

MANAGING FUNCTIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CONTINUOUS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN DELTA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the importance of managing functional tertiary education for sustainable national development through continuous staff professional training and development (CSPTD) in Delta State, with focus on the Colleges of Education. Four research questions guided the study. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design. Population of the study consisted of 1,083 academic staff in the Colleges of Education in Delta State. The sample was 217 (20%) academic staff selected using the stratified random sampling technique. A 48-item researcher-structured questionnaire titled: “Managing Functional Tertiary Education Questionnaire (MFTEQ)” was the instrument for data collection. This instrument was validated by three experts from the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies, Faculty of Education, Delta State University, Abraka. Reliability of the instrument was determined through a pilot test sampling 10 academic staff from two Colleges of Education in Edo State. The scores obtained from the pilot testing were collated and measured using the Cronbach Alpha method which yielded an internal consistency reliability index of 0.70. Data collected were analysed using mean scores and standard deviation. Findings of the study revealed that: academic staff engage in various methods of CSPTD activities in their institutions through their engagement was restricted to certain areas which are the core of managing functional tertiary education for sustainable national development. Based on these findings, recommendations made include that Delta State government and the commissions mandated to manage tertiary institutions especially that of colleges of education should support academic staff active involvement in different aspects of CSPTD, through effective policy implementation and legislation, sufficient budgetary and financial support, including use of other incentives. Also, the management of various institutions should support academic staff frequent participation in these CSP training and development programmes.

Keywords: Functional tertiary education, sustainable national development, continuous staff professional training and development (CSPTD).