication to the training of the students as they form the key factors in revitalizing the educational system.

### **Conclusion**

Fine and Applied Arts education provides training to students that enable them to develop skills and knowledge to responsible members of the society. In order to revitalizing Fine and Applied Arts education for sustainable development, the identified government measures, teachers measures and school administrative measures must be considered for by the stake holders in education as art create jobs and aesthetic perception for visitors and marketing which consequently improve the economic development. The study therefore concludes that proper attention should be given to the measures discussed if the desired result would be achieved in the sustainable security and economic development through Fine and Applied Arts.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Teachers/lecturers should give adequate attention on the use of innovative instructional facilities in teaching Fine and Applied Arts for sustainable development.
2. Government should provide enabling environment for Fine and Applied Arts teachers and students to develop and practice their skills.
3. Institution administrators should adopt the identified measures to revitalize the teaching and learning of Fine and Applied Arts for sustainable economic development.

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