



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND THE CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The development of a Nation cannot be divorced from the knowledge of entrepreneurship education. The objectives and significance of entrepreneurship education towards national development were discussed along with the challenges ahead of the issue entrepreneurship education were proffered. They include inter alia implementation of suggestion to reduce poverty, in house training and retraining personnel with modern pedagogical approach to teaching, cooperative management approach which would involve stakeholders of education, NGOs, local and international philanthropists. They could provide instructional and infrastructural facilities for teaching entrepreneurial education.

Keywords: *Leadership, Managerial Skills, Entrepreneurship Education, Cooperative Management, Stakeholders Teaching Facilities.*

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship education was already in existence in Nigeria for a very long time. The white man came to Nigeria and found Nigerians fully engaged in such vocations as farming, fishing, weaving, carving and smiting In addition. Nigerians has devised means of imparting these knowledge s to the young ones through the system of apprenticeship. (Fafunwa, 1974: 30)

The most satisfactory thing about the indigenous vocational education was that it was functional and as a result unemployment was unknown. Furthermore there was job opportunities were available, there was enough food, there was peace and harmony amongst Nigerians even with the existence of Kingdoms and Emirates which were politically independent within the country.

Entrepreneurship Education in General Perspective

Different writers had stated that entrepreneurship education is the type of education students required to develop certain skill and mindset for preparation for business Okoro, (1904) Abubakar, (1998) opined that such education was vocational and professional whose primary purpose is to prepare individuals for employment in recognized occupations.

As stated in the National Policy on Education. Technical and Vocational Education are akin to entrepreneurship education which leads to the acquisition of practical and applied skills as well as basic scientific knowledge" (NPE 198128). In another words the justification of entrepreneurial education can be stated as follows.

Justification for Entrepreneurship Education

The justification of entrepreneurship education can be stated thus:

- i. To provide people who can apply scientific knowledge to the improvement and solution of environmental problems.
- ii. To provide trained manpower in Applied Science, Technology and Commerce particularly at sub-professional grade
- iii. To provide the technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for Industrial, Commercial and Economic development:
- iv. To give introduction and understanding of professional studies in technologies related programmes to young and women of the increasing complexity of technology;
- v. To give training and impart the necessary skills leading to the production of craftsmen technicians and other skilled personnel who will become enterprising and self reliant (NPE 1986:152)

Besides other authorities assumed that entrepreneurship education can provide ample opportunities in the following directions:

- i) To train skilled worker who can actually function well in their places of employment (Okoro 1994).
- ii) To give the pupils students such experience closely related to those required to find, establish or keep a job (Paye, 1986:152)
- iii) To develop saleable skill in the youths in order to make them useful to the society and also become labour assets in the industries. (Olaitan, 1991:21)

Having stated some of the justification of entrepreneurship education one can highlight its importance especially as it relates to the principles and preparation of individuals for self reliance. and national development.

Importance of Entrepreneurship Education

More than ever before Nigeria has now realised the importance of entrepreneurship education because it has been proved that the government can no longer provide every one collar Job opportunities, therefore one has to look inwards for survival. To achieve that, one may rely on entrepreneurial education, because it trains individual is to be self-reliant and independent.

For example in the USA and Japan, skill education is glorified over and above liberal education. The British education system which hitherto reversed liberal education has shifted ground significantly in favour of entrepreneurial education due to stiff competition in the world or technology. Thus skill education has now acquired the reputation of a necessity for all rather than the consolation of the poor masses. This is evident in the fact that basic education in developed countries now considered as incomplete until the child has received occupational/vocational education (Peter, 1992:59).

The introduction of Vocational subjects akin to entrepreneurial education into Secondary Schools curricula in Nigeria is therefore consistent with this enhanced development. Having stated this, one may examine challenges

that may confront the teaching of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria s schools which are likely to hamper development of Nigerian as a nation.

Challenges that are Capable of Derailing Development in Nigeria

Going by the declaration of many authors on vocational and technical education, one can state that the teaching of entrepreneurial education may face a number of challenges in Nigeria. These may include, inter alia, leadership, specialised quality teaching staff, adequate facilities for teaching entrepreneurship education, inadequate funding and worst is the current insecurity in Nigeria. In support of the above, many researchers and authors have opined that specialised teachers who are occupational competent, reasonably experienced with support skills that can integrated the success of instructional processes are in short supply (Okechukwu, 1984: Peters. 1982, George. 1994: Fagbemi, 2003).

Inadequate Funding

According to Kanu (1987), the problems of vocational and technical education which can be-- related to entrepreneurial education in Nigeria are married to specialised quality staff leadership in administration and coordination of vocational education.

Besides that Olaitan opined that:

“...the central and primary challenges facing this type of education are: Definition and meaning [ii] Effect of General Education on it” specialised teacher who are occupational competent with effective pedagogy for teaching entrepreneurial education (2001:18)

Having stated poor supply or lack of some specialized manpower for the programme and funding instructional facilities there are other major challenges to teach entrepreneurial education in Nigeria. These include poor funding, mismanagement of available resources to education sector.

Suggested Solution to Entrepreneurial Education in Nigeria

Suggested to the provision of entrepreneurship education is not a magic want, currently the major challenge is insecurity, necessitated by insurgencies and kidnapping of school head, other staff members and even

students. This situation has attracted the attention of world leaders to a submit in Frans of recent.

In order to reduce the problem of inadequate specialised quality teaching staff, the government should open training institutions and equip such institutions with relevant training facilities as much as possible for such staff required for capacity building in entrepreneurship education possible for such staff required for capacity building in entrepreneurship education. There is the need for collaborative management approach which could include interested Non governmental organisations such as the UNICEF, UNDP and World Bank on may also consider the need for their participation in the provision of manpower and material facilities for the teaching of entrepreneurial education especially in tertiary institutions.

Children and parents should be encouraged to participate in the entrepreneurial education, Teachers of this programme should be adequately supported with incentives that can motivate them to put in their professional training for the students

Summary and Conclusion

The development of a country can be reasonably determined by its wealth, communication facilities, and ability to feed its populace, level of education, economic and political stability, and viability as well a political awareness. Countries like America. England, France, Germany and Russia are being regarded as super powers because they have taken care of their vocational and technology educational programmes. Japan, today, is regarded as one of the developed countries due to its technological development. As a result of such economic and technological development, the world is now considering the Robotics and computer options. Man has been to the moon as well as other planets. Banks have not only gone computers, but the rate at which sophisticated computers became absolute within a very short time is a point for serious appreciation. All these would be impossible without Vocational and Technical Education and in a nutshell in entrepreneurial education.

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