

Mathematics as a Tool in Human Capital Formation and Development in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The objective of this study was to examine whether the study of mathematics as a subject or course has any significant relationship with Nigerian National Development. Also, to ascertain if organizations whose workforce are sound mathematically are more likely to achieve higher productivity than those whose workforce are defective, mathematically. The methodology used to elicit data for the analysis was a simple random sampling technique by which a total of 100 respondents were selected from three faculties of the Kogi State University, including the bursary department. The sample size comprised of both students, academic and non-academic staff of the university. This method was considered adequate for the study in view of the homogenous nature of the population surveyed. The study revealed that "mathematics" as a field of study, was the only key to technological breakthrough in any given society. And no society could make meaningful progress in science and technology without embracing the concept, logic and philosophy of mathematics which is the tap root to all scientific thinking minds. Despite these facts however, many Nigerian Chief executives hate being associated with the study of mathematics and would want to avoid it by all means if possible. The study therefore recommended that, mathematics should be made a compulsory subject or course at the first and second years of study in all the tertiary institutions of learning in Nigeria. And equally, it should be incorporated in the training curricula of all organizations in Nigeria be it private or public sector organization. It is only then that the workers' minds could be developed for sound logical and critical reasoning that would help them as better planners and decision-makers in management and general administration.