

**A PHILOSOPHICAL APPRAISAL OF THE EMERGING TREND OF ADULT
EDUCATION IN A DEPRESSED ECONOMY**

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Abstract



The study is a philosophical appraisal of the emerging trend of Adult education in a depressed economy. Nigeria is currently being bitten hard by depressed economy. The depression is characterized by economic hardship, high inflation, accumulation of debt servicing, unemployment and job loss amongst others. This lends credence to the consideration and adoption of the philosophy of self reliance and self consciousness through technologies in-built into the programs of the education. This is based on the fact that education has been globally regarded and recognized as an instrument of change and social transformation. Hence, there is need to make a philosophical appraisal of the emerging trend of Adult education to throw more lights on how the programs of the education could enhance and improve the productive powers of the learners to breed adequate development. The paper concludes that adequate strengthening of Adult education through its philosophical base is indisputable a force for promoting individuals survival in a depressed economy. The paper makes a suggestion of new innovation that can serves as eye's openers for the individuals who wants to know more about the emerging trend of Adult education and to assist them in the development and imbibing of new skills needed for livelihood.

Keywords:

Adult education, Emerging trend, Knowledge, Policy, and Depressed economy



Introduction

The role of Adult education in development of a nation cannot be ignored because it acts as predators of employment creation, development of individual, and nation. The inculcation of philosophy of self awareness is paramount in the life of individual adult and youths, hence the target of this paper. Ewuzue (2012) states that Adult education is essential in every sector, especially in addressing global economy depression... that is geared toward national development. This call for innovation as a result of constant changes both in nature as well as economic development of a nation. As at today, one of the problem confronting our society is getting the appropriate knowledge across to the adult learning or youths who dropped out of school as a result of one problem or the others. This is to plant the principle of self awareness that breed self reliance into the mind of adults and youths respectively. Adult education is not an end in itself, the essence is to ensure that the products are equipped with relevant knowledge, skills, and values that will breed self conscious, self-determination so as to constitute meaning fully to the smooth running of the society.

Adult education is an academic discipline such as chemistry, physics, biology, economics, social studies, guidance and counselling, education management, that needs constant innovations, among others. Adult education has its roots in administration as a source of human behaviours such as psychology. All of which formed part of the general philosophy in the past. In the process of pursuing different knowledge using different suitable approached as a result of industrial revolutions. Adult education branched off from administration as time was progressing, machines were invented to bring new innovation, hence new trend in the development of Adult education programs.

Adult education is a distinct and separate discipline of its own as well as a profession. It has its own terminology, objectives, method of operations, target and civic, as well as contents of knowledge to be imparted. The contents of knowledge embrace the cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects of curriculum. Hence, Ajayi Ayodele (2002) opined that *education is the process of facilitating learning or acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits...* it



involves all the processes of developing the cognitive, psychomotor and effective domain of an individual in order to make a citizen useful and respectable member of the society. In the program of adult education, the adults are targeted for self reliance, self consciousness, political, social and economic developments. This is based on the fact that adult learner exists in all cultures as he passed from the dependent status of childhood to an inter dependence or partially independent role. The self awareness for the social, political, cultural and economic development in his community through effective participation leads to the realization of the need for self improvement in order to strike for self improvement. For example, adult who perceives the need to take part in politics, or the need to read newspapers may be motivated to engage in those activities that may lead to successful actualization of these needs. This is why the teacher of adults and educators needs to see teaching as the act of providing activities, materials and guidance that will facilitate learning in the circle of formal or informal situation.

In line with the national policy on education as stated in the Section 7, the objectives of adult education are:

- ✓ *to provide functional literacy education for adults who have never had the advantage of any formal education.*
- ✓ *to provide functional and remedial education for those young people who prematurely dropped out of the formal school system.*
- ✓ *to provide in-service, on the-job-vocational and professional training for different categories of workers and professionals in-order to improve their skills.*
- ✓ *to provide further education for different categories of completers of formal education system in order to improve their basic knowledge and skills.*
- ✓ *to give the adult citizens of the country necessary aesthetic, cultural and civic education for public enlightenment.*

One can infer from above that Adult Education should extend throughout life to give opportunity to all for full personal development and contribution to the physical, social, political and economic development of the nation. Despite the

significant numbers of studies on adult education might influenced the development of individual and nation, the inherent study is of opinions that there is need to throw more light into the emerging trend in Adult education to explain the need for more innovation into the study of the programs of Adult education in Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

Adult education supposed to serve as tools for economic emancipation, predicators and sustainable development because, it supposed to reform individual mind for the attainment of self actualization. This calls into the system of the education in this period of economy depression.

As people wants development, there is need to create a desire and an urge for improvement to match the new change in the environment. Again, there must be growing identification of the problem and achievement coupled with the emerging trend of the self awareness, self realization and consequently the needs for self reliance with the rapid influence of technological development. People needs improvement in their knowledge skills, food, home, creativity, family and friendship independence. The achievements of people's desire goals are directly proportional to the economic, social, physical and mental development of individuals. The maximization of self awareness, or consciousness that breed self reliance of individual are also inclusive for regular and smooth development. It is on this ground that the philosophical appraisal of emerging trend of Adult education in the period of economy depression is necessary to breed new development strategies for the teaching and development of Adult education programs in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

Given the extent to which the innovative effect of Adult education can provide functional literacy, education for adult who has no advantage of any formal education, and the young people who prematurely dropped out of the formal school system, the challenges of change greatly varied between individuals as well as communities. To this, the objectives of this paper are:

- ✓ to analyse the emerging trend of Adult education in a depressed economy.



- ✓ to clarify how the concept of adult education can utilize an appropriate psychological approach to change people attitudes in the right direction during the period of economy depression.

Methodology

The methodology of approach is a philosophical appraisal of emerging trend of Adult education during a depressed economy. Hence, the explanation of the meaning of adult education, emerging trend and depression economy as well as the clarification of its implications and consequences for the development of adulthoods/individuals in nation, is clarified to bring out the necessary meaning of the various concepts and their relationships, that is how different concepts affects each other or one another.

Concept of Adult Education

Adult education is as old as man himself. In the ancient time, adult education started as the studies of astrology, astronomy, law, medicine and priesthood as we still have today in some local communities and towns. It was recognized in the third National Development plan as clearly spelt out in the National Policy on Education (2006). This is probably due to the fact that development is not only affected by formal education but also by Adult and non-formal education. NTI (2018) quoting Anyanwu (1987) states that *"what appear to be more or less similar phenomenon are described by a perplexing welter of names such as Fundamental education, Social education, Mass education, Continuing education, Lifelong learning, and Education populaire"*. Even the term Community development is often used as though it were interchangeable with Adult education.

From the above similar names of Adult education, it shows that the education is to promote sustainable development and improve the capacity of people to address environment, social, political, and economic development issues. Adult education embraces or includes learning undertaken voluntarily by people in their matured years. It is undertaken voluntarily as the people involved are determined for one reason or the others. This is why Makulu (1971) *believes that Adult education is that which has in view the need of the adult not why as an individual but also as a member of the community, and which helps him to live more*



efficiently in his society.

This lend credence to the view that Adult education impacts knowledge in the areas of personal development such as personal ability, aptitudes in relations to social, moral and intellectual responsibility, the local, national and world citizenship as deemed fits. This implants that Adult education is designed for adults irrespective of contents and range of coverage.

In relation to the traditional institution, Aluwong (2010) states that "*as part of the total educational system, Adult education involves the acquisition of skills, ideals and management abilities which are necessarily for job creation*". In this while, Adult education can be seen at two levels:

- ✓ it is the prolongation management of education for those that have attended one level or attained one knowledge earlier, that is it offers further education to those who have already received higher level or a subsection of training earlier.
- ✓ secondly, it is an education that gives room for formal education to those who doesn't know how to read and write or to expand the knowledge and values of other adults in the society.

In the process of teaching the challenges of change, Sule (2013) sees *Adult education as the traditional programs of adult learning needed for economic development of any nation which includes vacations like carpentry, drawing, cloth weaving, animal husbandry, laundry, all which aims at marketable, vocational skills to the youths as well as adult and facilitating the establishment of small scale business within the scope of their vocations.* Adult education practice in Africa includes evening classes, library services, extra-mural education, trade union, secretarial training and popular theatre, as some scope of Adult education (Adekanbi, and Modisa 2010). One can hence sum up that Adult education can be defined or explained as:

- ✓ a body of knowledge aimed at seeing a society as dynamic organization where there are blended opportunities of progressive development for all people of all age irrespective of their diversities in nature.
- ✓ a process of lifelong learning which enhance changes and adapts man to his

social environment through the acquisition of basic education necessary for the development of their abilities, enrich their knowledge, as well as for technical or professional improvement.

- ✓ the development of personal and intellectual abilities through learning undertaken voluntarily by people in their mature years (adulthood).
- ✓ changes in thing values and appreciation such as changes involve the acquisition of a greater or lesser sense of appreciation of things and restructuring of the values held for such thing in line with what changes in information or experience of the learners (movement) from a lower to a higher place in the understanding of the nature.

One may contends from the above that Adults education constitutes response to the challenges of change, as a result of changes in the circumstances of man or the nature of society. In such a situation, Adult education will enable the individuals involved to cope with the present needs and problem adequately after learning.

The Emerging Trend of Adult Education in a Depressed Economy

The philosophy of self-reliance, self-improvement, and self awareness laid foundations ground for the emerging trend of Adult education. On the issue of self-reliance, it involves personal quality of depending on yourself for a thing or material values instead of depending or relying on others. The logical deductions from these are that the people are autonomous and independent. The principle of self-reliance is the entire quality of "free man". Freedom in this sense is conceivable in reference to self, the experience of freedom and other things which it would be related. Ayeni (2004) *Adult education utilizes the opportunity of freedom of choice to annex the program and purposeful behavioural change directed at individual adequacy and maximization of self realization within the community.* The principle of self-reliance can be used interchangeably with self reproach, self preservation, sufficiency and self restraint.

Adult education offers desirable goal for success in life though the inculcation of explicit reflection on our subjective state or experience. Hence, the philosophy of self awareness can be explainable as "I am aware that I am aware'.

The term awareness is a means of throwing more light in the state of personal "self" about problem, progress, people or self" and the community. The philosophy of self as "self aware" equally means "self consciousness" to some extent as it means the implicit self awareness of myself as subject in any and every experience of learning. The emerging trend aims at involving adult/youth in learning to be "self conscious" and "self realized".

One major emerging developmental trend of Adult Education is the introduction of the EdTech (Educational Technology) innovation into the system and this revolution would power the customization, motivation, and equalization into the mode of learning in the Adult education. Hence, the tool would boost the personalization, engagement and increase access to the learning in Adult education all over. Any system of education or educational program that failed to inculcate or integrates these new pervasive approach may simply "goes" into extinction with time. In addition, these would broaden the aims of Adult education system to include social, emotional, political, and all round development such as psychomotor into its programs. At present some of the technological innovations into the adult learning that serve as new emerging trend of Adult education are:

- ✓ Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- ✓ Online mobile and extended learning system
- ✓ introduction of broader aims
- ✓ User Interface (UI), Full User Interface (UX)
- ✓ Better feedback – (Digital Curricular Manual includes embodied assessment)
- ✓ Learner support – (Access Support Services)
- ✓ Employer partnership – A sequence of applied project can be completed quickly by experienced learners and more slowly by workers that need more time and support during adult learning program.
- ✓ Collaboration – key for scaling through effective solution.
- ✓ Mix and Match + Support – This guide education learning programs. Here education serves as an employee benefit. It enhances partnership in learning.

As a result of the introduction of the above new trend into adult education,



learning the primary task is the need to achieve better living for individuals and for the whole society. Also the basic task of these innovatory activities is to immerse knowledge on which the citizen can be equipped in a different diversified dimension to stamp-out depressing economy.

Adult education is essential in every sector, especially in addressing economy depression. This lends credence to the view that Adult education is the key to the empowerment as it can be used to equip individuals for participation in order to participate in the national economic development as well as to benefit from it. Ngwu, (2006) states *that Adult education includes all the activities with an educational purpose that are carried in by people engaged in the ordinary business of life... and a changing world in a period of economy depression.*

From the above, one may contends that Adult education should promotes the philosophy of self realization and hence the training of the mind towards self actualization. What the adult learning does with their knowledge and skills depends largely on the effect of economic depression.

One can therefore opines that Adult education can lead to progressive and purposeful behavioural changes directed at individual adequacy of self-consciousness to breed all round development. This can help reduce the occurrence, a state of financial turmoil arouses as a result of period of negative activity based on the country's Gross Domestic Products GDP falling significantly. The urge for change will give rise to those activities that give pleasure and provide satisfaction, while those that give pain such as depressed economy should be tackled through the programs of Adult education. Adult are able to do all because, human mind can store away facts and recall them when need arises and that we are able to educate, if the mind of the adult/youth learners are oriented towards the philosophy of self realization, such mind will always seek for goods and neglect what is bad.

Conclusion

Every society of the world is dynamics and never static, this accounts for the reasons why Adult education is necessary for the promotion of goods life, and comfortable living amongst people of the various communities. As well as the ever



increase in population may lead to a depressed economy, whereby increasing unemployment. Therefore, the adult/youth must endeavour to live in the present by constant increase in knowledge as the trend of education determine the direction of learning. Hence, the need for constant reorientation and adjustment in the ever changing environment, the skills he acquired in the course of Adult learning would empower him to strike for balance in finding solution to the emergent problem.

Recommendation

There is a strong hope that the new innovations trend will make significant achievements in the development of knowledge and skills in man during a period of depressed economy if properly utilized. There may be a regeneration of formal education through the motivational effects and benefits of Adult education. This is for the solidification of the improvement between the individual and the community. To these, these recommendation are made:

- ✓ Adult education programs must strive to improve those skills which provide massive employment and generate more income through the accommodation of basic technological innovations that breed development.
- ✓ Adult education must foster on the promotion of health and physical fitness of citizenry to breed development as health is wealth.
- ✓ The program of civic responsibilities and knowledge of how to make personal adjustments, self realization, self consciousness through electronic media must be inserted for development and for inter-personal, inter-community relations must be inserted into the Adult education programs to stamp out greediness which breed corruption.
- ✓ Adult education must aim at broadening educational background of citizens as a means of providing the technological tools to works themselves out of poverty. Computers, EdTech, e.t.c. should be inserted to train employers on the needed roles.
- ✓ Adult education must generalize the personalized learning program through collaboration efforts.



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