

## **THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF PHOTOGRAPHY EDUCATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Abstract**

This paper focuses on the fundamental role of photography. It examines the 6-3-3-4 of system of Education as a means of sustaining the career of students for self-reliance. It further discusses on the concept of photography as an aspect of Fine and Applied Art, objective and also explains the role of photography in the Nigerian economy while suggestions and recommendations are made towards improving self-reliance as proposed in the objectives of the 6-3-3-4 National Policy of Education in Nigeria.

### **Introduction**

Photography education plays a fundamental role in a national development by cultivating a skilled workforce, promoting creativity and innovation, preserving cultural heritage, and contributing to economic growth and social progress. This education provides individuals with the technical knowledge and artistic skills needed to succeed in a rapidly involving industries while also fostering critical thinking, problem solving and communication abilities that are essential in a modern society. (Turner, 2019, & Smith, 2020).

The policy of 6-3-3-4 system of education has been integrated to enrich the development of self-reliance as well as improving the social and economic emancipation of the nation's citizenry. This new polity specifies the overall philosophy of Nigerian education, which is based on the integration of the individual into a sound and effective members of the nation. This idea of systematic education has paved way for vocational guidance and preparation of any skillful work to earn a gainful income. Enwezor, (2023). examines the role of photography in Africa in his documentation he emphasis Africa history, culture and politics, He also explore works the works of contemporary African photographer who are using photography to challenge stereotypes and create new narratives about Africa.

Monoszon (1963) stresses that secondary education should provide the students with sound knowledge of the basic subjects, a which of the principles of ideology, a which is appropriate to the rising standard of science and technology. The role of Fine and Applied Arts in national development has propelled a wide range of job opportunities for self-reliance within the nation as a whole. It's a function port education that nurtures healthy productive citizenry it is pertinent to note that wealth of a state depends not merely on the richness of the raw materials or products we have per se but be or the production of the entrepreneur. Also the present and future of the Individuals should project the use of Fine and Applied Arts in the acquisition of more skillful job opportunities for the nation. Also Irish people living in abroad have used photography to create a sense of home and belonging in a foreign land. (Deirdre O''Dwyer, 2023),Brown,K. E.(2021).

In other words, when we discuss about Fine and Applied Arts we cannot but mention photography as an aspect of Applied Arts for national development. It is one of the important tentacles of art as a discipline which needs to be embraced directly throughout the nation as a whole.

### **Objective**

This paper is to explore the fundamental role of photography in the Nation development, This will be achieved by examining the following; How photography documents and preserves cultural heritage, How photography promotes tourism and economic growth and facilitate education and social change as well as shape national identity and fosters cross- cultural understanding. This paper will argue that photography is an indispensable tool for national development, providing a visual narrative of a nation's journey and inspiring progress in all spheres of life,

### **Methodology**

This paper drawn on a variety of sources to support its arguments, including; Scholarly research on the role of photography in national development. Case Studies of specific photographic projects that have had a positive impact on nations. Interviews with photographers and other experts in the field. However, the paper is Significant because it provides a comprehensive overview of the role of photography in national development. It is intended to be a resource for policymakers educators and other stakeholders who are interested in harnessing the power of photography to promote progress and well –being. The word "photography" is derived from the Greek words "light" and

"writing". This was first used by Sir John Herschel in 1839 when the invention of the photographic process was made to the public (Newhall 1986).

During the previous decades, as many as ten individuals had tried to make a photograph. At least four were successful with the use of scientific methods or techniques. The first of these techniques was optical since the 16<sup>th</sup> century artists and scientists had made use of the fact that light passing through a small hole in one wall of a darkroom projects an inverted image on the opposite wall. Williams (2023); presents a visual history of American Civil War, he examines the role of photography in documenting the war and how photography has shaped our understanding of this pivotal event in American history. The second technique was chemical raised by Johann Heinrich Schulze in 1727. it was discovered that certain chemicals especially silver halides, turn dark when exposed to light. The first attempt to use such chemicals to record the image of the camera obscura was made unsuccessful by Thomas Wedgwood about 1800, while the positive record of the image was achieved in 1840 (Newhall 1984).

The photograph's capacity to receive itself exactly and infinitely through the negative to positive process was one side of radical character. So photography stressed its mechanical nature. This nature excludes the personal intervention that was embedded in art. One would therefore realize that photography as a creative potential, signaled the demise of painting while painters continued to paint and photographers proliferated at best. Everyone agreed that the new invention was useful and alleviate poverty in the society.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The word "photo" or "icon" means image of an object or picture of an object while "photograph" means a picture taken by photographer Photography is a branch of Fine and Applied Arts. They endorsed the old chain that photography must look like established art. Photograph is not identical with the subject it depicts but rather is a way of looking at the subject as an agent of interpretation.

Walker Evan (1980) remarked that the best photographer of the period is the one who has his pictures seemed artless, straight forward views of the odd junk and generally undistinguished buildings that clutter the country. But the lean order imposed on these humble subjects revealed grace and beauty that no one had ever seen before. He further stressed a claim for intelligence in

photography. He showed that a photographer's understanding of his subject may be so convincing that it seems to be the only one possible. (Johnson, 2019).

Herschel (1839) observed that photography is the art of writing with light. The word 'Photography' is categorized into two as Phos- Graphus. Newhall (1986) stresses that light is a means of producing images. Since image cannot form on its own without the reflection of light from a particular place and within certain condition, that is the reason while Rhode and Mccall (1989) agreed that light is vital to photography for it is the physical means of producing an image.

In Fine Arts, the artist plays, with light to control the object in order to give solidity to the object drawn. For examples Rembrandt handled light with dramatic power which erupts from the surrounding rich darkness. The impressionist, on the other hand, simply saturated their canvas with light as it related to photography. It is expedient to mention Fine Arts without discussing photography. Photo means an information On a picture obtained by using a camera and film that is sensitive to light. It also involves making a picture of someone or something by using a camera and film sensitive to light.

In view of this, camera is being handled by many experts and untrained persons in photography. So this had make some people to look at it as if it is not lucrative for self- reliance in the country.

### **The Role of Photography in Self Reliance**

Acquisition of desirable skills to work and competencies can be achieved through the use of photography, in that it required skilled labour to achieve the set out objectives or goals to enhance our living in the society in line with this? Aladenike (2003) stresses the acquisition of knowledge skill, desirable work, attitudes and competencies applicable to efficient use of tools and equipment in the production and service, skilled labour could lead to high productivity that is it help in promoting self -reliance in our vicinity as the country as a whole.

To buttress the point further, the economic reforms of former president Olusegun Obasanjo has created a lot of economic hardships which makes white collar job, difficult to get. This has given way to different forms of vocational education such as a photography to be saleable in service. In Nigeria at present, one would realize that the movement of people is now tending towards rapid development in the area of vocational and technical education (Adeoye 2003,

Aladenika (2000) highlights goals of Vocational Education to include the following:

- To provide trained manpower in applied skills and commerce practically at sub-professional grades.
- To provide the technical knowledge and Vocational skills necessary for agricultural, industrial, commercial and economic development.
- To provide for people who can apply scientific knowledge to the environmental problems for use and convenience of man.
- To give an introduction to professional studies, engineering and other technology,
- To give training and skills leading to production of craftsmen, technical and other skilled personnel who will be enterprising, and
- To enable our young men and women to have an intelligent understanding of the complexity of technology.

Photography encourages lucrative job opportunities. Those who work with the camera can feed themselves easily. They can take care of their families with the little amount they make from the venture. Those that are educated or trained can also employ others to their photo laboratory as a clerical officer to collect films from the artist or photographers. It is also possible to train the young ones who are not able to have adequate education in order to be self-reliant. Many children were trained for 2 to 3 years as apprentices and later graduated to be professional photographers. Photography develops sense of social interaction among others. Hence mutual understanding is developed within the two parties (i.e photographers and customers). Most of the photographers are invited to occasions like naming ceremonies burial ceremonies and so on. All these bring a lot of socialization in terms of relating with individual customers as well as adjusting to situation that may find themselves.

Photography is a veritable means of propagating societal economic development. For example, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the Babangida administration in Nigeria, as well as other related policies were aimed at revitalizing the industrial sector of the economy. These were realized through various forms of media advertisements in which photography played an active role. There consequently created viable markets for the industrial output. Hence photography could help in creating and generating awareness. The modern technology in photography which is digital photography is now in Nigeria and this has been embraced by many photography practitioners.

Kehinde (2003) observed that it is important for Nigerians and Africans as a whole to brainstorm on how we can move and meet up with the rest of the world.

Photography serves as a means of income and increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Many people are gainfully employed through selling of photographic products and other accessories attached to the camera. Kehinde (2003) observed that 3 3 5 billion rolls of photographic films are sold annually worldwide and over 20 billion photos are taken each year all over the world, while estimated value of the world photo market is about 85 billion including photo processing. On the average people across the globe shoot more than 2,500 pictures every second.

In Japan the number of rolls per capital is about 41 compared to more than 3.6 in the U. S (United States), 2.4 in Norway, 2.3 in Switzerland, 2,2 in France and 2.1 in Germany China has 1.2 billion people has per capital film usage or less than 0.2 while. India records average of about 0.06 rolls per person each year (Adeoye 2005). Looking at the high rate of social vices in the country, one could realize that photography would be needed to assist the country in reducing them. These social vices include stealing building bad gang armed robbery, theft and advance fee fraud. Since the photographers have their business which keep them busy all the time, it has lessen the social vices in the community. The freelance photographers help in making additional income when pictures are sold to the press and other individuals who want to promote their personal businesses. It increases creativity in them as well professionalism. This can be viewed in three different perspectives thus aesthetic dimension thematic dimension and the craftsmanship dimension.

### **The Aesthetic Dimension:**

Every work of art like photography is believed to have been fashioned with the intention of stimulating a satisfactory aesthetic experience in ones mind, since the creativity is entailed for proper development of the environment. So light in our environment bring joy and stimulate skill labour in out factories where production of products take place for the benefit of mankind. The beauty or lack of it makes it functions in the realm of aesthetic and fulfils the aesthetic dimension. So photograph that does not meet the taste of their users are regarded as rubbish.

The craftsmanship art works or photograph is important. The photographer must be creative in his work. He must be good in manipulating materials and other input of the work to make it a success.

alone does mellency of skills may add quality and value to the work. art in photography should and Glambeling good craftsmanship like Michelangelo's, Peter Rubens Glambattista's and so on.

### **Thematic Dimension**

Photography as an art work should pose thematic property otherwise it could be seen as confusing the observer. The experts on that line should not the aperture to use inside the room or in the sun or moon when there is no enough light. The range of the object to take with the use of lens, the theme of a work to be done include the technique and medium applicable for such work must be considered. One would realised that the photographers are engaged in all ceremonies for documentation. So Onaneme (1995) stresses that photographers who engage in art works should see art as a means of servicing the religion or culture as it is related to the aspirations values and beliefs of the people within the community. Self- contentment is also achieved through the use of camera since it involves both non-literate and literate ones. Self-contentment is also based on confidence in approaching the basic concept of the work.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions**

Photography is a lucrative job that could enhance self-development and provide good income for many young graduates and students. It also exposes the two parties to social interactions and lessen high rate of social vices in the country as a whole. In view of these, the government should embrace photography as a means of self-reliance. To the government it is also recommended that they should encourage the introduction of photography as a general course so that students passing out in every institution will be independent to feed themselves and the course must be introduced from the primary school to high institutions of learning.

Government should try to build photography studio or laboratory in all schools to encourage the teacher within the system as well as equip both public and state libraries with photography textbooks. Workshop and seminars must be introduced for teacher to develop their potentials in the field of photography. Adequate fund must be realized to enhance effectiveness in their schools.

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