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# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION: A NEED IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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## **Abstract**

Entrepreneurship Education is inevitable when sustainable development matters arise. Any nation in the world that wants to develop must harness the skill and knowledge of its youth and utilize them efficiently and effectively for the transformation of the economy, society, politics and culture. The essence to develop economy is to help in job creation, capacity-building, growth and development. This can be best achieved when introduced in the school curriculum. This paper therefore emphasises the need for entrepreneurship education in colleges of education for the sustainable development of the nation. It is recommended that the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) should force colleges that are yet to adopt entrepreneurial education programs to do so. Also, entrepreneurship education should go beyond the walls of colleges and be adopted as a program enshrined in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools. There is also need for entrepreneurial competences to transform acquired skills into action for national development. Consequently, this paper addresses the issue of competent teachers not being adequately used.

## **Introduction**

Entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek investment to be established and run an enterprise successfully based on identifiable Opportunities (Kayode, 2016). It is also viewed as equipping learners with skills, knowledge, and disposition that can help them develop innovative business plans. Entrepreneurship Education therefore is the process of providing individuals with the ability to recognize business opportunity, and the insight, self-esteem, knowledge and skills to act on them. It is all about transforming an idea into reality (Akinseinde, 2015). Education makes human to be responsive to their personal, families, national need and aspiration (Ighalo, 2014).

Okonta & Obaro (2015) define education as a process of inculcating and equipping the individual with desired knowledge, right attitudes, values, skill, capability and competence necessary for them to realize their potentials in the advancement of the society. Education is also viewed as a veritable weapon against ignorance, poverty, disease, superstition, squalor and backwardness (Mgbor, 2015).

All over the world, emphasis is on the increase on demand for vocational and technical skills to manage business successfully and increase workplace

productivity in an organization. Such employees are those with the ability to turn ideas into action, i.e. entrepreneurship.

The ability of an individual to turn ideas and theory into action through creativity, innovation, risk taking, good planning and management of project for the achievement of objective is entrepreneurship.

According to Izedonmi (2011), Entrepreneurship produces entrepreneurs. The more entrepreneurs there are in any society, the greater the seed of industrialization and economic activities. The real foundation of realization of the objectives of Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy is vibrant entrepreneurship.

This view reveals that entrepreneurship education is not only for job creation, but is a competence everyone, old and young, employed and unemployed individuals. Employment in the private and public sectors is not a necessary and sufficient condition for anyone's wealth, since salary can never be a guarantee with wealth creation. Poverty is nobody's portion in life and cannot be celebrated; however, ignorance is the starting place of poverty.

Development means a change into a more advanced form; it is the transformation of the socio economics structure. To sustain means a change to keep something in existence, something that has been there before (Okaghare, 2015). Keeping these socio-economic structures in existence is sustainable development. Therefore, the real national development involves a structural transformation of the economy, society, politics, and culture that permit a redirection of science and technology. This can be seen in entrepreneurship education. Sustainable development then refers to meeting societal need for effective workers which will help to build a great and dynamic economy. It is also giving people knowledge and skills for life-long learning to help them find new solution to their environmental, economic and social issues.

### **Entrepreneurship Efforts in Colleges of Education**

There have been several entrepreneurship efforts made all over the world for sustainable development. Kifordu (2014) reports that through the effective recognition and application of entrepreneurship education is a catalyst for economic growth and development, an engine for job creation, economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. This is possible because of the roles it plays on creating employment, capacity building, growth and development.

This is possible because entrepreneurship produces entrepreneurs who set up new businesses. New businesses provide employment opportunities, develops

leadership skills in individuals which results in the freedom of effective and efficient management of enterprises. The spirit of positive competition is built in the mind of individuals (entrepreneurs) as they try to come up with the best innovation, which translate to the quality goods and services (Ayodele, 2015).

But it is sad to note that all these efforts have not made remarkable achievements. To encourage entrepreneurship education, it is now the duty of the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) to encourage Colleges to produce entrepreneurship education for NCE students, so that they can be self employed after graduation.

In Nigeria, the government has made efforts as far back as 2004 to integrate entrepreneurship education into the curriculum of colleges. Some colleges of education has established a centre for entrepreneurship and innovation.

### **Relevance of Entrepreneurship to Sustained Development**

The relevance of entrepreneurship education cannot be over emphasized. Obielumani (2014) and Obaro (2015) note that over emphasis placed on formal education and the neglect of non-formal and entrepreneurial education in our educational system has brought about national challenges like youth restiveness, militancy, insurgency, underemployment and skewed national economy.

### **Entrepreneurship education encourages creativity**

Creativity has to do with imaginations, inspirations, originality, ingenuity and resourcefulness. This is because this form of education will help develop the young minds into thinking of originality than criminality especially now as reported by Babalola (2014) and Obaro (2015) that most of the NCE students have problem with deep understanding, application and adaptation of knowledge. Osakwe (2015) outlines the relevance of entrepreneurship education to sustainable development as:

1. identifying method that will enhance and manage innovation and creativity in small scale business;
2. learning the process of evaluating opportunities properly for starting a new venture or expanding an existing one;
3. developing sound business planning skills;
4. gaining work experience and getting adequate practical and theoretical oriented education;
5. reducing unemployment rates after graduation;
6. enabling graduates have a meaningful and fulfilling life and contribute to development of the nation.

### **The Other Relevance of Entrepreneurship Education**

1. It can create jobs through the formation of new enterprise, especially small medium scale enterprise.
2. Harnessing resources that might otherwise remain idle, and put them into productive use.
3. Encouraging and sustaining economic dynamism that enables an economy to adjust independently and attain status for them in the society.

### **Sustenance of Entrepreneurship Education for National Development**

For sustainable development of the nation's economy and the other aspects, the government at both federal, state and local should ensure that they provide enough and adequate funding for graduates to put into practice what they have learnt in school. Nothing can survive without funding which have been described as the life wire of anything.

1. It is also not enough providing funds, the governments should make sure that the provided funds get to the right people, and are properly utilized for the same reason it was disbursed and not diverted to other areas. This they can do, by setting up committees of reliable, tested and proven citizens.
2. The National Commission for College of Education (NCCE) as a matter of fact, should force the Colleges that are yet to adopt entrepreneurship education programme to do so not only on paper but also in practice, or else sanction them.
3. Entrepreneurship training should be sustained in the final year of the programme.
4. Entrepreneurship education should go beyond the walls of colleges and should be adopted as a programme enshrined in the curriculum of primary and secondary school.
5. That Brain development which is needed in entrepreneurship education is greatly influenced by the environment. Therefore an enabling environment free from rancor, an atmosphere of peace and tranquility void of insurgencies, militancy and hunger should be provided by the government at all levels (Idogo, 2014)
6. Entrepreneurship education will be a mere dream as long as Nigeria remains a country without stable source of power. On this note, power supply is inevitable for entrepreneurial sustenance. No business can thrive without power supply, and in this 21 century, it is quite disheartening and a very big shame to note that Nigeria is still struggling to have stable power supply (Ajudeonu, 2013).
7. Finally public enlightenment campaign, and current awareness services should be adopted to make the populace know about entrepreneurship education. Even in college of education, most undergraduates do not know the essence of entrepreneurship education.

### **Conclusion**

Conclusively, if a nation must be sustained in its development, then entrepreneurship education must be encouraged. The bookish form of education devoid of practical and skill foundation should be amended.

Any country unable to develop the skill and knowledge of its youths, harness and utilize them effectively will be unable to develop anything else. So entrepreneurship education is a must for colleges of education in Nigeria for sustainable development.

### **Recommendations**

1. Education is the main root towards scientific, technological, economic and social growth and development.
2. Government at both federal, state, and local levels should provide enough and adequate funding for the programme to reduce the increase in unemployment rate and insecurity in Nigeria. We need new kind of learning environment, learners will need guides to enable them take on fundamentally different roles.
3. Government at both federal, state and local should provide enough and adequate funding for the programme.
4. The National Commission for College of Education (NCCE) should make sure that the provided funds, get to the right people and are properly utilized.
5. Encouraging and sustaining economy dynamism that enable an economy to adjust independency and attain status for themselves in the society.
6. The government and schools should provide adequate power supply for the program.

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