

**LITERACY EDUCATION, SECURITY AND OTHER
TRENDING ISSUES DURING THE COVID 19 ERA**

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Abstract

This paper examined literacy education, security and other trending issues in Covid-19 era. Literacy involves using reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing to gain more knowledge. Viewing to gain more knowledge. It is one of the most important parts of education. Security in education recently is in alarming stage. There is insecurity in the educational sector. Several concepts as literacy education, security, trending issues in Covid-19 era, challenges of literacy education in Covid-19 era were critically examined. Recommendations as of the need for government to improve on security in education and provide learners and facilitators with digital tools for teaching and learning since education is changing from face to face learning to online learning approach.

Keywords: Literacy Education, Security and Trending issues.

Introduction

Literacy Education is not a new term in the world. It has been with us for years. Developed countries of the world have gone far in literacy education but in developing countries and Under developed ones, the programme emphasizes more on Basic literacy. Literacy education is traditionally associated with the teaching of literacy mostly in 3R- Reading, writing and arithmetic usually in the clienteles' mother tongue" (Bramoh, 1990). This definition explains that reading, writing and arithmetic which are the basic of literacy are taught in learners' first language for easy understanding. Literacy lifts individual out of poverty. Lacking basic reading and writing skills is a tremendous disadvantage. Literacy not only enriches an individual's life, but it also creates opportunities for people to develop skills that will help themselves and their families" (Plan Interaction UK, 2017).

Literacy according to Best (2014), plays a vital role in transforming students into socially engaged citizens being able to read and write means being able to keep up with current events, communicate effectively and understand the issues that are shaping our world. Security in education in Nigeria today is being attached with negative issues and unpleasant situation. Kidnapping in schools is a major problem which has disturbed the free flow of learning in schools. During the Covid – 19 era, insecurity was a social problem, learners were not going to school as a result of fear of contacting the virus and schools resumption was prolonged for months.

Nmon (2013) described the term security as a total peaceful state of mind of an individual, the group, the state, the nation at a particular point in time and space. Trending issues during Covid-19 include teaching online, learning digital tools, and using different educational websites to learn. Literacy is everyone's birthright, everyone is meant to acquire knowledge, skills to reduce poverty insecurity and ignorance in an ever-changing world we are in.

Concept of literacy Education

"Literacy Education involves people who have never had opportunity of attending formal education or those who had very little opportunity but dropped out of the formal school system before they could acquire basic ability to read, write, and compute in their

daily activities. These groups of people need to be taught the basic, beginning from letters of the alphabet, combination of such letters to form simple syllables words, phrases and simple sentences in the language of instruction” (Imhabekhai, 2009).

Barton and Hamilton (2000) outlined six propositions about the nature of literacy as:

1. Literacy is best understood as a set of social practices; these can be inferred from events which are mediated by written texts.
2. There are different literacies associated with different domains of life.
3. Literacies practices are patterned by social institutions and power relationship, and some literacy become more dominant, visible and influential than others.
4. Literary practices are purposeful and embedded in broader social goals and cultural practices.
5. literacy is historically situated
6. Literacy practices change and new ones are frequently acquired through processes of informal learning making.

Concept of Security

Omoroje and Emuebie (2020), see security in terms of protecting the generality of the people and it is a collective responsibility of government and the people. Security can be described as the condition of being protected physically emotional and psychologically as well as freedom from any form of attack (Akinjide & Adesea, 2013). Omeyibo and Akpomera (2012), define it as assurance of the future wellbeing and freedom from threat.

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria Education

Ogheneakoke (2014), identified some factors as causes of insecurity in Nigeria education, they are:

- i. **Cultism and cult activities:** Most of the learners involve themselves in cultism activities and it caused unrest in any learning environment.
- ii. **Falling standard of Education:** Education in Nigeria today, mostly does not have good standard. Government is playing with the standard of education and are very unserious with it.

- iii. **Poverty and greed:** Poverty and greed has eaten up insecurity in Nigeria education.
- iv. **Religious intolerance:** Since Nigeria have so many religions in the country, most people cannot tolerate others religion and it causes social unrest leading to insecurity in our Nigeria education.

Trending Issues During Covid-19 Era in Education

Education changed dramatically during the Covid-19 crisis. There was emphasizes on online learning, E-library, learning with digital tools. Li and Lalani (2020), highlighted trending issues during Covid-19 crisis as which include:

- **Learning could happen anywhere online:** It helps learners to learn at anytime provided they can use their smart phones, laptops, or desktop computers to browse the internet.
- **Technology Education for tutors became a priority:** Facilitators have to learn how to use internet facilities to communicate with learners since every one was in the lockdown period.
- **Leveraging auxiliary learning platforms:** These online based learning platforms offer supports for assessing learners' work as well as providing feedback.
- **Weaving socialization into the online blended learning as the future of education:** Learners learn through blended learning which emphasizes online learning and teaching with the combination of traditional face-to-face teaching and learning.

Literacy Problems in Nigeria

According to UNESCO (2005), illiteracy is most prevalent in developing countries. South Asian, Arab and Sub-saharan African countries are regions with the highest illiteracy rate, at about 40 to 50%. East Asia and Latin America have illiteracy rates, in the region of 10 to 15%, while developing countries have values of percentages. Nigeria, one of the countries in sub-saharah Africa has illiteracy rate of 25.6% adult males and 40% adult females.”

Challenges of Literacy Education During Covid-19 Era

There were a lot of myriad problems facing Literacy Education during Covid-19 era which include;

- i. **Tutors and learners adapting to online teaching which was very demanding:** Teaching online may be short and the learners may not get what the facilitator is saying as they may find it difficult to understand.
- ii. **Instructors learning to refine their methods of teaching to suit online teaching for their learners:** The facilitators tries to refine their methods of teaching online. Maybe they were used to demonstration, explanation in traditional teaching. They now have to adjust it in online teaching to learners.
- iii. **Learners having difficulties checking internet as a result of poor network in rural areas:** Most learners in villages and hamlets have poor network problem because most telecommunication facilities are not in rural areas.
- iv. **Increased dropout rate was more in schools.** Many learners left school as a result of increased poverty that was prevalent during the pandemic. The learners could not concentrate in learning. They were distracted by the long break which lasted for seven months during the Covid-19 era.
- v. Many learners had difficulties in learning due to prolonged closure of schools.
- vi. **The pandemic brought insecurity in schools:** Learners were afraid of contacting the virus even when schools resumed. There was low turnout of students when schools finally started.

Conclusion

Literary Education is a powerful tool used to wipe out illiteracy and poverty from the populace. The importance cannot be overemphasized when one is literate, one is liberated and it will reduce insecurity in one's environment.

Recommendations

- Government should improve security in education and provide learners and instructors digital tools since education has gone digital globally.

- Tutors and learners should be security conscious about their school environment.
- Government should train and retrain tutors, instructors for them to be well exposed and groomed for the purpose of literacy programmes.
- Instructors should be passionate about their learners. They should motivate, and encourage them to learn, use various methods in teaching and exposing them to understand lessons perfectly.
- Government should think globally and act locally. They should look at how literacy education became successful in developed countries of the world and use such strategies in Nigeria education.

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