

USING FINE AND APPLIED ARTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION

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Abstract

Fine and Applied Arts can refer to several things such as a study of creative skills, a process of using creative skills, a product of using creative skills, mention but a few. This paper highlights the potentialities of this aspect of education as a springboard for wealth creation for individuals and national development of a nation. No doubts that skills acquisition is a veritable avenue to fast-track the overall development of a nation interested in all-round national economic prosperity and development. Every nation must evolve training of minds and hands to pave way for the production of human capital. Its activities are dynamic and capable of having a bearing effect on any government policies and priorities on education. However, it is essentially man's creative spirit using media to express feelings or moods for either through clay, woodwork, cement, weaving, or some other media. Economic empowerment through Fine and Applied Arts can be a springboard marginalizing people to obtain the basic human needs, either directly by themselves, or through the assistance of those who have access to funds that can be used to encourage and develop their skills for self-sufficiency. This paper discusses more on empowering of youths through arts, crafts, and design as an impetus for national development of a nation.

Keywords: *Crafts and Design, Empowering Youths, Fine and Applied Arts, National Development.*

Introduction

Fine and Applied Arts has been generally defined in terms of expression, communication of emotion or other values that it avails individuals. The nature of it as a subject had been related to concepts such as creativity and interpretation, and seen as a branch of philosophy known as aesthetic. It refers to several things and has several meanings attached to it. This includes being referred to a study of creative skills, a process of using the creative skills, a product of the creative skills or the audience experience with creative skills. The field of human endeavours that encourages use of simple mechanical tools. No wonder that society these days have witnessed transformation of different kinds in the area of introducing machines or technologies to aide work and production. Since the industrial revolution till date, human beings have continued to advance in technology and the use of it to enhance human activities. Something which has been proved to be what this area of discipline is noted for. Andrews (2011) asserted that at the beginning in the mid-to late 18th century, there was a shift from manual and animal labour to machine - based manufacturing that revolutionized virtually

every aspect of daily life in some way. As embedded in the concept, industrial revolution is responsible for the application of technology to every human activity. This advancement is being witnessed in the other fields with the development in digitalized human productions. This allows individuals to reason alongside their various fields of learning as provided by in art-based programmes to see how to solve the problems of poverty and ensure national development. Since the economy of the country has not achieved the desired goals, there is a need to address the possible alternatives for solving the problems. Since the challenges encountered at present is how to manage the economic crisis, there therefore the need for emphasis on some subject areas like Fine and Applied Arts for the advantage of a large fraction of Nigeria's citizenry. No doubt, the role of art-based as a medium of preparing one to function responsibly in the society is remarkable. This is because in this form of education every individual learns to grow up as useful members of society. Ogunmola (2006) describes art-based considered the highest form of human expression. It is of great importance to incorporate it into education and thus help individuals to fit into society. Considering the materials end that this discipline provides for society, it can be used to promote human creativities and sell out a variety of innovations that will advance the nation economically and to advertise its potentials to outside world as a technologically developing country. Infact as Geoffrey Parker (2001) rightly observed and was stressed in the International Journal of Research Publications and Reviews (Vol. 3, No 10, Pp. 507-511 of October 2022) Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates (averaging 7.2%) over the last decades.

Hence for a well-developed economy to be achieved, art-based discipline like Fine and Applied Arts is essentially required by Nigeria. With the aid of this form of education, the arrays of natural resources such as oil will become its advantage to prosperities. Thereby eliminating the level of poverty which had remain high and very prominent in the land.

Fine and Applied Arts in National Development

Fine and Applied Arts play a crucial role in advancing national development by contributing to cultural identity, economic growth, and social cohesion. This had been through mediums such as painting, sculpture, pottery, to mention a few. It preserves cultural heritage, promote social awareness, and stimulate creativity and innovation. One significant aspect of the role of this form of education in national development is the ability to preserve and transmit cultural heritage. According to Smith (2017), it draws inspirations from traditional practices, folklore, and historical events, and creates works that celebrate and commemorate the diversity of national identities. Since it documents and interprets cultural traditions and customs, UNESCO (2003) regarded it as a discipline which can contribute to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, and foster a sense of pride and belonging among communities. Caves (2002) regarded it as a contributor to economic development by generating income for individuals, creating employment opportunities for others, and stimulating tourism by people from other nations. In the opinion of this Scholar artistic hubs, galleries, and art-oriented cultural institutions attract visitors. Thereby in turn boosting local economies and generating revenue for all entrepreneurs. Generally, advance the nation into economic prosperities and abundance in all ramifications. As it was rightly observed by Throsby (2010), its maximization as a

form of education also contribute to international trade and cultural exchange, enhancing the global visibility of national traditions and culture. Through this country like Nigeria can earn huge incomes and generates dollars and pounds for national developments. Apart from the economic impacts, it can also play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and civic engagement to access other amenities that that benefit every individual in Nigeria. Whilst Kester (2004) on his part described public art installations, murals, and community-based projects as platforms for dialogue, reflection, and collective action, something which address pressing social issues and serves as platforms for positive change for every individual generally. According to Delanty (2011), by fostering empathy, understanding, and solidarity, it contributes to the creation of inclusive and participatory societies, where diverse voices and perspectives are valued and respected. Bringing together everyone to see themselves as stakeholders to play active roles in the development of the nation.

Challenges:

Lack of Infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure can hinder the development and utilization of Fine and Applied Arts as means of training individuals to make good use of their gifted intelligence to create avenues of incomes for themselves and others as well. These infrastructures included spaces to translate their dreams into realities (workshops) and art-based Schools, Poor infrastructure limits individuals' ability to showcase their talents and creativity sense, engage with audiences with their innovative dexterity. Thereby limiting Nigeria's opportunities to fall upon the creative skills of its citizens to participate effectively in the development of the nation.

Limited Access to Education: Access to quality art-based education is often limited, particularly in chaotic communities and underserved regions. The lack of educational opportunities in art-based disciplines impedes the development of any individual's talent, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Thereby creating room for inequalities in cultural participation and translating dreams into realities to attract incomes and also create opportunities for others to earn a living. Eventually limiting avenues for Nigeria to develop economically as a nation.

Cultural Policy and Institutional Support: Weak or outdated cultural policies and institutional frameworks can inhibit the growth of the cultural sector and undermine this form of education's role as medium encouraging freedom to think innovatively and create diversities in artistic creativities. Inadequate support for cultural institutions, such as museums, galleries, and theaters, hampers their ability to fulfill their educational and artistic missions. As centres that showcase giftedness and use of endowed skills to attract attention that will in turn bring incomes to individuals and organizations, it automatically attracts people from other nation to bring in their local currencies in exchange to access these art-based innovations. Thereby hindering numerous efforts to accumulate foreign currencies for national developments.

Opportunities:

Advancements in Technology: The inclusion of **Fine and Applied Arts into curriculum** presents new opportunities for artistic expression, translation of dreams into realities, and engagement of gifted talents into expertise creativities. Through digital platforms and online streaming services individuals trained along this discipline are availed opportunities to reach global audiences, explore new mediums, and experiment with innovative forms of manifesting their giftedness. With availability of modern technologies, it is a subject that can be taken advantage of to develop Nigeria as a nation nationally.

Cultural Diplomacy: **Fine and Applied Arts** serve as powerful tools for cultural diplomacy. This is because it is a discipline that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes international cooperation. Cultural exchange programs, artistic collaborations, and international festivals facilitate dialogue and mutual appreciation among diverse communities and nations. Something that if maximized can be of greater advantage to Nigeria with its array of heavily talented teens to develop nationally.

Social Innovation: **Fine and Applied Arts** have the potential to inspire social innovation and community development by addressing pressing social issues, advocating for social justice, and promoting inclusive practices. Community-based arts initiatives can be used as a platform of creating things that are of benefits to everyone. Innovations such as participatory theatre projects and public art installations can really empower marginalized groups within a social setting. By implications amplify their voices and catalyze positive changes.

Creative Economy: No doubts, **Fine and Applied Arts** offer opportunities for economic diversification and job creation for all individuals, eventually giving way to sustainable development to any serious-minded nation or country. Meaning that by supporting any creative entrepreneurship, cultural tourism, and creative initiatives, Nigeria as a nation aiming to develop nationally can stimulate local economies, revitalize urban areas, and enhance the quality of life for every citizen. This in effects encourage everyone to see themselves as stakeholders in the development of the country as a nation.

However, **Fine and Applied Arts** face significant challenges, it also presents numerous opportunities for advancing national development goals. By addressing key challenges and leveraging emerging opportunities, Nigeria as a nation can harness the transformative power of this discipline to build more inclusive, resilient, and culturally vibrant societies inhabited by teens prepared to put their giftedness into positive uses. Become array of agile and vibrantly manipulative to turn local technologies into complicatedly advanced tech. Eventually developing Nigeria as a nation and economically developed country at the end of the day.

Policy Implications of Fine and Applied Arts for National Development:

Effective cultural policies and strategic interventions are essential for harnessing the full potentials of **Fine and Applied Arts** to contribute to national development. Policymakers, cultural institutions, and stakeholders must prioritize the integration of this form of education into broader development agendas and implement measures to support artistic expression, creativity, and cultural diversities.

- 1. Investment in Arts Education:** Governments should prioritize investment in it as a fundamental subject of study at all levels of the education system. This will nurture artistic talent, creativity, and critical thinking skills in every citizen. According to UNESCO (2006), by providing access to quality art-based education, policymakers can cultivate a new generation of who will make intelligent use of talents to create opportunities for themselves and others to earn a living. People along this line of education are usually good artists, cultural practitioners and creative entrepreneurs. This are set of individuals who can contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of Nigeria as a nation.
- 2. Support for Cultural Infrastructure:** Policymakers should allocate resources to develop and maintain cultural infrastructure. This includes museums, galleries, theatres, and performance venues. In the opinion of Throsby (2010), investing in cultural infrastructure not only provides everyone with platforms to showcase their giftedness but also enhances cultural participation and access to the art-based trainings for all citizens. This avails every individual to depend on their skills and use positively and productively for the development of Nigeria as a nation.
- 3. Promotion of Cultural Diversity:** Governments should adopt policies and initiatives that promote cultural diversity. Through the inculcation of this subject into all levels of education, it encourages every individual to use local technologies to create thing that will be artistic in forms and attract others to gladly part with money in appreciation of their innovative creations. This artistic trainings and freedom of such individuals to express themselves is usually noticeable on film- shooting locations and more pronounced in films productions. Thus, serving the role of protecting and preserving the cultural heritage. In the view of UNESCO (2005), supporting cultural activities like festivals which manifests display and use of art-based innovations can foster intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and social cohesion within a diverse society like the Nigerian nation.
- 4. Integration of Fine and Applied Arts in Planning the Curriculum:** policymakers should recognize the role of **Fine and Applied Arts** in national development, meaning that there is the need to incorporate it as one of the core subjects into planning processes. Creative placemaking initiatives like public display of artistic creations in traditional festivals, art projection as can be seen at film-shooting locations, and cultural districts as amplified by traditionally designed palaces can revitalize brotherhoods amongst the citizens. In the words of Markusen and Gadwa (2010), it can stimulate economic growth and

enhance the quality of life for every citizen. These Scholars believes that since everyone gather together irrespective of their religious practices, ethnic background and political affiliations, oneness, unity and togetherness are a single family manifested itself. Noting this will gradually rally every Nigerian together as Brothers and Sisters. Eventually providing platform for Nigeria's development as a nation.

5. **Collaboration and Partnership:** Governments should collaborate with cultural institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to develop comprehensive cultural policies and initiatives. As emphasized by Landry (2008), Fine and Applied Arts fosters partnerships and encourages stakeholder engagement. He admonished policymakers to leverage skills resources, creativity expertise, and intelligent networking opportunities embedded in this area of trainings bring together to see themselves as important players in Governments efforts to make Nigeria better. Availing the country to maximize the full benefits of arts-based education on national development goals. Gradually transforming Nigeria into full grown economic prosperities and eventual nationally developed nation in every sphere of needs to make secured and comfortable for every citizen.
6. **Provision of Physical and Material Resources:** Sanusi (2001) quoted Olaitan (1996) and Okoro (1993) that Fine and Applied Arts is a type of training which provides the attitudinal dexterities for many jobs, thereby developing the ability to use gifted skills within the environment of businesses. It is therefore not an over statement to say that presently human and material resources are needed for the actualization of its objectives. Meaning that with the provision of adequate physical and material resources, it makes individuals more efficient and help to advance them to higher levels of dexterity in employments. These included space, equipment, and buildings like classrooms, workshops, laboratories and studios. All of these which assist art-based education to its set developmental and empowerment goals. Finally leading to eventual availability of physical and material resources for the use od everyone. Developing the country in all aspects and make it a nation.
7. **Creation of Conducive Learning Environment:** Making physical numerous facilities available will automatically makes the goals of Fine and Applied Arts realizable. Thereby providing for the manpower resources needed for the actualization economic prosperities and take off in national development. This makes the recipients self-reliant after the basic education, and laid the vital foundation for the developments nationally.
8. **Better Remunerations for Specialists in Fine and Applied Arts:** It is pertinent to note that Graduands of Fine and Applied Arts are required for the development of any industry. This is because there is no modern industry wherein one form of arts or the other is not made use of to either advertise their products or in the process of producing their products. Graduates in art-oriented education are being sought by many industries, meaning that there are lots of options and opportunities open to Teachers and Specialists in art Fine

and Applied Arts. Therefore, they should be well remunerated to make attracted and retained in the teaching of art-based profession. It cannot be faulted that the success of any nation is based on the availability of adequately equipped and professionally trained citizenry who will make use of the gifted skills and aggravate the national developments.

Conclusion

Fine and Applied Arts have played vital roles in national development of a country as well as self-dependency of its citizens. Through this people can explore ways of doing things differently. It offers them a way to meaningfully engagement and responds to their world. It provides good opportunities to stimulate and develop their knowledge and intellect. It avails every individual opportunity to engage their creative imagination through tactile experiences and the innovative use of materials and technologies in the realization of their dreams. Not only that, it also plays an important role in national development. Through effective re-engineering of this subject, a nation will acquire the capacity to make practical and aesthetic decisions in the development of its economy. Ensuring that every individual become actively involved in shaping the physical, social and cultural environment wherever such individual finds themselves. By extension advancing the country into much desired prosperities, and finally the development of Nigeria as a nation

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