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## EDITORIAL DESK

**T**he Centre for General Nigerian Studies has continued to be a frontier for knowledge dissemination through her series of publications, among other activities being performed by the directorate.

This volume 5 journal of Contemporary Issues in Nigerian Economy of March 2025 housed a total of 18 well researched articles from scholars across the geographical boundaries of the Africa sub region. The team of experienced editors subjected the articles to peer review, and their plagiarism checks have satisfied the guild of editors.

The journal is recommended to researchers, scholars, lecturers, and students to read, and the planners can leverage on recommendations as panacea to the doldrums confronting the socio-economic and educational spheres of the Sub Sahara Africa nations

I wish all the contributors and readers Barka Eid Fitri and Easter in advance

**Prof. M.O.B Mohammed** FNAEAP  
*Lead Editor*

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ETHICAL PRACTICES IN BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*Quality Assurance on Ethical Practices in Business, Entrepreneurship Education are crucial for the entrepreneurship education system to flourish and contribute to national development and as well as fostering responsible future leaders. The increase in global scrutiny on corporate behaviour, integrating ethics into the educational curricular is more crucial than ever. Quality assurance serves as an essential component of quality control in education and to ensure that academic and professional degree programmes are meeting the needs of all stakeholders. Promoting integrity and peace in entrepreneurship education involves creating an environment that values ethical behaviour, transparency, and conflict resolution. Ethical practices in business refer to the standards and guidelines that govern the conduct of a business and its employees. It involves making decisions and acting in ways that are morally right and beneficial to all stakeholders, as well as customers, employees, shareholders, and the community. This study focuses on the significance, implementation, and impact of quality assurance on ethical practices on business, entrepreneurship education programmes in Tertiary Educational Institution, Lagos State, Nigeria. The underlying factors contributing to ethical practices in entrepreneurship education; Curriculum Integration, Role Models, Critical Thinking and Discussion, Codes of Conduct, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mentorship Programmes, Assessment and Reflection, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks, Institutional Support: The paper highlights the urgent need for comprehensive quality assurance on ethical business practices a entrepreneurship education essentially for developing responsible leaders most especially in Tertiary Educational Institutions, Lagos State, Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Quality Assurance, Ethical Practices, Business, Entrepreneurship Education

### Introduction

The global economy's increasing complexity has the need for business and entrepreneurship education to prioritise each practices embedding ethical practices in business and entrepreneurship education has never been more critical. As stakeholders hold companies to higher standards of accountability. Future leaders must develop a strong moral compass alongside their business acumen. There is a growing need for educational institutions to ensure that future leaders are not only proficient in business acumen but also grounded in ethical principles. Quality assurance in



this context plays a vital role, ensuring that the teaching and learning of ethics are systematically incorporated into business and entrepreneurship programs. Quality assurance refers to the processes and standards set by educational institutions to maintain and enhance the quality of their programs. When applied to ethical practices in business education, it ensures that ethical considerations are woven into the curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. This includes the integration of ethical theories, real-world case studies, and the fostering of critical thinking about the moral implications of business decisions.

According to a 2023 report by the European Quality Assurance Agency (EQAA), institutions that have robust quality assurance mechanisms in place for teaching ethics are more likely to produce graduates who are equipped to handle complex ethical dilemmas in business settings. Moreover, the report highlighted that ethical lapse in the corporate world, such as those seen in the financial sector and tech industries, have driven educational institutions to prioritize ethics in their curricula (EQAA, 2023) and emphasise the importance of embedding ethics in business education to prepare students for the ethical challenges they will face in their careers.

In addition, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), in its 2024 guidelines, stresses the importance of ethical education in business schools, linking it directly to accreditation standards. The AACSB underscores that quality assurance mechanisms must ensure that ethics are not just a part of the curriculum but are integrated into the institutional culture, influencing how business is taught across disciplines (AACSB, 2024).

The focus on ethical practice is also reflected in the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative by the United Nations, which encourages business schools to incorporate ethics, sustainability, and social responsibility into their programs. PRME's 2023 update advocates for quality assurance processes that ensure continuous improvement in how these values are taught and practised within educational institutions (PRME, 2023).

Quality assurance in ethical practice within business and entrepreneurship education is essential for developing leaders who are not only effective in their professional roles but also committed to ethical and responsible business conduct. As the global business environment becomes increasingly complex the role of education in fostering ethical awareness and decision-making will only continue to grow in importance.

According to (Alexander, 2006) Quality Assurance (QA) is any systematic process of determining whether a product or service meets specified requirements. Quality Assurance establishes and maintains set requirements for determining or manufacturing reliable products. A quality assurance process is meant to meet customer confidence and a company's credibility, while also improving work processes and efficiency, and it enables a company to better compete with others.

### **Quality Assurance in Education**

Quality Assurance in Education publishes original empirical or theoretical articles on Quality Assurance issues, including dimensions and indicators of quality and quality Improvement, as applicable to education at all levels, including pre-primary, primary, secondary, higher and professional education. Periodically, Quality Assurance Education also publishes systematic reviews, research syntheses and assessment policy articles on topics of current significance.

As an international journal. Quality Assurance in Education seeks submissions on topics that have global relevance. Quality assurance (QA) in education refers to the systematic processes and procedures implemented to ensure that educational institutions meet established standards of quality. It encompasses activities such as evaluation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of educational programs, teaching methods, and administrative processes to enhance the overall educational experience and outcomes.

### **Key Aspects of Quality Assurance in Education:**

- **Standards and Benchmarks:** Establishing clear criteria for what constitutes quality in education, including curriculum content, teaching methodologies, and student support services.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly assessing and improving educational practices to meet evolving educational goals and stakeholder needs.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring that institutions are accountable to students, parents, and other stakeholders for the quality of education provided.
- **Accreditation and Audits:** Involves external evaluations and assessments by accreditation bodies to certify that institutions meet required quality standards. (Harvey & Green 1993).

### **Quality Assurance in Higher Education**

Quality Assurance in higher education is a systematic process of assessing and verifying inputs, Outputs and outcomes against standardized benchmarks of quality, to maintain and enhance quality, ensure greater accountability and facilitate harmonization of standards across academic programmes, Institutions and Systems (UNESCO 2007). Quality Assurance encompasses a range of activities from basic self-assessment to Comprehensive inspections, accreditation, reviews and audits. These processes are reinforced by external, independent peer reviews. Achieving quality assurance that meets international standards demands substantial investment in technical assistance, training, knowledge sharing, analysis, and coordination.

### **Business Ethics**

Business ethics concerns ethical dilemmas or controversial issues faced by a company. Often, business ethics involve a system of practices and procedures that help build trust with the consumer. On one level, some business ethics are embedded in the law, such as minimum wages, insider trading restrictions, and environmental regulations. On another, business ethics can be influenced by management behaviour, with wide-ranging effects across the company. Generally, there are about 12 ethical principles: honesty, fairness, leadership, accountability, integrity, compassion, respect, responsibility, loyalty, respect for the law, transparency and environmental concerns.

### **Principles of Business Ethics**

Leadership, Integrity, Respect for others, Respect for Laws, Responsibility, Honesty, Transparency, Compassion, Fairness, Loyalty, Environmental Concern

Environmental concern: In a world where resources are limited, ecosystems have been damaged by past practices, and the climate is changing, it is of utmost importance to be aware of and concerned about the environmental impacts a business has. All employees should be encouraged

to discover and report solutions for practices that can add to damages already done. (Investopedia, 2024).

### **The Importance of Ethics in Business Education.**

Ethics in business education is crucial for several reasons. It helps future business leaders develop a strong moral compass, guides them in making decisions that balance profit with societal good, and fosters a culture of integrity in the corporate world. Here's a breakdown of the importance of ethics in business education, along with sources:

**Building Trust and Reputation:** Companies known for ethical practices tend to build trust with consumers, employees, and investors. This trust is a valuable asset that can differentiate a company in a competitive market. Harvard Business Review (March 2022) discusses how ethical behaviour in leadership is essential for maintaining long-term trust and reputation in the business.

**Guiding Decision-Making: Why it Matters:** Ethics provide a framework for making difficult decisions, especially in complex situations where legal guidelines may not be clear-cut. This ensures that business leaders can navigate challenges with a focus on fairness and responsibility.

**The Journal of Business Ethics (February 2023)** highlights that ethical decision-making frameworks are critical in addressing dilemmas where the right course of action is. **Fostering a Positive Work Environment** Ethical education helps future managers understand the importance of creating a work environment where employees feel valued and respected. This can lead to higher job satisfaction and productivity. According to a 2023 study published in *Business Ethics Quarterly*, companies that emphasize ethics in their culture tend to have more engaged and loyal employees.

**Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Business schools that prioritize ethics encourage students to think beyond profit and consider the social and environmental impacts of business decisions. This promotes sustainable practices and CSR. A 2024 article in *\*The Economist\** argues that the increasing focus on CSR in business education is vital for addressing global challenges like climate change and inequality.

**Preparing for Regulatory Compliance:** As regulations around business practices tighten globally, ethical training helps future leaders understand and anticipate regulatory requirements, reducing the risk of legal issues. A report by McKinsey & Company (June 2023) emphasizes the growing importance of ethics training in preparing businesses to navigate increasingly complex regulatory landscapes. **Enhancing Long-term Success** Businesses that prioritize ethics are more likely to succeed in the long term because they avoid the pitfalls of short-termism and focus on sustainable growth.

A study by (Deloitte 2023) shows that companies with strong ethical foundations tend to outperform their peers over the long-term. Ethics in business education is not just about compliance or avoiding scandals; it is about creating leaders who will shape a better future for business and society. As the global business environment becomes more complex, the importance of ethics in business education will only continue to grow. These sources illustrate that ethics is integral to building trust, guiding decisions, and fostering positive.

## **Integrating Ethics into the curriculum**

Integrating ethics into the curriculum is essential for developing responsible professionals who can navigate complex moral dilemmas in their careers. This integration involves embedding ethical principles and discussions into various subjects, rather than treating ethics as a standalone topic.

### **Key Approaches to Integrating Ethics into the Curriculum:**

**Cross-Disciplinary Integration:** Embedding ethical considerations into diverse subjects like business, law, engineering, and healthcare ensures that students understand the ethical implications specific to their field. A 2023 article in, *The Journal of Higher Education*, emphasizes the importance of cross-disciplinary integration of ethics, arguing that it prepares students to apply ethical reasoning in real-world situations.

**Case-Based Learning:** Using case studies that present real-life ethical dilemmas helps students develop critical thinking skills and apply ethical principles in practical scenarios. The *'Journal of Business Ethics Education'* (2022) suggests that case-based learning is effective in helping students engage with complex ethical issues and see the relevance of ethics in professional practice.

**Ethics A cross the Curriculum (EAC)** programs involve systematically incorporating ethical discussion and content into every course, ensuring that ethics is a consistent theme throughout the educational experience. *Teaching Ethics* (2024) reports on the success of EAC programs in various universities, highlighting how these initiatives lead to a more ethically aware student body.

**Faculty Training and Support:** Providing faculty with the resources and training needed to effectively teach ethics within their disciplines is crucial for successful integration. A 2023 study published in *'Innovative Higher Education'* found that faculty development programs significantly enhance the effectiveness of ethics education across curricula.

**Service-Learning and Community Engagement:** Involving students in service-learning projects that require ethical decision-making fosters a deeper understanding of ethical principles in real-world contexts. According to, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (2022) service-learning is a powerful tool for teaching ethics, as it allows students to confront ethical challenges while contributing to the community. Integrating ethics into the curriculum is essential for preparing students to navigate ethical challenges in their professional and personal lives. By incorporating ethics across disciplines, using case studies, supporting faculty, and involving students in community-based learning, institutions can cultivate a strong ethical foundation in their graduates.

**The Role of Accreditation Bodies:** Accreditation bodies play a crucial role in shaping the quality and relevance of business and entrepreneurship education.

**Quality Assurance: Standards and Benchmarks:** Accreditation bodies establish rigorous standards and benchmarks that educational institutions must meet. These standards ensure that programs are comprehensive, up-to-date, and aligned with industry needs.

**Continuous Improvement:** Institutions are often required to undergo periodic reviews to maintain accreditation. This encourages continuous improvement in curriculum, teaching methodologies, and institutional practices.

**Curriculum Development: Industry Alignment:** Accreditation bodies ensure that the curriculum is aligned with current industry trends and practices. This is particularly important in fields like business and entrepreneurship, where market conditions and technologies rapidly evolve.

**Skill Relevance:** By working with industry experts, accreditation bodies help shape curricula that emphasize the development of critical skills, such as leadership, innovation, and strategic thinking, which are essential for success in business and entrepreneurship.

**Institutional Credibility Recognition:** Accreditation from a recognized body enhances the credibility of educational institutions. This is particularly important for business schools, where reputation can significantly impact student enrollment, faculty recruitment, and partnerships with businesses.

**Student Outcomes Employability:** Accredited programs are often better recognized by employers, leading to improved job prospects for graduates. Employers tend to trust that graduates from accredited programs possess the necessary skills and knowledge.

**Entrepreneurial Success:** In entrepreneurship education, accreditation bodies ensure that programs offer practical experiences, such as incubators, mentorship opportunities, and business plan competitions, which are vital for developing successful entrepreneurs.

**Funding and Support:** Accreditation can influence the allocation of resources within institutions. Accredited programs are more likely to receive funding, attract high-quality faculty, and gain access to better facilities.

**Research Opportunities:** Accreditation often requires institutions to maintain strong research capabilities. This ensures that faculty and students are engaged in cutting-edge research, which can drive innovation in business and entrepreneurship.

**Ethical and Social Responsibility: Ethical Standards,** Accreditation bodies emphasize the importance of ethics and social responsibility in business and entrepreneurship education.

**Sustainability:** Many accreditation standards now include a focus on sustainability, ensuring that future business leaders are prepared to address global challenges like climate change and social equity.

**Global Networks and Collaboration: International Collaborations,** and Accreditation bodies often facilitate global networks and collaborations among accredited institutions. This fosters an exchange of ideas, research, and best practices in business and entrepreneurship education.

**Student and Faculty Mobility:** Accreditation facilitates the mobility of students and faculty between accredited institutions, promoting a global perspective in business education.

The European University Association (EUA) developed a robust quality assurance framework tailored to elevate the standards of higher institutions. Central to this model is the establishment of internal quality assurance systems, which entail a perpetual cycle of self-assessment, strategic planning and implementation of quality enhancement initiatives. Institutional Theory, developed by W. Richard Scotts, is a sociological framework that explains how institutions shape the behavior and actions of individuals and organisations. Scott's Institutional theory attends to the deeper and more resilient aspects of social structure. It considers the processes by which structures, including schemas, rules, norms, and routines, become established as authoritative guidelines for social behaviour. It inquires into how these elements are created, diffused, adopted, and adapted over space and time; and how they fall into decline and disuse. Although the ostensible subject is stability and order in social life, students of institutions must perforce attend not just to consensus and conformity but to conflict and change in social structures (Scott 2004b). Several key dimensions of quality in higher education include excellence, value, consistency, and meeting needs and expectations; yet no one quality assurance framework can address all aspects of quality, so choices are made about what kinds of quality are assessed (Wilger, 1997). Mohammed (2024) assert that quality assurance practice is paramount for Nigeria educational system. What every evaluator is doing is to ensure quality assurance life for the child so that the child can also give quality life to the country. The quality of education determines the quality of the Nation.

### **Conclusion**

The successful integration of quality assurance and ethical practices in business and entrepreneurship education is pivotal in cultivating leaders who embody integrity and responsibility. Nigerian tertiary institutions, particularly in Lagos State, must adopt a comprehensive approach to quality assurance to ensure the efficacy and credibility of their programs. The escalating global scrutiny on corporate ethics underscores the imperative for business and entrepreneurship education programs to prioritize ethical decision-making. By incorporating quality assurance mechanisms, educational institutions can foster an environment that values transparency, accountability, and social responsibility. To promote a culture of quality assurance and ethical practices in business and entrepreneurship education, tertiary institutions should adopt a multifaceted approach. This includes integrating ethics into the curriculum, promoting critical thinking and reflection, and establishing clear codes of conduct and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Educational institutions play a vital role in shaping the values and practices of future business leaders. By prioritizing quality assurance and ethical practices, institutions can contribute to the development of responsible, socially conscious leaders who can drive sustainable economic growth and development.

### **Recommendations**

- The government should enact strict legislation on Quality Assurance in Education.
- Policy Makers should streamline policies and aid in enabling environment for Quality Assurance in Educational Programmes in the tertiary institutions.
- Regulatory bodies should be empowered to enforce total compliance to Quality Assurance in Business Education through annual checks and Balances on institutions.
- Institutions should provide and fund faculty training for effective ethics training and collaboration with different Countries to work on projects.

- Tertiary institutions should imbibe the culture of transparency and accountability with, Stakeholders, the Government both Federal and State, Student and Staff of the Organisation.

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