CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN: A TOOL FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract
It has been observed that art is a profession that has uplifted and facilitated the development of the nation from different spheres of life; therefore playing a very important role in the development of the nation. This paper discusses the unquantifiable development, which the country has achieved through art practices. The paper also discusses the impact of art on education, engineering technology, manufacturing, industries, museum development vis-à-vis art and its branches. The paper also looked at the role of art and design in national development as it relates to architecture and the beautification of cities. The paper concludes that without art the all round development of the child will be incomplete and national development will imperatively be on a retrogressive trend. It therefore recommends to the government to make art subject compulsory in the primary and secondary schools as well as encourage the artist for greater productivity through the award of contracts and free import duties on the importation of sophisticated art materials for greater, productivity.

Art in the content of nation building is an undisputable tool in accomplishing national development of any country and individual. Therefore, the focus of this paper is to elicit the awareness of the public on the impact of art in national development.
Uhunwagho (2009) postulate that being creatively inclined is a veritable tool for job creation, poverty alleviation as well as socio-economic emancipation agent. This is so because it provides room for anyone who is ready to excel and distinguish his or her self as according to Onobrakpeya (2000), Art is an untapped gold mine in Nigeria; it is ready to accommodate as many that are willing to embrace her. In the light of the foregoing, parent are advised to lure and encourage their wards to study art irrespective of one’s area of study, be it medicine, architecture, chemistry, mathematics, engineering etc as it will assist in bringing up the individual in their respective areas of discipline in the academia.

According to Wangboje (1982) Art is a language of communication through which the students can talk about himself, about life and the people around him. He uses the elements of art such as lines, colours, texture and forms to make his communication possible.

In an attempt to encourage and enlighten the public to discard the wrong notions they have planted in their mind about art as a profession or subject offered by mediocre is cautioned by this paper after through assessment of the impact of art in nation building. It points to the fact that art is of immense importance in building up a child academically. This paper will be discussed under the following headings:

a. Definition of art
b. The scope of art
c. Creative art and design
d. Art in nation building
e. Recommendation
f. Conclusion
g. Reference

**What is Art?**

According to Egonwa (2007) Art is the result of the manipulative skill applied by man usually a gifted person to express an idea in a chosen medium, which is divorced from any use to which it may be put that has the sole purpose of giving a rewarding emotional experience. This implies that as long as an object is man made it should be able to give some kind of satisfaction.

**Scope of Art**

Art in general is a wide area of study covering the following areas namely, the performing arts, liberal and the visual art which are, divided into fine and applied arts which is the main concern of this paper. Fine arts according to Agbotor (2004) have to do with the appreciation of beauty. We use it to describe the branch of art that appeals to man’s sense of beauty and higher emotions. Drawing, painting and sculpture belong to this branch of arts. While the applied arts according to Mukoro (2005) are those arts, which are concerned with the making of objects to serve, a particular purpose or perform a certain function.
The major aim is to make something useful and of commercial values often—such objects are beautiful as well e.g textile design, ceramics, fashion design, graphics etc.

**Branches of Arts**

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**Creative Arts and Design**

Taking a look at the above diagram, we discover that the applied aspect of arts has more branches that the fine arts. As a result of this, we can see that art touches our lives everyday because we make use of objects or things made by the artist everyday. The teacups, sanders, breakable plates referred to as ceramics products, are used by us daily. Our books, posters, newspapers, packages, Nido milk packages are graphical produced by us in our houses. Our household appliances like refrigerators, industrially designed are all objects of art and as such, we are consumers of art products made by the artist Agbotor (2004).

The house we live in is interior decorated, the clothes we put on are made by textile and fashion designers, so we can not live a decent and comfortable life without the product of the artists.

**Design**

According to Ogunduyile many individuals have attempted to define “design but have not been able to drive home their points. Emeje (2003) says it is full of incongruities with many manifestations, which lack clean boundaries.

Kumar (2003) noted that design is all pervasive and reflect in what we wear, use, manufacture, build, where we live, how we mechanise and how we promote products.
Albeit, for purpose of this paper design is a detailed graphic representation plan of product to be manufactured.

Role of Arts in Nation Building

The education impact of art to nation building cannot be over emphasized. It is a well known fact that many people both educated and less informed still take art to mean drawing, painting and sculpting such people should be well informed that visual art is a broad subject that serves two educational purposes.

There is art in general education where it is studied to broaden the intellectual outlook of the students through cultural history, aesthetic and criticism. There is also art as a vocational subject, where emphasis is placed on acquisition of technical skills which enable the production of utilitarian articles through craft, graphic, textile, ceramics, metal, wood works etc.

The acquisition of artistic skills has lead to good governance of the country, from the foregoing observation it is evident that art and technology are inseparable; art represents the creative force in human culture. Apart from the fact that artistic skill makes life more pleasant to experience, the principles of order, unity, harmony, balance originality and beauty which are cultivated in art, will be found relevant to our leaders. In the quest of nation building as all the structural edifices in the country, sculptural figures in conspicuous junctions in cities have all the artistic principles above.

This has positively affected every facet of government and beautification of the county for the comfort of man. Impact of art in chemistry and mathematics as it relates to nation building. According to Uzoagba (2000) chemistry is the science of the composition of mathematics. This comprises of its properties, characteristics and changes it undergoes. The artist/craftsman like the chemist make their contribution by taking substances or raw materials apart and putting them together in different desirable combination, so the knowledge acquired through the study of chemistry of clay by the ceramist is sort of transferred to the manufacturing of drugs by the chemist or pharmacists which in turn has aided nation building.

Uzoagba (2000) postulated that art and mathematics are related in several ways and there is hardly any educational endeavour that anybody would venture into where art and mathematics one not practiced. There is art in mathematics and mathematics in art, hence Leonard De-Vinci one of the greatest artists discovered the mathematical formula of solving the problem of perspective on a flat surface, which is today called the law of perspective both in art and mathematics.

Buttressing this further, some Nigerian Universities like Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and Federal University of Technology Owerri have recognized applied art courses to be design as science courses to be studied under the faculty of
The impact of art in nation building through education services is enormous. According to Agbator (2004) a good art programme in a formal set up will no doubt encourage child development and build in the child, the power of observation and imagination. Art has educational, cultural and practical values. The knowledge of art in the life of the child or student will make them develop their skills in the use and handling of materials art media through which they express themselves in visual form.

The ability to draw and illustrate diagrams accurately in a given educational task will no doubt explain direct and comprehended the course contents better than verbal discussion. Research has shown that in the university, Polytechnic, and colleges of education, students studying architecture biological sciences and engineering have found art to be very useful in tackling or solving some of their educational problems, in technical, biological and architectural drawings.

**Arts in Technology/Engineering**

Agbator (2004) postulate that science deals with facts and all facts of nature fall within the scope of science. Science observes and records events in the world and tries to explain them in logical and orderly manner. Art in turn deals with the production or the attainment of ends e.g. ceramics which is the art of pottery making came into existence because of the need for pot and earthen wares by man. In the light of the above assertion, science is knowing and art is doing. Art evolves and science involves.

**Impact of Art to Nation Building**

Agholor (2008) sees teaching as the dissemination of desirable instructions to learners in a formal environment to bring about changes in behaviours.

Research has shown that the teachers with the knowledge of art education teach or perform better than those without the knowledge of art. This is because teachers with the knowledge of art make sketches and good illustrative drawings as teaching aids on the chalkboard to enhance his instructional procedures making the lesson lively and receptive to the learners. There is no gain saying that most successful teachers are those that are art biased, irrespective of their areas of study. This is because they have used art as a base for the pursuit of their educational goal, no wonder the saying that a good foundation maketh a good building.

**Recommendation/Conclusion**

There is no field of studies in education that art is not involved. Art on its own touches every facet of life and has made tremendous impact for the sustainability, comfort, and national development and the beautification of man’s environment.
In the light of the above, sustainable national development would be a mirage if creative art and design education are not made compulsory from primary to secondary school levels. This paper also recommends adequate funding of various institutions and free import duties on the importation of sophisticated art materials. The paper also recommends for the restructuring of art curriculum while the Nigeria rich cultural background provides the springboard for the actualization.

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