
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

Social Studies as a school subject outlines different historical and academic backgrounds of different countries. In United States, its beginnings may be traced to the integration of principles from economics and political science that were originally taught under civics education. The First World War, the British educational system came under criticism, as critics saw that both primary and secondary schools were failing to instill in learners the moral and civic essential for responsible citizenship. As nations began to grow into integrated "global villages," economic, cultural, and political realities produced serious educational requirements. As societies grown global, Social Studies developed an interdisciplinary focus, blending insights from areas to build a curriculum relevant to social advancement. Historically, during the nineteenth century, the subject drew extensively on current social issues and from established areas such as civics, highlighting the connection between education and public life. The social sciences, roughly interpreted, comprise numerous disciplines such as economics, geography, political science, psychology, history, and sociology. Social Studies and the social sciences are theoretically connected, they remain different yet complementary realms of human knowledge. Each field adds its own specific approaches and viewpoints toward understanding society. Social Studies works as an integrative framework through which several subjects are integrated for teaching purposes. The paper applied both talk and survey methodologies to gain ideas for this study, ensuring that outcomes reflected diverse viewpoints on the evolution and importance of the subject matter.

Keywords: Interdisciplinary study grown global, Development, Social Studies, 21st century.

Introduction

Education serves as a process through which the human mind is matured to harness natural and social resources within its surroundings for meaningful existence. Every school subject is purposely constructed to target certain areas of human by establishing awareness, giving experience, and increasing knowledge that helps individuals to improve their potential both personally matter and collectively.

School system, education serves as a series of teaching, learning and training that are supposed to increase knowledge and build practical skills and talents. As a means of expressing intellectual, moral, and technological abilities needed to achieve self-fulfillment and societal changes, socialization and civilizations, education has always attempted to fulfill the dual need of character development, provide knowledge and adjust to the rapidly evolving world. Education is not just the sum of information but a life long process that enables the learner to be productive, ethical and independent members to the society.

Education contributes towards the creation of social consciousness as it promotes tolerance, understanding, and cultural values among different groups of people. Learners of different ethnic, religious, and socio-political backgrounds are assembled in the formal educational setting environments of Nigeria under common institutional norms that enhance tolerance. With this shared experience, differences are reduced and equality in diversity strengthened. The introduction of the indigenous language training in school curriculum has also enhanced cross-cultural communication and integration (Babatunde, 1981).

Social Studies were never born by accident but a long history of developing them to prepare citizens to live in the participatory citizenship and responsible community (Akinda, 2014). It manifests itself in educational systems national experiences and socio-political settings. It was first institutionalised in the United States, when elements of economics and political science, which had always been taught in civics, were merged to create a more comprehensive multidisciplinary model. Reforms that followed World War I in Britain

also emphasized on the necessity of education that could instill civic values and create moral obligations in the youth (Aliегда, 2004).

With the world entering a global integrated society there emerged new educational aims to meet the changing cultural and developmental needs. Social Studies was introduced into schools of African countries including Nigeria as the way of local representation and further development of educational purposes in the continent. It was a push to a common curriculum that could generate social cohesion and the continuous national development in a move that had started in September 1982 (Arinze, 2011).

The concept of Social Studies as the foundation of which Social Sciences can be regarded, is a huge area of study about the relationships and behaviors between people. They are economics, geography, political science, psychology, sociology and history. They analyze the forms and concept of establishing social life, as well as relations between individuals and groups. Social Sciences offer the term/concepts of analysis and theoretical through which Social Studies draw their interdisciplinary power (Allen, 2002). The paper therefore, applied both talk and survey methodologies to gain ideas for this study, ensuring that outcomes reflected diverse viewpoints on the evolution and importance of the subject matter.

Social Studies, Interdisciplinary and the 21st Century

The twenty-first century has brought a globalization era, in which, there are no cultures that define the boundaries of countries. Countries are today living in an environment of inter-connected political, cultural and economic networks and so they are interdependent. War, religion, government, and trade are no longer part of one country only but are now worldwide coordinating responses of countries. In this changing order, Social Studies emerged as a pedagogical response that was supposed to enable students to understand and adjust to such dynamics in the world (Akinde, 2007).

In order to address the more interconnected society, the Social Studies became an interdisciplinary topic that attracts the concepts of other

fields of knowledge. It has a purposely constructed curriculum incorporating various perspectives of the social sciences, including economics, geography, political science, psychology, history, and sociology to create a broad subject of understanding and problem-solving. This interdisciplinary defines made social studies as a topic that is preoccupied with the impartation of the factual knowledge as well as stimulating critical thinking towards human behavior and the development of society (Erinosho, 2002).

Social Studies and social sciences, although interested in human relationships and social processes, have different scopes of interest and application. The social sciences are disciplined or operate as separate academic disciplines, which analyse different features of human experience, social studies integrate all these polarities into a day-to-day learning experience that is man citizenship, participation, and social responsibility. Each discipline within this structure - be it economics, history, or psychology - maintain its independent methodologies, they contribute to a deeper understanding of society and its evolving challenges (Ikem, 2012).

Economics and Social Studies: Economics focuses on demanded and supply how societies organize the production, distribution, and exchange of goods and services, how financial resources are managed and commercial activities are sustained. Social studies, deal with economic features are investigated to assist learners comprehend how people and organisations participate in productive activity and support livelihoods through trade and industry.

Political Science and Social Studies: Political science study and investigates the system of governments operation in the use of political authority, and the procedures of policy building and governance. Social Studies incorporates these principles to help students adopt how individuals engage with governmental institutions, exercise civic rights, and participate in political life and become a participating citizen within democratic regimes.

Geography and Social Studies: Geography study the earth's physical properties, its climatic conditions, and the vegetation distribution of humans, vegetation, and species. Social studies employs geographic views to examine the interaction between humans and their environments, stressing how individuals adapt to and adjust their surroundings to support sustainable life.

History and Social Studies: History is the study of the past knowledge of previous events, cultural changes, and society progression from societies, clans to empires. Social studies includes these previous historical perspectives to help learners to relate previous experiences with present social issues, building a feeling of identity and continuity.

Psychology and Social Studies: Psychology examiner the human mental processes and behavioral patterns among individuals and groups in societies. Social studies builds upon these therial and principles to explain how attitudes, motives, and perceptions impact interpersonal relationship interactions or and communal life.

Sociology and Social Studies: Sociology study or investigates social organization, institutional structures, systems, and patterns of human interaction. Social studies, this study how it assists in understanding how societies preserve order, coherence, and shared ideals.

Anthropology and Social Studies: Anthropology examiner the explores human cultures, practices, and belief systems. Social Studies incorporates adopted anthropological methodologies to help students cultural diversities and the value and social norms in community development.

Archaeology and Social Studies: Archaeology reconstructs historical civilizations via the study of artifacts, relics, and material remnants. Through this relationship, social studies invites learners to study how the relics of the past inform modern social and cultural institutions.

Law and Social Studies: Law deals with the laws and regulations that control behavior within society. Social Studies include legal principles to help students comprehend justice, order, and citizens' obligations within a legal framework.

Linguistics and Social Studies: Linguistics explores the structure and use of language. Within social studies, language study increases communication and cultural awareness, helping learners to appreciate societal values and customs represented via speech and writing.

Justifications for Social Sciences

Social sciences as a field of study made up of numerous disciplines as indicated above evolved for several reasons, the purposes and objectives of the formation of disciplines in the social science are to develop in pupils the abilities and activities to be effective in debate, discussion and writing. Students /persons personal understanding of citizenship with the social studies and social sciences, individuals become knowledgeable and responsible citizens.

Social studies and social sciences allow pupils the activity to be aware of the fundamental human rights and their responsibility to the state. Prepare students and provides them with the understanding of core values, principles and the operation of Nigerian constitutional democracy. Enlighten pupils on the necessity of learning history, geography, civics, economics and psychology which is human behaviour? This also saves the kids the capacity of prioritizing concerns and occurrences and setting persons and ideas in context. The needs to study and comprehend the Nigerian history which is the exclusive duty of the social studies /social sciences and so on includes building in pupils the skills to perform good pieces of research.

Conclusion

Social Studies as a school subject outline different historical and academic background of different centuries. As nations began to grow into integrated global village, economic cultural and political realities produced serious educational requirements. As societies grown global, social studies developed an interdisciplinary focus blending insights from area to build a curriculum relevant to social advancement.

Suggestions

Interdisciplinary study in the 21th century is a form of bring two or other scholar ideas or should be encourage in the research works of this

matter. The 21st century is a period of scholarship workers because of the global nature of things. It is suggested that other researchers to focus on it from other view point in the interdisciplinary studies in Social Studies as interdisciplinary in the 4th century.

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