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Citizenship Education as a Catalyst for Resilience: Shaping a Sustainable Future for Nigerian Society.

[1]Victoria Simon Akpama, Ph.D vickysweetakpama@gmail.com	A	[1]Department of Social Studies and Civic Education, Faculty of Arts & Social Science Education, University of Calabar, Calabar.
[1]Ohanyere, C. Christopher, Ph.D ohanyerechristopher@gmail.com ORCID: 0000-0002-0438-0114	B	
Ohanyere, O. Lilian, Ph.D liliangift2ik@yahoo.com ORCID: 0000-0002-4393-188X	C	Department of Modern Languages and Translation, Faculty of Arts, University of Calabar, Calabar.

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Correspondence Email:
vickysweetakpama@gmail.com

Abstract

The fundamental argument of this paper is centred on the significance of citizenship education as a precursor to the creation of a resilient and sustainable future Nigerian society. In a broad sense, education is conceptualized as the process of receiving or imparting systematic teaching, usually at a school or university, or the enlightenment that results from such learning, with the goal of maximizing each person's potential. While citizenship education is understood to be a methodical process of learning and engagement that gives people the values, knowledge, and skills they need to engage in public life, make morally sound decisions, and improve the welfare of their communities and the country. Thus, the paper found that the Nigerian society needs intentional, multi-sectoral interventions to build a resilient and sustainable future. Important avenues include advancing women's empowerment and gender equality, encouraging the growth of creative skills and an entrepreneurial culture, bolstering MSMEs as the foundation of the economy, guaranteeing universal

	access to high-quality education, and making large investments in science and technology to spur diversification and problem-solving. The paper concluded by arguing, among other things, that citizenship education should be taught explicitly with the goal of instilling in students the values of empathy, patriotism, collaboration, unity, integrity, transparency, and accountability, which can greatly foster the building of a sustainable, and resilient society.

Introduction

Every country in the world strives to use social, cultural, economic, political, and technological advancements as the catalyst to transform its society and build a swift, resilient, and sustainable future. High-quality education, gender equality, extensive democratic governance, robust SMEs, national consciousness, science and technology, inclusivity, consistency in development, morality, and self-will, as well as harmonious coexistence among various ethnic and religious groups, must all be the cornerstones of modern Nigerian society. If properly developed and used, Nigeria's vast landmass and wealth of natural and human resources might make it the pride of Africa and one of the most prosperous nations in the world.However, the once-promising nation has become the "poverty headquarter" of the world as a result of years of inefficient, biased, corrupt, visionless, thoughtless, insensitive, and incompetent leadership. Given that the majority of the nation's population currently lives in a state of multilayered poverty, it is logical to assume that the wealth of the nation's natural and human resources has instead become a cause of suffering. Under both military and civilian governments, the nation's ruling class has consistently failed to plan, develop, and implement a strategic and functional framework that would have altered the course of events and sped up the political, economic, social, and technological development of Nigerian society as a whole.

The truth is that Nigerians from a wide range of backgrounds exhibit high levels of immorality, greed, impunity, insensitivity, intolerance, moral decay, lawlessness, and bigotry based on ethnicity and religion, all of which have impeded the country's progress over the years. Given Nigeria's current precarious state, which suggests that the nation has become socially, economically, politically, morally, and spiritually unable, many Nigerians seem to be losing interest and hope. It follows that Nigeria, as a growing nation, is clearly standing on a precarious foundation, plagued by self-inflicted pain that is impeding its efforts to create a robust, sustainable, and bright future for upcoming generations.As neither the leaders nor

the governed are demonstrating any evidence of mending the grave situation that is tearing the nation apart, Nigeria appears to be moving without direction or vision on a daily basis. This according to Owede (2018), a nation exists to fulfill the ultimate purpose of nationhood; if it fails to do so, it will serve two unintended, inevitable purposes: it will be an easy way for the privileged class to take advantage of the system for their own benefit without thinking twice, and it will serve as a breeding ground for the underprivileged class to hate the country because of unfulfilled expectations and dreams from the system. The aforementioned remark appears to be a realistic picture of Nigeria, where the bulk of the populace has lost faith in the government and its leaders.

Additionally, Olayiwola (2013) said that poor leadership, a lack of moral integrity, a culture of financial mismanagement, indiscipline, covetousness, corruption, selfishness, intolerance, and unequal income distribution are the main reasons why Nigerians lack the proper societal values. This essentially means that the new normal in Nigeria is criminality, lawlessness, disregard for the rule of law, impunity, bribery, misconduct, recklessness, illegitimate wealth accumulation, falsehood, forgery, and mediocrity, rather than honesty, hard work, integrity, excellence, and truthfulness. Without the combined efforts of all the groups, no one person, ethnic group, or religious organization can successfully build and grow a nation since it is a truly audacious endeavour that cannot be left to a small number of people or groups.Therefore, the joint efforts of all concerned individuals are crucial to building a prosperous, sustainable, and resilient country. Since it is up to Nigerians to better their country, a conscious reorientation and education of the populace regarding their rights, roles, responsibilities, patriotism, tolerance, collaboration, and integration are required to build an active, resilient, and sustainable future for Nigerian society. Additionally, it urges Nigerians to improve their conscience (mindset), which will surely aid them in fully understanding how to work together to create a peaceful, democratic, humane, and harmonious society. This could open the door to long-term sustainability, political stability, and economic prosperity.

Nevertheless, as demonstrated by extreme poverty, pervasive insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, and pervasive corruption, Nigeria continues to suffer from chronic instability and underdevelopment despite its vast people and material resources (Thom-otuya&Inko-tariah, 2016). A fundamental issue endangering the country's attempts to create a robust, sustainable, and inclusive society is the absence of responsible, patriotic, and informed citizenship, where civic consciousness is low and indifference and ethnic jingoism are pervasive.Oyewole and Osalusi(2016) aligning with the above submission affirmed that, systemic failures, a misalignment of people' rights and obligations, and a weakened education system that is unable to generate the human capital needed for sustainable development are all made possible by this shortfall.The fact remains that as the country grapples with issues

such as banditry, terrorism, kidnapping, endemic corruption, ethnic tensions, and profiling as well as economic disparities, the need for a robust citizenship education programme has become increasingly apparent. Citizenship education, defined as the process of equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for active participation in civic life, holds the potential to transform Nigeria's sociopolitical landscape and pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.Citizenship education is a portent course of instruction that teaches and equips individuals, both young and old, with desirable knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to make significant contributions to the improvement of future Nigerian society.Therefore, the challenge is to successfully use citizenship education as a transformative instrument to get over these sociopolitical obstacles and create a shared commitment to a resilient, sustainable, and stable Nigerian future.

Conceptual clarifications

Education

Education is the process of forming and refining an individual's disposition with the specific goal of equipping him or her with the worthwhile values, thoughts, skills and knowledge needed to contribute towards the transformation of the society. Similarly, Essien and Ohanyere (2023) viewed education as the process of moulding a person's personality with the explicit goal of obtaining the skills required to lead out the innate and learned experiences needed to significantly contribute to the creation of a more vibrant, healthy, and democratic society. Education encourages healthy human transformation, creatively develops ideas, improves intellectual capacity, and most importantly, promotes the social and cultural advancement of a nation (Essien& Ohanyere, 2023). According to UNESCO's Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights, and Democracy (2005), education must fit students for personal liberty and responsibility while also preparing them to deal with challenging and uncertain circumstances. Also, Obot (2020) defined education as a social process that provides everything necessary to foster learner behavioural patterns that society considers culturally acceptable. Personal accountability must be coupled with an understanding of the importance of civic engagement, of working with others to solve problems and advance a just, peaceful, and democratic society (UNESCO, 2005).

Moreso, education all over the globe as Esu (2019) noted, is seen as a process of transmitting the cultural heritage, stabilizing the present, and improving or changing the future of the people. Esu and Tunaid (2000) opined that education is a tool for social transformation, growth, and sustainable development of the nation. This is as Esu (2012) noted that education is one of the veritable and potent instrument for change and development globally. This in essence implies that effective national development depends on education, and the bedrock

of education is the acquisition of quality knowledge that leads to learning in a society (Jegede, 2007). Education therefore serves as the basic means of human development as it equips an individual learner for all round spiritual, emotional, psychological, moral, analytical, innovative, and intellectual development. The above assertion agrees with Essien& Ohanyere (2023) submission that "quality education has always been a source of competence development, acquisition of creative thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills, innovative ideas, added value and the ability to build advanced, humane and civilized societies rooted in peaceful coexistence". It inculcates in learners the right kind of attitude needed to profoundly function in a civilized and democratic society. In accordance with the humanists' theories, education serves to foster a child's natural abilities so that he or she can contribute to society in accordance with his or her skills, interests, and needs (Kingdom and Maekae, 2013).

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge or undergoing training in every aspect of life; physically, mentally, academically, socially, spiritually among others to enable one become self-reliant, self-aware, as well as a prominent member of the society that would contribute to the development of the economy (Ogbonnaya, 2020). According to Essien& Ohanyere (2023), the success of Nigeria's education system depends on its ability to develop students' capacity for intelligence, competition, creativity, entrepreneurship, analytical thought, and innovation, as well as the good character traits required for their future social lives.It is interesting to note that the rigorous educational activities will help Nigerian citizens acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, ideas, and skills necessary to develop the intellectual drive and talent needed to contribute socially, politically, economically, and technologically to the construction of a resilient future free from prejudice, inequality, corruption, nepotism, and fanaticism of any kind.Education, according to Obot and Essien in Obot (2020), is an important means to:

1. Produce an educated person who is a good citizen of a civilized society.
2. Develop educated people, responsible citizens of the culture and society by fulfilling their social responsibilities.
3. Provide learners with positive moral competencies and valuable life experiences in accordance with cultural and ethical standards.

Furthermore, one of the most important benefits of education in a society is that it improves people's intellectual abilities, raises their standard of living, and also helps people contribute to the overall sustainable growth of society. United Nations (2022) noted that, in today's world, education is supposed to implant in students knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that will enable them to flourish in more varied and fast-changing communities and contribute to individual and community well-being. Given the challenges of climate change, violent and

hateful ideologies, a growing backlash against gender equality, conflicts, and/or the risk of global pandemics, as well as their disproportionate and gendered impact, education must support learners in becoming change agents to transform society to care for people and the planet as responsible global citizens (United Nations, 2022). When the school curriculum is structured with 35% white-collar job tailored and 65% entrepreneurial skills acquisition tailored to generate graduates who end up being job creators rather than job seekers, the Nigerian education system has a higher chance of transforming Nigerian society resiliently and sustainably.

Citizenship education

Citizenship education is a concept generated by two distinct terms, citizenship and education, thus we must first define citizenship before describing citizenship education, as the concept of education has already been defined. Therefore, citizenship is a deliberate legal relationship existing between a citizen and his or her nation in which the citizen possess legal and civil rights. Edinyang and Yusuf (2021) defined citizenship as a state member with social and political rights. According to Ohanyere, Bassey, Adie and Dan-Asabe, (2022), citizenship is also"someone who lives inside a country's geographical borders and swears allegiance to the government, as well as someone who has full access to all of the government's advantages". Citizens of any nation bear the responsibility of reforming, transforming, and rebuilding the environment to establish a sustainable and resilient future for the benefit of everyone. Citizens who are concerned with the advancement of society patriotically pledge loyalty to defend their nation's sovereignty and always consider what they can do for the nation rather than what the nation can do for them. Patriotism, transparency, accountability, honesty, integrity, diligence, and respect for the rule of law are distinguishing characteristics of good citizenship that serve as a hallmark for achieving sustainability.

Now, what then is citizenship education? Citizenship education is defined as the deliberate act of teaching specific information, values, habits, abilities, and attitudes that the society considers valuable and acceptable for a society's survival and advancement. Similar to this, Gimba and Gimba (2012) define citizenship education as "the systematic process by which young people acquire or internalize the values, sentiments, and norms of the society in which they live and actively participate to ensure that the common good of the citizens of the society is catered for, including resisting anti-social and unguided youthful exuberance".Citizenship education, according to Olaniyonu (2012), entails the fulfilment of a citizen's functions in a society, or the societal roles required of citizens, which also necessitate involvement. Individuals in society must acquire suitable and relevant knowledge, experience, attitudes, values, and skills of rational decision-making and social action in order to be successful and effective participants, the author noted. Omare (1999) perceives that at various times, the need

arises for countries to seek solution to pressing problems of national importance, and this has been the position of various countries in search of political stability, unity, peace and progress, and the instrument employed always to achieve unity and national consciousness is citizenship education.Citizenship education, as Anumba (2013) noted, comprises socializing youths against all sorts of antisocial conduct and imparting qualities such as respect, labour dignity, and other positive characteristics that help to the building of a strong, self-sustaining, and dependable nation.Citizenship education, according to Nwaji (2011), is a tool that may be utilized to teach Nigerians the values of responsible citizenship and how to act in a way that supports national cohesion and progress. The development of young learners' ability to predict the future and their unique, proactive, and optimistic mindset are both essential components of an effective citizenship education programme. These qualities will enable the learners to see what lies ahead and devise strategies to positively influence it, ultimately creating a resilient and sustainable future for the transformation of society.

Furthermore, according to Smith (2010), citizenship education instils in youths the belief that they can become better future leaders by teaching them civic responsibilities, which include active participation in the development of democracy, decision-making and evaluative skills, learning public policy, and teaching them the value of service.Citizenship education is also defined as the deliberate act of teaching specific information, values, habits, abilities, and attitudes that the community considers valuable and acceptable for the group's survival and advancement (Ohanyere et al, 2022). According to Fan (2014), citizenship education strengthens people's understanding of their basic human rights, enhances political literacy, imparts social values, and exposes pupils to government operations, all of which support national integration. The aim of citizenship education is to create active citizens who are members of their communities and society who are socially aware, sensitive, adaptive, and accountable. Citizenship education is a tool for empowering individuals and groups to fight for societal transformation, such as social justice, progressive citizenship, and critical analysis, political engagement, and cross-cultural respect and understanding, noted Gimba, Essien, and Gimba (2019). Citizenship education generates law-abiding, conscientious citizens, according to Edinyang, Unimke, Ubi, Opoh, and Iwok (2017), who not only comprehend their rights and obligations, but also analyze how those rights relate with the rights of others.Gimba (2016) concluded that citizenship education is intended to develop inter-ethnic understanding among Nigeria's ethnic divide in order to instill in people the power and beauty of diversity, which can contribute to nation-building, in an attempt to clarify the importance of citizenship education.

Moorse cited in Ohanyere et al (2022) noted that citizenship education is a set of educational practices and activities aimed at better enabling persons (both young and elderly) to

participate actively in democratic life by assuming and exercising their rights and responsibilities in society. In a nutshell, it focuses on students' social, cultural, and political development, including helping them see themselves as members of society, developing their understanding of democracy, diversity, social justice, fairness, rights and responsibilities, and learning to positively contribute to their communities and democratic and public life, noted Moorse in (Ohanyere et al, 2022). Citizenship education has thus evolved to comprehend more than just the teaching of facts about the political structure and operations, as well as the memorization of government bureaucrats' names; it entails the promotion of good citizenship in its broadest definition (Adie, Dan-Asabe and Ohanyere, 2022).

Goals of Citizenship Education in Nigeria

In order to promote coordinated, harmonious, peaceful, and stable democratic growth that may support sustainable and resilient future development of Nigerian society, citizenship education is primarily designed to establish a humane, disciplined, and orderly society. As stated by Williams (2014), these objectives are listed below:

1. To reduce the negative effects of plurality or diversity of cultures, and clash of political interest for one Nigeria through effective use of schools, mass media as an instrument for nation building by teaching the subject citizenship education.
2. Increase national consciousness of Nigerians so that Nigeria remains an indivisible entity where every Nigerian will consider himself a Nigerian first before seeing himself as a Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa or Muslim Christian and so on.
3. To Make Nigerian citizens to be knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities.
4. Encourage people to participate in society and be productive.

The successful attainment of the aforementioned citizenship education objectives would contribute to the creation of active, patriotic, responsible, productive, dynamic, and good citizens who are specifically equipped to make significant contributions toward constructing a resilient, sustainable Nigerian society free from all forms of prejudice, sentiment, discrimination, and ethnic and religious bigotry. A great population of educated, intelligent, polite, enlightened, active, inventive, and creative citizens is necessary for a country to quickly reform society so that everyone can live in peace. Future Nigerian society would strive to create a nonviolent, positive, humane, and supportive atmosphere that might inspire, guide, and empower its citizens to work together to improve the fortunes of the country.

Challenges restraining Nigeria from building a sustainable and resilient future

Due to the noted interwoven barriers that work against the country's possibilities of progress at a quick rate to keep up with the constantly changing world, navigating the future in this era of sustainability and resiliency in current Nigerian society has become an audacious

undertaking. Therefore, the following pitfalls are only a few of the many barriers impeding Nigeria's efforts to build a resilient and sustainable future:

i. **Corruption:** Due to their insincerity and daredevil exploits in various parts of the world, Nigerians, according to Obialor (2016), are among the world's most corrupt and dishonest people. Nigerian citizens' lives are now intricately entwined with corruption, posing a grave threat to the growth of a strong, sustainable and resilient society. Officers of the police, civil defence, navy, and army now easily extort money from the public; students now pay for grades in schools; people now pay to secure jobs; businesses also pay to get contracts; and politicians steal freely from the public funds entrusted to their care with impunity.

ii. **Lack of innovation:**The issue of establishing a sustainable and resilient future internationally, and notably in contemporary Nigerian society, is evidently becoming more innovative daily, necessitating drastic, critical, and proactive decisions to become feasible. Nigeria as a nation has struggled with sustainability and resilience in growth as a result of a lack of creativity in important decision making processes. Nigeria, as a developing country, may turn obstacles into opportunities if she could instil in her citizens a culture of entrepreneurship, teamwork, and new skill techniques.

iii. **Cultural diversity:**A diverse community presents too many problems, increasing the likelihood of disagreement, and disagreement complicates the construction of a sustainable, resilient, united, integrated, and cohesive society. Nigeria, as a pluralistic society, is home to a diverse cultural, lingual, regional, ethnic, and religious population, which has hampered the country's possibilities of achieving long-term national development. Nigerians must first establish a profound awareness of cultural variety, then support the expansion of various ideas and opinions while providing a sufficiently unified collaboration to get things done competently and effectively.

iv. **Insecurity:**Insecurity poses a threat to peace, unity, harmonious, and peaceful coexistence, which is in direct opposition to one of citizenship education's goals of "unity" (Unimna and Akim, 2018). Nigerians have a great deal of anxiety for their own country since there are everyday tragedies involving human lives and valuable property worth millions of naira. There is no chance of building a sustainable and resilient future in modern Nigerian society without the security of life and public utilities, as well as unity among the diverse people of Nigeria.

v. **Lack of strategic thinking and problem-solving skills:** Nigeria, a developing nation, lacks the strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities among its teeming population that would enable it significantly contribute to the creation of a resilient and sustainable bright future. Nigeria must decide that strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities are the keys to sustainability and resiliency and must ensure that every Young Nigerian develops robust aptitude at all levels in order to navigate the future.

vi. **Global political tensions:**The global economies are facing several geopolitical challenges, including the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War, Israeli-Hamas War, China's Covid crisis, the China-US supremacy conflict, UK-Brexit, climate-related happenings, unpredictable and increasingly preferential trade policies, and ongoing pandemic-related economic distortions, all of which make navigation difficult for all countries. Nigeria's efforts to build a sustainable and resilient future are impeded by the world's major nations' ongoing economic and political uncertainties, as the country relies heavily on loans, grants, aids, and importation of finished goods from these developed economies.

vii. **Poverty:** As the cost of living rises and the means of subsistence dwindles on a daily basis as a result of the government's unfavourable economic policies and failure to chart a course for rapid economic growth and development, poverty has become a social phenomenon afflicting majority of Nigerian citizens (Ohanyere et al., 2022). According to Johnson (2016), poverty is the root cause of all problems and destabilizes individuals and institutions to the point that only its reduction or elimination may provide solace and hope.

viii. **Religious Prejudices**: Every community is free to develop its religion but not at the cost of other religions. Nigeria is a secular country but still, there are sudden outbreaks of violence in the name of religion. Our people do not have sufficient knowledge about different religions and ways of life of others. So they become suspicious of other religions and hate them which creates an obstacle on the way to national unity and integration (Uriah, Amadi and Moneme, 2020).

ix. **Absence of true federalism**: Another significant barrier to national progress, unity and integration is Nigeria's unbalanced federal arrangement as it exists today. ImhonopiandUrim, as cited in Uriah et al (2020), made the case in their in-depth study on the failure of the federal system to address the issues of unity, local control, and development in the nation that federalism, as it is currently practiced in Nigeria, suffers from a lack of fiscal federalism, an overconcentration of power at the center, lax or non-viable states, the absence of state police, among other things.

x. **Poorly implemented education policies:** The state of Nigeria's education system has reached a worrying point. This tragic decline in the quality of education in Nigeria is mostly attributable to inept execution caused by a combination of factors, including insufficient financing, lack of political will, a lack of programme continuity, and systemic, entrenched corruption. The ability of a country to build a healthy and sustainable future society is hampered by a deteriorating education system.

Moreover, a cluster of deep-seated issues, which are further detailed below, severely limit Nigeria's development toward a resilient and sustainable future:

Challenges	Impact on Sustainability and Resilience
Endemic Corruption	Drains national wealth, misallocates resources, and hinders economic growth (Ngwu&Ugwu, 2015;Atakpa&Akpan, 2023). It leads to infrastructural decay, poor educational delivery, and denies citizens basic services. The country's score of 28 out of 100 on the Corruption Perception Index (2016) highlights this pervasive malaise (Osunyikanmi, 2018).
Religious and Ethnic Prejudices/Cultural Diversity	Fuels inter-ethnic and religious conflicts, terrorism, banditry, and a lack of shared purpose, undermining national unity and stability.
Absence of True Federalism	The current federal system is confronted with inherent flaws, including a reliance on a single constitution that makes sub-national tiers over-dependent on the Federal Government, contrary to the principles of true federalism and hindering autonomous development and equitable resource allocation.
Poor Education Policy Implementation	Characterized by inadequate funding (often below UNESCO's recommended 20% of the total annual budget), poor infrastructure, lack of political will, and corruption leading to the diversion of funds. This has contributed to a staggering figure of over 64% of Nigerian children of school-age lacking access to formal education (Enyiazu, 2022).
National Security Issues	Terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and militancy create a pervasive sense of insecurity and discourage foreign investment, making a stable environment for a resilient and sustainable development impossible.
Poverty	Deepens inequality and hinders progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite being the sixth-largest exporter of oil, Nigeria has one of the largest populations of poor people globally (Chukwuemeka et al., 2014).
Lack of Innovation, Strategic Thinking, and Problem-Solving Skills	When a society's education system does not adequately prepare, equip, and empower its citizens to think strategically, innovate, and creatively propose solutions to pressing societal issues in order to bring about positive change, it breeds stagnation and the inability to propel the development of a resilient and sustainable society.

Pathwaysto a sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society

Constructing a resilient and sustainable future Nigerian society cannot develop by accident; it needs engaged, effective, pragmatic, and accountable citizens who upholds the nation's fundamental social and cultural values, including honesty, accountability, fairness, uprightness, tolerance, transparency, commitment, and interpersonal relations, as well as a working institutional framework. Nevertheless, a number of factors work to advance a country's efforts toward development, which serve as the cornerstone for creating a resilient and sustainable future. These include but not limited to the following:

i. **Gender equality:**For Nigeria to achieve a sustainable and resilient future as a developing nation, it must align itself with Sustainable Development Goal 5 to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls worldwide, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, eliminate all harmful practices, like child, early, and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunity in all spheres of life. Additionally, students in Nigeria's educational system should be given the empathetic skills necessary to study and comprehend how people's norms, beliefs, and values affect their worldviews and the knowledge they accept as true.

ii. **Development of innovative skills:**Nigerian citizens should endeavour to cultivate and develop their creativity so that they may study problems from all angles and thoughtfully come up with the best answers to the pressing issues facing Nigerian society. People with high inventive talents have the character traits, social intelligence, and technical knowledge necessary to build a robust and sustainable future for Nigerian society.

iii. **Science and technology:** For all nations, including Nigeria, the importance of science and technology is essential. Therefore, a nation's long-term economic growth and the future of its scientific enterprise - which includes industries like services industry, health care, agriculture, and civil infrastructure - depend on education in mathematics, science, and technology. This includes the researchers and technical workforce of the next generation (Neureiter, 2002). To achieve a sustainable and resilient future in Nigerian society, Nigeria must endeavour to invest in, train, and equip its teeming young population in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which is the driving force behind the transformation of advanced nations around the world.

iv. **Quality education:** Facilitating learning or the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs, and habits is the process of education. In particular, quality education comprises matters like the development of adequate skills, gender parity, the supply of proper school infrastructure, equipment, educational materials and resources, scholarships or teaching staff (UNESCO, 2021). A sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society based on peaceful and harmonious coexistence among the country's diverse population can only be

built with the reorientation, reconstruction, and restructuring of its education system. A good and functional education system is aprecursorforsustainable national development.

v. **National consciousness:**National consciousness comprises a shared feeling of national identification as well as the knowledge that a people or group shares a similar linguistic, cultural, or ethnic heritage. The first proactive step toward building a sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society in which residents will always see and identify themselves as Nigerians with no fear or favour is, in theory, a successful inculcation of national consciousness among Nigerian citizens of all languages, cultures, ethnicities, and/or religions.

vi. **Robust SMEs:**According to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD research on the productivity-inclusiveness nexus (OECD, 2016), small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) play a crucial role in the overall objective of raising productive potential, lowering inequality, and ensuring that the benefits of growing globalization and technological advancement are shared. Therefore, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria would promote the development of more jobs and give the populace the tools and motivation to contribute significantly to a resilient, sustainable future ushering in a transformed society.

vii. **Tolerance:**Every Nigerian citizen must regularly adopt and cultivate a culture of tolerance as well as the virtues of oneness, unity, collaboration, empathy, honesty, peace, love, and acceptance, as this is germane to the creation of a sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society where everyone, regardless of social class, age, gender, language, ethnicity, or religion, would feel a sense of belonging to one indivisible nation. Without these virtues, the effort of the country will be a mere hallucination.

viii. **True federalism:**Nigeria as a matter urgency must prioritize implementing true federalism in order to create a resilient and sustainable future Nigerian society. True federalism promotes healthy competition among the constituent parts, speeds up development, brings the people in authority closer to the people, prevents the emergence of centrally-placed dictatorships, and gives no room forone-sided dominance by granting all parts of the federating unit equal sense of belonging, as well as equal power and opportunity to make profound contribution toward advancing the entire Nigerian society.

On the other hand, building a resilient and sustainable Nigeria necessitates a comprehensive strategy, with transformational citizenship education supporting important developmental areas, as explained in more detail below, based on the pathways identified:

Pathway	Rationale	Critical Role of Citizenship Education
Gender Equality	Essential for inclusive development and resilience. Women's participation in decision-making improves resource management and economic competitiveness (World Bank, 2023). Female-led businesses in Nigeria are often credit-starved.	It helps to inculcaterespect for human rights, thereby fostering the value of non-discrimination, and actively challenging patriarchal norms and advocating for inclusive policies.
Robust MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises are the heartbeat of the economy, contributing nearly half of GDP and employing about 90% of the workforce, embodying national resilience and creativity (Alayande, 2021).	Develops analytical and problem-solving abilities for innovative entrepreneurship and encourages moral corporate conduct to fight corruption and informality.
Quality Education	An educated population commands the skills necessary for sustainable economic growth and a better quality of life Olubadewoin (Abubakar, 2014).	Ensures that learning is pertinent to regional and global issues by providing the framework for changing the curriculum to emphasize sustainable development competencies (ESD) (UNESCO, 2023).
Science & Technology	Developing innovative skills is crucial for solving complex development problems and transitioning to a modern economy.	It cultivates a culture of innovation, inquiry, and rational decision-making, which are necessary for harnessing science&technology for national development.
Development of Innovative Skills	Innovation and creativity are essential for adapting to shocks (resilience) and finding sustainable solutions to economic and environmental issues.	It helps to cultivate citizens' creative potential and capacities while encouraging a future-focused mindset and a subjective-value orientation to their surroundings.

Contributions of citizenship educationrelevant to a sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society

The primary goal of citizenship education is to educate students to get acquainted with the fundamental concepts, values, and laws of the Nigerian constitution, thereby instilling in them political awareness, social justice, and economic emancipation capable of establishing a proactive, resilient, and sustainable nation. Citizenship education promotes social cohesiveness in a divided society by teaching students about civic engagement, good governance, teamwork, and the rule of law, democratic processes, civil society, and other topics. Getting people from different backgrounds to work together in a peaceful manner to ensure that everyone's basic human rights are upheld without bias and without violence is one of citizenship education's main goals. The formation of good, law-abiding citizens on a personal level as well as the broader advancement of the country can both be greatly benefited from citizenship education. Therefore, thecontributions of citizenship education as enumerated by Ugwuogo (2019) are as follows:

1. **To inculcate citizens with the spirit of patriotism**: Citizenship education attempts to help citizens acquire a sense of national identity. Being aware of the nation's history, culture, and ideals is what national awareness entails.
2. **To teach citizens the fundamental human rights and responsibilities:** Every citizen has rights that he is free to exercise without constraint. Citizenship education informs citizens about their fundamental human rights as citizens of the nation.
3. **To enhance the knowledge of the Nigerian constitution:** The Constitution is a legally binding set of rules that describe the activities and regulations of a country's government. Citizenship education assists citizens in becoming good citizens by providing them with a thorough understanding of the constitutional provisions.
4. **To promote self-development:** Citizenship education encourages people to think for themselves and value positive principles. It contributes to the development of citizens who are peaceful, just, united, self-reliant, hardworking, and rational.
5. **To promote national development:** Citizens in a community contribute to the widespread development within that community. Development is recognized when the economy grows at a steady rate and successfully uses its resources to meet the needs of its population sustainably so that future generations can benefit from the resources as well.

From the aforementioned, it is pertinently clear that citizens' cultivation of the spirit of patriotism, understanding of fundamental human rights and responsibilities, having an enhanced knowledge of the Nigerian constitution, promotion of self-development, as well as promotion of national development are crucial for the achievement of a sustainable and resilient future in the Nigerian society. Without these, all efforts will become a mirage that breeds a disorderly, lawless, corrupt, prejudiced, and mediocre society.

Recommendation

i. The citizens of Nigeria irrespective of social class, language, culture, ethnicity or religion must closely collaboratewith the possibility of building a sustainable and resilient future for the benefit of the current and future generations to meet the needs, interests, and aspirations of Nigerians.

ii. Nigeria, a developing nation must endeavour to invest in, educate, and equip its teeming youth population in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which is the catalyst for the transformation of advanced nations all over the world, to achieve a sustainable and resilient future for Nigerian society.

iii. To encourage and promote the creation of more decent jobs that will give the populace the tools and motivation to significantly contribute to a resilient, sustainable future with a transformed society, it is imperative that the Nigerian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) be given top priority.

iv. Nigeria's society can only be made resilient and sustainable in the future and promote peaceful and harmonious coexistence among the country's diverse population by reorienting, rebuilding, and restructuring its education system, which is the first step toward sustainable development.

v. To inculcate in students the fundamental values of empathy, patriotism, cooperation, unity, integrity, transparency, and accountability—all of which are characteristics of a democratic, compassionate, sustainable, and resilient society—Nigerian citizenship education should be explicitly taught and learned.

vi. Students in Nigeria's education system through effective teaching and learning of citizenship education should be imbued with the spirit of empathy needed to examine and comprehend how people's norms, beliefs, and values affect the knowledge they accept as true and their worldviews, as doing so would advance gender equality, a crucial component of creating a resilient and sustainable future for all Nigerians.

vii. Nigeria, as a developing nation require an education system that is firmly rooted in the active and effective design and implementation of 35% white-collar job-tailored training and 65% entrepreneurial skills-tailored training which is essential to the achievement of a sustainable and resilient future Nigerian society. This will prepare and equip Nigerian citizens to be job creators rather than job-seekers after graduation.

viii. The development of a resilient and sustainable future Nigerian society urgently demands the development of innovative abilities, and competence which has now become a 21st century requirement for the teeming Nigerian populace if the Nigerian economy is to be revived.

ix. By assisting children in developing and putting into practice the knowledge, beliefs, and behaviours required to participate in civic life relevant to the creation of a resilient and

sustainable society, Nigerian schools may and should play a significant role in catalysing increased civic engagement.

Conclusion

In conclusion, gender equality, excellent education, science and technology, morality, robust SMEs, tolerance, as well as true federalism functions to imbibe in young Nigerian citizens the requisite innovative ideas, knowledge, attitudes, and values needed to achieve sustainability and resiliency in future Nigeria's development. To improve our capacity to address the problem of sustainable and resilient future development, research and innovation are crucial. As a developing country, Nigeriaought to come to terms with the elements of a resilient and sustainable future along with its prospects; also evaluate its impact, magnitude, time-frame, and possibility. Nigeria, an emerging nation have todevelop an institutional mechanism to eradicatenepotism, corruption, discrimination, marginalization, and mediocrity by putting in place a sound strategic, and functional policy framework that will significantly turn around the fortunes of the Nigerian society.

As a result, effective citizenship education teaching and learning would enable Nigerian citizens have a first-hand grasp of what it takes to establish a sustainable and resilient future. Citizenship education helps students develop critical thinking skills, which in turn motivates them to engage in and take on responsibilities in resolving societal concerns and contributing to a just, humane, progressive, resilient, and sustainable society.

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