



ETHICAL CONSIDERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, DIGITAL LITERACY AND ANDRAGOGIC EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: NIGERIA AS A CASE STUDY.



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Abstract

This paper focused on Ethical consideration in the management of health education, inclusive education, digital literacy and andragogic education for sustainable national development. Management is defined as a process whereby all human resources and material resources are put together to achieve a common goal. Management ensures that every task to be executed is properly planned in order to achieve positive outcomes to promote sustainable growth and development. Health education is a subject matter that brings about behavior change. Challenges of management include: Shortage of funds, poor maintenance culture, political will and low staff morale. Challenges of health education management are: Lack of competent health instructors, insufficient funding, absence of curriculum implementation, inaccessibility to relevant materials and cultural barriers. It was concluded that health education is a subject matter that brings about positive behavior change. It was suggested that all stakeholders owe it as a responsibility in the area of adopting positive attitudes in order for them to be healthy at all times.

Keywords: Management, Health Education, Inclusive Education, Digital Literacy, Andragogic Education and Sustainable National Development.

Introduction

Management in itself is a very crucial phenomenon that needs to be taken very seriously if any society must function to its maximum capacity and in order words, management is defined as a process whereby all human resources and material resources are put together to achieve a common goal for the

benefit of everyone which is what produces all round success. Management is a very important ingredient of any establishment that oversees in which its primary aim is to make available facilities, equipment and all resources that assists its sustenance (Chukwudi & Nwanguma, 2025).

Management is that which brings about sustainable growth and development as far as education is concerned most especially in the area of management of health education for without being healthy which produces overall health education it will be very impossible for anyone to make policies that will be favorable to the general public (Chukwudi & Nwanguma, 2025). Health education in this case unfortunately today is seriously taken for granted that is the reason why there are cases of mortalities which is because of the absence of proper management in which it usually results to not making proper use of health information's that will assist in promoting our health for the better even when there are available human resource persons as well as material resource and this is happening since there is no monitoring exercises most especially in the proper maintenance of proper environmental hygiene (Adeleye, Adebisi & Afolabi, 2020). Andragogic education signifies adult education which is recognized by the national policy on education that assists them in all round character molding as well as further advancing their educational skills, ethics and the value that is placed on education for better sustainable growth and development (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2013). The National Policy on Education so much welcomes the training of individuals at all levels of educational system in Nigeria and it solely depends on funding by the federal government but quite unfortunately the issue of education is not given adequate attention which has led to its collapse overtime (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2013).

Sustainable National Development here is best described as a process whereby advancement takes place in order to properly place individuals on proper empowerment programmes that brings about economic policies and transformation through education which is a tool for remolding character and the development of skills and this can be made available both in the form of human and material resources (Edo & Ikelegbe, 2024). Sustainable National Development is still possible in Nigeria but it requires serious commitment for this dream to be actualized and there has to be an absence of corrupt practices for this innovation to thrive (Edo & Ikelegbe, 2024).

Concept of Management

The term management is as old as man in itself in which management can be simply described as the art and science of accomplishing goals and objectives through individuals (Okeke & Uwazuruike, 2016). Management ensures that every task to be executed is properly planned in order to achieve positive outcomes to promote sustainable growth and development in any society and this can be done by overseeing the activities of others in a way of delegating responsibilities to different persons and by so doing we are promoting ethical values in education (Rebore, 2023).

Management also has a very vital aspect which has to do with planning whatever is to be done in advance and this can come through drawing up educational programmes to be achieved within a time frame and when analyzing what management entails we are also to identify individuals with strengths and weaknesses and by so doing we are assisting them on how to get the problems solved and this can either be in form of using instructional materials known as teaching aids to make them understand basic concepts faster as well as those living with disabilities which is by using sign languages to completely solve all these challenges (Onye, 2010). Onye (2010) was of the opinion that management can go a long way in ensuring that every task is carried out at a given time especially in the area of education which is by designing the curriculum of the primary and secondary schools as well as universities whereby programmes are being accredited by Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) which are all to fit into academic programmes to the benefit of all and for this to be achieved then there is a need for teamwork to be brought in and this also requires the availability of both human and material resources. Anyanwu (2010) has made it clear that management is to be regarded as a social process whereby some persons at particular locations are fixed in places of leadership of an organization or a system where the Federal Government of Nigeria are to assist in making decisions and make sure there is an effective implementation of decisions made.

These persons are hereby held accountable for anything that occurs which can be either success or failure of a system or any establishment within a given time and it goes on to explain that management is that which a manager carries out (Anyanwu, 2010). The public sectors especially that of education today has lost its value and ethics simply because politics has eaten deep which has made it very difficult for children of the poor to have access to good quality education i.e. management and professionalism is seriously lacking and the Nigerian Government we have today have their children in private universities in Nigeria and abroad that is why they don't feel the heat of this whole situation (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2020).

The primary objective here is to ensure that the educational sector which happens to be in this category of the public sector is meant to see to it that there is consistent policy initiation, formulation as well as its implementation in which it checkmates irregularities and ensures that they are corrected in order to have positive outcomes (Igbokwe-Ibeto, Osakede & Nwobi, 2020).

Another thing here that seriously needs to be trashed out is the issue of Godfatherism because this trend has led to the destruction of effective management styles and this has affected students especially in tertiary institutions and it has lost its value to an extent that funding of public universities seem not to work due to poor funding and a learner friendly environment for students as well as laboratories where they can conduct practical's and well-stock libraries where they can comfortably stay and conduct their researches in which the primary and secondary school happen to be the worst hit (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2012).

Management strategies need to be included since education is involved because of instruments that will be used in remodeling it for the benefit of all which can be in form of leadership training, curriculum reforms, technological integration as well as fostering inclusive educational ethics and values in all facets of life (Asagba & Oshebor, 2024).

Importance of Management

Management is the most important tool for ensuring that education is given topmost priority as well as the management of health education for the good of all individuals. The following comprised of the importance which are:

1. **Economic growth:** Good management styles of education is possible when government and stakeholders take active part in formulating policies and implementing them is the only way productivity will increase while efficiency and businesses will yield good profit which is going to positively contribute significantly to the overall sustainable growth and development in Nigeria.
2. **Addressing challenges:** Nigeria as a country is faced with numerous challenges most especially in the aspect of education which has confronted us as well as the problems of insecurity facing the country including political instability, decay in infrastructure as well as dynamic market in which this case it is the effective management that will help in mitigating these problems and in the same vein seek for solutions.
3. **Human capital development:** Management here performs a key role in the area of recruitment, training and development of highly skilled employees which is a very essential ingredient for the growth of any nation.
4. **Strategic planning:** In everything one engages in particularly management, there is every tendency to carefully map out programmes in education we want to execute and it is so that we will get positive outcomes in the area of identifying opportunities in the area of mitigating the risks involved.
5. **Leadership and decision making:** For there to be a smooth run of any educational sector there is a need for effective leadership and decision making that will bring about laid down rules for successful planning and policies.

Challenges of management

In spite of efforts made to ensure that management takes a new turn, challenges continue to erupt which is due to non-commitment of government at all levels especially once it comes to education for children of all ages. The following include:

1. Shortage of funds: Absence of funds to revive the educational sector that happens to be a tool for sustainable growth and development and this can be as a result of the absence of equipped standard facilities and equipment's which include computers, laboratories, school health services, poor feeding as well as serene environment for learning (Adelakun, Adeyemi and Anisulowo, 2023). Over decades now, it has been on record that the federal government have not given adequate commitment to the educational sector most especially tertiary institutions of learning which is a more reason why there are dilapidated infrastructures and the absence of lecture halls where students can seat and receive their lectures since the budget is not channeled to the right direction and by this the present percentage of budgetary allocation for 2023 is 5.14 percent as against the 26 percent that is recommended by the United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Adelakun, Adeyemi and Anisulowo, 2023).
2. Poor maintenance culture: This is a situation whereby school facilities and equipment are not properly handled and, in this case, there is a quick decay and this is what usually occurs in educational institutions i.e. it is as a result of carelessness on the part of school administrators (Adedokun, 2011). Adedokun (2011) was also of the opinion that when there is an absence of teamwork in bringing resources together in the advancement of our educational system it is when results won't be achieved for the benefit of all.

Ojedele (2002) was of the opinion that if schools are located in places where does not appear conducive for learning then it will be to the detriment of the lives of the students and if where infrastructure are cited lacks accessibility it will be quite difficult for all.

3. Political will: This is where politics come into play and all these categories of individuals include presidents, governors, lawmakers and politicians alike. They are saddled with the responsibility of allocating resources in order to improve educational standards but quite unfortunately they allocate these funds to frivolous things and neglect the aspect of education while the children of the poor continue to lack the vital aspects of quality education and focus on things that are more beneficial to them (Jonatan, 2020).
4. Improper management of funds: Some school administrators also played a role in the collapse of our educational system which is because they are in the habit of misusing the funds handed over to them i.e. instead of them to bring in innovative ideas of running the school system they won't do as expected they will find a way to embezzle funds and this has only helped to crash the educational system and that is not good enough (Emenike, 2004). The issue associated with mismanagement of funds happen not to have been tackled which is a more reason why funding educational schemes have not been effective and it has resulted to lack of monitoring how the resources are being spent and the bottom line here depicts that there are poor management styles (Emenike, 2004).
5. Low staff morale: This is where welfare of staffs are to be put into consideration since they've dedicated all their time in the impartation of worthwhile knowledge but quite unfortunately they are being denied their entitlements and this happens particularly in state primary and secondary schools which is why they embark on strike from time to time and its worse after they retire and in this case they are deprived of their gratuities and this has not helped the situation in any way (Ben, Tandy and Jon, 2016). This has clearly shown that there is the absence of ethics and values in education as well as sustainable national development that is why there are records of frustration, lack of confidence, resistance to change, excessive absence from work and lack of quality teaching and this can also result to external reactions such as backbiting, open hostility, bickering and as well the rate of high turnovers among the teachers (Ben, Tandy and Jon, 2016).



Concept of health education

Health education is a subject matter that serve as a driving tool for influencing negative behaviors to a positive one in order to bring about change which is a sustainable growth and development any nation can have in order for all to live healthy lives (Obasuyi, 2024). Health education management is a key necessity because it comes up with strategies in ensuring that there are efforts made in order for diseases to be eradicated in our various communities through sensitization and public enlightenment campaigns with the use of posters, jingles, fliers, mass media, billboards as well as other instructional material is another way of bringing about sustainable national development within our environment (Kochoska, 2024).

Management in health education is also likened to that of mental health because so many individuals pass through stress on a daily basis and quite unfortunately some of them go into substance abuse which can be as a result of stress within the workplace, school, home and this is very necessary that every individual should make conscious effort to eliminate all stressors around us so that all can live healthier lives (Masood and Arit, 2022). Management in health education will be very effective once there is a change in behavior and as well in our individual lifestyles and this brings about constant practice which is tied down to proper personal hygiene and the following are: Bathing regularly, cutting of fingernails, washing clothing's/beddings, brushing teeth's and keeping our corners neat (Wilson and Biller, 2012).

According to World Health Organization (2017) Management of health education outlined a template whereby educating the public on the importance of the application of best practices because it informs everyone about real life situations that will lead to sustainable growth and development and it all center's on proper organization of human and material resources in order to obtain the required positive outcomes and these are usable to construct and proffer solutions to similar contexts alongside related issues and before this can be actualized there is every need to apply suitable practices that must be centered on the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance as well as ethical sound parameters. Health education management is endowed with philosophical approaches in the area of ethical cultural values tied down with sustainable national development once it comes to executing intervention programmes which is tailored towards behavior change made very essential for empowering individuals to make informed choices that will improve their dangerous lifestyles (NUC, 2023). For health education to be achieved and managed, there is a need to do away with all forms of harmful traditional practices because the after effects are not pleasant in the tail end especially those who live in rural communities where there is an absence of proper healthcare centers and portable water supply which is a prime reason why health information should be disseminated to them through the involvement of health experts such as doctors, nurses, health counselors, health nutritionists and health educators who are to give health talks on the need for everyone to take active participation in community involvement to reduce these challenges (NUC, 2023).

Most importantly, there is a need for the design of health education programmes and as well develop a curriculum with all its contents especially in schools such as the primary, secondary schools, universities, polytechnics and colleges of education because all these will go a long way in averting impending dangers to our health and all these can be achieved through the use of instructional materials that can be in form of pictures, graphic materials, audio-visual materials, diagrams on cardboards, textbooks and as well make use of slides (power points) which is more commonly used in the tertiary institutions (Dahiya, 2019).

Inclusive education

Education is meant for all categories of individuals in our day-to-day society and it does not exclude people living with disabilities because it is a gateway to growth and sustainable national development since it has continued to place educational values to all (Okebukola et al., 2024). Inclusive education is been regarded as a process whereby children of different family backgrounds have equal access to education because it is what brings about all round development and in turn act as a tool for sustainable growth and development meant for character molding (Jere et al., 2022). It has been on record that for

more than centuries now that about 15% of the population across the globe that there are cases of disability with an estimate of 93 million children happen to have less than 14 years of age alive with fair or serious forms of disability in which we know that because they haven't been carried along in the area of inclusive education (Olusanya et al., 2018). Factors that pose as hinderances also involve a multifaceted method that go hand in hand with awareness, community support as well as media advocacy (UNESCO, 2015).

Digital literacy

Technology has continued to evolve as the years go by especially in the computer age as it all centers on the education of diverse categories of individuals because it will bring about innovative change in order to assist learners to move with the trend on ground i.e. it will enable them to become computer literates since it has made life a lot easier (Perpetua et al., 2025). The importance that digital literacy has placed particularly in the area of sustainable national development as well as ethical educational values has made it clear that for a society to function in its maximum capacity, then there is a sense of urgency for needs assessment to be taken very seriously so as to prevent decay in the educational sector (Ahmed & Msughter, 2022).

Factors affecting management of health education

There are so many factors that has led to the management of health education which happens in a situation whereby good management styles are lacking as well as the absence of monitoring the activities of subordinates. The following are:

- A. Individual factors:- In this case, individuals are solely responsible for the kind of negative lifestyle they are into and this is as a result of negligence on their part without them knowing the side effect it will have on their health and it has led to instances of diabetes which can be in form of what they take in as liquid in form of alcohol, soft drinks, sweets including foods that contain sugar as carbohydrates without any form of balanced diet upon all the health enlightenment programmes.
- 1. Health literacy level: - This occurs in a situation where there are low levels of health education and by this, it serves as a predisposing factor in which it all results to poor health outcomes (Chima, Abdelaziz, Asuzu & Beeh, 2020). This can also occur in a situation where cultural competencies are lacking among healthcare professionals and this possess as a hinderance for individuals who happen to come from minority ethnic backgrounds to gain access and make good use of healthcare services (Colagiuri, 2007).
- 2. Perceived susceptibility and severity: This is regarded as the way an individual pictures a health situation in order to determine how serious it is and the safety measures that can be applied in safeguarding the life of others (Harry, 2020).
- 3. Knowledge and attitude towards the health issue: This is what determines whether individuals have adequate back-ground knowledge in the way they live their lives i.e. it all shows by the kind of lifestyles they have decided to adopt be it positive or negative and in this case most of the time it appears to be negative because they have chosen a particular way of life that suits them which in the long run causes chronic infections to them.
- 4. Cultural beliefs and practice: Cultural beliefs and practices is what thrives within the African continent particularly in Nigeria where in most cases Muslim's are being restricted from proteins that are good for them such as pigs and snails because it is forbidden in their religion and this practice has denied them the essential nutrients especially pregnant women which shows that there is a need for sustainable growth and development to come into play.
- B. Social factors: This aspect simply refers to the aspect of life that an individual portrays that can either influence their attitudes, choices or the outcome and all of these now boils down to the kind of orientation which can either be gotten from friends, relatives and as well can be a norm.

The social factors comprise of the following which are:

1. Socio-economic status: This is where it happens that the income status of a family is not able to cater for the needs of the households in which it affects their health because they will be deprived of essential healthcare services and if care is not taken to remedy the situation, it will degenerate to something else and it can even lead to death (Gaur, 2013).
2. Educational level: The major factor affecting health education is the educational level of individuals most especially those people who appear not to be learned enough to know the importance that health education has to offer them in order to influence their health positively and the need for them to practice health education i.e. lack of qualified health personnel's stand as barriers for them and this appears that it hasn't been addressed at all.
3. Access to healthcare: Equitable access to adequate healthcare services is meant to be a key aspect of sustainable development in any nation but it is the opposite in the sense that government at all levels have seriously neglected their roles that is why there are records of infant mortality rates identified across the globe which is due to the state of our healthcare services and facilities to this end (Adomi, 2024).
4. Community norms and social support: This subject matter has posed as a huge challenge for decades now in the area of community norms and social support especially in the lives of the elderly which is because majority of them have being neglected in our society and it's all tied down to the aspect of them not being carried along in everything and it is sad to say that this has continued to occur because there are some who don't have families to call their own either due to the fact that they didn't have children right after they got married, death of their spouses or they never got married which is a very terrible tragedy (Pack et al., 2019).
- C. Policy factors: The issue of policy has remained a serious challenge that is the more reason why health of individuals does not record relative improvement because it does not favor the common citizenry. The following factors include:
 1. Government health priorities and policies: Government policy that is supposed to tailor the proper health and well-being of all persons has neglected its role especially in the area of maternal and child health that is why there is an outbreak of the six-childhood killer disease and this has not helped matters in anyway and in a bid to this, sensitization programmes are not enforced.
 2. Regulations related to health education programmes: There are laid down rules pertaining to the development of health education programmes that should spell out specific objectives for the sustainable development of individuals all round but today, it's not given outmost priority which shows that corruption has eaten deeply into all the sectors of the economy.
 3. Funding allocation for health promotion initiatives: Funding the Nigerian health sector has continued to be a challenging aspect which is why individuals go as far as travelling outside the country for quality healthcare treatment since the government has not given its focus to the health sector and by this a good number of our medical personnel leave Nigeria to other countries where they can exercise their expertise in their various professions and as well have better welfare and working environment.

Challenges of health education management

Health education is bound to encounter so many challenges in the area of management because resources that should be allocated for it is being diverted to things that don't matter at all. The following challenges include:

1. Lack of competent health instructors
2. Insufficient funding
3. Absence of curriculum implementation
4. Inaccessibility to health education related materials
5. Cultural barriers

Solutions to health education management

There is every need to seek for ways in which health education can be improved and it solely involves everyone because we are all stakeholders in this project. The following are:

1. Implementing comprehensive needs assessments: Needs assessment is key because it helps in identifying the challenges that individuals face in keeping up to living healthy lives which will be of great benefit to all.
2. Tailoring interventions to specific populations: This is where health education intervention programs come in because it is meant to address critical challenges that individuals are faced with especially those living in rural communities i.e. it is a vital key that fosters all stakeholders to get involved in order to improve overall and optimum health to people of all ages.
3. Utilizing diverse teaching methods: Utilizing various pedagogies will greatly assist in the achievement in learning outcomes and this can be done through the use of instructional materials and the purpose of sustainable national development and for this to stand government needs to show sufficient interest in ensuring the improvement in the attitude of individuals towards the management of their health.
4. Fostering community partnerships: There is every need to get people in our various communities involved in the campaign towards the promotion of health education programmes and it all starts from our individual homes i.e. all corners should be kept neat at all times especially our floors and by this we mean they should be void of water on tiles in order to avoid any form of falling so that there won't be any record of home accidents.

Conclusion

Management can be simply described as the art and science of accomplishing goals and objectives through individuals. Health education is a subject matter that is a driving tool for influencing negative behaviors to a positive one in order to bring about change which is a sustainable growth and development any nation can have in order for all to live healthy lives. Inclusive education is been regarded as a process whereby children of different family backgrounds have equal access to education.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusions, the following suggestions were made:

1. Government should take full responsibilities in employing competent resource persons who will provide quality management styles in the educational system.
2. Government should ensure that health education is given outmost priority for the good of all.
3. Government should ensure that every category of persons is involved in inclusive education and digital literacy.
4. All stakeholders owe it as a responsibility in the area of adopting positive attitudes in order for them to be healthy at all times.
5. States and federal ministries of health are to organize workshops and seminars on how to improve health education among individuals.

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