

Current Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies in Agriculture, Family, Industry, Health and Education

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Introduction

Home Economics came into being as early as the 19th century when the principles of applied domesticity were being taught. However, the term “Home Economics” was not applied until the early 20th century due to efforts of Ellen Swallow Richards (1842-1911) which culminated in the 1899 formation of Lake Placid Conferences that led to the coining of the term Home Economics. By 1862, the Morrill Act was passed in the United States of America, establishing land-grant colleges which were open to women, and that were mandated to foster research and instruction in practical areas of endeavor. At this time, the application of scientific theories and techniques modernized activities associated with Home Economics, such as cooking, laundry, sewing, housecleaning, care of the sick, and sanitation. Thus, by 1908, the American Home Economics Association was formed; which went on to lobby Federal and State governments for funding to facilitate the research and teaching of Home Economics (Stage and Vincent, 1997; Biography.com Editors, 2014).

Home Economics can be viewed from the point of an empirical science where the progress in family life and the promotion of human development and welfare of people can be attained through studies in various problems centered on family life and its related social environments from both physical and

mental sides (Kuramoto, 2008). Home Economics is a interdisciplinary and a multi-disciplinary profession, with the importance of families at the core of everything undertaken by professionals in the field (Vaines, 1980; Kieren *et al.*, 1984; Pendergast, 2006).

Specialized Areas of Field of Home Economics

People working in the field of Home Economics educate, take action and advocate to government, industry and the community in order to enhance the wellbeing of individuals and families, especially as it relates to food and nutrition, living environments and textiles. The focus of the course is to enable individuals and families to make informed and ethical decisions in order to enhance their everyday living

Home Economics professionals may specialize in family and child care management, food management, nutrition, resource management, consumerism, textiles, clothing and housing (Kembe, 2016). The importance of Home Economics is closely related to character building. Sukaryono (2004) opined that the lack of character building in some people in the society has created a set of people that tend to become ill-tempered, malicious, dishonest, selfish, anarchic, provocative, job-madness, vandals, vulgar, and negative behavior in the community.

A. Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies In Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of humanity. The last three decades has witnessed substantial improvements in human wellbeing due to advanced technologies involved in agriculture. According to FAO (2015) at least a reduction of about 42% of undernourished people in the developing regions has been achieved; even though, there were reports of regional differences between Asia and sub-Saharan African. Clearly, there is much to be done to reach the targets for 2030 as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015) particularly Goal 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. With an expected 2–3 billion people to feed over the next 40 years, this will require targeted efforts to achieve making 70% more food available to keep up with rapidly rising demand (Alexandratos and Bruinsma, 2012).

At the same time, climate change is already affecting agriculture in many developing countries and the effects will become increasingly challenging in the future (Thornton *et al.*, 2014). Several approaches are being used to address poverty, and in developing countries, agricultural development is one. The role of agriculture in reducing poverty is relatively well studied; enhancing agriculture is often seen as a critical entry-point in designing effective poverty reduction strategies (Christiaensen *et al.*, 2006; Alston, 2010). The adoption of improved agricultural practices, technologies and policies, such as high-yielding crop varieties, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation and enabling policies, have positive impact relative to research investment (Renkow and Byerlee, 2010; Raitzer and Kelley, 2008).

Nevertheless, the world food system continues to face challenges of persistent food insecurity and rural poverty in places. The adoption of improved agricultural technologies and practices by farmers has often been less than expected, despite demonstrated benefits. There are many contributing factors, including inherent limitations of supply-led approaches to development and dissemination, limited attention to context-specificity and to farmers' priorities beyond increased agricultural productivity and lack of appreciation of the socio economic, political and institutional contexts within which smallholder farmers operate (Orr, 2012). A technology or intervention may need to be much more than "scientifically proven" if it is to be adopted; good social management and appropriate implementation processes are likely to be needed as well (Pachico and Fujisaka, 2004; Hartmann and Linn, 2008). In addition, the rate of change in many socio-economic and earth system trends appears to be accelerating (Steffen *et al.*, 2015) perhaps to the point where the past is no longer a good indicator of the future. Considerable behavioural shifts will be needed on the part of all stakeholders if food security is to be achieved for the more than 9 billion people on the planet by 2050. Agricultural Research for Development has huge challenges ahead, and ways are needed to do it more effectively. There is no doubt that all hands must be on deck in order to tackle poverty arising from food shortages due to effect of climate change and irreconcilable war occurrences. According to Clark (2015) enumerated some of the changes that could help to change the perspective about the current trend in agriculture in order to alleviate poverty as:

Shifting Farm Structure

There is a general conception that farming is a business and this should be handled by younger generation. It has been reported that about 45% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is below the age of fifteen and over the next two decades will be looking for employment, which will potentially be in the agricultural sector (Sihlobo, 2018). Nigeria with her youths estimated to be around 70% of the population, and with 23.9% of this youth being unemployed (Foodtank, 2014) there is no doubt that there will be a shift towards agriculture with the various agricultural programmes the Federal and State governments are putting in place to encourage the youths to take to farming as a business.

Telecommunications and Remote Sensing Revolution

Data analysis in the years ahead will supplement what farmers know intuitively—and in some cases challenge those assumptions. A myriad of remote sensing techniques, from in-field sensors to drones to satellite imagery, are allowing farmers to view their crops from multiple perspectives. With advances in computing and sensor technology, farmers can now get access to high-cadence, broad area coverage with field-level detail. All these provide farmers up-to-date information in real-time, so changes can be made accordingly to their crops (Smith and Shankar, 2018).

Biotechnology Strategy Evolution

A genetically modified organism, or GMO, is an organism that has had its DNA altered or modified in some way through genetic engineering. In most cases, GMOs have been altered with DNA from another organism, be it a bacterium, plant, virus or animal; these organisms are

sometimes referred to as “transgenic” organisms (Lallanilla, 2016). GMO foods are here to stay but face political and public relations hurdles. Up till now in Nigeria, only one or two crops (cowpea and cotton) have been certified to be released to the public for consumption and use. In fact, the cowpea is yet to be fully released to the public as it is still been tested by Institute for Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Farm Specialization

Agricultural production is becoming more specialized. More farmers are now cultivating large hectares of land in response to calls by Federal Government to produce more. Even though, most of our agricultural production is subsistent in Africa but yet due to these calls, farmers are now responding to engage in monoculture of cassava, rice, cowpea and jatropha crops (FAO, 2019).

Resource Scarcity

Food (crop) production increases have not kept pace with population growth, resulting in rising food imports and declining levels of national food self-sufficiency (FMARD, 2015). Nigeria generally relies on rain fed crop production. Even in other continents where agriculture is often supplemented with irrigation, attendant climate change has caused crop failure. Concerns have grown recently that in some areas of the world, groundwater aquifer will be depleted by about 69%. Scientists have postulated that for each 1.8°F increase in temperature, key crop yields will drop by 10% (Clark, 2015).

Climate-Smart Agriculture

The exact impacts of climate change are still highly uncertain and are likely to

vary significantly across various regions, but two general predictions are that much of Africa will experience greater variability in rainfall and a rise in temperatures. Climatesmart agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to managing landscapes—cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries—that address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change (World Bank, 2018). CSA aims to simultaneously achieve three outcomes: Increased productivity: Produce more food to improve food and nutrition security and boost the incomes of 75 percent of the world's poor that live in rural areas and mainly rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. It helps to produce crops that are not vulnerable to drought, pests, disease and other shocks; and improve capacity to adapt and grow in the face of longer-term stresses like shortened seasons and erratic weather patterns; pursue lower emissions for each calorie or kilo of food produced, avoid deforestation from agriculture and identify ways to suck carbon out of the atmosphere.

Farm Robotics

Robotics is getting better and better, and their viability is being explored across the agricultural value chain, from planting to harvesting, to meat processing and grocery logistics. Machine learning and advanced analytics are being used to mine data for trends in every sector, and agriculture is no exception. These can be applied before seed planting with plant breeders. Machine learning can predict which traits and genes will be best for crop production, giving farmers the best breed for their location and climate. At the field level, machine learning techniques that use satellite data to distinguish between crops, like corn and soy,

providing valuable information for crop insurance, logistics, and commodity markets. The intersection of robotics and data from an increasingly connected farm will accelerate this trend even further (Smith and Shankar, 2018).

Commodity Marketing

There have been much advance trade-offs between countries signing bilateral cooperation's fostered by World Trade Organizations (WTO) and International Labour Organization (ILO). Much of these bilateral cooperations were entered into to ease trade and movement of agricultural commodities between cooperating countries. Consequently, agriculture is undergoing massive transformation because of digitization, creating healthy market (Smith and Shankar, 2018).

Influence of Legislation

From fertilizer to pesticides, farmers have to be mindful of a complex web of regulations. Export and import of agricultural commodities are now faced with stringent environmental policies than before. This culminated in the rejection of some farm produce exported from Nigeria being rejected (Yahaya and Yusuf, 2018). Globally, cross border trades in food commodities has gone beyond sales and consume. A lot of check and balances are now put in place with a lot of research to determine what comes in and goes out.

Conservation of Plant Germplasm

Conservation of plant germplasm for the use of future generations is important and the creation of Svalbard global seed vault is one such popular example (<http://www.croptrust.org/main>) (Sharma and Alam, 2013). A lot of research is going on by conservationist/naturalist to amass

and put together in a gen bank, plant and animal species all over the world. Several organizations abound in the world today that specialize in collection of different crops and animal species; some are newly being identified, some are being conserved so that they don't go out of extinction.

Organic Farming and Consumption

With ever increasing public consciousness, the promotion of healthy habit benefits through the eating of various fresh and dried fruits and vegetables as well as their juices, dried products and extracts, a lot of research is now focused on organic production of farm produce. Meat consumption declined to 7.8% from 2007-13 in the USA, while China has been the world's top meat consumer since 1992 (Clark, 2015). Further, owing to increased consumer interest towards the eating of fresh rather than frozen produce, another area of research interest is how to make these farm produce available to consumers in an improved methods for short-term storage so that best quality is retained rather than to focus on longer-term storage for prolonged marketing. That is why these days some farm produce come in the form of cooked meals than just being preserved.

Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus

Water-energy-food nexus is the interaction/inextricably link between the three components (water, energy and food), which takes into consideration the synergies and trade-offs that arise from the management of these three resources (De Laurentiis *et al.*, 2014; FAO, 2014). The connection between the three interactions is more crucial in its contributing to the food security because of the global population growth resulting in food scarcity. Building sustainability and

resilience at the water, energy, food nexus is recognized as a critical foundation for poverty reduction and economic development.

B. Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies in Family Issues

Defining a subject like family and its related research concerns and technologies is first of all to get the true meaning of what family really means. From inception, religiously we are all supposed to be from one source: Adam and Eve. Hence, apparently we are all one big family. But what is family in the real context of our subject matter? In the context of human society, a family (from Latin: *familia*) is a group of people related either by consanguinity (by recognized birth), affinity (by marriage or other relationship), or co-residence (as implied by the etymology of the English word "family") or some combination of these (Loofbourrow, 2016). Members of the immediate family may include spouses, parents, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. Members of the extended family may include grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and siblings-in-law. Sometimes these althly ently, I commodities between cooperating countries s are also considered members of the immediate family, depending on an individual's specific relationship with them (Kron, 2016). However, there are situations where some perceived member of family might reject another member of family as it could happen if a stepfather accepts a stepdaughter as a family member but the stepdaughter does not reciprocate this claim. Or situation where a divorced mother living with her child may not likely consider her ex-husband to be a family member—at least since the divorce occurred. But if the child continues to spend a significant amount

of time with her father, she probably will continue to view him as a family member. In cases like these, the mother and child do not share the same family, although their families overlap. By definition of family, it would be said that the daughter is in a single-parent family, whereas the daughter would claim to be in a two parent family relationship (Amato, 2014).

Traditionally, Home Economist has studied the everyday lives of individuals in the family as the fundamental social unit, as well as the family's interactions with the larger environments. Over time, the field's increasingly strong specializations became disciplines in their own right, even though, they remain vital to the interdisciplinary field as a whole. No other profession or discipline has such a holistic approach to studying and optimizing family life with emphasis on problem prevention like Home Economics (International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family, 2003). There is however, more room for researches to be evolved still in the field of home economics. Accepting people's subjective definitions of families moves us closer to the lived reality of people's lives. Nevertheless, adopting a subjective approach does not create insurmountable problems for researchers. Current methods of social network analysis, in particular, can be adapted to study people's subjective families.

Common research focus could be in the areas such as: parental neglect, divorce, toxic and narcissistic parents, family violence, sexual abuse, toxic and abuse relationship, living up to family expectations, substance abuse in the family, accepting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) in the family, war veterans and family members, teenage delinquency, religious conflicts in the family, fostering a child, generation gap,

teenage pregnancy, family support and disabilities, life after disaster, mentally challenged family member, loss of family member, gender discrimination, multicultural family, coping with family counseling, accidentally learnt family secretes, adultery in the family, career choice, transition to adult life reforming a family member just released from prison, terminal disease, Family and consumerisms sciences, ecological concerns and resource limitations, negative, unintended consequences of capitalism. In the words of Amato (2014) we need to study families as families and not as aggregates of individuals, hence, researchers must define the unit of analysis. Most current research is based on objective definitions of families—definitions that are not shared by the majority of individuals that we study. Viewing families as overlapping networks that extend across multiple households, with each network having at its nucleus a reference person, might yield new insights, especially in an era when families are becoming more complex and difficult to classify.

C. Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies in Home Economics Industry

Technology is a body of knowledge devoted to creating tools, processing actions and the extracting of materials. It is also an application of science used to solve problems. Technology develops and explains the human-made world; it involves development, processing, and management; while science explains the natural world; science refers to systematic methodology used to gather accurate information about shared reality. The understanding of the term Technology varies from individual to individual. However, technology generally is used to

simply achieving a set goal. Technology is used to extend our abilities, therefore, making us the most crucial part of the technological system. But it is vital to know that technology and science are different subjects which work hand-in-hand to accomplish specific tasks or solve problems (Ramey, 2013).

There is difference between industrial revolution that took place at dawn of the 19th century and the home front industrialization. The industrialization of the home was a process very different from the industrialization of other means of production. Before industrialization the family was the basic social unit. Most families were rural, large, and self-sustaining; they produced and processed almost everything that was needed for their own support and for trading in the market place, while at the same time performing a host of other functions ranging from mutual protection to entertainment (Cowan, 1976). Over the years, industrialization in the field of Home Economics has seen a tremendous growth from women using rudimentary machineries that were cumbersome in the home and at the kitchen to using small and simple smart equipment. According to Aburime and Uhomoibhi (2010) technology is very important particularly in the home economics in order to solve emerging problems and address system requirements. The emphasis was placed on curriculum development and ability to effectively manage its delivery in order to be able to capture the essence of its use. Technology is used to accomplish various tasks and comes in different forms. Home Economists can take advantage of the use of such simple technologies as suggested by Ramey (2013):

Communication Technology - A system that uses technical means to transmit information or data from one place to another or from one person to another.

This can also be used to facilitate the flow of information in a workplace, to help in decision making, to serve customers needs and requests, to promote new products or services to targeted consumers and so much more.

Assistive Technology - Assistive technology is used by people with disabilities to accomplish specific tasks that are difficult or impossible to perform. The term "Assistive" means helping or providing an extra hand. Assistive technology is being used in many ways, in schools it is used to help students with Autism to learn better, it is used to help people with disabled bodies move, additionally, with the use of speech recognition applications those who are unable to type are able to use a computer and so much more. Due to advancement in technology, there are varieties of assistive technologies that assist many to accomplish tasks that may otherwise be considered impossible.

Information Technology - Information Technology is a set of hardware and software tools used to store, transfer and process information. Information technology tools help in providing the right people with the right information at the right time. Knowledgeable workers in an organization use information technology to complete various tasks and these can include; transferring of information which facilitates decision making within an organization, improve customer service, and so much more.

Entertainment Technology - This is the use of technology to create an entertainment experience. Since entertainment is too broad, everyone gets entertained in their way. Technology is used to create video games, to develop musical systems and so much more. Entertainment technology includes things like video, sound, animations, scenery

fabrication, computer simulations, interactive environments and so much more.

Business Technology - This is technology used to run a business and enhance various business operations, it normally consists of a combination of software and hardware. Many businesses are using technology to scale its growth. Small businesses have used technology to create new ways of competing with well-established companies. To some extent, some business technologies can make a small company look like a big company, and this can help a small business gain position in a competitive market.

Educational Technology - Education technology aims at improving a students' performance by creating and managing various technological processes and resources in or out the classroom. It is an academic discipline which prepares individuals to acquire deeper understanding and knowledge. It helps them learn how to devise solutions to problems through research, design, evaluation, and utilization. Educreations Interactive Whiteboard is another way to assess, jointly present, or partake in interactive activities while in the class. Kahoot is an application that allows educators to download and install; conceive of fun quizzes and learning activities to enhance student engagement (Freiberger, 2017). It enables educators more flexibility in managing students' learning and documenting progress from any device. In terms of collaborative learning, there are new applications that are making it easier for classroom teachers to be both innovative and interactive. From Google Docs to interactive whiteboards to new applications that create quizzes and activities, this is an exciting time for collaborative learning in education. Educational technology helps

in improving the way we learn, some of the benefits of educational technology include: Motivating students and encourages individual learning; easing access to educational material and helping students to learn new subjects and languages through gamification.

Smart Home Technologies (SHTs) – This comprise of sensors, monitors, interfaces, appliances and devices networked together to enable automation as well as localized and remote control of the domestic environment (Cook, 2012). Controllable appliances and devices include heating and hot water systems (boilers, radiators), lighting, windows, curtains, garage doors, fridges, televisions and washing machines (Robles and Kim, 2010). Sensors and monitors detect environmental factors including temperature, light, motion, and humidity. Control functionality is provided by software on computing devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops, PCs) or through dedicated hardware interfaces (e.g., wall-mounted controls). These different SHTs are networked, usually wirelessly, using standardized communication protocols. The diversity of available SHTs means the smart home has many possible configurations and by implication, 'smartness' (Aldrich, 2003).

The Use of Andriod, Drones and Gynoid – There is a lot of potential use of these applications in interaction with the disabled, infant and older people care, housekeepers, sex-worker, flight attendant, model, hostess, waiter and security guards. From some of these arrays of technologies abound in the industry; Home Economists can channel their energy and research towards making these technologies available to people. The industry should not be concerned alone with the issue of food nutrition and clothing but expand beyond the horizon

with which the industry is perceived. There is need therefore, for the Home Economists to support the adoption of these technologies by putting down regulations that will govern their use for wider consumer acceptability and gain the confidence of the consumer.

D. Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies in Health Issues

The health and Home Economics education learning area is about taking action to enhance wellbeing. Home economics teachers are to be found in many parts of the world. They teach students about food in relation to its nutritional, safety and environmental properties among other areas of specialization. The effects of such teaching might be expected to be reflected in the food knowledge they have undertaken in these areas. Home economics, is the key discipline for the dissemination of food skills and knowledge and is the only subject area that focuses on everyday life and meeting basic needs in the school curriculum (Smith and De Zwart, 2010).

Food in all its forms plays a central role in all cultures of the world. It is central to the global debates relating to human health such as the prevention and amelioration of obesity and metabolic disease (Moodie *et al.*, 2013) and environmental sustainability (Khan *et al.*, 2009). The reason for this kind of Society being formed is because it has great role to play in the education of the populace about food matters (Lichtenstein and Ludwig, 2010), especially about the dissemination of food preparation skills (Weaver-Hightower, 2011; Department for Education, 2013); as this is associated with growing interest by the citizens to lead active healthy lives.

It has been reported that people with high levels of nutrition knowledge were 23 times more likely to consume the recommended amounts of fruit and vegetables on a daily basis (Wardle *et al.*, 2000). Other research has shown that people who learn cooking skills are more likely to consume healthy foods (Brown and Hermann, 2005; Clifford *et al.*, 2009; Bukhari *et al.*, 2011). Thorough and wide knowledge of food is usually provided in home economics curricula to enable future citizens to choose safe and healthy foods that do not harm their families, other humans or animals and the environment (Smith and De Zwart, 2010).

Home Economist can take full advantage of mobile technology such as smart phones, tablet personal computers, touch screens and telemedicine that are now being used in the area of healthcare even though; such devices are still in their infancy. These smart technologies vary from hand held and pocket size devices to iPads that can fit handbags and lap top computers. Their use is not only restricted to healthcare providers, but extended to patients and associated businesses for providing medical care to patients, making appointments, and using health information for billing and for providing good nutrition advices (Bajwa, 2014).

E. Research Concerns and Emerging Technologies in Home Economics Education

In the past, Home Economics was almost compulsory for girls to study in the schools. This gradually dwindled as the idea was de-emphasized in the curriculum. A situation that led to a generation of group of children that tend to be overweight and obese, because most parents now rely on eating at restaurants, take-out food, frozen meals, and packaged food as basic fare and children

and adolescents consume a large chunk of calories from meals and snacks prepared away from home (Dannelke, 2011). There is therefore, the need for Home Economist to have a rethink towards making “us” to learn the importance of home economics right from growing up by having a curriculum that is stimulating and endearing to the populace. In spite of significant efforts to encourage the public’s to view home economics content as “other than” foods and clothing, these two topics are most frequently offered in home economics programs (Hughes *et al.*, 1980). Home economics teacher educators should continue to encourage the offering of concepts related to more critical issues such as parenting, consumer education, and nutrition, as well as entrepreneurial skills, a current emphasis in education. Research is needed to find strategies to reform programming so this might be accomplished. While home economics educators can take pride in the great strides that have been made in developing a knowledge base for home economics education in higher education, secondary, post secondary, and adult programs, additional research efforts will be needed to move the profession forward. The following are suggestions as postulated by Redick *et al.* (1986) for Home Economists might be a way forward:

1. Use approaches and techniques that include both quantitative and qualitative methods, and explore new designs and analyses.
2. Strive to provide larger data bases and generalizable studies that may be attained more readily through pooling of resources and collaborative efforts.
3. Disseminate research through conventional avenues as well as striving to reach new audiences.

5. Conduct policy research and evaluation research as well as educational research.
6. Continue to provide a formalized networking system for identifying, promoting, and conducting home economics education research.

It is important to incorporate research-based instructional strategies that challenge the curriculum in a way that students can embrace the challenges for the emerging 21st-century classrooms. Consequently, Freiburger (2017) suggested the incorporation of new educational strategies that can help to shape the future of education as follows:

App Innovation and Gamification - As a result of the recent explosion in education-related applications, educators can decipher students’ interests, academic passions and “trouble spots” more readily and in real-time to differentiate and fine-tune instruction. The app offers training for students, a forum and additional support for educators, and a “challenge” for students to create their own apps. At the same time, education-related games that enhance skills in English language arts and other subjects have exploded in popularity, such as “Mathalicious” and “Get the Math,” which provide practical, true-to-life experiences. As students become comfortable utilizing online games to learn, educators can entice students via new apps to fine-tune skill specific areas, such as mathematics and science.

Digital Literacy - Creating a digital literacy curriculum can be based on students’ developmental stages, and educators should be cognizant of both the risks (such as distractions) and myriad learning opportunities that technology integration and utilization in the classroom may provide. Our teachers are expected to be digitally compliant so that

they will be more conversant with the use of e-learning. This will help in the development and adoption of digital literacy curriculum and digital literacy plans.

Library Media Specialists - Libraries are becoming more dynamic with increasingly local technology hubs. Home Economists need to evaluate and produce information through the active use of a broad range of tools, resources and information technologies, and integrate technology into the curriculum, which requires a keen understanding of how new technologies enhance the learning process for students while adhering to rigorous education policy.

Self-Directed Professional Development – Nigerian Home Economists need to come out of their shell by engaging in self-directed professional development (PD) for educators that includes interactive online webinars, or videos and other content that may be streamed through web browsers. This will help to propagate the ideas that are inbuilt more to the world. Once such is put on line, it gives an opportunity to give a competitive interactive education that can enhance development in education. Of course, such blogging has to conform to laid down guidelines and comply with ethical and legal dictates.

Conclusion

Home economics started from a humble beginning of finding ways to apply the latest in science and technology (sanitation) to improve life in American homes. The discipline over the years has evolved from teaching students the art of cookery, home making to more sophisticated involvement in hospitality, tourism, food and nutrition. Also the discipline has changed over the years from being a gender-stereotyped course

meant to confine women to domestic roles rather to courses being appreciated by both sexes. In several higher institutions particularly in the Monotechnics and Polytechnics, there are virtually equal numbers of students being admitted for courses relating to Home Economics Education. I therefore, wish to state unequivocally that the sky is the beginning not the limit; for the progress expected from the Society for Home Economics in Nigeria.

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