ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION: A PANACEA FOR POVERTY ERADICATION, SELF RELIANCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract
The paper focuses on the concept of education in general, and that of the entrepreneurship as a key to economic and national development. It also highlighted on the characteristics and traits of an entrepreneur. It reviewed entrepreneurial education and its benefits. It further identifies some areas where skills can be acquired for job accessibility. The impact and challenges of entrepreneurial education were highlighted. Among the recommendations was that government must make Provision of tools and equipment in schools for teaching and learning of entrepreneurial skills. Government should also make every effort possible to establish training centers for student’s adequate practices.

Education is a main mechanism for social and economic development of the people. Through the use of qualified manpower as a main Capital for development, good things can be establish in the life of an individual and that of the society. Education is a vital vehicle through which a nation can experience growth and development. It is a key to general and specific knowledge good attitudes formation and ability to acquire necessary skills for variety of work places. Education contributes to economic growth by eradicating poverty through career training, job specification and wealth creation. Education contributes to economic and political stability as well as security.

Concept of Entrepreneur
An entrepreneur is a person who has the ability to employ himself with a tolerance for the risk he believed was inherent in providing for one’s own economic well being. An entrepreneur can be seen as an agent who combines all the factors of production to create wealth and make profit. According to Okoh (2005) is an innovator who invokes demand and creates job as they match supply with demand. They are people who create businesses or new ventures where none existed before. To Okhawere (2005) is an
individual or group who undertake self directed initiatives and assumes personal risk in creating and operating a profit oriented business.

To Hisrich and Peters in Anyakoh (2006) an entrepreneur means different things to different people. To an economist, an entrepreneur is one who brings resources, labor, materials and other assets into combinations that makes their value greater than before and also introduces changes, innovations and new order. To a psychologist, an entrepreneur is a person typically driven by certain forces to obtain or attain some things to experiment to accomplish or perhaps escape the authority of others. To a business man, an entrepreneur appears as a threat, an aggressive competitor to another entrepreneur. He may be an ally, a source of supply, a customer or someone who creates wealth for others, as well as finds better way to utilize resources reduce waste or produce jobs others are glad to get. An entrepreneur is seen as a factor in fastening economic growth. Gana (1995) viewed entrepreneur as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunity in an environment and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities.

**Characteristics and Traits of an Entrepreneur**

Every business is an adventure whether such business succeeds or fails will depends on the ability of the entrepreneur to effectively use his positive qualities and restrain his negative characteristics. The need for an entrepreneur to acquire business ideas and utilize effectively those experiences for success will depend on the following characteristics and traits.

1. **Self-confidence:** Is the ability to believe in you not to depend on situation rather believed that one is able and will be able.
2. **Risk taking:** An entrepreneur must calculate the risks involved in the project being undertaken, assesses situations and focuses special attention on the risks involved. The entrepreneur’s personal talents like skills, abilities, experience and values are the attributes that can take care of the risks involved.
3. **Task orientation:** An entrepreneur sets difficult but achievable goals. The entrepreneur is persistent, persevering and determined. Every entrepreneur should set measurable goals.
4. **Drive and energy:** An entrepreneur exhibits a high level of drive and energy. A lot of physical and mental energy into the venture. Entrepreneurship requires long hours of work, and mental ability which involve planning, organizing as well as coordination and controlling of activities.
5. **Leadership:** An entrepreneur motivates, directs and guides people to accomplish goals.
6. **Creativity:** The entrepreneur must be creative and innovative. The entrepreneur must be able to think differently from others such a person...
looks out for something new, an entrepreneur is expected to be resourceful, versatile, knowledgeable, flexible and imaginative.

7. Taking initiative: An entrepreneur is an individual who actively seeks and takes initiative. He does not wait for people to make decision for him. He fills position where vacuum exists.

8. An entrepreneur has to be a good organizer and planner.

9. Trust fair and honesty are necessary attributes for an entrepreneur; he has to be opened and honest in dealing with people.

10. An entrepreneur must learn how to delegate another to encourage teamwork which is a great tool for success of any business (Anyakoha 2006).

The types of entrepreneur are basically dependent on their personality type. The business personality type of an entrepreneur is the traits and characteristics of his personality that blend with the need of his business, if an entrepreneur understand his business personality, he will be able to give his company the best part of himself and then look for others to help his business in areas he may not prepare to fulfill. Zahorsky in Okahwere (2005) identified the following personality types of entrepreneurs as follows:

1. The improver: Usually have an unwavering ability to run their business with high integrity and ethics.

2. The advisor: This entrepreneurial type will provide an extremely high level of assistance and advice to customers. The emphasis is that “the customer is right and we must do everything to please him”.

3. The business in the case is centered on the charisma and high energy of the superstar chief executive officer.

4. The artist: This personality is often found in business which demands creativity such as web design and advertisement agencies.

5. The visionary: The business that is built by a visionary often reflects the future vision and thought of the founder. However, the dreams with little focus on reality.

6. The analyst: A business that is run by an analyst is focused on solving problems in a systematic way. Analysts thus excel at problem solving.

7. The fireball: A business that is owned and managed by a fireball is full of life, energy and optimism.

8. The hero: This personality type is the one who has an incredible will and ability to lead the world and his business through challenges. He is the essence of entrepreneurship and can manage great companies.

9. The healer: An entrepreneur that is a healer provides nurturing and harmony to his business. He has the ability to survive and persist with an inner calm. Entrepreneurial Education will help the various entrepreneurs to locate their talents and a type of business that can go with their talents.
Entrepreneurial Education and its Benefits

The need for entrepreneurial education in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized; Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial studies in a variety of setting. According to Oduwaiye in Eankumo and Kemebaradikum (2011) entrepreneurship education assists students to develop positive attitudes, innovation and skills for self reliance.

Entrepreneurial education according to long (1983) is a French word “Entreprendre” which mean “to do something”. To Olaita n (2000) entrepreneurial culture functions like vocational and technical education in developing the necessary skills, attitudes and behaviors needed to prepare young people to pursue their career. It is therefore necessary for educational institutions at all levels to adopt this 21st century methods and tools to develop the appropriate learning environment for encouraging creativity innovation and ability to think out and solve problems. Also Byraue and Hofer in Okoh (2012) opined that entrepreneurial process involves all the functions, activities of opportunities and the creation of organization to pursue them. Entrepreneurship is also viewed as the individuals, ability to run ideas into action. In agreement Stevenson (1985) viewed entrepreneurship as the pursuit of opportunity beyond the resources one currently controls. It is a process that results in creating, innovation and growth.

Entrepreneurship empowers people in all societies to take their own destinies in their hands. Entrepreneurship education is a key competence for all, helping young people to be more creative and self confident in whatever they undertake. Maria (2010) viewed it as the type of education that seeks to provide student with knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of setting.

Entrepreneurship education focuses not only on the direct labor of the individual worker, but rather on the net profit that accrues to the individual who owns the business. Daman (2005) in his work titled the psychological ingredients of successful entrepreneurship stated that entrepreneurship education celebrates each child’s entire range of talents and aspirations. Hence it does not rely on simple undifferentiated measures of human performance such as “grade points averages”, “test scores” and “intelligence quotients (IQ)”. He concluded that this type of education rewards the diversity of approaches that emerge from individuals working to meet the needs of others. Entrepreneurship education therefore believes that every child has a potential which can be developed to the benefit of both one child and his society

Nigeria education system is thus expected to device appropriate strategies for equipping individuals with skills to cope with the prevalence problems. The most worrisome among these problems is poverty. Poverty in it perspective, is a
chronic disease that threatens the productivity of an individual and robs the persons of all available opportunities in the society (Gamba 2006). Poverty is also a condition in which others cannot meet the minimum basic requirement of a daily life.

This type of state in life can lead others to misbehavior. Poverty is a serious problem that causes hunger, crime, starvation, misery, disease, death and the like. Poverty has eaten deep into the Nigerian society such that it has become a nightmare to people living with it; too much poverty has reduced them to the lowest realm of human existence. All these are the result of the unemployment which has acted as a catalyst for increase in poverty and crime rates in Nigeria. For this Nigeria have decided to look inwards, away from foreign domination of the financial system as well as a single product economy crude oil to engaging the minds of youth in tertiary institution to entrepreneurial practice through strategic entrepreneurial education, it is no gain saying that the Nigerian economy is solely sponsored by the revenue of the oil sector derived from the Niger delta. It is sad that a once thriving economy with multiple agricultural exports such as cocoa, groundnut, hides and skin etc is now solely dependent on the price of oil in the international market. A fall in the price (whether drastic or slow) will result to a fall in the domestic Nigerian economy. It was therefore no surprise that the Federal Government of Nigerian through the National Universities Commission (NUC) introduced Entrepreneurship Education (E.E) which is aimed at equipping tertiary students with entrepreneurial skills, attitudes and competencies in order to be job creators and not just job hunters. This is to improve the economy, technology and industrial development of the nation, as well as to reduce poverty to its minimum, to prevent future crises of looking for white collar jobs that are rare available. The availability of white collar jobs compares to the massive turnout of graduates from universities every year show a negative ratio. The available jobs cannot meet the needs of the over one hundred tertiary school in Nigeria. This is why the Federal Government in 1976 under General Olusegun Obasanjo introduced Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) which fails in 1985. General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida’s administration introduces such programmers like Mass Mobilization for self reliance and economic Recovery (MAMSER), Structural Adjustment Programmer (SAP) and National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to address the problem of graduate unemployment but succeeded minimally.

In more recent time Obasenjo’s civilian administration introduces the National Poverty Eradication programme (NAPED) which is still on till date. All the programmers and measures so far have proved to be grossly ineffective in solving the problem of graduate employment which has assumed critical dimension especially with proliferation of both public and private tertiary institutions.

Entrepreneurial education deals with those attitudes and skills that are necessary
for the individual to respond to his environment. In the process of conserving, starting and managing a business enterprise. The belief is that some basic attitudes and skills are essential for an individual to respond positively to his environment and explore its potentials. This implies that entrepreneurship education prepares the individual to be properly equipped to acquire salable skills which could be used to manage his own business or that of other persons. Developing entrepreneurial studies in the mind of the students to prepare them for the wider world of opportunities to create jobs and ultimately become employers of labor to eradicate poverty and unemployment nightmare.

Entrepreneurship education will identify business opportunities and help students to select opportunities. Entrepreneurial education will contribute to economy development which will reduce poverty, unemployment and promote political stability and peace. This is because knowledge and learning skills acquired in school will be transformed into practices.

The issue of economic meltdown has caused many nations to begin to look inwards like Nigeria have decided to look inwards, away from foreign domination of the financial system as well as a single product economy (crude oil). The prevalence of social problems such as unemployment, poverty violence, communal and religious conflict among others is undoubtedly a challenge that calls for entrepreneurship education system in schools that will help develop skills and attitude for greater self-reliance.

Entrepreneur Education is a vital vehicle, through it, many nations experienced growth and development. Developing entrepreneurial studies in the minds of the learners will not in a small measure prepare them for the wider world of opportunities to create jobs and ultimately become employers of labor is a thing of joy. Shane (2003) described entrepreneurship education as the act of being an entrepreneur, which the designed is to change the orientation and the process of equipping them with the skills and knowledge to enable them start and manage a business. Numerous artisans all over the country engage in one form of trend or the other and most of them do not have adequate skills for proper practice. If adequate skills are given, more jobs could be created by this people. Here are some of the areas which could act as a starting point in schools.

**Agriculture Business**
- Cocoa production, Fadama farming, Fish farming, Poultry farming,
- Tree crop production, Tubers production, turkey farm etc.

**Catering and Hospitality Business**
- Bottled water production, Catering schools, Fast food centers, Ice block, Palm oil production, Sachet water production, Yoghurt production etc.
Chemical and Allied Business
Battery electrolyte production, Metal polish production, Stain remover and Wood polish production etc.

Fashion and Style
Beauty salon, Boutique shop, Hair cream production, Shampoo production, Tailoring service, fashion designing services, interior and exterior decorations etc.

Forest Based and Furniture Business
Dye production, Home furniture making, Saw milling, School furniture making, Tooth picks production, Upholstering, Wood carving etc.

Garment Industry
Bed sheets and Pillow production, Rain coats/bags production, Sweater, shirt and garment production etc.

General Services
Car wash, Chair general rental services, Clock repair, Gymnasium/fitness center, Laundry/dry cleaning, Photo studio, Plumbing works, Welding works etc.

Impact/Challenges of Entrepreneurship Education
1. Entrepreneurship education enhances the transfer of technology from the university to the private sector and promotes technology based on firm products.
2. Entrepreneurship education produces champions of innovation, the graduates involve in are capable of developing new products than non entrepreneurship graduates.
3. Entrepreneurship education enhances a graduate’s ability to create wealth.
4. Entrepreneurship education produces successful business and industry leaders.
5. Entrepreneurship education produces self-stuffiest enterprising individuals.
7. Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of setting.
8. Entrepreneurship education equips people with the ability to seek investment and opportunities.
9. Through entrepreneurship education success habits are imparted as the individuals develop entrepreneur integrity. It ensures that skills, ideas, attitudes, etc are utilized to create employment for self and others.

Challenges for Teaching Entrepreneurship
Factors that challenge the teaching of entrepreneurship education include:
1. Teacher competency which include attitudes, behavior and skills to help the learner out of the poor enterprise culture.
2. Lack of adequate training centers and enterprises, students are faced with the problems of getting appropriate establishment for their work experience.
3. Absence of relevant textbooks and other facilities. Since entrepreneurship education is a new inclusion in the subjects’ curriculum.

4. The willingness of a teacher to teach. This is because in order to develop meaningful learning there must be meaningful teaching with the necessary attributes in existence according to Shulman and Shulman (2004) teacher must be ready to teach, and in teaching in schools, emphasis should be on developing ideas. Through these processes we will have a chance to develop an entrepreneur society.

Conclusion
The prevalent of social and economy state of the county calls for entrepreneurship education to help engage the numerous idle adults who are in the pool of poverty that are posing insecurity threats to others. The need to reduce poverty to its barest minimum has actually motivated the introduction of entrepreneurship education in schools. There is need for reality in teaching this type of education to obtain the maximum benefit to achieve the objective of its introduction. The federal government should in no way sit on the defense, but must encourage and motivate teachers to do their best.

Recommendations
1. Training and retraining of teachers by government for competency in the class.

2. Motivation of teachers by the government for willingness in teaching.

3. Provision of tools and equipment by government for effectiveness in teaching.

4. Government must makes every effort to establish training centers for adequate practices.

5. There is need for the government to assist and encourage educationist to publish text books on entrepreneur education for students’ easy access.

Reference


of Higher Education for youth empowerment. At Ife, Ibadan, Oyo state.


