

MUSIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

It is virtually impossible to talk of anything that concerns growth and development of any nation without reference to their musical values, norms, and customs. Music is integrated with life and appropriate music accompanies almost every stage of human existence. Music plays an important role in the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Nigeria, and it can be a powerful force for sustainable development in the country. By fostering cultural preservation, fostering social cohesion, and contributing to economic growth and job creation, music has the potential to support sustainable development in Nigeria. This paper draws on existing literature, interviews with music industry professionals, and case of successful music initiatives in Nigeria to provide insights into the relationship between music and sustainable development in the country. This paper therefore, examines the concept of music, how music is conceptualized in the Nigerian tradition roles of music and musicians on sustaining development in Nigeria and assess the significant roles of music and musicians in sustaining development in Nigeria.

Introduction

Music is a cultural phenomenon, universal and a living experience, which is shared and experienced by all the members of a given culture. According to Okafor (1991:18) ‘no study of culture is complete without a close and corresponding studies of music of the people. It is not possible to know enough of the people in their lands without a corresponding study of their music. Music is the expression of man’s deepest self.

Music is a formidable weapon for sustaining fellowship, joy and spiritual upliftment. It is an integral part of Nigerian culture and is performed in connection with aspects of life such as birth, festivals, rituals, marriages, initiation, installations, coronations and other special occasion. According to Doris “2015: 108 – 109) music is part of man’s life such that it is believed that man eats, sleeps and wakes up with music. Through the participation in folk cultural activities, the people in communities around or within are required to gain understanding and knowledge of accepting what belongs to them, see themselves as one big family, love one another and live peacefully with all at home and abroad. (p. 108 – 109). Adekola and Amole (2015:91) asserted that “music reflects practice, tradition, belief system, recreational practice and general ways of life of a people in a given society. It has been a communal art without a clear separation of composer and audience.

Music gives the freedom to express ideas, thoughts and comments which reflects norms, customs, values for social control, promotion and persuasion of cultural heritage. Music is integrated with life and appropriate music accompanies almost every stage of human existence. Alor (1994:70) stated that “music is an aspect of culture. It stands out to keep advertising, warning, extolling, exposing, and

correcting the members of the community in order to foster conformity and solidarity, necessary for ideal personal and corporate well-being. Music develops man’s emotion, intellect, physique, moral principles, individual character traits and habits, thus manifesting itself a vital aspect of culture that is instrumental to personality development.

Through music, the society is able to control groups, individuals, sections within the society. Ethical and moral standards are prescribed in folktales, folk stories, lullabies, didactic songs, proverbial songs, social control songs, popular songs, work songs, satirical songs, derisive songs and festival songs. Members of the society are consistently reminded their obligations and duties, respect for elders, norms and values. Onwueke 2005:147 “music plays a significant role in the Nigerian society, the song text and the sound of musical instrument inform people of what to do, how to do it and when to do it, music is an expression of the culture of the people, that is, the cultures, values, norms, the traditional musical instruments and language being used”.

Music as a tool for Sustainable Development

Music plays a significant role in educating, informing, encouraging, admonition, enlightening the members of the society for purposeful and peaceful societal development. It is one of the strongest tools for cultural uniqueness and self-identity in the life of any society. Alor (1994:68) asserted that “what is man without music? Where is the modern man that needs no music in his life activities? I cannot find these. Whatever man has conceived or done came to pass within music borne culture. The birth of a nation is celebrated with music among the common people and the elites. The service of music articulates and

reflect the nation's philosophy, aspiration, political, ideology and goal, hence, a National Anthem is composed and given an honoured place in serious national occasions".

Music is very useful tool for sustaining the development of man's personality. It is the most essential medium for goal pursuit activities, be it economic, social, political, moral, education, philosophy, religion, science and other activities of man.

According to Ezeh (2015) "music is a process of sustainable development in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technology change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations as development, whereby a nation meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs".

Music is a formidable weapon for sustaining the development of a nation. Nigerian music industry rescues the country from its present economic predicaments. The music industry has been able to service and offer employments to many of the gifted talented youths in Nigeria. Olusoji(2017:463) stated that "the development in all sphere of the economy also rubbed on music and the entertaining industry as a whole, musicians enjoyed both local and international patronage instruments and accessories were purchased and used. Nwakpa(2022:202) observed that the field of study of music engages in the scientific construction, and manufacture of musical instruments as well as the techniques of instrument repairs. Constructed musical instruments include the piano, organ, violin, clarinet, flute, guitar, trumpet, piano, slit or wooden drums and metalophonic. Music service in nation building and role of music in nation

building are synonymously related. The feasibility of the music industry as a source of revenue generation cannot be over emphasized.

According to Joel S. A. (2002:128), "a life without music is dull, uninteresting and of course dead while still living. Music cannot be divorced from the sustainable development of a nation. It is an essential tool for achieving social, political, economic, religious development".

Music is a fundamental instrument for national development. It is a process of developing right skills, aptitudes and knowledge. Adeoye (2000) stated that "the knowledge of music and society is essential in the development and sustenance of original mind in African society (p. 130). The study of music is an indispensable phenomenon that has contributed immensely to the development of an individual group and society at large.

Music trains individuals to be self-reliant, discipline in order to aid the rate of poverty, unemployment and other social vices in the society. It trains individual as a vocation for skill acquisition, needs, employment opportunities and the right attitudes required to make progress and at the same time contribute positively to the sustainability and development of the society. Ayida (1980) asserted that "development aims at the qualitative improvement of the standard of living of man in his human existence. It is an achievement from low level to a higher level of political, social, economic, scientific and technological maturity. It is a process designed progressively to create conditions in which every person enjoys and utilizes all his human rights, which consequently brings improvement in his quality of life" (p. 12).

Music is required for intellectual, moral, physical, emotional, personality

development. Alor (1994:75) rightly observed that “music develops man’s emotion, intellect, physique, moral principles, individual character traits and habits, thus manifesting itself a vital aspect of culture for sustainable development.

Music and musicians are gospels of the media by instilling sanity, good moral, virtues, norms and values to the members of the society. Nzewi (1980:15) opined that “folk music assists in the maintenance and of the laws of the land, safeguards and perpetuates tradition, discourages the degeneration of personal and corporate morals, promotes social equity and fights injustice, crowns rulers, organizes and enlivens all purposes of the folk governmental system in collecting dues, fines, in promoting and marshalling community and group labour. It officiates in the administration and execution of justice, extols and popularizes good progressive government while it warns exposes as well as being instrumental in correcting unpopular government”.

Music is a strong tool for enforcing man to be law abiding, upright in character and useful to himself and the society by contributing positively to the development of the nation at large. According to Omuku (2020:199) “popular music has become the foremost tool for national development as this genre of music promotes entrepreneurship skills that are readily applicable upon graduation from the University, created a large market segment for youth consumption.

With the mass revolution of the technological incorporations, music offers a great opportunity for technologist, musicologist, composer, sound arrangers, engineers, publishers-recorded, released

and re-produced. Adegbite (2023:108) noted that “the enthusiastic acceptance of foreign music by African youths has a profound impact on youth music in Nigeria. Jazz, blues, R & B, soul, reggae, rock, blues, rap, hip-hop, satellite television channels and the internet, no doubt from greater part of the instrumentality for Nigerian sustainable development.

Conclusion

Music is significant in every culture and all activities of man need one form of music or the other. Music as a vocation brings about key technological and innovative skills that allows for sustainable development. Music occupies a significant position in the overall development of every individual from the cradle to grave. It is an integral part of sustainable development in Nigeria.

Nigeria is blessed with a vast amount of cultural heritage, which represents the sum total of their past, present and future development. Music is a formidable weapon for sustaining the social, political, religious, economic, scientific and technological growth and development in Nigeria.

Music services in nation-building and source of employment and revenue generation cannot be over-emphasized. It is a vehicle for entertainment, advertisement and enlightenment of government policies. Music and musicians are gospels in passing vital information to the members of the society on moral virtues and acceptable societal norms, values and behaviour as law abiding and upright in character.

Music is a vital tool for self-reliant, curbing the high rate of unemployment, poverty, hunger and other social vices in the society.

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