

# INCULCATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN STUDENTS: A CHALLENGE TO HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS.

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## **Abstract**

Entrepreneurship education is the answer to the ever increasing unemployment problem in our society. Thus the inclusion of entrepreneurial skills in Home Economics curriculum will go a long way in helping our children to be self-reliant.

This calls for dedication and efficiency on the part of the teachers if this laudable objective will be achieved.

## **Introduction**

Entrepreneurship exists when a person develops a new venture, a new approach to an old business or ideas or a unique way of giving the market place a product or service by using resources in a new way under conditions of risk (Timmoun, 1983, Steinhof and Burgess, 1993). The individual known as the entrepreneur will be ready to make some risks while utilizing the resources at her disposal to begin a small business outfit. Agbobu (1999) defined an entrepreneur as the owner of a business who is responsible for the initiation and organization of enterprise out of a desire to maximise profits.

The entrepreneur being spurred by factors such as the need for achievement, independence, good job, good income etc is willing to build the business outfit. In line with the above statement, Steinhof and Burgess (1993) observed that people go into Entrepreneurship for the desire for high income, self direction, a more satisfying career, prestige, to 'run' a new idea or concept, build a long term wealth and contribute to humanity or to a specific course.

Entrepreneurship Education is therefore, the education given to an individual which will help him develop the skills needed for the running of any business venture. This type of education enables a person to take financial, risks and at the same time to utilize the material and human resources available to him to achieve the aim of establishing the business. Igbo (1995) pointed out that Entrepreneurship involves risking financial, material and human resources in a new way in the course of creating a new business concept or opportunity within an existing firm.

Entrepreneurship education should therefor be geared toward teaching of necessary skills relating to the nature of business market and how to manage a business outfit effectively and efficiently.

Davis (1983) suggested that the following areas should be taught under Entrepreneurship.

- (a) Simple explanation of the market system should be given to students.
- (b) In-depth discussion on the topics as the students go higher.
- (c) Shaping of students attitudes towards understanding the relationship between the market system, themselves and the quality of life.
- (d) Analyse the market system, develop a positive attitude about it and begin to express the value of the market place system to the society.
- (e) Introduce extra-curricular activities which have a small business orientation like business fraternities, cooperative education, programmes and students chapters of professional associations.

Home Economics being a skill oriented subject should enable its recipients to acquire the required skills required for entrepreneurship. The ability for this course of study (Home Economics) in achieving this dream depends greatly on the content of the curriculum and the knowledge and attitude of the teachers.

## **Ways By Which Home Economics Teachers Can Inculcate Entrepreneurial Skills In Students.**

Home Economics is an applied field of study built upon many disciplines for the purpose of achieving and maintaining the well-being of individuals and families in an ever-changing society (Lemchi, 2000). It is education geared towards producing self-reliant individuals and which also aims at achieving effective and efficient living in its beneficiaries. The role of Home Economics in our dynamic world lies in the development of basic competencies meant to marry knowledge from all areas of study. This will help for effective improvement of the home, family and society at large.

Thus, Home Economics teachers should move with the changing time so as to produce individuals (students) who will be well fitted or adapted to the current situation in the country.

For the Home Economics teacher to inculcate entrepreneurial skills in students demands that she in addition to being the master of the subject will be able to spur the student's interest in the subject through her method of teaching and attitude to the subject. Ukeje (1991) qualifies a good teacher as the one who in addition to transmitting of knowledge and skills in an effective manner, is also able to inspire the students to greater heights of achievement by guiding them to the full realization of their potentials. In this present time where unemployment is on the increase, it calls for a reorientation of our youths to pay attention to skill oriented subjects like Home Economics which will help them acquire the competencies required to be self-employed. This yearn for self-employability in individuals can be quenched through teaching of entrepreneurial skills to them so that they will be able to stand on their own after graduation. Fafunwa (1974) noted that the objective of technical education of which Home Economics is an aspect is to equip its beneficiaries with skills necessary for self employment. It also includes character training to enable the individual fit into his way of life. Consequent upon the above facts, the Home Economics teachers should evolve a teaching strategy that will enhance the development of these entrepreneurial skills. This she achieves by having an up-to-date and accurate information on market system.

Another area of challenge to the Home Economics teacher in inculcating entrepreneurial skills in the students is the curriculum content. A close look at the content of Home Economics curriculum at different levels of education reveals little or no inclusion of entrepreneurial skill. This defeats the aim of Home Economics which according to Nwaiwu, (1988), is the preparation of individuals to be self-reliant so that they may be able to create jobs for themselves instead of seeking for jobs. A review of Home Economics Curricula at the Senior Secondary level, NCE and Bachelor degree curricular by Uoeje (1998) revealed gross deficiency of entrepreneurship skills in all the Home Economics curricula examined. This calls for the inclusion of entrepreneurship education into Home Economics curriculum at all levels of education.

#### Recommendation for Action.

For Home Economics students to develop or skills in entrepreneurship it is expected that the curriculum should address the following topics or aspects. The students should be informed on the new business venture they should take. This they can do by teaching the characteristics of each trade involved in Home Economics like, clothing construction and designing, interior decoration, nursery school management etc. what are expected of them in each of the trade should be taught to them.

Again, they should be made to develop the ability to make decision, plan, implement and control all the actions in the venture.

The students should be helped to develop creative, innovative and managerial skills which are pre-requisites in the running of any business outfit.

They should be made to have self confidence, hard working and at the same time risk bearing.

Finally, the students should be drilled on leadership role if they are to function well as entrepreneurs.

#### **Conclusion.**

Home Economics being a course geared towards making its recipients self-reliant demands that entrepreneurship education be embraced by including entrepreneurial skills in the Home Economics curriculum. This will help the graduates to be self-employed and at the same time help in the economic development of our nation.

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