

VOCATIONAL BUSINESS AND HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION SKILL ACQUISITION AND ECONOMIC REVIVAL: A CHALLENGE TO WOMEN

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Abstract

Education is seen as a tool for development Vocational Education which imparts skill on the learners is seen as a vital step towards economic revival. Women with the knowledge of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill are seen as a useful agent in solving the unemployment problem, production of goods and services, generation of income, ability to cope with the technological advances, and coping with poverty situation in families. The ability to keep the economy at a surviving status is seen as a challenge to the women with Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill.

Introduction

Education is generally seen as an asset worth having by almost all classes of people. This asset is a very valuable one. Education of which vocational education is an aspect do not only help to preserve cultural intricacies. It goes further to widen people's knowledge and appreciation of the skills involved in educational pursuits.

Women academies are not left out in the quest for this type of knowledge. They are considered ideal for acquiring and making use of the vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill. The acquired skill is applied in various ways and circumstances to help people meet their needs.

The acquisition of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill by women is seen as a wheel of positive onward living. The acquired skills when actually put to use help in economic revival. The output of the various skills acquired contributes largely to the economic well being of the masses.

Economic revival is very important at this lime. The revival process actually involves all. The women are seen almost in the, fore front of the reviving process. The women's position in this all masses' struggle to live a better life will no doubt demand a more concrete contribution physically, financially and otherwise. But it is strongly believed that with the acquisition of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill, and carefully putting the knowledge into proper use a serious relief and positive adjustment will be experienced.

The paper therefore goes further to look into the challenges of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill acquisition to the women; Women and Vocational education skill acquisition; and finally, Women's Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill and economic revival.

The Necessity Of Vocational Business And Home Economics Education Skill Acquisition/The Challenge

Any well reasoning citizen of this country cannot claim ignorance of the need to gear effort towards reviving the economy of this nation. The reviving effort is not just centred on physical or material wealth. It goes beyond this to involve re-energizing the citizens, especially the working population to make more meaningful contribution to the economy. Okeke (1998) pointed out that in an economy such as Nigeria there is an urgent need for the citizens who possess the knowledge and skills in the production of goods and services for the benefit of the public.

The much witnessed unemployment situation among the low, middle and even high certificate individuals calls for this revival activity. Eemchi and Anyakoha (1995) pointed out that clothing and textiles as an aspect of Home Economics is a skill oriented subject equipping individuals with saleable skill and capacity reducing unemployment problems. The government also appreciates this condition. Hence, the introduction of the National Directorate of Employment's current movement towards training people on skill acquisition at various levels depending on the certificate level.

The masses are also passing through a period of economic in-balance in their personal as well as family needs satisfaction. The income earned is not enough to give attention to the needs confronting it. Though there is an upward review of most civil servants' like home pay, yet the problems is still not solved.

This, I think is one of the reasons why the government embarked on the "Poverty Alleviation Programme" in the last one year. A programme meant to help alleviate peoples down Irodenness in the lace of a nation blessed with several ventures.

The extended family system which is one of the major characteristic of the Nigerian family system is also to be considered. The personal income earned I wonder how personal it is actually. The income earner hardly remembers her own personal needs, for other dependent people's needs are placed in the fore front. Hence, one's income instead of facing a personal expenditure turns into a family if not extended family expenditure income.

The changing societal needs and demands also bring out deeply the need for vocational skill acquisition. The trend is moving to a society dominated by technological displays and practices. The dual family membership experienced by the women makes it imperative for the women to acquire a good skill which will help balance their expenditure propensity. The woman has her paternal family and also her matrimonial home to contribute in its up-keep. The maternal home is some how relegated to the rear though not left out.

The high standard of living being experienced in the country makes everybody to sit up and face the challenges of surviving.

Women And Vocational Business And Home Economics Education Skill Acquisition

There are many areas of vocational education skills acquisition.¹ The areas are so many. In fact as many as there are skills to be acquired through education.

Such areas through which vocational education skill can be acquired includes Business Education, Home Economics Education, Agricultural Science education and Fine and Applied Arts education. The skills to be acquired differs from one area of specialization to the other, Osuala (1987) specified major occupational areas of vocational education as Vocational Agriculture, Business and Office Education, Distributive Education, Home Economics Education, Health Occupation Trade and Industrial Education and Technical Education.

The women are not left out in the pursuit and acquisition of such vocational education skill. Just as the vocational education programme is so varied, in the same manner the skills to be acquired differ.

In business education women acquire in the area of office occupation involving stenographic skills, distributive education involving marketing skills, teaching of business and business related subjects, business administration and economic reasoning. Okeke (1998) pointed out that Business Education includes education for the office occupations, marketing occupations, business teaching, business administration and basic economic understanding.

Anyakoha (1991) noted that Home Economics is the study of the element of family living, individual human development and interpersonal, nation. It provides necessary knowledge for guiding and assisting human being towards a more self-rewarding and fulfilled life.

The above skills are all geared towards economic revival when properly acquired and carefully put to meaningful work. Oranu (1998) observed that the speed to adopt new technologies depends largely on the education and high skill level acquired by the work force. It is a thing of common observation that women constitute about half of the educated work force of this nation. Therefore, their skill acquisition is very indispensable in economic revival.

Women's Vocational Business And Home Economics Education Skill And Economic Revival

The concept economic revival is an aspect of economic development. The revival concept has to do more with bringing back to good position or restoring the beneficial nature of the economy. According to Dimowo (1999) economic development is embarked upon as a conscious effort to break the vicious circle of poverty.

This development comes faster when a country embarks on functional **education**. Thus, directing their effort more on export oriented industrial activities than import dependent which the acquired vocational skill leads to production and income generation is important.

At this point it becomes necessary to tap all resources. Lathan <1993* opined that most countries do not have enough resources to produce all they want. People should chose between different alternative to solve the problems of what to produce, how much to produce, for whom to produce, and where to produce. Hence, the utilization of various acquired vocational skills to the benefit of the masses.

The Vocational Business and Economics skill acquired by women are being lapped every day. The use of these skills go a long way to help put our economy into good shape. The personal as well as public benefit accruing from these skills are tremendous. But, a closer look will be taken at the areas discussed below.

Production of goods and services: The women do not keep the vocational skill acquired under lock and key. Rather such skills is utilized in the production of relevant services which if not provided will be detrimental to the society. Such services as reprographic works, home management services. Bte, Goods provided include embroideries, and stenographic works. The availability of all these and more help revive the economy. Moreover, as the improved qualities are produced. The improved quality helps in maintaining health balance.

Employment opportunities are opened to not only the person with the skill but to several other

person who may be employed by such person. the establishment of personal business centres controlled and managed by the owner creates employment And even beyond that is the engagement of other ancillary workers or personnel which help a lot in lessening the unemployment syndrome of the last few years. The direct product or most often the by-products of this employment opportunity some where along the line creates employment to other persons not directly involved in the skill based job position. In other works, the employment opportunities coming out from skill acquisition has a chain nature. It, in fact goes beyond the normal eye range of assessment. Apart from self employment, one with skill can also secure a job position in a government establishment. But the important idea here is that such a person is making a meaningful contribution towards reviving the economy of the nation on thereby building the nation.

Income generation is very eminent when learnt vocational skill are put to use. livery skill is expected to produce either goods or services. There is expected to be a market demand when such is produced. The demand will normally be backed up with money. The money realized helps raise up the gross income of the nation. The payment of income tax, business premises by business offices, rate, and the exchange of the earned income for other goods and services needed helps raise the nation income. Thus, leading to economic revival.

Social stability is maintained with the acquisition and utilization of vocational skill. The satisfaction of one's need as well as other people's need directly or indirectly through the acquired skill helps give comfort. The society tends to be stable. Besides is reduced to the barest minimum, and is consequent evil conceptions and misdeeds. In a cyclic order every body is busy through the direct or indirect impact, of the acquired Vocational Business and Home Economics skill. It is no doubt clear that when the society is stable more positive and problem solving reasoning will have a change. All will think towards a positive economic progression. Ojukwu (2000) established that secretarial trained individual is usefully busy in either paid or self employment and therefore do not contribute to social vices resulting from idleness.

Coping with technological advances. The era is that technological shift and operations. The offices, homes, business centres, industrial and virtually all spheres of life are witnessing this boom. And if not the acquisition of the necessary skill, it would have been very difficult to make use of these technological gadgets in the way it will produce a good result. But with the acquisition of the necessary educational skill the machines are put to work. And not just putting them to work, but, actually manipulating them to produce a desirable and economic reviving result. AS an instance the use of computer which is dominating the offices today.

Coping With Poverty Situation

The acquisition of Business and Home Economics skill by the women helps the people cope with the poverty situation . The possession of skill which brings about income generating, job helps drive away poverty situation. The women with skill will always find how to go about with the skill she has in order to keep the family above the poverty line. Knowledge of skill helps promote maintenance culture. The stitching of torn dresses and other wears by a seamstress and other similar jobs. The helps to raise the standard of living.

The Nigerian economy can only survive and prosper too with an education, economically, skilled, dedicated, literate populated.

Simply put women with Vocational Business and home Economics skill are to be placed highly in the effort to revive the nation's economy. This revival work goes a long way to help in nation building.

Conclusion

The acquisition of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill by women is a pre-requisite in reviving the economy of nation which leads to nation building. The acquisition and proper use of the acquired skill will help reduce unemployment, help people cope with poverty situation arising from economic imbalance, cope with technological changes witnessed everywhere, maintenance culture which helps repair damaged property and personal effects.

The acquisition of Vocational Business and Home Economics Education skill by women is very important in economic revival leading to nation building. Nwaokolo (1999) pointed out that integrating vocational educational system, stemming unemployment, enhancing social, economic and occupational status.

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