THE IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

Shuaibu Saidu* and Sandra Shuaibu Saidu.
1Department of Science and Technology Education, Faculty of Education, University of Jos
2National Open University of Nigeria, Faculty of Social Science.

Abstract

The paper examines the impact of educational resources on curriculum implementation in Nigeria. The relationship between educational resources and curriculum implementation cannot be over emphasized in Nigeria. Curriculum which has to do with running a race that has beginning, middle and ending points requires educational resources for achievement of the stated objectives. Curriculum implementation is the translation of the whole curriculum into action for the betterment of the society. Curriculum implementation as a matter of fact requires use of instructional materials from planning stage, development stage and implementation stage. Despite the barriers of curriculum implementation, the participants must aim at taking care of all categories of people in the country. Educational resources utilization is very important in curriculum implementation. Learning cannot be a permanent change of behavior without the use adequate instructional materials in teaching process. To improve curriculum implementation in this country recommendations are made for proper putting of the curriculum into action.

Keywords: Educational Resources, Curriculum Implementation, Utilization, Learning,

INTRODUCTION

Curriculum implementation is an important segment of teaching learning process. It has to do with the translation of the curriculum into action. This exercise of the curriculum requires personnel, facilities, instructional materials, good administration and teaching methods among other things needed for curriculum implementation.

Besides, for any curriculum plan or innovation to become fully meaningful, it must be adequately implemented. The way and manner it is implemented influences the degree of success. Dele (2005) observes that the problem of Nigeria education system is not planning but implementation. The task of curriculum implementation therefore is not a simple one. This is because enough funds personnel and instructional materials. Educational resources as a matter of fact play an important role in curriculum implementation. Teachers in teaching learning process cannot operate well without educational resources. The purpose of instructional materials in teaching is to aid the teacher teach effectively.

Education here is seen a preparation for life. It is also meant for the growth and development of the society. To aid education reach all categories of people in this country, educational resources are needed. Student teachers during teaching practices are required to make use of instructional materials in all lessons. This is to make use of the students recall things well under the examination condition for sound performance.

Furror (2012) observes that education cannot be a bed role of national development without adequate instructional materials usage. Teachers, students and administrators need one facility or the other to really work effectively. This calls for purpose provision of instructional materials for sound teaching. Funding is very important in the entire educational system. This aids production of instructional materials, teaching and other comprehensive materials for effective curriculum implementation in this country. Security is needed for teaching learning process to go well. The problems of boko haram according John (2014) has slowed down education in most states of work confidently. In view of the fact that Nigeria is complex in nature, participants of curriculum implementation need aim at total changes for taking care of all categories of people. Considering the fact that education in this country is not gender bias, both male and female need to pursue it with all seriousness for the growth and development of the society as a whole. Educational resources contribute in making the curriculum implementation comprehensive, balance, functional and relevant in nature.

Teachers as key figures in curriculum implementation must use all the skills and techniques of teaching acquired in teacher education programme for sound teaching. To put the curriculum into action requires trained teachers that are capable of teaching the content
of the curriculum through the use of adequate educational materials. This will help in the achievement of the stated educational objectives for the betterment of the country. Open educational resources widely open as the name implies for usage by all teachers all over the nation in attempt to achieve the state objective of the curriculum.

THE PARTICIPANTS OF CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Curriculum implementation engages in any participants such as teachers, students, individuals, private organizations, public organizations, curriculum planners other specialist administrators and non-teaching staff that assist the teaching staff in the implementing the curriculum.

To start with, governments supply funds and facilities for teaching in the school system. The same fruits can be used for payment of salaries and organization of seminars, conferences and workshops more skills and techniques of teaching. Many ideas are obtained from organization like national university commission, national commission for colleges education, national board for technical education, joint administration and matriculation board, west Africa examination council, national examination council, national teachers institutes, Nigeria education research and development council. The workers have one idea or the other to use in teaching learning process. The above mentioned organizations and others not mentioned are meant to contribute positively to curriculum implementation in this country through workshops, seminars and conferences.

Teachers as key figures of curriculum implementation take active part in teaching, supervision and provision for sound teaching Matthew (2014) observes that for the teacher to say that he has taught there must be somebody that has learnt. This is because learning is a permanent change in ones behavior as a result of previous experiences. Despite the fact that many schools and colleges do not have the required qualified teachers, the government as encouraged to provide enough teachers for effective curriculum implementation in this country. This can help in managing the issues of insurgency, immorality, examination malpractice and other bad practices happening in the country. United we stand divided we fall. Education according to Maina can help the nation achieve unity.

Students and their parents are not left behind in any country. In this country, parents through parents’ teachers’ association support curriculum implementation in areas like supply instructional materials, building some structures, buses and maintenance of discipline in the school for conducive learning. Students as a matter of fact work hand in hand in improvisation of instructional materials. Teaching generally speaking has to ensure positive learning for the betterment of the country.

Individuals and private organization in this country play important roles in curriculum implementation. They take part in provision of facilities, instructional materials, libraries, for students during speech and prize giving day. Donations that come from individuals and private organizations can go a long way to add to the beauty of the learning environment by it conducive enough for curriculum implementation. The centre of the whole diversion as a matter of fact is educational resources which has great significance in curriculum implementation. Just like a mechanic cannot operate without tools, teachers in teaching process cannot teach without instructional materials. Learning requires proper use of instructional materials to achieve the stated goals and aims of teaching curriculum has state objectives and these objectives can only be achieves through the aid of instructional materials through making learning permanent in nature.

The issue of open educational resources is a contemporary issue. This is because we are in computer age where e-learning is encouraged communication teaching is made easy indeed.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION IN CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

The models of curriculum implementation can only be used well through periphery models proliferation of centre model and shifting centre model require effective communication. Communication has to do with a process of passing content of learning correctly from one to another. In the classroom level, it is a process of passing content of learning correctly to the learners. Teachers in teaching do this through the use of instructional materials in curriculum implementation therefore cannot be over emphasized. This is because in communication, in teaching and learning at whatever level in this country. Williams (2009) observes a teacher that cannot communicate well, cannot teach well. This is because teaching has to do with proper communication between students and teachers.

Instructional materials assist in this regard through engaging students in learning by doing as one of the best methods of teaching. What students do, they remember well, what they are told they forget during and after examination? Performance of students therefore depends on the good use of teaching materials which is encouraged through open educational resources. Computer devices encourage e-learning and communication is made easy.

Students are motivated to lean well through the use instructional materials especially through computer devices. Lesson becomes quite interesting to the students when computer is engaged in teaching learning process. Hard issues or concepts are made cleaner through the use of instructional materials. This is the most reason why improvising is the process of making inadequate instructional materials adequate nature for effective teaching and learning can become permanent
in nature when relevant and good instructional materials are used well by the teachers and students. Saidu (2007) observes that all lessons require good use of instructional materials for the student to recall well even during examination for second performance. Permanent change of behavior is what is used for the betterment of the society changes can only take place with the of instructional materials or educational resources which electronics in nature attracts students more than the hard ware while hard ware are far better than having nothing when teaching.

Teachers therefore are here encouraged lots make the educational resources in all lesson for proper understanding of students and achievement of the stated goals. Educational resources assist in achievement of aims, goals and objectives in teaching learning process. The skills on the use of educational resources are therefore provided during teacher education programmes in this country. No wander therefore the federal government stressed the use of computer. The policy statement that everybody should be computer literate has come to stay. The nation therefore witnessed great improvement in computer usage and communication becomes easy in Nigeria as a nation. One move can communicate in the world within short period of time through internet, email and other means. Social media has made life easy. The sender and receiver must be properly engage in communication actively for it to be a source.

BARRIERS OF CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

In view of fact that nothing on this earth is problem free, open educational resources, curriculum implementation and teaching learning process encounter one problem or the other. However all participants of curriculum implementation in this fight against the barrier should make sure that the curriculum is properly implemented for the growth and the development of the country. Teachers in particular feel good when the curriculum is properly implemented. Failure of the students is the failure of the teachers that taught the students. Samuel (2013) observes that the success of any teacher in teaching learning process depends on the performance of his or her students. This is what one may call achievement of objectives of teaching from lesson level to graduation level in this country. Despite the barriers, teachers should strive to achieve the stated objectives of the curriculum.

Finance matter in most sectors of this nation’s education sector therefore is not an exception at all. Administration and teachers may want to do one thing or the other but lack of finance may hinder getting them. This is a barrier that the management can only handle through the government and parents where parent teachers association is strong. Problem of money in any organization according Sule (2012) is a big problem that can bring organization down if there is no solution. People therefore try to run away from financial problem of its sensitivity. The growth and development of any organization depends on the availability of funds in this country.

Educational resources and the users require finance to really make use of instructional materials in teaching. This is because it is one thing to have the instructional materials available and another thing not to use them well. Sometimes the educational resources qualified user for effective teaching to take place. Teachers therefore are keys here because the available instructional materials cannot use themselves. There is a need for qualified personnel to use them appropriately in teaching.

Besides, personnel problem is another big one that can hinder proper curriculum implementation. The school requires qualified teachers to handle all educational resources available and those to be improvised using local materials available. This needs a team work but someone must lead. In this regard, teachers, administration and individuals used to come together as a team to handle issues of personnel. The management can only make request to government through the request coming from teachers and individual and her that is witnessing the need.

Educational resources missing in the schools constitute another big barrier to curriculum implementation. Computer centers, libraries and instructional materials needed for teaching must be on ground to make sure that teaching is done properly for achievement of the stated goals, aims and objectives of the curriculum planned in the country.

The role of instructional materials in teaching cannot be over emphasized. Teachers therefore need to master improvise some to inadequate ones adequate in nature to achieve goal of curriculum implementation in Nigeria. Bearing in mind the fact that curriculum implementation has to with putting the curriculum into action; the government needs to make sure instructional materials are available for teaching.

Facilities like libraries, laboratories and classroom apart from offices are needed. Lack of them like computer and electricity constitute another big problem in curriculum implementation. Teachers according to Kelo (2007) need materials to work with in teaching learning process. This is because generally teaching requires a team work to go on smoothly. Learning which is permanent in once behavior as a result of previous experiences requires conducive teaching. Absence of them can constitute a problem in Nigeria and any other nation. Teaching can be successful without adequate facilities on ground. For the country to grow in education from strength to strength, all required things for teaching learning process must be available the teachers to use them. The move nation is growing in population the move the curriculum calls for change, the more changes are made the more facilities are demanded for curriculum implementation. The absence of any of facility can constitute a big barrier in this country.
Evaluation is needed by bodies in change. Bodies like NCCCE, NUC and NBTE are to play supervisory role in education in the country. The result of evaluation can lead to positive change in the country. Hollow (2014) observes that evaluation is a process of gathering data for decision making. No decision can be taken without proper gathering of information on the subject. Lack of thorough evaluation is another big barrier of curriculum implementation. Evaluation both formative and summative are needed in education particularly curriculum implementation.

In curriculum implementation, no stone should be left unturned. Lack of conferences, workshops and seminars can constitute problem to the system. The above mentioned therefore are necessary for teaching and learning situation.

In addition to that since many people take part in curriculum implementation, good payment is needed for motivation of the workers. The outcry of the workers in the country now is lack of payment of salaries which is now a big barrier to curriculum implementation in the country (Zuru, 2015).

Another big barrier is lack of society which is the current issue in the Northern part of Nigeria. Boko Haram issue is a big issue that is affecting schools in the country. Learning requires peace to be effective in nature. Without peace students cannot get freedom to learn well. The case of Chibok girls in Northern part of Nigeria is a good example of lack of peace that can affect learning.

The barriers of curriculum implementation are many that cannot put in this paper which has limitations of pages. Educational resources which is the focus, is also broad in nature and has in any roles to play in teaching learning process. Teaching as a matter of fact can exist without educational resources in this country. Educational resources are meant for teaching and proper curriculum implementation in this country. Educational resources are therefore a panacea for curriculum implementation in Nigeria and other nations of the world.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the discussion of issues involved in this paper, the following recommendations are made:

- Computer literacy matter should be made compulsory the more in the country.
- Improvisation should be made a team work and compulsory for teachers in Nigeria.
- Social media usage should be encouraged by the government and administration.
- Workshops, seminars and conferences should be organized yearly and attendance should be compulsory.
- Parents and government should provide adequate instructional materials for effective teaching.
- Establishment of local libraries by teachers at the classroom level should be encouraged.
- Government should motivate teachers to go for the job training since not all teachers can reached with amount allocated for teacher’s training.
- Postgraduate diploma and professional diploma certificate should be encouraged in this country for effective teaching and learning.
- Micro-teaching and teaching practice should be strictly six months for adequate training of teachers in Nigeria for sound curriculum implementation.

**CONCLUSION**

Educational resource as the name suggests or implies has to do with materials that can aid teachers to teach effectively. The whole discussion shows that teachers in teaching cannot do without instructional materials in teaching learning process. There is therefore the need for them to learn how to use them in teaching in order to make students understand their lessons well. Instructional materials can make communication effective in nature for good performance of student in the country. Motivation of teachers go engage in improvisation is needed for the national growth and development. This can only be done through achievement of all curriculum objectives after proper curriculum implementation in the country. Since there is a need to have enough educational resources and qualified teachers to use them, attention needs to be paid on both teachers, instructional materials and classroom where teaching take place for effective learning.

**REFERENCES**


Mathew W (2014) the influence of social media in Air force Secondary School Jos. A paper presentation at speech and prize giving day.


curriculum theories (N.A.T.C) 3 (6)
Zumi AG (2015) Assessment of availability and utilization of electronic media in teaching social studies
and colleges of education in Nigeria Ph.D. Dissertation Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.