Role of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria: An Assessment

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Abstract
This paper assessed the role of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. It reviewed literature on concept of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. This was necessitated by the need to ensure successful implementation of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. The paper revealed that entrepreneurship education is the central pillar to economic growth and development as well as equip the youth with skills to be self-reliant. This paper argued entrepreneurship education is the only panacea for youth unemployment in the country. The paper recommended that the Nigeria government should give adequate attention to full blown entrepreneurial education in Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurship, Education, Unemployment, Poverty, Programmes, Economic Growth

Introduction
Entrepreneurs are not born rather they become through the experience of their lives. Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare people, especially youths to be responsible enterprising individuals who contribute to economic development and sustainable communities (Arogundade, 2011)

According to Nwachukwu and Nwamuo (2010), entrepreneurship education enables youths to become capable of living in the society and contributes towards its economic development.

It is on this note that this paper assessed the role of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria and make recommendations on the way forward. Firstly, the paper reviewed literature on the concept of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. Secondly, objectives of entrepreneurship education were identified. Thirdly, the role of entrepreneurship education was discussed. Finally the conclusion and recommendations towards ensuring a full blown entrepreneurship education and development in Nigeria.

Objectives of the paper
The objectives of the paper are to
i. assess the role of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.
ii. review existing literature on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education in Nigeria.
iii. identify the objectives and role of entrepreneurship education to the country; and
iv. recommend solutions to full blown entrepreneurship education in the Nigeria.

Literature Review

Concept of Entrepreneurship
UNDP (2010) defined entrepreneurship as “the process of using a private initiative or a business concept into a new venture or to diversify an existing ventures or enterprise with high growth potential”. To Shane (2010), entrepreneurship is “the act of being an entrepreneur”. Baba (2013) described entrepreneurship as “the act of starting a company arranging business deals and taking risks in order to make profit through the education skills acquired”. The entrepreneurship spirit is a pre-requisite to an entrepreneurial society and culture. This spirit is revealed for the overall economic growth of any nation especially developing ones like Nigeria (Baba, 2013).

To Aruwa (2004), it is the ability of some people to accept risk and combine factors of production in order to produce goods and services. It can also be seen as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities.

Robert (2002) described entrepreneurship as “the process of creating something different with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, and social risk and receiving the rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction”. Esomonu (1998) defined entrepreneurship as “the effective manipulation of human intelligence as in a creative”. This singular risk raking act leads an individual to create something of value from practically nothing. Gana (2001) referred to entrepreneurship as “the ability to seek investment opportunities and establish based on identified opportunities”. In order words, the individual gives the market place a product or services by using resources in a new way. Roce (2009) identified four characteristics of an entrepreneurship. They are:

- Desire for independence
- Self confidence
- Willingness to take risk
- Ability to recognize opportunity

Entrepreneurship Education
There appears to exist a consensus among scholars that entrepreneurship education and training has a vital role to play in the development of entrepreneurial skills. Shephered and Douglas (1997) described entrepreneurship education as “the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture by combing information from the functional discipline and from the external environment in the context of the extraordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which faces a new business venture”.

Owuala (1999) referred entrepreneurship education as “a planned, systematic and sustained effort at inculcating and nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among Nigeria so as to produce a pool of willing, able and successful entrepreneurs”.

Owuala (2004) stated that entrepreneurship education is “a programme or part of the programmes that prepares individual to undertake the acquisition of small-business”.

Entrepreneurship education and development is planned systematic and sustained effort at inculcating and nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among Nigerians so as to produce a pool of willing, able and successful entrepreneurs.

Zimmer (2006) stressed that the goal of entrepreneurial education is to equip students with entrepreneurial skills needed to own enterprises and sustain them. This will make students to discover their entrepreneurial talents and be guided to take the risk of starting a business.

Moreover, entrepreneurial education is the purposeful intervention by an adult (the teacher) in the life of a learner to impact entrepreneurial qualities and skills to enable the learner the learner to survive in the business world (Gouws, 2002). It aims at equipping learners with skills knowledge and disposition that can help them develop or implement innovative social or business plan.

Entrepreneurial education is expected to contribute to job creation, economic growth, Skill enhancement and the development of entrepreneurial culture; understanding of
basic business issues, creative work attitude and entrepreneurial approach among learners (Gartner, Bird and Starr, 1992). The literature review shows that entrepreneurial education aims at equipping learners with skills, knowledge and disposition that can then develop innovative mind.

Skills Required for Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

Lamping (2007) stated that there are many skills for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. They are:

1. Communication
2. Initiative
3. Responsibility and;
4. Vision

Jimngang (2004) also listed entrepreneurial education skills. They are:

1. Capital
2. Free flow of ideas
3. Training
4. Creation of awareness for rural dwellers and;
5. Security and poverty free nation

Sources of Information for Entrepreneurship Education

NOUN (2013) identified some of the sources of entrepreneurship education. They are:

1. Library
2. Internet
3. Subscribing entrepreneurship papers and magazine
4. Industrial date
5. Membership based organizations and;

Training programmes

Objectives of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

According to Ojeifo (2013), the objectives of entrepreneurship education are to:

1. provide the youth graduates with training that will enable them to be self reliant and innovative.
2. create employment opportunities
3. offer functional growth for the youth that will enable them to be self reliant.
4. reduce high rate of poverty
5. reduce rural-urban migration and;
6. Create smooth transition from traditional to a modern industrial economy.

Role of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

Oghojafor et. al. (2009) noted that entrepreneurship education has played important role in Nigerian national development. They include:

1. Harnessing the right quantity and combination of resources that are consistent with profit making in Nigeria.
2. Development of planning, financial literacy, money management skills and
interpersonal skills of Nigerian entrepreneurs.
4. Stimulant for national development and fostering of rapid transformation of Nigerian economy.
5. Promotion of economic development and reduces rural and urban drift in Nigeria.
6. Motivator of students to achieve while in school and use their knowledge in a real world setting.
7. Development of local technological base and conserve foreign exchanges in the country.

Akpomi (2009) recommended the following as part of strategies for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria:
1. There should be some form of genuine school work based learning in corporation in some as part of the national economic development strategies.
2. There should be school based enterprises where students identify potential business, plan, create and operate small business as mini-incubators.
3. Government should establish small business schools where interested students and community members can participate. This will make students to be self reliant.
4. Government should develop entrepreneur internship programs by matching students with local successful entrepreneurs with clearly established education programmes.
5. The Government should establish an enterprise college aimed at fostering the specific skills required for entrepreneurship.
6. Government should create an economic friendly environment. This centers on reduction of taxes on small scale businesses and;
7. There should be enough incentives to students of vocational and technical schools.

Conclusion
Findings from literature review showed that entrepreneurship education is no doubt of paramount importance. Its role in economic growth and development cannot be underestimated in all ramifications.

Moreover, it was also established that entrepreneurship education is the catalyst to employment generation and poverty alleviation. It is therefore necessary to ensure its full blown entrepreneurship education in the country.

The paper concluded government should also set machinery in nation to provide an enabling environment in the form of efficient and available basic
infrastructural facilities and start-up capital financial support to consummate this initiative of entrepreneurship education.

**Recommendation**

1. All stakeholder must ensure that entrepreneurship training becomes an integral part of our culture.
2. University Vice Chancellors should ensure that their students are involved in experimental training.
3. Nigeria youths should be exposed to training in technology, this will them abreast with trends of the technological world.
4. National University Commission must ensure that entrepreneurship education be made part of the curriculum of all Nigeria universities in the country.
5. Government should regulate laws that will provide an enabling environment through the provision of infrastructure facilities and funding for entrepreneurs in the country and;
6. Any new discoveries with high potential for entrepreneurship should be encouraged and fully funded.

7. Universities should start to commercialize their findings instead of leaving them in themselves.

**References**


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