

A

TECHNICAL REPORT ON STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES) THE REPORT BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE GAINED AT



EAGLE INTERIOR STORE

OLD JEBBBA ROAD ELEKO ALONG POLY GATE ILORIN, KWARA STATE

BY

YAHAYA NAFISAT TITILAYO

ND/23/ACC/PT/0137

SUBMITTED TO

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY,

INSTUTUTE OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES,

KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF ORDINARY NATIONAL DIPLOMA (OND) IN ACCOUNTANCY.

SEPTEMBER- NOVEMBER 2024

DEDICATION

This report of Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is dedicated to the Almighty God who is my source of wisdom and knowledge. May His Holy name be glorified forever.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God Almighty all glory, honour and adoration for mercy received during the course of my study and when undergoing my Industrial Training.

My appreciation also goes to my industrial based lecturer, whose accessibility, untiring effort, patients and guidance and suggestions fabulously contributed to the completion of this report, may God continue to guide and protect them and their family.

Mostly, my appreciation goes to the General Manager for accepting me into the organization and support. May God Almighty be with him and his household.



REPORT OVERVIEW

This report was compiled from the activities carried out and experience gained during my 16 weeks industrial training undertaken at **EAGLE INTERIOR STORE.**

This report discusses the actual work done and practical skills gained during the training period and justifying the relevance of scheme in equipping students with needed practical and technical competence to thrive in the real world.



TABLE OF CONTENT

TITTLE PAGE

PREFACE

DEDICATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER ONE

BRIEF HISTORY OF SIWES

IMPORTANCE AND OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

CHAPTER TWO

INTRODUCTION

BRIEF HISTORY OF ORGANISATION

DEPARTMENT AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

CHAPTER THREE

TECHNICAL TRAINNING EXPERIENCE/ WORK DONE

CHAPTER FOUR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER FIVE

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTER

RECOMMENDATION

CONCLUSION

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In October 1971, the federal government established the Industrial Training Fund (I.T.F). In its policy statement No 1 published in 1973, a clause was inserted dealing with the issue of practical skills among the locally trained professional in tertiary institutions especially the University of Technology, Monotechnic, Polytechnics, Colleges of Educations and Technical Colleges. Section 15 0f the policy statement states clearly that "Great emphasis will be placed on assisting certain products of the post-secondary school system to adapt or orientate easily to their possible post-graduation job environments", subsequently leading to the launch of a scheme known as the Student's Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES).

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Industrial Training fund established by decree 43 was introduced in 1971, vis-à-vis the birth of the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) the same year by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN). It is against this background that the industrial training fund (ITF) initiated, designed and introduced SIWES Scheme in 1973 to acquaint students with the skills of handling employers' equipment and machinery.

The Industrial Training Fund (ITF) solely funded the scheme during its formative years. However, due to financial constraints, the fund withdrew from the scheme in 1978. The Federal Government, noting the significance of the skills training, handed the management of the scheme to both the National Universities Commission (NUC), and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in 1979. The management and implementation of the scheme was however, reverted to the ITF by the Federal Government in November, 1984 and the administration was effectively taken over by the industrial training fund in July 1985, with the funding solely boned by the Federal Government. It is an integral part of the requirements for the award of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees in institutions of higher learning, e.g. Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Universities, etc.

Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) exposes students to industry based skills necessary for a smooth transition from the classroom to work environments. It accords students of tertiary institutions the opportunity of being familiarized, exposed, and prepare students of universities, polytechnics, college of technology, college of agricultures and college of education for the industrial work situation they are likely to

meet after graduation and to the needed experience in handling machinery and equipment which are not found in such an educational institution.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

The Industrial Training Funds Policy Document No. 1 of 1973 which established SIWES outlined the objectives of the scheme. The objectives are to:

- ✓ To provide students with relevant practical experience.
- ✓ To satisfy accreditation requirements set by the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC).
- ✓ To familiarize students with typical environments in which they are likely to function professionally after graduation.
- ✓ To provide student an opportunity to see the real world of their discipline and consequently bridge the gap between the University work and actual practice.
- ✓ To change the orientation of students towards labour market when seeking for job.
- ✓ To help students access area of interest and suitability for their chosen profession.
- ✓ To enhance students, contact for future employment
- ✓ To provide access to equipment and other facilities that would not normally be available in the University workshop
- ✓ To enlist and enhance industry involvement in university education.
- ✓ Summarily the objective of the Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme.
- ✓ To solve, the problem of inadequate practical skills, preparatory for employment in industries by Nigerian graduates of tertiary institution.
- ✓ To promote and encourage the acquisition of skills in industry and commerce, with a view of generating a pool of indigenous trained manpower sufficient to meet the needs of the economy.
- ✓ To provide an avenue for students in higher institutions of learning to acquire industrial skills and experiences during their course of study.
- ✓ To prepare students for industrial work situations that they are likely to meet after graduation.
- ✓ To expose students to work methods and techniques in handling equipment and machinery that may not be available in their institutions.
- ✓ To make the transition from school to the world of work easier and enhance students' contacts for later job placements.
- ✓ To provide students with the opportunities to apply their educational knowledge in real work situations, thereby bridging the gap between theory and practice.

✓ To enlist and strengthen employers' involvement in the entire educational process and prepare students for employment in Industry and Commerce (Information and Guideline for SIWES, 2002).

1.3 BODIES INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SIWES

The bodies involved are: The Federal Government, Industrial Training Fund (ITF). Other supervising agents are: National University Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Council for Colleges of Education (NCE)

There are key bodies involved in the operations for effectiveness and relevance to the attainment of national goals in the management structure of the SIWES in Nigeria. How each one contributes is highlighted below.

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Policy and Funding Support: It institutes a general policy framework and provides funding to SIWES; hence, it promotes skills development through practical training that addresses the needs of the labor market in the country.

It lays down the legal and regulatory environment in which SIWES operates, ensuring that the same is focused on national development imperatives.

2. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FUND ITF

Program Implementation: ITF is the main coordinator and manager of the SIWES program. It organizes, supervises, and sees to it that students are rightly placed in industry for their field of study.

Funding and Stipends: Allowance to students while on industrial training and stipends to cover some of the requirements that would aid in acquiring practical skills.

Quality Assurance: Assess students' performance and the quality of training for appropriateness to standards at the workplace.

3. NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMMISSION (NUC)

Policy and Guidelines for Universities: Provide policies and guidelines to universities on how to integrate SIWES into the curriculum for science, engineering, and other technical programs.

Curriculum Co-ordination: Liaises with universities in the structuring of academic work to incorporate SIWES as an essential ingredient in the learning of students to give practical exposure in addition to classroom knowledge.

4. NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION NBTE

Technical Institutions Management: Coordinates the implementation of SIWES in polytechnics and technical colleges with the view to exposing students pursuing technical courses to industry practice.

Accreditation and Compliance: Approves standards for SIWES in the technical institutions with a view to ensuring that the aims of the program are achieved to improve the quality.

5. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION (NCE)

Institutionalization of SIWES into Teacher Training: Ensures that SIWES is integrated into the teacher education curriculum, especially in the area of technical and vocational education.

Policy and Coordination: Formulate policies which help SIWES at Colleges of Education to ensure that teachers-to-be have exposure to the real world for which they may translate such experience to the classroom.

Therefore, the success or otherwise of the SIWES depends on the efficiency of the Ministries, ITF, Institutions, Employers of labour and the general public involved in articulation and management of the program. Thus, the evaluation of SIWES in tertiary institutions in meeting up with the needs for the establishment of the program is necessary.

CHAPTER 2

ESTABLISHMENT OVERVIEW

EAGLE INTERIOR STORE

2:1 BRIEF HISTORY OF EAGLE INTERIOR STORE

Eagle Interior Store was founded in 2015 with a mission to redefine the way people interact with their living spaces. The founders, driven by a shared passion for interior design, recognized that the right accessories could transform any home into a stylish and functional sanctuary. With a commitment to excellence, the company aimed to offer customers not only high-quality products but also a personalized shopping experience.

In its early days, the store was a small, family-owned business operating in Ilorin. The founders worked tirelessly to curate a selection of home accessories that appealed to a wide range of tastes. From furniture to décor, each item was chosen for its ability to enhance the ambiance of a room while maintaining its functionality. The store's early success was built on word-of-mouth referrals, as customers appreciated the unique and handpicked collection of products that set Eagle Interior Store apart from competitors.

As demand for quality home accessories grew, the company expanded its offerings. Eagle Interior Store began to incorporate a broader range of products, including lighting fixtures, decorative objects, and textiles. This expansion was not only about diversifying the store's inventory but also about keeping pace with changing design trends and customer needs. The store prided itself on offering products that blended contemporary styles with timeless elegance, ensuring that every customer could find something that fit their vision of the perfect home.

By 2020, the store had built a strong reputation in the community. Customers, both local and from surrounding areas, began to rely on Eagle Interior Store for their home décor needs. The business was now recognized as a go-to destination for those seeking high-quality, stylish, and functional products. Whether outfitting a single room or completely redesigning a home, customers knew they could trust the store to provide them with the best.

Recognizing the importance of staying ahead of the curve, Eagle Interior Store became known for its ability to blend traditional designs with modern innovations. The founders sought out exclusive partnerships with both local artisans and international suppliers who shared their dedication to quality. As a result, the store's inventory featured a curated selection of unique pieces that were often unavailable in other stores.

As the years went by, the company continued to grow, moving into larger spaces to accommodate its expanding inventory and customer base. With each move, Eagle Interior Store stayed true to its roots, focusing on providing customers with a shopping experience that combined personalized service with an exceptional range of products. By now, the store's reputation extended far beyond its initial location, attracting customers from different cities and regions.

To meet the needs of its growing customer base, the store embraced technology and launched an online shopping platform. This allowed customers from all over to explore the store's offerings

from the comfort of their homes, while still benefiting from the same level of personalized service that had become the hallmark of the brand. The online store was designed to be user-friendly, with detailed product descriptions and high-quality images to help customers make informed decisions.

In response to growing interest in sustainable living, Eagle Interior Store took steps to incorporate eco-friendly practices into its operations. The company began offering a range of sustainable products, sourced from environmentally conscious manufacturers. Whether it was furniture made from reclaimed wood or textiles produced using sustainable methods, Eagle Interior Store became a leader in promoting environmentally responsible design choices.

As the store's presence expanded, so did its offerings. The team began to offer full-service interior design consultations, helping customers bring their visions to life. With expert designers on staff, Eagle Interior Store was able to guide customers through every step of the design process, from choosing the right products to arranging furniture and décor for optimal style and functionality. This personalized service became a defining feature of the store, setting it apart from competitors who only offered products without the added benefit of design expertise.

Over the years, Eagle Interior Store continued to innovate, introducing new lines of products and collaborating with designers to create exclusive collections. The store's commitment to quality and customer satisfaction remained at the heart of everything it did. As a result, it garnered a loyal following of customers who trusted the brand not only for its products but also for its commitment to making every home a beautiful and functional space.

Today, Eagle Interior Store stands as a testament to the vision of its founders, who sought to create more than just a retail business—they wanted to create a place where people could find inspiration, quality, and service that elevated the way they experienced their homes. The store continues to be a family-owned business, with the next generation taking on leadership roles while maintaining the values that made it successful in the first place.

Looking forward, Eagle Interior Store remains committed to staying ahead of trends while maintaining its focus on timeless design. The store plans to continue expanding its range of sustainable products and enhancing its customer experience both in-store and online. With a reputation built on quality, innovation, and personalized service, Eagle Interior Store is poised for continued success in the years to come.

The company's growth has also allowed It to give back to the community, with initiatives to support local charities and design scholarships for aspiring interior designers. As Eagle Interior Store looks to the future, it remains dedicated to maintaining the same high standards that have earned it a place in the hearts of its customers. Through a continued commitment to quality, sustainability, and design excellence, the company is ready to inspire generations of homeowners and designers alike.

Throughout its history, Eagle Interior Store has never lost sight of its founding mission: to bring beautiful, functional home accessories to every customer. Whether through an expertly curated product line or personalized design services, the store continues to make a lasting impact on the

way people experience their living spaces. With a legacy built on passion, craftsmanship, and customer care, Eagle Interior Store is truly a leader in the home accessories industry.

As it enters its next chapter, Eagle Interior Store is more than just a retailer—it's a trusted partner in creating homes that are not only stylish but also functional, sustainable, and unique. With a history rooted in quality and service, and a future focused on innovation and customer satisfaction, Eagle Interior Store is set to remain a cornerstone of the home décor industry for many years to come.

LOCATION:

OLD JEBBBA ROAD ELEKO ALONG POLY GATE ILORIN, KWARA STATE.

2:2 OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHMENT

- 1. Provide High-Quality Home Accessories: To continually offer a wide selection of home décor products, furniture, lighting, textiles, and accessories, ensuring all items meet the highest quality standards in both craftsmanship and durability.
- 2. Customer-Centric Approach: Focus on personalized customer service to assist individuals in curating their ideal home environment through expert advice, design consultations, and tailored recommendations.
- 3. Expand Product Range: Consistently update and expand the product range to include innovative, sustainable, and diverse home accessories that cater to evolving interior design trends and customer preferences.
- 4. Promote Sustainability: Integrate sustainable design practices by sourcing eco-friendly products and encouraging environmentally conscious purchasing decisions, such as using reclaimed materials and supporting ethical production methods.
- 5. Enhance Online Presence: Continue to grow and improve the online shopping experience, ensuring that customers can easily browse, shop, and receive personalized support remotely, enhancing accessibility and convenience.
- 6. Lead in Interior Design Trends: Stay at the forefront of interior design trends by collaborating with designers and artisans to offer exclusive collections that inspire customers and set the tone for contemporary home décor.
- 7. Build Strong Community Engagement: Establish a solid community presence by participating in local events, supporting design education, and offering workshops to help customers explore the latest in interior design.
- 8. Foster Innovation in Home Design: Encourage continuous innovation in product offerings, customer experience, and in-store displays, ensuring that Eagle Interior Store remains a leading destination for unique home accessories.

- 9. Develop Strategic Partnerships: Cultivate partnerships with suppliers, designers, and artisans, both locally and globally, to expand the store's reach and access exclusive, high-quality products.
- 10. Ensure Long-Term Business Growth: Focus on sustainable business practices, ensuring the store's long-term growth through strategic planning, investments in staff, and improving operational efficiency while maintaining the core values of the company.

2.3 VARIOUS UNITS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS

1. Sales Department

The sales department is crucial for driving revenue and customer engagement. It involves both instore sales representatives and online sales teams who interact with customers, understand their needs, and guide them in selecting the right products. This department also handles promotions, discounts, and ensuring customer satisfaction.

2. Marketing Department

This department is responsible for promoting the store's products and brand, both online and offline. Activities include digital marketing (social media, email campaigns, SEO), traditional advertising (flyers, posters, and events), and public relations efforts. The marketing team works to attract new customers while maintaining relationships with existing ones.

3. Product Procurement/Purchasing Department

The procurement team is tasked with sourcing home accessories and furniture, ensuring that products meet the store's quality standards and align with current market trends. They manage relationships with suppliers, negotiate pricing, and handle inventory management to ensure optimal stock levels.

4. Customer Service Department

A dedicated team that handles inquiries, complaints, returns, and exchanges. The customer service department is essential for maintaining customer satisfaction, offering support via phone, email, and online chats. This department also assists customers with product selections and helps resolve any issues that arise.

5. Design and Consultancy Department

The design department provides personalized interior design advice and consultation to customers. It may offer in-store or virtual consultations to help customers create cohesive, stylish home interiors using products from the store. The design team may also collaborate with architects and contractors on larger projects.

6. Warehouse and Logistics Department

Responsible for managing inventory, packaging, and shipping of products. This department ensures that orders are processed and delivered on time and manages the supply chain to maintain a smooth flow of products from suppliers to customers.

7. Finance and Accounting Department

The finance team handles budgeting, financial planning, and managing the store's revenue and expenses. They also process payments, track sales, handle taxes, and create financial reports to ensure the business remains profitable and compliant with regulations.

8. Human Resources Department

This department manages recruitment, training, employee benefits, and workplace policies. HR ensures that the store has a motivated, well-trained team that can deliver exceptional customer service and meet business objectives. They also maintain a positive workplace culture.

9. IT and Web Development Department

As Eagle Interior Store grows its online presence, the IT and web development team becomes essential for maintaining the store's website, improving user experience, and ensuring secure online transactions. They also manage e-commerce platforms and troubleshoot any technical issues.

10. Operations and Management Department

This team oversees the daily operations of the business, ensuring that everything runs smoothly. The operations department is responsible for store maintenance, staff coordination, and ensuring that both physical and online stores adhere to operational standards. They ensure that goals and deadlines are met across departments.

11. Legal and Compliance Department

This department ensures that the store operates within the boundaries of the law. They handle contracts, intellectual property, customer data protection, and ensure that all transactions are legal and that the company complies with industry regulations.

12. R&D/Innovation Department

Some businesses may have a research and development team that explores new products or concepts in the home accessories industry. This department may look into new materials, technologies, or design trends to incorporate into the product line.

CHAPTER THREE

NATURE OF WORK, ACTIVITIES, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE GAINED ON SIWES SITE

During my Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at Eagle Interior Store, I had the privilege of working in three major departments: Finance and Accounting, Marketing, and Customer Service. This period provided me with invaluable hands-on experience, enhancing my understanding of various business operations. Through my involvement in these departments, I gained practical knowledge of financial management, marketing strategies, and customer relationship management. The experience helped bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom and practical applications in the workplace.

In the Finance and Accounting Department, I was introduced to fundamental accounting procedures and financial record-keeping. One of my primary responsibilities was assisting in the recording of daily financial transactions, including sales, expenses, and inventory purchases. This process required meticulous attention to detail to ensure accuracy and transparency. By working closely with the finance team, I learned how businesses manage cash flow and maintain financial stability. Additionally, I was exposed to bookkeeping procedures, where I helped enter financial data into accounting software, verifying and reconciling financial statements to avoid discrepancies.

One of the most significant learning experiences in the Finance and Accounting Department was understanding the importance of financial reporting. Financial reports are essential for business decision-making, and I assisted in preparing periodic financial statements, balance sheets, and income statements. Through this process, I gained insight into how companies analyze their financial performance and make informed business decisions. I also learned about budgeting and expense control, particularly how businesses allocate resources effectively to maximize profitability while minimizing unnecessary costs.

Another crucial aspect of my experience in the Finance and Accounting Department was working with invoices and receipts. I assisted in processing invoices from suppliers, ensuring that payments were made accurately and on time. This exposure helped me appreciate the role of financial accountability in maintaining strong relationships with vendors and suppliers. Additionally, I learned how businesses track their expenses and profits to determine their overall financial health. The use of accounting software further enhanced my ability to manage financial records efficiently.

Beyond financial management, my role in the Marketing Department provided an opportunity to explore promotional strategies and customer engagement techniques. I was actively involved in market research, which helped the company identify customer preferences and interior design trends. Market research plays a critical role in shaping marketing campaigns, and my involvement in collecting and analyzing customer feedback allowed me to understand consumer behavior better. This process involved gathering data on customer purchasing patterns and analyzing competitors' marketing strategies to improve the store's approach.

One of my key contributions to the Marketing Department was assisting in social media management. Social media platforms have become powerful marketing tools for businesses, and I helped create content for the store's online presence. This included designing and posting updates about new products, special promotions, and customer testimonials. Through this, I gained firsthand experience in digital marketing, learning how businesses use online platforms to engage customers and drive sales. Additionally, I helped design flyers and promotional materials distributed to potential customers, which enhanced my graphic design and advertising skills.

During my time in the Marketing Department, I also participated in sales promotions and product exhibitions. The store occasionally organized promotional events to showcase new furniture designs and attract customers. My role in these events included setting up displays, engaging with customers, and explaining product features. Through these interactions, I developed strong communication skills and an understanding of persuasive marketing techniques. Additionally, I learned the importance of branding and how businesses position themselves in a competitive market to maintain customer loyalty.

My experience in the Customer Service Department was equally insightful. Customer service is the backbone of any retail business, and my role involved direct interaction with customers. One of my primary responsibilities was attending to customers and providing information about available products and services. This role required patience, attentiveness, and a good understanding of the store's product offerings. Through these interactions, I developed strong interpersonal skills and learned how to handle various customer inquiries and concerns professionally.

Handling customer complaints was one of the most challenging aspects of my role in the Customer Service Department. Customers often had concerns about product quality, pricing, or delivery delays. I was trained to listen attentively to their complaints, offer solutions, and escalate complex issues to management when necessary. Through this experience, I learned the importance of problem-solving and conflict resolution in maintaining customer satisfaction. Additionally, I understood how businesses build strong relationships with their customers through excellent service delivery.

Another critical aspect of my role in customer service was processing sales transactions. I assisted in handling payments, issuing receipts, and maintaining accurate sales records. This process required attention to detail to ensure that transactions were processed correctly and that there were no discrepancies in financial records. Through this experience, I gained knowledge of point-of-sale systems and how businesses track sales data to monitor performance.

Furthermore, I assisted in maintaining a database of customer inquiries and feedback. This information was essential for improving the store's service quality and identifying areas for improvement. I learned how businesses use customer feedback to enhance their products and services, ultimately leading to increased customer loyalty. The experience also taught me the value of effective communication and how businesses build strong brand reputations through positive customer interactions.

Throughout my SIWES experience, I encountered several challenges that tested my adaptability and problem-solving skills. One of the major challenges was managing multiple tasks simultaneously, especially during peak business hours. The ability to multitask and prioritize responsibilities was essential in ensuring smooth operations. Additionally, I faced situations where customers were dissatisfied with certain products or services. Handling these situations required patience, diplomacy, and effective communication to resolve conflicts and maintain customer trust.

My SIWES experience at Eagle Interior Store was highly rewarding. The exposure to real-world business operations allowed me to develop essential skills that will be beneficial in my future career. I gained a deeper understanding of financial management, marketing strategies, and customer service principles. Moreover, I learned the importance of teamwork, professionalism, and adaptability in a corporate environment.

Reflecting on my overall experience, I realize that SIWES provided me with an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations. The knowledge and skills acquired during this period have significantly enhanced my competence and confidence in handling business-related tasks. My experience has also reinforced the importance of continuous learning and self-improvement in professional development.

My time at Eagle Interior Store was a transformative experience that prepared me for future career opportunities. The practical exposure to finance, marketing, and customer service expanded my understanding of business operations and equipped me with valuable skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a dynamic environment, and I look forward to applying the knowledge gained in my academic and professional pursuits.

CHAPTER 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BENEFITS

- ❖ I become more enlightened by encountering and getting familiar with different equipment.
- ❖ I was able to relate most of my theoretical aspect taught in class to the physical aspect in the organisation.
- ❖ I experienced how to use some of the equipment being used in the organisation.
- ❖ I also improved in my understanding of some stages.

WORK CARRIED OUT WITH CLEAR STATEMENT

The entire staff of EAGLE INTERIOR STORE, taught me on how to manage the company and how to work as a team in any organisation.



CHAPTER FIVE

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Difficulties Encountered During the Programme

Life they say is not a bed of roses and whatsoever that has advantages also have its disadvantages. In as much as the SIWES Programme is a wonderful programme which has been designed to help the students have a practical knowledge of their various courses of study, it is note-worthy to also mention some of the problems encountered during the programme.

1. Problems of Securing a Place of Attachment

Securing a place of attachment for industrial training programme was a very big challenge to me. This is due to the fact that there are very limited establishment that accepts students undergoing industrial training. While I was searching for a place of attachments, I got to find out most of the establishments that accepts students had already taken the maximum number of students needed, while others would just reject the request giving one reason or the other.

2. Working Time

As an IT student, I was meant to work for twelve (12) hours in a day, five days in a week (i.e. Mondays to Friday). I barely had time to attend to my personal needs. Not just that IT students had to work all day, but also, the work load was quite much. Most times IT students would be asked to work overtime even without any incentive attached to it and students have no option but to comply every given instruction.

3. Finance

Stipends given to me during my industrial training programme is nothing to write home about. The stipend was so little that it could not even cover up for my daily transportation fair not to even mention my feeding fee; therefore, making me spent more from my personal savings. Despite the fact that the stipend was little, it was delayed. Most students ended their programme without receiving their complete stipend due to late payment from firm and we are also asked to pay for the practical we are going to conduct which makes student loose interest in participating.

4. Inaccessible Machines

Industrial training students were not opportune to access most of the automated analyzers because they are not available Instead, we were being told to make research of such machine which does not assist us in learning better going with the saying "practice makes perfect" and not "plain research makes one perfect". One of the objectives of SIWES

is to expose students to work methods and techniques in handling equipment's and machineries that may not be available in their universities, thus, the above stated objective of SIWES is not been fulfilled completely.

The difficulties encountered during the programme among others include;

- Inadequate monitoring of students on industrial training;
- Lack of cooperation and support from organization;
- Delay in release of fund for supervision and student's industrial training allowances;
- Student's reports were not corrected.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHEME WAYS OF IMPROVING THE PROGRAMME

SIWES programme can be improved by the various actors in the programme which include the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Supervisory Agencies (NUC, NCCE, and NBTE), the Institutions, and the Employers.

A. The Federal Government of Nigeria

- The Federal Government should make it mandatory to all ministries, companies, and other organization to offer placement and as well as accept students for industrial attachment.
- The Federal Government should increase the fund being provided for the SIWES programme and other educational programmes in general for effective and productive implementation of the scheme.

B. The Industrial Training Fund (ITF)

- The Industrial Training Fund should provide a strong insurance policy covered for students on SIWES programme.
- The ITF should provide logistic and material necessary for the effective administration of the scheme.
- The ITF should formulate policies and guidelines for SIWES programme for enhancement to all SIWES participating bodies, institutions and companies involved in the scheme.
- The ITF should provide information on companies for the attachment and help in the placement of students.

C. The Supervisory Agency

- The supervisory agency should liaise with the Industrial Training Fund to ensure the implementation of all federal government policies on the scheme.
- The supervisory agency should ensure adequate funding of the SIWES unit in all the institutions for effective administration of the scheme.
- The supervisory agency should research into the development of the scheme in line with advances in technological development.
- The supervisory agency should develop, monitor and review job specification in collaboration with the institution toward the maintenance of the National Minimum Academic Standard for the entire programme approved for SIWES.

D. The Institution

- The Institution should help identify placement opportunities for student attachment with employers.
- The Institution should ensure regular visitation of their students on industrial training to monitor their welfare and improvement status.
- The Institution should have adequate information on some of the challenges facing the firm and the student; it should be noted and treated immediately.
- The Institution should ensure payment of student's allowances and other outstanding financial challenges.

E. The Employer

- The Employers should accept students for industrial training attachment.
- The Employer should allow the students to have access to some of their useful equipment and other useful facilities.
- The Employer should provide welfare services like drugs and other medication and show good hospitality to students.

5.2.1 Advice for Future Participants

I strongly recommend that future participants should bear the following in mind;

✓ The student should be focused to avoid disputing the reputation of the institution in their place of industrial attachment and they should also bear in mind the objective of the scheme and show commitment, diligence and honesty.

- ✓ The student should obey and adhere strictly to all rules and regulations of the company; they should respect the industrial based supervisors as well as other staffs of the company because the moral standard of the student is also evaluated.
- ✓ The student should avoid change of placement without seeking permission from the institutional based supervisor, the employer and the industrial training fund.
- ✓ The student should handle the equipment if the firm with great care and they should take pride in protecting the interest of the company throughout the period of industrial attachment.

5.2.2 Advice for the SIWES managers

- ✓ The SIWES managers should give attention to student welfare on industrial training and the students allowance should be increased as a result as high cost of living in our society.
- ✓ Technologists from various departments or program should be involved in the drafting of time table for students on IT to ensure that students are always sent into areas where activities that will result in learning experience are taking place.

5.3 CONCLUSION

The gains of this exercise are immense; that it was worth the while is grossly an understatement. Being accorded another opportunity in life to be exposed to the rudiments of work places outside the class room teaching is an experience of a life time.

Furthermore, the exposure to practical tools, and working features had engendered better understanding of lessons thought in the class room and charted a course for career development.