
The Efficacy of Dimensional Shingle on National Integration, Development and Sustainability: Education, Culture and Innovation

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Abstract

National integration, development and sustainability have been marked as the offspring of the dimensional shingle ranging from education, culture and innovation. The complex dynamics and multidimensional nature of national integration characterized by its great variety of interlocking historical, political, sociocultural and international elements emanated and metamorphosed through education and culture. Education as the bed rock of national integration and development contributes to all dimensions of sustainability vis-à-vis socio economics, environment, governance and security of the individual. It is a catalyst as well as indispensable vehicle that drives through culture and continuous innovation for attainment of development of sustainability. Nigerian being a multi ethnic and multi lingual nation holds tenaciously unto education as a medium for transmission and the bridge of existing gaps, as it inculcates values of solidarity, integration and knowledge about culture. This paper x-rayed the impact of education, culture and innovation as means for national integration, development and sustainability.

National integration is imperative for peaceful co-existence, socio-economic development and sustainability of a nation. Nigeria as a heterogeneous nation with diverse culture will be impaired without making education her pre-occupation in the achievement of unity.

Insecurity nationwide is a matter of utmost concern and urgency which needs to be tackled through the transmission of knowledge and inculcation of values, ethnics, attitude, norms, traditions and cultures into individuals. And the only channel through which this vital and powerful information is disseminated is education. In the sociological theory of functionalism, value consensus is recognized as a bedrock of national integration (Obasi, 2014). These values may include the desire to preserve the political identity of a country, foster economic well-being and the desire to pursue

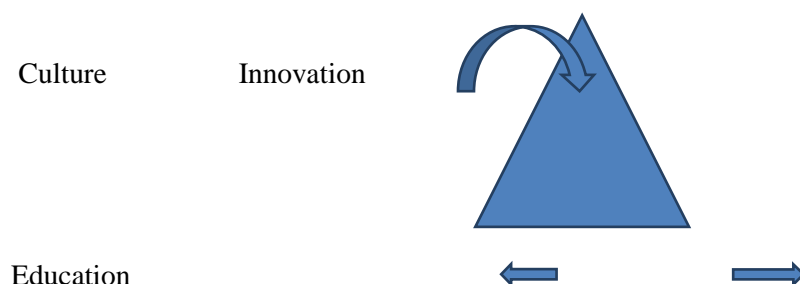
peace and unity among the citizenry. For attainment of national development and sustainability, there must be national integration.

Innovation being another dimension to national integration cannot be over emphasized, because no institution or entity survives in solitude as change is the only constant concept. Therefore a developing nation must keep abreast with initiatives, creativity and new ideas to move forward.

The Concept of Dimensional Shingle

Dimension refers to a single side of any given thing. A measure of something in a particular direction such as height, width, breath, or depth. Dimensional shingle on the other hand is a piece of material that is textured, overlaid or laminated and designed to produce a three dimensional effect. Therefore, dimensional shingle in this context means the powerful effect of three indispensable factors on national integration.

See diagram below: Fig 1



National Integration

National integration refers to oneness, unity, collective responsibility towards the development and growth of a nation. According to Joseph (2015), National integration is the awareness of a common identity among the citizen of a country. It means that even though we belong to different ethnic groups, religion and speak different languages, with different cultures and traditions, we are one. In line with the above concept, Haralambos and Holborn (2008), opine that national integration is the adjustment of the constituents of a whole for better effect. It is concerned with the co-ordination and mutual adjustment of a part of the social system to achieve a better structure.

To buttress this notion, Jary and Jary (2000), posit that the extent to which an individual experiences a sense of belonging to a social group or collectivity by virtue of sharing its norms, values, beliefs, etc., is national integration. From the above definitions, it can be averred that national integration is total subordination of a person or group interest to national goals through culture, language, religion and ethnic fragmentation.

Despite the measures taken to promote national integration through

- i. national youth service corps scheme,
- ii. inter-state students exchange programs

- iii. the existence and operation of unity schools, federal college of education, universities and polytechnics, Nigerian has continued to face challenges of
 - a. ethnicity
 - b. hang-over of early empires, state and kingdoms
 - c. Unhealthy formation and development of political parties
 - d. Unabated passion for state creation.

National Development and Sustainability

National development can be defined as a continuous improvement, change and advancement of a country. According to Emediongokon et al, (2015), it is a progressive growth in all aspects of a nation building. A positive growth of a peoples livelihood, economically, politically, culturally, technologically, educationally, socially interwoven and intermingled to form a whole (Ngene,2010).

Judging from the above, national development embraces industrialism, modernism, material acquisition, opportunities, and good quality of life for the citizens. The ability of a nation to provide and improve on the social welfare of the citizenry, ranging from infrastructure, portable water, quality of education, and other social amenities mark her development. The political, socio-economic, cultural, educational and technological aspects cannot be down played as these are part and parcel of national development.

Succinctly, the sustainability of national development depends on the incessant improvement of the existing structures and innovations. Munasinghe (2004), states that sustainable national development is a process of improving the range of opportunities that will enable individuals and communities to achieve their aspirations and full potential over a sustained period of time.

Sustainability of national development emphasizes not only on economic development but also on social, political, and cultural development and the need to conserve the environment and its natural resources.

Education as a Catalyst for National Integration

Education is the main stream of national integration, development and sustainability. It plays a crucial role in shaping personal and collective identities, promoting critical, social, capital and cohesiveness, equipping and developing individuals' potentials and producing responsible citizenship based on principles of respect for life, human dignity and cultural diversity. It is on this note that Popoola (2010), asserts that education helps one to maximize his physical, mental, and emotional capabilities which are useful to one and the society.

Education encompasses all dimensions to national development, sustainability and integration. This assertion is evident in the national policy of education (2014), as it states the overall philosophy of Nigeria thus;

- i. To live in unity and harmony as one indivisible, in dissolvable, democratic and sovereign nation founded on the principles of freedom, equality and justice;
- ii. Promote inter-African solidarity and world peace through understanding.

Based on the foregoing, education can be adjudged as an enabling factor for multiple dimensions of societal development and sustainability. It can also be described as a transformational instrument, a formidable force and a change agent in actualizing the desired results of a nation. As a matter of fact, education performs the following functions in the achievement of national integration, development and sustainability;

1. It acts as an instrument of social control
2. Education transmits knowledge and information that embraces diversity.
3. It creates a large middle class which is prerequisite for national development and sustainability (doctors, teachers, professionals etc.)
4. It creates an enlightened society which is crucial for integration.
5. It develops an individual
6. It preserves and transforms cultural heritage.

The Concepts of Culture and Innovation

Culture is a way of a people. It involves ideas, customs, and social behavior of a particular people or society. Wikipedia (2011), defines culture as the social behavior and norms found in human societies. Onyema (2016), in his own view sees culture as the total repertoire of human actions which are socially transmitted from generation to generation. Based on these, it means that culture includes food, dance, language, music, religion and accepted manners of doing things. It can further be described as the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people and encompassing values, beliefs, customs and traditions. Culture measures our quality of life, vitality and health of our society.

Innovation however entails embracing changes, new ideas, initiatives, techniques, strategies and methodologies. Achunine (2006) in Obizue et,al (2015), assert that innovation is the modification, restructuring or even reorganization of an existing system to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency. In line with the above assertion, innovation is the introduction and acceptance of new ideas, initiation of changes for conflict resolution and improving on existing situations. According to Onwioduokit (2015), innovation emanates from two reasons:

- i. Inefficiency of the previous methods with respect to the modern society and prevailing environment and
- ii. Knowledge obtained from research findings.

On this premise, innovation is characterized by a motivating force which is a need for improved conditions.

National Integration through Education, Culture and Innovation

Currently, Nigeria has been experiencing series of disunity challenges ranging from ethnic clashes, religious conflicts, and political unrest to tribal differences. Since independence, national integration, conscious and identity have been utmost interest of the nation, but the achievement of these goals is not in sight. Accordingly, Naanen(1995), stresses that ethnic particularism is the major cause of this failure. In the mist of these myriad of problems starring Nigeria in the face, the quest for sensitization

for unity and peaceful coexistence among the citizenry becomes paramount to avoid disintegration. This is evident in the words of Igudiatohan (2014), which emphasizes the fact that individuals are the units of integration and members of a nation are integrated as they share a common identity.

As a matter of fact, national integration is basically a binding force which is fostered through culture, education and innovation. There has been growing interest and support to recognize these agents as integral part of national integration. Obviously, these three factors shape individuals' world views, the way communities address the changes and challenges of their societies. The close nexus between culture, innovation and education should be understood as an opportunity to promote human rights, cultural rights, global citizenship and respect for cultural diversity. They are the source of energy creativity and ability to address challenges and finding appropriate solutions.

Subsequently, these tools are drivers of sustainable development and national integrations through their contributions to social, cultural and economic development, harmony, environmental sustainability, peace and security. It is also imperative to state that these enormous achievements are possible through education. According to the maxim that "knowledge is power". Education is knowledge and can be ascribed to as a formidable force with enormous power that fortify individuals with knowledge through the development of innate abilities. These developed abilities and capabilities including the cultural agent (norms, values, ethics and morals) metamorphose to sound minds which become constructive and objective. It is through these effective tools that national integration is achieved.

Importance of National Integration

National integration is Important if a nation has to achieve the following:

1. Democratic stability.
2. Increase in economic growth.
3. National development and sustainability.
4. Give citizens all vital rights and duties.

Conclusion

National integration is the awareness of a common identity among the citizens of a country. From all indications, its unique feature binds the diversification of the nation in all spheres, promoting sense of belonging and collectivity by sharing norms, values and beliefs. This great achievement is powered through education, culture and innovation for national development and sustainability.

Recommendations

National integration can be improved through the following ways:

1. Public education of the citizenry on peace and unity.
2. Emotional, social and economic unity.
3. Inter-caste and inter-provincial marriages.
4. Instituting common national language.
5. Myth or reality.

6. Promoting equity, justice, fairness and love.

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