

# LEVERAGING LEARNING TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: ALLEVIATING CRISES OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL VICES IN SUSTAINABLE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** *This paper discusses the importance of learning technology in higher institutions and the need to leverage it in alleviating poor academic performance as a result of social vices in sustainable national development. Learning technology refers to teaching tools that are designed, built, and integrated to help learners learn. It is the foundation upon which the technology breakthrough is built, which later transforms into national development. The crisis in academic performance can be alleviated if effective teaching is done at all levels of education in Nigeria. Effective teaching that is capable of getting rid of social vices with honesty, a positive attitude, and integrity for sustainable development through learning technologies. Regrettably, the present higher education system in Nigeria is making learners confused and docile. Such a situation makes the learners incomplete and uncreative, and later retards innovative technology in education. It is therefore recommended that teachers and their learners should be encouraged to develop new ideas, creative thinking, products, processes, and methods to promote higher performance and shun social vices to the barest minimum to meet best practices.*

**Keywords:** Leveraging, Learning Technology, Alleviating, Academic Performance, Social vices, Sustainable Development

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## INTRODUCTION

Learning technology can be defined as a different array of systems ranging from a teacher's using digital media to accessing student academic materials via online delivery (Ogunlade 2018). Learning technologies utilize electronic technologies to accessing educational delivery outside of the traditional classroom. It involves networking to create, foster, deliver and facilitate learning. Sometimes it can be a blend of blended, mixed, distance, and face-to-face methods of delivering instructions.

It is imperative to know that learning technology has received significant attention in education and the learning environment of higher education. The higher education sector has seen a massive expansion over the past decades.

According to the World Bank (1999), education in general, and perhaps higher education in particular, is critical to the development of a

knowledge economy and society in all nations. However, in developing countries, the potential of higher education is frequently frustrated by unimaginable circumstances in the likes of finance, bad governance, equity, quality, and efficiency. Thus, challenges have been supported by new learning technology linked to the growing role of knowledge in sustaining educational development (Ogunlade, 2018). Education has a good influence on development.

The wealth of every nation is embedded in the potential and human capital of its people. The quantity of raw materials a nation has is useless unless there are people to develop them into useful products. This is why no country can attain sustainable economic development without significant investment in the education of its citizenry. (Adikwu, 2018).

Finally, academic performance is no doubt one of the bridges among many that can confine

social vices where youth from higher institutions across the nation universally adapt learning technology that can educate the mind and truly enlightened minds divulge social sentiments leading to sustainable educational development.

In light of this, learning technology has the potential to eliminate the barriers and alleviate crises in academic performance in the area.

- Weak and obsolete curriculum.
- Inadequate funding for higher education
- Gender discrimination
- There are a limited number of available space.
- Corruption leads to extortion, bribery, sexual harassment, and recruitment of university staff.
- Poor quality of teacher training
- The inability of qualified teachers to meet anticipated demand
- Inconsistency and summersault in educational policies
- Inhuman social and tribal stereotype beliefs

### **Weak and obsolete curriculum**

There are opinions that the standard of education in Nigeria has fallen. But the response of scholars sometimes is either positive or negative. From my experience and my observation of the historical development of education in Nigeria, the difference is clear. The initial curriculum adopted for Nigerians can only train clerical officers and interpreters in the native authorities and churches. Now, the education environment has changed into a dynamic and complex one from an early education in Nigeria. However, for our system not to be docile and depredating the curriculum must change to meet the aspiration of learners in sustainable educational development. In the experience of Adikwu (2018) said as a young postdoctoral fellow at Heinrich Nine University in Dusseldorf in Germany. When he returned to

Nigeria, found out that the knowledge he had acquired was useless because it was not been taught at home. He placed a master's degree student on a similar topic that he had learned over there. When he finished his work there was no external examiner for him. He waited for the master's degree student to complete his work and plead with the external examiner of the second student to graduate him. This scenario has shown that our curriculum is quite less advanced than those done elsewhere (Adikwu, 2018). The curriculum change that we need must flow along with learning technology in the higher institution.

### **Inadequate funding for higher education**

More resources must be harnessed for investment in acquiring tools for learning technology by the stakeholders in education. This is as important as any other sector of economic investment. Stakeholders must create more ways to monitor the disbursement and use of the funds. It's imperative to note that as little as the fund released to the education coffer, it is very unfortunate that the funds are hijacked by a few individuals. Preventive measures can be put in place to measure how the monies released are diligently utilized and those found guilty of mismanaging the funds are dealt with accordingly.

### **Limited Admission Space**

On the regular basis, surveys should be done to ensure that government provides enough budget to put on necessary building structures that can accommodate admitted students. Learning technology can be adopted in other to cater to a large number of students (Ogunlade, Bahago, and Ogunmodede, 2021). This mechanism will ensure proper dissemination of knowledge and accurate data gathering. Aside from this, the admission process has not been following due process and the integrity of the entire process is at stake. Of course, the staff in charge cornered the process to their advantage and eventually makes it not competitive. Unfortunately, few spaces allotted to the institution are distributed among themselves to either pass or fail candidates seeking admission into our institution of learning (Adikwu, 2018).

## **Defrauding in Educational System**

This is usually a social vice that surfaces in different dimensions and ends up causing academic crises in our higher education. It has shaken the foundation of some distant and continuous education in some higher institutions to total collapse. It leads to the production of low-quality graduates because the person that prepared well for an examination is shortchanged since the score has not been displayed in the public domain. Even at times, the answers script is left unassessed (Adikwu, 2018). Observation shows that many political office holders or highly placed people who turned to students for upgrading may be academically deficient but in turn provide daily needs and money that can attract the attention of the lecturers to pass such a student. Some students with money may not even come for examination but eventually pass. Sometimes, the female student gives their body for sexual gratification. But with the advent of learning technology is a way of cutting off social vices in order not to destroy the entire educational system.

**Bribery:** This has to do with extortion, but students stimulate the entire process when seeking success in exchange for gratification. This is the reason why many staff during promotion exercises from lower cadre to professorial level bribe their assessors to pass. Eventually, the entire system developed low-quality graduates that cannot be trusted with the sensitive position. Be as it may, social vices cannot sustain a nation that is expected better higher education. The above scenario still has to do with sexual harassment which is a common phenomenon among male lecturers. There are so many of them that have lost their job even in the prison for that singular act. At this juncture, lecturers are advised not to play with the destiny of others under their watch (Bhardwaj, 2005)

## **Development of Skills**

Adikwu (2018) explains that an Indian company trying to identify the skills of Nigerian graduates' areas of weakness. The graduates were subjected to 15 skills tests and 1,500 of them were given employment during a job fair

in Lagos in various agencies after training for three months. Another set of untrained 1,500 was also given jobs without training for comparison purposes. The entire process died with the termination of the project by Nigeria factors.

## **Education and Academic Performance.**

In this discourse, there must be clarity on the ultimate types of education our higher education must pursue. Students are expected to not just develop cognitively but also emotionally, ethically, physically, economically, and socially (Bhardwaj, 2005)

The result of our education as of today is certificate-driven, where student prefers consumption rather than exploring the mindset of creativity and employment. This type of education cannot allow students to explore their minds. The system is suppressing student academic performance into a stunted growth in sustainable educational development. Our education must leverage learning technology where it must be standardized what gets taught through technology and student assessment (Aluede, Lologho, and Inonike, (2012).

## **Building a culture of current demand**

Observation shows that there is a lot of learning equipment in different institutions that no one can use them. But in some advanced nations whatever is to be used must be bought on demand. Therefore, in other to alleviate crises of academic performance in that regard, there must be local training for lecturers and students on how to engage the learning technology for sustainable development before acquiring (Adeoluwa, 2013).

## **Academic Fraud**

The originality of ideas can only be developed when there is a system. Developing an original idea is not easy even among academics anywhere in the world. This is the bane of academic fraud where people engaged in plagiarizing another person's project. In many Nigerian institutions, many higher degree students wait for a year or more for their supervisors to assign topics to them. Some

abandon the program denying the academic system a very brilliant mind. (Adikwu 2018).

## METHODOLOGY

Bibliographic research was utilized as the methodology since it is in tandem and harmonizes with the proposed theme. Based on the usage of qualified authors who have a thorough understanding of the subject and the utilization of their works to support this effort. The books printed materials and websites were used to collect data.

## CONCLUSION

A great advancement in education at a higher level has a tremendous achievement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On a global scale, education and technology have contributed to the development of Nigeria as a nation. Fortunately, education is the catalyst to solving so many learning problems and academic performance. Otherwise social vice sees as anything that deserved to be changed. As Nigerians, our education system must key into learning technology in order to improve the academic performance of our students in higher education.

## Recommendation

The stakeholders in charge of the higher institutions need to stay strong and focus on making students responsible and disciplined from the start during and after using learning technology so that the country's hopes for them as future leaders can be met.

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