

Universal Basic Education and Human Resource Development and Utilization in Technical Education in Nigeria**Kennedy Oji Odu***Department of Technical and Business Education, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria
Cell Phone: +2348030716886, E-mail: drodu2008@yahoo.com***KEYWORDS** Retraining. Non-formal Education. Technical Education. Pre-vocational. Universal Basic Education

ABSTRACT The Universal Basic Education (UBE) was launched by President Obasanjo in Nigeria in 1999 in response to the global trend to provide education for all by the year 2002. Technical education is an integral part of the scope to be covered by the program precisely in Junior Secondary School where the pre-vocational subjects such as introductory technology are offered. Unfortunately, there are critical problems confronting the teaching and learning of this subject, chief among them is dearth in human resources development and utilization. The groups of teachers that are to teach the introductory technology in the UBE are NCE technical teachers (FRN 2004) but only few of them are on ground. The lacuna here is how will Nigeria recruit and utilize the group of teachers for effective implementation of the UBE? Other problems confronting the program are inadequate tools, machines and training materials, insufficient funding and dearth in furniture. A number of strategies were recommended such as training and retraining of NCE technical teachers, giving special salary package to the teachers, scholarship award to deserving students to pursue NCE technical and B.Sc. technical education programs in tertiary institutions, both locally and abroad.