Direct Research Journal of Education and Vocational Studies
Vol. 4(7) Pp. 253-258, October 2022
ISSN: 2734-2174
DOI: https://doi.org/10.26765/DRJEVS816343907
Article Number DRJEVS816343907
Copyright © 2022
Author(s) retain the copyright of this article
This article is published under the terms of the
Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0.
https://directresearchpublisher.org/drjevs/

Research paper

Electronic Workshop Practice: A Panacea to Electoral Malpractices in Rivers State, Nigeria

Reagan Nnabio Robinson* and Nyeneime Frank Inyion

Department of Industrial Technical Education, Faculty of Vocational and Technical Education, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
*Corresponding Author E-mail: robinson_reagan@yahoo.com

Received 13 September 2022; Accepted 24 October 2022

Abstract: The unprecedented challenges confronting the Nigerian electoral process has begun eating deep into the socio-economic life of the nation. Therefore, it is imperative to seek solutions that would be of immense help to the pending problem. This is the rationale behind this study. The study investigated electronic workshop practice as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised of all the lecturers and final year students of electrical/electronic engineering departments of Ken Polytechnic and Rivers State University all in Rivers State. Asimple random sampling technique was used to obtain a sample size of 122 which comprised of 22 lecturers and 100 final year students.The instrument for data collection was a structured rating scale questionnaire designed by the researchers in the pattern of a 4-point rating scale format of Very High Extent (VHE), High Extent (HE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE).The instrument was a6-item questionnaire each for lecturers and students, which was validated by 3 experts in the department of Industrial Technical Education of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Rivers State. A test re-test method of statistics was adapted to test the reliability of the instrument and a coefficient of 0.86 was obtained. The study has 2 research questions that guided it. The data collected were analyzed descriptively using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The finding of the study shows that electronic workshop practice is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. Some recommendations were made based on the findings, of which one of them is; there should be massive and effective public awareness campaign that will engage the society in acquiring electronic workshop practice skills. The engagement will help to occupy and restrain the youths especially from electoral malpractices.

Keywords: Electronic, workshop, practice, panacea, electoral, malpractices

INTRODUCTION

Education is an activity deliberately designed to achieve certain aims, such as transmitting knowledge or fostering skills and character traits. These aims may include the development of the attitude of understanding, rationalizing, kindness, and honesty (Singh, 2015). Different researchers emphasize the role of critical thinking in order to distinguish education from indoctrination. Some theorists require that education results in an improvement of the student while others prefer a value-neutral definition of the term. In a slightly different sense, education may also refer not to the process, but to the product of this process: the mental states and dispositions possessed by educated people. Education originated as the transmission of cultural heritage from one generation to the next. Today, educational goals increasingly encompass new ideas such as the liberation of learners, skills needed for modern society, empathy, and complex vocational skills. Types of education are commonly divided into formal, non-formal, and informal education.

Formal education takes place in education and training institutions, is usually structured by curricular aims and objectives, and learning is typically guided by a teacher. In most regions, formal education is compulsory up to a certain age and commonly divided into educational stages such as kindergarten, primary and secondary school. Non-formal education occurs as addition or alternative to formal education (Singh, 2015). It may be structured according to educational arrangements, but in a more flexible manner, and usually takes place in community-based, workplace-based or civil society-based settings. Lastly, informal education occurs in daily life, in the family, any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational, whether unintentional or intentional. In practice there is a continuum from the highly formalized to the highly in formalized and informal learning can occur in all three settings (Livingstone, 2005). For instance, homeschooling can be classified as non-formal or informal, depending on the structure. However, whether formal, informal or non-formal; education is generally divided in into primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Tertiary level of education is commonly referred to as a third level. It is the educational level that students enrol in after the completion of their secondary level of education. In Nigeria, tertiary level of education basically has institutions of learning like Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Universities. All these institutions run different academic programmes and fields of study that are planned to help develop human society. One of such fields of study is electronic technology.

Electronic technology is a field of study that implements and applies the control of the flow of electrons in a circuit to develop devices and systems. It is a specialized area of study that focuses especially on the application of the properties of electron to develop physical systems or equipment. The control of the flow of electrons is made possible by certain components like transistor, capacitor, resistor, diode and ICs to develop the electronic systems that are useful to human lives (Robinson, 2018). In electronic technology, the circuits of devices or equipment have a physical interconnection of electronic components like resistors, capacitors, transistors and integrated circuits which allows signals to flow through them in order to give a useful result at the output. The output is produced by processing the inputs. Also, the input signal(s) may cause the process to change or may itself, cause the operation of the system to change. Therefore, the input(s) to a system is the “cause” of the change, while the resulting action that occurs on the systems output due to this cause being present is called the “effect”, with the effect being a consequence of the cause (Sloan, 2010). Electronic circuits are generally represented schematically as a series of interconnected blocks and signals with each block having its own set of inputs and outputs. There are different courses that are offered in electronic technology. One of such courses is electronic workshop practice.

Electronic workshop practice is a basic course offered at the undergraduate level in the field of electronic technology. The main objective is to make students understand and provide practical experience in basic technological practices in electronics technology. The content covers basics concepts of electrical and electronic; various electronic gadgets used in a day to day life, and troubleshooting methods. It also provides the basic knowledge of various working tools, devices, lighting accessories, protecting devices like fuse, measurement of electronic parameters, measuring instruments and working of various electronic equipment used in home applications such as television, radio, etc. (Robinson, 2017). It also covers the various electronics components e.g. diodes, resistors, capacitors, transistors, integrated circuits and photocells, and their interconnection in a circuit for building electronic system. With a strong emphasis on repairs and maintenance, another main objective of the electronic workshop practice is to ensure an understanding of the fundamental principles of electronics practical skills learning (Berendsen, 2013).According to Robinson (2018), electronic workshop practice skill is a key aspect of electronic workshop practice that concentrates itself on the development of practical skills in students. It is so skill-oriented that, if properly learnt by students, can be used to provide solutions to economic problem in a country like Nigeria. This is with respect to the fact that skill is the ability to do something well, usually gained through a training or an experience. It is a special ability acquired as a result of training to do something well. A skilled worker is one who is highly proficient or an expert in a trade; or a person who has attained excellence in a particular trade or vocation (Robinson, 2018). Similarly, it was the opinion of Paolucci et al. (2019) that courses like electronic workshop practice is an entrepreneurship programme that can develop the economy of any nation, by raising youths that can enhance their skills to become entrepreneurs. An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. Entrepreneurship is the ability and readiness to develop, organize and run a business enterprise, along with any of its uncertainties in order to make profit (Oke and Fabamise, 2018). Entrepreneurship when connected with land, labour, natural resources, skill and capital can generate more profit. The entrepreneurial vision is defined by discovery and risk-taking and is an indispensable part of a nation’s capacity to succeed in an ever-changing and more competitive global marketplace. Roy and Rashid (2012)decried, that electronic workshop practice can transform the world by solving big problems like bringing about social change or creating an innovative product

that challenges the status quo of how we live our lives on a daily basis. Therefore, it is the opinion of the researchers that electronic workshop practice can also be used as a panacea to electoral malpractices in a society like Nigeria in general and Rivers State in particular. This is the premise of the study.

Election is a process of selecting leadership in a country. It has been identified as an important time in a country for both citizens and politicians (Aderemi, 2019). It is a globally accepted process that directly expresses citizens' participation in a democratic government, and serves as a means of ensuring accountability and mobilization of the society for governance. For political leaders to emerge democratically, electoral process must be in place. Electoral process is a series of key election-related undertakings encompassing, inter-alia, the formulation of legislation, delimitation, conflict prevention and management initiatives, civic and voter education, registration of voters, development and implementation of codes of conduct, nomination of candidates, campaigning, voting, tabulation, results announcements and election adjudication (Aderemi, 2019). Despite the laws and/or the rules and regulations governing the electoral process in Nigeria, research findings have it that elections in Nigeria have been marred by various degrees of malpractices (Nwangwu et al., 2018).

The term electoral malpractice is used to describe all dishonest and fraud activities that interfere with the democratic nature of elections. The fraud practices during elections are common in countries with political apathy, instability, lack of political awareness and high poverty rate. The most commonly used examples of bad activities that take place before, during and right after elections include the following: illegal usage of ballot boxes, illegal printing of voter's cards, results falsification, stuffing ballot boxes with fake ballot papers, manipulations od figures and false registration of voters. Electoral malpractices also referred to a process by which the rules and regulations that govern the conduct of elections are manipulated to favor specific interests. Electoral malpractice is counter-productive to the entire process of choosing credible leaders and the interest of the nation. The effects of this menace cannot be overemphasized (Aderemi, 2019). This problem of electoral malpractice has become a menace in the Nigerian society; hence it needs to be curbed. However, according to Obiechina (2017), in most developing countries like Nigeria, teaching skill-oriented programmes to the citizens can be used as a panacea to problems like social vices and different forms of civil malpractices. Hence, it is the opinion of the researchers that electronic workshop practice being a skill-oriented programme, can be used as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. This is the rationale behind this study. Contextually, the term panacea refers to remedy. No nation can attain strong political stability and governance, without an improving economy powered by skill and entrepreneurship development; which electronic workshop practices can provide.

Statement of the problem

For several decades now, the Nigerian electoral process has been through some challenging times. A lot of malpractices have been observed by private, local and international electoral agencies. These observations are all in depreciating direction; making every election year being marked with different challenges that places the nation in bad light. In fact, it has boiled down to crises reflecting into heavy political instability since 1999 (Weor and Akonga, 2016). Experiences have shown that one of the worst affected states in Nigeria is Rivers State, and these have led to different crimes and social vices engulfing the youths. This challenge of electoral malpractices has drawn the attention of many scholars who have attributed the problem to several factors including poor electronic workshop practices. This can infer that, a successful implementation of electronic workshop practice programme, can gradually engage youths to serious mindful and meaningful businesses that will eliminate political thuggery in them, hence creating a zero tolerance to electoral malpractices. Electronic workshop practice is seen as a creative and innovative field of study that can plan and manage different crimes and social vices in a nation, which can in turn eliminate electoral malpractices. If electronic workshop practice is not properly integrated into the society, the electoral process of the nation will not only suffer, but it can also translate into poor economic and social development of Nigeria. Therefore, the need to encourage and promote electronic workshop practices amongst the youths in Rivers State is non-negotiable.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate electronic workshop practice as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine electronic workshop practice skill as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.
2. Determine electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.

Research questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. To what extent does electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state?

2. To what extent does electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of all the lecturers and final year students of Electrical/Electronic Engineering departments of Ken Polytechnic and Rivers State University all in Rivers State.A simple random sampling technique was used to obtain a sample size of 122 which comprised of 22 lecturers and 100final year students.The instrument for data collection was a structured rating scale questionnaire designed by the researchers in the pattern of a 4-point rating scale format of Very High Extent(VHE), High Extent (HE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE). Very High Extent has a rating scale of (4), High Extent (3), Low Extent (2) and Very Low Extent (1).The instrument was a6-item questionnaire each for lecturers and students, and was validated by 3 experts in the department of Industrial Technical Education in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State. Their comments were used to improve the instrument. A test re-test method of statistics was adapted to test the reliability of the instrument and a coefficient of 0.86 was obtained. The data collected were analyzed descriptively using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions, with a standard mean value of 2.00 as the bench mark for decision taking.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: To what extent does electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state?

Table 1 above shows the mean responses of lecturers and students on the extent to which electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state. From the table, all the items for lecturers revealed a mean response of Very High Extent (VHE). The average mean response of the lecturers from the questionnaire items was found to be 3.35 with a standard deviation of 0.95; which revealed a Very High Extent (VHE). Similarly, with respect to the mean response of students from the above table; all the items revealed a mean response of Very High Extent (VHE). The average mean response of the students was found to be 3.70 with a standard deviation of 0.51; which also revealed a Very High Extent (VHE). The standard deviation for lecturers and students were respectively seen as 0.95 and 0.51, which showed homogeneity of the respondents. The whole indication is that, the responses of both lecturers and students revealed a Very High Extent (VHE) on the extent to which electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.

Research Question 2: To what extent does electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state?

Table 2 above shows the mean responses of lecturers and students on the extent to which electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. From the table, all the items for lecturers revealed a mean response of Very High Extent (VHE). The average mean response of the lecturers from the questionnaire items was found to be 3.66 with a standard deviation of 0.81; which revealed Very High Extent (VHE). With respect to the mean response of students from the above table; all the questionnaire items revealed a mean response of Very High Extent (VHE). The average mean response of the students was found to be 3.64 with a standard deviation of 0.73; which also revealed a Very High Extent (VHE). The standard deviation for lecturers and students were respectively seen as 0.81 and 0.73, which showed homogeneity of the respondents. The whole indication is that, the responses of both lecturers and students revealed a Very High Extent (VHE) on the extent to which electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION

From the finding in Research Question 1, lecturers and students responses revealed a Very High Extent (VHE) on the extent to which electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state. This means that, both lecturers and students are of the opinion that electronic workshop practice skill is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. In other words, the finding revealed that electronic workshop practice is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. This finding is in agreement with Roy and Rashid (2012), which stated that, electronic workshop practice can transform the world by solving big problems like bringing about social change or creating an innovative product that challenges the status quo of how we live our lives on a daily basis.

Similarly, from the finding in Research Question 2, lecturers and students responses revealed a Very High Extent (VHE)on the extent to which electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. This means that, electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State. In other words, the finding revealed that electronic workshop practice is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State.

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on electronic workshop practice skill as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.

		Lecturers			Students		
S/N	**Items**	$\bar{X}$	**SD**	**DEC.**	$\bar{X}$	**SD**	**DEC.**
1	Components installation in a circuit is a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.18	0.95	VHE	3.90	0.40	VHE
2	Soldering and desolderingis a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.29	0.75	VHE	3.85	0.42	VHE
3	Signal tracing is a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.77	1.06	VHE	3.82	0.49	VHE
4	Troubleshooting is a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.52	1.21	VHE	3.63	0.56	VHE
5	System repairs is a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.11	0.75	VHE	3.50	0.60	VHE
6	Equipment maintenance is a skill in electronic workshop practice that can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.21	0.95	VHE	3.48	0.60	VHE
	Average Scores	3.35	0.95	VHE	3.70	0.51	VHE

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers state.

		Lecturers			Students		
S/N	**Items**	$\bar{X}$	**SD**	**DEC.**	$\bar{X}$	**SD**	**DEC.**
1	Small business entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.70	0.83	VHE	3.80	0.70	VHE
2	Large business entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.90	0.65	VHE	3.68	0.69	VHE
3	Innovative entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.95	0.60	VHE	3.70	0.75	VHE
4	Researcher entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.85	0.90	VHE	3.85	0.60	VHE
5	Imitator entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.50	0.93	VHE	3.82	0.80	VHE
6	Hustler Entrepreneurship of electronic workshop practice can be a panacea to electoral malpractices.	3.06	0.97	VHE	3.00	0.84	VHE
	Average Scores	3.66	0.81	VHE	3.64	0.73	VHE

This finding is in agreement with Paolucci et al. (2019) that courses like electronic workshop practice is an entrepreneurship programme that can develop the economy of any nation, by raising youths that can enhance their skills to become entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

Despite the laws, rules and regulations governing the electoral process in Nigeria; elections in Nigeria have been marred with various degree of malpractices. These malpractices have brought about political apathy, economic instability, youths restiveness and violence of different degree in the nation, lack of political awareness and high poverty rate. However, it has been established from the study that electronic workshop practice skill and electronic workshop practice entrepreneurship are panaceas to electoral malpractices in Rivers State of Nigeria. This implied that electronic workshop practice is a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. There should be massive and effective public awareness campaign that will engage the society in acquiring electronic workshop practice skills. The engagement will help to occupy and restrain the youths especially from electoral malpractices.
2. In Nigeria, a ministry of entrepreneurship should be established in order to monitor entrepreneurship programmes. This should be a very regularly affair in order to curb electoral malpractices.
3. Both government and private sectors should collaborate to create a partnership in ensuring the full use of electronic workshop practice as a panacea to electoral malpractices in Rivers State.

REFERENCES

Aderemi, K. (2019). The role of technology in Nigeria's electoral process. *www.hinkedin.com/pulse/role-technology-nigeria-electoral-kunle-aderemi-abion.*

Berendsen, A. M. (2013). Marine Painting Manual. Retrieved 2018 at www.ISBN 978-90-481- 8244-2

Livingstone, D. W. (2005). Expanding conception of work and learning: Research and policy implications. In K. Leithwood, D. W. Livingstone, A. Cumming, N. Bascia, & A. Datnow (Eds.), International handbook of educational policy (pp. 977–996). New York: Kluwer Publishers.

Nwangwu, C. Qnah, V. C. &Otu, O. A. (2018). Elixir of electoral fraud. The impact of digital technology on the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. *Cogent social sciences, 4*(1), 23-30.

Obiechina, M.E (2017). Improving the Agricultural sector toward economic development and poverty reduction in Nigeria. *Bullion*, 31(4), 66 – 88.

Oke, J. O. &Fabamise, D. B. (2018). Agricultural Education as a tool to acquiring entrepreneurial skills and self-reliance in Nigeria Universities. *International Journal of Agricultural Education andExtension. 4(2),* 15-159

Paolucci, E., Sansone, G. & Fiore, E. (2019). Entrepreneurship Education in a Multidisciplinary Environment: Evidence from an Entrepreneurship Programme Held in Turin. *Administrative Sciences*. **9** (1): 28. doi:10.3390/admsci9010028

Robinson, R. N. (2017). Factors Affecting Students' Poor Practical Performance in Electronic Workshops in Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State of Nigeria. *African Education Indices,* Tanzania.10 (1), 328-336.

Robinson R. N. (2018). Constraints to repairs and maintenance of electronic systems in technical colleges' workshops in Rivers State of Nigeria. *International Journal of Engineering Technology and Management Research (IJETMR), Vol.5 (Iss.12).*

Roy, A., & Rashid, S. M. S. (2012). A power efficient bandwidth regulation technique for a low-noise high-gain RF wideband amplifier. Central European Journal of Engineering, 2(3), 383–391.

Singh, M. (2015). Global Perspectives on Recognizing Non-formal and Informal Learning: Why Recognition Matters. *Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Issues, Concerns and Prospects.* Vol. 21. Springer-UNESCO. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-15278-3. ISBN 978-3-319-15277-6. Archived from the original on 30 July 2022.

Sloan, C. (2010). Electrical Engineering Technology: Engineering Technology Overview. Sloan Career Cornerstone Center. Retrieved 20 June 2010.

Weor, D. U., Akorga, M.T. (2016). Entrepreneurial skills in Agriculture: A strategy for grassroots youth empowerment in Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Technology. 2(2),* 29-33.