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### **Abstract**

*The establishment of Nigerian National Commission for Nomadic Education in 1989 is government approach to bring illiteracy to the minimum. This is part of government creativity to bring literacy to the doorsteps of migrant postural nomads and fishermen. This innovation is expected to address the literacy rates of an estimated 9.3 million nomad, NNCNE (2015) population in Nigeria. The commission has employed various approaches such as on-sites schools, “shift system” schools with a view to provide literacy education to its nomads. This paper is of the view that integrating mobile learning into the nomadic education, establishing radio and television education access to audio-visual teaching aids, and the establishment of ranching is a way to bring down illiteracy. This paper is therefore intended to use the ex-post facto research design because this design studies phenomena after they have occurred. Using the participants (nomads), a designed instrument is expected to illicit the literacy level of the participants in the scheme. However, the formulated questions, (data) were analyzed using simple percentages. The results vividly showed that nomads who were engaged in on-site schools, shift system, mobile learning, radio & television learning have become literate bringing down the level of illiteracy in the country.*

**Key words:** illiteracy, on-sites schools, radio, nomads, innovation and creativity

### **Introduction**

Education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in the affairs of their communities. According to UNESCO (2003), education has a vital role in empowering women, street working children from exploitative and hazardous labour and sexual exploitation, promoting human right and democracy, protecting the environment and controlling population growth.

Gbamanja & Aboho (2009) view adult education as the education for the under-privilege, those who did not ordinarily fit into earlier educational scheme because of certain handicaps and those neglected because of their professions and proximity. This is where the nomads or pastoralists belong. But government is interested in changing their status because they belong to a nation which is willing to uplift the standard of living of the people. For this reason, she is diversing several means to get people in this category educated. The several means adopted to uplift literacy in Nigeria is an innovation in adult and community education. Some of the known creative innovation in the eradication of illiteracy are; establishment of schools side by side ranches, mobile learning (mobile schools), radio education, television education, distance learning, etc.



The Federal Government initiative to establish ranches to keep cattle, sheep, goats and cows is a welcome development. Government's view in the establishment of the ranches is to curb incessant clashes between crops farmers' and pastoralists. However, various advantages would accrue from the establishment of ranches. By the establishment of the ranches, schools are to be built within the ranches. Special teachers are to be trained to handle the literacy needs of the settlers. This creativity is a great innovation to help uplift the literacy level of the nation. According to Audu (2016) the nine (9) million cattle, forty-one (41) million sheep and seventy two (72) million goats are expected to have a population of seven (7) million herdsmen and their families to man the animals. Government would therefore need to make provision for the education of the seven (7) million herdsmen including their families. Besides upgrading the literacy level of the pastoralists, special education in the planting of high quality improved tropical grass and legume species, irrigation management, expanded breeding programme, artificial insemination, management of limited space and most importantly, it will be possible for the Nigerian Immigration Service to check illegal entries of non Nigerian herdsmen to enter the country for grazing. Kaye (2015) argues that the foreign herdsmen are nuisance and all constitutional provisions should be enacted to curb their excesses. Most of the atrocities said to be committed by Nigerian herdsmen are done by the Chadian, Niger and Ghanaian herdsmen.

## Significance of the Study

Creativity and innovation in adult and community education is a pertinent issue that is relevant to uplift the literacy level of the nation. New ideas in the education sector will not only bring literacy, but will usher greater standard of living that will automatically bring economic development. This study is significant because it is focused to investigate how new technologies and creativity in adult and community education can enhance literacy level of herdsmen.

## Creativity and innovation in adult education

The imagination of educators to introduce new skills to improve teaching and learning is very important to improve literacy. The ability to improve on the older ideas can usher in progress not only in educational sector but in the general economic development. During the medieval era, education was other worldly as specified by the Church, Boyd & Kind (1983). According to Fafunwa (1984) the African traditional education emphasized functionalism and social responsibility. This served as a model at the time, but as time progressed, mass literacy became a new demand for the transformation of the global economy. The call for creativity and innovation became louder as an effort to educate the masses to increase their productivity. Indeed, the open distance learning on its own is creativity since this was an innovation on the part of education that was not at vogue during the medieval period. Kinshuk (2003) suggestion that mobile learning can facilitate provision of educational opportunities can be harnessed into mobile learning in nomadic educational system.

The concept of open and distance learning, radio, television, on-sites schools, shift systems, audio-visual aids are all innovations to develop adult and community education. Some facets of the methods used in imparting the various means as used in adult and community education need some explanation. Rao (2008) avers that distance settling "is a form of indirect instruction that is imparted by technical media such as correspondence, printed materials, teaching and learning aids, audio-visual aids, radio, television and computers". This educational



system is designed to train the participants industrialized their businesses and the method by which this system is practiced is technological communication. Rao (2008) argues that the radio, television, on-sites schools, shift systems, audio-visual aids can also be collapsed into one whole which is the modern distance learning. It should be of note that the transformation of the global economy in this 21<sup>st</sup> century for nation-building in Nigeria mass literacy is important and essential. It is therefore possible to use the distance learning situation to impart knowledge to the educational down trodden Fulani herdsmen for literacy advancement which can improve herding and the economy.

Audu (2016) support for the establishment of ranches for the cattle rearers with modern learning facilities is a welcome development. The cattle will be made to stay permanently in the ranch. This will give opportunity to the herdsmen to settle to pursue their rearing function and have ample opportunity to learn. This is a creative idea that would help to make literacy at the doorsteps of many. Education generally according to Rao (2008) has direct bearing on human capital. This means the skills and knowledge gained from this experience is a source for productivity and economic growth.

The nation would have comparative advantage if she sponsors ranching situation as advocated. Ogeh (2012) assumes that the former curriculum was cumbersome and the readdressing of the curriculum will enhance easier assimilation of the learning materials. As a further way of creativity, interesting courses and topics should be redesigned in the form of games and prizes awarded to the best students. Special teachers with national ideals, folklore, symbols, social orientation civic, culture and political socialization should be trained as facilitators. The call for creativity and innovation in lesson delivery, change of curriculum where found un-useful, would make education more available to the masses and bring education to the doorsteps of the masses.

Education in which ever form, formal or non-formal liberates the mind, that is why Heralambus (2008) avers that “education performs the major function of the transmission of the societal norms and values”. That education makes for social solidarity by perpetuating and reinforcing societal homogeneity which collective life demands. If education makes for social rules, the education preached in this presentation (education for creativity and innovation), the Fulani herdsmen who are the target for this educational system, after benefiting would change and accept or adopt social rules. Social rules would make one maintain integrity, societal norms and values. Societal norms and values is bound to reform man to moderate his behaviour. This will bring industrial harmony since everybody is conscious of doing what is best to be done.

## **Community Education**

According to Ingwu (2003) the term community has five basic meaning which are outlined thus;

- a. A group of people who either live or work together.
- b. Any geographical area in which people live.
- c. A geographical area where people live and interact.
- d. An educational activity beyond the walls of the educational institution.
- e. An ideal arrangement of people living and working in harmony.

This set-up consists of persons in social interaction within a geographic area with certain things in common. No matter the setting, these individuals are entitled to education. Those who



belong to this setting are likely to be affiliated to the same religion, males and females, belong to age brackets (age grade) ethnical and cultural background. With these affiliations, they are bound to exercise certain basic rules and regulations. Ojuah (2000) enunciates these rules and regulations as norms. The norms of a society are the salient laws and orders that are maintained. The payment of taxes as civic responsibilities, courtship before marriage, payment of dowry, specific area used for dumping of waste materials, marriage with certain degrees of kindred, community task work, community development levies etc. These are classed community education and if properly adhered to, can lead to economic and civic development of that society. Since different age brackets live in this society and is not possible for all and sundry to have attended formal education, with the space of happenings, they are bound to attend the informal education which in this case is the adult education.

According to Paiko (2009) an adult is someone who has attained the approximate age of fifteen (15) years and above. He further opines that adult education is the education provided for people considered as adults by the definition of an adult. He went further to say that, those who deserve adult education are those who never went to formal school, those who dropped out of school and even graduates of universities who want to acquire additional skills and indeed areas of interest that are in vogue. It could even be in area which has become obsolete but creativity and innovations are introduced.

### Population of the study

There are four (4) herdsmen settlement in Yala LGA, three (3) in Bekwara, four (4) in Ogoja and five (5) respectively in Obudu and Obanliku LGA's. The population of the herdsmen were spread as thus;

Table 1

LGA	No. of Camps	Population of Inhabitants
Yala	4	102
Bekwara	3	68
Ogoja	4	88
Obudu	5	122
Obanliku	5	
Total	21	280

Source: CRS Ministry of Education 2017

The northern senatorial district has 21 number of camps and he population of the herdsmen and their families are few, fifty (50) purposive sampling technique was adopted for the study. A total of 140 herdsmen were purposively sampled from the 280 herdsmen and families in the northern senatorial district of CRS.

### Data collection and Discussions

Time and audience that turn to the radio during education programmes

Table 2

N = 140

Do you own a radio?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	64.2
No	50	35.8
Total	140	100%



Table two: A sample of one hundred and forty (140) was taken for the study. Table two investigated the number of radio owners. Ownership of radios stood at ninety (90), which gave 64.2% of the total number. Fifty respondents did not own radios. The non-owners of radio gave 35.8%. This however showed that radios were important and served as a tool to facilitate learning. This is creative and innovative.

**Table 3** N = 140

Do you listen to the radio at lesson time?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	71.4
No	40	28.6
Total	140	100%

Table three was interested in the use of the radio to receive lessons. However, one hundred respondents had always tuned to the radio during lessons. The percentage for this was 71.4. Accordingly, forty respondents were not in the habit of listening during lesson periods.

**Table 4** N = 140

Do the facilitators from the LGEA teach your children?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	120	85%
No	20	15%
Total	140	100%

Source: Cross River State Ministry of Education 2017

Table four (4); information from the Ministry of Education, Akpan, (2017) informed that well trained facilitators paid by the Local Education Authorities were posted to the camp to particularly teach the young ones. The adults were receiving lessons through the rotational method. Since there was need to move the cattle round, the herders need to rotate by attending every other day to enable the cattle graze.

## Conclusion

For articulate creativity and innovation in adult and community education, there is need for alternative approaches to educational subject/lesson delivery. In view of the revolutionary trends taking place in information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Nigeria and the world at large, there is opportunity to create innovations in distance learning. This study is focused on improving the literacy level of the nomadic herdsman and one best way to do it is to implore gadgets like the mobile phones and radio. However, this can be collapsed into modern distance learning. Distance learning can embrace on-sites schools, shift system which is described in this presentation as rotation. The use of audio-visual aids can necessarily be used during the shift systems. However, the major instructional material used is the radio. Other named methods would be used when the ranch system is formalized.

The results of the literacy level showed that the herdsman connected to the radio were very enthusiastic and often tuned their radio to the lesson times. Accordingly, listening level increased, and the facilitators who were employed by the local education authorities taught the adult cattle rearers on shift basis and the nomadic children were permanently in school as is



obtained in the schools manned by local education authority schools. However, this has increased the literacy level of the pastoralists and their families.

## Recommendations

1. Government should as a matter of urgency fast-track the completion of the ranch projects. This will not only help illiteracy but curtail the incessant clashes between crops' farmers and the herdsmen.
2. Compensations should be paid to the surviving members of families of those who were massacred by the herdsmen.
3. Government should introduce stringent method that should stop the army to collude with the killer herdsmen.

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