

# Constraints of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This paper discussed the constraints of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship education plays an important role in the growth and development of any nation. It serves as a veritable vehicle for the achievement of national economic objectives of employment generation and poverty reduction. The aim of this paper is therefore to assess the challenges of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. Secondary sources of data were utilized for the study. The results from the literature review paper indicate that entrepreneurship education is the only panacea for unemployment and poverty in the country. The paper concluded that the Nigeria government should give adequate attention to full blown entrepreneurial education in Nigeria.*

## **KEYWORDS:**

Entrepreneurship; education; Unemployment; Poverty; Programmes.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources which if properly harnessed would have turned this country into a developed economy. But give

massive corruption lack of commitment, the dominant role of public sector in the economic life of the nation the country has lost opportunities for growth and sustainable development (Essen, 2006).

The purpose of this paper is to assess the challenges of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria and make recommendations on the way forward. Firstly, the paper discussed the concept of entrepreneurship, Secondly, literature review and theoretical framework on entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. Thirdly a discussion of the objectives of entrepreneurship education and development. Fourthly, the importance of entrepreneurship education and challenges of entrepreneurship were discussed. Finally the conclusion and recommendations towards ensuring a full blown entrepreneurship education and development in Nigeria.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

UNDP (2010) defined entrepreneurship as the process of using a private initiative or a business concept into a new venture or to diversify an existing ventures or enterprise with high growth potential. To Shane (2010), entrepreneurship is the act of being an entrepreneur". Baba

(2013) described entrepreneurship as the “act of starting a company arranging business deals and taking risks in order to make profit through the education skills acquired”. The entrepreneurship spirit is a pre-requisite to an entrepreneurial society and culture. This spirit is revealed for the overall economic growth of any nation especially developing ones like Nigeria (Baba, 2013).

To Aruwa (2004), it is the ability of some people to accept risk and combine factors of production in order to produce goods and services. It can also be seen as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities.

Robert (2002) described entrepreneurship as the process of creating something different with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, and social risk and receiving the rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction. Esomonu (1998) defined entrepreneurship as the effective manipulation of human intelligence as demonstrated in a

creative performance. This singular risk raking act leads an individual to create something of value from practically nothing. Gana (2001) referred to entrepreneurship as the ability to seek investment opportunities and establish based on identified opportunities. In order words, the individual gives the market place a product or services by using resources in a new way. Roce (2009) identified four characteristics of an entrepreneurship. They are:

- Desire for independence
- Self confidence

- Willingness to take risk
- Ability to recognize opportunity

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

There appears to exist a consensus among scholars that entrepreneurship education and

training has a vital role to play in the development of entrepreneurial skills. According

to Erkkila (2002), about 93 percent of scholars are of the opinion that entrepreneurial

skill can be developed via education and training. Thus the establishment of

entrepreneurial education is seen as a possible measure to promote entrepreneurship (Burger, O’Neil and Mahadea, 2005).

Owuala (2004) stated that entrepreneurship education is “a programme or part of the

programmes that prepares individual to undertake the acquisition of small-business.

Entrepreneurship education and development is planned systematic and sustained effort

at inculcating and nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among Nigerians so as to produce

a pool of willing, able and successful entrepreneurs.

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Moreover, entrepreneurial education is the purposeful intervention by an adult (the

teacher) in the life of a learner to impact entrepreneurial qualities and skills to enable

the learner the learner to survive in the business world (Gouws,2002).It aims at equipping

learners with skills knowledge and disposition that can help them develop or implement

innovative social or business plan.

According to Bawuah et al. (2006),research evidence from different sources seem to

Suggest that individual attending entrepreneurship course have tendency to start their

own business at some point of their career than those attending other courses.

The literature review shows that entrepreneurial education aims at equipping learners

With skills, knowledge and disposition that can then develop innovative mind.

### **SKILLS REQUIRED FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION**

Lamping (2007) stated that there are many skills for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. They are:

- (1) Communication
- (2) Initiative
- (3) Responsibility and;
- (4) Vision

### **HOW ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS CAN BE ACHIEVED**

Jimngang (2004) listed how entrepreneurial skills can be achieved. They are:

- (1) Capital
- (2) Free flow of ideas
- (3) Training
- (4) Creation of awareness for rural dwellers and;
- (5) Security and poverty free nation

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION**

NOUN (2013) identified some of the sources of entrepreneurship education. They are:

- (1) Library
- (2) Internet
- (3) Subscribing entrepreneurship papers and magazine
- (4) Industrial date
- (5) Membership based organizations and; Training programmes

### **ROLE OF YOUTH ENTRPRENEUSHIP**

- 1) Under risk and uncertainty
- 2) It serves a driver of the economy wealth
- 3) It prepares youth and adult to succeed in an entrepreneurial economy
- 4) It helps them develop in sight needed to discourse and create entrepreneurial opportunities and expertise to successfully manage their own businesses and;

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- 5) It helps in creativity and a spirit or initiative that can be useful to everyone in their working responsibilities and in their day to day existence from the above importance, entrepreneurship education and development should be taught to students in all disciplines in higher institutions of learning (Hamza, 2013).

### **ADVANTAGES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION**

Despite the profound benefit of entrepreneurship education it is still not fully blown in Nigeria. The problems that hinder the development of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria include the following. Soyibo (2006) objectives of Entrepreneurship Education Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and intuition to encourage entrepreneurship success in a variety of settings. According to Ojeifo (2013), the objectives of entrepreneurship education are to :

1. provide the youth graduates with training that will enable them to be self reliant and innovative.
2. create employment opportunities
3. offer functional growth for the youth that will enable them to be self reliant.
4. reduce high rate of poverty
5. reduce rural-urban migration and;
6. Create smooth transition from traditional to a modern industrial economy.

### **IMPORTANCE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NIGERIA**

1. It helps to harness the right quantity and combination of resources that are consistent with profit making. Absence of a pro-active regulatory environment that encourages entrepreneurship education and development at the grassroots level.
2. Significant infrastructural deficits and systemic irregularities inimical to small businesses.
3. The presence of administrative and trade barriers that curtail capacity building and inhibit initiatives
4. Poor access to vocational and skill development training for rural and urban youths involved in the informal economy.
5. Rampant political and bureaucratic corruption together with the absence of social consensus on important macroeconomics policy issues and;
6. Inadequate access to finance the training of entrepreneurship education and development in Nigeria(Onugu,2005).

On wubiko (2011) argued that hindrances to youth unemployment are:

1. Absence for infrastructural facilities
2. Inadequate Working capital
3. Low standard of education
4. Lack of adequate training
5. Other Economic, social and political factor and;
6. Strategies for Entrepreneurship Education and development in Nigeria

Akpomi (2009) recommended the following as part of strategies for entrepreneurship education and development in Nigeria:

1. There should be some form of genuine school work based learning in corporation in some as part of the national economic development strategies.
2. There should be school based enterprises where students identify potential business, plan, create and operate small business as mini-incubators.
3. Government should establish small business schools where interested students and community members can participate. This will make students to be self reliant.
4. Government should develop entrepreneur internship programs by matching students with local successful entrepreneurs with clearly established education programmes.
5. The Government should establish an enterprise college aimed at fostering the specific skills required for entrepreneurship.
6. Government should create an economic friendly environment. This centers on reduction of taxes on small scale businesses and;
7. There should be enough incentives to students of vocational and technical schools.

## CONCLUSION

Entrepreneurship education and development is to create the required manpower and skills necessary for

accelerated growth reduce unemployment and poverty.

This paper has addressed challenges to entrepreneurship education and development in Nigeria.

The paper concluded that there is need for highly skilled and innovative workforce and that professionals and non-professionals must have the skills to meet modern business.

Finally government should also set machinery in nation to provide an enabling environment in order to translate such ideas into reality.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. All stakeholder must ensure that entrepreneurship training becomes an integral part of our culture.
2. University Vice Chancellors should ensure that their students are involved in experimental training.
3. Nigeria youths should be exposed to training in technology, this will them abreast with trends of the technological world.
4. National University Commission must ensure that entrepreneurship education be made part of the curriculum of all Nigeria universities in the country.
5. Government should regulate laws that will provide an enabling environment through the provision of infrastructure facilities and funding for entrepreneurs in the country and;

6. Universities should start to commercialize their findings instead of leaving them in themselves.

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