



ENTREPRENUERIAL EDUCATION: THE PANACEA FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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<p>Received: 11th March 2022 Accepted: 12th April 2022 Published: 28th May 2022</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial education is seen as a foundation for economic and educational development. The success of many nations in tackling major developmental problems such as poverty, unemployment, and social vices, among others, can be traced to entrepreneurial education, which some of the countries in the world adopted. However, despite the government's efforts to improve educational and economic development; poverty, unemployment, and inadequate educational funding continue to rise in geometric progression in the country. It is against this backdrop that this study examined the linkages between entrepreneurial education as a panacea to unemployment and underdevelopment of education in Nigerian State. This study adopted a historical approach, and derived its data from both primary and secondary sources. The study revealed that entrepreneurial education is the fulcrum to the menace of unemployment and educational underdevelopment in Nigerian state. However, key elements that would catapult Nigerian state into this trajectory of educational development, such as the provision of ICT systems in the form of projectors, laptops, computer systems, and the use of electronic boards for lectures are lacking or in a dilapidated state in Nigerian universities. Therefore, this paper recommended, among others, a comprehensive implementation of entrepreneurial education at all levels of education in Nigeria. This will enhance the development of a total person with the required skills, knowledge, and value in identifying the needs of society and proffering solutions to them through a viable economy.</p>

Keywords: Entrepreneurial, education, tool, gateway, development, economic, nation, panacea, etc.

I INTRODUCTION

For several years, Nigeria education had centered on certification not specialized or competence. On this note, many Nigerians believed and see education as a gateway to white collar jobs, and as a result, education was seen as a way of rejecting or avoiding manual work. Bababola (2003) opined that for our educational sector to grow, there must be a viable economy. This can only come when Entrepreneurial education is highly emphasized.

Nigerian education as one of the best educational system with the best set of policies has greatly neglected the area of vocational and technical education which are the basis of Entrepreneurial education. Considering the importance of Entrepreneurial education, in 2017 the Federal Government of Nigeria reviewed the curricular of university education to include entrepreneurial education as a compulsory course. This is done in order to make the students self-reliant, create job opportunities for themselves, become employers of labour and contribute to economic development, Okoli (2011).

Statement of the Problem

The problem emanates from the facts that it has been observed over the years that viable economy is the superstructure upon which education is built. Several graduates roam the streets carrying different sizes of files in search of white-collar jobs. Considering the rate of unemployment and lack of adequate resources to promote education, this paper primarily focused on the Entrepreneurial education as the panacea for unemployment and underdevelopment of education in Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The overall aim of the study is to look at the relevance of Entrepreneurial education in solving the problems of unemployment and underdevelopment of education in Nigeria; thereby promoting economic and educational development in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

- To ascertain that Entrepreneurial, education is a powerful tool in solving the problems of unemployment and underdevelopment in Nigeria.
- To have a system of education that will produce graduates that will serve as instrument for economic development.
- To provide students with skills that will make them self- reliance, and be employers of labour.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of immense important to the policy makers on the area of education, teachers, students and the society at large.

Research Questions

The research questions to this study are as follows:

- What extent can Entrepreneurial education solve the problems of unemployment and the underdevelopment of education in Nigeria?
- What are the factors that could promote entrepreneurial education in Nigeria?
- What are the factors that could hinder the success of Entrepreneurial education in Nigeria?

II LITERATURE REVIEW

Entrepreneurial Education

Entrepreneurial education is generally accepted as the foundation for economic development. It is the principal agent of transformation towards a sustainable development, a potential that increases the people's capacities to change their views, aspirations, economic state, even, the culture of a society.

Entrepreneurial education is a specialized training given to student to acquire skills, ideas, managerial abilities for self- employment rather than being employed Owoseni (2009) this means that one becomes an employer of labour through entrepreneur education. Besides, as opined by Osuala (2010) Entrepreneurial education prepares individuals to undertake the formation and operation of small business enterprises, engage in one tasks or the other which promotes the economic development of a country.

As a lifelong learning process it is offered at all levels of education. For the purpose of this study, Entrepreneurial education is seen as a special training programme intended to provide the students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to engage in a particular task.

The concept of Entrepreneurial education talks about human capital development. Ogbondah (ND) sees human capital development as the process that relate to training, education and other professional initiative in order to increase the level of their knowledge, abilities, values, and social aspects of an employee which will lead to employers satisfaction. It is therefore easy to achieve the full development of a person in terms of productivity through Entrepreneurial education. Woodhall (1997) asserts that entrepreneurial education is highly instrumental to the improvement of production of commodities which encourage economic development in the society.

Entrepreneurship education - or enterprise education as it is sometimes called is that education which assists students to develop positive attitudes, innovation and skills for self-reliance rather than depending on the government for employment. Such an experience will in return produce graduates with self-confidence and capacities for independent thought to discover new information leading to economic development.

Entrepreneurship education is the type of education designed to change the orientation and attitude of the recipients and the process will equip them with the skills and knowledge to enable them start and manage a business. It aims at developing the requisite entrepreneurial skills, attitudes, competencies, and disposition that will predispose the individual to be a driving force in managing a business (Alex, 2012).

On the other hand; entrepreneurship education can be said to focus on developing understanding and capacity for pursuit of entrepreneurial behaviours, skills and attitudes in widely different contexts. This type of education is open to all and not exclusively the domain of the some self acclaimed business gurus. This is more so true in the sense that these behaviours can be practiced, developed and learned therefore it is important to expose all students to entrepreneurship education (Njoku, 2010). Oladele (2011) identified ten of the attitudes and skills that would-be entrepreneurs can developed, as well as the corresponding objective of entrepreneurship education. These skills and attitudes include:

1. Positive attitudes, high aptitude for rational critical thinking and timely decision making,
2. Clear vision, generation of progressive ideals, drive and passion for success.
3. Ability to convert vision in concrete reality.
4. Creativity, innovativeness, courageousness and self-confidence.
5. Ability to assume reasonable risk.
6. Mercurial ingenuity, resourcefulness, patience and/or opportunities insight.
7. Confidence and good judgement, which involves taking decisions and making choices.
8. Prudence, which means due care in the management of resources especially financial.
9. Willingness to learn and develop a disposition to pick-up, store knowledge and use it.
10. Hardwork as an indispensable ingredient of success in business and other sectors.

Objectives of Entrepreneurial education

Entrepreneurship education is oriented towards different ways of realizing opportunities. This is what makes entrepreneurship education distinctive in its focus on realization of opportunity, whereas management education is focused on the best way to operate existing hierarchies. Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings. Entrepreneurship education according to Potter (2008) is structured to achieve the following objectives.

1. To offer functional education for the youth that will enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant.
2. Provide the youth graduates with adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying novel business opportunities.
3. To serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development.
4. Offer tertiary institution graduates with adequate training in risk management, to make certain bearing feasible. To reduce high rate of poverty.
5. Create employment generation.
6. Reduction in rural - urban migration.
7. Provide the young graduates with enough training and support that will enable them to establish a career in small and medium sized businesses.
8. To inculcate the spirit of perseverance in the youths and adults which will enable them to persist in any business venture they embark on.
9. Create smooth transition from traditional to a modern industrial.

The Principles of Entrepreneurial Education

1. **Be a solution provider:** The essence of entrepreneurial education is not for making of money at first, it is about the identifying of the needs of the society and think of how to provide solutions to them. Njoku (2011) opined that what makes an Entrepreneurial is the passion he has to undertake a particular task to solve a particular problem.
2. **Have a vision:** one is not an Entrepreneurial only to make a living, but to enable the society lives more amply. Njoku (2011) says that vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others, have a defined purpose and pursue it.
3. **Choose a right team:** it is important for an Entrepreneurial to choose a team that have the same mindset and attitude towards achieving a common goal, have the same mind set performance and an underlying belief in themselves that yes, we can The team must be dedicated and motivated.
4. **Viable products/services:** the products and services of the Entrepreneurial must fulfill the needs of the society, encourage economic and educational development.
5. **Never give-up:** this is one of the qualities that an Entrepreneurial must process. The Entrepreneur is a goal getter, they never give up in turning their visions into realities.

III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used a historical research design. A quantitative research approach was used to determine the extent at which Entrepreneurial education is the panacea for unemployment and underdevelopment of education in Nigeria.

IV THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is anchored on the social learning theory as propounded by Albert Bandura in 1986. The theory provides the fundamentals of Entrepreneurship education. It encourages the people to acquired skills, engage in small scale businesses in order to become self-reliance and contribute to the economic development. Bardura through the theory of social learning sees Entrepreneurial education as the foundation to economic development. He says that education can only flourish when the economy of the state is viable and has the ability of providing for educational needs.

V ROLES OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION IN NATION BUILDING

The entrepreneurship education is the foundation and a key of our economy, wealth and a high majority of jobs are created by small business started by the entrepreneur minded individuals, many of whom go on to create big businesses. Chiadi (2014) opined that there is more creative freedom for people who are exposed to entrepreneurship education. There is a high self-esteem, and an overall greater sense of control over their own lives. It is believed of many experienced business people, political leaders, economists, and educators that fostering a robust entrepreneurial culture will maximize individual and collective economic and social success on a local, national and global scale, Owoseni (2009). It is on this that the National standard for entrepreneurship education was developed to prepare youth, and adults to succeed in an entrepreneurial economy.

According to Okoli, (2014) entrepreneurship education is a lifelong process starting as early as elementary school and progressing through all levels of education, including adult education. Sachi (2009) The standard are their supporting performance, indicators are framework for teachers to use in building appropriate objectives, learning activities as the assessment for their target audience; working according to the framework, the students or youths will have progressively more challenging educational activities; experience that will enable them to develop the insight needed to discover and create entrepreneurial creativity and a spirit initiative can be useful to everyone in their working

responsibilities and in their day to day existence. This brings about every youth being actively involved in the development of the economy, Okoli (2014).

Akinbode (2009) the entrepreneurial education goes beyond the teaching or business, it encourages creative things and the promotion of good spirit which brings about economic, social, political and all round development in any society that pays serious attention to it. It empowers the members of the society with creative things and the willingness which encourages every member of the group or society, mainly the youth to undertake a particular task or the order which creates in them the positive thinking about the environment where they live. The youth no-longer think of what they can get from the government but what they contribute towards the development of the society.

To Sachi (2009) the entrepreneurs play crucial roles, though they are not productive factors but direct the application of the acquired knowledge to the production of goods and services, for human consumption which brings about stability in the society. As mention earlier, Okoli (2014) entrepreneurship education as a lifelong process, described entrepreneurship as the engine of economic development. "To study entrepreneur is to study the central figure in a modern economic history" (Sachi, 2009).

In addition, entrepreneurship education discourages rural-urban drifts. The movement of the people from villages to focus for greater pastures will be reduced. This means that entrepreneurship education reduces migrations. It does this by making sure that everyone is gainfully and positively engaged having identified the problems in the society and proffered solutions to those problems identified thereby making the society comfortable, productive, effective and peaceful for citizens within the society.

Besides, Odia (2011) sees entrepreneurship education as a way of solving and reducing the high rate of crime which makes the economy to be stable and the citizens become more creative and have ability to engage in one small scale business or the other, creating opportunities thereby reducing crime.

Entrepreneurial education also encourage innovation and creations which help in technological development (Odia, 2011). Besides, the place of entrepreneurial education cannot be over emphasized. It will help to motivate, sustain and hold the interest of the students as a result help the students to be self-employed, become employers of labour and contribute towards the development of the society.

CHALLENGES FACING ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Owoseni (2009) sees the following as factors that could hinder the development of Entrepreneurial education in Nigeria.

1. **Inadequate facilities:** The facilities required for the production of some products are not made available and it becomes very difficult for some skills to be acquired. This is because some of the required machines are not adequately provided.
2. **Lack of professional personnel:** Considering the fact that we lack adequate capital, most Entrepreneurs cannot afford to employ professionals to handle some sensitive parts of their business and skills and the effect of this is limitation to the kind of task the Entrepreneur has in mind.
3. **Lack of finance:** Many Entrepreneurs lack finance to start up their business. This becomes a problem to entrepreneurial education.
4. **Inconsistent government policies:** Frequent change of economic politics without due considerations of the negative effects of what the change would cause to the Entrepreneurs.
5. **Cultural barriers:** some cultures do not permit risk taking mainly on the area of women. An Entrepreneur requires culture that respects risk taking, without the willingness to take risk the Entrepreneur may not undertake any task. The female Entrepreneurs in Nigeria are underestimated and hindered due to cultural barriers.
6. **Poor patronage by government and industry:** the local investors are not regarded by the government and big industries. The government and big industries use imported materials instead of patronizing the local Entrepreneurs.
7. **Lack of information:** the Entrepreneurs in Nigeria do not have adequate information on a particular task. Lack of adequate information on a particular task courses them to float and when they encounter challenges, it becomes difficult for them to handle.
8. **Security issues:** This is one of the big problems of an Entrepreneur in Nigeria, it is very difficult for an Entrepreneur to undertake a task in a hostile area. When there is insecurity, the Entrepreneurs business might collapse.

However, in addition to the problems identified, Owutu (2010), Njoku (2010) & Babola (2006) identified the following as challenges to entrepreneurial education.

- a. The concern has been related to instability of the academic calendar, infrastructural decay and obsolescence of equipment in the face of population explosion and academic staff shortage amongst others.
- b. Lack of access to high education especially university education. Confusion related 9 - 3 - 4 basic disarticulation in the levels of education.
- c. Standard and quality assurance in the tertiary institutions is low; what is the ranking of universities in Nigeria globally by the ranking bodies.
- d. The teacher students ratio still vary wide in many tertiary institutions while teaching facilities are extremely inadequate.
- e. Technical and vocational education and training are poorly emphasized in conventional universities in Nigeria.
- f. The teacher number, quality and welfare of teachers is still a major problem; there are prevalent or large class

- size and less wages for entrepreneurial teacher, no amount of money paid to teachers is too much.
- g. The Open University development is rather slow in delivering entrepreneurship education results and some private universities are very expensive or deliverables.
 - h. Entrepreneurial facilities are in poor states in many institutions and some do not have at all.
 - i. Over stretching of existing facilities
 - j. Illegal institutions/satellite campuses and external campuses.
 - k. Weak support institute for students industrial work experience scheme (SIWES).
 - l. Divided interest by academics (moonlighting).
 - m. Unethical behaviour in teaching and learning extortion of monies by management, staff and students.
 - n. Disruption in academic calendar due to strike actions.
 - o. Disruption in learning activities, insecurity of life and property due to insurgency.
 - p. Mobilized resources from superintending agencies are re-channeled to other areas or projects without direct bearing on teaching and research.

It has to do with the problem of insufficient knowledge of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and they lack the use of modern materials in teaching entrepreneurial education in institutions of learning. The effect of inadequate financing of entrepreneurship education programmes as it leads to the inability to procure the necessary aids for effective teaching skill to the students. This study discovered that the provision of ICT system in form of projectors, laptops, computer systems, public address system and the use of electronic boards for lecture delivery as well as computer and video conferencing for lectures with students is very crucial for distance education students as in the case with some universities are lacking. This view is further emphasized by Alex (2012) when they said the use of ICT in teaching and learning of entrepreneurship has become more productive and meaningful. This is so because it helps to facilitate the synergy and understanding between the entrepreneurs (producers and the users of the products consumers) by keeping them, the consumers and the producers updated with the current skills.

The ICT which is a technological and engineering discipline and management technique is useful in the handling and processing of information which the entrepreneurs need most to keep themselves updated with the methods and issues in business growth and innovation with social economic and cultural aspects. Developing ICT based instructional packages for entrepreneurs encourage learning that gives birth to several innovation and creation of new business. This is further encouraged by the fact that, ICT promotes self-paced and active learning.

VI CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Entrepreneurship education is the totality of educational experience which majority centered on the identification of situational problem, gather information to make decisions in a world of challenges and realities of life, assisting the users to acquire skills as the gateway or a tool for meaningful co-existence and sustainability and economic development. Every country requires and needs entrepreneurial education to sustain the economic and educational state of the country. Entrepreneurial education is the key to economic and educational development of any society (Odia, 2011).

However, our curriculum after the independence emphasized education for paid employment rather than education for self-employment. To address the problems of unemployment, and other social vices, quality attention and investment should be directed towards achieving a high standard of entrepreneurial education to impart knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes which are the keys to economic and educational development. It is therefore important for the policy makers, stakeholders in education and the government to promote entrepreneurial education at all levels as to achieve socio-economic development in our dear country Nigeria.

For the purpose of sustaining the economic development of Nigeria, and maintain entrepreneurial education, the following recommendations are made:

1. The entrepreneurial education having been made a compulsory course in higher institution, much attention should be paid to it.
2. The government should allocate more funds to institutions of learning for proper development of individuals to become self-reliant and contribute positively to national development.
3. The higher institutions of learning should employ professionals in the area of entrepreneurial education to make it more attractive.
4. The government and big industries should patronize the locally made materials to encourage the entrepreneurs.
5. Renovation and provision of adequate materials needed for entrepreneurial education should be provided.
6. Our vocational and technical centers should be made to function effectively .
7. There should be proper funding of the educational sector to accommodate entrepreneurial education.
8. There should be serious monitoring to schools and proper security of the materials provided should be made.
9. There should be serious adaptation to indigenous cultural and technological system of education
10. There should be responsible, patriotic and experience leaders at national, state and local government levels.

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