

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the concept of entrepreneurship education, objectives of entrepreneurship education, which include functional Education, reduce the high rate of poverty, and create employment opportunities, and reduction in rural and urban migration. The paper also outlined the causes of unemployment, such as frictional unemployment, seasonal unemployment, and cyclical unemployment. It further discusses the role of entrepreneurship education towards unemployment in Nigeria, which includes increasing the earning capacity of its recipient, stimulating productivity, creating employment opportunities, and reducing the dropout rate. Some of the factors that hinder the effective implementation of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria were also outlined: underfunding, lack of training facilities, lack of trained teachers and effective curriculum.

Keywords: Entrepreneur Education, curriculum, poverty, Unemployment

INTRODUCTION

Various administrations in Nigeria did their best in establishing good policies for the betterment of Nigeria as a great nation in Africa and the world at large. The unfortunate destroying factor was the insignificant status attached to entrepreneurship education. Employment generation has been seen as a means of alleviating poverty, increasing economic activities that translate into economic growth. The situation of unemployment in Africa, Nigeria, has been on the increase which has resulted in the increase in social vices among other negativities. Although the Nigerian Government put in place various programmes to address unemployment and poverty rate in the country, the effort end in vain due to improper implementation.

Education in reality does not only mean qualification or certificates obtained but Education either in the school or outside formal school setting should make individuals sensible to the status of his/her environment and its variable. Halilu Isah (2017). Nigeria has adopted policies and embarked on education programmes intended to ensure acquisition of the right type of Education to promote economic activities, enhance income and improve employment opportunities for Nigerians Halilu (2017) opined that Entrepreneurship education is an aspect of Education related to production through the development of human manipulative skills.

Sanusi (2091) observed that, skills training enhance productivity and sustain competitiveness in the global economy, for this reason countries are renewing efforts to promote entrepreneurship education. This is because it is the only way to prepare young people for the world of work, which reaches out to the marginalized and excluded groups to engage them in income generating livelihoods.



Hauwa (2017) Lamented that Nigeria's federal government in her effort to ensure that her citizens are self- employed established the National Directorate of Employment in 1986. The objective of this agency is to reduce unemployment rate among Nigerian youth. Other agencies introduce are Better life programme, National poverty Eradication programmes and N- power programmes. Despite the federal government efforts towards reducing the unemployment rate among Nigerian, the figure of unemployed youths is seriously rising.

As a result of this Kabiru (2017) state, the need to reduce the unemployment rate to the barest label has been the major concern in Nigeria. This is because unemployment is dehumanizing and threat to economic, social and political stability of the nation. It also lead to poverty and promotes various crimes in the society. Sanusi (2019) supported this assertion where he lamented that the National Economic's continued deterioration is a clear signal to every Nigerian to try and work hard for a reliable and independent means to survive. This can only be realized through improved Entrepreneurship education.

It is against this background that this paper is design to examine entrepreneurship education and unemployment rate in Nigeria issues and challenges. To do this, the paper is divided into four parts. Part one is the introduction. Part two focus on conceptual clarification, while part three discusses the role of entrepreneurship education in reducing unemployment in Nigeria. Conclusion and recommendations are contained in part four.

Conceptual clarification

According to Business Dictionary (2016) Entrepreneurship Education is the capacity and willingness to develop, organize, and manage a business venture and risk taking to make profit. The most common example of entrepreneurship is starting a new business.

Entrepreneurial Education is that aspect of Education that can develop the insight needed by its recipients to discover and create business opportunities and the expertise to successfully start and manage their own business and take advantage of these opportunities. Hauwa (2017), opined that Entrepreneurship education is made up of all kinds of experiences that give students the ability and vision to access and transform opportunities of different kinds. It goes beyond business creation. It is about increasing students' ability to anticipate and respond to societal changes. It is Education and training which allows individuals to develop and use their creativity and initiatives to establish a business ventures. Esu (2010) supported this view where he lamented that, entrepreneurial training exposes individuals to his/ her potentials and other resources around the environment. The information at one's disposal makes him/ her to think deeper and rethink to have a good business idea. Unemployment in Nigerian society is largely caused by lack of business ideas.

Entrepreneurship Education according to Hauwa (2017) is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To offer functional Education for the youth that will enable them to be self- employed and self-reliant



2. Provide the young graduate with adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying business opportunities.
3. To reduce high rate of poverty and crimes in our society.
4. To provide employment opportunities to every ones irrespective of sex, religion and cultural affiliations.
5. Create smooth transition from traditional to a modern industrial economy.

Unemployment

Unemployment is undoubtedly one of the major problems facing Nigeria today. Unemployment leads to wastage of human resources and a slowdown in economic development since individuals forming a section of the labor force are not given the much needed knowledge and skills to contribute to the nation's productivity and economic growth (Sanusi 2017). He further observed that, our leaders tend to ignore the fact that the productive role of entrepreneurship education is to strengthen the finances of a nation by working with business and industry to increase workers' productivity

The International labour organization, ILO (2016) in its effort to define unemployment states that, the unemployment is a member of the economically active population, who are without work but available for and seeking for work, including people who have lost their jobs and those have voluntarily left their jobs.

Sanusi (2019) agreed with above fact where they state that, there is strong link between unemployment and rurality. In Nigeria over 70% of unemployed people live in rural areas where enrolment rate in all types of Education are low, reducing unemployment therefore will entails increasing rural educational opportunities as part of an overall development strategy . Here Entrepreneurship education becomes ahandy tool as it can be both formal and informal. Sanusi (2019) further observed that entrepreneurship education plays an essential role in improving rural families and communities' well-being.It increases productivity, empowers individuals to become self- reliant and enhance economic development by promoting local employment ,creativity and sustainable means of subsistence.

Causes of Unemployment

Sanusi etal (2009) States that the economist described the causes of unemployment as frictional, seasonal, structural and cyclical.

1. Frictional Unemployment: Arises because workers seeking jobs do not find the immediately, and they are counted as unemployed .Frictional unemployment refers to the contradiction between the demand for and supply of labour. The amount of frictional unemployment depends on how workers change jobs and the time it takes to find new ones.
2. Seasonal Unemployment: Arises from an imbalance between the types of workers needed by employers and the class of workers looking for jobs. The imbalance may be caused by inadequacy in skills, location or personal characteristics .Technological developments, for



instance necessitated new skills in many industries, leaving those workers who have outdated skills without a job.

3. Structural Unemployment : Refers to the category of workers with inadequate Education or training and young workers with little or no experience may be unable to get jobs because employers believed that these employees would not produce enough to be worth paying the legal minimum wage or the rate agreed on with the Union.
4. Cyclical Unemployment:-Occur when the business cycle turns downward, demand for goods and services drops consequently workers are laid off. For example covid -19 pandemic shock world economy and causes massive retrenchment of workers.

In Nigeria unemployment exist because our education system emphasizes theoretical knowledge at the expense of entrepreneurial Education, Sanusi (2017). He further observed that our present educational systems' thrust is not in harmony with the demand and developmental needs in our society, built and based on other values and way of life. Hauwa (2017) supported the above views where she lamented that, unemployment causes poverty and various crimes in our society. To reduce the alarming unemployment rate in society, the school's curriculum needs urgent review to make them relevant and practice oriented.

Based on the above scholars observation one's can easily understand that effective implementation of entrepreneurial Education is the only way forward towards reducing unemployment rate in Nigeria ,because entrepreneurship education enable individuals to develop saleable skills and leads to the economic development both at individual level and the nation at large

Role of Entrepreneurship Education towards Unemployment Reduction in Nigeria

Several programmes have been put in place to reduce the problems of Unemployment rate in Nigeria, examples. National Directorate of Employment (N D E) programmes is one of the unemployment reductionprogrammes in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship training is the key components of NDE cardinal objectives, Kabiru etal (2017) Further observed that, the Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) and Better life family support programmes play essential role in enhancing entrepreneurship education in Nigeria . For instance NDE has 74 functional skills acquisition centers across Nigeria, providing skills training ranging from technical, domestic, agricultural, ICT-based, and other Entrepreneurship programmes (NDE 2016).

The role of Entrepreneurial Education in the attainment of self- reliance is the provision of basic skills and attitude needed in the productive and service sector of the economy. Self- reliance at individual levels occurs when one's creative ability affords him the needed income for comfortable living without relying on government (Sanusi etal 2009). They further lamented that, self- reliance at national level occur when a nation can rely on her citizens hand work, abilities, technical skills, and exemplary leadership with minimal external aid. To tap the abundant human and material resources to attain higher ideals of national development .Based on the above reasons, Hauwa (2017) categorically opined that no section of the Nigerian educational sector can reduce the unemployment rate better than entrepreneurship education.



Sanusi (2019) supported the above assertion where he states that the economic reforms of Asian tigers prove that effective implementation of entrepreneurship education is the most essential tool for fighting poverty and unemployment rate in any nation. Entrepreneurship education practically is the key to economic growth and development which has the following prospects:

- a) Increases the earning capacity of its recipient: The earning capacity is increased through paid employment, thus increasing income and standard of living of the citizens.
- b) Stimulate productivity: Entrepreneurial Education prepares individuals to enter and progress via a chosen business or trade.
- c) Create employment opportunities: It produces self-reliance individuals who applied the skills and knowledge to establish business, and create employment opportunities for others.
- d) To enhance industrial development: Entrepreneurship education promotes technological and industrial development by producing efficient manpower that is capable of developing and utilizing technologies for industrial and economic development.
- e) Reduce drop-out rate: Entrepreneurship education accommodate those who are not interest in general Education, instead of dropping out of school system they selected their area of interest in entrepreneurship education.

Entrepreneurship education is a product of the rising challenges in the society. Its curriculum content must be responsive enough to address the obvious short comings of our present school system that is why Ogunkunle (2009), opined that global changes in recent times call for innovation in the school curriculum. Entrepreneurship education is aimed at meeting the challenges of unemployment in Nigeria. For effective implementation of the programme, the curriculum must be responsive and relevant to the learner's current and anticipated needs, problems, and aspirations. (Emah, 2009).

Based on the above observation, one can easily understand that entrepreneurship education is the great weapon for developing skills, attitudes, and behaviors, leading to economic growth and development. This paper intends to examine the role of entrepreneurship education towards reduction of unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Factors that hinder effective implementation of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

- ✓ Under funding: Government attitude towards funding of entrepreneurship education is problematic. Whenever funds are allocated to the education sector before reaching the implementers, the figure becomes grossly inadequate due to the corruption and procedural factors such as money diversion, officer not on site, file missing etc.
- ✓ Lack of adequate training facilities: Entrepreneurship education in Nigeria lacks standard tools and equipment, where there is no competence personal on the ground to make the equipment functional. Kabiru (2017) Further maintained that skills training can only be effective, acquired and utilized when learning environment VI's equipped standard tools and equipment.

- ✓ Lack of standard curriculum: Every educational programme must have a well-designed curriculum to be effectively implemented. The curriculum of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria is not in harmony with the industrial needs Sanusi (2019) further observed. The training students received at universities, and colleges are quite different from what the industries need. This causes serious setback to entrepreneurial Education in Nigeria.
- ✓ Lack of trained Teachers: Teachers of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria are generally inadequate in number and poorly trained. The implication of this as observed by (Sanusi, 2019) is that influx of untrained teachers into the teaching profession has caused serious depression and set back to entrepreneurial Education in Nigeria.

Non retention of qualified Teachers: many of those who are professionally trained teachers in entrepreneurship education abandoned the job for a better option. Some established their business center. These problems hinder effective implementation of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

Traditional education system inherited from colonial masters focused on White collar workers' training have created a situation where by in many of the least Developed countries massive unemployment exists. The high rate of unemployment in Nigeria has led to the introduction of entrepreneurship education at tertiary level of Education, the elicited objectives of equipping individuals with sound technical know-how of entrepreneurship education which enable he/her to establish business and employ others. To ensure effective implementation of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, the teachers are expected to focus attention on practical activities that enable recipients of the programmes to acquire the necessary skills needed in the chosen area of entrepreneurship education.

RECOMMENDATION

- Fund should be made available for the purchase of all necessary facilities needed to run entrepreneurship education activities. There is no way a system of Education can be fully implemented with effective funding.
- There is need to provide standard tool and equipment to universities polytechnic and colleges of Education offering entrepreneurship education as a course of study.
- Curriculum of entrepreneurship education needs urgent review to ensure that the training students received at universities, polytechnics and colleges of Education are relevant to the industry's needs. The societal need and aspiration must also be given special consideration when designing entrepreneurship curriculum.
- There is a need to retrain teachers through in - service training, conferences and seminars, and recruiting new teachers for effective implementation of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.



- To retain competent entrepreneurship education teachers, there is a need to create attractive remunerations such as provision of loan and other welfare packages that bring glory to teaching.

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