

Innovative Approaches to Education and Training for Sustainable Development

Christopher K. Yegon

ABSTRACT

Education is a universal right and a catalyst to economic and social development of a nation. To achieve sustainable economic and social development education system should embrace lifelong learning process where relevant skills, experiences and knowledge are acquired formally and informally. Innovation strategy in education and training entails exploring new approaches needed to equip learners and trainees with the skills required to support radical innovation and continuous improvement both at individual level and at a national level. To address world social development agenda, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals, aimed at achieving universal primary education (UPE) by the year 2015. The UNESCO report of 2015 shows that 57 percent of the school going children in Africa was in primary schools. Though the rate of enrolment and gender equalities is still low compared with the Western Countries, the gap between school going children to those not attending school was narrowing. A number of initiatives were put in place to upscale school enrolment such as; abolition of school fees, allocation of resources for acquisition of teaching/learning facilities, employment of additional teachers in schools with shortage, implementation of school feeding programmes to improve attendance and transition. Despite the significant progress of many countries, the world fell short of meeting its goal of universal primary education (UPE). In sub-Saharan Africa as by 2013, only about 79% of primary school-age children were enrolled in schools. 59 million children of primary-school age were out of school, and enrollment of girls continued to lag behind that of boys. Following the expiration of the MDGs in 2015, the UN adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030 which is aimed at; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and that promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. This study therefore looked at strategies taken by African countries in developing innovative approaches in education and training as a prerequisite to economic development. Purposive sampling was used to identify the countries chosen for analysis; data was collected from secondary information published in the internet by international organizations. Comparative analysis, simple regression analysis provided trends needed for extrapolation. Development in education and training was compared with economic growth; high economic growth is interpreted to mean high innovation in education and training; while low economic growth means low innovation in education and training.

Keyword: Quality, Equity, Inclusive, Innovation And Sustainable Development

Corresponding Author: kibetchrisyegon@yahoo.com