

*School of Education, College of Education Warri in conjunction with the  
Institute of Education;  
Delta State University Abraka. 2007. ISBN: 978-3842-3-2*

*READINGS IN UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION*

**Influence of Ube Indigenous Language Package of Sustainable Primary  
science development: (a case study of ethiope L.G.A. of Delta State)**

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**Abstract**

*The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme is intended to be universal, free and compulsory. UBE has a professional Teacher Support Programme, (TSP) an action research oriented package which is intended to bring about innovation in lesson delivery across the country This study examined the implementation and impact of the use of indigenous language of UBE in the development of primary science. One instrument, indigenous language Implementation Assessment Questionnaire (ILIAQ) was used to collect data from 20 teachers. 10 Head teachers and 10 LGEA staff from Ethiope East and West Local Government Areas of Delta State. 92% of the respondents agreed that the implementation of the national language policy in the teaching and learning of Primary Science is poor, although the teacher professional support programme had positive influence but did not proceed beyond the pilot study, Recommendations were made.*

**Introduction**

The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme in Nigeria has international antecedents viz.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 which provides that "everyone has a right to education" Nigeria is a member of Group E-9 nations committed to the absolute eradication of illiteracy in the world, and the defunct Universal Primary Education Programmes in Nigeria launched by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo when he was a Military Head of State in 1976 was Nigeria's response to the covenant. The world conference on Education for All (EFA) in Thailand and the world summit for children in New York, U.S.A in 1990. At these conferences, nations of the world including Nigeria, accepted to work towards Education for All: and the framework for Action to Meet Basic learning Needs by the New Year 2000.

The launching of the U.B.E programme in Nigeria on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1999 by the Head of State Chief Olusegun Obasanjo is, therefore, to confirm with international covenant on U.B.E to which she is a signatory.

In the Nigerian covenant, the objectives of the U.B.E includes the following:

- (A) Developing in the entire citizenry a strong consciousness for Education and a strong commitment to its vigorous promotion.
- (b) The provision of free, compulsory Universal Basic Education for all Nigerian children of school going age:
- (c) Reducing drastically the incidence of drop out rate from the formal school system (through improved relevance, quality and efficiency).
- (d) Catering for drop outs and out of school children/adolescent through appropriate forms of complementary approaches to the provision and promotion of basic education.

**Book of Readings in Universal Basic Education.**

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Published by:

**EKE GRAPHICS PUBLISHERS**

Sapele, Delta State.

**GSM: 08035839360, 07056450399**