

# CREATIVE BIOLOGICAL GARDENS ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL, FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

*Classic educational policies and programmes alone can no longer propel a third world nation into an industrialized and economically buoyant one. This paper emphasized the importance of entrepreneurial education to the growth of a nation, touched on the negative effects of high unemployment among youths, gave insight into the concepts of entrepreneurial skill acquisition, the entrepreneur, and entrepreneurship and its history in Nigeria. It went further to highlight entrepreneurial education and its goals, sustainable development, how biological gardens can be utilized to develop entrepreneurial skills, and challenges facing Nigeria creative and entrepreneurial education, and concluded with the belief that Nigeria's industrialization and development should be built on this current state of unprecedented hardship, as has been postulated. It exposed its contribution to knowledge, and finally recommended that all hands, and not only the Government's, should be on deck, to make it a reality.*

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial, skill, gardens, industrialization.

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It is an undeniable fact that education is one of the indispensable tools for national development. Education is a vital instrument for national and sustainable development and it involves the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and essential development skills needed for technological breakthrough and socio-political development which accelerates economic growth. The development of an educational system that is knowledge based both in structure and functionality requires the inclusion of creative and entrepreneurial competencies. Through entrepreneurship education sustainable development has become a significant issue for all well-meaning administrations of countries across the globe (Ogedengbe, Okhakhu, & Adekunle, 2013). As such, series of strategies and programmes have been identified and structured towards the development of the mentality of entrepreneurship across all sectors in these administrations across the globe. This is further reinforced by the fact that the hitherto simple individual and social generic tools for sustenance and growth have long metamorphosed into radically complex ones, making classic educational principles and policies a museum piece.

According to Kuratko (2009) due to its impact on the growth of economies and sustainable development via entrepreneurial drive and persistence it is fast becoming a central point of economies globally. Nigeria as a country be idle and observe other countries develop in its desire to implement and achieve economic independence and diversity. This will bring about advancement in employment opportunities and poverty alleviation, and tackle issues in youth restiveness and other socio-economic challenges plaguing the youths today.

According to Eneh (2011), the fact that the country has over the years remained as a country that is still developing has further strengthened the argument on the need for companies and persons to fully adopt and implement the principles of entrepreneurship. This can be seen obviously in the number of educated school leavers armed with good educational certificates currently roaming the street of our towns and cities for any jobs. Adawo & Atan (2013) opined that the phenomenon has become a full blown challenge amongst graduates of tertiary institutions. This is an unfortunate situation as most youths who are supposed to be productive and active members of the society become beggars, moving from one part of the town, state and country to another in search of greener pastures for which they are ill prepared and equipped for. Thus, this therefore buttresses the proposition by Bolarin (2012) who asserted that the need to carefully re-assess or re-evaluate the type and quality of education that is accessible to youths in Nigerian tertiary institutions of learning becomes imminent. Anyaogu (2009) opined that tertiary institutions should be geared towards producing graduates who are relevant to the society and economy at large. Graduates who will be able to make use of their knowledge and skills acquired to alter and shape the environment while creating jobs that empower the graduates. This has consequently led to the rise of a lot of crimes which include amongst other things kidnapping, prostitution, ritual killings, human trafficking, fraud, gambling as well as oil pipe vandalism to mention but a few (Adesina, 2013).

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According to a report by the National Bureau of Statistics (2016) the unemployment rate rose from 10.4 percent (%) in the fourth quarter of 2015 to 12.1 percent (%) as at March quarter of 2016. In furtherance to this, the Human development index (HDI) an indicator that determines the wealth of any nation doesn't speak well of Nigeria with Nigeria ranking 152nd position according to this index (UNDP, 2016). As such, it must be highlighted poverty and unemployment continues to rise although new educational reforms have been introduced by the government such as the introduction of 34 trade subjects that include catering, arts and craft, cosmetology, garment making to mention but a few. As a consequence, creative and entrepreneurial education remains a panacea for sustainable development.

### **The Concept of Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition**

According to Maigida, Saba and Namkere (2013), private sector is what drives the world today, and economic prosperity in the 21st century needs the functioning of entrepreneurial skill. Entrepreneurial skill acquisition can be defined as not just about acquiring skill but acquiring knowledge and driving towards enterprise in skills that enhance personal livelihood through enduring business startups, enhancing employment opportunities, and promoting economic development and Growth. According to Nkechi and Okechukwu (2012) Entrepreneurial success depends on an entrepreneurial ability to identify opportunity in the environment, take initiatives towards desirable change and ensure value based solution in the market place. Uzochuwu, Lilian and Chidiebere (2015), Tijani-Alawiye (2004), observed that entrepreneurs successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to grow and sustain them, with a view to achieving broad socio-economic development goals. In essence entrepreneurs through entrepreneurial development such as in skill acquisition create job opportunities or become self-employed. Entrepreneurial skill acquisition is the ability to learn or acquire entrepreneurial skills.

### **The Entrepreneur**

The concept of an entrepreneur has evolved over the years and has been differently viewed by many authorities. Onyido (2016) viewed an entrepreneur as basically an individual who has or operates a business venture where profit and revenue is obtained. Furthermore an entrepreneur can be seen as a person who shows ingenuity and creativity in organizing social as well as economic mechanisms to turn resources into products while accepting the inherent risk of failure of this venture (Erouglu & Picak, 2011). In summary, the entrepreneur is the person who co-ordinates, controls and organizes the process of production in order to make the maximum output at minimum cost thereby making profits. He is the Managing Director or Chief Executive office in an executive office.

### **Features of an Entrepreneur**

Every business is an adventure and the ability and possibility for the venture to succeed or fail depends on the ability of the entrepreneurs to effectively employ his or her

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positives attributes while retraining his/her negative attributes. Some of these positive attributes include:

*Self-confidence:* This is can be characterized as one of the essential attributes an entrepreneur must possess. The entrepreneur must believe in his/her self and the project he/she intends to embark on. The entrepreneur should be able to see the obstacles or difficulties in achieving his/her goals as challenges which must be faced squarely and conquered. The entrepreneurs must maintain a high level of emotional stability in the face of difficulties.

*Risk taking:* An entrepreneur must analyze and determine the risk inherent in the project he/she is embarking on and as such adopting strategies aimed at mitigating the potential exposure to these inherent risks. According to Gana (2011) the entrepreneur employs and focuses on his/her personal talent, capabilities, competencies, technical know-how and values to navigate these inherent risks.

*Job orientation:* An entrepreneur is result-orientated. He/she sets difficult but achievable goals. The entrepreneur is dogged, tenacious and strong-minded.

*Drive and Energy:* An entrepreneur shows high levels of drive and energy by putting a serious amount of physical and mental energy.

*Leadership:* An entrepreneur encourages and guides individuals towards achieving set out goals and objectives (Gana, 2001). These can only be effectively accomplished by good leaders who possess excellent skills and managing and leading individuals.

### **Types of Entrepreneur**

According to Dang of entrepreneurs can be classified as follows:

- *Innovative Entrepreneurs:* These entrepreneurs are innovators who may invent and present new products, offer new methods of fabrication as well as discover new markets and opportunities.
- *Imitative entrepreneurs:* These entrepreneurs are usually cautious and skeptic in adopting any alteration in their business activities.
- *Fabian Entrepreneurs:* These entrepreneurs are the second generation entrepreneurs, and are usually slow in making decisions regarding changes in their business activities.
- *Drone Entrepreneurs:* These are entrepreneurs who are reluctant to adopt new technologies, inventions, opportunities even when these changes will reduce the cost of doing business.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is commonly regarded as the process of creating new ideas towards self-reliance. It is also a practical step that involves the combination of resources and prospects in new approaches. It encompasses the use of individual abilities, money and other assets in order to achieve profitability and sustainability of the business venture (Smith & Chimucheka, 2014).

Entrepreneurship can thus be said to be the capability and the willingness of a person to seek and utilize investment opportunities. It is actually concerned with creating opportunities and meeting the needs of individuals and a process of identifying gaps in one's immediate community and society at large while bringing together innovative manners to fill these gaps. It is a continuous process of creating wealth through the identification of opportunities and the employment of personal skills and resources.

According to scholars it is the enthusiasm and the capacity of an individual or group of persons to discover investment prospect while setting up and operating a business without hindrances (Inegebenor, 1987 & Duru, 2011).

### **Entrepreneurial Education**

Entrepreneurial education places emphases on youth development and also the desire and multiple competencies of individuals. It seeks to decrease the inherent risks associated with entrepreneurship, while guiding the enterprise through its beginning phase to its maturity stage successfully (Matlay, 2008; Oosterbeek, Van Praag & Ijsselste in, 2010). It is structured to connect and adopt proficiencies, attributes and values required to recognize potential investment opportunities, structure and embark on new business ventures (Brown, 2000). According to analysts, entrepreneurial education is an educational programme which focuses on impacting pupils on matters surrounding entrepreneurship education. Creative Entrepreneurial Education includes motivation, mentorship of youths and elders on approaches to become self-reliant in thinking, creating and operating a venture.

### **Goals of Entrepreneurial Education**

Entrepreneurial education is essential in that it offers the type of education and training that empowers, encourages the employment of sense of creativity and development the of competencies for students in order to accept responsibilities and hazards. According to Paul (2005), the following are the objectives of Entrepreneurship:

- It offers an educational approach which is practical and enables and equips with the necessary skills to be self-reliant and self-employed.
- It provides the youth or graduates with the necessary training that enables them to be inventive and imaginative in recognizing investment prospects.
- It serves as a promoter of economic advancement and development.
- It offers graduate of universities efficient and adequate training in risk management

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- It impacts positively on the rate of poverty.
- It creates employment opportunities
- It reduces rural-urban drift; by offering graduates with adequate preparation and guidance that will assist them in establishing vocations in small and medium sized businesses.
- It inculcates the spirit of doggedness in the minds of youths and adults that equips and allows them to flourish in any business project they engage in.
- It creates an easy transfer from an economy that is traditional in nature to a modern economy.

From these goals mentioned above it can be deduced that the objective sustainable is focused on reconciling the issues of economic development that is necessary for higher standard of living with that of enhancing with the challenges being faced in the Nigerian space today. Hence, entrepreneurship can aid in fostering sustainable development.

### **Sustainable Development**

The term “sustainable development” was initially coined in 1972 during the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and later gained prominence by way of a report to the United Nations by the “World Commission on Environment and Development” which was chaired by the Prime Minister of Norway “Gro Harlem Brundtland” (Waas, Hüge, Verbruggen & Wright, 2011).

Sustainable development entails that resources that are renewable should be employed in every possible situation and resources that are non-renewable should be used rarely in order to ensure their viability for the future generations to come (Patil, 2014). Sustainable development entails the designing of a social and economic system that ensures that standards of education continues to improve, the rise in the real income is maintained, the economic growth of the nation continues to improve as well as other aspect of life continues to increase. This cannot occur if the right type of education is not given to individuals.

Sustainable development can be viewed in three dimensions namely; Economic, environmental and social (United Nations, 2005). The goals of sustainable development include:

- End of poverty in all its forms across boards
- Establish infrastructures while promoting inclusive and sustainable commercialization while fostering innovations.
- Ensure healthy lives and promotion of well-being for all.
- Guaranty equal and inclusive education while promoting long-lasting learning opportunities for all.
- Ensuring gender equity and empowerment of females

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- Guarantee available and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone
- Available employment for everyone across boards.
- Mitigate the inequality within and among nations.
- Ensure that cities and settlement are safety conscious, inclusive and sustainable.
- Guarantee sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Embark on actions that tackle climate change its implications.
- Preserve and sustainable employ oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Provision of access to justice while building accountable and inclusive institutions at all level of governance.

### **Utilization of Biological Garden to develop Entrepreneurial Skills**

Biological garden is one of the required facilities listed in the minimum standard for biology Education (NCCE, 2012). It is a place where plants and animals are kept/raised for effective teaching and learning of biology. A typical biological garden according to Gankon (2015), has provisions for the following:

- Garden shed: Is used for storing garden tools, fertilizer, etc.
- Experimental and propagation plot: For nursery beds to produce seedlings and for preparation of potted plants
- Vegetable plot: For the production of vegetables
- Ornamental and Experimental plot: For ornamental plants.
- Fruits and economic important trees plot; For planting trees e.g. citrus plants, mango, Guava, pawpaw etc.
- Flower plot: Is used to grow different types of flower
- Lawn: For growing local grasses
- Animal section: For keeping animals such as guinea pigs, rabbits etc.
- Fish pond: for fish farming.

These provisions can also be used to generate business ventures in different areas for the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills. Plants and animals of economic importance can be produced with ease and relatively small capital by the students from the garden. The students will therefore acquire both technical biology skills as well as entrepreneurial skills that will enable them to create jobs for themselves and become self-employed.

### **Challenges of the Nigerian Creative and Entrepreneurial education and skill acquisition, and Possible Recommendations**

Like every important instrument for economic development. Entrepreneurship in Nigeria comes with its own challenges. Scholars identify a number of challenges below:

- **Student Zeal or passion for entrepreneurship:** The importance of the zeal of the student in entrepreneurship is important in the cultivating and developing the entrepreneurial spirit with the pupils. In essence a passionate and committed pupil of entrepreneurship may make up his mind to make the course his/her goal of career.
- **Orientation of School Administration:** Presently many administrators of schools have yet to fully appreciate and comprehend the importance and capabilities entrenched in entrepreneurial education towards the development of entrepreneurship.
- **What to teach:** The content of what is to be taught depends on a number of issues however the overall objective that a programme for entrepreneurial education aims to attain. At the beginning phase of entrepreneurial education it was presumed that the most effective method that could be achieved by educators was seeking the change of the opinion of students by creating awareness on the nature and range of entrepreneurship, the features as well as the role demands of entrepreneurs. In the case of Nigeria, stake holders and regulating organization have introduced guidelines aimed at guiding what is to be taught in these entrepreneurial educational programs. Regardless of this, there is dire need for entrepreneurship tutors and educationalist associations to deliberate with a view of generating ideas on issues that are peculiar to the Nigerian socioeconomic reality

### **Conclusions**

Frantic discussions on Creative and Entrepreneurial Education have continued to be topical among scholars and the corporate world as a result of its immeasurable impact on sustainable development. Its impacts will be better felt amongst developing nations across the globe where there is urgent need for transition into industrialization and economic stability, failure of which health, security, finance, education and other parameters of civilization are adversely impacted.

It has therefore become apparent that creative entrepreneurship can be taught, and that nations who seek to continuously develop, must adopt entrepreneurial education. Nigeria is no exception and there is no better time than now, if the nation is to overcome its present economic woes and transit into a developed culture so as not to jeopardize the future of generations to come.

Nigeria can key into the Economic survival theory which highlights that creative entrepreneurship is encouraged by those impacted by unpleasant circumstances in life. The era of graduates picking up their certificates and wandering the streets seeking for white collar jobs that are non-existent is fast becoming a thing of the past, and Nigeria must recognize and adopt measures to embrace this while recognizing and proffering solutions to the challenges of creative entrepreneurship education in the country such as the government and relevant stakeholders committing to eliminating this challenges. It is



therefore hoped that given this shared responsibilities, entrepreneurship will flourish and be employed as a essential tool for sustainable development in Nigeria.

### **Contribution to knowledge**

This paper takes into cognizance the impact of creative entrepreneurship to sustainable development and identifies the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the Nigeria society. It therefore, adds to the already existing body of knowledge on entrepreneurial education. It highlights the importance of creative entrepreneurial education on employment generation, increased exportation prospects, crime reduction, and efficient utilization of resources as well as advancement in technological innovations.

Furthermore, it throws more light on the educational policies in the Nigerian educational sector while proposing measures that can be done to improve the impact of creative entrepreneurial education in Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

1. This research identifies the importance of entrepreneurship in the growth and advancement of developing countries to which Nigeria belongs. It is imperative therefore that the Nigerian government should urgently provide materials and well-furnished and equipped capacity building centers for teaching in institutions of learning.
2. The Nigeria Government and other relevant stakeholders must ensure that educational programmes across all levels of learning are relevant so as to provide youths and graduates with the necessary skills to go into successful creative entrepreneurship.
3. The Nigerian government should create a friendly political and economic environment devoid of uncertainties so as to encourage investment in entrepreneurial ventures.
4. The Government should in collaboration with financial institutions provide motivation and assistance to identifiable small scale entrepreneurs so as to promote productivity and quality rather than shutting factories that are found to producing sub-standard products.
5. In reality, the buck may stop at the Government table but an approach of this import demands all hands on deck, and so the citizenry, especially the parents, guardians, youths and the young at heart have a vital role of embracing creative entrepreneurship whole-heartedly, and working hard at it.

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