



ELECTRONIC MEDIA USAGE FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION IN NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

Electronic media is a medium designed to facilitate teaching and learning at the secondary school and tertiary institutions when used effectively. This paper therefore looked at the challenges and prospects in the use of electronic media in the classroom instruction. Effort should be laid on the relevant authorities and bodies piloting the management of education to intensify more effort to the usage of electronic media for instruction in the secondary school and tertiary institutions of learning.

Introduction

Electronic media either projected or non-projected is a mechanism that cannot be over-emphasized in the teaching and learning process at all level of education because of their effectiveness in making learning and teaching to be less difficult. Audio-Visual materials serve as facilitators of teaching/learning process and are agents of selling out proper ideas to the learners.

Alabi (2002) stressed that audio-visual materials/equipment like radio, television, videotape, film projectors are part of the electronic media

capable of focusing attention on who and what is important and interesting to the learner such that it encourages learner to contribute immensely to national development. Educational technology and audio-visual materials are strong factors in facilitating effective communication which will result in higher degrees of understanding and performance in any learning situation. In the educational technology class it is believed that Video facilitate strong retention in the learner, for example it is said that what a child sees and feels remain permanent in his learning career, so instructional materials in whatever form is capable to ignite the learners intelligent coregent.

Tonnie (2003) states that there are special relationship between television and education which is often overlooked. It is said that both instructions have indistinguishable goals of providing information, imparting knowledge, interpreting events and socializing the human mind. He went further by remarking that information, knowledge and socialization are the major components of development in all human societies.

In the same vain Alabi (2009) maintained that in a large and diverse society such as Nigeria, public participation expression of opinions and protests and the periodic election of leaders, so many Nigerians don't have direct access to the happenings in their immediate environment or are not aware of the various events that occur around them. Thus things happen around them at times without them knowing what decision that have been taken, but with media technology they will gain access to things happening in their domain. Thus, media constitute their main access whereby they could gain access to the things happening in their environment, therefore the integration between television education and national development is obvious and important; this paper is not referring to the integration of television and education as more presence or use of television in schools recreational centres, but the point here is that television and other electronic media should be used as mediator for educational instruction in the classroom, using media as a means of instruction in the classroom.

Furthermore, media equipment/materials needed for instruction in the classroom are inadequate in most institutions of learning especially our secondary schools. Media materials ranging from ordinary radio, television and other non-projected materials like multi-medias, computers are lacking in those secondary schools around us. This research went into various secondary schools in Niger, Ekiti, Kogi States and found out that media

utilization and media facilities are nothing to write home about. In this vain this research proposed that governments and concerned bodies should look into this problems and find a lasting solution to them. However, where these materials are not available automatically their usage for instruction will not be achieved, so the unavailability of these materials forms a major hindrance to the use of electronic media for formal instruction in our institution of learning in Nigeria.

Availability of instructional materials is pre-requisite to the functional and interesting teaching and learning process. However unavailability of these facilities such as electricity, suitable environment can mare the usage of this media gadgets in the classroom instructions, and when such materials are missing, instruction will not flow well. Supporting this fact, a research carried out recently revealed that media utilization has suffered seriously due to the non-availability of these instructional materials to teachers, therefore government or relevant bodies in charge of managing institutions of learning should pay more attention to these instructional materials that will be used to enhance teaching and learning process. In the case when these instructional materials are provided, they should be stored in a conducive areas, from dusty environment or in a hot room, for such instructional materials will not be able to stand the test of time, examples are pictures slides, transparencies etc.

Human manpower is another thing that is required to make the teaching and learning possible. The teachers/instructors that are supposed to use these gadgets are times are not used to them therefore making those media equipment useless in the first place, because when an instructor lacks the basic operational skills to handle instructional materials the students are to suffer it. Media is believed to be an important aspect of communication in this country today and even all over the world. The researcher therefore proposed that teachers be trained and encouraged on the effective utilization of electronic media in the classroom. Plan should be ahead on designing, planning and executing of this programme in our various institutions of learning most especially College of Education where teachers are being trained. Some challenges that could be faced are those of operating technologically made instructional materials, this could be due to the non-familiarity with such instructional materials or the fears of embarrassment in front of the learners who at times are very familiar with this instructional

materials right from home or not naturally and technically sound in media, computer projectors and many others. But government has not shown any good attitude towards provisions of such electronic media, they will always be complaining that such instructional materials were not budgeted for in their budgets thereby making teaching and learning a very big task to the instructors.

Finance could also stand as another obstacle in the use of electronic media equipment instances schools that are suppose to equip their laboratory with various media communication gadget when you enter their laboratory it is empty. This has brought about what Okpala (1981) call verbal symbolism i.e. talk and chalk method of teaching, because some teachers or instructors might be thinking there is no need for the use of electronic media in teaching due to the fact that they are not familiar with them, while some are still not computer literate such that when such attention are drawn on teaching and learning processes are not happy. Inadequate and inflexible curriculum is another challenge that this paper is looking into that is to say school curriculum should be flexible and not too rigidly planned so that modification can be done when the need arises.

Instructional Materials/Teaching

The results of several studies have established that no teacher can claim to be an encyclopedia of knowledge. He has to make proper usage of electronic media to facilitate grater learning in the students. Teaching as we can see is beginning to enter a period of revolution due especially to the increasing use of modern technology in the classroom. Three general factors have done much to bring about this development:

- The information explosion in the world today
- Population explosion in the schools
- The great shortage of instructors

All these have posed critical problems to education. These have propelled educationist to consider other ways of imparting knowledge to students by use of electronic media to solve these educational problems.

Recommendation

- Government should establish full fledged instructional media centers with sub-centers in each local government and school where applicable.

- Adequate funding should be provided for the purchase of electronic media instructional materials.
- Regular workshops and in-house training for teachers on the new technological instructional materials.
- Government should organize media in-service training workshop for staff regularly.
- All stakeholders in education should make it mandatory that instructional media bulletins be made available regularly.
- All Colleges of Education and Universities of Education Institution should make their media centers functional so as to train those teachers graduating from this institution familiar with the instructional materials.
- Stakeholders should make research to identify potential instructional materials into the achievers/units/section of Nigerian Television Authority and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria to be used appropriately for instruction.
- Finally, more attention should be paid to the subject of electronic media for instruction, to achieve high level performance in our various institutions. Likewise instructors should make it a habit to use electronic media for their large classrooms.

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