

## CREATIVITIES AND INNOVATIVE SKILLS IN HOME ECONOMICS

**Ojo Faith Uyiosa, Etuokwu Maureen Nkechi & Ukpene Chiaka Patience.**

Department of Vocational and Technical Education,  
Faculty of Education University of Benin, Benin City.

Department of Home Economics,

Faculty of Education, University of Delta, Agbor.

uyiosafaith47@gmail.com, maureenetuokwu@edu.uniben.edu,

patience.ukpene@unidel.edu.ng

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### Abstract

*The purpose of the study was to examine creativities and innovative skills in Home Economics. The study focused on Home Economics as one subject that adequately equips individuals and groups through creativities and innovative skill for gainful employment and self actualization. It explored the various ways Home Economics can enhance entrepreneurial skills, wealth creation and poverty alleviation. . It focuses on mission, rewards, goals, objectives and components of Home Economics. The paper fully examined the concept and the importance of Home Economics Education as creative and innovative for skills acquisition. This will promote income earnings for individuals and families thereby reducing unemployment, poverty, economic hardship and restoring dignity and hope to the educated, uneducated and families. It was therefore recommended among others that Home Economics education should provide necessary link to employ the next generation through creativities and innovative skills, Government ought to introduce innovative programs and new trends to aid the knowledge of the society and Tertiary institutions in the nation should be massively empowered with the important resources or materials to improve the capabilities of graduates for creative and innovative skills*

**Key words: Creativities, Innovative, Skills, Home Economics.**

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### Introduction

Every nation has the ability to increase her recourses through her man power. This is achieved through the lucrative courses of Home Economics to teach the individual, group of people and companies with the use of technology and hands through any available media to meet their goals using both human and material resources. When these ideas are developed, it reduces, alleviates or eradicates completely poverty which is a major problem in developing countries such as Nigeria and it enhances the livelihood of the individual to access the basic necessities of life. Home Economics Education is one of the subjects that can make the citizens of any nation dependable through creativity and innovative skills.

Creativity is the act and ability of imaginations, possibilities and establishing new ideas while innovation is the understanding to apply creative solutions to enhance people's lives or to enrich the society. It is the introduction of something new into the market. Home Economics is a subject that involves creativity and innovative ideas of

individual in skills acquisition becoming self-reliant or employers of labour. Home Economics is a subject that embodies skill and imagination to create new things such as interior decoration, craft work, catering, baking, snack production and fashion designing, creating jobs for employment. Home Economics is one subject that develops and discovers new ways of looking at problems and opportunities, the ability to make new things or think of new perception making the individual a strong entrepreneur to withstand and survive the challenges facing the economy (Kehide & Adewuyi 2015).

Home economics is the act of innovating individuals for self reliance and self dependence to eradicate and reduce to the minimal level of poverty. With adequate information on the need to prepare the society for future challenges, there is need for Home Economics. One of the ways this can be achieved is through vocational and technical education (Home Economics). To this end, the answer to the requirement for individual to be creative and innovative in various job opportunities is Home Economics Education. Home Economics Education

is a conglomerate of courses that is concerned with the acquisition, development and inculcation of proper values for the survival of the individual, the family and the society (Federal Republic of Nigeria 2004). Home Economics Education is a field of study that offers various occupations and prepares individuals for entrepreneurship. It is a skill based course which has the capacity of equipping young people and adult with sustainable skills, entrepreneurship for self reliance, employment and wealth creating thereby reducing or eliminating poverty later in life.

Home Economics is a vocational subject that builds knowledge and skills from the grass root such as home/family for making a living because it provides a functional education to an individual to enable the individual become useful, creative, innovative in skills to himself / herself in the society. Home Economics is a comprehensive course that encompasses the teaching of skills, improving individual and family life, preparing people for family living, its management and employment (Ehioghien, Isibor & Ihensekhien 2022). It prepares students for the acquisition and development of skills and competencies, attitudes and attributes which are necessary for efficiency of the economy system. In order for graduate students to actualize their vision of self livelihood, minimize the rate of unemployment and overdependence on governmental and personal establishments for employment, acquirement of required experience for a person to live and contribute to the advancement of the society, Home Economics is a necessity. Home Economics Education has three broad areas; Food and Nutrition, Home Management and Clothing and Textiles that are taught in schools formally organized or even in non-formal settings which have many complements as listed below that will make one to be creative and innovative in skills in the following careers (Anyakoha 2010).

**Food and nutrition related jobs are:** Baking, Event planning, Catering, Hotel management, Food processing, Food preservation, Snack production like pies, burns, doughnuts ,Nutrition and Dietetics , Hospital rehabilitation centre, Director of Social Welfare Centre

**Home Management related jobs are:** Interior decorations, Main and Rental services, Hall and venues decoration for event, Natural Flowers and soap (Cream, powered making shampoo liquid soap

and abrasive), Nursery school director, Proprietors of a private primary or secondary school, Old people with disabilities, Family and Child Care Development

**Clothing and Textiles related jobs are:** Fashion designing, Laundry services, Craft work, Tie dyeing and Batik production, Toys production and Jewelleries production (Audu and Abudlkadri 2007), Uko-Aviomoh and Salami (2007)

It makes people to be job creators rather than job seekers. It equips individuals to attain and live a useful and satisfying life (Audu & Abdulkadir, 2009). It is a subject that exposes both the educated and uneducated persons to be self dependent, self reliance and to access the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, health care, portable water and transportation. It makes an individual to stand and fight the financial challenges affecting the stability of most families in Nigeria through creativities and innovations of business. (Ehioghien et al 2022).

According to Rosemary (2016) and Uko-Aviomoh and Salami (2007) Home Economics aims at improving the quality of family life through effective development and utilization of human, material and natural resources of a society. Home economics is the best means of eradicating poverty among youth, adults and the retirement age in our country. It helps in improving sustainability to create individuality-employment program such as skill acquirement and trade. It is the ground work on which much of economic and social well- being of the citizen is built (Halima 2014).

In view of the above (Uko-Aviomoh 2021a) opined that the basic mission of Home Economics Education is helping individuals and families to improve their lives through creativities and innovative skill are:

- ❖ Training for necessary skills in entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Training and importing of necessary skills to individuals which shall be self-reliant economically.
- ❖ Provision of technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for national development.

- ❖ Development of improved skills, competencies, capabilities and utilization of workers employed in government and private sectors.

With the knowledge of Home Economics, an individual will innovate and create the ability to evaluate business opportunities to gather the necessary resources in order to take advantages of them and to initiate appropriate action to ensure success. According to Ubong (2018), Home Economics builds a person to be self dependent instead of working under a person as an employee; it combines other aspects of production; it makes the individual to have confidence in him/herself and prefers to fund, establish and innovate new business strategies opportunities. This is creativity and innovating skill in Home Economics.

Rosemary (2016) stated the rewards of Home Economics Education as innovative and creative skills as follows:

1. it create empowerment for people
2. it creates rooms for ones talent
3. it helps a person to utilize resource
4. it results in self achievements
5. it erase poverty
6. it generates profitable revenue for the nation
7. it helps to develop advancement and improvement of a nation
8. it aids in technological innovation
9. it serves as an channel of production to industries.

This point was stressed by Ehioghiren et al (2022) in Njoku (2002) reiterated that Home Economics Education is education for and about skills and business with primary purpose of preparing students for gainful employment in Home Economics field which will help in poverty reduction/national development. Education is an experience that makes someone to sharpen the brain. Home Economics Education helps an individual to develop and produce this theoretical experience learnt to practical aspect through building and inventing self and the society. This is creativity and innovative skills in Home Economics Education.

#### **Goals and Objectives of Home Economics Education at All level**

- Empowering the individual in such a way that the individual will develop his intellectual

capacity that would help train to make meaningful decision in all spheres of life.

- Helping the individual to become a judicious spender and develop proper values for the achievement of healthy empowering and growth of the nation.
- Empowering the individual with desirable skill, knowledge and value to perform specific functions so as to become self reliant.
- Helping the individual to appreciate the world around him and contribute maximally to the social and economic development of the nation. (Olaitan 2013)

Below are some of the courses of Home Economics that are advancing in creativity and innovative in skills to the youths and adults in the society.

**Laundry Service:** Laundry services as a vocational job is an area in Home Economics Education, a unit of Home Management that make an individual to exploit by setting up a laundry or dry cleaning service. This involves creating and innovating skills in washing, dry-cleaning and finishing clothing articles and household linen in a unique way to the public to earn a living (Barry 2013).

**Interior Decoration:** This is another innovating and creative skill in Home Economics area that is making way for the educated and uneducated in the society. An interior designer is a person whose job is to beautify and design the rooms of a building and arrangement of furnishings. They are also called interior designers. They plan and decorate interiors and exteriors events of any kind such as hotels, hospitals, laboratories, offices, schools, stores banks churches etc through different innovating skills; These people are heavily paid for this job and are well recognized in the society (Kehide et al 2015).

**Fashion Designer:** One of the areas of specialization of Home Economics is clothing construction which deals with the making of material garment. This help the youths both the literate and illiterate ones to engage themselves in hand and needle work, improving their creativity and developing new innovating skills in styles and designs which is a source of living in the society today. A graduate of Home Economics can make way in the dynamic trend of fashion by establishing fashion homes, creating new designs, drafting

modern patterns of styles to make a living, theoretical aspect of clothing and textile in Home Economics Department. (Albert 2014).

**Catering:** Catering is a profession which involves the production of foods, drinks and providing accommodation to customers to satisfy their needs. This is a very lucrative business that involves creativity and innovative skill in Home Economics as a vocation, creating job opportunities for individuals to be self employed to have a better living as an entrepreneur. This is achieved through the knowledge acquired especially in the practical section of foods and nutrition which is a branch of Home Economics. (Andrew 2013)

**Craft Making:** Craft making is an activity involving a special skill which requires the use of hands through any available media. Home Economics as a vocation helps the individual to be self-reliant and satisfied through innovation and creativity in the making of craft for example, beads making, hair dressing/ haircutting, carving and basket making, textile designing and shoemaking. The knowledge one acquires from Home Economics makes such a one to rely on himself without looking for white collar job. Craft work gives satisfaction because there is skill manipulation, beautification and entertainment that generate income at any time (Barry 2013).

**Short Vocational Courses:** Home Economics program operates short vocational courses like craft making, catering, cassava processing, cake making, soap making, powder production, tie and dye, commercial production of food and clothing using computer aided techniques etc. for promotion of investment and alleviation of poverty at the grass root". Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP), which is associated with Home Economics program (clothing and textile), is a technology based investment, creative and innovative in skill, creation of employment opportunity, utilization and encouragement of productive activities at ward levels of the country. This is one of the program promoting Home Economics subject as creativity and innovative skill in the world. It is organized two or three months with little capital to establish the individual in order to be self sustained and generate income. Home Economics as a vocation helps the individual to be self reliant; self sustained and self satisfactory for both the employer and employee to earn a living. (Klein 2014)

## Conclusion

Home Economics is a broad field of study that is primarily concerned with the improvement of the welfare of individuals and families which deals with all aspects of family life. The unique knowledge from areas of Home Economics (food and nutrition, clothing and textile, home management, consumer education) has contributed towards improving creativity and innovative skills in the present day Nigeria. This is achieved with the help of great Home Economics teachers who have theoretical and practical knowledge of the subject matter and equipped the students with the training and facilities needed in assisting them to attain a more self-reliant and fulfilled life. Individuals should be encouraged to take up career in the field and trained accordingly in the aspect they want. This will make them self-reliant thereby reducing the poverty rate in the family and society, eradicating robbery, prostitution and human rituals which are very rampant in our society and providing the individual with income to meet the challenges of life;. These will promote total and sound developments for the modern child as well as for affecting home living. Home Economics is a necessity.

## Recommendations

This paper makes the following recommendation for promoting Home Economics education as creativity and innovative skills for development

- (a) Home Economics Teachers should be empowered to provide courses that are creative and innovative for the graduate and illiterate ones to trade and utilize local resources
- (b) Home Economics education should provide necessary link to employ the next generation through creativities and innovative skills
- (c) Home Economics should provide courses meant for both educated and uneducated people to trade and utilize local resources to sustain the family
- (d) Home Economics Teacher should be empowered to adequately assist the graduate in acquisition of practical skills through creativities.
- (e) Home Economics teaching should be reinforced through curriculum planning for entrepreneurship in all arms of education.
- (f) There should be strong demand for acquirement of practical skillfulness as well as ICT skills that are innovative and will lead to self reliance.

- (g) Government should build more creative and innovative resource centers that will enable graduates and the society to develop their talent through workshop.
- (h) Government ought to introduce innovative programs and new trends to aid the knowledge of the society.
- (i) Government ought to be at their best to recreate and establish programs that will structure a stronger entrepreneurial development in the nation for securing family future.
- (j) Tertiary institutions in the nation should be massively empowered with the important resources or materials to improve the capabilities of graduates for creative and innovative skills.

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