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**EXPLORING THE USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF  
SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE NEW WORLD**

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Josephine Okewu **IBRAHIM**  
*Department of Social Studies*  
*Federal College of Education, Okene*

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**Abstract**

*The paper explored the use of instructional materials is an indispensable tools for enhancing the teaching and learning of Social Studies in a new world. The paper considered conceptual clarification of Social Studies, instructional materials and resources. The types of Social Studies instructional materials and it effectiveness were discussed. The paper recommended among others that government at all level should provide enough funds to Social Studies teachers for the procurement and maintenance of instructional materials for use in teaching and, also, workshops and seminars should be organized for Social Studies teachers across all level of learning to enhance their understanding on the new world and expose them to new methods of teaching and learning especially the use of modern instructional material/resources.*

**Keywords:** Social Studies, Instructional materials, Resources, New world, Teaching and learning.

## **Introduction**

Every society around the world use education, as a relevant instrument for effecting desirable political, social economic as well as technological development. In an attempt to achieve the desired change, some subjects were infused into the educational system to be taught to learners, Social Studies inclusive. Social Studies is an innovation curriculum of the schools globally of which Nigeria is not left out, In Britain for instance, Social Studies made its first appearance into the school curriculum after the first and second world wars as catholicon for addressing social problems (Shaibu, 2017). In Nigeria, the domestic irrelevance of the pre-colonial educational system in Nigeria and the Nigerian civil war (1967-1970) motivated the inclusion of Social Studies in order to link knowledge with local needs and to heal the wounds of aftermath of the civil war. The inclusion of Nigerian Social Studies school curriculum was part of a general culture and values response to the problem of neglect of Social Studies culture and values (Mezieobi, 2013).

The present day Social Studies teachers are encouraged and as a matter of necessity required to use instructional materials and resources to teach Social Studies in order to make classroom teaching and learning lively, understandable, interestingly in a way that will help them to live in new times-prepared for new forms of labour in the post industrial economy, equipped to handle new and emerging problems, technologies and function in the new age and prepared to understand different perspective and to participate in an increasingly diverse, multi-cultural global society. It is against this backdrop that this paper explored the use of instructional materials as an indispensable tools that enhance teaching and learning of Social Studies in a new world.

## **Conceptual Clarifications**

It is a difficult task to give a concise and universally accepted definition of Social Studies because, every academic enterprise is a product of social situation. This notwithstanding, various attempts have been made to capture its meaning. Social Studies can be defined

as the study that is concern with human relationship and the way in which the society works. Edinyang (2018) viewed Social Studies as an important course of instruction which is intended equip students with the perception, values, attitude and the much needed skills to survive in an ever changing society, full of periodic changes in information, knowledge, technology, value and awareness. Edinyang et al (2017) saw Social Studies as a study that focuses on man in his environment with a view of sensitizing man with the symbiotic relationships or interactions between him and his environment and equipping him with intellectual reflective or contemplative skills to identify and conquer his life and enviromental problems and make his social living worth the bother. .It tries to look at man extensively within the ramification of his dynamic environments as well as equipping him with positive knowledge, attitudes, values and skills for the purpose of producing competent, humane and effective citizenry who can contribute positively to the good of the society.

Ikwumelu and Oyibo (2011) saw Social Studies as a subject possessing skills, attitudes and activities that focus on society and on the individual members of the society. Kissock (1981) defined Social Studies as a study which the society uses to inculcate in students the know-how, skills action it sees as important concerning relationships between human beings, their world and themselves. Dubey and Barth (1980) conceptualized Social Studies as “the process of education that deals with the study of individuals for the purpose of affording children and adults the occasion to practice and solve individual and social problems. It can be deduced that Social Studies a vehicle for passing knowledge developed by a society including the scholarly disciplines with the sole of helping the young people make use of it.

### **Objective of Social Studies**

The aims and objectives of Social Studies: to educate students to become useful citizens of the country and their environment; to make them understand the environment of man and the interaction of man with them; to help them appreciate the roles of the society;

to help them realized the need for interdependence with various groups of the society and the world at large; and to inculcate in students the knowledge and skills in order to enable them to function properly and play their roles as members of the society. By these objectives, Nigerian child is expected to be creative, resourceful, responsible, understanding and patriotic. Social Studies help in preparing the learners for living effectively now and in the foreseeable future or new world (Shaibu *et al*, 2017).

The fundamental concern of Social Studies is with man and his complex relationship with the world around and beyond learners' basic knowledge, skills for investing, analyzing and explaining those inter-relationship for the maximum benefit of mankind (Abubakar, 2015). Social Studies as a subject connect students with the real world in today's interconnected world. Students must be prepared to interact with people of all cultures and communities.

In order to prepare our students to be national and global citizen for the new world order, we must endeavor to continuously strive to offer the kind of Social Studies instructional materials/resources in critical perception that will help the students especially the young ones to change their attitudes and learn to see through the eyes, mind and hearts of others. The proper use of instructional resources requires teacher's appropriate guide of instruction. Mezieobi, et al (2013) opined that professionally trained Social Studies teachers with professional exposure and orientation in the demands of Social Studies instructional material usage and development are instructive in the effective implementation of Social Studies curriculum.

### **Rationale for the use of Instructional Materials in Social Studies in a New World**

The sole task of every teacher is to ensure that learners are involved in meaningful teaching and learning. Therefore, no teaching is possible at any significant age level without the use of suitable instructional materials. Effective use of instructional materials and its relevance with the topic would enable the learners to effectively learn. When teaching Social Studies. It is important that instructional material are used. The reasons are because it simplifies

content, abstract and concept; it brings what is been taught to the learners learning level. It makes what is been taught very real in any concept in Social Studies, It arouse the interest and curiosity of the learners, It enhance retention and remembering on the part of the learner It enable the learner appreciate the volume of nature' assistance to his learning in the immediate environment; Instructional materials saves the teacher a lot of time which may be employed in other areas of meaningful teaching activities and make learning easier and interesting for the teachers and learners; Some instructional materials help to acquire experiences, knowledge that they would otherwise not have learnt by hearing only from the teacher.

### **Social Studies Instructional Materials and Resources**

Instructional materials are very important as far as effective teaching and learning is concerned. They are vital components which provide the vehicle for enhanced teaching and learning at any stage of learning. Edinyang (2022) asserted that any teaching without instructional materials and resources, should be regarded as incorrect , Instructional materials are teaching pillars or teaching infrastructure without which effective teaching and learning may be void (Mezieobi *et al*, 2008).

Murtala (2016) defined instructional materials as means of making the teaching and learning process easy, more meaningful and understandable to the learners. Instructional materials also known as teaching and learning materials are any collection of materials including animate and inanimate objects, human and non-human resources that a teacher may use in teaching and learning situation to help achieve desired learning objectives. In view of the above definitions, instructional materials are sight tools for teachers at all levels of education process for effective instructional delivery and promote learner's academic achievement and enable the achievement of the stated objectives.

### **Types of Instructional Materials and Resources**

Instructional materials and resources for Social Studies teaching/

learning. Scholars have grouped these types of instructional materials in various ways Jarolimek (1971) and Ikwumelu (1988) categorized instructional materials and resources into two, namely; reading and non-reading materials. Nacino-Brown S (1982) outlined four categories of instructional materials namely: Visual materials which they divided into seven; three dimensional materials, printed materials, chalkboard, flannel or felt-board, bulletin boards, still pictures (non-projected and projected), and graphic; Audio-materials: Radio, record players and tape recorders; Audio-materials: Motion pictures and television; and Community resources. Aina (1982), Michaelis (1980) and Famwang (1989) classified them into three: reading materials, audio-visual materials and community resources. Alaezi (1990) on his own part classified instructional materials and resource into: textbooks, Blackboard and flannel board, Library and Audio-visual materials which are made up of five parts namely: Two dimensional materials: pictures, wall charts, time charts, atlases; Three dimensional materials, diagrams, specimens; Projected materials: slides, micro-projection projector and overhead projector; Audio-materials, radio, computer tape recorder/tape recorded materials and Audio-visual materials: television and radio-cassette.

Ofoegbu (2009) cited in Edinyan *et al* (2020) outlined materials and resources as; Resources/materials, which offer content: for charts graphs, audio-recordings; tools and implements print of all kinds, globes maps, painting and resources in the community; Resources/material for present contents such as audio and video recorders, bulletin boards, flannel board, slide projectors, television, another grouping of instructional materials by Ofoegbu (2009) includes: Human/resources which consist of individuals who provide various services in the teaching and learning process. They include and non-professionals non-human resources which include physical facilities and materials which serve as tools and devices through which stimuli can be passed or obtained. Projectors and electronic media sub-divided into software and hardware. This group of materials requires the use of electronic devices. Software materials consist of audio tapes, video tapes slides filmstrips. Hardware materials are audio tapes recorders, video recorders, slide projector,

film projector overhead projector etc. Textbooks are reading materials that are basic for the Social Studies class. Here, the subject matter is organized in a meaningful and logical way and it provides the beginning of learning and also stimulate thinking and interest of the learner on a variety of issues, persons and process.

### **Some Social Studies Instructional Materials and Resources used in Teaching and Learning in New World**

Some instructional materials and resources commonly used in recent time include the followings; internet, iTuneU, laptops, infographics, maps and charts, all kinds of print materials hardware and software, computers, slide projectors, improvised materials, community resources, library, and so on.

The internet is one of the best, fastest and up to date source of conveying information be in a real life picture form or in text form. Social Studies teachers can make use of the internet to search for the most recent information from all over the world and even make students search for information. This will help enrich the teacher's knowledge as well as the students' knowledge of the most recent changes.

Materials from locally available resources by the teacher and utilizing such materials to facilitate effective instruction in the classroom. Community resources are those persons, places and institutions which desirable enrich Social Studies teaching and learning, deepen the Social Studies content and widen the horizon of learners (Mezieobi, 2008). The community has both human and non-human resources. The human resources are persons with vast knowledge and skills which can be utilized to enrich the classroom learning experiences. Non-professionals like lawyers, professors, chiefs while non-human resources include places such as government agencies, physical features.

Present different data according to the need of the people. For example, world map, Atlas outline map are used to provide opportunity for students to study geographical location and data. A Social Studies teacher can make the best out of the library by organizing study trips to the library to mobilize learners to assist in

the collection of some materials and in producing the materials that can be kept in the library for use. Also, improvised Social Studies resources can be kept in the Social Studies laboratory. Moreover, iTunes U is a free hosted content management system allowing colleges and universities to provide students with easy access to their educational content, including lectures, interviews, audio books, video and more through the same technology. Also, infographic i.e. using a combination of images and words to explain text based information. Two-way mirror reflect new teaching model: It gives visiting teachers for example, an eyes into the classroom .teachers can observe the classroom environment through this gadget and it enhance interaction between the teacher and the student and also allows us to see ourselves. Interactive board; An interactive smart, also known as an electronic whiteboard, is a classroom tools that allows images from a computer screen to be displayed onto a classroom board using a digital projector.

### **Effective Teaching of Social Studies for a New World**

The fundamental concern of Social Studies is with man and his complex relationship with the world around and beyond. Some of the challenges Social Studies continue to face in Nigeria are identifying and selecting appropriate methodologies and instruction for preparing pre-service teachers to teach effectively in other to change student's negative attitudes about themselves, others and the nation as well as preparing students to from a global perspectives (Abubakar, 2014).

The 21st century is adding a global dimension in Social Studies. Classroom will make a lot of differences and it will help to develop global knowledge, and global understanding and a cosmopolitan spirit, needed in the new world and more importantly, it will allow students to be globally minded and competitive in the global market. To prepare our students to be national and global citizens for a new world, we must endeavour to continuously strive to offer the kind of instruction in Social Studies that will help young and students to change their attitudes, and to learn to see through the eyes, minds, and heart of others.



Perspective consciousness: teachers will help students to research different perspectives on local and global events, issues and problems relating to topic of personal, professional interest, read, discuss literature or histories. Teachers will help students to identify and analyze values, beliefs and attitudes. For instance, examine, evaluate and critique instructional materials, print materials, media and other sources of information to their underlying assumptions, biases, stereotyping, cultural norms and values. Teachers of Social Studies will help students to apply global knowledge and cross-cultural skills through authentic application develop new instructional materials and assessments, collaborate in community projects that support diversity and social justices and make connection between their students and people in another part of the world.

Teachers must help students examine their own cultural heritage and reflect upon their past experiences with others and their privilege situated locally and globally. Teachers should help students to develop cross-cultural and cross-economic skills in listening, interaction, communication, and how to manage conflict e.g. collaboration assignments, project research within minority or pluralistic culture and with people in other parts of and the world.

### **Conclusion**

Education is at the renaissance of a remarkable transformation in globally. This transformation is evident in the new approach, new direction, new orientation and new consciousness in Nigerian education (Social Studies). Global challenges such as globalization; climate change global kind natural terrorism, poverty food scarcity, insecurity, unemployment banditry ethnic clashes, family issues are forcing national of which Nigeria is not left out to redesign their Social Studies curricula to meet the current challenges effective use instructional materials and resource will depend largely on the degree of Social Studies professional training, competence, creativity, innovation, ingenuity, commitment doggedness, perseverance, dedication, motivation of teachers to inculcate and teach value of education.

### **Suggestions**

The Social Studies teacher must exhibit attitude and conducts which attitude to work; commitment to a given task, and good relationships with the students and putting in to consideration their age, maturity and ability and relevant instructional materials that are varied and not limited to textbooks and atlases alone. Schools should be provided with modern equipment like internet and computers and adequate time should be allocated to enable the teacher utilize the resources available so as to handle emerging issues in the present curriculum and to achieve the goal of the 21st century and lesson objectives.

Also, Social Studies teachers should be provided with enough funds to enable them procure instructional materials and resources that are not obsolete but with modern equipment like television, computer, internet suitable for effective Social Studies lesson. Government should organized training for Social Studies teachers across all levels of learning to expose them especially in the use of modern instructional materials e.g. ituneU and internet because most teachers do not know how to operate them.

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