

**ROLE OF HISTORY EDUCATION IN NATION BUILDING A CASE STUDY OF
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF EDO
STATE**

BY

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

MAY, 2024

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**A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that this research project was carried out **ABAH IFEANYICHUKWU** with matriculation number **EDU1910122** in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the award of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) (Ed.) in History.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty from whom all knowledge, wisdom and intelligence come.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of history education in nation-building, focusing on public secondary schools in Egor local government of Edo state. Four research questions were posed to explore the influence of history education on national identity formation, political attitudes, civic engagement, and the challenges encountered in teaching history. A sample of 120 history/social studies students from four public senior secondary schools was surveyed using the "Role of History Education in Nation Building Questionnaire (RHENBQ)." The findings indicate that history education constructs narratives that shape collective memory and critical thinking, while also influencing political attitudes and democratic values by fostering empathy and enhancing critical thinking skills. Moreover, teaching history in schools contributes to nation-building efforts by promoting national identity, empathy, civic values, and critical reflection on the past. However, challenges such as limited curriculum, insufficient teaching manpower, and political interference hinder effective history instruction in schools. Recommendations include exploring innovative pedagogical approaches, leveraging digital technologies, and addressing curriculum gaps to enhance history education and its role in nation-building. Additionally, future research should delve into specific pedagogical strategies, the impact of digital tools, and ways to mitigate challenges in teaching history effectively.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

History education serves as a fundamental pillar in shaping societal consciousness and fostering a collective understanding of the past. Scholars have offered various definitions, but at its core, history education encompasses the teaching and learning of historical events, themes, and concepts (Seixas, 2012). It goes beyond mere memorization of dates and facts; instead, it aims to cultivate critical thinking skills, empathy, and a nuanced understanding of human experiences across time. As argued by Peter Seixas, history education is not about teaching students what to think but rather how to think about the past critically. This approach encourages students to interrogate sources, question dominant narratives, and recognize the complexities inherent in historical interpretations.

Nation building, on the other hand, is a multifaceted process that involves forging a collective identity, promoting social cohesion, and fostering a sense of belonging among citizens (Larkin, 2017). It encompasses various socio-political, economic, and cultural initiatives aimed at unifying diverse populations under a common identity. In the Nigerian context, nation building has been particularly challenging due to the country's colonial legacy, ethno-religious diversity, and socio-economic disparities. Despite being endowed with rich cultural heritage and abundant natural resources, Nigeria has grappled

with issues of corruption, ethnic tensions, and regional disparities, which have hindered its progress towards a cohesive national identity.

Within this context, the role of history education in nation building becomes increasingly significant. Scholars such as Jack Larkin have highlighted how historical narratives shape national identity and influence perceptions of citizenship. In Nigeria, where historical grievances and competing narratives often fuel ethnic and religious tensions, history education can serve as a tool for reconciliation and nation building. By promoting a more inclusive and accurate portrayal of the past, history education has the potential to bridge divides, foster empathy, and promote a shared sense of belonging among citizens.

Moreover, empirical evidence suggests that the quality of history education significantly impacts a nation's trajectory towards nation building. Studies conducted in various contexts have demonstrated the positive correlation between historical literacy and civic engagement (Wineburg, 2018). For instance, research by Sam Wineburg has shown that students who receive comprehensive history education are more likely to engage in democratic processes, demonstrate tolerance towards diversity, and actively participate in civic life. Similarly, studies by Keith Barton and Linda Levstik have underscored the importance of teaching history as inquiry, which empowers students to critically analyze historical sources and construct their own narratives (Barton & Levstik, 2015).

In the Nigerian context, however, history education faces numerous challenges, ranging from outdated curriculum to inadequate resources and teacher training. The prevailing focus on memorization and rote learning often undermines the development of critical thinking skills and fosters a simplistic understanding of complex historical issues. Moreover, the politicization of history, coupled with ethnic biases in curriculum development, has perpetuated divisive narratives that hinder nation building efforts.

Against this backdrop, the study aims to investigate the impact of history education on nation building, with a specific focus on public secondary schools in the Egor local government area of Edo state. By examining the quality of history education in this context and its implications for nation building, the study seeks to address a significant research gap and contribute to the existing body of literature on history education and nation building in Nigeria. Ultimately, by identifying key challenges and potential areas for improvement, the study aims to inform policy interventions and pedagogical approaches that can enhance the role of history education in fostering national unity and cohesion.

Statement of the Problem

The significance of history education in the process of constructing a nation is a crucial and intricate matter that has been extensively discussed and studied. As countries worldwide face the difficulties of cultivating a collective national identity, creating social

unity, and influencing the values and convictions of their populace, the significance of history education cannot be emphasized enough.

The crux of this matter is around the fundamental inquiry of how history is conveyed, analyzed, and employed inside the educational system. History is not simply an assemblage of factual information and chronological events; it serves as a perspective through which we comprehend our previous experiences, derive meaning from the current circumstances, and influence the trajectory of the future. The manner in which history is instructed can exert a significant influence on how individuals and communities understand their position within the broader national chronicle.

A major issue in this field is the possibility of history education being utilized as a means of political and ideological indoctrination. Governments and bureaucrats may attempt to alter the historical narrative to further their own objectives, by highlighting specific events, individuals, and interpretations while minimizing or excluding others. This can result in the formation of a prejudiced and limited comprehension of history, which can subsequently cultivate a national identity that is based on exclusion, intolerance, and a deficiency in analytical thinking.

Furthermore, the manner in which history is instructed can help sustain prevailing power dynamics and social rankings. History education can diminish the voices and achievements of minority populations by giving more importance to the viewpoints and experiences of dominant groups. This reinforces the idea that some persons and groups

are more deserving of acknowledgment and representation than others. This can have profound implications for the unity of society and the cultivation of a collective sense of national belonging.

One significant obstacle in this field is the conflict between the need to protect and pass on a country's cultural legacy and the necessity to modify history instruction to meet the evolving requirements and viewpoints of modern society. With the growing diversity and globalization of countries, the conventional methods of teaching history may no longer connect with the real-life experiences and ambitions of all individuals. This can result in a divergence between the historical accounts taught in schools and the actualities of the contemporary world, so diminishing the significance and efficacy of history teaching.

Moreover, the function of history education in the process of constructing a nation is further complicated by the continuous discussions regarding the nature of historical truth and the legitimacy of various interpretations of past events. As researchers and educators confront the intricacies of historical study and the underlying prejudices that influence our comprehension of the past, the task of presenting a fair and nuanced viewpoint becomes progressively difficult.

Research Questions

- i. How does the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society?

- ii. To what extent does the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values?
- iii. What are the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building?
- iv. What are the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education?

Purpose of the Study

The study sought to assess the role of history education in nation building a case study of Egor Local Government Area.

Specifically, the study sort to:

- i. Determine how the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society
- ii. Examine to what extent does the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values
- iii. Investigates the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building
- iv. Ascertain the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education

Significance of the Study

The significance of the study lies in its potential to illuminate the crucial role of history education in the process of nation-building, with a specific focus on Egor Local Government Area. By delving into this topic, we can uncover valuable insights into how the teaching and understanding of history shape the collective identity, values, and cohesion within a community.

First and foremost, this research contributes to the ongoing discourse on the importance of education in fostering national unity and social cohesion. History education serves as a powerful tool for transmitting cultural heritage, promoting a sense of belonging, and fostering mutual understanding among citizens. By investigating its impact within the context of Egor Local Government Area, we can discern how historical narratives are constructed, interpreted, and disseminated within a specific socio-cultural milieu.

Furthermore, understanding the role of history education in nation-building is particularly pertinent in diverse societies like Nigeria, where various ethnic groups coexist. By examining how history is taught and perceived in Egor Local Government Area, we can gain insights into how different historical narratives intersect and potentially contribute to either unity or division within the community. This understanding is crucial for devising inclusive and culturally sensitive educational policies that promote social harmony and reconciliation.

Moreover, this study has practical implications for educational policymakers, curriculum developers, and educators. By identifying the strengths and weaknesses of history education in Egor Local Government Area, we can propose targeted interventions to enhance the quality and relevance of historical instruction. This may involve revising curricula, incorporating local histories and perspectives, training teachers, or utilizing innovative pedagogical approaches to make history more engaging and accessible to students.

Additionally, the findings of this research can inform broader debates on the role of education in fostering democratic citizenship and civic participation. History education not only instills a sense of national identity but also cultivates critical thinking skills, empathy, and a deeper understanding of complex social issues. By examining how history is taught and learned in Egor Local Government Area, we can assess its potential to promote active citizenship, social justice, and democratic values among the youth.

Scope of the Study

This study aims to examine the impact of history education on nation-building, specifically focused on the Egor Local Government Area and including students from public secondary schools. More precisely, the study will focus on senior and junior arm students who are currently engaged in history and social studies programs. The research aims to get a thorough understanding of the effects of history education on various age groups and educational levels by considering both levels simultaneously. By including

senior arm students, we can gain viewpoints from those who are approaching the end of their secondary school. Similarly, involving junior arm students will provide insights into the fundamental principles of history education. The project will investigate the attitudes, experiences, and learning outcomes of these students in relation to history education and its impact on nation-building. This will be done using surveys, interviews, and document analysis. This research seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between history education and nation-building in the context of Egor Local Government Area by including students from both senior and junior levels.

Operational Definition of Terms

History Education: Teaching and learning about past events, societies, and cultures in formal educational settings to develop students' historical knowledge, critical thinking skills, and appreciation for the complexities of human experiences over time.

Nation-building: When different people with similar historical, cultural, and political goals form a nation-state. It promotes national identity, unity, and allegiance through educational, cultural, and political efforts.

Historical consciousness: Understanding the past, including historical events, their causes, effects, interpretations, and relevance to society and individual identity.

Methods of teaching: Instructional design, classroom activities, assessment methods, and technology and resource integration to help students engage, absorb, and retain historical knowledge.

Civic engagement: Volunteering, advocating, voting, and community organizing to promote social justice, democratic values, and the common good.

National identity formation: The creation and expression of a collective sense of belonging, loyalty, and attachment to a nation-state through shared historical narratives, symbols, myths, values, and cultural practices, which shape national community members' self-perceptions.

Socio-cultural context: The social, cultural, economic, and political conditions, values, beliefs, norms, and practices that shape people's behaviors, attitudes, and experiences in a society or community and their knowledge of history.

Educational outcomes: Measurements of educational programs and interventions, including students' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors and societal goals including equity, social cohesion, and economic development.

Community engagement: Working with educational institutions, local government agencies, civil society organizations, and community members to address shared concerns, leverage resources, and promote collective action to improve education, social welfare, and community development.

Citizenship education: Teaching people about democratic principles, human rights, civic duties, and the role of history education in civic engagement and social cohesion to become informed, active, and responsible citizens in a democracy.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter constitutes of two main sections namely the conceptual framework and literature review. The chapter is divided into the following headings

- Concept of History Education
- Concept of Nation Building
- Influence of Content and Delivery of History Education on the Formation of National Identity and Collective Memory
- Impact of Teaching of Historical Events on Political Attitudes, Civic Engagement, and the Development of Democratic Values
- Benefits of Teaching History Education in Secondary Schools as Applied to Nation Building
- Challenges Faced by Schools in Teaching History Education
- Solutions to curbing issues faced in the Teaching of History Education
- Summary of Literature Review

Concept of History Education

History education serves as a fundamental pillar in the development of individuals' understanding of the past and its implications for the present and future. Defined as the systematic study of past events, history education encompasses various

approaches aimed at providing students with a comprehensive understanding of historical narratives, perspectives, and interpretations (Seixas & Morton, 2013). Within the educational context, history education plays a critical role in fostering critical thinking skills, historical empathy, and a sense of historical consciousness among students (VanSledright, 2012). It enables individuals to critically analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate historical interpretations, and construct informed perspectives on complex historical issues (Lee, 2018).

Furthermore, history education serves broader societal functions beyond individual learning, including fostering national identity, promoting social cohesion, and contributing to nation-building efforts (Barton & Levstik, 2018). By providing students with a shared narrative of the past, history education contributes to the formation of collective memory and national consciousness (Rüsen, 2016). It enables individuals to develop a sense of belonging and attachment to their communities, nations, and cultural heritage (Torney-Purta et al., 2016). Moreover, history education promotes democratic values such as tolerance, respect for diversity, and civic engagement, essential for the functioning of democratic societies (Parker, 2018).

However, history education is not without its challenges and controversies. Curriculum constraints, including content selection, pedagogical approaches, and assessment methods, pose significant challenges to the effective delivery of history education (Wineburg & Martin, 2018). The politicization of history curriculum,

ideological biases, and cultural narratives often influence the framing of historical narratives, leading to the marginalization of certain perspectives and the omission of critical historical events (Carretero et al., 2018). Moreover, resource constraints, including limited access to instructional materials, professional development opportunities, and technology, hinder the ability of educators to deliver engaging and effective history education (Lévesque & Lévesque, 2016).

To address these challenges, scholars and educators advocate for innovative approaches to history education that prioritize critical inquiry, diverse perspectives, and active learning strategies (Singer et al., 2017). Curriculum reforms aimed at promoting historical thinking skills, inquiry-based learning, and the incorporation of multiple perspectives can enhance the quality and relevance of history education (Levstik & Barton, 2016). Furthermore, investment in teacher training, professional development, and instructional resources is essential for equipping educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to deliver effective history education (Lee & Slater, 2020). Moreover, fostering partnerships between schools, universities, cultural institutions, and community organizations can provide students with access to diverse learning opportunities, primary sources, and experiential learning activities that enrich their understanding of history (Stephenson et al., 2019).

Concept of Nation Building

Nation-building is a multifaceted process that encompasses efforts to forge a sense of national identity, promote social cohesion, and foster democratic governance within a diverse society. Defined as the construction of a cohesive and inclusive nation-state, nation-building involves various strategies aimed at uniting individuals from diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds under a common identity (Brubaker, 2016). According to Anderson (2016), nations are imagined communities characterized by shared symbols, myths, and narratives that bind individuals together and foster a sense of belonging. Nation-building initiatives often involve state-led efforts to promote national unity, such as the establishment of common languages, educational systems, and cultural institutions that reinforce a shared national identity (Chandra, 2017).

Furthermore, nation-building encompasses efforts to promote social cohesion and mitigate internal conflicts through inclusive policies, equitable resource distribution, and participatory governance structures (Kymlicka, 2018). According to Fukuyama (2018), successful nation-building requires the creation of effective institutions, rule of law, and mechanisms for resolving disputes peacefully. Moreover, nation-building efforts often involve reconciliation processes, truth commissions, and initiatives aimed at addressing historical grievances and promoting healing and reconciliation among divided communities (Mamdani, 2017).

However, nation-building is not without its challenges and complexities. Ethnic tensions, identity politics, and historical legacies of colonialism and imperialism can hinder efforts to build inclusive and cohesive nations (Horowitz, 2019). Moreover, external factors such as globalization, migration, and transnational ideologies pose challenges to national identity formation and cohesion (Smith, 2015). Furthermore, authoritarian regimes may exploit nationalist sentiments for political gain, leading to the exclusion of minority groups, suppression of dissent, and erosion of democratic institutions (Kaplan, 2020).

To address these challenges, scholars advocate for inclusive and participatory approaches to nation-building that prioritize dialogue, reconciliation, and social justice (Stavenhagen, 2019). According to Kaldor (2021), bottom-up initiatives, civil society engagement, and grassroots mobilization are essential for building inclusive and resilient nations. Moreover, fostering a culture of tolerance, respect for diversity, and civic engagement is crucial for promoting social cohesion and democratic governance (Varshney, 2017). Ultimately, successful nation-building requires a comprehensive and nuanced approach that addresses historical grievances, promotes inclusive governance, and fosters a sense of belonging and citizenship among all members of society (Kaufmann, 2023).

Influence of Content and Delivery of History Education on the Formation of National Identity and Collective Memory

History education plays a pivotal role in shaping the collective memory and national identity of a society. The content and delivery of history curriculum are essential factors that influence how individuals perceive their nation's past, understand their place within the national narrative, and consequently contribute to the cohesion or division within the society. This essay critically examines the influence of history education on the formation of national identity and collective memory, drawing insights from scholarly literature spanning various countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

The content of history education serves as a lens through which individuals interpret the past and construct their understanding of national identity. According to Smith (2016), the selection of historical events, figures, and themes included in the curriculum reflects the values, priorities, and power dynamics of the society. In many countries, including Nigeria, historical narratives have often been shaped by political agendas, resulting in the promotion of certain perspectives while marginalizing others (Nwagbara, 2019). For instance, the colonial legacy in Nigeria has influenced the portrayal of pre-colonial history and the interpretation of independence struggles, leading to contested narratives that impact the formation of national identity (Njoku, 2018).

Moreover, the delivery of history education plays a crucial role in engaging students with the content and facilitating critical reflection on the past. Effective

pedagogical strategies, such as inquiry-based learning, primary source analysis, and interactive discussions, can enhance students' understanding of historical complexities and encourage them to interrogate dominant narratives (Zajda et al., 2020). Conversely, rote memorization of facts and uncritical acceptance of official histories may perpetuate myths and stereotypes, hindering the development of a nuanced national identity (Nadew, 2017).

The influence of history education on collective memory extends beyond the classroom, permeating public discourse, commemorative practices, and cultural representations. Research by Halbwachs (2019) emphasizes the social nature of memory, highlighting how individuals' recollections are shaped by interactions within their community. In post-colonial societies like Nigeria, memory politics are often contested, with competing groups vying for recognition and legitimacy in the national narrative (Adeyemi & Folarin, 2015). The commemoration of historical events, such as Independence Day or Civil War memorials, reflects these tensions and influences the construction of collective memory (Ohaegbulam, 2020).

Comparative studies offer valuable insights into the diverse approaches to history education and their implications for national identity formation. In countries like Germany and South Africa, efforts to confront difficult pasts through truth and reconciliation processes have informed history curricula aimed at fostering empathy, reconciliation, and social cohesion (Tosh, 2017). However, challenges persist in

reconciling competing narratives and addressing historical injustices, as evidenced by ongoing debates over Confederate monuments in the United States (Blancke, 2018).

In Nigeria, the multifaceted nature of history education reflects the country's diverse cultural heritage, linguistic diversity, and contested political history. Scholars have called for curriculum reforms that incorporate alternative perspectives, marginalized voices, and local histories to promote inclusivity and foster a more robust national identity (Adegbite, 2020). Furthermore, the role of technology in history education, such as digital archives and virtual reality simulations, offers new opportunities for engaging students and preserving heritage (Ojo, 2019).

Impact of Teaching of Historical Events on Political Attitudes, Civic Engagement, and the Development of Democratic Values

The teaching of historical events and their interpretations holds significant implications for political attitudes, civic engagement, and the cultivation of democratic values within a society. This essay critically examines the extent to which history education influences these aspects, drawing insights from scholarly literature spanning various countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

Historical narratives, as taught in schools and disseminated through public discourse, play a crucial role in shaping individuals' political attitudes. According to Smith (2018), the portrayal of historical figures, events, and movements can influence perceptions of power dynamics, legitimacy, and resistance within society. In Nigeria, for

example, the teaching of colonial history and independence struggles can evoke feelings of nationalism, pride, or resentment, depending on the interpretation presented in textbooks and classrooms (Okafor, 2017).

Moreover, historical interpretations often intersect with contemporary political ideologies, influencing citizens' views on governance, social justice, and national identity. Research by Adegbite (2019) suggests that the selective framing of historical narratives by political elites can perpetuate hegemonic discourses and reinforce existing power structures. In post-colonial societies like Nigeria, where ethnic, religious, and regional identities are deeply intertwined with politics, historical interpretations may exacerbate divisions or foster solidarity among different groups (Adisa, 2016).

Civic engagement, defined as the participation of citizens in public affairs and decision-making processes, is closely linked to historical consciousness and awareness of collective identity. Studies by Ogunrotifa (2020) and Abdullahi (2018) highlight the role of history education in promoting civic virtues such as tolerance, empathy, and respect for diversity. By providing students with opportunities to critically examine past injustices, struggles for human rights, and social movements, history curriculum can inspire a sense of responsibility towards building a more inclusive and just society.

Furthermore, the teaching of historical events can stimulate civic action and mobilization for political change. Research by Olaleye (2019) on youth activism in Nigeria demonstrates how historical grievances, such as economic inequality, corruption,

and marginalization, fuel social movements and advocacy campaigns. The legacy of past struggles, such as the anti-colonial movements or the civil rights movement, serves as a source of inspiration and solidarity for contemporary activists (Osaghae, 2018).

The development of democratic values, including respect for the rule of law, human rights, and pluralism, is a central objective of history education in democratic societies. However, the extent to which history curriculum promotes these values varies depending on pedagogical approaches and political contexts. Studies by Smith (2019) and Njoku (2020) highlight the tension between nationalist narratives that emphasize unity and stability and critical approaches that challenge authoritarianism and promote civic empowerment.

Comparative studies offer valuable insights into the relationship between history education and democratic values across different contexts. In countries like Germany and South Africa, efforts to confront past atrocities through truth and reconciliation processes have informed history curricula aimed at fostering democratic citizenship and social cohesion (Mamdani, 2017). However, challenges persist in reconciling competing narratives and addressing historical injustices, as evidenced by ongoing debates over Confederate monuments in the United States (Lowen, 2016).

Benefits of Teaching History Education in Secondary Schools as Applied to Nation Building

History education in secondary schools plays a crucial role in fostering national unity, promoting civic engagement, and nurturing a sense of collective identity among students. This essay critically examines the benefits of teaching history in secondary schools for nation-building, drawing insights from scholarly literature spanning various countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

One of the primary benefits of teaching history in secondary schools is its role in fostering national unity and cohesion. According to Adegbite (2017), history curriculum provides students with a shared narrative of the nation's past, helping to cultivate a sense of belonging and solidarity across diverse ethnic, religious, and regional identities. In Nigeria, where ethno-religious tensions and identity politics often threaten social harmony, history education serves as a tool for promoting understanding, tolerance, and empathy among students from different backgrounds (Adesina, 2019).

Moreover, teaching history in secondary schools equips students with critical thinking skills, analytical abilities, and a deeper understanding of societal dynamics. Research by Okeke (2018) suggests that historical inquiry encourages students to question dominant narratives, interrogate sources of information, and develop informed perspectives on contemporary issues. By engaging with historical debates, students learn to evaluate evidence, weigh conflicting interpretations, and make reasoned judgments,

thereby preparing them for active citizenship and participation in democratic processes (Nwosu, 2020).

Furthermore, history education contributes to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and national identity. Through the study of historical events, traditions, and customs, students gain appreciation for their cultural roots and heritage (Adesina, 2017). In Nigeria, where cultural diversity is a defining feature of the national landscape, history curriculum serves as a platform for celebrating shared traditions while also acknowledging the contributions of diverse ethnic groups to the nation's development (Adeniyi, 2016).

Teaching history in secondary schools also provides students with insights into the consequences of past actions and decisions, thereby fostering a sense of responsibility and ethical awareness. Research by Okonkwo (2019) highlights the role of history education in promoting moral reasoning, empathy, and ethical leadership among students. By studying historical examples of social justice movements, human rights struggles, and acts of courage, students are inspired to uphold democratic values, advocate for justice, and contribute positively to their communities (Adebayo, 2020).

Furthermore, history education serves as a bridge between the past, present, and future, enabling students to understand the long-term implications of historical developments on contemporary society. By contextualizing current events within a historical framework, students develop a deeper appreciation for the complexities of

social, economic, and political phenomena (Adewale, 2018). In Nigeria, where historical grievances, such as colonialism, slavery, and ethnic conflicts, continue to shape contemporary realities, history curriculum provides students with tools for understanding and addressing persistent challenges (Adewale, 2018).

Moreover, teaching history in secondary schools contributes to the development of critical literacy skills and media literacy. In an era of information overload and fake news, historical inquiry teaches students to evaluate sources critically, distinguish between fact and opinion, and discern underlying biases (Adewale, 2018). By analyzing historical texts, primary sources, and multimedia materials, students learn to navigate complex information landscapes and become discerning consumers and producers of knowledge (Adebayo, 2020).

In conclusion, teaching history in secondary schools offers numerous benefits for nation-building, including fostering national unity, promoting critical thinking, preserving cultural heritage, and nurturing ethical leadership. By equipping students with historical consciousness, analytical skills, and a sense of civic responsibility, history education contributes to the development of informed and engaged citizens who are committed to building a better future for their nation.

Challenges Faced by Schools in Teaching History Education

Teaching history education in schools is not without its challenges, as educators grapple with a myriad of issues ranging from curriculum constraints to pedagogical

limitations. This essay critically examines the challenges faced by schools in teaching history education, drawing insights from scholarly literature spanning various countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

One of the primary challenges faced by schools in teaching history education is the lack of adequate resources and instructional materials. Research by Adesina (2017) highlights the scarcity of textbooks, maps, primary sources, and multimedia materials needed to facilitate engaging and comprehensive history lessons. In many Nigerian schools, outdated textbooks and limited access to digital resources hinder teachers' ability to deliver dynamic and interactive history education (Adegbite, 2019). Moreover, budgetary constraints and competing priorities often result in underinvestment in history education, exacerbating resource shortages and limiting educational opportunities for students (Nwosu, 2020).

Furthermore, the politicization of history curriculum poses a significant challenge to schools in teaching history education. According to Adegbite (2017), history curriculum in Nigeria is often influenced by political agendas, ideological biases, and cultural narratives that prioritize certain perspectives while marginalizing others. This politicization of history education undermines academic integrity, stifles critical inquiry, and perpetuates myths and stereotypes (Adedoyin, 2018). For instance, controversial topics such as colonialism, slavery, and ethno-religious conflicts may be sanitized or

omitted altogether from the curriculum to avoid controversy or preserve the status quo (Adisa, 2019).

Additionally, the overcrowded curriculum and time constraints in schools' present challenges for teachers in delivering effective history education. With an increasing emphasis on standardized testing and core subjects, history education often takes a backseat to subjects perceived as more immediately relevant or instrumental in securing academic success (Adisa, 2019). As a result, history teachers may struggle to cover essential historical content, engage students in meaningful discussions, and provide opportunities for critical reflection (Okeke, 2018). Furthermore, the pressure to prioritize exam preparation and content coverage may lead to superficial learning experiences that fail to foster deep understanding or historical consciousness among students (Ogunrotifa, 2020).

Moreover, the lack of teacher training and professional development opportunities poses a significant challenge for schools in teaching history education. Research by Okonkwo (2019) underscores the importance of qualified and competent history teachers who possess subject knowledge, pedagogical skills, and a passion for teaching. However, many history teachers in Nigeria lack formal training in history education and may struggle to engage students effectively or deliver engaging lessons (Adewale, 2018). Furthermore, limited access to professional development programs, workshops, and conferences impedes teachers' ability to stay updated on best practices, innovative

teaching methods, and new developments in the field of history education (Adesina, 2017).

Furthermore, the perception of history as a dull or irrelevant subject presents a challenge for schools in teaching history education. Research by Adewale (2018) highlights students' lack of interest in history due to its perceived complexity, abstract nature, and distant relevance to their lives. In a fast-paced, technology-driven world, history may be viewed as boring or disconnected from contemporary issues, leading to disengagement and apathy among students (Adebayo, 2020). Moreover, stereotypes about history as a subject reserved for academically inclined students or those pursuing careers in the humanities may deter students from exploring history education as a viable academic pathway (Adesina, 2017).

Solutions to curbing issues faced in the Teaching of History Education

Addressing the challenges faced by schools in teaching history education requires multifaceted solutions that encompass curriculum reform, teacher training, resource allocation, and pedagogical innovation. This essay critically examines potential solutions to these challenges, drawing insights from scholarly literature spanning various countries, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

Curriculum reform is essential for addressing the politicization and overcrowded nature of history education curriculum. According to Adesina (2019), a revised curriculum that emphasizes critical inquiry, diverse perspectives, and relevant content can

enhance the quality and relevance of history education. In Nigeria, curriculum developers should collaborate with historians, educators, and stakeholders to design a balanced curriculum that reflects the nation's diverse cultural heritage, addresses historical injustices, and promotes critical thinking skills (Adebayo, 2020). Moreover, integrating interdisciplinary approaches and thematic units into the history curriculum can facilitate connections between historical events and contemporary issues, making history education more engaging and meaningful for students (Adisa, 2017).

Investment in teacher training and professional development is crucial for equipping educators with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical strategies needed to teach history effectively. Research by Okonkwo (2019) emphasizes the importance of ongoing training programs that focus on content knowledge, instructional methods, and assessment strategies tailored to the needs of history teachers. In Nigeria, teacher training institutes, universities, and education ministries should collaborate to offer specialized courses, workshops, and mentoring opportunities for history educators (Adewale, 2018). Furthermore, partnerships with historical societies, museums, and cultural organizations can provide teachers with access to resources, primary sources, and experiential learning opportunities that enrich their teaching practice (Ogunrotifa, 2020).

Addressing resource constraints requires increased investment in educational infrastructure, instructional materials, and technology. Adegbite (2019) advocates for government funding and public-private partnerships to provide schools with updated

textbooks, digital resources, and multimedia materials that enhance history education. In Nigeria, initiatives such as the provision of e-libraries, audio-visual aids, and internet connectivity can improve access to information and support interactive and inquiry-based learning in history classrooms (Adedoyin, 2018). Moreover, collaboration with local communities, universities, and cultural institutions can help schools tap into existing resources, archives, and oral histories that enrich history education (Adesina, 2017).

Promoting student engagement and interest in history education requires pedagogical innovation and curriculum adaptation. Research by Adewale (2018) suggests incorporating project-based learning, inquiry-based approaches, and experiential learning activities into history lessons to enhance student motivation and participation. In Nigeria, history teachers can leverage technology, such as virtual field trips, digital storytelling, and multimedia presentations, to make history come alive for students and connect historical events to their lived experiences (Okeke, 2018). Moreover, fostering a classroom environment that encourages open dialogue, critical reflection, and student-centered learning can empower students to take ownership of their learning and develop a lifelong appreciation for history (Adisa, 2019).

Finally, promoting public awareness and advocacy for history education is crucial for garnering support and resources for schools. Adesina (2017) suggests engaging parents, community leaders, and policymakers in discussions about the importance of history education for national development and citizenship education. Advocacy

campaigns, media outreach, and community events can raise awareness about the value of history education and mobilize stakeholders to invest in its improvement (Adebayo, 2020). Moreover, collaboration with professional associations, academic institutions, and international organizations can provide schools with networking opportunities, funding opportunities, and best practices that support the advancement of history education (Okonkwo, 2019)

Summary of Literature Review

The literature review delves into the multifaceted relationship between history education and nation-building, exploring various dimensions of this complex interaction. It begins by elucidating the concepts of nation-building and history education, highlighting their significance in shaping collective identity, fostering civic engagement, and promoting democratic values within societies. The review then examines how the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory, emphasizing the role of historical narratives in shaping political attitudes and civic participation. Furthermore, it discusses the benefits of teaching history education in secondary schools, such as promoting cultural heritage preservation, fostering critical thinking skills, and nurturing ethical leadership among students. However, the review also acknowledges the challenges faced by schools in teaching history education, including resource constraints, curriculum politicization, and student disengagement. Finally, the review proposes solutions to address these challenges,

including curriculum reform, teacher training, resource allocation, pedagogical innovation, and public advocacy, to enhance the quality and relevance of history education for nation-building efforts.

In summary, the literature review provides a comprehensive overview of the role of history education in nation-building, drawing on a diverse range of scholarly sources to examine its impact on national identity formation, civic engagement, and democratic values. It underscores the importance of history education in promoting social cohesion, preserving cultural heritage, and empowering citizens to actively participate in the democratic process. Despite facing various challenges, such as curriculum constraints and resource limitations, the review suggests practical solutions to enhance the effectiveness of history education in schools and contribute positively to the ongoing process of nation-building in diverse societies.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with methods adopted in carrying out this study. It shall be discussed under the following sub-headings:

- ❖ Research Design
- ❖ Population of the Study
- ❖ Sample and Sampling Procedure
- ❖ Research Instrument
- ❖ Validity of the Instrument
- ❖ Reliability of the Instrument
- ❖ Method of Data Collection
- ❖ Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The design for this research is the cross-sectional survey. It is meant to determine the role of History education in Nation building a case study of Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. As a descriptive survey research, this design requires the researcher to select a group of respondents and collect information from them. According to James (2009), survey research design involves field work of collection of data from a large group of respondents. It allows valid information to be collected about a large

population from a representative sample. That is the rationale behind the researcher's choice of survey design.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consists all the fourteen (14) public secondary schools within Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria while the respondents were the History/Social studies students across in the public secondary schools across all class's arms.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

The sample of this study was made up of four (4) public senior secondary schools out of the fourteen (14) public secondary schools in Egor local government area of Edo state using simple random sampling technique. Thirty (30) History/social studies students in the senior/junior respectively in the respective schools were used to make up the study. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) students were sampled for the study.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used in this study was a Questionnaire titled "Role of History Education in Nation Building Questionnaire (RHENBQ)" was designed by the researcher to collect information from the students. The questionnaire consists of two sections; section "A" and section "B". Section "A" which is also known as demographic characteristics of the respondents or bio-data is designed to collect personal information about the respondents such as Gender and class Section "B" consists of 16 questions

items rated on the scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The questions are geared towards answering the research questions and assumptions postulated earlier in the study. The instrument was self-designed by the researcher after a careful and extensive review of relevant literature on the research topic and consultation with colleagues. The instrument was thereafter presented to the researcher's supervisor for scrutiny after which suggested corrections were effected

Validity of the Instrument

A research instrument is said to be valid when it measures truly and accurately what it intends to measure. To ensure the content validity of the instrument, the instrument used in this study was subjected to scrutiny by the researcher's supervisor, and two experts in the Department of Educational Foundation, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Edo state which would ascertain the obtainability of adequacy and comprehensiveness of the items as well as clarity of expressions used.

Reliability of the Instrument

To ensure the reliability of the instrument, the researchers plan to use the test-retest method. Questionnaires will be administered to twenty students outside the selected sample. After two weeks, the same instrument will be administered to the same respondents, and the data will be analyzed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. This process aims to assess the consistency of responses over time and verify the reliability of the instrument.

Method of Data Collection

The data for this study was collected using questionnaire instrument. The researcher personally went to the study areas sampled in Egor Local Government Area in Edo State to give and collect data along with an introductory letter to the school soliciting for their cooperation and response to the questionnaire items for the study. Students were requested to tick the appropriate box provided on the questionnaire item. The data was collected through self-collection and it was used for data analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics involving simple percentage, frequency count, mean score and standard deviation analysis. A criterion mean of 2.50 will be set for the study whereby item above 2.50 will be accepted and item below 2.50 will be rejected

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter presents the results, analysis and the interpretation of the results. The chapter ends by discussing the results with relation to other literatures reviewed

Interpreting the Data

Research Question 1: How does the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society?

Table 4.1: Mean and standard deviation of respondent on the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society

S/ N	Questionnai re Items	N	SA	A	D	SD	Mea n	Standar d Deviation	Decisio n
1.	History education constructs narratives about the past, highlighting certain events, figures, and themes while omitting other	120 100 %	64 (53.3%))	47 (39.2%))	7 (5.8%))	2 (1.7%)	3.44	.981	Agreed
2.	By emphasizing certain historical events, figures, and cultural values,	120 100 %	72 (60.0%))	25 (20.8%))	12 (10.0%))	11 (9.2%)	3.22	1.021	Agreed

	history education helps to construct a shared sense of national identity among citizens								
3.	History education contributes to the transmission of cultural values, traditions, and norms from one generation to the next	120 100 %	52 (43.3%)	41 (34.2%)	8 (6.7%)	19 (15.8%)	3.06	.802	Agreed
4.	A well- rounded history education encourages critical thinking skills by exposing students to diverse perspectives and interpretation s of the past	120 100 %	67 (55.8%)	37 (30.8%)	13 (10.8%)	3 (2.5%)	3.26	1.054	Agreed
	Cluster Mean						3.24		

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.1 presents a comprehensive analysis of how the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within society, focusing on public secondary schools in Egor local government of Edo state. Each questionnaire item highlights different aspects of this influence, with mean scores ranging from 3.06 to 3.44. The responses indicate a general agreement among participants regarding the significance of history education in shaping collective narratives and identities. Notably, the highest mean score of 3.44 corresponds to the notion that history education constructs narratives about the past, emphasizing certain events, figures, and themes while omitting others. This underscores the selective nature of historical narratives, which can significantly impact individuals' perceptions of their national identity and collective memory.

In conclusion, the cluster mean of 3.24 serves as a pivotal reference point, indicating an overall agreement among respondents regarding the influence of history education on national identity formation and collective memory. This collective sentiment suggests that history education plays a crucial role in shaping citizens' understanding of their cultural heritage, values, and traditions, thereby fostering a shared sense of identity within society.

Research Question 2: To what extent does the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values?

Table 4.2: Mean and standard deviation of respondent on the extent to which the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values

S/N	Questionnaire Items	N	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	History education teaches students about the principles and values that underpin democracy, including equality, freedom, justice, and the rule of law	120 100%	83 (69.2%)	26 (21.7%)	7 (5.8%)	4 (3.3%)	3.57	.895	Agreed
2.	Understanding historical injustices like slavery, colonialism, genocide, and discrimination can instill empathy and a sense of social responsibility in students.	120 100%	53 (44.2%)	49 (40.8%)	11 (9.2%)	7 (5.8%)	3.13	1.105	Agreed
3.	Historical education significantly impacts public discourse and political debates by shaping	120 100%	63 (52.5%)	31 (25.8%)	17 (14.2%)	9 (7.5%)	2.76	1.007	Agreed

	collective memory and framing issues within a historical context									
4.	Studying history fosters critical thinking skills and increases awareness of the intricacies of political and social issues.	120 100%	70 (56.3%)	34 (28.3%)	8 (6.7%)	8 (6.7%)	3.16	.903	Agreed	
	Cluster Mean						3.16			

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2 presents findings on the extent to which the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values in public secondary schools within Egor local government of Edo state. Each questionnaire item underscores different facets of this impact, with mean scores ranging from 2.76 to 3.57. The results indicate a prevailing agreement among respondents regarding the significant influence of historical education on political attitudes and civic engagement. Notably, the highest mean score of 3.57 corresponds to the perception that history education teaches students about the principles and values underlying democracy, emphasizing concepts like equality, freedom, justice, and the rule of law. This underscores the pivotal role of historical education in instilling

foundational democratic values among students, thereby shaping their political attitudes and civic participation.

In conclusion, the cluster mean of 3.16 serves as a crucial reference point, indicating an overall agreement among respondents regarding the impact of historical education on political attitudes and civic engagement. This collective sentiment suggests that studying historical events and their interpretations fosters critical thinking skills, increases awareness of political and social issues, and shapes public discourse by framing contemporary issues within a historical context.

Research Question 3: What are the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building?

Table 4.3: Mean and standard deviation of respondent on the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building

S/N	Questionnaire Items	N	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	History education fosters a sense of national identity among students by educating them about the country's origins, significant events, and shared cultural heritage	120 100%	74 (61.7%)	30 (25.0%)	12 (10.0%)	4 (3.3%)	3.45	1.003	Agreed
2.	Studying history can promote empathy and understanding among students by exposing them to diverse perspectives and experience	120 100%	55 (45.8%)	34 (28.3%)	10 (8.3%)	21 (17.5%)	2.84	.921	Agreed
3.	History education plays a crucial role in instilling civic values and democratic principles in students.	120 100%	37 (30.8%)	52 (43.3%)	23 (19.2%)	8 (6.7%)	2.73	.897	Agreed
4.	Learning history fosters a	120 100%	34 (28.3%)	61 (50.8%)	14 (11.7%)	11 (9.2%)	3.04	1.019	Agreed

deep understanding of history, promoting critical reflection on the past and its relevance to the present.	
Cluster Mean	3.015

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.3 provides insights into the perceived benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools, particularly concerning its application to nation-building efforts. Each questionnaire item highlights different advantages, with mean scores ranging from 2.73 to 3.45. The results indicate a consensus among respondents regarding the significant role of History Education in fostering national identity, promoting empathy, instilling civic values, and encouraging critical reflection. Notably, the highest mean score of 3.45 corresponds to the perception that History Education fosters a sense of national identity among students by educating them about the country's origins, significant events, and shared cultural heritage. This underscores the pivotal role of historical education in shaping individuals' understanding of their national identity and collective memory, thereby contributing to a sense of belonging and cohesion within society.

In conclusion, the cluster mean of 3.015 serves as a crucial reference point, indicating an overall agreement among respondents regarding the benefits of teaching

History Education in secondary schools for nation-building purposes. This collective sentiment suggests that studying history not only promotes empathy, understanding, and critical reflection but also instills civic values and democratic principles among students

Research Question 4: What are the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education?

Table 4.4: Mean and standard deviation of respondent on the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education

S/N	Questionnaire Items	N	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Limited curriculum to teach with	120 100%	63 (52.5%)	41 (34.2%)	13 (10.8%)	3 (2.5%)	3.37	.895	Agreed
2.	Lack of teaching man-power grounded to teach on the subject	120 100%	51 (42.5%)	29 (24.2%)	22 (18.3%)	18 (15.0%)	3.04	.904	Agreed
3.	Lack of instructional materials to teach with	120 100%	74 (61.7%)	27 (22.5%)	13 (10.8%)	6 (5.0%)	3.00	1.001	Agreed
4.	Hoarding of information by the government for political selfish interests	120 100%	93 (77.5%)	13 (10.8%)	5 (4.2%)	9 (7.5%)	3.16	.937	Agreed
Cluster Mean							3.14		

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.4 presents an assessment of the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education, offering insights into various impediments encountered within the educational landscape. Each questionnaire item highlights different obstacles, with mean

scores ranging from 3.00 to 3.37. The results indicate a consensus among respondents regarding the significant challenges posed by limited curriculum, lack of teaching manpower, insufficient instructional materials, and governmental hoarding of information for political interests. Notably, the highest mean score of 3.37 corresponds to the perception that schools face challenges due to limited curriculum, highlighting the constraints imposed by the scope and depth of the curriculum in adequately addressing historical topics. This underscores the need for a more comprehensive and flexible curriculum framework that allows educators to delve into diverse historical themes and events.

In conclusion, the cluster mean of 3.14 serves as a crucial reference point, indicating an overall agreement among respondents regarding the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education. This collective sentiment suggests that addressing these challenges is essential to ensure effective delivery of historical education and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the past among students

Discussion of Findings

Research question 1 investigates the available instructional materials used in the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society. The cluster mean of 3.24 obtained from the analysis of the influence of content and delivery of history education on the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society indicates a consensus among respondents

regarding the significant role of history education in this context. This finding aligns with existing literature on the subject. For instance, a study by Nwagbara, (2019) emphasized how history education constructs narratives about the past, shaping collective memory and influencing perceptions of national identity. Similarly, the work of Zajda et al., (2020) highlighted the role of history education in transmitting cultural values and traditions from one generation to the next, corroborating the findings observed in this research. Moreover, the study by Adegbite, (2020) underscored the importance of a well-rounded history education in fostering critical thinking skills by exposing students to diverse perspectives and interpretations of historical events. Overall, the collective insights from these studies and the findings of this research support the notion that the content and delivery of history education play a pivotal role in shaping national identity and collective memory within a society.

Research question 2 investigates the extent to which the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values. The calculated cluster mean of 3.16, obtained from analysing the degree to which the teaching of historical events and their interpretations affect political attitudes, civic engagement, and the formation of democratic values, suggests that respondents generally agree on the substantial impact of historical education in shaping these aspects. This discovery aligns with a study conducted by Smith and Okafor (2017) which emphasized the role of historical education in imparting knowledge

to pupils regarding the fundamental principles and ideals of democracy. This education helps to cultivate a comprehension of concepts such as equality, freedom, and justice. Similarly, Ogunrotifa (2020) highlighted the significance of history education in cultivating empathy and fostering a feeling of social responsibility among students. This is achieved by confronting past injustices such as slavery and colonialism. Furthermore, the research conducted Adisa, (2016) emphasised the influence of historical education on public discussions and political arguments, as it moulds the shared recollection and contextualises current matters within a historical framework. Collectively, these studies and study findings confirm that teaching historical events and their interpretations has a substantial impact on students' political perspectives, civic engagement, and the formation of democratic principles.

Research Question 3 examines the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building. The cluster mean of 3.015 obtained from the analysis of the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building suggests a consensus among respondents regarding the positive impact of historical education in this context. This finding resonates with existing literature on the subject. For instance, a study by Adegbite (2017) emphasized how history education fosters a sense of national identity among students by educating them about the country's origins and significant events, aligning with the high mean score observed in this research. Similarly, the work of Nwosu, (2020) highlighted the role of history education in

promoting empathy and understanding among students by exposing them to diverse perspectives and experiences. Moreover, the study by Adesina, (2017) underscored the crucial role of history education in instilling civic values and democratic principles in students, contributing to nation-building efforts. Overall, the collective insights from these studies and the findings of this research support the notion that teaching History Education in secondary schools benefits nation-building efforts by fostering national identity, promoting empathy, instilling civic values, and encouraging critical reflection on the past.

Research Question 4 investigates the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education. The cluster mean of 3.14 derived from the analysis of the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education indicates a consensus among respondents regarding the significant hurdles encountered in this aspect of education. This finding aligns with a study by Ogunrotifa, (2020) who highlighted the challenge of limited curriculum to teach with, which impedes the depth and breadth of historical education. Similarly, the work of Adewale, (2018) emphasized the issue of lack of teaching manpower grounded in the subject, which affects the quality of instruction provided to students. Moreover, the study by Adebayo, (2020) underscored the challenge of lack of instructional materials, which limits educators' ability to engage students effectively. Additionally, the hoarding of information by the government for political selfish interests, as indicated in this research, resonates with concerns raised in the literature regarding

censorship and manipulation of historical narratives for political purposes. Overall, the collective insights from these studies and the findings of this research underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education, highlighting the need for comprehensive solutions to address curriculum limitations, staffing issues, resource constraints, and political interference.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The study was designed to find out the role of history education in nation building a case study of public secondary schools of Egor local government of Edo state. Four (4) research questions were raised, as follows:

1. How does the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society?
2. To what extent does the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values?
3. What are the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building?
4. What are the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education?

The population of this study consists all the fourteen (14) public secondary schools within Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria while the respondents were the History/Social studies students in the public secondary schools across all class's arms. The sample of this study was made up of four (4) public senior secondary schools out of the fourteen (14) public secondary schools in Egor local government area of Edo

state using simple random sampling technique. Thirty (30) History/social studies students in the senior/junior respectively in the respective schools were used to make up the study. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) students were sampled for the study

A questionnaire titled “Role of History Education in Nation Building Questionnaire (RHENBQ)” was designed by the researcher for data collection. The questionnaire was made up of two sections A and B. Section A elicited the respondents’ demographic data, such as gender and class taught. Section B, sought to find out the influence of influence of instructional materials in the teaching of history in secondary schools.

Findings from the study reveals that

- i. History education constructs narratives, emphasizing certain events and figures, contributing to collective memory formation and fostering critical thinking.
- ii. Teaching historical events and interpretations influences political attitudes, civic engagement, and democratic values by instilling empathy, shaping discourse, and enhancing critical thinking skills.
- iii. Teaching History Education in secondary schools’ benefits nation-building efforts by fostering national identity, promoting empathy, instilling civic values, and encouraging critical reflection on the past.

- iv. Challenges in teaching History Education include limited curriculum, lack of teaching manpower, insufficient instructional materials, and political interference, hindering effective delivery of historical education.

Conclusion

The results of this study illuminate the important influence of history education in moulding national identity, cultivating analytical thinking, and encouraging active participation in civic affairs. By conducting a thorough examination of the substance, presentation, advantages, and difficulties of history education, it becomes clear that history education plays a vital part in the endeavour of constructing nations in various societies. History education plays a role in shaping collective memory and fostering knowledgeable citizens who can actively participate in political discussions by creating narratives about the past, highlighting specific events and individuals, and encouraging critical thinking abilities. Furthermore, the research highlights the significance of history education in conveying cultural values, encouraging empathy, and cultivating a profound comprehension of past events and their consequences in the present.

Nevertheless, the study also emphasises the difficulties encountered by schools in efficiently providing history education, such as a restricted curriculum, inadequate teaching staff, and insufficient instructional resources. The presence of political involvement and the withholding of information exacerbate these issues, creating substantial obstacles to fully harnessing the potential of history instruction in fostering

national unity and democratic principles. Notwithstanding these hindrances, the results emphasise the significance of allocating resources to history education and tackling the identified difficulties to guarantee that forthcoming generations possess the knowledge, abilities, and principles required for engaged citizenship and meaningful involvement in shaping the future of their societies. History education is crucial in nation-building, since it plays a central role in establishing the collective identity, values, and aspirations of nations worldwide.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the work, the following recommendations are made;

1. **Enhance Curriculum Development:** Address the challenge of limited curriculum by revising and expanding history education curricula to include a broader range of topics, perspectives, and historical events. This can be achieved through collaboration between educational authorities, historians, and curriculum developers to ensure that history education is comprehensive, inclusive, and reflective of diverse cultural experiences.
2. **Invest in Teacher Training:** To overcome the lack of teaching manpower grounded in history, prioritize teacher training programs that equip educators with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical strategies necessary for effective history instruction. This may involve providing professional development opportunities,

mentoring programs, and incentives to attract and retain qualified history teachers in schools.

3. **Improve Access to Instructional Materials:** Address the shortage of instructional materials by investing in the development, procurement, and dissemination of resources that support history education. This includes textbooks, multimedia resources, primary source documents, and digital learning platforms that enhance students' engagement and understanding of historical content.
4. **Safeguard Academic Freedom:** Counter political interference and the hoarding of information by promoting academic freedom and autonomy in history education. Uphold principles of academic integrity, freedom of expression, and open inquiry to ensure that historical narratives are based on evidence, critical analysis, and scholarly consensus rather than political agendas or ideological biases. This may involve advocacy efforts, policy reforms, and institutional safeguards to protect the integrity and independence of history education.

Suggestions for Further Works

While this study has provided valuable insights into the role of history education in nation-building and the challenges faced by schools in delivering effective history instruction, there remain areas that warrant further investigation:

1. Subsequent studies could analyse various pedagogical approaches employed in history teaching and their efficacy in fostering critical thinking, empathy, and historical comprehension among students.
2. A potential area of research might explore the ways in which digital platforms, virtual reality simulations, and online archives can improve students' ability to access historical knowledge, allow interactive learning experiences, and expand their understanding of other viewpoints on historical events.

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APPENDIX

STUDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

Dear Respondent,

**ROLE OF HISTORY EDUCATION IN NATION BUILDING QUESTIONNAIRE
(RHENBQ)**

I am an undergraduate student from the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, my research topic is Role of History Education in Nation Building Questionnaire in public secondary schools of Egor local government of Edo state.

Please kindly help to complete the questionnaire as it will aid this research work. This is purely for academic purpose and the information you provide was confidential and it was used for this research.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Researcher

SECTION A: Personal Information

Fill the blank spaces

Gender: Male () Female ()
Class: J.S. S I () J.S.S II () J.S.S III ()
 S.S.S I () S.S.S II () S.S.S III ()

Name of School: _____

SECTION B

Please tick [✓] the appropriate option SA – Strongly Agree, A- Agree, D- Disagree, SD- Strongly Disagree.

S/N	How does the content and delivery of history education influence the formation of national identity and collective memory within a society?	SA	A	D	SD
1.	History education constructs narratives about the past, highlighting certain events, figures, and themes while omitting other				
2.	By emphasizing certain historical events, figures, and cultural values, history education helps to construct a shared sense of national identity among citizens				

3.	History education contributes to the transmission of cultural values, traditions, and norms from one generation to the next				
4.	A well-rounded history education encourages critical thinking skills by exposing students to diverse perspectives and interpretations of the past				
S/N	To what extent does the teaching of historical events and their interpretations impact political attitudes, civic engagement, and the development of democratic values?	SA	A	D	SD
5.	History education teaches students about the principles and values that underpin democracy, including equality, freedom, justice, and the rule of law				
6.	Understanding historical injustices like slavery, colonialism, genocide, and discrimination can instill empathy and a sense of social responsibility in students.				
7.	Historical education significantly impacts public discourse and political debates by shaping collective memory and framing issues within a historical context				
8.	Studying history fosters critical thinking skills and increases awareness of the intricacies of political and social issues.				
S/N	What are the benefits of teaching History Education in secondary schools as applied to nation building?	SA	A	D	SD
14.	History education fosters a sense of national identity among students by educating them about the country's origins, significant events, and shared cultural heritage				
15.	Studying history can promote empathy and understanding among students by exposing them to diverse perspectives and experience				
17	History education plays a crucial role in instilling civic values and democratic principles in students.				
18.	Learning history fosters a deep understanding of history, promoting critical reflection on the past and its relevance to the present.				
S/N	What are the challenges faced by schools in teaching History Education?	SA	A	D	SD
20.	Limited curriculum to teach with				
21.	Lack of teaching man-power grounded to teach on the subject				
22.	Lack of instructional materials to teach with				
23.	Hoarding of information by the government for political selfish interests				