

Enterpreneurial Education as a Tool for Reducing Unemployment in Nigeria

ABIODUN EUNICE O. (PhD.)

Faculty of Education Ekiti State University Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

ABSTRACT: The paper examined Entrepreneurship Education as a tool for reducing unemployment among the graduates. The study emphasized skills and knowledge required to become employable and self-employed. Entrepreneurial opportunities and ability to establish small scale business for self reliance. The issue of unemployment and under-employment as a resultant effect of non utilization of required skills from various institutions, which made graduates to rely on white collar jobs. The paper observed that unemployment was inherited from time of our colonial masters who basically operated a policy that does not give opportunity for self employment rather a policy that trained people to become clerk interpreters and inspector among others. It was on this note that, the federal government of Nigeria FRN (2004) on the educational policy introduced an entrepreneurial skills in our various institution of higher learning that can provide skill acquisition for youth in the country and to be gainfully employed and self reliance. The consequences of youth unemployment were discussed and the possible solutions were also examined. It was recommended that skill acquisition should be included in the school curriculum. Also technical and vocational training should be implemented in the school programme. The general public should be enlightened on the importance of entrepreneurship skills to better the lot of people in the country.

KEY WORDS: *Entrepreneurship, Graduates unemployment, self-reliance youth.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The influence of the economic meltdown in countries of the world globally have resulted to country such as Nigeria to focus on domestic economy through Agriculture which has been the occupation mostly practised in Nigeria among the people. The Federal Government now felt that it will be of benefit to the youth, if they can go on with agricultural activities to reduce unemployment among the youth.

It has been observed that large number of youth that are graduates from various institutions of higher learning joined the labour market yearly. It sounds inappropriate if they rely on government solely to provide job, rather entrepreneurship will be the best alternative for job creation. This will reduce the number of graduates that parade the street of towns and cities in search of White Collar jobs, which is known to be difficult particularly during time of economic recession. Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN 2004) introduced Education Policy that offers learning opportunities and process that brings desirable knowledge which changes the individual attitudes and behaviour, capable to live as useful and self-reliant citizens, that will prepare individual for future living. The acquisition of appropriate knowledge and skills, necessary to become a useful member of the society. It is quite obvious that youth who took vocational or technical Educational course in the higher institution are most opportune to be self employed than those who lack the ability to continue with formal academic studies in higher level. Thus the growing need for self-reliance to prepare human resources, relevant to meet national demand for survival will be secured. In order to check the rising trend of unemployment in developing nations to catch up with employment, there is need to involve entrepreneurship model to tackle poverty, crime rate and other related social vices in our society.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

History of unemployment in Nigeria

The history of unemployment can be traced down to the period of our colonial master or inherited imperialist, who regarded that education then can absorb the citizen to enviable positions and civil service, as public servants during the colonial era. Aladekomo (2004) stated that the then policy of Education was basically on production of forest guards, clerks, sanitary inspectors and interpreters which focus the situation then, nor

professional or entrepreneurial skills the opposed the world of work to employers of labour. Oviawe (2010) share the same opinion that massive unemployment from Nigerian Universities was traced to the disequilibrium between labour market requirements and lack of essential employable skill by the graduates. In the same Vain, Banabo and Ndiomu (2011) asserted that the recent global melt down of the economic brought the country to the reality that Nigeria has its post-colonial dependent on the oil and gas economy, which lead many graduates to become job scarce of dilemma. Ejere and Tende (2012) submitted that, the Nigerian educational system in universities produced graduate only suitable for White Collar jobs with little or no basic skills or vocational knowledge which end up in unemployment.

Benefit of Entrepreneurship Education

Unemployment means non-utilization of knowledge gained to be productive in the labour market to earn a living, or provitable to one self and the nation in general. Oni and Adekola (2000) postulated that the problem of unemployment is pathetic because, the turn-out from university increased daily in search of job. Enu (2012) affirmed that entrepreneurship education is made up of all kinds of experiences that students have acquired and vision to transform opportunities of different kinds to develop one's life. Nkechi et al (2012) viewed that entrepreneurship is the process by which individual identify through various forms of opportunities for resources allocation and value creation.

Oduwaye (2009) confirms that Entrepreneurship education has the knowledge which assists students to develop their attitudes, skills and innovation for self-reliance, without depending on government for employment. The experience will generate in people self orientation, self-confidence and empower to discover new method of developing our economy. Karlsson et.al (2004) viewed entrepreneurship as new method of production through new model, new source of supply through an intermediate goods of organization. Baimot et al (2011) stated that there are numerous benefits associated with entrepreneurship involvement in our society that can solve unemployment problems. Such as creating new jobs, as well as satisfying the demands of consumers because, this involve different activities among the people in the society.

Gibson (2001) conceived that entrepreneurship as a means of involving private initiative in transforming business idea into new venture that can lead to great potential. It has been observed that our graduates from various institutions solely depended on white collar jobs but not trained to be self dependant, therefore their is need to engage the youth that constitute over half of the total population to avoid involvement in social vices in our society.

Business Education and Entrepreneurship Business as tool to solve unemployment among youths.

Ojukwu (2000) and Osuala (2009) submitted that Business Education is expected to create awareness in entrepreneurship through which the youth can acquire skill to develop themselves by establishing small businesses in order to be self reliance and self-employed.

Osuala found that business Education will equip the youths with appropriate knowledge and abilities to be self reliant which will lead to sustainable growth of our economy. It has been suggested that the school curriculum should be restructured to include entrepreneurship education to enable the graduates to be gainfully employed after living school. Akanwa and Agu (2005) opined that anyone that create or establishes nurses a business for purpose of growth and profitability. When a business is inherited or sold to new hands he continues to sustain it through innovations. Anyone can become an entrepreneurs through the zeal or ability to evaluate and enlarge the existing opportunities. Bula (2012) postulated that entrepreneur is viewed as an agent that takes the risk and thereby equilibrates supply and demand in the economy. He spheres that the entrepreneur is directly involved through the function within the economic system. Nkechi et al (2012) share the same view with Drucker (2007) who submitted that an entrepreneur is a person who search for change, exploits opportunities and respond through innovations to allocation of resources and create value. Ubulom (2002) posited an entrepreneur as somebody that has ability to utilize the knowledge gained to establish and run any enterprise successfully. The creation of new idea from the knowledge he has acquired will enable him to be self-employed. Also when able persons who is capable of utilizing the resources available for profit making is regarded to be an entrepreneur. Ajoma (2010) viewed Business Education as the Education that provides the graduate with knowledge skill, competence and ability to embark on business enterprise. This is in line with Osuala (2004) who affirmed that Business Education is an effective tool for entrepreneurship through which programme that can develop youth for establishment of their own little business are acquired.

Emeration (2008) stressed that, skills and attitudes that are essential for any person to respond to its environment in the process of conserving, starting and management of a business for survival. Hence Entrepreneurship education has prepared an individual on the knowledge required to manage various types of business. There are several concepts from various viewer about Entrepreneurship and Business Education that emphasized the appropriate knowledge, skill acquisition and creative capability that are needed for self-employment, self-reliance which could create employment opportunities for individual and alleviate poverty in the nation in general.

Consequences of Youth Unemployment and Possible Solutions

The unemployed youths consisted the young energetic men and women, boys and girls are fully glare in the prime of their lives. They are in their productive age. Onwuka (2015) asserted that unemployment has accounted for most of social crimes perpetrated by youths in our society rigging from armed robbery, prostitution, drug abuse among others. It has also been observed that unemployment, according to Nwannaka (2015) has also brought about antisocial behaviour such as frustration, loose of temper truancy, stealing are the resultant effect of idleness. Poku-Boans and Afrane (2011) contended that the prolonged joblessness by the youth would create serous frustrations, depression and desperation to their lives.

Olukayode (2016) submitted that most apprehended criminals in the country are youths that are not gainfully employed and they want to occupy their time. Adejumola and Tayo-Olajubulu (2009) share the same opinion with Olukayode that, major causes of social vices such as prostitution, political thuggery and kidnapping experienced in other nations with Nigeria inclusive seems to equivalent human development as a means of survival. It has been observed that unemployed youths are often been used as political thugs and agents of political evidence in the country. In another vain, Mike (2011) seems that crime rate as a reason for inability to solve their financial problems. Alibi (2014) opined that another perspective viewed unemployment has encourage women and girls trafficking across our international borders to get engaged in prostitutions, Balogun (2011) observed that child trafficking and selling of babies are on the increase while traffickers pretended to seek solutions and arrange babies for desperate baby seekers which in turn offer solution to unwanted babies dumped in some clinics for onward sale.

In another dimension, Oludayo (2011) posited that many unemployed youth has embraced internet fraud as a way of survival. Some are smart while lock run against some that are involved in the fraudulent act popularly referred to as 419 or Advanced free fraud or pressed down by unemployment. When they see others involved to be successful and shinning at the detriment of some people. The perpetrators of this cybercrime disguised to be ladies looking for foreign lovers to marry or get rich quick. Ibrahim (2011) attested that the use of internet for commercial purposes are method of perpetrating various of cyber-crime and online theft among others.

Measures to solve unemployment problems

The government should include and integration of entrepreneurship in skills in to the school curriculum right from the primary school totachary in situations which this would inculcate in them sense of job creation rather than job seekers.

The issue of contentment according to Encarta Dictionaries (2010) asserted that circumstance of feature or characterised that something that gives raise to satisfaction. History made us know that readers displayed their goods while stones denoted the amount to sell, when buyers dropped the money without close contact of buyers and sellers. Thus the Religious leaders up their various place of worship should emphasis contentment as a matter of re-orientation of youth in the society, to develop self-contentment as against zeal and passion for each wealth acquisition. Awokoye in Maaja (2010) noted that type of environment symbolizes the development for materialistic where love of money and material wealth or quest for it, not what it can buy, they rather love and worship money.

Legislation on child labour in the eradicating the act. The assistance of international labour organisation, for improving the efforts of its member in fighting against child labour will go a long way in curbing the practice by interested member indulged in the act. The Child's Right Act (CRA) 2013 and prohibition law enforcement and administration act 2013 must come to stay in all countries of the world most especially Nigeria.

Agwu (2011) reported that the political and economic arrangement being practised in Nigeria and other places has entrusted the national wealth in the hands of few people hence the income gap between the rich and the common people increased daily. Government has to restructure the political and economic policies and practise to strike the balance between the rich and the poor. This can only be done by good governance. Large sum of capital project could be spend on establishment of factories and industries. Manufactured goods and products been imported from foreign countries while we can as well be an exporter of other goods. If these industries are closely and properly managed by people of high integrity and committed personnel of the nation, it will absolve lateness among graduates from various institutions, eradicate poverty, joblessness and unemployment problem will be totally addressed.

III. CONCLUSION

Entrepreneurship has the capability to equip any graduate with appropriate skills, knowledge and competence which is necessary to incorporate unemployed youths to self-reliance and to be employed, through small-scale trading and establishment of other businesses. It is in this view that problem of youth employment can be solved end invariably alleviate poverty in the Nation as a whole.

Recommendations

- Entrepreneurship should be designed and incorporated in to school curriculum at all levels of Education in Nigeria.
1. Skill acquisition should be incorporated into school curriculum to enhance the learning of entrepreneurship at all levels of education in Nigeria.
 2. Entrepreneurship training center should be established at all levels from secondary to tertiary institution which will enable youth to acquire self-reliance skill to sustain them in life.
 3. Entrepreneur programmes should be emphasized in our various schools to train our students on skill acquisition that could enable them to be self employed with or without government job
 4. Government should introduce soft loans through financial institutions to provide possible means on embarking on business from small-scale to larger scale.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Agwu, S. (2011). The Crises of Government in Nigeria. A Paper Delivered on the 23rd occasion Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria Thursday 15th March.
- [2]. Akanwa, B, Agu, C.N (2005). Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice in Nigeria. Owerri Nigeria Resources Development Centre.
- [3]. Aladekomo, F.O. (2004). Nigeria Educational Policy and Entrepreneurship. Kamla – Raj, Journal of Social science 9(2) pp 75 – 83.
- [4]. Alibi, F. (2014). Youths Unemployment and Crime Control; An analysis of Nigerian experience. *European Scientific Journal* 10(2).301-12. [http://ejournal.org \(index.php/esj/article/view/2596\)](http://ejournal.org/index.php/esj/article/view/2596).
- [5]. Ayoma, C.U (2010). Strategies for Re-branding Business Education for Better Performance and Higher Productivity in Nigeria. A paper presented at the 8th Annual National Conference of the Nigeria Association of Vocational and Technical Education (NVVTED) at College of Education, Oju, Benue State 7th – 10th July, 2010.
- [6]. Banabo, E. & Ndiomu, K. (2011). Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education (E.E): strategy for sustainable development. *Asian Journal of Business Management* 3(3) 196-202 Retrieved from <http://www.maxwellsci.com/print/ajbm/v3-196-202.pdf>.
- [7]. Baumol, W. Litan, R, Schramm, C. Strom, R. (2011). Innovative entrepreneurship and policy: toward initiation and preservation of growth. In Calcagnini, G. Favaretto, I (eds). *The Economics of Small Businesses, An International Perspective* Physica verlag 3-23.
- [8]. Bula, H. (2012). Evaluation and theories of entrepreneurship. A critical review on the Kenyan Perspective. *International Journal of Business and Commerce*, 1(11): 81-96.
- [9]. Drucker, P. (2007). *Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Practice and Principles*, Classic Drucker Collection edition, Butter-Heinemann.
- [10]. Ejere, S.I & Tende, S.B.A (2012). Entrepreneurship and new venture creation. In E. Chuta (Ed) *small enterprises and entrepreneurship development* (pp) Dakar: Amallon Publishing.
- [11]. Emeraton, U.G (2008). Re-thinking higher education management for poverty reduction among youth in Africa. Paper presented at the 3rd Regional Conference of Higher Education for Youth Empowerment, Opportunities, Capabilities and Second Chance. Encarta Dictionaries (2010).
- [12]. Enu, D.B (2012). Enhancing the entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, *American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities*.
- [13]. Etonyeaku, E.A.F (2009). Quality Assurance for Youth Employment Through Business Education and Entrepreneurship Education for National Development Nigeria *Vocational Journal* 13(1), 32-37.
- [14]. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004). *National Policy on Education* Lagos NERDC Press (National Educational Research and Development Centre).
- [15]. Gibson, A. (2001). *Business Development Services core Principles and Future Challenges* London Small Enterprises Development.
- [16]. Larsson, C. Fris. C. & T. Paulsson (2004). “Relating entrepreneurship to economic growth” CESIS Electronic Working Paper Series.
- [17]. Kumuyi, W.F (2010). Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship *Christian Women Mirror* (Special education): Your Hand on the spindle pp 5-7, 10-11.
- [18]. Nkechi, A., Ikechukwu, E., Okechukwu, U. et al (2012). Entrepreneurship development and employment generation in Nigeria, Problem and prospects, *Universal Journal of Education and General Studies*, 1(4) 88 – 102.
- [19]. Nwannaka, N (2015). Antisocial behaviours among Ikediashi & Joseph, A.A. *Nigeria Adolescents ICSR. Journal of Research & Methods in Education (JOSR-JRME)*.

- [20]. Oduwaiye, R.O (2009). Entrepreneurship education in Nigerian Universities; Implementation and way forward *Advance in Management*, 8(1), 60-67.
- [21]. Ojo, K.E &Gbinigie, O. (2005). Entrepreneurship Education as a Tool for Tackling Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: Issues and Strategies. A paper presented at the 17th Annual National Conference of the Association of Business Educators of Nigeria at Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo, Oyo State, 12th – 15th October, 2005.
- [22]. Ojukwu, K. (2000). Entrepreneurship Development in Business Education: Critical Success Factors in Starting Small Business Enterprises, *Business Education Journal* 111 (3); 102-108.
- [23]. Okala, O.F (2008). Unemployment experience in Nigeria: The impact of vocational skills training. *Journal of Pedagogy of Education and Development*.
- [24]. Oludayo, A.O & Ibrahim, A. (2011). Social organization of internet fraud among university undergraduates in Nigeria. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology (UCC)*, 5(2) 860-875.
- [25]. Oni, A &Adekola, A. (2000). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria *International p.d.f*www.ghssnet.com/journals vol. 3.
- [26]. Osuala, E.C (2009). *Business and Computer Education*, Enugu: Cheston Agency Limited.
- [27]. Oviawe, J.I (2010). Repositioning Nigerian youths for economic empowerment through entrepreneurship education. *European Journal of Educational Studies* 2(2), 113-118 <http://oze/academy.comm/EJSE v2n2pdf>.
- [28]. Oviawe, J.I (2010). Repositioning Nigerian youths for economic empowerment through entrepreneurship education. *European Journal of Educational Studies* 2(2) 113 – 118.
- [29]. Ubulom, W.J. (2003). Developing Entrepreneurial and Employability Skills Through Business Education in Nigeria. *Business education book of readings* 1(3) 208 – 218.