

Drawing: Sustainable Media of Visual Expression

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Published: 6/6/2023

Abstract: Drawing may be considered an important phenomenon in the history and development of creative arts as well as architecture and others. Its relevance and efficacy to human and sustainable national development are neglected and relegated to the background, hence the study. Aniakor (2012), states that Western Construction o) Knowledge are always accepted as foundational to development issues in Africa, its construction has global status; its knowledge is an irreversible variant upon which all knowledge is based or arises. The study therefore, shares the view that knowledge could be acquired and advanced out of one's immediate environment using different media or medium. Drawing as a medium of visual expression is highlighted to reflect its importance to humanity and development of architecture, engineering as well as modern technology. Primary and Secondary sources of data collation were used to achieve the objectives of the study. The study reveals that drawing is a significant route to knowledge and could be developed and improved upon to achieve sustainable national development. These however, took the study to conclusion and possible recommendations were advanced for futuristic focus.

Keywords: Drawing, media, visual expression

GJEST

2023

INTRODUCTION

Drawing from early and prehistoric times has been effective and sustainable means of livelihood to mankind. It also played ritualistic and religious functions among other particularly, to the early men, cave and prehistoric men. History records they drawing was a significant and huge parts of their daily life (sound economic ritual, religion) it served their purpose and

encouraged innovative technology which have been transferred to modern times. For examples drawing has massively inspired and developed contemporary architecture engineering, artistic creations, medicine education estate management as well as indigenous technology in recent times. Examples of drawings from early times.



Cave Art Drawings 2023, Internet Source



Fig 2: Cave Art Drawings 2023, Internet Source

Drawing is a curious and dynamic process of creating an illusion on a flat surface. Drawing is synonymous with seeing to the extent that the two can hardly be separated in concrete terms, ability to draw depends on ability to see the way an architect or visual artist sees, significantly, this kind of seeing could marvelously enrich one's curiosity and hugely inspire creativity, which to a justifiable consideration may lead to development of technology which most societies or communities are craving for. However, self-defeatism may be considered a major barrier to effective drawing activity. According to Edward (1989) manual skill is not a primary factor in drawing. She opines that if your handwriting is readable or if you can print legibly, you have ample dexterity to draw well.

This study is of the view that everybody, naturally, can draw, but as long as such persons are not born with natural disabilities like blindness, trauma and psychomotor challenges and few others. Effective reflexes and interest as well as practice are the key and determinant factors to effective drawing exercise. Again, government and societal values play monumental roles in encouraging and or discouraging artistic creation. A value driven society must pay particular or considerable attention to every activity that may inspire creativity which in the end galvanizes massive sustainable national development.

Every activity that may trigger creative exploration should not be ignored or relegated to the background in any nation that aspire to grow developmentally, socially, economically, educationally, technologically and culturally. To this end, the study underscores the relevance of drawing, visual arts, architecture, engineering, as well as environmental



Fig 3: Freehand Sketch 2023, Facebook.

studies, as monumental catalyst to sustainable national development. A nation without creativity and ability to create becomes pandemonium, economically and technologically and may not growing beyond borrowing over dependency on foreign ally for survival.

However, it is for this reason, that most developed nation create ministry of culture and communication to make accessible to as many people as possible the major works of humanity. In this regard the ministry develops cultural policy drafted towards the enhancement and protection of cultural heritage in all considerations, and supports the creation of works of visual arts particularly drawing, sculpture, paintings, architecture, graphics and others as well as development of other artistic practices. However, it also contributes to arts and cultural education of children and young adults throughout their training circle.

In support of these views, Ojewuyi (201 1) remarks that such ministries oversee the activities of cultural industries as they contribute to the development of new broadcasting technologies and the creation of cultural heritage and diplomacy. This is not the same in Nigeria and most other developing economies, In Nigeria situation what is contained in the constitution or in such similar ministry (culture) is grammatical edifice constructed by non-grammatical experts which render the aim and objectives of the ministry unrealistic and unachievable.

In the opinion of the study, visual art culture as well as tourism, should be central pillar on which agenda of realistic transformative growth and development could be built. Drawing is a significant component of visual arts and architecture which hitherto enhances imagination

and creativity as well as galvanizes technological breakthrough and sustainable national development.

It must be pointed out that drawing has intrinsic and extrinsic perceptual appeal which to a greater degree constitute significantly monumental pedestal for creativity and imagination, thereby, paving way for development and technological breakthrough. This could be exemplified by the stature and status of contemporary architecture in terms of designs and drawings of elevated magnitude. However, drawing and its efficacy has contributed to the growth and development of modern architecture, medicine, engineering, education, technology, geography, estate management, urban and regional planning, building and others.

Drawing may be used to define architecture and significant statement may be made of architecture, engineering, building, visual arts and the society at large with or by drawing.

However, it is the position of the study, that drawing encourages growth and development of visual arts, architecture, creativity as well as technology and scientific studies which include enhanced cultural values and culture related elements. Drawing in contemporary times therefore, becomes massively creative and environmental paradigm through which innovative and transformative technology may be achieved. The whole essence of drawing is to develop and a search for multiple centers of knowledge and power to develop a global site for creative ingenuity and strive above all contestations and interrogations.

Drawing and its efficacy is a product of the environment. Environment, therefore, becomes *Sine qua non* to effective drawing potential. It is on this basis that Chima (2018) sees environment as the whole sum of the external surrounding conditions within which an organism, 8 community or an object exist. In his view, he asserts that understanding of the physical environment is necessary to every man, which hitherto gives rise to the concept of environmental determinism where the environment determines all man's activities. His view on this subject takes the study to the concept of possibilism, which significantly situates drawing as a huge concept of possibilism and determinism. In view of these therefore, one may boldly suggest that the environment influences drawing potential and drawing on the other hand, may to a greater degree, influence the development of the environment.

Mish (2008) describes environment as surroundings of; and influences on a particular subject of interest. In a related development, he further asserts that environment is the set of variables and their values in a namespace that an operating system associate with a process. On the other hand, Hornby (1995) sees environment as the conditions that affect the behavior and development of somebody or something within the physical conditions that somebody or something exists in. In all contestations, environment, therefore, becomes a necessary commodity that influences the effective

growth and development of man and society. One, therefore, may suggest that environment influences drawing activities and habits, may also promote drawing potential and creative explorations which may inspire knowledge, imagination, technological breakthrough and sustainable national development in Nigeria and beyond. The study, therefore, submits that environment and drawing are *Sine qua non* to entrepreneurial and capacity building facilitators,

DRAWING

Drawing may be seen as a process, activity or a picture made by using pencil, pen and or other devices to achieve a desirable result on a two dimensional surface. Historically, drawing has been an inseparable phenomenon from man, starting from prehistoric to modern times. Drawing was instrumental to the effective existence of prehistoric and cave men. Early men lived on caves and were predominantly hunters and developed certain skills for survival based on stone cracking and drawings on the cave walls.

However, drawing was historical, social and religious paradigms on which their effective existence was based. In view of this therefore, the study is of the view that drawing encourages innovative ideas, development of technological and scientific studies which enhance cultural values and culture related elements.

According to Nwogu (2015) Citing Curtis (2006) the earliest discovery of paintings and drawings within the precincts of a cave was in Altamira, Spain in the year 1879 by an archeologist, Don Marcelino and his daughter Maria. The work was a drawing of a bison on the ceiling of the cave. Nwogu (2015), cites another example of European cave art (drawings) which is in the cave of Lascaux in France whose drawing represents Rhinoceros (Man and Bison) and dates 15,000 BCE. One may suggest that from Paleolithic, Mesolithic and to the Neolithic eras drawing is and was a significant dimension on which the early men and prehistoric age people survived.

In contemporary times, the scenario is not entirely different. Drawing to a greater extent, remains in situ within the domains of environmental and technological based economies in the world today. Therefore, could be utilized as a counter strategy to reshape, strategize and build a sustainable national and human development.

The study situates drawing as developmental and inspirational metaphor that may inspire strategic remodelling of technology, economy, environment, architecture, visual arts, building, estate management, geography, urban and regional planning and others. It is observed, however, that from all the periods that have preceded this era, drawing offers most objective evidence one has of man's power over the world.

Drawing inspires imagination, creativity and technological development, which help in catalyzing job creation which the developing economies like Nigeria are in dire need of.

Drawing in contemporary times has embellished architecture which is a significant body of visual arts. This, however, is exemplified by the quality and standards of architectural designs which are of national and international standards, Their celebrity now is such that it is easy to lose sight of what is really new and challenging in their achievements based on standard and quality of designs with the help of drawing, it is apparently clear that the present architects and visual artists have decisively extended the scope of drawing from what it was in the traditional and prehistoric eras, colonial period and thereafter, even fifty years after independence in Nigeria.

Drawing has reshaped and remodelled visual arts, architecture, engineering, education and technology in the positive direction. These achievements are in terms of conceptual, formalistic as well as structural considerations of creative designs in every nook and crannies of the communities. Visual arts and architecture are synonymous with drawing and may not be divorced from one another, Architecture and others have contributed significantly to the growth and development of the wider society in contemporary times and may not have attained the present status or gigantic stride without drawing.

The study, therefore, situates drawing as a monumental pedestal on which visual arts, architecture, building and others are based for their effective contributions to sustainable national development in Nigeria and beyond. Drawing has also encouraged and influenced massively, professionalism and professionalization in these core professional areas,

The study observes that from the achievements made through effective drawing and designs, the artists and architects have created new images of man, renewed spatial setting and significance of public squares, helped in sophisticated architectural designs and interiors, including facades, however, through drawing, they have added glamor and a fourth dimension to architecture, thereby, conveying a fresh perception of space and time.

Again, drawing if well managed, embraced, accommodated and projected in the forefront of creative dynasty, provides a worthy intellectual and redemptive tool for the flowering of development and advancement of humanity and technology.

The study shares the view that one of the problems facing the African continent in recent times is the politics of post coloniality; when Africans both at low and high echelon of social strata inadvertently surrender to the intellectual weight of western scientism if not logocentrism as an ideal model for engaging issues of intellectualism and development of technology. In support of this view, Aniakor (2012), asserts that;

Western constructions of Knowledge are always accepted as foundational to development issues in Africa, Its construction has global status; its knowledge is an irreversible variant upon which all knowledge is based.

One may consider the realistic option of developing new knowledge from one's immediate environment. Ideologically, a systematic construction of new knowledge based on synthesis of collective ideas, may be of paramount importance to African societies, because knowledge is power. Knowledge may not be divorced from a commodity of the academic marketplace. Drawing, therefore becomes a systematic route to knowledge and could be projected and advanced beyond what it is at the moment within the African continent. All that is needed is the creation of enabling environment for creativity and new knowledge to strive. Environment may be considered a necessary commodity that influences the growth and development of humanity. Some examples of drawings here may help the study. See figure 1-6

MEDIA

The whole purpose of drawing is to express feelings and ideas. Again, it is to transmit information from one person to another. These ideas are usually non-verbal but illustrative in dimension. It therefore, becomes a format for communicating or presenting information to the individual or public Mish (2008). Drawing could be considered a medium/media through which aim or impression is achieved. However, media to a considerable degree galvanize and inspire effective drawing activities, thereby, catalyzing hugely, sustainable national development. Some drawing media include charcoal, pen and ink, paper, pencil, crayon, pastel and others.

Examples;



Fig 4: Henry Nnaji, Untitled, Pen and Ink.



Fig 5: Henry Nnaji, Untitled, Pen and Ink

VISUAL EXPRESSIONS

Any activity that appeals first to the sense of sight may be regarded as visual expression. Such activities include visual arts - painting, architecture, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, textile, installation, metal construction, draughtmanship and others. Visual expressions may be used to make strong statement about significant issues affecting communities, nations or continents and others. Most times, cartoon which is a pivotal part of drawing is used as a visual metaphor to communicate and transmit ideas to the public, Most times, sanity and orderliness are achieved in communities across nations, through cartoons and other forms of creative drawing activities.

Visual expression plays monumental roles in growth and development of nations through visual arts, architecture, building, estate management, engineering, medicine, geography and planning, urban and regional planning and others. These in the end help in capacity building and other creative enterprise.

Some examples of visual expressions include the following illustrations below;



FIG 6: Freehand Sketch 2023

Source: www.designs/arc.designs.com



FIG 7: Freehand Sketch 2023

Source: www.designs/arc.designs.com

CONCLUSION

Drawing is a significant aspect of human civilization that may not be relegated to the background because of its numerous contributions to the growth and development of humanity. It is a massive aspect of visual arts including architecture, engineering and other technological based discipline leading to increase in human and national development. Drawing appears silent but salient in capacity building, entrepreneurial development as well as technological breakthrough. Aniakor, Osita, Ikwuegbu, Azubuine, Odim, Alozie, Michael Angelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Picasso and others are strong testimonies to effectiveness and relevance of drawing to humanity and sustainable national development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that drawing should be encouraged in the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Just as Aniakor (2012), acknowledges that Americans have demonstrated that knowledge is a commodity of the academic marketplace. Drawing in the Nigeria context should be taken as a serious business. Drawing may be taken as a tool for understanding the world, and also a technique for transforming the world. Drawing in the opinion of the study may inspire heavy

technologies from miniaturized technologies and could move on to provide a suitable playground for human, industrial and technological advancement of any nation and therefore, should be encouraged as an academic discipline, Ikwuegbu (2010) supports the view that sustainable national development may be achieved significantly through creativity and imagination which are monumental parts of visual arts,

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