

**THE ROLE OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN PROMOTING  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN IKPOBA-OKHA LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE**

**BY**

**Edith IGBINOMWANHIA  
EDU1902693**

**BEING A PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT  
AND NON FORMAL EDUCATION, FACULTY OF EDUCATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION DEGREE ( B.A Ed IN ADULT EDUCATION) UNIVERSITY  
OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

**JUNE, 2024**

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

We theundersigned hereby certify that this research report was conducted by IGBINOMWANHIA EDITH with the matriculation No. EDU1902693 in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of education Degree( B.Ed) in adult and non – formal Education, University of Benin, Benin city.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prof. Mrs L.A OKUPON**  
**Project Supervisor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mr. M.O EGBADON**  
**Project Coordinator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prof. Mrs L.A OKUPON**  
**Head of Department**

## **DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This study is dedicated to the almighty God for the his divine mercy, love, wisdom, and understanding and strength granted throughout the study

## ACKNOWLEDMENT

The researcher wishes to express her appreciation to God Almighty for his mercies that has made all things work out for her during the course of her studies in university of Benin. She also wishes to express her wholehearted gratitude to Him for his infinite mercy upon her life for seeing her through her academic programme.

The researcher wishes to express her kind and sincere and remarkable contributions of her supervisor PROFESSOR MRS L.A OKUPON(H.O.D) who despite her numerous commitments, offered valuable assistance, guidance, suggestions, love and corrections which made this project work a success.

She also wishes to appreciate Mr M.O EGBADON his hand working project coordinator. MrsOmage, Professor Omoruyi, Draghedo, Drricharderhauyi who is the Head of department of adult and Non.formal Education ( HOD, for their moral support and assistance.

The Researcher also wishes to show her sincere appreciation to her lovely Mum Mrs Mercy Igbinomwanhia and my lovely Sister Mrs Sandra Oliha for their love, encouragement, assistance, and prayers during the period of my studies. She also wishes to show her appreciation to her friends and course mate: Adesuwa, Precious for their moral care and support during her studies.

The researcher also wishes to appreciate her Pastor Prophet Chinedu B. Uwaya for spiritual support and prayers during her study in University of Benin, Thank you sir

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
Background to the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	5
Research Question	5
Purpose of the Study	6
Significance of the Study	7
Scope of the Study	8
Definitions of Terms	9
<b>CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>	
Concept of Adult Education	11
Concept of Economic Development	17
Importance of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development	20
Challenges for Promoting Economic Development	32
Adult Education Programmes for Promotion of Economic Development	39
Summary of the Related Literatures	49
<b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	
Research Design	51

Population of the Study	52
Sample and Sampling Technique	52
Instrumentation of the Study	53
Validity of the Instrument	54
Reliability of the Instrument	54
Administration of Instrument	54
Method of Data Analysis	54
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS</b>	
Presentation of Data	55
Discussion of Findings	62
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
Summary	64
Conclusion	65
Recommendations	66
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>71</b>

## **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the pivotal role of adult education in fostering economic development within rural communities, with a specific focus on the IkpobaOkha Local Government Area in Edo State, Nigeria. Utilizing a descriptive survey research design, the research delves into various aspects of adult education programs, including community perceptions, social and economic impacts, employed strategies, and overall benefits. The study reveals diverse perceptions within rural communities regarding adult education, highlighting the need for targeted awareness campaigns to dispel misconceptions and increase participation.

Furthermore, the research underscores the positive influence of adult education programs on social development, emphasizing behavioral changes, community engagement, and enhanced lifestyles among adult learners. Additionally, the study identifies a strong correlation between adult education and economic development, citing the acquisition of vocational skills, increased productivity, income generation, and entrepreneurship opportunities as key outcomes.

To optimize the effectiveness of adult education initiatives, the study recommends adequate funding, resource allocation, community engagement, and policy enhancements. It advocates for a comprehensive approach that integrates adult education into broader development strategies, emphasizing the importance of tailored programs, stakeholder collaboration, and continuous evaluation and improvement. The study underscores the transformative potential of adult education in rural communities and calls for sustained investment, policy support,

and community involvement to harness this potential for holistic community development and economic growth.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background to the Study**

Community needs are on the increase with little attention been received from the government. Members of any community need to strategize so that development will reach them without delay. Many programmes have been initiated for community development but these programmes end up not seeing the light of day. Education too has been the only avenue for community development, but many after obtaining their certificates will opt out to work outside their communities and in some instances never return. Education is the commonest avenue for giving a community better development using the members of the community – the adult. Adult Education had been in place to reach out to adult members but the need to re-engineer this form of Education for better usage in the community is paramount. Blaisdell( 1996) opined that re-engineering Education is demonstrated of the value which an educational promotion programme can add to a group of people or an area. Education is a weapon of development of the people in a society. It helps to promote understanding and cooperation among a group of people for the present and the future. It helps to create peace through understanding and respect for individuals differences. In the community,

adult education is the most needed. Education for the fact that it helps communities to be mobilized for contributing towards their own development for their survival and their future generation. Education as an entity is classified into the two: formal and non- formal education ( Ogwo and Oranu, 2013). According to Smith ( 2016), formal education is the hierarchically structured chronologically graded education system running from primary school through the University and including, in addition to general academics studies, a variety of specialized programmes and institutions for full-time technical and professional training. In the same vein.

National policy on Education ( FGN, 2016) define non- formal education as all forms of functional education given to youths and adults outside the formal school system such as functional literacy, remedial and vocational education. Smith( 2016) added that non – formal education is any organised educational activity outside the established formal system whether operating separately or as an important feature of some broader activity- that is intended to serve identifiable learning clientele and learning objectives. It is on the basis of national policy on education definition, where non- formal education includes adult education that this write – up will emphasize on. The same definition equally added that non – formal education is to cover literacy, post- literacy, continuing education,

civiceducation, correspondence education and self- provided classes outside formal education for anybody who cannot have access to formal education system. Adult education is the education that is given to adults that are not opportune to attend formal school system that will help them acquire knowledge and vocational skills so as to make them more productive in the society, ( Ogwo, 2009). Adult Education cannot be worthy of acknowledgement without making mention of its positive impact on the community or involvement in community development in which an individual lives. According to Uwaka( 2014), Community development is a term seen as the process by which efforts of the people themselves are united ,with those of the government to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of the people to integrate them into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress.

Nigeria government in recent times has made huge investments on Education. However, it is disheartening that these investment are made in the areas of primary, secondary and tertiary education neglecting the adult and non formal education. There has been progressive in Nigeria government's capacity to implement projects that provide the needs of adult education in terms of personnel, funding and methodology. Nzeneri( 2012), defines adult education as concerned with preparing people for life, but more specifically, with helping people to live

more successfully. This study will determine the strategy adult education programmes will adopt to develop rural areas. Various challenges or problems that hinder adult education programmes from achieving development.

The rural development tasks environment is an inter- governmental , supra ministerial, organizational word which is important by a myriad of complex, large scale, formal and informal organisations, public and private organisations. Dallas (2003) therefore, conceptualizes rural development as involved four levels of functioning organization. Which are, a planned programmes of action through national formulated policies, self- help through community mobilization and participation, technical assistance through a large pool integration of professionals, integration of various specialists through a systematic approach to rural development. From this perspective, the national planning process would begin from the grass root to the upper level by ascertaining people , their needs and this will make maximum achievement of planned programme. However, new ideas and new skills attained from education, in whatever setting serves as an instrument of development which gives opportunities for acquisition of new skills and knowledge which will bring about socio- economic development and transformation of the human society.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Limited recognition of the benefit of education stakeholders, insufficient integration of vocational skills. Also, Adult education which is also seen as the training in adult education programmes and also lack of tailored programs to meet the specific economics needs of the local society and also inadequate collaboration between adult education providers and local businesses or industries, low participation rate in economics- focused education courses due to lack of awareness or perceived relevance. Limited job opportunities for adult learners upon completion of programs, absence of follow up support for learners to transition into the workforce or entrepreneurial. completion of education especially to those who are dropout from the formal system. Another goal of the adult education is to eradicate illiteracy among the people but still Nigeria still range 45% of illiteracy in AFRICA , UNESCO( 2004).

## **Research Question**

- 1) How do the people in the rural communities perceived adult education programmes in ikpoba-okha local government area.
- 2) To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the social development of the rural communities?

- 3) To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the economic development of the rural communities?
- 4) What are the possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities
- 5) What are the benefit of adult education programmes in rural communities

### **Purpose of the Study**

The major purpose of this study is to examine the role of adult education programmes. Other general objectives of the study are:

- To find out how people in the rural communities perceive adult education programmes in ikpoba-okha local government area.
- To examine how adults education programmes has helped to improve the social development of ikpoba-okha local government area of Edo- state.
- To examine how adults education programmes has helped to improve the economic development of ikpoba-okha local government area of Edo- state.
- To determine the possible strategies used in adult education programmes of the socio- economics development of ikpoba-okha local government area
- To identify the benefits of adult education programmes in ikpoba-okha local government area of Edo- state.

## **Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study will be significant in a number of ways. It will be beneficial to instructors and participants of adult education programmes. It will enable them determine the extent to which adult education is utilized in achieving sustainable development. It will also enable them contribute to future directors of adult education for greater effectiveness. It will also be beneficial to ikpoba-okha local government Area and other local government areas that run adult education programmes. The findings of this study will enlighten the local government administrators on the significant position adult literacy occupies in the development process. This will make them give better attention to adult education through better funding, personnel development and better organizations of the programmes.

It will also be beneficial to government at both the national and state levels. The finding of the study will be an eye opener to those in government because it will help change their view of adult literacy as a disorganised programmes it will give them an insight into the real role of adult literacy plays in sustainable development. This will help them pay better attention to adult literacy and probably give adult literacy equal status with other types of education. This they can do through

adequate funding and management of adult education programmes and through policy review.

It will be significant to adult education curriculum developers. Knowledge of the extent of the utilisation of adult education in sustainable development will enable the curriculum developers determine how far adult education has succeeded in its quests for development. This will help them review the curriculum, as the case may be, to facilitate the use of adult education in the development. The study will also be significant to policy makers. It will enable them critically look at the current policy on adult education and determine the need to make the policy more relevant and stronger than it is at present .

Finally, it will be useful to the general public because it will help change the wrong image people have about adult. They will know the role of adult education programmes in development and accord the support needed to make adult education grow.

### **Scope of the Study**

The study is based on the role of adult education in promoting economic development in Ikpoba-Okha local government .the study is restricted to Ikpoba-okha local government area of Edo- State.

## **Definitions of Terms**

Some words are described to show their meaning as used in the study.

**Adult Education:** Adult education is the education given to adults that are not opportune to attend formal school system that will help them acquire knowledge and vocational skills so as to make them more productive in the society. Ogwo 2009.

**Rural Communities:** Rural communities are communities that are set or located outside towns or city. It is often characterized with farm land, low population, plains and also woodland forest.

**Development:** It is a process of planned change. It is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or additions of physical, economic, environmental and social component. It also the advancements in quality of human life

**Social Development:** Social development is a process of systematic change ( values , attitudes, institutions, and practices) purposefully initiated through the instrument of Social policy and planning for enhancement of the levels of living and quality of life of the mass of people.

**Economic Development:** Economic development is a process of creating and utilizing physical, human, financial, and social assets to generate improved and broadly shared economic well-being and quality of life for a community.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter presents a review of related literatures which will be done using the following sub-headings, namely:

- Concept of Adult Education
- Concept of Economic Development
- Importance of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development
- Challenges for Promoting Economic Development
- Adult Education Programmes for Promotion of Economic Development
- Summary of the related literatures

#### **Concept of Adult Education**

Adult education is a multifaceted and dynamic field dedicated to facilitating learning among adults. Unlike traditional education systems aimed at children and young adults, adult education encompasses a wide array of learning activities tailored to the needs, interests, and life situations of mature learners. This field recognizes that adults come with diverse experiences, knowledge bases, and motivations for learning, and therefore, it employs different approaches and methodologies to accommodate these factors. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2021), adult

education is essential for promoting lifelong learning, personal development, and social inclusion, serving as a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development goals.

Adult education can be broadly defined as the practice of teaching and educating adults. It involves formal, non-formal, and informal learning activities aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, competencies, and overall development of individuals beyond traditional schooling age. Formal adult education refers to structured programs offered by educational institutions leading to certifications, such as adult secondary education or higher education courses. Non-formal education includes community-based programs, vocational training, and professional development courses that do not necessarily lead to formal qualifications but are crucial for personal and professional growth. Informal education encompasses self-directed learning through books, online resources, and experiential learning in everyday life (OECD, 2022).

Adult Education is one of the numerous concepts that do not accede to a universal definition, the reason is simple; the scope is limitless, with new forms springing up on daily basis. The concept of adult education has evolved significantly over time, influenced by social, economic, and political changes. Historically, adult education emerged as a response to the need for literacy and basic education

among adult populations in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Movements such as the Chautauqua Movement in the United States and the Workers' Education Association in the United Kingdom played pivotal roles in promoting adult education. In the mid-20th century, the focus expanded to include vocational training and professional development in response to industrialization and technological advancements. Today, adult education encompasses a wide range of subjects, from basic literacy to advanced technical skills, reflecting the diverse needs of a globalized and rapidly changing world (Jarvis, 2020).

The importance of adult education extends beyond individual benefits to encompass broader societal and economic impacts. Adult education enhances employability by providing individuals with up-to-date skills and knowledge required in the labor market. It also promotes social inclusion by offering learning opportunities to marginalized groups, thus reducing inequalities. Moreover, adult education fosters civic engagement and active citizenship, empowering individuals to participate fully in democratic processes and community development. According to the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) (2023), investing in adult education yields significant returns in terms of improved health outcomes, economic productivity, and social cohesion, underscoring its vital role in contemporary society.

Adult education is a critical component of the educational landscape, addressing the learning needs of adults and contributing to individual, societal, and economic development. Its diverse and evolving nature reflects the complex realities and aspirations of adult learners. By embracing innovative approaches and overcoming existing barriers, adult education can play a pivotal role in promoting lifelong learning, enhancing employability, and fostering inclusive and resilient societies. The continued commitment of governments, educational institutions, and communities to support adult education is essential for unlocking its full potential and achieving the broader goals of sustainable development and social equity.

Adult education is a multifaceted and evolving concept that addresses the unique learning needs and aspirations of adults. Unlike traditional education, which primarily targets children and young adults, adult education is designed to accommodate the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and goals of mature learners. It encompasses a wide range of learning activities, from basic literacy and numeracy to advanced professional development and personal enrichment. The primary aim of adult education is to facilitate lifelong learning, enabling individuals to continuously acquire and apply new knowledge and skills throughout their lives. This approach not only enhances personal growth and

fulfillment but also contributes significantly to social cohesion and economic development (UNESCO, 2021).

One of the defining characteristics of adult education is its learner-centered approach. Adult learners bring a wealth of experiences and knowledge to the educational setting, which shapes their learning preferences and motivations. According to Knowles' theory of andragogy, adults are self-directed learners who are motivated by practical, real-life applications of knowledge (Knowles, 2021). They prefer learning that is relevant to their personal and professional lives and are more likely to engage deeply with content that addresses their immediate needs and goals. This contrasts with the pedagogical model used in traditional education, which often assumes a more passive role for learners. Adult education, therefore, employs methodologies that emphasize active participation, problem-solving, and critical thinking, fostering an environment where learners can draw on their experiences and engage in meaningful learning.

The importance of adult education extends beyond individual benefits to encompass broader societal impacts. By providing adults with opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge, adult education contributes to workforce development and economic growth. As the global economy becomes increasingly knowledge-based and technology-driven, the demand for continuous skills

upgrading and reskilling has become more pronounced. Adult education plays a crucial role in meeting this demand by offering flexible and accessible learning opportunities that help individuals stay competitive in the labor market (OECD, 2022). Additionally, adult education promotes social inclusion by providing learning opportunities for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, thereby reducing social inequalities and fostering a more equitable society.

The future of adult education is closely linked to the concept of lifelong learning. In today's rapidly changing world, the ability to continuously learn and adapt is crucial for both personal and professional success. Lifelong learning encompasses all learning activities undertaken throughout life, whether formal, non-formal, or informal, that improve knowledge, skills, and competencies. Adult education is a key component of this broader framework, providing structured learning opportunities that support lifelong learning. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, societies can ensure that individuals are better prepared to navigate the complexities of modern life, contribute to their communities, and achieve personal fulfillment (European Association for the Education of Adults, 2023).

In a nutshell, adult education is a vital and dynamic field that plays a crucial role in individual and societal development. It is characterized by a learner-centered approach that values the experiences and needs of adult learners, and it

encompasses a wide range of learning activities aimed at promoting lifelong learning. While adult education faces several challenges, including limited resources and societal attitudes, technological advancements and a commitment to lifelong learning provide opportunities for its growth and effectiveness. By investing in and supporting adult education, societies can harness the full potential of their adult populations, leading to greater social cohesion, economic growth, and personal well-being. The continuous evolution of adult education is essential for meeting the demands of the modern world and ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to learn and thrive throughout their lives.

### **Concept of Economic Development**

Economic development is a broad and multifaceted concept that refers to the process by which the overall health, well-being, and academic level of a nation or region improves. It is not merely about the increase in national income or GDP, but also about enhancing the quality of life of the population. Economic development encompasses improvements in various indicators, such as literacy rates, life expectancy, and poverty rates, and involves the structural transformation of economies from primary to secondary and tertiary sectors.

A commonly accepted definition, as stated by the World Bank, is that economic development is the process by which a country improves the economic, political,

and social well-being of its people (World Bank, 2021). This definition underscores the holistic nature of economic development, emphasizing that it is not just about economic growth (increases in GDP) but also about the qualitative improvement of human life. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines economic development as the expansion of people's choices, opportunities, and freedoms to live long, healthy, and creative lives (UNDP, 2022). This definition highlights the importance of human development as an integral part of economic development, suggesting that economic policies should aim at enlarging the range of choices available to people to live fulfilling lives.

Economic development also involves the concept of structural transformation. This transformation refers to the shift of economic activity from low-productivity sectors like agriculture to high-productivity sectors like industry and services. This transition is crucial because it typically results in higher income levels, better employment opportunities, and improved standards of living. For instance, as a country develops, there is often a significant migration of labor from rural agricultural areas to urban industrial and service sectors, leading to urbanization and the growth of cities (United Nations, 2022).

Moreover, economic development is closely linked with improvements in infrastructure. Efficient transportation systems, reliable energy sources, and

advanced communication networks are essential components of economic development. They facilitate commerce, enhance productivity, and improve access to essential services like education and healthcare. According to the International Monetary Fund (2023), investing in infrastructure is critical for sustained economic growth and development because it creates jobs, boosts productivity, and improves the quality of life.

Another dimension of economic development is sustainability. Sustainable economic development seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This concept includes environmental sustainability, which emphasizes the responsible management of natural resources and the reduction of environmental degradation. The United Nations Environment Programme (2021) stresses that sustainable development policies are essential for long-term economic stability, ensuring that economic growth does not lead to environmental harm and that resources are conserved for future generations.

Inclusive growth is a core element of economic development, ensuring that the benefits of economic progress are widely shared across society. This means that economic policies should aim to reduce poverty and inequality, providing opportunities for all individuals, including marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

The idea is that economic development should lead to improvements in the standard of living for everyone, not just for a privileged few. The International Monetary Fund (2023) notes that inclusive growth is critical for maintaining social cohesion and political stability, which are essential for long-term economic success. In conclusion, economic development is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept that goes beyond mere economic growth. It encompasses improvements in living standards, human development, structural transformation, infrastructure, sustainability, and inclusivity. These elements together contribute to the overall well-being and quality of life of the population. Understanding economic development requires recognizing its complexity and the interdependence of various factors that drive it. Effective economic development strategies must be holistic, addressing both quantitative and qualitative aspects of growth to ensure sustainable and inclusive progress.

### **Importance of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development**

Adult education is a vital driver of economic development, offering numerous benefits that enhance workforce competence, foster innovation, reduce unemployment, enhance digital literacy, promote lifelong learning, support economic mobility, address skills gaps, and contribute to social inclusion. By prioritizing and investing in adult education programs, governments and

organizations can create a more skilled, adaptable, and inclusive workforce, driving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all.

Specifically, the importance of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development include the following:

### **1. Improving Workforce Competence**

Adult education enhances workforce competence by equipping workers with updated knowledge and advanced skills necessary to excel in modern industries. In today's rapidly changing economic landscape, continuous learning is vital for maintaining a competitive edge. Programs tailored to adult learners often include certifications in emerging technologies, management practices, and industry-specific skills. For example, training in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and advanced data analytics can significantly increase the productivity and efficiency of employees. According to the OECD (2021), countries that prioritize adult education witness higher productivity levels and better economic outcomes. By investing in adult education, companies ensure that their workforce remains capable of handling complex tasks, reducing error rates, and driving innovation. This not only benefits individual businesses but also contributes to the broader economy by creating a more competent and adaptable workforce that can respond to market changes and technological advancements.

## **2. Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of economic development, and adult education plays a crucial role in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. Educational programs that focus on entrepreneurship provide adults with the skills needed to identify business opportunities, create business plans, secure financing, and manage operations effectively. The European Commission (2022) emphasizes that adult learning initiatives significantly enhance entrepreneurial success, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These programs often include mentorship and networking opportunities, which are invaluable for new business owners. By equipping adults with the necessary tools to start and grow their businesses, adult education contributes to job creation, economic diversification, and innovation. Entrepreneurs drive economic growth by introducing new products and services, enhancing competition, and stimulating other sectors of the economy. Therefore, fostering entrepreneurship through adult education not only supports individual economic success but also has a ripple effect on the broader economic landscape.

## **3. Reducing Unemployment Rates**

One of the most direct benefits of adult education is its impact on reducing unemployment. Many adults find themselves unemployed or underemployed due

to outdated skills that do not match current job market demands. Adult education programs can bridge this gap by providing reskilling and upskilling opportunities tailored to high-demand sectors such as healthcare, information technology, and green energy. The World Bank (2020) highlights that targeted adult education programs can significantly lower unemployment rates, particularly among vulnerable populations such as older adults and marginalized communities. By offering training that is closely aligned with industry needs, these programs ensure that individuals are equipped with relevant skills, increasing their employability. Furthermore, adult education initiatives often include job placement services, career counseling, and internships, which facilitate smoother transitions into new roles. This comprehensive approach not only helps individuals secure stable employment but also reduces the overall unemployment rate, leading to a more robust and resilient economy.

#### **4. Enhancing Digital Literacy**

Digital literacy is increasingly essential for participation in today's economy. Adult education programs focusing on digital skills help individuals effectively use technology for both personal and professional purposes. This includes basic computer skills, internet navigation, and more advanced competencies such as coding, digital marketing, and cybersecurity. The UNESCO Global Education

Monitoring Report (2023) underscores the importance of digital literacy in reducing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities. Enhanced digital skills enable adults to engage in remote work, which has become more prevalent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, digital literacy allows individuals to take advantage of e-commerce, online banking, telehealth services, and other digital platforms that improve quality of life and economic participation. By improving digital literacy, adult education helps individuals adapt to the digital economy, increasing their productivity and opening up new avenues for economic engagement and growth.

### **5. Promoting Lifelong Learning and Adaptability**

Lifelong learning is crucial in an economy characterized by rapid technological advancements and changing job requirements. Adult education promotes the concept of lifelong learning by encouraging individuals to continuously update their skills and knowledge. The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2021) emphasizes that lifelong learning helps workers remain competitive and adaptable, enhancing their ability to navigate economic shifts and transitions. Adult education programs offer flexible learning options such as online courses, part-time studies, and modular learning, which are particularly beneficial for working adults. This flexibility allows individuals to balance education with other

responsibilities, making it feasible to pursue ongoing education throughout their careers. Lifelong learning not only improves individual employability but also enhances the overall adaptability of the workforce, enabling economies to respond more effectively to technological changes and global market dynamics.

## **6. Supporting Economic Mobility**

Adult education plays a significant role in supporting economic mobility, particularly for those who did not have access to quality education earlier in life. By providing opportunities to earn degrees, certifications, and skills that are in demand, adult education helps individuals improve their job prospects and increase their earning potential. The Brookings Institution (2022) found that adult education programs significantly impact economic mobility by providing pathways for individuals to climb the economic ladder. For many, adult education is a crucial step toward higher-paying and more stable employment. It also supports career advancement for those already employed, enabling them to move into higher-level positions. This upward mobility not only benefits individuals and their families but also contributes to economic stability and growth by creating a more skilled and versatile workforce that can meet the demands of a dynamic economy.

## **7. Addressing Skills Gaps**

Many industries face significant skills gaps that can impede economic growth. These gaps occur when there is a mismatch between the skills of the workforce and the needs of employers. Adult education programs can address these gaps by providing targeted training that aligns with current and future industry demands. The McKinsey Global Institute (2023) reported that sectors such as technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing greatly benefit from adult education initiatives focused on specific skill requirements. By working closely with industry partners, adult education programs can develop curricula that meet the precise needs of employers, ensuring that graduates are job-ready. Addressing skills gaps through adult education not only enhances productivity and innovation within industries but also improves economic resilience by ensuring that the workforce is equipped to handle technological advancements and shifts in market demand.

## **8. Contributing to Social Inclusion**

Adult education promotes social inclusion by providing educational opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their background. This includes marginalized groups such as immigrants, people with disabilities, and those from low-income backgrounds. Inclusive adult education programs help these individuals overcome

barriers to education and employment, fostering greater economic participation and reducing inequalities. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2021) emphasizes that inclusive education policies that encompass adult learners are essential for reducing economic disparities and promoting social cohesion. By providing access to education and skills training, adult education empowers individuals to improve their economic situations and contribute to their communities. This not only enhances social inclusion but also drives economic growth by tapping into the potential of a broader segment of the population, ensuring that economic benefits are more evenly distributed.

## **9. Increasing Economic Resilience**

Adult education plays a crucial role in increasing economic resilience by equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to adapt to economic shocks and transitions. In times of economic downturns or technological disruptions, a well-educated workforce can quickly pivot to new industries or roles. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers needed to shift to remote work or entirely new job sectors. Adult education programs that focus on transferable skills, such as digital literacy and critical thinking, enable workers to remain employed and productive even during economic upheavals. According to a study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2022), regions with higher levels of

adult education showed greater resilience in maintaining employment rates and economic stability during crises. Thus, investing in adult education contributes to a more robust economy capable of withstanding and recovering from unexpected challenges.

### **10. Enhancing Health and Well-being**

There is a strong correlation between education and health, which in turn affects economic productivity. Educated adults are more likely to make informed health decisions, leading to lower healthcare costs and less absenteeism in the workplace. Adult education programs that include health literacy components can help individuals understand and manage health conditions, adopt healthier lifestyles, and utilize healthcare services effectively. The World Health Organization (WHO) (2021) reported that improved health literacy through education contributes to better health outcomes, increased life expectancy, and reduced healthcare expenditures. Healthier workers are more productive, take fewer sick days, and can contribute more effectively to the economy, making health-related adult education a critical component of economic development.

### **11. Reducing Poverty**

Adult education is a powerful tool in the fight against poverty. By providing adults with the skills and knowledge needed to secure better-paying jobs, adult education

helps lift individuals and families out of poverty. Programs that focus on vocational training, literacy, and numeracy are particularly effective in empowering low-income individuals to improve their economic circumstances. A report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2022) found that adult education programs significantly reduce poverty rates by enhancing individuals' employability and earning potential. Furthermore, educated adults are better equipped to make informed financial decisions, manage their resources effectively, and invest in their children's education, creating a cycle of economic improvement that benefits future generations.

## **12. Supporting Sustainable Development**

Adult education contributes to sustainable development by promoting environmentally friendly practices and technologies. Programs that focus on sustainability education teach adults how to incorporate sustainable practices in their personal lives and workplaces. This includes topics such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable agriculture, and green technologies. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2020) highlight the importance of education in achieving sustainability targets. By fostering a culture of sustainability through adult education, individuals can contribute to reducing

environmental impact, promoting renewable energy sources, and supporting sustainable economic growth. This not only preserves natural resources but also creates new economic opportunities in green industries.

### **13. Promoting Civic Participation**

Adult education enhances civic participation by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to engage in democratic processes and community activities. Educated adults are more likely to vote, volunteer, and participate in civic organizations, contributing to a more vibrant and engaged society. Civic education programs for adults cover topics such as government structure, civic rights and responsibilities, and community organizing. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (2021) found that adults who participate in civic education programs are more likely to engage in community improvement initiatives and advocate for policies that promote economic development. By fostering active citizenship, adult education helps build stronger communities that support economic and social progress.

### **14. Improving Gender Equality**

Adult education is a critical factor in improving gender equality, which is essential for economic development. Women, in particular, benefit from adult education programs that provide opportunities for skill development, financial literacy, and

entrepreneurship. These programs help women gain the confidence and capabilities needed to participate fully in the economy. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) (2022), countries that invest in women's education see higher levels of economic growth and development. Educated women are more likely to start businesses, enter the workforce, and take on leadership roles, all of which contribute to economic productivity and innovation. Furthermore, gender-inclusive education programs help break down barriers and stereotypes, promoting a more equitable and prosperous society.

### **15. Strengthening Social Capital**

Adult education strengthens social capital by fostering networks and relationships that facilitate economic cooperation and development. Educational programs often bring together diverse groups of people, creating opportunities for collaboration, networking, and mutual support. These connections can lead to business partnerships, community initiatives, and social enterprises that drive economic growth. The Harvard Kennedy School's Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey (2021) indicates that communities with higher levels of social capital tend to have stronger economies and better social outcomes. By promoting social cohesion and collaboration, adult education helps build resilient communities that can effectively leverage their collective resources for economic development.

In a nutshell, adult education is indispensable for economic development, offering numerous benefits that enhance workforce competence, foster innovation, reduce unemployment, enhance digital literacy, promote lifelong learning, support economic mobility, address skills gaps, contribute to social inclusion, increase economic resilience, enhance health and well-being, reduce poverty, support sustainable development, promote civic participation, improve gender equality, and strengthen social capital. By prioritizing and investing in adult education programs, governments and organizations can create a more skilled, adaptable, and inclusive workforce, driving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all.

### **Challenges in Promoting Economic Development**

Promoting economic development in Nigeria involves addressing a complex array of challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, corruption, insecurity, high unemployment rates, dependence on oil, a poor educational system, limited access to finance, an inefficient agricultural sector, weak institutional frameworks, and environmental degradation. Overcoming these obstacles requires coordinated efforts from the government, private sector, and international partners. By tackling these issues, Nigeria can create a more stable, diversified, and prosperous

economy that benefits all its citizens. Specifically these challenges include the following:

### **1. Inadequate Infrastructure**

One of the most significant challenges to economic development in Nigeria is inadequate infrastructure. Poor infrastructure, particularly in education, transport, energy, and telecommunications, hampers economic activities and increases the cost of doing business. Nigeria's road network is underdeveloped, with many roads in a state of disrepair, which affects the movement of goods and services. Additionally, the country's power sector struggles with consistent electricity supply, leading to frequent power outages that disrupt businesses and deter foreign investment. According to the World Bank (2022), Nigeria's infrastructure deficit is a critical bottleneck to its economic growth, with the country needing substantial investments to upgrade its infrastructure to support industrialization and economic diversification.

### **2. Corruption**

Corruption remains a pervasive issue in Nigeria, undermining economic development and eroding public trust in institutions. Corruption affects various sectors, including government, judiciary, and law enforcement, leading to inefficiencies and misallocation of resources. The Transparency International

Corruption Perceptions Index (2023) ranks Nigeria poorly, indicating high levels of corruption that discourage investment and economic activities. Corruption also leads to the diversion of public funds meant for development projects into private pockets, reducing the effectiveness of government initiatives aimed at economic growth. Addressing corruption requires strong political will, transparent governance practices, and effective anti-corruption agencies.

### **3. Insecurity**

Insecurity is a major challenge to economic development in Nigeria. The country faces various security issues, including terrorism in the northeast, banditry in the northwest, and militancy in the Niger Delta region. These security challenges disrupt economic activities, displace populations, and deter both local and foreign investments. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2021) highlights that insecurity has a significant economic impact, with businesses shutting down and agricultural production declining in affected areas. The cost of addressing security issues also diverts resources from other critical development needs, further impeding economic growth. Comprehensive security reforms and community engagement are essential to addressing these issues and fostering a stable environment conducive to economic development.

#### **4. High Unemployment Rates**

High unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, pose a significant challenge to Nigeria's economic development. Despite being one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria struggles with providing sufficient employment opportunities for its growing population. The National Bureau of Statistics (2022) reported an unemployment rate of over 33%, with youth unemployment even higher. High unemployment leads to increased poverty and social unrest, undermining economic stability. It also results in a loss of potential economic output and reduces consumer spending, which is crucial for economic growth. Addressing unemployment requires targeted policies that promote job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship.

#### **5. Dependence on Oil**

Nigeria's economy is heavily dependent on oil exports, making it vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. The oil sector accounts for a significant portion of the country's GDP and government revenue, but this dependency hinders economic diversification. The volatility of oil prices leads to economic instability, with periods of high prices bringing in revenue windfalls while low prices result in budget deficits and economic downturns. The African Development Bank (2023) emphasizes the need for Nigeria to diversify its economy by developing other

sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Economic diversification would reduce the country's vulnerability to oil price shocks and create a more stable and resilient economy.

## **6. Poor Educational System**

Nigeria's educational system faces numerous challenges that hinder economic development. The quality of education is compromised by inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and a lack of qualified teachers. These issues result in low literacy rates and a workforce that is not adequately prepared for the demands of the modern economy. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2023), Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of out-of-school children globally, which impacts the country's future economic prospects. Improving the education system is crucial for developing a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation and economic growth. This requires substantial investment in educational infrastructure, teacher training, and curriculum development.

## **7. Limited Access to Finance**

Access to finance remains a significant barrier to economic development in Nigeria. Many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are vital for economic growth and job creation, struggle to obtain the financing they need to

expand and innovate. The banking sector often imposes high-interest rates and stringent lending conditions, making it difficult for businesses to access credit. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2021), only a small percentage of SMEs have access to formal financial services. Enhancing access to finance involves improving the regulatory environment, promoting financial inclusion, and encouraging the development of microfinance institutions and alternative funding sources such as venture capital and angel investors.

## **8. Inefficient Agricultural Sector**

Despite its potential, Nigeria's agricultural sector remains inefficient and underdeveloped. Agriculture employs a significant portion of the population, but the sector suffers from low productivity due to outdated farming techniques, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to modern inputs such as fertilizers and high-yield seeds. Climate change and environmental degradation further exacerbate these challenges. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2022) notes that improving agricultural productivity is essential for food security and economic development in Nigeria. This requires investment in agricultural research and development, extension services, and rural infrastructure to support farmers and enhance productivity.

## **9. Weak Institutional Frameworks**

Nigeria's institutional frameworks are often weak, leading to inefficiencies and corruption that hinder economic development. The lack of strong institutions affects policy implementation, regulatory oversight, and the delivery of public services. Weak institutions also contribute to the problem of policy inconsistency, where changes in government lead to shifts in economic policies, creating an unpredictable business environment. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2023) highlights the need for Nigeria to strengthen its institutions to ensure effective governance and sustainable economic growth. This involves reforming public sector management, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and improving transparency and accountability in government operations.

## **10. Environmental Degradation**

Environmental degradation poses a significant threat to Nigeria's economic development. The country faces challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution, which impact agricultural productivity and public health. The Niger Delta region, in particular, suffers from severe environmental damage due to oil spills and gas flaring, affecting local livelihoods and ecosystems. The Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) (2022) reports that addressing environmental issues is crucial for sustainable development. Implementing

effective environmental protection policies, promoting sustainable practices, and investing in renewable energy sources are essential steps to mitigate environmental degradation and support long-term economic growth.

### **Adult Education Programmes for Promotion of Economic Development**

It has been noted earlier that humans especially adults hold the destiny of any nation in their hands because they are those who are already working and participating in development efforts. Adults have been considered both as assets and capital for productive efforts. It is therefore necessary to develop them for they are the procurers, beneficiaries and protectors of economic growth. They are the primary voters, consumers, workers, teachers, scientists and parents of today, this view makes necessary the following adult education programmes for the development of literate, informed, skilled and healthy adult population for a meaningful economic development. Such programmes relevant for the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, motivation and commitment required for productive efforts include the following:

#### **1. Vocational Adult Education**

Vocational and technical training programs are crucial for equipping adults with practical skills that meet the demands of the labor market. These programs focus on trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, automotive repair, and

other technical skills. By providing hands-on training, these programs enhance employability and help fill the skills gap in various industries. According to the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) (2023), vocational and technical training programs are vital for economic growth, as they prepare a skilled workforce capable of supporting the industrial and service sectors. These programs can be implemented through technical colleges, vocational training centers, and on-the-job training initiatives, thereby increasing the economic productivity of the workforce.

## **2. Entrepreneurship Education**

Entrepreneurship education is essential for fostering a culture of innovation and self-employment among adults. This type of education includes training in business management, financial literacy, marketing, and product development. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to start and manage their own businesses, entrepreneurship education helps reduce unemployment and stimulate economic growth. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) (2022) emphasizes that entrepreneurship education is critical for economic development, as it encourages the creation of new businesses, generates employment, and drives economic diversification. Programs can be

offered through business incubators, community colleges, and online platforms to reach a wide audience.

### **3. Literacy Education**

Basic literacy and numeracy programs are fundamental for economic development, particularly in rural and underserved areas. These programs focus on teaching adults the essential reading, writing, and arithmetic skills needed for everyday life and work. Improved literacy and numeracy skills enable individuals to participate more effectively in the economy, access better job opportunities, and make informed decisions. According to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) (2021), literacy programs are a cornerstone of adult education, contributing to personal empowerment and economic development. Community learning centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and adult education institutions can deliver these programs to enhance the basic skills of the adult population.

### **4. Digital Literacy Training**

In the digital age, digital literacy training is vital for economic development. These programs teach adults how to use computers, smartphones, and the internet effectively, covering skills such as word processing, online communication, and cybersecurity. Digital literacy enables individuals to access information, participate in the digital economy, and improve their employability in a

technology-driven world. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (2022) reports that enhancing digital literacy is crucial for bridging the digital divide and promoting economic inclusion. Digital literacy training can be provided through online courses, community tech hubs, and partnerships with technology companies, ensuring that adults have the skills needed for the modern workforce.

### **5. Agricultural Extension Education**

Agricultural extension services play a significant role in promoting economic development, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is a primary livelihood. These programs provide farmers with the latest knowledge and techniques in agriculture, such as improved farming practices, pest control, soil management, and crop rotation. By enhancing agricultural productivity, extension services contribute to food security, increased incomes, and rural development. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2022) highlights that effective extension services are critical for transforming agriculture and driving economic growth. Government agencies, agricultural colleges, and NGOs can implement these programs to support farmers and boost the agricultural sector.

### **6. Health Education Programs**

Health education programs are essential for improving the well-being of adults and, by extension, their economic productivity. These programs cover topics such as nutrition, disease prevention, maternal health, and family planning. By promoting healthy lifestyles and preventive healthcare, health education reduces the burden of disease, lowers healthcare costs, and enhances workforce productivity. The World Health Organization (WHO) (2021) underscores the importance of health education in achieving sustainable economic development. Health education can be delivered through community health centers, mobile clinics, and public health campaigns, ensuring that adults have access to vital health information and services.

## **7. Financial Literacy Programs**

Financial literacy programs are crucial for empowering adults to manage their finances effectively and make informed financial decisions. These programs teach skills such as budgeting, saving, investing, and understanding credit. Improved financial literacy helps individuals achieve financial stability, reduces poverty, and encourages investment in local economies. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (2021) emphasizes the role of financial literacy in economic development, as it enables individuals to participate more fully in the financial system and contribute

to economic growth. Financial literacy programs can be offered through banks, community organizations, and online platforms to reach diverse populations.

### **8. Adult Secondary Education**

Adult secondary education programs provide opportunities for adults to complete their secondary education and obtain a high school diploma or equivalent certification. These programs are important for individuals who dropped out of school and wish to continue their education. By enhancing educational attainment, adult secondary education improves job prospects and earning potential, contributing to economic development. The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) (2022) supports adult secondary education as a means to address educational disparities and promote lifelong learning. Programs can be offered through evening classes, distance learning, and flexible scheduling to accommodate adult learners.

### **9. Continuing Education**

Professional development and continuing education programs are designed to help adults update their skills and knowledge in their current professions. These programs include workshops, seminars, certifications, and advanced degrees in various fields such as healthcare, education, engineering, and business. By keeping the workforce current with industry trends and innovations, professional

development enhances productivity and economic competitiveness. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2022), continuous learning and professional development are essential for adapting to changing labor market demands and promoting economic growth. Employers, professional associations, and educational institutions can collaborate to provide these programs.

### **10. Civic and Community Education**

Civic and community education programs aim to enhance adults' understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities, community engagement, and governance. These programs promote active citizenship, social cohesion, and community development. By empowering individuals to participate in civic activities and community initiatives, civic education strengthens democratic governance and contributes to social and economic development. The National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education (NMEC) (2023) highlights the importance of civic education in fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry. Civic and community education can be delivered through community centers, NGOs, and public awareness campaigns.

### **11. Workers Education**

Workers education programs are designed to provide ongoing training and professional development for employees in various industries. These programs

help workers upgrade their skills, adapt to technological changes, and improve their productivity. Workers education can include on-the-job training, union-sponsored courses, and industry-specific certifications. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2023), workers education is crucial for maintaining a competitive workforce and enhancing job satisfaction. By investing in workers education, employers can reduce turnover rates, increase efficiency, and foster innovation. This, in turn, contributes to economic development by creating a more competent and adaptable workforce.

## **12. Remedial Education**

Remedial education programs target adults who have not achieved basic literacy or numeracy skills, or who need to improve their foundational knowledge to participate effectively in further education or the workforce. These programs are essential for individuals who have had interrupted or inadequate schooling. Remedial education helps bridge the gap for those who need extra support to reach the necessary educational standards. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2022) highlights that remedial education is vital for reducing educational disparities and promoting social inclusion. Programs can be delivered through adult learning centers, community colleges, and online platforms, providing personalized instruction to meet learners' specific needs.

### **13. Second-Chance Education Programs**

Second-chance education programs provide opportunities for adults to re-enter the education system and complete their primary or secondary education. These programs are critical for individuals who dropped out of school and now seek to improve their qualifications for better employment prospects. According to the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) (2023), second-chance education can significantly impact economic development by enabling individuals to achieve higher educational attainment and, consequently, better job opportunities. These programs often offer flexible scheduling, evening classes, and online courses to accommodate adult learners.

### **14. Life Skills Education**

Life skills education programs focus on developing essential skills that are necessary for personal and professional success. These include communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, time management, and interpersonal skills. Life skills education helps individuals navigate daily challenges, make informed decisions, and engage effectively in the workplace and society. The World Bank (2021) emphasizes that life skills education is fundamental for building human capital and fostering economic development. These programs can

be integrated into other adult education initiatives or offered as standalone courses through community organizations, educational institutions, and online platforms.

### **15. Health and Wellness Programs**

Health and wellness programs in adult education promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. These programs educate adults about nutrition, exercise, stress management, and preventive healthcare practices. By improving health outcomes, these programs enhance workforce productivity and reduce healthcare costs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) (2022), promoting health and wellness through education is crucial for sustainable development. Health and wellness programs can be offered through workplaces, community health centers, and online resources, ensuring that adults have access to information and support for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

### **16. Environmental Education**

Environmental education programs aim to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. These programs cover topics such as climate change, conservation, waste management, and renewable energy. By educating adults about the importance of environmental stewardship, these programs contribute to sustainable economic development and resilience against environmental challenges. The Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team

(NEST) (2022) highlights the need for environmental education to support sustainable development goals. Environmental education can be integrated into community education initiatives, schools, and workplaces, encouraging individuals to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

### **17. Community Development Programs**

Community development programs focus on building the capacity of local communities to identify and address their own development needs. These programs often involve training in areas such as community organizing, project management, and participatory planning. By empowering communities, these programs promote social cohesion, economic self-reliance, and local development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2023) emphasizes the role of community development in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Community development programs can be implemented through NGOs, local government initiatives, and community-based organizations.

### **Summary of Reviewed Literature**

In this literature review various scholars expressed their views on the economic importance of adult education in terms of development in the Third World countries especially Nigeria. The researcher made efforts to explain the concept of adult education. Adult education is basically an organized and

sequential learning experience designed to meet felt needs of adults, by way of improving adults in all aspects to enable them make meaningful contribution to their societies. The review also discussed some Adult education programmes which brings about economic development. These programmes includes; literacy education, civic adult education, vocational adult education, health adult education, remedial education and workers education. Such programmes are relevant for the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, motivation and commitment required for improved productivity.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter deals with the procedures and methods. This will be treated under the following sub-headings:

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample and sampling technique
- Instrumentation of the Study
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Administration of Instrument
- Method of Data Analysis.

#### **Research Design**

The descriptive survey research design will be used for this study to investigate the role of Adult Education in promoting Economic Development in IkpobaOkha Local Government Area of Edo State. This research design was considered appropriate because it would enable the researcher to get acquainted with the facts that are needed in relation to the study.

## Population of the Study

The population of this study will consist of all the Adult Educators (facilitators) who are currently participating in one form of Adult Education Programme or the other within IkpobaOkha Local Government Area of Edo State. And from observation through the attendance registers and signing book for the various Adult education centres in the area under investigation, the total population has an estimate of 70 adult educators (facilitators) as shown in the table below:

S/N	Centres	Population Number
1.	Pioneer Educational Centre	28
2.	Pre – GCE Examiner School of Reading and Writing	20
3.	Wisdom Adult Literacy Centre	10
4.	Brilliant School of Reading and Writing	12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>

*(Fieldwork, 2024).*

## Sampling and Sampling Technique

From the population of the study above, a total of 40 facilitators will be selected as sample size for the study. This will be achieved by randomly selecting four (4) adult literacy centres within the area under investigation and through a simple random technique, 10 participants will be selected from each of the four selected

adult literacy centres to constitute the study’s sample size. A break down of the sample for the study is as presented in the table below:

**Table 1: Number of Facilitators in Selected Centers**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Centres</b>	<b>Sample</b>
1.	Pioneer Educational Centre	10
2.	Pre – GCE Examiner School of Reading and Writing	10
3.	Wisdom Adult Literacy Centre	10
4.	Brilliant School of Reading and Writing	10
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>40</b>

### **Research Instrument**

The instrument that will be used for collecting the relevant data for the study is a self designed questionnaire. The questionnaire will be segmented into two sections; A and B. The section A will contain items relating to the Bio-data of the respondents, while Section B will contain items relating to the research questions raised to guide the study. The instrument will contain twenty (20) items which will be rated using the likert point scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD).

### **Validity of instrument**

To guarantee the validity of the instrument the drafted copy of questionnaire will be sent to the project supervisor for scrutiny and on the basis of this, the corrected version will be printed for administration.

### **Reliability of Instrument**

The test retest procedure will be used to obtain the reliability of the instrument. The constructed questionnaire will be administered on two occasions on a sampled group of twenty (20) subjects within an interval of two weeks. Thereafter, their responses on each occasion will be collated and correlated using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation formula to obtain the reliability index coefficient.

### **Administration of Instrument**

In administering the questionnaire, the face to face method will be adopted in order to minimize the chance of errors in the process of responding to it and to avoid missing of questionnaires. For those who need clarity the items in the questionnaire will be read out and explained to them.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected will be analyzed using descriptive statistics. This will basically involve tables, frequency counts and simple percentages.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the presentation of results; interpretation and analysis of data collected for the study. The questionnaire contained two broad segments. The first segment contains the respondents bio-data, the second segment seeks to analyze responses related to the research questions for the study.

#### SECTION A: Demographic Data

**Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents.**

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>MALE</b>	15	38%
<b>FEMALE</b>	25	62%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.1 shows that 25 respondents representing 62% were females while 15 respondents representing 38% were males used in the study.

**Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
21-25 years	7	18%
26 – 30 years	14	35%
31 years above	19	47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>

The data in the table above shows the age distribution of respondents. The data shows that most of the respondents are within the age of 31 and above years which forms 47% of the population while 35% of the respondents were within the age bracket of 26 – 30 years, 18% were within the age bracket of 21-25 years..

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status.**

<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Married	23	58%
Single	8	20%
Others	9	22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 above shows that 23 respondents representing 58% of the respondents out of the entire sample size were married, 20% of the respondents were single while 22% of the respondents were either divorced or separated.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation**

<b>OCCUPATION</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Farmer	19	48%
Trader	14	35%
Tailor & Others	7	17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table above shows that 48% of the respondents were farmers, 35% were traders while 17% were artisans.

## SECTION B: Analysis of Research Questions

### RESEARCH QUESTION 1: How do the people in the rural communities perceive Adult Education Programmes?

**Table 1:** Responses on how the people in the rural communities perceive Adult Education Programmes.

S/N	Items	Frequency		Percentage	
		Agreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Disagreed
1.	Adult education is only for the aged.	28	12	70%	30%
2.	To rural dwellers, there is no need for adult education programmes.	25	15	63%	37%
3.	Rural dwellers always doubt the potentials of Adult Education programmes	21	19	53%	47%

The table above shows the different perceptions of rural communities as regards adult education programmes. 70% believed adult education is only for the aged while 30% believed otherwise. 63% of the respondents felt there is no need for adult education programmes while 37% of the respondents countered the claim. 53% of rural dwellers doubted the potentials of adult education programmes while 47% of the respondents had no doubt about the potentials of adult education.

**RESEARCH QUESTION 2: To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the social development of the rural communities?**

**Table 2:** Responses on the extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the social development of the rural communities

S/N	Items	Frequency		Percentage	
		Agreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Disagreed
4	Adult education programme can help shapen the behavior of adult learners	25	15	63%	37%
5	Adult education programme can help adults to meaningfully contribute to the society	22	18	55%	45%
6	Adult education programme can positively influence the lifestyles of adults.	30	10	75%	25%

As regards the extent adult education programmes can help to improve the social development of the rural communities, majority of the respondents were optimistic about it. Precisely, 63% of the respondents were of the opinion that adult education can help shapen the behavior of adult learners, 55% said Adult education programme can help adults to meaningfully contribute to the society while 75% opined that Adult education programme can positively influence the lifestyles of adults. However, 37%, 45% and 25% respectively countered the claim.

**RESEARCH QUESTION 3: To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the economic development of the rural communities?**

**Table 3:** Responses on extent adult education programmes have helped to improve the economic development of the rural communities.

S/N	ITEMS	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE	
		Agreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Disagreed
7	Adult education programmes provide the adult participants with vocational skills	30	10	75%	25%
8	There is increase in the productivity and income of adult participants through knowledge gained from participating in various adult education programmes.	12	28	30%	70%
9	Adult education provides the adult participants with entrepreneurship skill.	25	15	63%	37%

From the analysis above, majority of the respondent also had positive view about adult education as regards economic development.

75% agreed that Adult education programmes can provide the adult participants with vocational skills while 25% of the respond. Surprisingly, majority of the respondents (70%) were of the opinion that there is no increase in the productivity and income of adult participants through knowledge gained from participating in various adult education programmes. However only 30% were of a different

opinion. 62% opined that adult education provides the adult participants with entrepreneurship skill.

**RESEARCH QUESTION 4: What are the possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities?**

**Table 4:** Responses on possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities.

S/N	Items	Frequency		Percentage	
		Agreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Disagreed
10	Literacy Education	21	19	53%	47%
11	Adult Vocational Education	22	18	55%	45%
12	Continuing Education	25	15	63%	37%

From the table above, majority of the respondents agreed that some possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities include literacy education, adult vocational education and continuing education. These were the claims of 53%, 55% and 63% of the respondents respectively.

**RESEARCH QUESTION 5: What are the benefits of Adult Education programmes in rural communities?**

**Table 4:** Responses on benefits of Adult Education programmes in rural communities.

S/N	Items	Frequency		Percentage	
		Agreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Disagreed
13	Adult education can help adult participants to acquire good means of livelihood	25	15	63%	37%
14	Promoting Independent learning	22	18	55%	45%
15	Economic stability	30	10	75%	25%

From the table above, majority of the respondents 63% of the respondents asserted that adult education can help adult participants to acquire good means of livelihood, 37% however disagreed. 55% of the respondents believed that another benefit of adult education programmes in rural communities is the fact that it helps promoting independent learning, although 45% disagreed to the assertion. Majority of the respondents (75%) believed that adult education programmes help

in terms of economic stability generally, while 25% of the respondents countered the claim.

### **Discussion of Findings**

This study investigated the role of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development in IkpobaOkha Local Government Area of Edo State. Findings from the study have been quite revealing. Firstly, the study found that there are different perceptions of rural communities as regards adult education programmes as it is believed by most adults that adult education is only for the aged. The study also found that most rural dwellers doubted the potentials of adult education programmes.

Secondly, the study found that, for rural dwellers, adult education programmes can help to improve the social development of the rural communities,shapen the behavior of adult learners, help adults to meaningfully contribute to the society and positively influence the lifestyles of adults. The study found that there is a nexus between adult education and economic development. The study further unraveled that Adult education programmes can provide the adult participants with vocational skills, increase in the productivity and income of adult participants through knowledge gained from participating in various adult education programmes as well as providing adult learners with entrepreneurship skills. This

is in line with the findings of OECD (2021), who asserted that countries that prioritize adult education witness higher productivity levels and better economic outcomes.

Furthermore, adult education programmes such as literacy education, adult vocational education and continuing were identified as being effective in rural communities. Lastly, the study asserted that adult education can help adult participants to acquire good means of livelihood, promote independent learning among adults as well as promoting economic stability generally. This tallies with the assertion of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2021) that adult education is essential for promoting lifelong learning, personal development, and social inclusion, serving as a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development goals. This further corresponds with the findings of the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) (2023), that investing in adult education yields significant returns in terms of improved health outcomes, economic productivity, and social cohesion, underscoring its vital role in contemporary society.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents the summary of the findings and conclusion reached. It also presents the recommendations based on the findings of the study.

#### **Summary**

This study investigated the role of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development in IkpobaOkha Local Government Area of Edo State. To achieve the objective of the study, five (5) research questions were raised to guide the investigation. These include:

1. How do the people in the rural communities perceive Adult Education Programmes?
2. To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the social development of the rural communities?
3. To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the economic development of the rural communities?
4. What are the possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities?
5. What are the benefits of Adult Education programmes in rural communities?

A Review of related literatures was carried out to enable the researcher have a better insight of the study. The study was a descriptive survey design while the instrument used to collect data for the study was a structured questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages while the results were presented using frequencies and tables.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that adult Education is a veritable tool for economic development in rural areas of Nigeria. This is owing to the fact that adult education has programmes designed for adults who constitute up to 55% of Nigeria's population and who are also the economically productive and active citizens. The irony is that, majority of the illiterates in the country are located within this category of citizens. It is this category of citizens that relevant adult education programmes are designed to equip with relevant knowledge, attitudes, skills and commitment required to drive meaningful economic development in Nigeria. It is on this background that adult education programmes are designed to identify and forestall problems which form a cog in the wheel of development by developing a literate, informed, skilled and healthy adult population which is a pre-requisite for meaningful economic development.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The study recommends that government and relevant stakeholders should place more attention on adequate funding of Adult Education programmes in the country.
2. Adequate facilities, infrastructural resources and materials needed for effective delivery of adult education services should be provided by the government and relevant stakeholders in rural communities.
3. Adults should be informed on how adult education can educate them on how to live in a healthy environment so that they can live in good health
4. A systematic Adult education policy should be adopted in Nigeria. This should be guided in both conception and implementation by a philosophy of continuing education or lifelong learning.
5. Adult education practice should be reviewed constantly, organized and systematized in order to develop a more coherent and useful agenda for adult education to give it the needed respect among other disciplines.
6. The government should therefore be enlightened to overcome their reductionist and limited vision of adult education programmes in rural areas.

## REFERENCES

- African Development Bank. (2023). *Need for Nigeria to diversify its economy*. African Development Bank.
- Brookings Institution.(2022). *Economic mobility and the importance of adult education*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Central Bank of Nigeria.(2021). *Access to finance and financial literacy in Nigeria*.Central Bank of Nigeria.
- European Association for the Education of Adults. (2023). *The role of adult education in promoting social inclusion and economic development*. EAEA Publications.
- European Commission. (2022). *Entrepreneurship education for adults: Fostering innovation and job creation*. European Commission.
- Food and Agriculture Organization. (2022). *Improving agricultural productivity for economic development in Nigeria*. Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Harvard Kennedy School.(2021). *Social capital community benchmark survey*.Harvard University.
- International Labour Organization.(2021). *Lifelong learning and workforce adaptability*.International Labour Organization.
- International Labour Organization.(2022). *Continuous learning and professional development for economic growth*.International Labour Organization.
- International Monetary Fund. (2023). *Strengthening institutions for sustainable economic growth in Nigeria*. International Monetary Fund.
- International Telecommunication Union. (2022). *Enhancing digital literacy for economic inclusion*. International Telecommunication Union.
- Jarvis, P. (2020). *The evolution of adult education: Historical perspectives*. Routledge.

- Knowles, M. S. (2021). *The theory of andragogy: Principles of adult learning*. Jossey-Bass.
- McKinsey Global Institute. (2023). *Addressing skills gaps through adult education*. McKinsey & Company.
- National Board for Technical Education.(2023). *Vocational and technical training programs for economic growth*.National Board for Technical Education.
- National Bureau of Statistics.(2022). *Unemployment rate and economic stability in Nigeria*.National Bureau of Statistics.
- National Center for Education Statistics.(2021). *Adult civic participation and education*.U.S. Department of Education.
- National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education.(2023). *Civic education and community engagement*.National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education.
- National Open University of Nigeria.(2022). *Adult secondary education for lifelong learning*.National Open University of Nigeria.
- National Open University of Nigeria.(2023). *Second-chance education for economic development*.National Open University of Nigeria.
- Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team. (2022). *Addressing environmental degradation for sustainable development*. Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.(2021). *Productivity and economic outcomes of adult education*. OECD Publishing.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.(2022). *Formal, non-formal, and informal adult education*. OECD Publishing.
- Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria.(2022). *Entrepreneurship education for economic development*.Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria.

- Transparency International. (2023). *Corruption Perceptions Index: Nigeria*. Transparency International.
- UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report.(2023). *Digital literacy and reducing the digital divide*.UNESCO Publishing.
- UNESCO. (2021). *The importance of adult education for sustainable development*. UNESCO Publishing.
- United Nations Development Programme.(2021). *Inclusive education policies for reducing disparities*.United Nations Development Programme.
- United Nations Development Programme.(2023). *Role of community development in sustainable economic growth*.United Nations Development Programme.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.(2022). *Adult education's role in poverty reduction*.UNESCO Publishing.
- World Bank.(2020). *Targeted adult education for lowering unemployment*.World Bank.
- World Bank. (2021). *Defining economic development: Beyond GDP*. World Bank.
- World Bank.(2021). *Life skills education and economic development*.World Bank.
- World Bank.(2022). *Nigeria's infrastructure deficit and economic growth*. World Bank
- World Economic Forum.(2022). *Women's education and economic growth*.World Economic Forum.
- World Health Organization.(2021). *Health literacy and economic productivity*.World Health Organization.

**APPENDIX**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE ON**

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is solely for the purpose of research. The researcher is carrying out a study on: Role of Adult Education in Promoting Economic Development in IkpobaOkha Local Government Area of Edo State. Kindly help as much as possible to supply the needed information. Your response shall be treated with utmost confidence and confidentiality.

Please read the questions carefully and tick in the box provided that corresponds to the answer of your choice.

**Section A** (Personal data)

- Gender: Male (  ) Female (  )
- Age: 21-25years (  ), 26-30years (  ), 31-35years (  ), 36-40years (  ), 41years and above.
- Marital status: Married (  ), Single (  ), Divorced (  ), Widow (  ).
- Occupation: Farmer (  ), Trader (  ), Tailor (  ), Hair-Dresser (  ), Others (  ).

**Section B**

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
	<b>How do the people in the rural communities perceive Adult Education Programmes?</b>				
1.	Adult education is only for the aged.				
2.	To rural dwellers, there is no need for adult education programmes.				
3.	Rural dwellers always doubt the potentials of Adult Education programmes				
	<b>To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the social development of the rural communities?</b>	SA	A	D	SD
4.	Adult education programme can help shapen the behavior of adult learners				
5.	Adult education programme can help adults to meaningfully				

	contribute to the society				
6.	Adult education programme can positively influence the lifestyles of adults.				
	<b>To what extent has adult education programmes helped to improve the economic development of the rural communities?</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
7.	Adult education programmes provide the adult participants with vocational skills				
8.	There is increase in the productivity and income of adult participants through knowledge gained from participating in various adult education programmes.				
9.	Adult education provides the adult participants with entrepreneurship skill.				
	<b>What are the possible strategies used in adult education programmes for the socio- economic development of the rural communities?</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
10.	Literacy Education				
11.	Adult Vocational Education				
12.	Continuing Education				
	<b>What are the benefit of adult education programmes in rural communities?</b>				
13.	Adult education can help adult participants to acquire good means of livelihood				
14.	Promoting Independent learning				
15.	Economic stability				