

An Assessment of Social Studies Teachers Awareness and Attitudes to Environmental Education in Ibadan, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed Social Studies teachers' awareness and attitude perception of their role in fostering Environmental Awareness (EA) among Secondary School Students in Ibadan. Twenty-six secondary schools were selected with sixty-nine Social studies teachers. It assessed their awareness on attitude action, objectives focus of EA and methodology appropriate in teaching EA as well as their view on the role they are to play in EA. The study made use of primary source of data, using a likert type questionnaire which tested areas of attitude and practices with the descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings are based on 5% level of significance. The study identified no significant effect of gender, training in environmental awareness and experience in teaching social studies. It also revealed that teachers have positive attitude towards environmental education.

Key words: Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness, Attitude

INTRODUCTION

The history of Environmental Education (EE) is dated back to 1972 in Stockholm United Nations Conference where participating countries recommended that Environmental Education should be promoted. In 1975 at Belgrade, the

concepts and vision for environmental Education were drafted while an intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education at Tbilisi, 1977 formally approved the scope and action plan put forward from the previous conference. At the conference

the role, objectives and characteristics of EE document were appended. Other notable efforts include:

1. The IUCN (1991) World conservation strategy suggested requirement for human survival and prosperity, putting forward the conservationist concept.
2. Our common future (1988) which emphasized the relationship between the underdeveloped nature of the part of the world and existing social and environmental problems.
3. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 adopted Agenda 21, a programme for the implementation of actions to be taken at all levels. Above all education was seen as a veritable tool for solving environmental problems.

4. UNESCO Thessaloniki Declaration in 1997 where sustainability was presented as an ethical and moral imperative and the objective to which education should devote itself as an instrument of choice.

Amosun (1997) agreed that the population crisis is contributing to the environmental problem and that it has also become a concern for the nation. People have also begun to understand its effect on their health and are starting to demand remedies to stop the increasing deterioration of our environment. This environmental concern manifested by the increase complaints against environmental degradation, received from different segments of the society. This indicates that the problems have reached a point which needs the support of everyone.

Agbogidi and Ofuoku (2007) and Omonfonma (2008) listed some of these environmental problems in

Nigeria to include soil degradation and international initiative. This calls for the loss, water contamination, need to address human values and deforestation, gully erosion, fishery attitude that are associated with policy loss, coastal erosion, wild life and formulation and implementation. biodiversity loss, air pollution and water Hence Ogunyemi and Ifegbesan (2011) hyacinth infestation. Jekayinfa (2007) suggested call for appropriate while citing Osuntokun (1998) also educational and methodological identifies some of the causes of approaches implicit in Education. environmental problems in Nigeria as Environmental Education is a field of uncollected urban and rural waste, education in the school curriculum that indiscriminate and unplanned enhances the awareness of people on construction of houses, refuse and bush environmental issues at all levels of burning, industrial pollution, land and education. It also meant to provide water all affect not only the physical solution to the deterioration relationship between man and the environment (Jekayinfa, 2008). EE provides learners with values, attitudes, environment. The implication of this is skills and knowledge (VASK) that are that Nigeria is at the threshold of an necessary for studying orations to the environmental crisis and if care is not relationship between mankind and the taken the drive for EE may end the way environment in order to identify the of earlier local, regional, and problem of survival and proffer

solutions to them (Adebisi & Olawepo, 2016).

According to Modal (2015) E.E objectives are centred on creating awareness, knowledge, acquisition of set of values for environment, development of skills and capacity required and creation of opportunities for individual to participate at all levels of environmental decision. He also classified the guiding principles of E.E. into resource use and rationalization; soil protection and maintenance of sustainable agriculture, soil erosion is irreversible loss of essential resources and prevention and protection of vegetation for the balance of nature. Wildlife protection, nature reserves and survival of wildlife which is linked to human. Others are environmental management principles that are beneficial to humans in rational manner and use of technology to eliminate waste through recycling and the relations between humans and their environment are determined by the

culture, historical and architectural heritage that need protection.

This is in line with the goals of Social Studies Education, which is to inculcate usable knowledge, skills, attitude and values that are essential for the individual to survive. The only proper way to influence values, attitude and basic assumption in a democratic society is behaviour in the long run which can be changed through the process of education and the success of any curriculum in EE is dependent on the level of preparation and readiness of teachers (Noibi, 1990).

The theoretical framework is based on Piaget's theory of constructivism. The theory holds that learners are a blank slate on which the knowledge of others is simply written (Duit & Komorek, 2010). It believes that learning occurs as a result dynamic interaction between the learner and the environment. According to Ausubel and Wood (2008) the most important factor influencing learning is what the learner already

knows, that learning takes place when the new idea or concept can be integrated into the learner's previous experience.

Consequently, upon the background above, the study is carried out to assess the social studies teachers in Nigerian Secondary School to:

1. Ascertain the social studies teachers' knowledge of the objectives of environmental education.
2. Find out the social studies teachers perception of their role in fostering environmental education.
3. Assess the environmental related practices of the secondary school social studies teachers.

Hypotheses

To proffer solutions the following null hypotheses were raised.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between male and female social studies teachers perception of

their role in fostering environmental education.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female social studies teachers on methodology used in fostering environmental education.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference in perception of trained and untrained social studies teachers on their attitude towards environmental education.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference in social studies teachers in perception of their attitude on their roles in creating environmental awareness according to teaching experience.

H₀₅: There is no significant difference in the Social Studies teachers knowledge of the objectives of

environmental education trial-tested and reliability coefficient of according to teaching 0.68 was obtained. The scale was experience structured on a four point Likert

Method

The study adopted survey design for its investigation. The population of this study is basically social studies teachers. The sixty-nine (69) respondents used in the study were randomly selected from twenty six (26) secondary schools in Ibadan. The main instrument used for the study was a twenty eight (28) item research designed questionnaire. The scale was

format. Section A, provided personal information, B – Awareness on Environmental Education, C – Methodology, D – Purpose of Teaching Environmental Education and E – Role of Social Studies should play in environmental education. To collect information, the data collected were analysed using mean scores, T-test and Analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Findings

Distribution of Teachers by Level of Education

Table 1: Teachers’ Highest Qualification

Qualification	F	%
Ph.D		
M.Ed	12	17.4
M.A.	1	1.54
M.Sc	4	5.8
B.A.	3	4.4
B.Ed	15	27.7
B.Sc	5	7.7
B.Sc (ed)	2	2.9
B.A (ed)	1	1.4
NCE	26	37.7
TOTAL	69	100

Table 1 shows that 37.7% possessed interesting to note that 62.3% of the Nigeria Certificate in Education, 37.4% teachers had university education possessed first degree, 24.6% had which positioned them better to teach second degree and none of the environmental education. teachers possessed Ph.D degree. It is

Table 2: Teacher’s Teaching Experience (Social Studies)

Year	F	%
1 – 5	30	43.5
6 – 10	13	18.8
11 – 15	7	10.1
16 – 20	12	17.4
20 +	7	10.1

Table 2 above shows that 43.5% of the The year of experience by these total number of social studies teachers teachers are adequate for teaching have teaching experience within the experience needed to promote range of one and five year, 28.9% have environmental education among their teaching experience from six to students. fifteen years and 27.5% from sixteen and above.

Table 3: Environmental Education Teachers the Trained in Workshop (In-Service Training)

Answer	Yes	No
Ever attended training	63 (91.3)	6 (8.7)

The table 3 above shows that the at 91.3% the percentage of those who majority of the teachers have have no training in environmental experience of environmental education education are 8.7%. It then means that

environmental education is not new to the social studies teachers and it is expected that they should be able to create environmental awareness among the secondary school students.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between male and female social studies teachers in perception of their attitude in fostering environmental education.

Table 4: Comparison of mean perception of male and female teachers' attitude in promoting environmental awareness

Gender	N	X	SD	DF	t _{cal}	t _{cri}	2Tail Sig
Male	39	34.33	6.88	67	1.75	1.98	0.86
Female	30	31.83	4.27				

P < 0.05 significance level, t calculated is less than t – critical value.

The table shows that there is no significant difference in the perception on the attitude in promoting environmental awareness among male and female social studies teachers.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the perception of male and female social studies teachers on methodology used in fostering environmental education.

Table 5: Comparison of methodology of environmental awareness of male and female Social Studies teachers

Gender	N	X	SD	DF	t _{cal}	t _{cri}	Sig
Male	39	22.12	5.67	67	1.32	1.98	
Female	30	20.53	3.83				.190

P α 0.05 significance level, t calculated is less than t – critical value.

The table above shows that there is no significant difference in the perception

on methodology used in environmental awareness among male and female social studies teacher.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between trained and untrained Social Studies teachers in their perception of their role in environmental awareness.

Table 6: Comparison of trained and untrained environment education teachers on their perception of their attitude in fostering environmental awareness

Training in Environmental Education	N	X	SD	DF	T	Sig
Trained	63	33.14	6.206			1.98 .645
Untrained	6	34.33	2.875	67	46	

The table above shows that t calculated (.46) is less than t critical values. It shows that there is no significant difference in the perception of trained and untrained environmental awareness. The trained are those who had attended workshops and seminar on environmental education. The untrained are those who have never attended.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference in social studies teachers' perception of their attitude on their roles in creating environmental awareness according to teaching experience.

Table 7: ANOVA showing comparison of the Perception of the Attitude of Social Studies Teachers in fostering Environmental Education according to their Teaching Experience

Source of variation	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Main effects	68.516	4	17.129	.463	.763
Residual	2368.295	64	37.005		
Total	2436.812	68	35.835		

Significance at 0.05 level probability; and significance of F(.423) the table above shows that there is no significant

difference in the perception of the social studies teachers on their attitude

to environmental education according to their teaching experience.

Table 8: Multiple classification analysis table showing perception of the teachers according to their teaching Experience

Grand mean = 33.25

Variable Category	N	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted for dependent Derivation	Beta
1-5	36	-.16		-.16	
6-10	11	1.39		1.37	
11-15	12	-.58		-.58	
16-20	6	-1.48		-1.42	
21->	4	2.75	.17	2.75	.17
Multiple R Square					.028
Multiple R					.168

From table 8 above, findings shows that 73.9% of the social studies teachers agreed that the teachers should play high role in fostering environmental awareness in our society.

objectives of environmental education according to teaching experience.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant difference in the perception of Social Studies teachers on purpose or

Table 9 There is no significant difference in the perception of Social Studies teachers on purpose of environmental education according to teaching experience

Source of variation	Sum of Square	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Main Effects	153.354	4	38.338	.578	.679
Residual	4243.806	64	66.309		
Total	4397.157	68	64.664		

**Significance at 0.05 level probability and significance of F (.679) the table above shows that there is no significant

difference in the perception of the Social Studies teachers on the objectives of environmental education

according to their experience in the objectives of environmental teaching social studies. education according to their teaching experience.

Table 10: Multiple classification showing the perception of teachers on Grand Mean =54.46

Variable category	N	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted for dependence Derivation	Beta
1-5	36	-.93			
6-10	11	1-2.46			
11-15	12	-1.63			
15-20	4	-.70			
21>	4	2.29	19		.19
Multiple R square					.035
Multiple R					.187

From the table 10 above the multiple R² of 0.035 indicate that 3.5% of the variance is accounted for based on the years of teaching experience. This could have been justified by the general awareness of environmental education by many of the social studies teachers.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Environmental education is no longer new in the developing countries especially in Nigeria. However, it is obvious that there are problems inhibiting the growth of environmental education as it has not been fully incorporated into the school curriculum

with adequate concepts and stimulating methodology and evaluation.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- (i) Example is better than percept. As long as the teachers have good environmental attitude, there is high tendering that the younger ones will hearken to the preaching of the teachers.
- (ii) The prevalence of environmental degradation suggests the need for the teachers to utilize their skills learnt and also reorientate

themselves in environmental education.

- (iii) There is need to follows environmental awareness with positive attitude capped with position practices so that the country's resources would not be exhausted and all manners of illness and epidemic will not reign in our land.

Summary of Findings

The major findings of this study as obtained from the analysis based on the hypotheses are summarized as follows:

- 1) There was no significant difference in the perception of male and female teachers on their role in fostering environmental education among students.

- 2) There was no significant difference in the use of methodology between male and female teachers in fostering environmental awareness among secondary school students.

- 3) There is no significant difference between trained and untrained social studies teachers in fostering environmental education.

- 4) There is no significant difference in social studies teachers' perception of roles in fostering and according to teaching experience.

It is clearly stated that education has an enormous important role to play in motivating and empowering citizens to participate in environmental improvement and protection as stressed in Brudtland report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Noibi, 1990). It is further

stated that environmental education requires changes in ways teachers conceive and act in their classroom. Invitation to change, or try innovating teaching strategies are almost inevitably seen as additions and hence extra time and effort.

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