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**THE IMPACT OF ADULT LITERACY EDUCATION ON
LOCAL CHURCHES OF THE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION - A CASE STUDY OF
IBADAN NORTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.

6.1 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it has been proved that Adult Education Programme is instrumental in nature. Thus, the churches are engaged in various categories of adult literacy education programmes in their efforts to improve the lots of other members and non-members (non Christians inclusive).

Therefore, in view of the potentials of adult education programmes, the following recommendations are offered:

1. That Baptist churches should give more recognition to adult literacy programme as an essential part of the churches' evangelistical and educational systems.
2. It has been found out in this study that finance is the major obstacle facing adult education programme all over. Therefore, the church should allocate reasonable percentage of the church educational budget to literacy education.
3. That all churches in the association should be involved in all the four major categories of the adult education classes namely; the Beginners, the Intermediate, the Advanced and the Pre-GCE. Not only this, more continuing education centres should be encouraged.

4. That the association should assist in the training of adult literacy professionals, this will enhance more qualitative adult literacy education.
5. That churches should set up specific adult literacy committees.
6. That in the dispensation of adult literacy programme, complete autonomy should be given to churches wishing to undertake such project after due consultations with the association and be supported financially.
7. That while introducing any innovation or new programme into the scheme, adequate considerations should be given to the social and economic background of the participants. In view of this, adult education programme needs to suit the community's conditions with flexibility.
8. That seminars, symposia and courses should be arranged from time to time as a means of updating the knowledge of the adult education instructors.
9. That the Nigerian Baptist Convention should encourage the local churches to be more involved in the programme by assisting them (via Conferences and Association) financially. This will enable them to increase their production capacity.
10. That Adult Education should resuscitate the forgotten skills and crafts, the cross-fertilisation of ideas and techniques among the adult learners from various churches through visits and meetings.

11. That the church adult literary committees should take into account the public illiterates. They should provide learning opportunities without regard to race, colour, sex or religion.

12. That where the adult literacy programme is not yet in existence, the association should encourage such churches to start one.

Realising that literacy ministry is not just teaching others how to read and write alone, but a God-centred life in action, the convention should allow God to use His love to reach out to others through teaching.

6.2 Conclusion

According to one of the papers presented at Perspolis in Iran in 1975, the ultimate objective of literacy education is to enable the individual:

to read the word rather than the world To become literate is to acquire an authentic voice capable of relating one's word to the realities of the word. It is to participate in the creation of culture of freedom in place of the prevailing culture of silence. His literacy is measured by his capacity to preserve the word without illusions or fear and exercised thorough 'naming the word', expressing his innermost feelings about the realities which impinge upon him.....¹

This study sought to establish the Impact of Adult Literacy Education on Nigerian Baptist Convention local churches in Ibadan North Baptist Association. It showed their roles in the form of environment oriented programme. This goes to state that Adult Literacy Education is a vital part of the fabric of the church/community and plays a crucial developmental role in

¹ M. Rahnema, "Literacy for Reading the World" Ten Years Literary Struggle (New Delhi : Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, 1976), P.28

evangelism. Through active participation as evidenced in this study, the members have been involved in planned social change. It is therefore, conclusive to say that Adult Literary Programme is an important factor in church growth and evangelism. The new literates have revealed that they had been liberated from ignorance, fear, inferiority complexes, and all sorts of ignorance. They are aware that they must continue to fight and defend their rights, to share in the good tidings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by way of being able to read and write and as a result making it possible for them to read the Bible and sing the hymns.

It then follows that the findings of this study are presumably generalizable convention wide, particularly by the various conferences and associations within the convention family.