

Unemployment, Vocational Guidance and Entrepreneurship Education As Correlates Of Graduates' Post-Vocational Training For Self-Reliance In Delta State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Unemployment amongst tertiary education graduates in Nigeria is very high and continues to rise, with more graduates being churned out annually. Alarming statistics are released daily about Nigerian youths dying while crossing the Sahara Desert, drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, being maimed or sold in Libyan slave markets or being forcefully deported in their thousands. Over 75% graduates of tertiary institutions in Nigeria are adjudged unemployable. To stem this social malaise, institutions are using vocational guidance and entrepreneurship education to re-orientate graduates to acquire vocational skills for self-reliance. Presently, graduates are engaging in N-power training programmes, vocational training in technical colleges, YAGEP, STEP and skill acquisition under thriving entrepreneurs. The purpose of this study was to assess the relationship between graduate unemployment vocational guidance and entrepreneurship education, and participation in post-graduation vocational training by graduates in Delta State. This correlational study used a survey design to obtain data from respondents. Three research hypotheses were raised. Study population comprised of unemployed graduates undergoing vocational training. The instrument used was the unemployment, Vocational Guidance and Entrepreneurship Education Assessment Inventory Questionnaire (INGEEAIQ), a unipolar Likert scale with 40 question items. Findings revealed that all three hypotheses were retained, because the three independent variables could not predict the outcome variables ($p > 0.05$). Recommendation was that other factors should be investigated to determine graduates' decision to engage in vocational training for self-reliance.

Keywords: *Unemployment, vocational guidance, entrepreneurship education, post-graduation, vocational training, self-reliance.*