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**NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND EMBRACING  
DIVERSITIES THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES**

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**Abstract**

*The process of resolving numerous concerns and challenges in the teaching, learning, and curriculum creation of Social Studies is known as “navigating challenges and embracing diversities through Social Studies.” In order to build the curriculum to meet the specific aspects of the challenges and diversities in society that Social Studies is attempting to address, the researcher used a survey research design. These issues include family challenges, educational, political, economic, religious, and ethnic intolerance, as well as drug abuse, cultism, sexual harassment, and child abuse. By embracing diversity and navigating obstacles, Social Studies curricula are designed to match societal expectations. The researcher uses the internet (as a means of collaborating across large distances by exchanging costly computers and their files). In order to move beyond current realities, the internet may be used to find a wealth of fresh concepts and problems that Social Studies teachers can incorporate into the creation of new curricula that better reflect societal realities today.*

**Keywords:** Navigating, Challenges, Diversities, Curriculum development.

## **Introduction**

Nigeria intended to build among other things a strong and self-sufficient nation in which people saw themselves as Nigerians rather than ethnic nationalities, and where they could live freely in any part of the country in order to achieve nationhood. The burden of carrying out this intention falls squarely on the shoulders of education as the ultimate instrument. The introduction of Social Studies was motivated by the desire for national cohesion and togetherness. Using Social Studies to navigate beyond the current realities entails releasing education from its current constraints and preparing it for the realities of the present and the future. Nigeria sought to establish, among other things, a powerful and independent nation where citizens identify as Nigerians rather than members of certain ethnic groups and where they are free to reside wherever in the nation in order to attain nationhood. Education, being the most important tool, bears the primary responsibility for achieving this goal. The goal of fostering national unity and cohesion led to the introduction of Social Studies. The availability of equipment, manpower development, and educational facilities are a few more considerations. We frequently overlook the fact that adding a discipline or subject to the curriculum does not change the goals that we must pursue as a society (Zidamu, 2017).

Social Studies been a 19th century subject navigate the leftover areas in social sciences, science and technology areas of study to form it field of study. Social Studies deals with man and environmental challenges man came in connect within the environment. Education for our purpose is the training of the young with a few to their growing up and developing into adults who can find for themselves. It may be the process of that training. The process may be formed as in an institution or non-formal as in a home. It starts from birth. Everybody is exposed to informal training or traditional training and to the environment and the culture (language, dress, religious beliefs, dance, music, leisure etc).

The derverse physical location, contexts and culture in which pupils learn. Technological advancement with social change go along side by side with learning environment include age – appropriate

equipment, materials and supplies. Social Studies was created and organised to address particular parts of human needs; consciousness, experience, and understanding are developed as a result, enabling people to recognise the essence of who they are as unique individuals and as a community (Ebegha, 2024). The Social Studies curriculum goes beyond the current state of affairs. The goal of Social Studies as a curriculum is to help Nigerian primary school pupils navigate new possibilities and to inculcate and promote a spirit of social integration, nationalism, and patriotism (Ebegha, 2024).

In the 1960s, the US Department of Defence launched an experiment with the intention of enabling scientists and researchers working in widely separated locations to collaborate more effectively by exchanging expensive and rare computers and their data. The internet can be used to go beyond the confines of the present and uncover a wealth of novel concepts and problems that will inform the development of Social Studies curricula. A network of linked computers that shares information will enable communication beyond the confines of the present. Using standardised internet protocol suites, the internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks connected by fibre optic cables.

By its very nature, Social Studies are necessary for a nation's population to grow fully. It is a field of research that covers nearly all facets of societal structure. It is action-based and necessitates the use of all resources at hand to foster a deeper comprehension of its goal (Mezieobi, 2023), demonstrating that no curricular idea is widely accepted and applicable. This suggests that each nation developed its curriculum in accordance with its own needs and goals; as a result, Social Studies transcend society's current realities to address its problems. This paper therefore navigated the challenges and embracing diversities through Social Studies

### **Issues and Problems that Mark the Present Diversities of Realities**

Social Studies as the present states of thought unbounded the present

realities beyond Social Studies. The 1999 constitution as amended on the following thematic areas to face the present diversities of realities The Federal structure and power devolution, Local government/Local government autonomy, Public revenue fiscal federation and revenue architecture, Comprehensive judicial reforms, Electoral reform to strengthen INEC to deliver transparent, creditable, free and fair elections, Socio-economic and cultural rights as contained in chapter 2 of the constitution, Traditional institution, Issue of gender, Strengthening the independence of oversight institutions and agencies created by the constitution or pursuant to an act of the National Assembly, Residency and indigene provision, Immunity, The National Assembly, Process of state creation, State access to mining.

Among the current concerns and difficulties that Social Studies as a subject should prioritise are good governance and the wellbeing of all people in our nation on the tenets of freedom, equality, and justice. Not only is it important to introduce a course of study, but it's also important to consider how the course might affect people's knowledge, attitudes, abilities, and values as well as promote growth and opportunities for society's citizens.

### **Social Studies' Lens on Navigating Beyond the Present Realities**

As a social science, Social Studies employs scientific methodologies in its research and, by doing so, uses all available real-world data from the community, which serves as the study's immediate environment. Social Studies look beyond the needs and goals of the individual and the community.

Curriculum development beyond present realities involves so many challenges. Challenges bothering on the effective application of Social Studies curriculum content. Nigeria ethnic beliefs, resource persons, limited classroom environment, information from field trips, non-availability of funds, uninterested or indifferent nature of some teachers, ethnic intolerance and ethnocentrism, mistrust, lack of harmonious co-existences, Absence of national consciousness.

Social security is one of the many ethnic sociocultural diversity that could help Nigeria's national development cause. Social Studies should prioritize Nigeria and move past the current realities of ethnicity, social security, socioeconomics, politics, and religion. The Nigerian proverb is a mouthful that was created out of pure amazement and dedication to the country's progress as well as social security problems and societal obstacles. Studying Social Studies involves accepting diversity because, as a discipline, it deals with society and all of its diversity, which presents a number of obstacles and diverse research populations. societal, religious, and ethnic intolerance, family and school difficulties, political, economic, and just issues, drug misuse, cultism, sex and sex harassment, and child maltreatment. Diversities abound in society when it comes to national growth and curriculum development. Due to the diverse interests in the northern, western, eastern, and southern regions, Nigeria's national growth is constantly faced with diversity.

### **Conclusion**

Unbinding the current problems facing education requires navigating obstacles and embracing diversity through Social Studies. Nigeria used the internet to research new topics and ideas that would aid in the creation of new curricula, among other goals of building a powerful and independent country.

### **Suggestions**

Navigating challenges and embracing diversities in Social Studies should be done not in one direction. In order to provide a well-organized curriculum that satisfies societal demands, Social Studies navigation should also include the fundamental sciences and the pure arts. Subject content and concepts should not be the primary areas of navigation; teacher quality and instructional strategies should also be considered. Navigation should also be conducted into the government's incapacity to demonstrate the basic amenities required for the process of teaching and learning. Navigation should also be done in children parents' capacity to provide the needed financial resources or facilities for the learners (children).

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