

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING/EDUCATION FOR JOB CREATION: A POTENT TOOL FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Abstract**

The desire of most developing countries including Nigeria is to have a self-reliant and resilient economy capable of generating an internally self-sustaining growth. Entrepreneurship Training/Education is not an end in itself but rather a means to industrial growth and sustainable national development. It is seen by government as a potent tool for empowering the youths for job creation. According to NERDC (2004) "Education is an instrument for national development" and "Education shall continue to be highly rated in national development plans because education is the most important instrument of change". To this end, one of the goals of technical and vocational education is to "give training and impart the necessary skills to individual who shall be self-reliant economically". This paper examines the importance of entrepreneurship empowerment for economic development. It also examines the place of training/education in entrepreneurship development. Areas of problems in entrepreneurship training/education were identified and adequate recommendations were made.

### **Introduction**

Education is a potent tool for national growth and development. As a developing and progress bound nation, Nigeria aspires to attain a high levels in the economic and technological spheres through a well-articulated and functional education system. Education is the engine of growth that is expected to produce the highly efficient manpower needed to bring about the desired national growth and development. To attain this important objective of efficient manpower

development, the National Policy on Education (2004) introduced Pre-Technical and Vocational Education to give training and impart necessary skills to individual who shall be self-reliant economically. (Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), 2004).

After entrepreneurship training/education, it becomes necessary to empower the recipient of such training with financial empowerment for job creation. Over dependence on government

for the creation of jobs is one of the major problems of this country today.

This paper attempt to look at the importance of Entrepreneurship Training/Education and Youth Empowerment for job Creation in order to bring about a sustainable national development

### **The Importance of Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment in Economic Development**

As a developing and progress-bound nation, Nigeria aspires to attain high levels in the economic and technological spheres through youths' empowerment. Empowering the youth involves identifying the problems militating against their growth and providing adequate solution to them.

The problems militating against our youths in this regard are numerous. To mention a few:

- (i). Non functional educational system due to lack of adequate finance.
- (ii). High rate of Unemployment.
- (iii). Lack of funds for starting and running a business
- (iv). Inadequate infrastructures and power supply for sustaining the business among others. (Osaseri, 2007).

The importance of entrepreneurship training/ education and youth empowerment for job creation in economic development cannot be overemphasized. Some of its importance are enumerated below;

1. It helps to solve the problem of inadequate skill needed for self-

reliance and sustainable national development.

2. It helps to solve the problem of unemployment and reduces the number of people who depend on government for job. Over dependence on government for the creation of jobs is one of the major problem of this country today. Most of our youths and university graduates wait endlessly for the government to provide them with white-collar jobs. Sonaike (2006) stated that Nigerian youths should not wait for the government to provide jobs for them, rather, they should sharpen their intellectual instincts and find means for themselves to survive even in the midst of the few opportunities available in the economy. According to him, "they should be creative, self-reliant and prepared to do any kind of job to make a living"

3. It helps to bring about rapid economic development. The survival of individuals will ensure the survival of the country as a nation. The United State of America is a good case study here. As early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, America had produced world-class entrepreneurs whose innovation in business contributed to making America what it is today. None of the entrepreneur was born with silver spoon in his mouth, but they struggled through life to eventually become the richest men in

America in their time. Notable among them are; Andrew Carnegie (1835 -1919), George Eastman (1854 – 1932) and Henry Ford (1863 – 1947).

According to Igbokwe (2006) “the strength of the America’s economy is largely due to the contributions of its private entrepreneurs”. He noted that:

- The private sector, not government drives the economy.
- The giants grew from rags to riches.
- They had good managerial skills.
- They hired the best of staff and kept operation cost low.
- They were meticulous, hard-working and risk takers.
- They all had passion and true talent for their work.
- They did not allow any constraint to dominate their opportunities.

#### **Who is an Entrepreneur?**

Hanson (1977) stated that “many economists recognize the entrepreneur as a fourth factor of production in addition to land, labour, and capital”. The entrepreneur is responsible for such economic decisions as determining what to produce and how much to produce. He must also decide what method of production to adopt and in what proportions to combine his resources of land, labour and capital. Consequently, the bearing of uncertainty is regarded as the primary function of the entrepreneur.

In the case of the sole proprietor, the entrepreneurial function is closely

undertaken by one person who accepts the entire risks of the enterprise and is solely responsible for its management. In a partnership, the function is clearly divided between the partners, but in the public limited company, the two main functions of the entrepreneur are divided, the shareholders bearing the risk while the board of directors take responsibility for policy and decision making. Similarly, with public enterprise, the risk of a municipally owned undertaking lies with the rate-payers, but the decision making with a committee of the council, and in the case of a nationalized industry, the tax-payers bear the risk while decisions are left to parliament or some authorities to which parliament has delegated its powers.

From this all embracing definition, it is clear that anyone who occupies the position of risk bearing or decision making with regards to production of goods and rendering of services at any level specified above is an entrepreneur. Such a person need to be adequately trained or educated as the case may be.

#### **The Place of Training/Education in Entrepreneurship Development.**

Education being a potent instrument for national development, the government hope to realize the development of the individual into a sound and effective citizen using education as a tool. For example, an extract from the National Policy on Education (2004) reveals that Nigeria’s philosophy of Education is based on:

“The acquisition of appropriate skills and development of mental, physical and social

abilities and competencies as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society” (NERDC, 2004). The extent to which some of these goals have been achieved live much to be desired. This also is attributed to financial inadequacies in the funding of our educational system.

### **Identifying the areas of Problems in Entrepreneurship Training/Education.**

It is obvious that the beautiful ideas put in black and white in the National Policy on Education (2004) is far from been realized in practice.

It is pertinent to point out that our educational system presently, is in shambles. This is as a result of the following factors:

The curriculum used in our school is not only archaic but has been rendered obsolete by technological advancement. This can be evidenced by the fact that many employers currently organize intensive training and orientation programme for fresh graduates before they are absorbed into their system. To buttress this fact, the National Council on Education (NCE) in the 54th meeting held in April 2010 approved all the 42 Senior Secondary Education Curriculum (SSEC) and 34 Vocational Trade/Entrepreneurship Curricular developed by Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC). These new curricular will be implemented at the Senior Secondary Education level from September 2010. The New SSEC is structured to ensure that every Senior Secondary School graduate should have

been well prepared for higher education as well as acquired relevant functional Trade/Entrepreneurship skills needed for poverty eradication, job creation and wealth generation; and in the process strengthen further the foundations for ethical, moral and civic values acquired at the basic education level.

However, the problem identified by the National Council on Education (NCE) with regard to the implementation of these new curricular is the fact that the present Teacher Education Programmes in Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education may not produce Secondary School Teachers with the capacity, skills, knowledge and pedagogy required for the new S.S.E.C. (Godswill, 2010).

Secondly, is the infrastructural decadence, squalor and degeneration of public schools at all levels due to lack of adequate funding. (Osaseri, 2010).

Thirdly, the economic problems in our country have resulted in the deterioration in the quantity as well as the quality of educational inputs e.g facilities are ill-maintained, teachers are insufficiently trained, shortages of textbooks as well as school equipment are high, especially at the Primary School level. Of the children enrolling in primary 1, it is established that less than 2 percent would ever reach higher education. (United Nations Population Fund, 1996).

### **Conclusion**

Education being a potent instrument for national development; entrepreneurship training/education for job creation and sustainable national

development in Nigeria is a step in the right direction. If all these policy recommendations are put in place, the school system will not only produce functional, skillful and self-reliant graduates but they will also produce entrepreneurs who will be able to create job for themselves and provide employment for others, thereby putting the nation on the path to a sustainable national development.

### Recommendations

First and foremost, because of the importance of education in entrepreneurship development, it should be well funded by the government and all other stakeholders in the educational sector to ensure that all the financial inadequacies are taken care of. The government should strive and attain the twenty six percent benchmark of national budget for education as recommended by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), (Edukugho, 2009).

Secondly, from the perspective of job creation and youth empowerment, the following should be done;

1. Like the American entrepreneurs, Nigeria youths should not wait for the government to provide white-collar job for them, rather they should take the bull by the horn by sourcing for funds through the available means to start their own business. (Igbokwe, 2006).
2. Government should assist the youths in these areas;

- i. By establishing more industrial development centres where the youth can acquire necessary skills;
- ii. Establishment of model industrial estate to encourage prospective small scale industrialists;
- iii. Provision of interest free loans to the youth to start businesses;
- iv. Exploiting to the fullest existing World Bank Assisted Programmes for the Small Scale Enterprises.
- v. Provision of the necessary infrastructural facilities like good roads, pipe borne water, and also ensure regular supply of electricity as the economy run on lanterns and generators cannot break even in this modern age of high technology.

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