

The Charrette's Role in Sustainable National Development: Participatory Education, Community Development and Governance Practices in Nigeria

By

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Abstract

The role of architecture in education, business, practice, community and national development cannot be underestimated; as it combines expression, technology and the satisfaction of human needs in terms of social, cultural, behavioural, psychological and other specific and generic needs in the particularity of the users. But today, to what extent can architecture influence the process of design in planning for user-clients in different societal categories; individual, group, communities, and nation at large. The neglected participatory role of *Charrette* as an inclusive design, planning and practice tool in the societal development had given room to challenges faced by the client-users (individual, group, community, and citizens), architect-designers, planners and leaders in governance and civic engagement service providers. Among such challenges are: *inabilities to identify the true-specific needs of the concerned people across the age spectrum, anonymity problems of a group of people in the neighbourhood that makes the decision makers to neglect the unique needs and governance characteristics needed for development in different facets of the economy*. This study aimed at the role of *charrette* as participatory practice in order to explore its application to client-users, group, organizational and national needs. It employed the secondary data from literature with emphasis on the Charrette roles in national development and primary data on participatory pedagogy from four (4) selected architectural schools in South-west Nigeria. It also examined the preferences of teachers and students in participatory practices in architectural design studio course on the relationship between man and environment as an important way of meeting his needs. The results showed that aspects of participatory pedagogy were not predominant in all schools investigated. This paper recommended that the parametric indices of development should be infused in favour of Charrette participatory methods of decision making processes in client-users' design, organizational algorithmic programme charts, community and national development at various levels of governance practices.

Key Words: *Charrette, Education, Participatory, Practice, Governance*

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