

# REFOCUSING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL SECURITY



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## **Abstract**

*Education is a very popular concept which connotes the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills and attitude for self development and societal growth. Education is the tool through which a society can grow, develop and meet her quest for peace and national security. It has been asserted that education promotes peaceful co-existence which is the panacea for any meaningful development as no nation can develop in an environment devoid of peace and security. This paper examines the need for refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security. Some variables were identified as hindrances to entrepreneurship education vis-à-vis peace and national security to include among others: curriculum defaults, policy somersault, poor funding, poor enterprising culture etc, also, ways of avoiding the hindrances were suggested and how entrepreneurship education can promote peace and national security were advanced.*

**Key Words:** Entrepreneurship education, societal growth, peace and national security, peaceful co-existence, curriculum default and self development.

Entrepreneurship education as a concept is one of the aspects of education that cut – cross all facets of human endeavour. It is a lifelong learning process that help individuals especially the youths to learn means of wealth creation. Entrepreneurship

education is a teaching/learning activities designed to bring competitiveness among the teachers and the learners so as to improve the economy of any nation.

Education has been defined in different ways and generally as the totality of processes through which an individual acquire knowledge, values, attitude and all other forms of behaviours that are of positive value to the society to which a person belongs or as the process of learning to live as a useful and acceptable member of the society. It is a process of assisting learners develop relevant skills and knowledge that will enable them become somebody (useful) in life. Hence, Agi and Yellowe (2013), cited in Cecilia and Richard (2016) held that education is important to the development of human resources, impartation of appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude. It is the gateway for peace and national security.

Entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. It involves risk taking and risk management. Entrepreneurship dwells on some basic concepts and precepts such as vision, change, opportunity seeking, creativity, innovative, goal attainment, risk taking and ability to manage activities.

Entrepreneurship education is that form of education (informal, non-formal, formal) that applies to all levels of education in the training of individuals to make them job creators rather than job seekers. Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide learners with the knowledge, skills and motivation to entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings. (Okoro, 2016).

Entrepreneurship education is seen as a distinct social institution that seeks the establishment and maintenance of a functioning economy through job creation with a wide range of interest put into consideration especially as regards unemployment reduction (Ekundayo and Babatunde, 2014).

However, refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security is an imperatives and transformative development needed for knowledge economy and societal development as no meaningful development can take place in the absence of peace and security.

Based on the above, this paper examined the need for refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security. In pursuance of this, entrepreneurship education, peace and national security were x-rayed. Some variables were identified as hindrances to the subject matter and possible solutions were equally suggested.

## **Conceptual Framework**

### **Entrepreneurship Education**

Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings (Okoro, 2016). According to him entrepreneurship education mainly refers to wide-ranging work done within the educational administration with a view to enhancing

entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship education is also provided and supported by many labour market, parties and organizations.

The Hausa's, Igbo's, Edo's and Yoruba's had their own informal entrepreneurship education between 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These people were exposed to entrepreneurship opportunity even outside their native areas. One major aspect of the Edo's entrepreneurship skills acquisition was bronze crafting and image molding. In 1486, they had a lot of trade contact with Portuguese European and Dutch in the areas of slavery, palm oil, ivory, pepper and textile. The Hausa's and the Yorubas' also had their entrepreneurial skills in hide and skins, leather works, hat making, mat weaving, clothes dying etc. The Igbo's had theirs in the areas of Goldsmith, Tobacco, Palm oil and Palm kernel Production.

Entrepreneurship education can be oriented towards different ways of realizing opportunities in order to be gainfully engage, productive and earn a living. One of the ways is by starting a new business venture irrespective of the size. Another approach is to promote innovation or introduce new products or services in existing firm as this will help refocus entrepreneurship education.

With entrepreneurship education, the nation's graduates will become self reliant and employers of labour and not job seekers. Their skills will enhance business expansion, reduce the level of poverty, decrease unemployment rate, and promote peace and national security for the survival of their businesses. One major distinctive objective of entrepreneurship education is its focus on realization of opportunity among others. Entrepreneurship education is rooted in lifelong learning and a network mode of operation as mentioned earlier. "Entrepreneurship is the act of being an "entrepreneur". That is, one who undertakes training and innovations, seeks financing and runs businesses with his acumen and effort to transform innovations and ideas into economic goods. The ideas of the entrepreneurs can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace and security.

### **Peace**

Peace connotes a state of tranquility, being quiet and living in harmony in one's environment. It simply means a state of being free from civil disturbance and the absence of war or trouble. For any adventure (economic, social, political, religious, educational) to occur and be successful, peace is a *sin qua non*.

### **National Security**

The concept of security has wide range of analysis. This covers political security environment/ecological security, food and water security, social security, human security, etc. This paper is concerned about human security in the nation which recognizes and accommodates a variety of issues that constitute threats to human existence and as such breed insecurity and lawlessness.

Security and/or insecurity is defined in relation to vulnerabilities, both internal and external, that threaten to have the potential for bringing down or weaken state structures, both territorial and institutional, and governing regime. This definition sees security or insecurity as a potential force that can bring down economic, social and political activities and make a nation to be on a stand still.

According to Christopher (2005) citing Omari (1995) stated that the Bonn Declaration of 1991, “human security is the absence of threat to human life, lifestyle and culture through the fulfillment of basic needs”. Human security and the organization of a state for the purpose of securing its people did not start with the Bonn declaration in 1991. Indeed, it could be traced back as 1705 when the German philosopher Leibnez expressed the need for a state to provide common security (La securite’ commune) to its citizen.

National security could be seen as machinery by government of a nation to prevent vulnerability of individuals to threat to life and properties. The issue of security/insecurity has its attack on state (nation) political institutions, the superimposition of any informal economy (kidnapping) with the payment of ransom threatens national peace and portend a crisis of instability. This has caused unprecedented attendant refugee flows not only into neighbouring states but also into developed nations of the world. With this development, sustainable development through entrepreneurship education and peace will continue to be a mirage.

### **Education**

Education is a popular concept which connotes the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills and attitude for self development and societal growth. Education is the tool through which a society can grow, develop and meet her quest for peace and national security.

According to Ignatius (2016), “education is a very popular concept and that no energy should be exerted on explaining such a familiar term, more so at a special conclave of a coteric of outstanding educated minds”. He started further quoting Joseph Addison (1672-1719) that: “Education is a companion who no misfortune can alienate and no disposition can enslave. At home a friend, abroad an introduction, in solitude a solace, and in society an ornament. It chastens vice, guides virtue, it gives, at once, grace and government to geniuses. Without it what is man? A splendid slave, reasoning savage”. To him education is a potent force that liberates individuals from any form of slavery, promotes peaceful co-existence and fosters national security. An educated mind is a creative and eventful asset to the society. Education is a process for transmitting, preserving and improving the culture of a people. It is a process through which men became morally good members of their society (Uju, 2015).

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is simply defined as the use of human courage to seek investment opportunities and establish a profit – oriented enterprises. Entrepreneurship is the individual's ability to translate ideas into action. This involves creativity, innovativeness, resourcefulness and risk – taking, as well as ability to plan and direct productive resources (human, materials, time, and opportunities) towards the attainment of set goals. It means the generation of new ideas and innovations without being asked or compelled to do so.

Entrepreneurship which is the hub for societal development can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace and security. Hence, the need for refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security.

### **Need for Refocusing Entrepreneurship Education for Peace and National Security**

The need to refocus entrepreneurship education in order to promote peace and national security which is almost eluding us as a nation is not far-fetched. The obvious reason lies on the relevance of this subject matter. Entrepreneurship education provides a wide range of opportunities for individuals (employed and unemployed) to be engaged in productive ventures through which they can earn a living and promote societal peace. It prevents idle mindedness which is the root cause of insecurity.

Some of the areas of business opportunities include:

- **Farming:** This involves the rearing of animals for commercial purpose (Animal Husbandry). Animals such as pig, goat, sheep, rabbit, bird, snail, etc. can be reared by both employed and unemployed individuals. Another aspect of farming is crop farming. Individuals can be trained on modern farming techniques and assisted with improved seedling to become entrepreneur. Once they are engaged, they will always ensure peace and security. The cultivation of gardens for esthetic values can also be practice. This area also provide income and means of livelihood for the individuals.
- **Shoe Making:** This is another area where individuals can be engaged and taken away from the 'street'.
- **Tailoring/Fashion Design:** Modeling and making of wears attracts revenue to the individual (s) involved. Wears can be designed to promote peace heritage.
- **Retail Shops:** Small scale retail shops can be developed through the knowledge of entrepreneurship education. This will also promote employment, peace and national security because the individual (retailer) will always think of the next business opportunity.
- **Rental Services:** Individuals can be engaged in the provision of canopies, chair and tables, cooling vans, stage/event management as well as car hire services.

**Others are:** Photocopying and typesetting, computer services, electrical installation

/repairs, restaurant, laundering, recharge cards vending etc. However, the refocusing of entrepreneurship education to make these areas of job opportunities more attractive and lucrative will not only attract more people into earning a living and improve their living standard it will also promote peace and national security. This is so because an entrepreneur is always seeking new business avenue(s), especially in area that are peaceful and secured.

### **Hindrances to Refocusing Entrepreneurship Education for Peace and National Security**

The hindrances faced in refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security are enormous but not insurmountable. Okoro (2016) identified some of the problems to include:

1. Non constantly reviewing of entrepreneurship education curriculum in Nigeria.
2. Frequent educational policy somersault
3. Poor access to vocational and skills acquisition centers for informal entrepreneurship education and training.
4. Lack of proper regulatory framework.
5. Administrative and trade barriers.
6. No sufficient infrastructures (especially to roads and electricity).
7. Absent of friendly environment.
8. Lack of initial fund or capital to take off any entrepreneurship ventures.

The hindrances were further corroborated by Chigozie & Perpetual (2016) to include:

9. Unavailability of funds from both federal and state Government.
10. Poor enterprising culture.
11. Lack of entrepreneurship teachers, materials and equipment.
12. Poor knowledge based economy and low spirit of competition.
13. Poor societal attitude to technical and vocational education.
14. Poor plan and execution of action.

However, the problem of security itself and youth restiveness posed a greater challenge to entrepreneurship education in its bid to promoting peace and national security.

### **Ways of Surmounting the Hindrances**

As mentioned earlier, the hindrances in refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace and national security are surmountable. It has to start with the individuals' development of self-confidence and willingness to make peaceful living their watch-world while seeking business adventure. However, the following ways must be considered.

1. Entrepreneurship education curriculum in Nigeria should be reviewed regularly.
2. Educational policy should be adequately implemented and evaluated for effective service delivery.
3. Vocational and skills acquisition centres should be spread across the country.

4. Administrative and trade barriers should be eliminated. Tax holidays should be given to young entrepreneurs.
5. Infrastructural development should be encouraged by all.
6. Special pool fund for initial take-off should be created by government.
7. Entrepreneurship education endowment/trust fund should be established.
8. Citizens should be encouraged to develop enterprising culture.
9. The Nigerian economy should be knowledge driven with the spirit of healthy competition.
10. Technical and vocational education should be made attractive and all encompassing.
11. Government should implement policies that promote peaceful co-existence.

### **Conclusion**

The need for refocusing entrepreneurship education for peace, and national security for the country to attain her quest for egalitarian society have been emphasized. This paper has stressed the need for entrepreneurship skills acquisition and individuals self-confidence as well as willingness to pursue peace at all cost because peace and security are the panacea for societal development.

### **Recommendations**

Sequel to the needs to refocus entrepreneurship education for peace and national security, the following recommendations are being proffered.

1. Peaceful co-existence and national security should be the hallmark of Nigerians.
2. Government should declare state of emergency on infrastructural development.
3. Government at all levels should stop playing politics with education.
4. Entrepreneurship education should be made compulsory and taught at both informal and formal education.
5. The curriculum should stimulate self-confidence and empowerment.

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