

# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AS STRATEGIES FOR CURBING INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

*Entrepreneurship education and good governance play significant role in shaping the growth and development of any nation. Both strategies are employed in curbing to a large extent, the insecurity challenges confronting any country. The quagmire in which security challenges has placed this nation is unquantifiable. This study seeks to investigate the use of entrepreneurship education and good governance in tackling security challenges in Nigeria. Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crisis ranging from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. Almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime. Exploratory research design was adopted as data were generated via the internet, library and other documented materials relevant for the study. The study revealed that entrepreneurship education and governance reduce the rate of insecurity challenge to a great extent. The study recommends for government and other agencies to invest more in entrepreneurship training as this will help to address the problems of unemployment, poverty and national insecurity.*

The importance of entrepreneurship education and sound governance cannot be over-emphasized. Entrepreneurship has been identified as one of the major factors of production. Research studies have revealed that most countries of the world budget and spend huge amount of money in order to provide sound education to their citizens. Thus, education and good governance are veritable tools for tackling socio-cultural, economic, political, scientific and technological challenges facing many nations of the world. Oluwatobi and Ogunriola (2011) postulated that one of the potent factors that enhances the wealth of nations is that of education and that the better a nation's investment on education the higher the productive capacity and national well being. Human capacity and productivity could be developed through education because it is inseparable from human capacity development. According to Adedeji and Campbell (2011), Higher education is a sine-qua-non for human capital development and economic growth and that the form of education that will translate to economic growth, especially, in Nigeria and must place emphasis on the access to, content and openness of the education programmes to labour market demands.

According to Agi and Yellowe (2013), education is important to the development of human resources, importation of appropriate skills, knowledge and

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attitude. It is the bases of transformation, industrialization and a high way to global knowledge economy. Relating to security, Agi and Yellowe (2013) explained further that education is regarded as a means of achieving culture of peace, gender equality and positive African values. It is therefore the understanding of transformation and development through reduction in poverty with ensured peace and security.

Entrepreneurship education and good governance are two basic strategies for fighting security challenges. Anhio (2014) posits that entrepreneurship education is a form of education which makes human to be responsive to their personal, families and national needs and aspiration. Entrepreneurship competencies carry with it, the concept of skills and mental awareness which are needed to understand the functioning of an already existing business. Entrepreneurship education is about developing attitudes, behaviours and capacities at the individual levels. It is also about the application of those skills and attitudes that can take many forms during an individual's career, creating a range of long term benefits to the society and the economy.

Apart from entrepreneurship education, good governance is another strategy or tool that can be employed to curb security challenges in any nation. Good governance is all about effective and transparent leadership that produces results which together transform the social-economic conditions of a nation. The objective of good governance is human development with equity and social justice. The goal of governance should be to develop capacities that are needed to realize development that gives priority to the poor, advances women, sustains the environment and creates needed opportunities for employment and other livelihoods (UNDP, 1999). Good governance determines the rate at which unemployment is dealt with, most importantly in terms of engaging unemployed youths in economic activities through self reliance. The sensitivity of leadership to the well being of her citizenry influences the growth of entrepreneurship in any country (Abubakar&Abolaji, 2018).

Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises, ranging from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. Almost every corner of the country has been bit by violence and crime. Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large. Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani Herdsmen; Boko Haram insurgencies, armed robber attacks, kidnapping, political/religious crisis, murder, destruction of our facilities by Niger Delta militants, child abduction /trafficking etc. This paper therefore examines the use of entrepreneurship education and good governance as strategies for curbing insecurity challenges in Nigeria.

### **Conceptualizing the Concepts**

It is very imperative to critically conceptualize the key words in this work. That is entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship education, good governance and insecurity challenges.

### **Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurship Education**

Entrepreneurship is a very broad concept. It has been defined by various scholars and researchers in various ways. According to (Akinbode, 2009), entrepreneurship is the term used broadly in connection with innovative and creative modern industrial business leaders. It is often defined in respect to the functions of an

entrepreneurship as the man who perceives business opportunities and takes advantage of the scarce resources to use them profitably. Schumpeter (1934) stressed that entrepreneurship is the mechanism through which economy leaves static equilibrium, based on the combinational capabilities of entrepreneurial individuals. Nwakeaku (2011) averred that entrepreneurship embodies special knowledge and skills that spur an entrepreneur into innovative and creative ideas that are crystallized into quick and risky business decisions that result to sustainable profitability.

The concept of entrepreneurship education according to Anho (2013) is associated with such activities as innovation, creativity, risk taking, initiative, visionary, focus, determination, team spirit, resourcefulness, financial control, self confidence, versatility, knowledgeable dynamic thinking, optimum disposition, originality, people oriented, flexible in decision, responses to suggestions and criticism, profit oriented, persistent and persevering, energy for hardwork, adjustment to challenges and future looking. Oladimji et al (2016) opined that entrepreneurship education is the process of equipping, training and acquiring skills by an individual or persons with the aim of making such persons or individuals better at creating and adding value to the society through innovation and creativity.

### **Good Governance**

Governance refers to structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation. Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal.

Agagu (2010) states that governance means how public affairs are done to ensure effective use of resources to achieve the good life expected of citizens in a given state. To ensure citizens benefits dividends of democracy, government must ensure check and balances in government operations and uphold the rule of law where it needs to be enforced in a situation where government officials misappropriate, embezzle, or divert fund meant for social upkeep.

### **Insecurity Challenges**

The concept of insecurity to say the least is one of the most popular concepts in the Nigerian polity today. It is indeed obvious that insecurity according to Harris (2014) is a general absence of country, state, local government area, communities, properties and individuals. Security which is the opposite of insecurity is ideally a part of human existence and sustenance has been recklessly and ruthlessly neglected owing to religious, cultural and political misconceptions. Security is therefore perceived as a situation in which citizens are free from any threats for their life and means of livelihood, free from bodily harm, diseases, unemployment and human rights violations, wherever they may find themselves within a sovereign nation. Nigeria as a nation has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity despite the proposition of 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which stipulates that “the security and welfare of the people shall be that primary aim of government,” (Ndubuisi & Theresa, 2019).

### **Entrepreneurship Education vs Insecurity challenges in Nigeria**

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The effect of entrepreneurship education towards ameliorating insecurity challenges in any nation cannot be over-estimated. Chiemeka (2018) posited that acquiring entrepreneurship education and skills has the following benefits:

- i. Self-employment: A self employed person has a lot of things to offer that will enable him/her to make a living.
- ii. Helps the society not to depend on white collar job.
- iii. Helps youth develop a positive attitude towards work and labour.
- iv. Reduces poverty
- v. Helps youth to be self reliant and independent.

Utim (2013) noted that entrepreneurship education is a main mechanism for social and economic development of the people, which contributes to economic growth by eradicating poverty through career training, job specification and wealth creation. The underdeveloped and developing countries education system is thus expected to device appropriate strategies for equipping individuals with skills, knowledge, motivation, positive attitudes, innovation for self-reliance to cope with the prevalent problems of poverty, under employment, unemployment and its reoccurring problems of individual, community, national, regional, continental and world security.

On the relationship between education and national security, and development great philosophers like Aristotle, Socrates and Dewey, all acknowledged that formal education is a pre-requisite for peace and national development. Okpaga (2013), citing Buskirk (1976), stated that education can be used to attain self-reliance and poverty eradication in Africa, as the true source of power in the world has not been the armies and not certainly diplomacy, but rather productive and qualitative education.

### **Good Governance Vs Insecurity Challenges**

It is imperative to state that the goal of democracy amongst other things is to bring about some forms of dividends. This brought about the need for Nigeria to link education with enterprise and employment generation. The importance of good governance cannot be over emphasized to the growth of entrepreneurship and in form ameliorate the rate of insecurity challenges. Good governance determines the rate at which unemployment and security challenges are dealt with, most especially in terms of engaging unemployed youths in economic activities through self-reliance (Abubakar&Abolaji, 2018).

According to the United Nations commission on human rights, governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resource and guarantee the realization of human right. Good governance accomplishes this in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption, and with due respect and regards for the rule of law. The true test of good governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights. They key question is, are the institutions of governance effectively guaranteeing the right to health, adequate housing, sufficient food, quality education, fair justice and personal security (HRD, 2003).

While not a conventional security topic, governance is a central feature in the internal or socially based threats Nigeria faces. From ethno – religious faultiness to rising extremism among marginalized communities to wealth military

professionalism, a common theme for virtually all of the Nigeria security challenges is poor governance.

In many instances, those security concerns are in fact, symptoms of weak, exclusionary or exploitative government processes. These society issues, therefore will persist until the underlying process of governance are addressed. Therefore without good governance, a country makes itself vulnerable to drivers of insecurity.

### **Insecurity Challenges In Nigeria**

In Nigeria, government has not played any pivotal role as far as security matters are concerned. It is crystal clear that the state of insecurity in Nigeria is largely a function of government failure and lackadaisical attitude towards the poor masses. Theories showcase by the inability of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses like shelter, food and clothing. The paucity of basic needs by government has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violently (Ndubuisi and Theresa, 2019). Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises, from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. Almost every corner of that country has been hit by violence and crime.

According to BBC News of 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, the scale of the insecurity threatens the very fabric of Nigerian society. “With every attack, human lives are lost or permanently damaged and faith in democracy and the country is diminishing”. When President Muhammadu Buhari was elected in 2015, he promised to protect citizens from terrorist and criminals. But there are less than two years left of his final term in office and the country is more unstable than it’s been in decades. Some have linked the recent surge by insecurity to the staggering poverty across the country. Youth unemployment currently stands at 32.5% and the country is in the middle of one of the worst economic downturn in 27 years.

Nigeria’s five biggest security threats are:

i. **Jihadism:**

Despite claiming during his first year in office that Islamist militant group Boko Haram had been “technically” defeated, President Buhari now admits that his government is failing to stop insurgency which began in the North-East (Abonyi, 2011).

ii. **Clashes between herders and farmers:**

There have been violent disputes between nomadic animal herders and farmers in Nigeria for many years but disagreements over the use of land and water, as well as grazing routes have been exacerbated by climate change and the spread of the Sahara Desert, as herders move further south looking for pastures. Thousands have been killed in clashes over limited resources. (Adebanwi, 2009).

iii. **Banditry and kidnapping**

One of the scariest threats for families in Nigeria is the frequent kidnapping of school children from their classrooms and boarding houses. More than 1,000 students have been abducted from their schools in Northeastern Nigeria since 2013. Many were only released after thousands of dollars are paid as ransom. Some of the kidnappers are commonly referred to as “bandits” in Nigeria. These criminals raid

villages, kidnap civilians and burn down houses. Attacks by bandits have forced thousands of people to flee from homes and seek shelter in other parts of the country.(Akanji, 2018).

**iv. Separatist Insurgency**

A separatist group called the Indigenous People of Biafra (IBOP) has been clashing with Nigeria’s security agencies. IPOB wants a group of states in the south-east mainly made up of people from the Igbo ethnic group, to break away and form the independent nation of Biafra. The group was founded in 2014 by Nnamdi Kanu who was recently arrested and is set to face trial on terrorism and treason charges. His arrest has been a major blow to the movement. (Celestine et al, 2019).

**v. Oil Militants**

In the oil producing south, security challenges are nothing new. It is Nigeria’s biggest foreign export earner, and militants in the Niger Delta have long agitated for a greater share of the profit. They argue that the majority of the oil comes from their region and the environmental damage caused by its extraction has devastated communities and made it impossible for them to fish or farm. For years, militants pressured the government by kidnapping oil workers and launching attacks on security personnel and oil infrastructure like pipelines.(Okumagba, 2011).

**Empirical Findings**

Ndubuisi and Theresa (2019) studied “insecurity in Nigeria: the implications for industrialization and sustainable development. Exploratory research design was adopted. Findings of the study revealed that insecurity is a pivotal factor hindering the growth of industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Anho (2014) examined entrepreneurship education: A panacea for unemployment, poverty reduction and national insecurity in developing and under-developed countries. The study recommended for entrepreneurship education, training, mentoring and work experiences should be integrated more in the curriculum of all higher institutions and not to restrict it to only specialized faculties/departments and that entrepreneurship education and development as a programme of human capital development can be used and should be used for instilling and preserving entrepreneurial climate in an economy and government so as to produce self-sustainable citizens.

Nwekeaku (2013) studied “Entrepreneurship Education and Challenges to Nigerian Universities. The study revealed that though many Nigerian universities have embraced the entrepreneurship education; there is not yet any fundamental change in the teaching and learning process of this important subject. The study recommends for an immediate review of the entrepreneurship curriculum for result oriented skills and functionalism provision of necessary learning materials and equipment, regular training and retraining of lecturers, orientation for a new and desired value system, improved funding among other measures.

Abubakar and Abolaji (2018) investigated the “impact of good governance and entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Using Pearson moment correlation, the study revealed that government has initiated policies which actually impacted on

unemployment reduction, though a large number of the opportunities granted were politicized.

Okoro (2018) critically examined strategies for curbing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education Programme. Structured questionnaires were used together primary data which were analyzed using mean. The findings of the study showed among other things the need for provision of adequate laboratory for business education for skill acquisition, provision of sufficient classrooms for effective teaching of business education students, improving students' attitude to skills acquisition through orientation, regular supervision of business, etc.

### **Conclusion**

The quagmire which security challenges have placed this nation is unquantifiable. Entrepreneurship education and good governance are two basic strategies for curbing insecurity challenges in Nigeria. Good governance places great emphasis on pragmatic strategies for achieving positive and cost effective results. It ensures the rule of law, promotes due process, improves efficiency, facilitates accountability, tackles corruption, salutes excellence, insists on productivity and delivers high quality services to the people.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the researchers recommend as follows:

- i. There is need to increase the level of investments in entrepreneurship education by government and other international bodies such as International Monetary Fund (IMF, Bank of Industry (BOI) and World Bank.
- ii. Lecturers and teachers should be sponsored to attend seminars and workshops on new technologies.
- iii. Adequate teaching facilities and equipments should be provided by school authorities to enable the students do sufficient practice work.
- iv. Government should take the business of governance seriously and redress issues of injustices, victimization, marginalization, discrimination, security and also create a safe and an enabling environment for investments.
- v. Government needs to step up physical security measures around the country via the provision of security facilities and the development of stringent measures to be meted out on security defaulters.

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