

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AS A PANACEA FOR JOB CREATION AND NATION BUILDING EFFORTS IN NIGERIA

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## **Abstract**

This paper examined entrepreneurship education as a panacea to nation building efforts in Nigeria. The paper looked at the qualities of an entrepreneur, its types and the roles of entrepreneurship education in employment generation and nation building in Nigeria. The unemployment situation in Nigeria pose serious threats and challenges to both the government and the citizens. Entrepreneurship education has been embraced by almost all the developed countries of the world and its capabilities and effectiveness in nation building is not in doubts. The paper reviews how entrepreneurship education can help in promoting vocational and technical education in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The paper recommends proper orientation of the citizens by the government, on the need for entrepreneurship education in their daily lives, because it will help them in the realization of their potentials and opportunities in job creation, as well as making positive contribution to nation building efforts in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Panacea, Nation Building.

## **Introduction**

Entrepreneurship education means different things to different people. Onwucheka (2018) defined entrepreneurship education as the identification of the general characteristics of an entrepreneur and how potential entrepreneurship can be trained in management techniques needed for the effective performance of persons for long time survival of an organization. Despite the immense benefits of university education to nation building efforts in Nigeria, higher education and indeed the university system in developing countries, find it difficult to fulfill these responsibilities of nation building their efforts on nation building was frequently thwarted by inadequate preparation and a clear-cut programme of job creation, lack of funding and expert training, all of which have bedeviled the system.

According to Ajayi and Ayodele (2004), higher education in Nigeria is in dilemma, the system is riddled with crisis of various dimensions and magnitude. A number of multi-faceted problems have inhibited goal attainment and are raising questions, doubts and fears, all of which combine to suggest that the system is at a crossroad. It is observed that the rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria has chosen alarmingly.

Crime rate has also increased, because there is no job. The state of the Nigerian economy is deteriorating at an unpredictable rate. Can entrepreneurship help in providing solutions to these problems? It is hoped s paper will provide answer to this question.

The reasons why entrepreneurship education is important among others are that:

1. It enables people to acquire broad knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship.
2. It enables the youths to discover for the themselves career opportunities that are open to them through vocational and technical education.
3. It helps to mobilize, motivate and encourage people to participate actively in entrepreneurship programmes, because of the career prospects of such a programme.
4. Entrepreneurship education inculcates in the learner the capabilities for demonstration and acquiring entrepreneurship behaviour, skills and attributes.
5. It enables people to be aware that entrepreneurship education serves as a remedy to problems of nation-building in Nigeria.
6. It enables the youth to be creative and develop the spirit of initiative that can be useful to them in their daily existence.
7. It provides the youth with necessary technical and basic business skills needed for their future life, if they want to be self employed or to start their own venture.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the benefits of entrepreneurship education to enhance citizens commitment to nation building
2. To highlight the ignorance of the citizenry towards entrepreneurial education generally and the many opportunities been missed.
3. To emphasize the importance of entrepreneurial education as a solution to the unemployment problem in Nigeria.
4. That vocational and technical education should be the focus of entrepreneurial education to enhance nation building in Nigeria.
5. Government funding for entrepreneurial education is necessary for skill acquisition in tertiary institutions.

### **Concept of Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship education as a discipline seeks to provide the basic knowledge skills and motivation to encourage success in a variety of setting. Entrepreneurship can also be seen as a process of exploring the opportunities in the market place and arranging resources required to exploit these opportunities for long

term gain. It is the act of planning, organizing opportunities and creating personal business in order to make profit.

### **Qualities of Entrepreneur**

Frankie-dolor (2014) stated the following as the major qualities of the entrepreneur.

- 1. Willingness to Take Risk:** Potential entrepreneurs take financial and careers risks to succeed in any business venture.
- 2. Self-Confidence:** Entrepreneurs always believe that they can overcome any obstacle/challenges that come their way.
- 3. Realization of Opportunity:** Potential entrepreneur believes and focuses on the realization of opportunity.
  
- 4. Need for Achievement:** Entrepreneurs are desirous to succeed, they have high need for achievement to compete with some standards of distinction, like the ambition to start new business and succeed.

### **Types of Entrepreneurship Education 1. Regular Entrepreneurship**

The regular entrepreneurship is the most popular one when one wants to open a new business organization. It is the entrepreneurship that is often seen in Nigerian commerce where many are involved in commerce, trading in goods and services.

### **2. Corporate Entrepreneurship**

This is the type of entrepreneurship where a firm or firms promote innovation or introduce new products or services to the market. Such corporate entrepreneurship exists among many companies and firms involved in the sale and marketing of merchandise.

### **3. Clustering Entrepreneurship**

This type of entrepreneurship occurs when a group of employees break off from the parent company to find a new company, but continues to do business with the parent company.

## **The Roles of Entrepreneurship Education in Employment Generation and Nation Building in Nigeria**

According to Ukpong (2017) employment generation is perhaps the mother of development in Nigeria and indeed Africa. There *is need* therefore, to introduce self-employment prospects to the unemployed youth in rural and urban areas. The level of employment generation of any nation is a measure of its entrepreneurship education.

Nigeria economy has improved due to encouragement of small - scale businesses. Oharisi (2018) stated that the roles of entrepreneurship for employment generation in Nigeria, without the provision of employment opportunities cannot be achieved without emphasis on nation building in Nigeria. According to Oharisi (2018), the roles of entrepreneurship in employment generation include:

1. To increase the participation of the private sector in financing vocational education through services rendered to them.
2. To increase innovative and creative ability in people in order to add value to the society in terms of job creation.
3. It encourages the spirit of hard-work in people and changes people's attitude to work.
4. To improve the revenue of business ventures by way of teaching entrepreneurs how, when and where to source capital for economic growth and development.
5. It makes people to be self reliant by creating employment opportunities for them.

Entrepreneurship education plays a vital role in manpower development, by developing the right caliber of manpower in any developing nation. It is obvious that entrepreneurship education exposes students to practical experiences of business life. It teaches students how to "make a living" as well as to develop and operate their personal and family financial plans. Manpower development is the cardinal goals of entrepreneurship education. It teaches people to acquire skills that will enhance their abilities in solving problems.

### **Promoting Entrepreneurship in Tertiary Education in Nigeria**

Entrepreneurship education can be promoted through several ways. Technology and vocational education include trades and careers such as building construction, wood work, electrical and electronics engineering, home economics, hospitality, auto mechanic and engineering, medical and health, furniture, garment and designing business, commercial construction and manufacturing, agriculture, art and crafts and all aspects of education that are occupation based and skill oriented. Pelu (2012) maintained that people are the subject and object of development. Nwosu (2015) pointed out that economic development has a lot to do with the technological level of

the society. Without technologists, it is difficult for a society to develop (Haruna & Aliyu, 2016).

Technology is very vital in achieving progress in a society because it helps to modify the total person, and changes him from a mere educated person to a cultured one with the skills and attitude to solve environmental, economic and biological problems.

Unemployment implies under utilization of human capital. It should be recalled that human resource is the most vital factor or resource in national development. This situation occasioned increased awareness in Nigerians need for self - employment and self - reliance (Analele, 2014). A means to self - reliance and self - employment is the existence of entrepreneurship. For entrepreneurship to be an effective contributor to national development, productivity needs should be enhanced through entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.

Entrepreneurship education plays a vital role in our Nociety. It is seen as a key driver of our economy. Adefaye (2014) stated that the Federal government has been [prompted to encourage entrepreneurship education so that (hey can empower graduates to be economically self-employed. Omoefe (2017) is of the view that entrepreneurship education should be introduced as compulsory course in all departments of every institution by government, because it contributes economically/socially and industrially to employment.

### **Conclusion**

Entrepreneurship education makes us to be aware that there are ample benefits accruing to people, mostly the youth, in participating in entrepreneurship programmes. It enhances job creation by way of equipping potential entrepreneurs and graduates with technical skills and practical knowledge to exploit business opportunities in order to create wealth for themselves in order to survive in the society. Entrepreneurship education has positive role to play to enhance employment generation and self - reliance, ll helps the youth to develop the spirit of initiative that can be useful to them in their daily existence.

### **Recommendations**

It was recommended that:

1. Entrepreneurship education at all levels of education should be adequately financed by the government, to enhance the citizens commitment to nation building in Nigeria.

2. There should be proper orientation of the citizens by the government on the need for entrepreneurship education in their daily lives, because it will help them in the realization of opportunities.
3. As a means of solving the increasing unemployment problems, employment enhancement schemes should be organized, where youth can be empowered for self-employment rather than reliance on white collar jobs.
4. Vocational education should be broadened to encompass career education with focus on self-employment.
5. Potential entrepreneurs should be empowered financially so that they can establish business ventures that will create wealth for the benefit of the society.
6. Learning the inherent skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship education should be made compulsory in all tertiary institutions.

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