

**CYRIL CHRISTOPHER**

**BRIGHT FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL**

**NUMAN**

**ADAMAWA STATE**

**SS3 (THREE)**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**Topic: Make a case for the inclusion of History as a compulsory subject in Nigeria school**

**curriculum**

The importance of History to a person and group of individuals (organization) cannot be over emphasized. The growth and development as well as the continuity of any society are dependent upon the history of that society well known to its living populace.

History as derived from the Greek word; “historia” which means “inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation” according to Wikipedia. It has been well defined as the study of the past as it is described in written documents. Its definition is broadened as academic disciplines which uses a narrative to examines and analyze a sequence of past events, and objectively determine the patterns of cause and effect that determine them according to Wikipedia.

As earlier mentioned, the importance of History to the Nigerian child cannot be over emphasized and hence the need for its inclusion in our school curriculum.

History is not a discipline designed only for a specific faculty of learning as its knowledge is important to all fields of study, be it pure science, social science, applied science, arts and humanities, commercial, etc. it is important for the continuity and progress of the Nigerian society.

Before any new thing will come to being, it is important that its history of existence in the past is looked into. It can also be observed that history is the bedrock of every society. When you travel from one place to another, you are always to look into and know the history of those places you travel in and out.

History guarantees your safety in a place. It is the history of a particular place that tells you whether or not that place is prompt to crisis, war or it is a peaceful place to live in. history

**Title: Make a case for the inclusion of History as a compulsory subject in the Nigeria curriculum**

educates you on the culture and tradition of a society or community you identify yourself with. The history of a place serves as a tool for tourist attraction. History gives you an in-depth knowledge about a place, its nick and cranny.

It is pertinent that it is inculcated as a subject and even a faculty itself in our school curriculum.

In fact, you are not yet a complete citizen of a place if you are not well acquainted with the history of that place. Take a Nigerian citizen for instance that has no knowledge of the Nigerian history, and he/she is using Nigeria as his/her nationality, when he/she is questioned on things surrounding Nigerian history and cannot answer, then the questionnaire finds it difficult to agree to the fact that that person is a citizen.

It is believed that our history is our identity; it is what defines us as a people. It gives essence to our existence. You are just like a blind man trailing on a dangerous route, when you do not know the history of the society you find yourself.

The following are some of the reasons why I am of the opinion that the inclusion of history in our school curriculum is the best thing that has ever happened to the Nigeria's education.

Firstly, history studies the past and the legacies of the past in the present. Far from being a "dead" subject, it connects things through time and encourages its students to take a long view of such connections. Understanding the linkages between past and present is absolutely basic for a good understanding of the condition of being human.

Secondly, history allows people to build and as may well be necessary, also to change, upon a secure foundation.

History is also important for the development of patriotism, especially in our schools.

**Title: Make a case for the inclusion of History as a compulsory subject in the Nigeria curriculum**

So many innovations are dependent upon what we know before (History).

History is an added advantage to prove that you are right.

History makes one's life richer by giving meaning to the books one reads, the cities one visits or the music one hears. It also broadens one's outlook by presenting to one an admixture of races, a mingling of cultures and a spectacular drama of the making of the modern world out of diverse forces.

Another importance of history is that it enables one to grasp one's relationship with one's past. For example if one wonders why the U.S. flag has 48 stars or why Great Britain follows monarchy, one has to turn to history for an answer.

History is of immense value to social scientists engaged in research. Thus the political scientist doing research on the parliamentary form of government has to draw his materials from the treasure trove of history.

A study of history shows that people, both individually and as groups or nations, repeatedly encounter the same kinds of problems. If we understand how and why we responded to a particular problem in the past, and if we also understand the results of that past response, maybe we can develop a better response when the problem occurs again. In this context, history is useful to predict the results of a contemplated response to a problem.

History can be inspirational: reading about the courage of some hero may inspire a reader to also be courageous — and probably wind up as a martyr, since people in power resent challenges by courageous or principled people. Reading a biography of a scientist might inspire a young student to persevere and work diligently for tens of years in the quest to understand something new.

**Title: Make a case for the inclusion of History as a compulsory subject in the Nigeria curriculum**

It is conventionally understood that history gives a group of people (e.g., a nation or state) a sense of identity. For that reason, schools commonly require that pupils be taught the local national history. Personally, I wonder if teaching national history is a good idea. The content of national history textbooks seems to be to glorify the nation, to explain why “we” are better than anyone else, and to justify why we should impose our religion, our system of government, and our values on other people in other parts of the world. In this sense, national history is transformed, from an honest intellectual understanding of both good and bad accomplishments, into dogma and jingoism. Once a nation believes that they are better than anyone else, they have an easy excuse to invade their neighbors or to smite anyone who irritates them. A more credible way of studying national history is to read books written by historians who are citizens of other countries, who look at a nation from outside, which gives those historians more objectivity.

It preserves the traditional and cultural values of a nation, and serves as a beacon light, guiding society in confronting various crises. History is indeed, as Allen Nerins puts it, "a bridge connecting the past with the present and pointing the road to the future."

It gives better knowledge about our culture and the culture of others.

Just to mention but a view, it becomes paramount that history is included in our school curriculum. In fact, history is not just “useful”, it is essential.

*“People who do not know their past have no future”*

*-Anonymous*