

Chapter 15

Curriculum Development Models for Quality Educational System

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines curriculum development models as a veritable working tool for academics, teachers, administrators and planners at various education levels to be utilized to steer and attain quality educational system for national sustainable development. Effective knowledge, development skills, utilization skills and participation of all stakeholders in education are very crucial in achieving quality curriculum development models for quality educational system in Nigeria and other developing nations. This is one way of ensuring that education remains the only tool for revamping the pitiable present state of Nigeria where education seem to have failed to be an instrument of solving today's problems for quality social reconstruction and transformation. For effective discussion, the paper focuses on the following: nature of curriculum, curriculum development, curriculum development models, six major types of curriculum model i.e. the objective model, the cyclic model, the situational model, the system approach model, the process model, and the creative technology-learning model. Focus is also on the implications of the curriculum development models on the attainment of excellent educational system for sustainable development. Summary and conclusion are given.

INTRODUCTION

Quality educational system is very inevitable for sustainable development and attainment of top 20- economic nation come 2020. It requires excellent education. It is an educational system that must encompass participatory process of programme development, full societal acceptance, ownership of programme, decentralization of power and initiatives to the grassroots levels, empowerment, responsive curriculum, learners' friendly environment, adequate human / material / financial resources participative management of education and so on. The products of such education system must be qualitative, very relevant to the

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modern labour market and globalization. Such system must be capable of closing the extra-ordinary gap between the rich and the poor in such nation. It is capable of exterminating indices of under-development in the nation. There are proactive steps towards quality national educational system. Quality curriculum, curriculum development and curriculum development models are very proactive elements in managing education for excellence. This call for adequate knowledge of what curriculum is all about.

NATURE OF CURRICULUM

Curriculum generally refers to the planned and unplanned experiences which learners receive in the process of their formal or semi-formal education for the purpose of becoming rounded persons who can make meaningful contributions to the betterment of their society and global environment. Curriculum according to Ogunyemi (2009) is a process of achieving the goals of education through the formal/semi-formal educational set-up such as the basic/secondary schools, the colleges of education, the monotechnics/polytechnics, the adult literacy/innovative enterprise institutions and the universities. A curriculum is an embodiment of all the knowledge, skills and attitudes which a nation, through her schools, imparts to her citizens. “Knowledge” here refers to all the facts, theories, principles, generalizations and rules needed to be acquired for a student to be certified as competent in a field. Thus, if a student is majoring in chemistry for instance, knowledge here refers to all the facts or information about non-living things, their composition, property, uses and changes they undergo with particular reference to an atom, the orbital levels, bond, valence, Dalton’s atomic theory, etc. Dike and Eze (2009) observe that curriculum involves the acquisition of skills needed to perform tasks. If student wants to specialize in choreography for instance, he or she must learn how to combine different body movements to depict and synchronize with music rhymes in order to heighten interest and appreciation. To be an excellent pilot, a football player, a television cameraman, a video editor, an auto-mechanic, a surgeon, a computer guru, a technologist and so on, one needs to acquire the skills in these areas to be certified as competent. Skill in this case refers to the ability to expertly use one’s hands, legs, and the entire body in combination with facts in one’s brain in order to perform a task. It goes beyond mere recall of facts to applying them along with body movements to perform a task. Salient features of the above definitions and descriptions are the following: The tangible aspects of the curriculum are in the form of “Curriculum Guide”, “Curriculum Standard”, “Syllabus”, etc. It is also worthy of noting that there are also the intangible elements popularly known as hidden curriculum depending on the area of the learning experiences that is being considered. These areas include the specified content, observed behavioural practices, imitated lifestyles and so on. A meaningful curriculum must focus on the three domains of learning viz- cognitive (knowledge/intellect), psychomotor-productive (skills) and affective (attitudes/values) in order to foster an all-round development. Curriculum is for the betterment of the society but adequate efforts must be made to ensure that the interests and needs of the learners are not compromised. Curriculum involves a dynamic process and as such must move with the changing trends in the society. Curriculum like education is a product of a wide array of actors (politicians, policy makers, curriculum workers, teachers, laypersons, targeted learners and so on). The implication is that curriculum involves planning at different levels. The nature of curriculum x-rayed above has clearly shown that in practice, curriculum consists of all the learners’ planned and unplanned needs for full potentials development. No wonder Emeruwa (1981) describes curriculum in terms of its major three components of programme of studies, programme of activities

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