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FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES OF ITS GROWTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: The study investigated functional education in Nigeria: challenges of its growth for sustainable development. The population of the study consisted of all the teacher educators in Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri (746) and Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Umuahia (764) totaling 1,510. Simple random sampling with non-replacement balloting technique was used to select a sample of (N=453) teacher educators which represented 30% of the entire population. Two research questions guided the descriptive survey. A- 34-item structured questionnaire of a four-point Likert Scale was used as instrument for data collection for the study. The instrument was validated by experts in Curriculum Studies and Measurement and Evaluation from Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri. A reliability index of 0.81 was established using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. Data analysis was done using mean and grand mean with 2.5 as the reference for acceptance. Findings of the study revealed that the following challenges militate against effective growth of functional education in Nigeria: teacher-related challenges, student-related challenges, school-related challenges, and society-related challenges. Based on the findings of the study, recommendations were made as a way forward for ameliorating challenges to the growth of functional education for Sustainable Development in Nigeria to include that teacher-related challenges should be ameliorated through recruitment of professionally trained teachers for teacher effectiveness and teacher efficiency; student-related challenges should be ameliorated by encouraging students/learners to show positive attitude to studies by not being truants and youth juvenile amongst others.

Keywords: Teacher-related Challenges, discipline responsibility, sustainable development, student-related challenges, school-related challenges, ameliorated growth challenges