

# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AS A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND WEALTH CREATION IN PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

*The main focus of this paper is on entrepreneurship education as community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. The highlights of the paper include food security, wealth creation, concepts of community development, sustainable development and entrepreneurship education. The paper identified competency-based entrepreneurship education, responsive strategy to the demands of people, participatory strategy, establishment of community based micro enterprise development projects and raising people's consciousness as some of the strategies of using entrepreneurship education as community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. Encouraging the recipients of entrepreneurship education to engage in productive ventures, formation of cooperative groupings to enjoy economy of scale, provision of meaningful infrastructural facilities to achieve entrepreneurship initiatives which will add value to people's food intake, generate income and employment opportunities among others are some of the recommendations which the paper contains.*

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship Education, Community Development, Strategy, Food Security, Wealth Creation, & Sustainable Development.

Entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation stimulates business consciousness in people of various communities to unite their efforts with other relevant stakeholders in community development to improve their living conditions in the society. Entrepreneurship education is the type of educational initiative which is provided to people to enable

them acquire relevant knowledge and skills to reposition them in exploration of business potentials which are available in their localities in human environment. Entrepreneurship education inculcates business culture in people to explore business opportunities in many communities in Nigeria.

Entrepreneurship education is provided to people to encourage them to be players in addressing prevailing economic realities in human environment. The stimulation of employment generation opportunities, income generation, wealth creation, small-scale industrial establishment among others remain the hallmarks of entrepreneurship educational initiatives. These entrepreneurial educational initiatives, undoubtedly, help very tremendously to transform many communities through the instrumentality of community development which encourages people of various communities to unite their efforts with governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, corporate organizations, institutions and other relevant stakeholders to improve their living conditions through provision of food security, wealth creation, employment generation, income generation among others.

Entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy, indeed, helps many communities to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. Consequently, entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation becomes imperative to provide people with self-employment generation opportunities, income generation, wealth creation, small-scale industrial establishment among others.

### **Concept of Community Development**

The concept of community development is viewed differently by different writers on the subject. The concept of community development is, therefore, viewed from different perspectives.

### **Community Development as an Integrated Community Development Approach**

The concept of community development can be defined as an integrated community development which elicits an integrated community development approach to address prevailing issues of common concern through complementary services in order to improve people's living conditions in the participating community in human environment. Anyanwu, Omolewa, Adeyeri, Okanlawon and Siddiqui (1985) define community development as an integrated development approach which focuses on provision of schools, roads, power and water supply in order to encourage people to stay in their respective localities and engage in productive ventures rather than migrating to urban areas and cities to increase the number of unemployed in the society. The community development intervention through provision of integrated community development projects enable people to enjoy integrated services for optimal utilization of development initiatives in human environment. In certain circumstances, an integrated community development approach elicits provision of combination of

development projects to complement each other in order to stimulate optimal utilization of development projects.

### **Community Development as Projects**

The concept of community development can also be defined as provision of development projects which the members of participating community initiate, but if this initiative is lacking in the people they can be conscientized to initiate community development projects to address the prevailing problems in their community. Anyanwu, Omolewa, Adeyeri, Okanlawon and Siddiqui (1985) perceive community development as the provision of community development projects in order to improve the living conditions of people through establishment of development projects that the local people support in the participating community in the society. They further assert that the community development projects are most effective when the community itself initiates the projects, but if this initiative is lacking that it is always appropriate to ensure that the community initiates the projects in order to get the people of the community to participate in the projects. The intervention of conscientization as Freire (1985) advocates becomes imperative to promote awareness creation among people to understand their potentialities in addressing prevailing challenges at community level in human environment.

### **Community Development as a Process**

The concept of community development can equally be defined as a development process which involves a number of activities and actions that are sequentially arranged to stimulate effective service delivery in order to improve people's living conditions in various participating communities in the society. Indeed, community development as a development process focuses on identification of problems, prioritization of the identified problems, community development plan, implementation, project management and evaluation. While commenting on community development as a process, Aruma (1998:6) cites UNESCO definition of community development as:

*The process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate those communities into the life of the nation and to enable them contribute fully to national progress.*

In this perspective, indeed, community development is the process through which the people of participating communities are united with those of governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations, institutions and other relevant stakeholders in order to improve people's living conditions in human environment. The intervention of community development has continued to play a major role in improving people's living conditions in various participating communities in the society.

### **Concept of Sustainable Development**

The term sustainable development can simply be seen as a development initiative which has the ability of benefiting the people of present generation without necessarily compromising the ability of future generations to benefit from the same development initiative in human environment. In citing World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), Oyeshola (2008) perceives sustainable development as development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in the society. While commenting on the same subject, Aruma (2015) views the concept of sustainable development as a process of meeting the needs of present generation without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in human environment. The caution for humanity in this circumstance is to avoid wastage and exploitation of natural resources in the course of exploration, exploitation and development in human environment.

The concept of sustainable development is a type of development initiative which advocates for prudent management of available human and material resources in development process in order to ensure that both the present and future generations benefit from the same development initiative in human environment. Todaro and Smith (2009) perceive the concept of sustainable development as a type of development which allows future generations to live at least as much as the current generation in human environment. The implication of this is that the people of present and future generations enjoy the opportunities which sustainable development offers to people in human environment.

The concept of sustainable development can equally be defined as the process of development initiative which leads to continuous improvement of people's living conditions in human environment. In the views of Ibori (2001) sustainable development simply means putting in place necessary measures and programmes that will help to improve the standard of living of people in the society. The implication of this is that sustainable development focuses on ways of promoting people-oriented development initiatives that will benefit the people of both present and future generations in human environment.

### **The Concept of Entrepreneurship Education**

The term entrepreneurship education can be defined as the type of education which an individual acquires in order to start a business initiative for income and employment generation as well as wealth creation in the society. Aruma (2009) defines the concept of entrepreneurship education as the type of education which enables a person to acquire relevant knowledge and skills in order to establish a new business initiative with the intention of generating income and employment opportunities as well as creating wealth in human environment. It is pertinent to state that acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills are critical elements which entrepreneurship education

provides to its recipients in order to enable them to contribute to community development in various communities so as to be able to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria.

Essentially, entrepreneurship education should be encouraged to enable people to be players in addressing prevailing economic realities in human environment. Obi (2014) states that entrepreneurship education is, indeed, a key driver of a country's wealth and a high majority of jobs are created by small business entrepreneurial minded people in the society. Obi (2014) states while citing Aondoaseer that most of the small businesses usually grow to become big businesses in the society. The recipients of entrepreneurship education will join hands with other members of various participating communities to promote sustainable community development in Nigeria.

**Food Security:** Food security is an important area of focus in community development in order to stimulate sustainable development in Nigeria. Essentially, food security is agricultural-based initiative to enhance agricultural production in the country. The idea is basically to revolutionize agricultural sector with the ultimate aim of enhancing food production for the teeming population in Nigeria. Indeed, this food security requires the services of modern technology, research and development as well as adequate funding in order to achieve the much desired increase in agricultural production for the teeming population in the country. Aliogo (2009) states that this will lead to massive domestic and commercial production and technological knowledge transfer to farmers in Nigeria.

Sadly enough, Nigeria still has to rely on importation of food such as rice to be able to feed its population today. The reason for relying on importation of food into Nigeria is because of the country's over dependence on the revenue from crude oil at the expense of agriculture. Understandably, agriculture which was, indeed, the mainstay of the country's economy before the discovery of oil is today being neglected in a country with a population of about 180 million people. Consequently, a good number of the people, especially the poor in the country are poorly fed and this affects their ability to contribute to the development of the country. As Arnold (1985:134) rightly remarks that:

*A factor of great if often unrecognized importance is that a poorly fed person simply does not perform as well as a properly fed one does. Many developing countries can produce enough food to feed their population adequately but fail to do so. In part, this is because they devote too much of their agricultural land and energies to produce cash crops for export-sugar, tea, coffee or cocoa. They do this to earn foreign exchange to finance other developments. But the result is neglect of the food producing sector.*

The implication of this is that Nigeria in spite of its huge and enormous available human and natural resources, cannot boast of providing sufficient food for its great population of about 180 million people without importing some food items from other countries. However, if actually food security ranks high in the sustainable

development initiatives of this current government in Nigeria, let there be clear evidence for this in the huge investment in agriculture and agro-based industries not only to produce sufficient food for the population, but to enhance the quality of food being consumed in the country. This can be achieved through appropriate intervention of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.

The intervention of entrepreneurship education in food security can be provided to people to equip them with relevant information, knowledge and skills on how to engage in food processing in various communities in the society. The entrepreneurship initiative in food processing becomes imperative for value addition in human food intake in Nigeria. This initiative will certainly help to increase the revenue base of the participating communities in Nigeria.

The recipients of entrepreneurship education are encouraged to form cooperative groupings to get involved in cooperative food processing in various communities in Nigeria. The people in various communities are being encouraged to unite to form cooperatives to produce food and distribute it in spite of lack of incentives. Ijere (1992) remarks that people know that it is only by forming cooperatives that they can get loans and inputs on a long-term basis. The formation of cooperative groupings to engage in productive ventures will guarantee sustainable development in various communities in Nigeria.

Essentially, food processing requires infrastructural provision that will facilitate the achievement of the entrepreneurship initiatives. The infrastructural provision such as water, electricity, roads among others will help in the achievement of the entrepreneurship initiatives in various communities in Nigeria.

The government should provide the recipients of entrepreneurship education with credit facilities to enable them establish entrepreneurship projects in food processing which will not only add value to people's food intake, but will generate income and employment opportunities as well as create wealth for people in various communities in Nigeria. Ijere (1992) asserts that such entrepreneurship initiatives, if properly managed are able to generate employment for their members and other people. Indeed, entrepreneurship education will help to address the incessant high rate of unemployment which has characterized Nigerian economy in recent time.

Entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation becomes imperative in order to provide people with self-employment generation opportunities among other things in the society. Entrepreneurship education equips people with relevant knowledge and skills that will help them to exploit a number of available business opportunities that enable them to contribute to community development efforts to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. In the views of Onah (2015) entrepreneurship development programme developed in order to promote self-employment in the society. The central focus of entrepreneurship education in this circumstance is on stimulating self-employment opportunities in the society.

Entrepreneurship education programme helps people to identify business opportunities, mobilize available resources and exploit the opportunities that emerge from that human initiative in the society. Onah (2015) states that entrepreneurship development programme involves identification of business opportunities, mobilization of resources and exploiting the opportunity. The recipients of entrepreneurship education acquire the relevant knowledge and skills on how to establish small-scale industries in various communities in Nigeria. The establishment of small-scale industries will enable the people to generate employment opportunities, income and wealth in their various communities with a view to promoting sustainable development in Nigeria.

**Wealth Creation:** Wealth creation is equally an important area of focus community development in order to promote sustainable development in Nigeria. It is regrettable that Nigeria which has relied on crude oil production as the main source of the country's revenue for many years now has not developed industrially. There is obviously the need to diversify Nigerian economy as a developing country. This calls for urgent attention to the development of non-oil sectors of Nigerian economy in order to catch up with other industrialized countries in the contemporary global economy. This reform for wealth creation should have special focus on diversified production in agricultural and solid mineral sectors of the economy. Aliogo (2009) asserts that this reform is on wealth creation through diversification of production, particularly in agricultural and solid mineral sectors. There is certainly the need to diversify the country's economy if Nigeria is really to survive in the contemporary highly competitive global environment. It should be noted that Nigerian's economy is over dependent on crude oil production today.

However, an important alternative to agricultural and crude oil production is industrialization in a developing economy like that of Nigeria. Arnold (1985:135) observes that:

*The major alternative to agriculture is industrialization. The leaders of developing countries see that the developed countries derive a great deal of their wealth and strength from their industrial sectors; they want to produce comparable industrial wealth. Most developing countries have placed great emphasis upon industrialization wherever this has been at all practicable and they have right to do so.*

The interesting thing to note is that Nigeria as a developing economy should explore the potential of entrepreneurship education to conscientise people on the need for industrialization in the country. The government should remove excise duty on locally produced goods since such exports will compete with other goods produced in developed countries.

### **The Objectives and Goals of Entrepreneurship Education**

The objectives and goals of entrepreneurship education are to:

1. Stimulate understanding of people's needs in the society.
2. Enhance effective service delivery to people as service providers in the society.
3. Contribute to community development as a prelude of stimulating national development,
4. Improve the poor living conditions of people in the participating communities.
5. Promote innovations in the highly competitive global economic environment.
6. Stimulate human resource development through capacity building of members of the participating communities.
7. Generate employment opportunities in the participating communities.
8. Create wealth among project participants in the participating communities.
9. Develop young entrepreneurs for rural communities.
10. Provide relevant skill trainings for people to enable them to contribute significantly to community development.
11. Provide opportunities to people to meet the demands of sustainable development

While commenting on a similar subject, Aruma (2009) states the objectives and goals of entrepreneurship education in promoting community development enterprises to include among other things the followings:

1. Reduction of poverty at local community level.
2. Creation of wealth
3. Creation of employment opportunities
4. Generating appreciable income
5. Enhancing local production of goods and services.

### **The Strategies of Using Entrepreneurship Education as Community Development of the Present Federal Government of Nigeria**

The strategies of using entrepreneurship education as a community development to achieve the seven (7) point agenda of the present Federal Government of Nigeria are the followings:

#### **1. Competency-Based Entrepreneurship Education**

An important strategy of using entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria is the promotion of competency-based education. Indeed, the acquisition of competency based entrepreneurship education helps very tremendously to make the recipients of entrepreneurship education to be competent in managing private or community-based entrepreneurship projects. Competency based entrepreneurship education tends to focus on establishing an enterprise-culture in the contemporary society. The idea is basically to build a society that encourages people to start new businesses and be very successful in such human endeavours in Nigeria. An entrepreneur means a person who establishes a new business in order to generate

income to enhance his living conditions in the society (Aruma, 2009). Mayor (2009) perceives an entrepreneur as someone who starts a new business or plans business dealings in order to make money which in most cases, involve financial risks in the society. The interesting thing to note is that entrepreneurship education helps people to make a living in the society. As Aruma (2009) observes, entrepreneurship education becomes very important so as to help people to make a living in life.

Essentially, competency-based entrepreneurship education should focus on human resource development as a way of stimulating people's interest in achieving food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria for national development. Indeed, human resource development is very important if all the relevant stakeholders in community development are to achieve remarkable success in promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. Ngwu (2003) asserts that human resource development is important to help the participants to achieve high level of adaptability and acquisition of management skills that are critical to promote economic success and create self-employment in the society. Aruma (2007) states that human resource development becomes obvious in an organization in order to provide satisfactory services to its clients. Entrepreneurship education, therefore, helps greatly to improve people's capabilities and efficiency in order to be able to deal very effectively with emerging challenges in development enterprises.

## **2. Responsive Strategy to the Demands of People in the Contemporary Global Environment**

Responsive strategy to the demands of people in the contemporary global environment is another strategy of using entrepreneurship education to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship education, undoubtedly, helps to stimulate concerns mostly among the unemployed members of various communities in the society due to phenomenon of globalization. Essentially, entrepreneurship education tries to narrow the widened social and economic differences between the rich and the poor in the society. The idea of promoting entrepreneurship education is basically to establish community development projects in the areas of agricultural production and agro-based industries, handicraft and other relevant trades that will help to stimulate people's consciousness in achieving food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. The interesting thing to note is that for entrepreneurship education to be relevant enough to national economy, it must respond to educational and community development as well as national development needs of specific areas in Nigeria. Ngwu (2003) rightly states that the idea is, of course, to establish non-formal education projects that will promote agriculture and food production, handicrafts, industry and manufacturing trades in various parts of the country with a view to responding to the peculiar educational and development needs of the specific areas concerned. Indeed, entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy for achieving food security and wealth creation in

Nigeria should focus on combining business trainings with the areas of vocational agriculture, technical and managerial skills in order to help people to establish a true enterprise culture in Nigeria that will stimulate collective resolve for sustainable development in the country.

3. **Participatory Strategy:** Another important strategy of using entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria is participatory strategy in community development-oriented entrepreneurship education in various participating communities in Nigeria. Indeed, participatory strategy in community development-oriented entrepreneurship education simply refers to active involvement of all relevant stakeholders that will obviously stimulate urgent need to achieve food security and wealth creation in Nigeria. Aruma (2009) rightly states that people learn better when they enjoy conducive environment to participate actively in learning events in the society. This tends to indicate the obvious need for collaborative teaching and learning process in the society. Nzeneri (2010) observes that adults learn better through active involvement in teaching and learning process in the society. Active participation in entrepreneurship education is an important platform to take the economy of various participating communities in food security and wealth creation to an enviable state or next level. Commenting on a similar subject, Nwanze (2010) states that active participation in International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and its support agencies like Rural Micro Enterprises Development Project is a good instrument to take Nigeria's economy to the next level. There is, obviously, no doubt that active participation in entrepreneurship education will stimulate people's interest and collective resolve at community level to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria. This will certainly guarantee to a certain extent food security in Nigeria.

Fundamentally, agricultural sector is an important sector of Nigerian economy to achieve food security for sustainable development in Nigeria. Regrettably enough, different Nigerian governments at different times have neglected meaningful development in agricultural sector. This has partly been attributed to the incessant problems in food production in the country. Nwanze (2010) rightly notes that agricultural sector helps greatly to achieve food security, but it has been neglected by successive governments in Nigeria. Indeed, this neglect in agricultural sector by successive governments in Nigeria has, undoubtedly, made food crisis a serious problem in the country. Consequently, Nigeria with a population of about 180 million people cannot conveniently feed its population with locally produced food in the country.

#### **4. Establishment of Community Based Micro Enterprise Development Projects in the Participating Communities in Nigeria**

Another strategy of using entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation for promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria is to facilitate the establishment of Community Based Micro Enterprise Development Projects (CBMEDP) in the participating communities in Nigeria. This particular development initiative requires adequate financial support of international agencies such as International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations and Federal Government of Nigeria including other relevant stakeholders. Understandably, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an agency of United Nations which was established specifically to promote Small and Medium Scale (SMS) agricultural enterprises among other things. Nwanze (2010) categorically states that Rural Micro Enterprises Development Project was established as an establishment of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The idea is basically to stimulate food development initiatives to meet global challenges in community-based micro enterprise development projects in the participating communities in the contemporary global environment.

The realization of this laudable community- based enterprise development projects depends to a certain extent on adequate financial support by all the relevant stakeholders in the development initiative in the contemporary global environment. Nwanze (2010) asserts that International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is accessed through the World Bank and that it is equally disbursed to member states under counterpart funding. The implication of this is that all the relevant stakeholders in the Community Based Micro Enterprise Development Projects require adequate financial contributions as a clear demonstration of financial commitment towards the realization of community development enterprises in the participating countries.

#### **5. The Strategy of Raising People's Consciousness**

The strategy of raising people's consciousness as advocated by Freire (1985) to understand the benefits derivable from using entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation for promotion of sustainable development should be explored very well for people to work collaboratively for the purpose of promoting national development in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship education as a strategy for community development to achieve food security and wealth creation for sustainable development in Nigeria stimulates national consciousness in people for investments in the economy, especially in areas of agriculture and agro-based industries as well as other sectors of the economy. Indeed, entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in Nigeria should certainly focus on how to facilitate the

realization of the national educational goals in the country. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004) states the national educational goals to include the followings:

1. The inculcation of national consciousness and national unity
2. The inculcation of the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society.
3. The training of the mind of people in the understanding of the world.
4. The acquisition of appropriate skills and the development of mental, physical and social abilities including competencies to prepare the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society.

The implication of this is that the focus of national educational goals in Nigeria are, therefore, to help people to acquire relevant knowledge and skills to stimulate national consciousness and national unity in them, the desire to have the right type of value and attitudes for survival and empowerment to live and contribute significantly to the development of the society.

Essentially, entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation for promotion of sustainable development will empower people with relevant knowledge and skills to:

1. Explore business potential in an environment.
2. Identify potential business
3. Conduct market survey
4. Conduct feasibility study
5. Exploring access to credit facilities
6. Business registration
7. Manage a business for profitability among others.

While commenting on a similar subject, Onah (2015) identifies self evaluation, identification of business, market research, feasibility studies, sourcing for resources to establish a business, getting a bank loan, business management as well as legal aspect of starting a business as important areas of entrepreneurship development in the society. Indeed certain conditions must be made before an enterprise can be established

## **Conclusion**

Fundamentally, entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy which is viewed as an instrument to achieve food security and wealth creation for sustainable development in Nigeria should focus greatly on improving people's attitude to start a new business and to be successful in the management of community-development enterprises in the participating communities. It is pertinent to note that entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation for sustainable development in Nigeria helps very tremendously to enhance people's quality of service delivery in the society. Interestingly, entrepreneurship education, undoubtedly, requires members of the participating communities in community development enterprises to become

economically effective and efficient in management of such enterprises for profitability in the society.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made based on the discussion on entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria:

1. Entrepreneurship education initiatives should be supported to stimulate community development intervention in promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. The multiplier effects of community development interventions will transform many communities through entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in promotion of sustainable development in Nigeria.
2. The provision of credit facilities to the recipients of entrepreneurship education should be encouraged to stimulate their activities in promoting productive ventures in various communities in Nigeria. This will promote people's interest in entrepreneurship education as a community development strategy to achieve food security and wealth creation in facilitating sustainable development in Nigeria.
3. The recipients of entrepreneurship education should be encouraged to form cooperative groupings in order to enjoy economy of scale to facilitate the achievement of food security and wealth creation in sustainable development in Nigeria.
4. Food security and wealth creation require meaningful infrastructural provision to facilitate achievement of entrepreneurship initiatives which will not only add value to people's food intake, but will generate income and employment opportunities for people in various communities in Nigeria.

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