

HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH, A SOURCE FOR INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN

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Abstract

Development of a nations capacity building initiatives towards a consolidated health education research processes is largely dependent on the level of collaboration by all concerned stakeholders in the Sub-Sahara African. Research and innovation has therefore been described as the bedrock towards effective health promotion strategy. This paper critically examined health education, a source for innovation and sustainable development in sub-Sahara African countries. The paper further discussed the role of health education research in National development, the need for research in health education and application of competent health education personnels in the 21st century. The paper finally concluded that recognizing the relevance of health education research and innovation in the 21st century, all relevance stakeholders in health sector needs a collaborative efforts in promoting good health practices among African citizens. In the final analysis, the paper recommended that a proactive approach system needs to be consolidated in enhancing research and developmental processes. Also, substantial amount of human, financial and material resources should be channeled towards the promotion, and sustenance of health promotion programmes.

Introduction

Consistency in health education research no doubt contribute significantly to a nations level of health development and the general well being of individuals in African society. Research and development according to Busari (2003), revealed to a great extent that the main and objective of health education research in the 21st century is to enhance health education research processes and the promotion of individual in the society health status. To this end, making a common research processes a reality should mean that one has the best possible cooperation at every level through health innovation policies as well as structural capacities to enhance capacity building initiative for health development. Over times, the issue of health education research programmes has become vast, diverse and multi-purpose research processes that is completely integrated into the African society. According to the views of Adeleye (2010), health education research services in the 21st century provides the means and capacities to deal with emerging health challenges. In addition, the innovation in the process of health education research help to strengthen a scientific society that involves networking in the following aspects in African society.

- (1) By flexibly responding to the developing needs and requirements of African nations policy makers.
- (2) By focusing on important health challenges facing the African society which contain both scientific and a community dimension.
- (3) By developing partnership with research centres, university, industry, public authorities and all other regulatory bodies in both developing and developed nations of the world.

- (4) By expanding its health education skills and improving its health facilities through collaboration with other nations in developed world. It is however important to note that one of the particular features in health education programs lies in its integrated approach to provide a scientific based support for research innovations in the health sectors. In a related development, consistency in health education research activity no doubt contribute to a better understanding of the society as well as development in technology and science oriented innovation especially in a competitive nations. The observation of Abdullahi (2011), innovations in health sector of any nation provides a platform for an improvement in understanding of the relationship between education and the need of scientific discovery of health education research in health is considered to be an outstanding scientific networking, training and mobility enhancing the access to research infrastructure by developing collaborative research processes.

Health Education and National Development

The health standard of a nation is usually guaranteed through regular research activities. The level of health standard in this regard is the application of system analysis and competencies which include the fight against any out break of any communicable disease that may affect the African nation. However, the protection of African citizens against unforeseen circumstances is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the health sectors. Therefore, the over all idea of innovations, is ultimately to enhance the knowledge in health matters. By and large, the health knowledge acquired through constant research process helps to promote health status of individual as well as improve social and environmental, progress of a nation. In a related development, Daniels (2013), at clearly observed that the existence of innovation strategy in promoting health education through research is for the purpose of promoting the role of science in modern societies. In the final analysis, research processes in the health sector serves as a baseline for explaining and testing new technology and building new health knowledge within a specific region of the world that are believed to be of particular significance for a sustainable environment. National development according to Adams (2010), is seen as growth and changes which involve material, mental, physical, psychological, institutional and organizational innovation. National development through the application of scientific health researches help to improve the social structures and life conditions of individuals in a country. Indeed, the development of a nation is the instrument by which national innovations are brought to bear on the populace. Therefore, the general pattern of research activities must be vigorously pursued in order to achieve national development at all cost in a country.

The Need for Research in Health Education

Nelson (2009), posited that the future of most nations in sub-Sahara African region of the world is usually guaranteed by consistent research and scientific innovation.

Therefore, a good strategy of research processes is backed upon by good innovation strategy. As matter of fact, the over all goals of national development is supported by effective implementation of research networking program that guarantees national development. It should therefore be noted at this point, that no nation aspiring break-through in any area of her national life can afford to toy with the implementation of good innovation policy in health activities. The cardinal objective of applying health education research is for transforming national goals into reality of achievements, it is however the task of all national policy planners as well as all the

relevant agencies responsible for the provision of good health among African citizens. To make provision for scientific research activities goes along way in enhancing the attainment of national development this however justifies the saying that the quality of research process is prescribed by the design and condition of development process. Research and innovations in most Africa countries of the world, is usually confronted by several bottle necks which stand to impede its success and eventually hampers national development; the attainment of good health in any nations of the world is the aspiration and desire to transform into a great country only if there are competent and dedicated researchers to man the research processes.

The national health policy planners and all other stakeholders in the health sector are regarded as the pivot of national development. There is no gain saying that innovations for a sustainable environment is important this is because a nation that's not governed by certain developmental policy might find itself characterized by chaotic situations and consequently conditions of uncertainly of the future of a nation will certainly prevail. Thus, the study of Eddy (2008), towards the health challenge calls for a consideration in the scheme of things not only for our individual lives, but also for developing the insight and competence of individuals to successfully face the challenges of the present and the future society. The steady plan to improve national development through innovation in research, is no doubt a source for national unity, therefore, research in health education is crucial in distinguishing between good and bad argument thereby enhancing the development of the capacity for sound technological advancement. It is therefore very essential to re-echo the health education research for innovation and improved standard of living which formed the basis for peaceful co-existence in African countries. It is on the basis of this that further consideration of the concept of research and innovation as a source for sustainable development is considered relevant.

Application of Competent Health Education Programe

Competence, according to Busari (2003), is the successful integration of theory into practice. The concept of competent in this regards could also mean the process of arriving at dependable answers to problems through a planned and systematic approach, which is largely dependent on successful integration of theory to practice by researchers. The quest for sound health knowledge attitude and practice towards health activities has generated the need for competent health personnels in securing a good health standard of individuals. It is against this back drop that Dennis (2010), pointed out that research in health education is basically for the promotion of good health. maintenance and promotion of good health by competent health personal which play a central role not only in extending the health services to guide the health condition of the African citizens, but also to ensure a sustainable development in society. However, the recognition of the application of competent health personnel towards the achievement of successful health education research, provides a plat form for national development. Furthermore, if research activities in the 21st Century is to see the light of the day, the application of competent health knowledge in research and development is very crucial in other words, improving the quality of health of individuals is a good step in the right direction. By all standard, to conduct a research requires competence; an individual must be knowledgeable in the type/nature of different research procedures that will guarantee the future of the nation. One critical aspect of classifying research and innovation for a sustainable development is the effective application of competence to health knowledge. The future of any nation does not only depend on the abundance of material resources which a nation possess, but the application of specialized knowledge, skills, competence and ability to carry out good health research for

further innovation which subsequently serves as a source to save the health condition of her citizens. Bennet (2010), also posit that human resources and the continuous quest for research for the ultimate aim of making innovation constitute the aim for the provision of good health standard. Therefore, to achieve national development through a concerted effort in promoting research and innovation, the right caliber of people who are well skilled are needed. The resultant effect of sound research for the purpose of innovation should be to contend with the high demand for good health in the society. The research study of Adeleye (2010) in Adams (2010), revealed that proper use and management of research and technology programs in a country could be developed to meet up with the societal challenges in the 21st century. Therefore, adequate information is required to keep abreast of any developmental issues with regards to recent research studies by competent health researchers. It should however be noted at this point that the quality of health education research processes is largely dependent on the level of human and material efforts which serves as indices to measure the growth and development of a nations in technological advancement. It is equally very important to say that despite the lack of consistent effort of most policy planners in the Sub-Sahara African nations of the world towards involving competent health personnel in health promotion activities, the United Nations (UN) has recognized the importance of addressing the representation of the developing nations in the global health summit for development. However, Abdullahi (2011), observed that National Development particularly in the sub-Sahara African have been sidelined in the area of technological advancement for health promotion. Therefore concerted effort is required to bridge the gap between developed and developing nations if the 21st century is to witness a turn round in the health sector across thee globe. The increasing number of health problems such as the HIV/AIDS paramedic and the Ebola Virus disease that has ravaged most of the African countries calls the urgent need of all stakeholders in the sector to broaden and strengthen the participation of all African countries towards health promotion crusade. It should equally be noted that application of non competent hands in promoting health research activities is usually a conflict that can degenerate into acute health problems and this of course brings control suffering and hardship among the African citizens. this scenario is worth the view that the African Union (AU), the Non Alligned Movement (NAM) and the International Authority on Development (IAD) have subsequently advocated for the application of competence and capacity building initiative to strengthen health education research processes in the 21st century.

Conclusion

Actualizing health education research activities in the 21st century has called for a joint effort by all stakeholders in the sector particularly in the sub-Sahara African Countries of the world. Health promotion activities through an organized health research ideas and knowledge will motivate African citizens in accepting reformation in health knowledge attitude and practices (KAP). There is no doubt therefore, a reformation process in health education research in the 21st century seek to enhance a high level of awareness on the promotion of health education through collaborative efforts of national and international health programs. Participation of all African countries in health education research and development need a combine and scientific knowledge in research and development processes.

Recommendations

Having recognized supremacy and the primacy attached to a well designed and articulated health education research in the Sub-Sahara African countries, the following recommendations are proffered.

- i. African countries needs to be encouraged to boost the morale of her citizens towards accepting developmental changes in health activities.
- ii. Team work and the application of quality health. Personnels should be involved in the effective health promotion activities.
- iii. Substantial amount of human, financial and material resources should be made available to cope with the numerous task in health promotion activities in African countries.
- iv. Proactive health approach system should be employed in enhancing the research and development modalities.
- v. Formulation and implementation of health policies is required for effective health delivery system across the globe.
- vi. Citizens in Sub-Sahara African need to be adequately encouraged an the need to embrace new innovations in health research and development process in the 21st century.

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