AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.7 (2), September-December, 2022 https://ajemates.org

COMMUNICATION IN NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines communication in Nigeria Education. It stated some conceptual definitions of terms used. It highlighted communication process for effective communication in Nigeria Education. The paper further pinpointed types and skills of communication for effective communication in Nigeria institutions. It also highlighted importance of communication in Nigeria education system. Above all, the paper made some recommendations, among which are communication skills as part of teacher education curriculum; and government's provision of communication set up devices in Nigerian educational institutes.

Keywords: Communication, Educational System

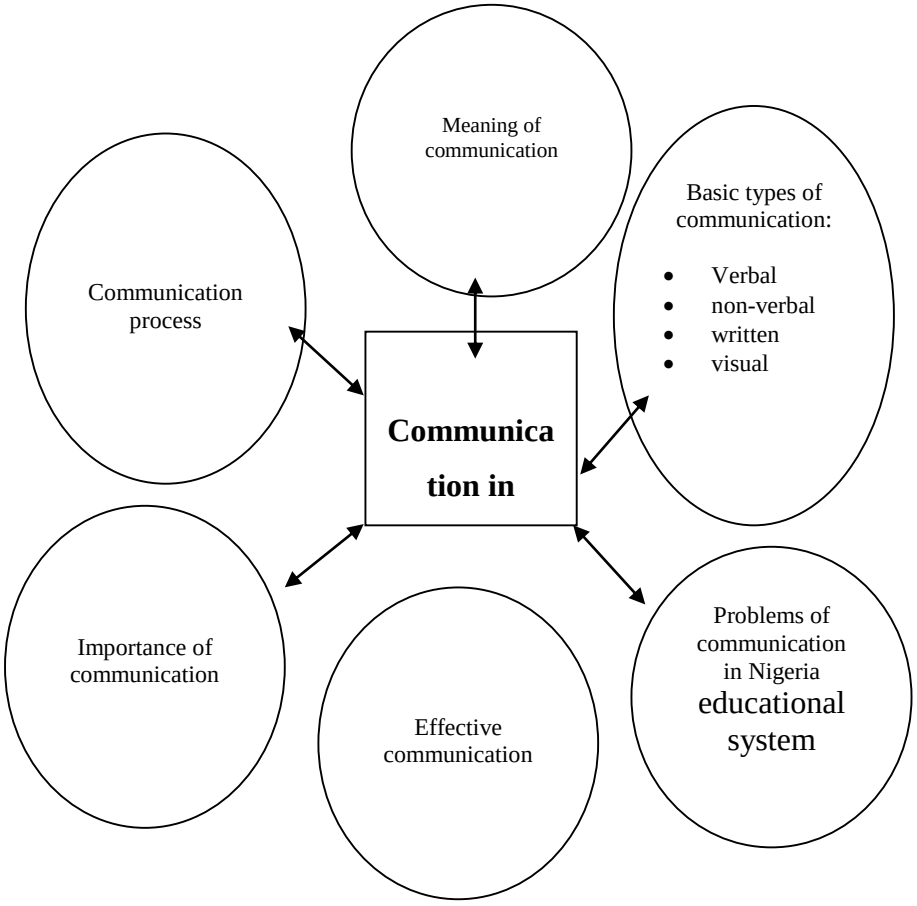
Introduction

In this age of information explosion and increasing demand for information, no one can be aware of what is happening within or outside one's environment without communication. The growth of knowledge and skills in various parts of the world would have been useless without communication. The required attitudes, skills, abilities and knowledge in education could not be transmitted without communication. Communication and education partner together (Owen 2016). Without education communication skills and techniques will not be acquired by educators and learners. Communication is the process of receiving and sharing ideas and knowledge by the sender and the receiver. Communication as a concept simply means the basic ideas and facts about the transmission of messages from one person or group of people to another. In school system, it entails passing information within the school system for effective management and learning (Akinnubi in Manafa 2018). Communication is referred to as giving, receiving or exchanging of information, opinions or ideas so that the message is completely understood by everybody involved. A two way process of communication comprises the following elements: sender, message, channel, receiver; feedback and context (htt://www.scribd.com.document).

Communication is the backbone of education. Communication manifests in every function of school administration as it is done every seconds and minutes in education institutions, either by verbal, written or visual. It is a continuous process through the life of the institution (Manafa, 2018). As a continuous process, it requires the sender, the message, the channel of communication and the receiver. It indicates circular process that starts with the sender of message generating a message that travels through the channels and get to the receiver, who then gives feedback, showing whether the message is understood or not. Educators

(teachers) transmit ideas, skills, knowledge and values embedded in education to the learners. For communication to be effective, it must be understood by the receiver, when the receiver understands the message given, it means that communication has taken place. Communication requires use of nice and pleasant words in expressing the message so as to boost the interest and attention of the receiver. Udeze in Manafa (2018), pointed out seven Cs (7Cs) in communication which communicators should take note of while communicating for effectiveness. These are clarity, completeness, concreteness, courtesy, correctiveness, consideration, conciseness and creativity. For education in any society to be effective and functional, there must be effective communication.

Concept Map



Communication: communication involves two-way traffic. It is a process of exchanging, receiving or sending ideas, opinions; knowledge and skills to the persons involved. It must be understood so that the receiver must give out feedback. Communication is the process of passing information and understanding from one person to another (Kelth, Khttps://www.Kullaba.com.note detail). The process of exchanging information between two or more persons is called

communication. It involves the flow of information from a sender to the receiver. It is one of the important infrastructures of development. It is done by means of electronics, print, radio, waves and the like (Khttps://:www.Kullaba.com.note detail).

Types of communication: communication has been defined as act of giving, receiving or exchanging ideas, information, skills and knowledge by two or more persons (https://www.Scribd.com.document).Hoben, http://www/sagepub.com/upm.data/97772.0367pg42.45pdf defines communication as the verbal interchange of thoughts or ideas. As communication is the exchange of facts, opinions, ideas or emotions between two or more persons, it has four main categories through which people get and disseminate information, Thus; verbal, non-verbal, written and visual communication. Verbal communication is the use of language to transfer information through speaking or sign language. It is one of the most common types often used during presentations, video, phone calls, conferences, meetings and one-on-one conversations. Verbal communication is important because it is effective (Ugwuanyi & Eneogu, 2013). It can be helpful to support verbal communication with both non-verbal, written and visual communications (Owen 2016). Non-verbal communication is the use of body language, gestures and facial expression to convey information to others. It can be used intentionally or unintentionally, for example, when one hears a pleasing or enjoyable ideas or pieces of information. Non-verbal communication is helpful when trying to understand other's thoughts and feelings (Uzoiwe, 2019). Non-verbal communication may be supported with written communication. Written communication is the act of writing, typing symbols, like letters and numbers to convey information. It is helpful because it provides record of information for reference (Arinze, 2011). Writing is commonly used to share information memos in form of written communication in educational sectors. Written communication may be used along with another type of communication known as visual communication. Visual communication is used for effective understanding of information. Visual communication is the act of using photographs, arts, drawings, sketches, charts and graphs to convey information. It is often used as aids during presentations to provide helpful context alongside with written and verbal communication because people have different learning styles. Visual communication might be more helpful for some to consume ideas and information (https://www.turotials). However, ideas, opinions, knowledge, skills and attitudes that are embedded in educational system are communicated to students/learners through the use of the above categories of communication process.

Communication process: communication process is the way by which a sender of any message is encoding the message and sending it through a channel to the receiver who then decodes the message into a perceived meaning. Communication is the process of passing information and understanding from one person to the other. It is essentially a bridge of meaning between people and this is done through the communication process.

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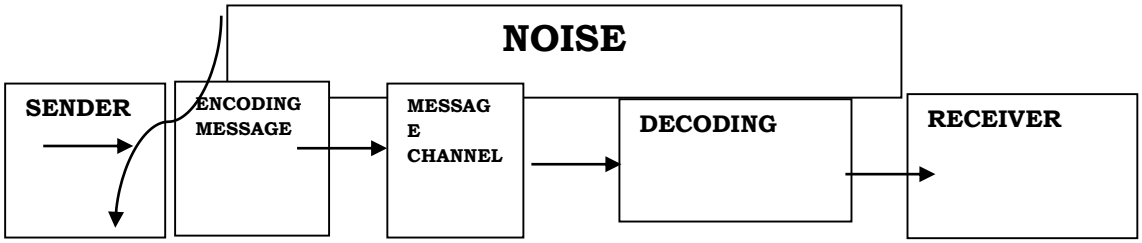


Figure 1: Communication process
Source: https://Kullabs.com/classes/subjects/units/lesson notes/note detail 3986

In Figure 1, it shows the basic steps of communication which include message composition, message encoding, transmission of a signal to people by using channel/technology.

Finally, the message decodes and interpretation of the message by the recipient takes place. The person who conveys the message to another is the sender. The sender must have the message, ideas, information which he wants to convey. The sender formulates the message he will send, that is the subject matter he creates in his mind and sends it to the receiver. The message may consist of facts, opinions, information etc. then the message is communicated to the receiver (management study guide, 2016). The sender needs encoding skill. It will make the receiver understand the message clearly. When the sender translates the message into words, symbols or into some other forms, he is using encoding skills. The effectiveness of encoding depends on different factors such as skills, attitude, knowledge of both the receiver and the sender. When the sender encodes the message, he uses channels to send it to the receiver. Hence communication is the act of transmitting the message to the receiver through the channel. Communication channel may be inform of: speaking, writing, meeting, memos, letters, reports, emails, text message; non-verbal communication such as body language to relate to the receiver (study com, 2016). The receiver is the person who actually receives the message, understands the same message and decodes it for necessary act. Decoding is a mentally processing of the message into understanding. The receiver, after receiving the message must be able to decode the message. For example, sending a message in a foreign language that is not understood by the receiver will result to decoding failure and the receiver will not be able to give feedback. Feedback is the response the receiver gives to the sender of the message after receiving the message (Davis, 2020). After understanding the message, the receiver gives a response to the sender regarding the message which is known as feedback. The effectiveness of the message is measured through the feedback. If the responses from the receiver to the sender are positive, the communication is successful and complete. The feedback helps the sender to realize whether he has achieved his aims and objectives or not. Communication is very important for smooth and effective management of dynamic society. It is necessary to examine the importance of communication as shown in figure 2.

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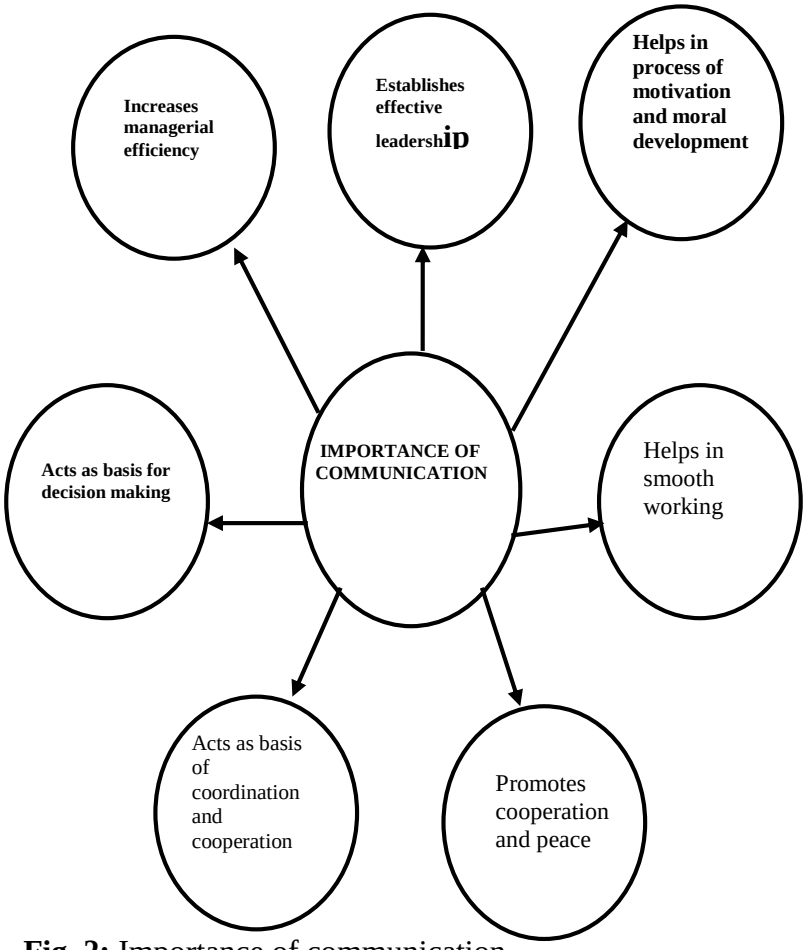


Fig. 2: Importance of communication

Source: Hunt (2007). Centre for international education university of SUSSEX

For education to be effective and functional in any society, there must be good communication.

Education: Education is power. It is through education that individual acquires knowledge, ideas, skills, values and attitudes to function well in the society. Education helps an individual to be a responsible person and be useful to the society in which the individual belongs. Arinze (2011) defines education as the process of inculcating right knowledge, attitudes, behavior and skills for self-realization and positive contribution to the society. Education as a system may be simply looked at from educational aims as contained in educational policy. Thus, the aims include:

1. To equip learners with the basic necessary skills that will enable them feel their places, play valuable roles in the society and seek further knowledge.

2. It is to create the desire for inquiries and knowledge.
3. Also it is to create critical mind among learners (Iwuchukwu in Uzoigwe 2019).

Education in Nigeria is an excellent instrument for affecting national development. The national policy on education (2013) spells out in clear and unequivocal terms, the philosophy and objectives that underlie the national education system. Schools in education have advocated that for the benefit of all the citizens, the country's educational goals shall be clearly set out in terms of their relevance to the needs of the individuals and the society, in consonance with replities of the environment, and the modern world. The major objectives of teaching and learning process in education is to bring about the learner's desirable change in behaviour. This process does not exist in vacuum, but rather in the environment structured to facilitate learning especially at primary, secondary and university levels. Nwune (2018) stated that the purpose of achieving the objectives of education in schools is imperative for educators/teachers to master the skills, attitudes, ideas, knowledge and values in education. The learners cannot acquire the virtues in education without effective communication.

Communication in Education: communication in education is the process by which the skills and techniques in communication are effectively used to inculcate educational aims and objectives to the learners. It is important to understand how teachers communication competence, behavior, skills and strategies enhance student-learning process. They constitute a major input in accomplishment of educational goals and objectives in Nigeria education system. Effective teacher communication can be learned and be expertise with skills in communication by bringing the application of communication theories, techniques, and technology in teaching environments (pan-Atlantic university SMC.edu.ng/professional). Students with great achievement in communication help in national development and national building. Communication is the fundamental building. Communication is the fundamental skills necessary for teachers to achieve the goals of imparting knowledge in the classroom (smc.edu.ng/professional workshops/communication-in-education/). Teacher's effective communication will instill readiness into students. Student's readiness could result to good performance of the students at various examinations taken by the students (semc.edu.ng/professional/workshops/communication-in-educationn/). Through careful selected modules which address critical deficiencies in teaching effectiveness, it will assist teachers to deliver impactful lessons in the classroom for better results. The goal of any lesson a teacher is delivering is to help each learner to comprehend the subject matter, decode the lesson well, responds positively to it on how it applies to his/her goals and life. It is the duty of the teacher to communicate to the learners effectively so that they can understand the lesson well in order to respond positively and give their teacher the desired feedback. The learners must talk with respect, listen for understanding, get along with others and speak so that others can understand. The aim is to use the communication process effectively as applies to their lives and goals

as parents, workers and citizens (Owen, 2016). Effective communication system is very important in educational system, it is important to examine communication in Nigeria education system.

Communication in Nigeria Educational System: Every nation in the world has communication in educational system. This paper tends to examine communication system in Nigerian Education. This entails the manner and ways educators in Nigerian educational system convey the aims and objectives of education to the learners. Manafa (2018) stated some of the objectives of communication which teachers should take note of as follows:

- To inculcate in primary and secondary school teachers, the basic theories and skills of communication. Specifically, teachers will be able to:
- Understand the role of communication in the enhancement of teaching and learning within and outside the school environment; understand the skills needed to communicate non-verbally with their students.
- Others include to understand communication barriers in teaching and learning environments; understand and utilize good speaking skills in different situations; task, actions and results, learn how to ask probing questions. Master the act of monitoring students. Finally, understand the qualities a good teacher must have. If teachers acquire and practice the above stated objectives in communication, educational system in Nigeria will not have rival. In every educational system, there is need for communication system. Communication system is a necessary tool for Nigerian educational system. Communication as a necessary administrative element in education, is required in all management functions. Communication manifests in every function of administration, and it is done every seconds and minutes in the educational institutions. This is carried out either by verbal, written or non-verbal and with visual communications. It is a continuous process through the life of the institution. As a continuous process, it requires the sender, the message, the channel of communication and the receiver (Manafa 2018). It is also a circular process that starts with the sender of the message, generating a message that travels through the channels and gets to the receiver who will now respond as a feedback. This shows whether the message is understood or not. For communication to be effective, it must be understood by the receiver. This is in line with what Hunt and Saywell (2007) stated in the report they presented to centre for international education, University of SUSSEX. For them, communication brings links between researchers, policy makers, civil society advocacy, educational instructors and others in other sectors with the receivers who then give responses. Hunt and Saywell further to stated that, there is need for teacher/communicators to create spaces for communications. This is to

ensure a range of voices heard and service provision relevant to full range of users. Communication in this write up, is used in three interrelated ways: firstly, it refers to the interactions and engagement between different actors in education sector. Secondly, it looks at the transmission of information, knowledge or data between two or more points and means through which these interactions take place (Hunt & Saywell 2007). Communication in this write up is focused on formal education system (predominately government provided), rather than non-formal education provision (often provided by the NGOs). The emphasis is mainly on primary, secondary and higher education sectors in Nigeria rather than adult education. Communication as a relationship process during which sources transmit messages, signs and contextual cues to express meaning helps the receiver to construct similar understanding to influence behavior, has some problems (Wayne and Tarler 2013). Nigerian educational system is faced with enormous communication problems

Communication problems in Nigeria educational system

Unavailability of skilled labour affects communication system in Nigeria education. Through the government made efforts to introduce computer studies into the curriculum at primary and secondary school levels to promote learning, there are inadequate and insufficient skilled manpower to manage the system and to direct the learners. There is still much work to be done as new and emerging technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence. They do not exist in Nigeria. This shows that Nigeria is still lagging behind in technology. Also high cost of setting up communication system in Nigeria education constitule serious problem. Information Communication Technology (ICT) goes beyond owing a mobile device, a television set, teaching and learning devices. More advanced ICT system such as drone technology, robotics and artificial intelligence are quite expensive and beyond the reach of the majority of Nigerians to set up. This high cost is a limiting factor for any institution or anyone who may have an idea and wishes to set up in the field (https://naijaguest.com). Besides, ineffective communication of the message by the sender is another problem facing communication system in Nigeria. When the sender (teacher/communicator) of the message does not plan his/her work well and at the same time does not communicate well it will affect the learner. This will affect the set up objectives of the communicator (teacher). If this happens, the mission and the vision of the institution may be hampered.

Recommendations

Communication as one of the administrative process in educational system in Nigeria is very important in the primary, secondary and university institutions. Therefore, for the communication to be effective and functional in Nigeria educational system the following recommendations are made:

1. There should be no communication gap in an education institution in

Nigeria by the educators/managements.

2. There should be organized and periodic workshops and seminars for teachers in Nigeria educational institutions to learn skills, techniques, processes and technological know-how involved in communication.
3. Both the primary, secondary, head teachers and principals respectively and the university managements should adopt the stated strategies for promoting effective communication in Nigeria educational system.
4. Communication skills should be made part of teacher education curriculum.
5. Above all, the government should try to provide communication set up devices in Nigeria educational institutions for effective communication.

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