THE ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN QUANTITY SURVEYING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND VISION 2020

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Abstract
The challenge of low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and unemployment posed by the global economic meltdown directly or indirectly affects national development. This call for prospective entrepreneurial Quantity Surveyors to meet up with the International Global Trends, due to the need of consolidating cost management service areas for Quantity Surveying. Entrepreneurial Education and sensitization for Quantity Surveyors in the construction industry must be seen as a lifelong formal and informal propelling process of equipping the quantity surveyors to be aware of new opportunity for exploit, job creation, to manage and dominate their environment for poverty reduction, self productivity and for the benefits of the society generally. It is therefore recommended that government and authorities of tertiary institutions offering quantity surveying courses, to incorporate suitable entrepreneurship content into the curricula for the training of quantity
surveyors and the provision of infrastructural facilities serve as stimulating factor for entrepreneurship development beyond 2020.

About two decades ago, the term entrepreneurship was virtually absent from the Nigerian national discourse. Soludo (2009), reveals that the global capital flows have frozen; credit crunch persists despite massive global liquidity injection. He also observed that global aggregate demand fell sharply and commodity prices collapsed. World trade shrinking, major global banks bankrupting, international financial institutions not having adequate resources to intervene and global coordination failure was experienced. These among other factors led to the rising unemployment, contraction of business activities, reduction of infrastructural development, retardation of national development and process.

Due to these basic facts, Nigeria as a developing nation is faced with several macroeconomic issues such as low balance of payment (BOP), increasing level of unemployment, high incidence of poverty and corruption, slow economic growth rate etc. For any economy to grow, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) must not only improve but it must do so on a consistent and predictive basis. With increased economic activities such as construction works, economic growth would result, thereby improving the quality of lives of the citizens. The enviable construction industry will only be effective with the involvement of the Quantity Surveying expertise in controlling time and cost in construction project.

This paper suggests entrepreneurial education for quantity surveyors as a veritable tool to remedy the effects of the global economic meltdown and pave way for self reliance and national development. This is because, entrepreneurship appears to be the most critical national need that presents a major tool to increase economic activities. Without it, there can be no sustainable wealth creation.

Lack of competent and entrepreneurial skills in the new trend of job developments in quantity surveying has led to several cost-overrun and abandonment of projects which affects the productive value of the national economy. Hence, the paper examines the need for applying entrepreneurial education as a touch bearer to new dimension in quantity surveying services through acquisition of knowledge, skill, training and encouraging the introduction of well seasoned curricula that incorporates entrepreneurial skill development programs for graduates in the area of quantity surveying. This will lessen the burden of job sourcing, poor and unproductive development and this will open up new job opportunity areas for consultants, thereby making them buoyant and well equipped to compete within and outside the construction industries and contributing to national development.

Udoh (2005), opine that the problem of unemployment and development could only be solved by entrepreneurship development. This is in conformity with Nwaogwugwu and Ugiabe (2008), that the idea of entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual (or group of individuals) to seek out investment opportunities, through innovation and establishment of enterprises. The successful
management of investment opportunities will accelerate economic growth, generate employment, improve standard of living, increase governments earnings, reduced poverty, maximize local resources and conserve foreign exchange which will definitely result in national development beyond vision 2020.

The Concept of National Development and Entrepreneurship

National development in a broad sense according to Nwiwu (2012), includes general development in communities, towns, cities, states and nations as a whole in the best interest of its peoples. It is the ability of a country to improve her human capital (capacity building), economy, social welfare, democracy, infrastructure, national defenses and other key sectors of its national life. It also refers to the ability of a country to improve the socio economic welfare of her people by providing good education and social amenities.

The term entrepreneurship is defined by several scholars especially as regards to the context it is employed for. However, the word is derived from a French word meaning to “undertake” (Adidu and Olange 2006). According to Egboh (2009), entrepreneurship involves perception and identification of business opportunities, decisions on the location of enterprises, innovations, which involves creative response to an opportunity, risk bearing of all uninsurable risk and management of the ongoing organization. It is therefore a process of perceiving business opportunities, mobilizing resources (i.e. financial, human and otherwise) and initiating actions under an enterprise which is characterized by traits of an entrepreneur to meet the individual, group, societal and national need. (Google, Schumpeter 2003)

Entrepreneurial Traits

Trait is defined as the aggregate of peculiar qualities which constitutes personal individuals International Labour Organization (ILO, 1996). Studies on entrepreneurial trait have found that certain traits are associated with entrepreneurs, and it is one of the competences or elements for successful entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs characteristics and traits can be developed through wide spread practices of entrepreneur education, training, development and the creation of conducive and enabling environment of the start and growth of enterprises, which equally involves the Quantity Surveying practice. The following characteristics have been identified in the literature as unique to entrepreneurs as outlined in the table below.

Table 1: Characteristics and Traits of an Entrepreneur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Traits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-confidence</td>
<td>Confidence, independence, individuating (belief in own ability), optimism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong will</td>
<td>Persistence</td>
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Task result oriented | Achievement oriented profit oriented, hard work drive, energy, initiative
---|---
Risk taker | Leadership behavior, good communication, gets along well with others, responsible to suggestions, criticism, concern for others persons, develop other persons.
Originality | Innovative, creative, flexible (open minded), resourceful, versatile, knowledgeable
Future oriented | Foresight, vision, perceptions

Source the 3-phase EGP program, phase II, 1991 module VII, p. 3.

**Context of Entrepreneurship Education**

In Obi, (2008) cited by Bello (2012), the mission of education is to enable each one without exception to develop all talents to the full and to realize creative potentials including responsibility for own lives and achievement of personal aim. In line with the National curriculum on the Policy objectives of Nigeria education (National Directorate of Employment; NDE 2004), Nigerian educational objectives are geared towards the inculcation of national consequences and national unity, right type of values and attitudes and acquisition of appropriate skills, abilities and competences for the individual to live and contribute to the development of his/her society towards building a self reliance and productive nation.

Tunde, (2014) define entrepreneurship education as the process of learning directly towards developing in young people those skills, competencies, understandings and attributes which equip them to be innovative, and to identify, create, initiate and successfully manage persons, communities, businesses and work opportunities, including working for themselves. It's quite important that Quantity Surveying curricula should include entrepreneurship education because it can help to:
- build a learning culture that empowers young people to take more responsibility for their own future.
- link schools with businesses, firms and organizations and the wider community.
- develop students understanding of the careers available in business and industry and the opportunities for self employment, such as the quantity surveying profession.

**Aims and Objectives of Entrepreneurship Education (EEd)**

Entrepreneurship education as a formal and informal propelling process is geared toward the following aims and objectives:
- To change the mindset of the students about over dependence on government for employment so that they can be creators of enterprises and jobs rather than job seekers.
Moses A. Udo and Adehi F. Haruna

- To nurture entrepreneurship knowledge through entrepreneurship studies and education.
- To create and develop knowledgeable, enterprises and effective entrepreneurs.
- To assist the potential entrepreneurs in developing viable enterprises that is capable of competing in the global business and industry.

To be candid this enviable objectives cannot be achieved without education and policy. It is against this background that this paper attempts to examine the potentials of entrepreneurial education in re-engineering Quantity Surveying education for self employment and productivity in Nigeria. Therefore the potent way of achieving and stimulating entrepreneurship development for self reliance and productivity in Nigeria is through education.

This is because education is the most important instrument for change, as any fundamental change in the intellectual, social and technological outlook of any society has to be processed by an education revolution. As a result, entrepreneurial education shall be seen as the true vehicle for discovery of potential areas of new opportunities for Quantity Surveyors self reliance and productivity.

Relevance of Entrepreneurial Education in Quantity Surveying

Entrepreneurial education is indispensible if quantity surveying is to be a profession of all time. The philosophy of entrepreneurial education in quantity surveying is to equip graduates with the fundamentals of academic discipline as a basis for continuous discovery of knowledge and promotion of underlying principles, practice and technical ideas required in the industry for national productivity and to reduce the challenges of unemployment.

According to Olubola (2006)" In the past, government was the major client of the construction industry but with decline in the economy growth of the nation, the patronage received from the government has reduced drastically leaving so many quantity surveyor jobless." The quantity surveying profession is faced with great challenges for its survival in Nigeria. Many quantity surveyors are mostly involved with measuring and valuing of construction works being carried out under the traditional building contract. Architects drawings are handed over to them to advice on likely costs, they report on tender documents, itemize the work to be carried out, help to let the construction contracts, value work as it is proceeds and preparation of final account.

Sobotie (1999), observed that the domain of quantity surveying is the construction industry, an industry on which the rest of the economy depends. In recent times, however, quantity surveying as it is being practiced in Nigeria, has gone beyond these known common practices to broader and newer areas. It is however, expedient for the emerging quantity surveyor to be more proactive in his service delivery and to be more entrepreneurial to avoid job hunting/unemployment thereby contributing immensely to the economic growth of the nation.
Entrepreneurial Competences Areas for the Quantity Surveyors

The demands of the construction world and its challenges, one should demonstrate innovative approaches to problem solving and ability to negotiate across the various levels of any construction environment. Obviously, a passion for construction trade and knowledge of the wider industries are competent qualities required of entrepreneurial Quantity Surveyors.

The traditional job of a Quantity Surveyors requires some varieties of skills, further training in technical trades such as: carpentry and joinery, block laying and concreting, painting and decoration, plumbing and pipe fittings, landscaping and building plans, electrical installation and maintenance work, graphic arts, house and interior decoration etc are few areas where the entrepreneurial skills of Quantity Surveyors can be evolve.

In this regard, work experience is highly valued to complement the roles played on construction site, in order to meet new trend for sustainable quantity surveying and entrepreneurial development practices. This will help applicants find their part into the industry to contribute and yield productivity in the construction industry. There by increasing the economic viability of a nation as well as better service delivery by the quantity surveyor at the grassroots.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper highlights the effect of the global economic meltdown on the nation's economy such as the alarming rate of unemployment, increase in crime rate, significant contraction of business activities as well as the shrinking government earnings and the depletion of foreign reserves.

To curb these challenges, the paper has looked at key concepts of entrepreneurship and its relevance in the improvement of the socio-economic growth of the nation. It also discusses specifically, the need for entrepreneurial skill or education in quantity surveying profession as it pinpoints the great opportunity for quantity surveyors in infrastructural development, oil and gas sector of the Nigerian business environment.

In order to further harness these opportunities, Quantity surveyors must be trained to acquire entrepreneurial development skills in order to key into other sub-sectors of the economy within the broad range of construction professional services as new opportunity areas for exploit.

It equally suggests that training good quantity surveyors and developing their minds will not only create an advantage for employment but that, the increasing level of awareness will serve as a means of improving competency skills in quantity surveying and utilizing the specialized knowledge and skills.

In general, the paper has been able to discuss entrepreneurship education and sensitization of Quantity Surveyors in the construction industry as an avenue for job creation and enlargement of national development. Therefore, the educational sector and the professional bodies should adopt the points raised in this paper so that quantity
surveying graduates with high entrepreneurial skills and traits will continue to emerge so as to improve the national economy.

The federal government on its part, apart from institutionalizing Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) into tertiary institutions, should provide the enabling environment i.e. consistent and predictable Policies, services and infrastructure etc to ensure excellent entrepreneurial climate in the country.

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