TRCN

PhD **Study Material**

on

PQE 016: *Adult Education*

For category *"A"*: teachers with *Doctorate in Education* or **Ph.D.** in any other field but in combination with either *NCE*, *PDDE* or *PGDE*.

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TRCN PQE 016: ADULT EDUCATION

Introduction to Adult Education

Adult education focuses on educating adults by addressing their unique needs, motivations, and learning styles.

Unlike traditional schooling, it often occurs in non-formal or informal settings and aims to facilitate personal growth, enhance skills, and promote lifelong learning.

It includes various formats, such as workshops, community classes, and online courses, tailored to accommodate the diverse needs of adult learners.

Purpose of Adult Education

- **Personal Development**: It encourages self-improvement and personal fulfilment.

- **Skill Acquisition**: It provides vocational training to enhance employability.

- **Social Engagement**: It promotes active citizenship and community involvement.

- **Lifelong Learning**: It fosters a culture of continuous education beyond formal schooling.

Scope of Adult Education

The scope of adult education spans various educational levels, from basic literacy to advanced skills training, catering to different interests and backgrounds. It also tackles issues such as social equity, economic development, and cultural awareness.

The Psychology and Characteristics of Adult Learners

Adult learners exhibit distinct characteristics that influence their educational experiences:

- **Self-Directed**: Adults typically take responsibility for their learning by seeking out resources and opportunities.

- **Experience-Based**: They draw on a wealth of life experiences, shaping their perspectives and informing their learning.

- **Goal-Oriented**: Adults often pursue specific goals, such as career advancement or personal enrichment.

- **Pragmatic**: They prefer practical, applicable learning that relates directly to their lives and work.

- **Diverse Backgrounds**: Adult learners come from varied educational, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, which require tailored instructional approaches.

Community Development

Community development involves empowering communities to improve their social, economic, and environmental conditions.

Through education and training, individuals acquire skills and knowledge that enhance their participation in community life. This process fosters collaboration among community members, enabling them to identify and address local challenges effectively.

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning promotes the idea that learning is a continuous process that occurs throughout an individual's life.

It encourages people to engage in various educational activities beyond formal schooling, such as workshops, seminars, and online courses. Lifelong learning fosters personal and professional growth, adaptability, and a culture of curiosity.

Distance Learning

Distance learning offers educational opportunities through digital platforms, allowing learners to study remotely at their own pace.

This mode of education provides flexibility, making it accessible to individuals who may have work or family commitments. It uses various multimedia resources, including videos, readings, and interactive activities, to facilitate learning.

Non-Formal Education

Non-formal education encompasses structured learning that occurs outside the traditional school system.

It includes community workshops, vocational training, and adult education programs designed to meet specific needs. This type of education focuses on practical skills and knowledge, making it relevant for personal development and employability.

Functional Literacy

Functional literacy refers to the ability to read, write, and perform basic mathematical tasks needed for daily life.

Programs targeting functional literacy aim to equip individuals with the skills necessary to navigate their environments effectively, enhance their employability, and participate fully in society.

Continuing Education

Continuing education involves educational programs for adults who seek to improve their skills or acquire new knowledge.

Often related to professional development, these programs can include courses, certifications, and workshops designed to keep individuals updated in their fields or explore new interests.

Mass Literacy Education

Mass literacy education focuses on eradicating illiteracy on a large scale by implementing initiatives targeting specific populations.

These efforts use diverse teaching methods to promote reading and writing skills, ensuring individuals acquire foundational literacy necessary for personal empowerment and community development.

Methods of Teaching Adults

Effective teaching methods for adults include:

1. **Collaborative Learning**: Encouraging group discussions and teamwork enhances learning through shared experiences.

2. **Experiential Learning**: Practical, hands-on experiences solidify knowledge and skills.

3. **Problem-Based Learning**: Focusing on real-world problems allows adults to apply their learning directly.

4. **Flexible Scheduling**: Offering classes at various times accommodates the diverse schedules of adult learners.

5. **Technology Integration**: Utilizing online platforms and digital resources enhances access to learning materials.

Non-Formal Education in Nigeria

Non-formal education in Nigeria serves as an alternative to traditional schooling, addressing the educational needs of *out-of-school* youths and adults.

It encompasses structured learning that occurs outside the formal education system, such as community workshops, vocational training, adult literacy programs, and life skills development.

Various organisations, including government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), offer these programmes, targeting specific populations, including women, rural communities, and disadvantaged groups.

Non-formal education focuses on practical skills that enhance employability and foster personal development, bridging the gap between formal education and the skills required for self-sufficiency and economic participation.

In addition to vocational skills, non-formal education often emphasizes functional literacy, enabling individuals to read, write, and perform essential tasks in everyday life.

These initiatives play a crucial role in promoting social equity, improving livelihoods, and contributing to national development goals by empowering individuals and communities through accessible and relevant educational opportunities.

The Role of Adult Education in the Development of Nigeria

- **Economic Growth**:

By equipping individuals with relevant skills, adult education fosters productivity and economic participation.

- **Social Inclusion**:

It addresses inequalities by providing educational opportunities to marginalised groups.

- **Empowerment**:

Adult education empowers individuals, promoting self-reliance and informed decision-making.

- **Civic Engagement**:

Educated adults are more likely to participate in civic activities, contributing to democratic governance and community development.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC: ADULT EDUCATION (016)

1. Functional literacy refers to _____

A. Advanced academic skills
B. Basic reading, writing, and maths for daily life
C. Ignoring basic skills
D. Exclusive focus on vocational training

2. Which groups benefit from non-formal education in Nigeria?

A. Only men
B. Women, rural communities, and disadvantaged groups
C. Urban elite
D. Only university students

3. The role of adult education in economic development is to _____

A. Reduce skills among individuals
B. Foster productivity and economic participation
C. Promote unemployment
D. Limit workforce skills

4. Which group is often overlooked in traditional education systems?

A. Adults returning to education
B. High school students
C. University graduates
D. Young children

5. Which term describes the ability to access, analyse, and evaluate information?

A. Digital literacy
B. Functional illiteracy
C. Traditional literacy
D. Limited knowledge

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12. *Curriculum Studies*

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14. *Educational Management*

15. *Special Education*

16. ***Adult Education***

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