

An appraisal of the Nigeria Army adult literacy programme (1970-80).

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Abstract:

This study examined the number of soldiers who satisfactorily completed the Nigerian Army literacy pro-grammes and the effectiveness of these soldiers in the performance of their military duties. Subjects for the study consisted of 30 soldiers and 15 mobile police personnel enrolled in the Nigerian army literacy programmes. Data for the subjects *were* obtained from records and documents at the headquarters of the Education Corps in Lagos and from test scores of students at the skill at Arms in the Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI) Jaji. Both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were used to analyse the data.

Results of the study show that the basic inputs into the programme such as finance, research, manpower, including the curriculum and the instructional methods were inadequate. Also between 1970 and 1980, 61,479 soldiers or 30 per cent of candidates enrolled for the programme obtained the Army Certificate of Education (ACE).

Based on some of these findings, it is recommended that the present curriculum be revised with greater emphasis placed on the sciences and mathematics. More funds should also be made available for the success of the programme. A multi-dimensional, multi-sensory and more flexible approach to the methodology of instruction should be devised and adopted to replace the present traditional and teacher-centered approach. The rather limited success achieved in the programme so far is partly attributable to the inadequacies detected by this study. A more detailed study and revision of the admission policy, instructional strategies and evaluation techniques currently being used in the programme are recommended.

Keywords: Army/ literacy/ duties/ arms

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