Emerging Trends in Art and Art Education for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries Vision 2025

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Abstract
Whenever development is mentioned, what comes to the mind’s eye is change. If there must be a sustainable development, then there must be a progressive positive change. The paper envisioned the future, visualizing how Art and Art Education would not only cope with the changing world, but as well make its impact felt by being a major contributor to a development that spans over time in education, and would be readily visible by the year 2025. In view of this, the importance of Art Education was established reflecting on creativity as the spine of the subject. Different authors were reviewed to justify this, also the objectives of Art Education in Nigeria was measured through its National Policy on Education, strategies and recommendations were given that are in support of this course. The strategies and recommendations were deployed to solve the problems and challenges of Art Education, hence for sustainable development in developing countries.

Keywords: Art Education, Education, Challenges and Strategies

Introduction
Looking at the world today, rapid turn out of events has mandated development to be a constant and progressive thing. Interestingly, it was some level of development that birthed a higher quest for development. An instance is the transportation system world over. In the olden days, the foot and animals were the major means of transportation. This graduated over time to carts and wagons which later metamorphosed into vehicles using petrol. Petrol in turn is generating harmful effects on man and the idea in the spotlight is vehicles that are battery or water powered. Sustainable development in the theme before us suggests a progressive development wherein proper feasibility studies have been conducted ever before its commencement so as to avoid hiccups in the course of it. Behind all of these is education. Without education, there cannot be development as education is a major development factor. One of the basic ends education achieves for man is to bring about development in all spheres of his life. To this end, there are factors that need to be put in place for an ageless development that tows the path of linear progression.
Art and Art Education are aspects of Education which naturally showcases creativity. Creativity is a very strong and important factor in the sustainability of development in the
sense that creativity tasks one’s initiative. The want for creativity makes man to put his initiative to work and for as long as initiative is up and doing, one can be sure of a development that is on the move. Creativity according to INSEA in Chiranci (2007), was defined as the creative ability and a basic need common to all people as it provides the highest form of expression and communication... natural means of learning at all periods of the development of the individual which fosters values and disciplines for intellectual, emotion and social development of human beings. According to Us Legal(2012), Art education is been referred to as learning, instruction and programming based upon the visual and tangible arts. Art education includes performing arts like dance, music theatre and visual arts like drawing, painting, sculpture and design works. In art education, instruction is through standard based sequential approach by a qualified instructor as part of the core curriculum.

Palmer, (2005), measures the creativity in art education by saying that, the teaching learning process in art education is the education itself while the creativity, skill and expression is the art in “Art Education”. From the above definitions creativity can then be described as an integral part of Art and Art Education. Art and Art Education could also be perceived to be cultural, formal or informal, historical or present local or international, theoretical or practical and many more. Therefore it is important to seek for the strategies that will fortify Art and Art Education to be a major tool for a sustainable development.

At this juncture, it is important to bring to the spotlight the impact of Art and Art Education on the growth and development of an individual, and the national growth and development of the world at large and against this backdrop establish the need to come up with enabling strategies for Art and Art Education to be instrumental in sustaining development in our developing world. The impact will be measured by considering the objectives of Art and Art Education and the challenges as it may concern individual and the world at large. Note every strategy should still aim at fulfilling the objectives of Art and Art Education as well solving the challenges. Ambrit (n.d)

The goal of art education is to bring out the creative, expressive and aesthetic potential of each child, and to promote the attitudes, thinking and discipline necessary for all types of learning. In the broadest sense, art education should serve as a catalyst for a lifetime of meaningful, fulfilling and creative experiences, and enhance the very quality of life; enabling our children to continue being throughout their life, Learners Learning to Learn.

In the National Policy on Education (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004), the following are some of the objectives of art education mentioned.

- Give the child opportunities for developing manipulative skills that will enable the child function effectively in the society.
- Provide the child with basic tools for further educational advancement, including preparation for traders and crafts of the locality.
- Provide trained manpower in Art Education courses for example Art teachers of various Art disciplines.
- Develop and promote Art and culture.
- Raise the generation of people who can think for themselves, respect the views and feelings of others.
Give training and impart the necessary skills to individual who shall be self-reliant economically.

Problems and Challenges of Art and Art Education

A critical look at the problems of Art and Art Education is important. These problems are stumbling blocks in the achievement of laid objectives and if not taken care of will also mar whatever strategy is intended for sustainable development. For example, the totally wrong perception of art education courses has really made the education to derail in the hands of administrators etc. Again, there is an unjust assumption of it as being an ordinary course and not demanding much attention physically, financially and infrastructure wise. Uzoagba(2000), confirms this by saying,

wrong projection of what art is, has been one of the major causes of apathy towards the subject, and to remedy the situation, every effort should be made by the classroom teacher of art or art educator to project a clear picture of what art is and of how the artist or creative person works...

Having quantified the importance of Art and Art Education in the life of an individual and the world at large attention needs to be paid to the challenges. It should also be noted that the problems of Art and Art Education will also be the problem of Education. According to Consortium(2009) the challenges of Art and Art Education includes some of the following:

- Research to date is still not sufficient and focused enough to establish the full benefits of arts education in the school curriculum.
- There is a problem in the way we organize arts education. We must change the way we manage arts education and the way we hire teachers. The arts should not be an add-on in the schools in order to achieve intended strategies with the changing world of art.
- Cultural and artistic expression is not sufficiently valued. The arts agenda is minute in the public’s eye and student-teacher ratios are considered more important than the arts.
- In many school boards there is a lack of qualified art teachers. (For some teachers --- it's just another job, right. That's not the way it should be). Thereby maximum patriotism should embed in order to achieve to goals of the strategies of coping with the changing world of Arts and Art Education.
- It is important to maintain a very broad view of our concepts of art and the role of arts education. Some have a more romantic or western view of the arts. We can learn from cultures in which the arts are more about tradition, preservation and participation.
- Traditional arts are evolving and transformations in materials and styles are taking place. It is important to evolve but traditional arts are based in oral history and this history must be preserved. Because it could be of reference and use in the next changed world.

Strategies through Which Art and Art Education can be instrumental to the sustainability of development

- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** ICT refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunication. It is similar to Information Technology (IT), but focuses primarily on communication technologies. This includes the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones and other communication
In the changing everything appears to be carried out through ICT. Accessing, processing disseminating of information are best carried out through ICT in the changing world. It has a lot of advantages such as speed, easy access, distance is not a barrier, easy access to bulk of information that can be used in teaching learning process, globally recognized and accepted. It will be good to recall that creativity is the bedrock on which Art and Art Education lies. ICT is a creative development that has come to stay having only potentials for leaps in progressive development or better still sustainable development. Artists and Art Educators would do well to be ICT compliant as it is a very good window of opportunity to play a pivotal role in an ageless development.

- **Research Institutes:** Government and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) should be more involve in research matters, by creating well equipped research institutes where individuals can easily access information and process information as well. Researchers in Art and Art Education should be given necessary support financially and material wise. Also security should be given most especially when researchers are on field work.

- **Retaining the values in the traditional art:** Detecting and retaining values in the traditional art in the society. Egonwa, (1994), perception about traditional art is that, “the original art style and cultural phase before contact with other people of the world… However, because Art styles persist, art today in Africa has not been completely broken with that style. Admittedly, it has been seriously affected by forces of modernization. Mount(1973),argues that, traditional African art now disappearing with the concepts that guaranteed its existence is continuing in only a few areas with any degree of its former excellence.

  In the writer’s view, if truly, traditional art has measurable and evident amount of success in its days of practice and it is being acknowledged in the contemporary literature to the extent of attracting foreign attention in various means, the interest in the documentation of the art was not just ordinary but due to the accumulated volumes that it brought to bear. Also, in pictorial representation and display, the traditional African art at large was discovered to be having strong influences on the European artists in the presentation of their forms. According to Horst De La Croix and Richard(1980),

  Around 1905-1906, Picasso became almost simultaneously of the importance of the art of Cezanne, of the primitive art of Africa and Oceania, and especially of the sculpture of ancient Iberia. He detected in them a way of organizing formal elements that was different from anything in western tradition, a way that would give them esthetical independence from pictorial realism and a new vivid value of their own.

  Also in the view of Willet, (1971), quoting a European artist Fred Uhlmah “I bought my first African mask not because I like it, but because I felt that being now a painter, I had to be in the movement. Most of the artist I admired, Picasso, Modigliani and Derian to mention only a few, had collected African art and had been profoundly
influenced by it”. If the facts truly exist then the values of traditional art styles should be retained and transformed into whatever demands development makes in order to still retain the popularity. The modern days will still have their influence in order to make better, may be in terms of documentation, presentation, purpose, functionality etcetera.

- **Individual’s development**: Artist and Art Educationist both the learner and teacher should seek for professional environment that gives room for exposure to more knowledge as regards Art and Art Education. In service training should be encouraged, academic conferences, seminars, exhibitions and symposium should be attended and full participation should be encouraged and sponsored.

- **Evaluation**: It is an important factor as well, there should be properly laid down strategies to know how far and how effective the laid down strategies are doing. To know if there is need for change in the curriculum or not, to upgrade whatever that is needed to be upgraded. Probably there will be need for recruitment and training of staff, to know if available facilities are outdated or not and many more.

**Conclusion**

Observations made shows that indigenous arts that are (Traditional Arts) should be inculcated into Art Education. Apart from the glory acclaimed by the Traditional Arts in the traditional period, it is noted that teaching and learning will be made easier and cheap in times of expensive. This is because medium that will be used are within the immediate environment. It was also established that for the objectives of Art and Art Education to be achieved in the changing world, there should be strategies emplace. The strategies should be put emplace by professionals and professional bodies as the need arises. It should be subject to review as well. This should be able to put aright the perception of Art and Art Education, thus enabling this field of education to leave its footprints in the sands of development.

**Recommendations**

Education is a continuous process, from one generation to another. There is nothing that best guarantees development as Education. In the days and times gone by, style, form and design of education was based on the society’s immediate need but not anymore. If we are moving from developing to developed; then the scope of our education has to be widened to accommodate the yardsticks for “developed” especially as we are not a closed system as a nation. If they are to be relevant at a global level come 2025, then we must learn the language. A learner today will become a teacher tomorrow and learning is also a continuous process. In the light of these, a degree holder should aspire to become a master’s certificate holder, masters holder should aspire to become PHD holder etcetera. Therefore, there is need for an enabling environment for Art and Art Education, considering the wideness and importance of Art and Art Education in the society. There lies the urgent need for the national policy makers to pass and approve a bill on pure Art Colleges of Education and Universities of Arts, just as there are Universities of Education, Universities of Technology, Universities of Agricultural sciences etc. This will not only further develop Art and Art Education, it will make it an instrument of development. Also at the administrators of these institutions will be professional Artists and Art Educators. This way, the wrong impression about this aspect of education given by administrators will be eliminated.
References