



THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 35TH NAE ANNUAL CONGRESS (ABUJA 2021), AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA, 8TH – 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Preamble

The 2021 Congress drew 150 participants from across the country. Ninety-three (93) were registered for the Congress. It drew about 57 dignitaries and representatives of Education Ministry, Boards and Parastatals. Some of the highlights of the Congress included award of honorary fellowships, the award of three regular fellowships and the induction of Nigerian Council of Educational Psychologists (NCEP), and the induction of thirty-one members.

The Congress deliberated on the theme: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and collaborative Education in Post COVID-19 Twenty first Century. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Ben Akpan, FSTAN, the Executive Director of Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN) and 42 papers addressed various sub-themes of Basic, Secondary and Tertiary Education.

Observations

Following the keynote presentation and the parallel discussions, it was generally observed that:

1. The theme was apt, considering the incredible development in all facets of life and the inevitable changed lifestyles occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. These changes have implications for education generally and STEAM in particular and how their collaborative nature can facilitate further development in the 21st century.
3. There is need for integrative education as encapsulated in STEAM education and its philosophy and curriculum models, implementation guidelines and teaching strategies.
4. STEAM classification as involving problem-solving, creativity, analytical thinking, collaboration and ethics, action and accountability are the hallmark of

21st century learning needs that break boundaries between subjects and emphasise transdisciplinarity and interrelated approaches to teaching and learning.

5. In the pandemic environment, STEAM education can be continued online with optimal deployment and use of the appropriate technology, and
6. STEAM can appropriately build our requisite professionals in diverse professions, capable of solving the complex contemporary problems of today's world and its future.

Recommendations

Based on the observations, the Congress resolved to:

- a) Evolve all possible ways to educate, inform and communicate ways and means to cope and contain the COVID-19 pandemic through strict observance of the protocols and the vaccination.
- b) Complement our approaches to educational delivery strategies by building the capacity of teachers at all levels to appreciate the place of STEAM education. This will make for understanding of STEAM education, including its philosophy, curriculum models, implementation guidelines and teaching strategies.
- c) Adopt transdisciplinarity and interrelated approaches to teaching and learning at all levels of education.
- d) Encourage all education providers to step up action in the provision of ICT infrastructure that facilitate online teaching and learning at all levels of education.

Conclusion

Congress rose on the understanding that STEAM education can yield the educational result that can solve the complex problems of today's world and its future and should therefore be central to Nigeria's educational system.



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