

# **BUSINESS EDUCATION, AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF 7- POINT AGENDA**

*Udeme Samuel Ikpo*

## **Abstract**

The paper examined the significance of 7-point Agenda of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as it related to national development. Its terms for reference were also highlighted. 7- point agenda is a complementing policy for achievement of business education; hence business education is viewed as a programme that trains skilled manpower for the nation's development. In times like this, that unemployment rate is high; the government need skilled manpower for its survival. Business education programme attract Investors into the country, it contributes to the capacity building of the nations. It contributes to economy advancement and self reliant. It is recommended that government at all level should fund and equip business education programme so that skilled and technical manpower may be produced for the Labour market. 7-point Agenda cannot be achieved if business education programme is not restructured and given a new phase look. There should be enough awareness campaign for the masses.

## **Introduction**

It is important to examine what business education is all about. So many people do not have good understanding of the concept of business education and this paper seeks to x-ray the importance and the place of business education in the development of the nation's economy. Business education prepares the many workers needed all phases of business; business education does not only acquire specific job skill but it also involve general occupational intelligence. The specific skills are valuable preparation for office occupations as well as for distributive occupations. Business education includes among other things, the development of technical competencies to required standards; the learner acquires/develops understanding of the business system commensurate with the level of instruction and training, the learner is trained on what constitutes acceptable business skills, appearance, decorum and speech. Business education is seen as that education which prepares people to take up their work roles in the various profession and occupations which they desire. It also aims at achieving required skills for self-reliant, which will contribute to a solid economic base of the country.

## **The Concept of Business Education**

To equip graduates with the right skills that will enable them engage in a life of work, in the office, as well as for self- employment. According to Okoh (2000); business education is a form of education which in addition to offering general education is designed for vocational preparation in office, distribution and other occupations; these definitions is in line with the objective of business education; it also seek to develop a competent worker, and intelligent consumer with social skills required for work effectiveness and for all other social aspects of life including self- reliability and contributing to the technical know how of the nation.

To produce well-qualified and competent graduates in business subjects who will be able to teach business subjects in our secondary schools and other related educational institution.

To produce business teachers who will be able to inculcate the vocational aspects of business education into the society

To produce business teachers who will be involved in the much desired revolution of vocational development, right from primary to post primary schools.

To equip students with necessary competencies so as to qualify them for a graduate programme in business education

To this end business education therefore, has the task of developing a total human being who is capable of adjusting himself to changes, and also creating changes and also manipulating the dynamism of his environment.

### **Business Education and the Seven 7- Point Agenda**

The 7- point Agenda alias seven major government issues accommodates power and energy, Food, security and Agriculture, wealth creation and employment, mass transportation, land reform, security plans, qualitative and functional education. They were define in may ways, but the most frequently quotes definition is from our common future, which energizes development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts what Nigeria may simply need to catalyse her development. The concept of the Agenda, in particular, the essential needs of the Nigeria's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by Nigeria's state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. The main concentration of business education programme is to meet the future needs of a changing society such as Nigeria; business education seeks to develop required skills that will sustain the individual and societal need (self –reliance). Business education takes care of immediate and future needs of the individual and that of the society. (Remmy 2008).

To examine the 7- point agenda and the educational system in Nigeria, one will come to the understanding that poor living standard affects the quality of the socio-economic status of Nigerians, this could harm citizens morale off the terrain of Nigeria's identity. And when you think of Nigeria as a system over time, you start to realize that the decisions our grandparents made about how to farm the land continue to affect agricultural practice today; and the economic policies we endorse today will have an impact on urban poverty when our children are adults. We also understand that quality of life is a system which can be achieved through education. It is good to be physically healthy, but what if you are poor and don't have access to education? It is good to have a secure income, but what if the air in your part of the world is unclean? And it good to have freedom of religious expression, but what if you can't feed your family? The concepts of 7-point Agenda is rooted on this sort of policy. Business education plays a vital role in the implementation of 7–point Agenda for national development, in the sense that business education produce skilled manpower for the society's technical support, self- reliance's of the youth and also encourage foreign investors to come into the country because their business can survive with the availability of local content and technical manpower. The 7-point Agenda helps us understand ourselves and our Nation's problem. The problems we face are complex and serious and we can't address them in the same way we created them, to this end, business education programme is seeking to prepare individual to meet with the changing needs of the society and the e-business world. (Blangi 1999).

### **Importance of 7-Point Agenda**

- Support and strengthen the Nigerian system to actualize its huge potentials and fulfill its obligation to the society.
- Aims at Nigeria government private – partnership to be effective
- Promote liberal environment and encourage private initiatives, establish a positive investment climate, develop infrastructural facilities and appropriate regulation, legislative and policy environment, and ensure a fair and democratic administration.
- Implementation of universal basic education programme (UBE) which seeks to increase school enrollment and provide better schools and colleges, and will trained teachers and trainers.
- Invest in the resolution of the Niger Delta crises
- Diversify the country's source of wealth creation, to avoid depending on the petroleum sector. (Gambo 2007)

### **Relevance of Business Education Programme in the Achievement of 7 Point Agenda for National Development**

The 7- point agenda has the responsibility to make optimal use of the intellectual resources of this country. This includes giving all children access and affordable education according to their abilities, also, protecting them against exploitation for short term gains, thereby securing the society's long term investment through adequate education.

These seven essential agenda offer a guideline for Nigeria to succeed in a globalizing world. These are compatible with all cultures, even if the implementation of these principles may not benefit

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every sector of the society equally. The vast majority of people from any cultural background would welcome the implementation of such good governance principles. To this extent, the 7-Point agenda needs to focus on assisting the energy sector, agriculture, private and public sectors in developing, implementing, monitoring and improving good governance in Nigeria.

The 7-point Agenda in complementing the professional identification of Business educators assert that its content and pedagogical strategies are based on sound theoretical foundations and defensible principles with in-built capacity to continually extend and validate content and methodology in the field of education and also exhibiting high standards of personal achievement and conduct.

The 7-point Agenda emphasize on capacity building as the end result of education. Business education programme, develops and train skilled manpower for the nations building, business education train/develop technical skills, artisans, organize developmental programme, on-the- job training, vocational skill etc, also operates in centers such as National Directorate for Employment, (MDE) NDDC skill acquisition centers etc. these are all shaped towards achieving the 7-point agenda for national development.

Business education contributes to the economic base of the Nation; Business education train and develops skilled youths, for employment and make them self-reliant. The skilled developed by the youths will encourage foreign investors to come into the country and invest, because of the availability of manpower, availability of local raw materials, low cost of production etc. To this extent business education creates job, encourages self- reliant, train, develop and contribute to capacity building, this will help the 7-point agenda achieve its economic objectives. It forms a solid base for economic and capacity development to sustains the nation.

Business education programme (curriculum) is designed to meet the changing needs of the society and the e-business world.

#### **For Business Education to Sustain the Economy, Effort Must be Made towards**

- a) Equipping schools with modern gadgets, (Computer, internet, e-library, video tape etc) to facilitate information and communication technology (ICT).
- b) Small and medium enterprise (SMES) must be encouraged and supported by the government (This is the end product of business education programme)
- c) Create employment opportunities for skilled workers
- d) Design a measures to check unemployment, crime, reduce poverty and youth un-restiveness
- e) Life skill enhancement programme must be encourage
- f) Vocational education programme must be encouraged.

#### **Business Education in Achieving the 7- Point Agenda will Improve.**

1. Income per head
2. Increase the purchasing power of most house hold needs (e.g good and quality education)
3. Steady government revenue
4. Low debt- service ratio
5. Sliding Naira value will increase
6. Stability of the economy
7. Strengthening political, religious and other national issues.
8. Sufficient skilled manpower

#### **Problems of 7-Point Agenda in Achieving its Educational Goals**

- 1) Government does not infuse funds into the educational sector. As a result of this lecturers use out-dated materials to teach, teachers are not committed to their job, etc. This has seriously affected the standard of education and business education programme in Nigeria's school.
- 2) Government is paying a lip-service to business education programme as a result they do not equip schools with adequate/modern facilities and gadgets for effective teaching and learning of business education.

- 3) So many strikes has taken place during these 7- point Agenda programme and to a great extend it has erupted the school calendar.
- 4) There is little or no support for local entrepreneurs and skilled manpower, which business education programmance has produced to meet the society's needs.
- 5) There is no 100% priority for education, examining the position or rank education is placed in the 7- point Agenda
- 6) Implementation process is faulty.

### **Conclusion**

The 7-point agenda plus two point Agenda to transform Nigeria are as follows- (according to government scale)

- 1) Power and energy
- 2) Food, security and Agriculture
- 3) Wealth creation and employment
- 4) Mass transportation
- 5) Land Reform
- 6) Security
- 7) Qualitative and functional Education

Plus two special interest issues

1. Niger Delta
2. Disadvantaged Groups

Business education programme gives room for food, security of lives, jobs creation, creation of wealth through acquired skills and self employment, migration from rural to urban quality and life long education.

### **Recommendation**

1. Government at all level should pay particular attention to business education programme, by funding, providing facilities and modern gadgets such as computers for effective teaching and learning objectives, which will eventually, produce skilled and technical manpower for the nation's development.
2. Business education programme should be made compulsory because it is a course that prepares and develop skilled manpower which attract foreigners to come in to the a country for investment. This investment will create wealth for the nation and also lead to National Development.

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