

APPLICATION OF MATHEMATICS EDUCATION IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WEALTH CREATION IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

¹ALIO, B.C & ²ANAECHE, K. C.

¹Department of Science and Computer Education, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, (ESUT).

²Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Education, Institute of Ecumenical Education, Enugu.

ABSTRACT

The rate of poor economic situation and industrial development in Nigeria in spite of several measures by different governments has necessitated the need to determine how Mathematics can help in developing effective and functional industry which will in turn create wealth in Nigeria. This study therefore, investigated the various ways of application of Mathematics in industrial development and wealth creation in Nigeria. It adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 1308 personnel from Enugu state Ministry of Commerce and Industry and a cross section of 53 Mathematics educators. A sample of two hundred respondents, comprising of 177 of the personnel and 23 Mathematics educators, was drawn using a convenient non probability sampling technique. Three research questions were raised and three research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. A structured questionnaire of 15 items was used to collect data on the ways of application of Mathematics in industrial development and wealth creation in Nigeria. The instrument was validated by three experts; two of them were Mathematics educators while the other was from the department of Measurement and Evaluation, all in Enugu State University of Science and Technology. The reliability of the instrument was calculated using Cronbach alpha. The questionnaire had a reliability coefficient of 0.85. The data collected were analyzed using mean score on a four-point scale. The hypotheses were tested at a level of significance of 0.05 using *t*-test statistic. Among the findings were that Mathematics can be applied in industrial development and wealth creation in Nigeria through helping an individual to forecast for the future, carry out research on industrial prospects and to take decision. Following the findings, the following recommendations were made: that more emphasis should be laid on teaching of construction and use of Mathematics models in tertiary institutions. This will give Mathematics graduates the opportunity to construct the models for sales, if they want to, after graduation or even while in school. This will certainly help them in developing micro industries, thereby contributing to the wealth of the nation; that Mathematics educators should be involved in all government programmes for industrial development and wealth creation.

Keywords: Industrial development and wealth creation.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a veritable tool for economic wellbeing, industrial and wealth creation of any nation. Nigeria recognized this fact; hence, she extended the period of compulsory education

