



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

AHMED Halima Usman

School of Business and Entrepreneurship Education
Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau,
Zamfara State.

Abstract

Poverty is a major problem of the Nigerian economy to the extent that people are unable to satisfy their most basic requirements in terms of good nutrition, clothing, shelter, health and education. However, considering the rate of unemployment among school leavers and graduates, there is the need to acquire adequate knowledge and skills that would help develop and manage ideas into viable commercial enterprises (skills and abilities required to be self-reliance and self-sufficient) rather than over dependence on government or white collar jobs. The article focused on the review of the basic concept of entrepreneurship for a sustainable development. One of the major impediments to successful entrepreneurship where being practiced, as founds in literatures, is that of borrowing money from the financial institutions and/or relatives without proper management/ planning which end up into bankruptcy. It was observed that there is the need to include and sustain entrepreneurial studies into secondary school syllabus and tertiary institution curricula, which will serve as means of creating awareness of entrepreneurial education for self-employment as career option.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship Education, Job Creation, Poverty, Sustainable Development

Introduction

Nigeria has abundant resources adequately to be harnessed to achieve economic growth and development, yet majority of her citizens' lives in poverty. Kurya (2006) described poverty as a living condition in which a person community is faced with economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental deprivation. It is a state where people are unable to satisfy their most basic requirements in terms of good nutrition, clothing, shelter, health and education. According to Federal Office of Statistics (2000) between 1980 and 1996, the proportion of the

Nigeria population living below the poverty line rose from 28% to 66%. In absolute terms, the number of people living in poverty rose during this period from 18million to 67million reported in Abdulwasiu, 2008.

The recent report (2018) from the brooking institution and that of the world poverty clock, shows that Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world (extreme poverty), define as living on less than \$1.90 a day.

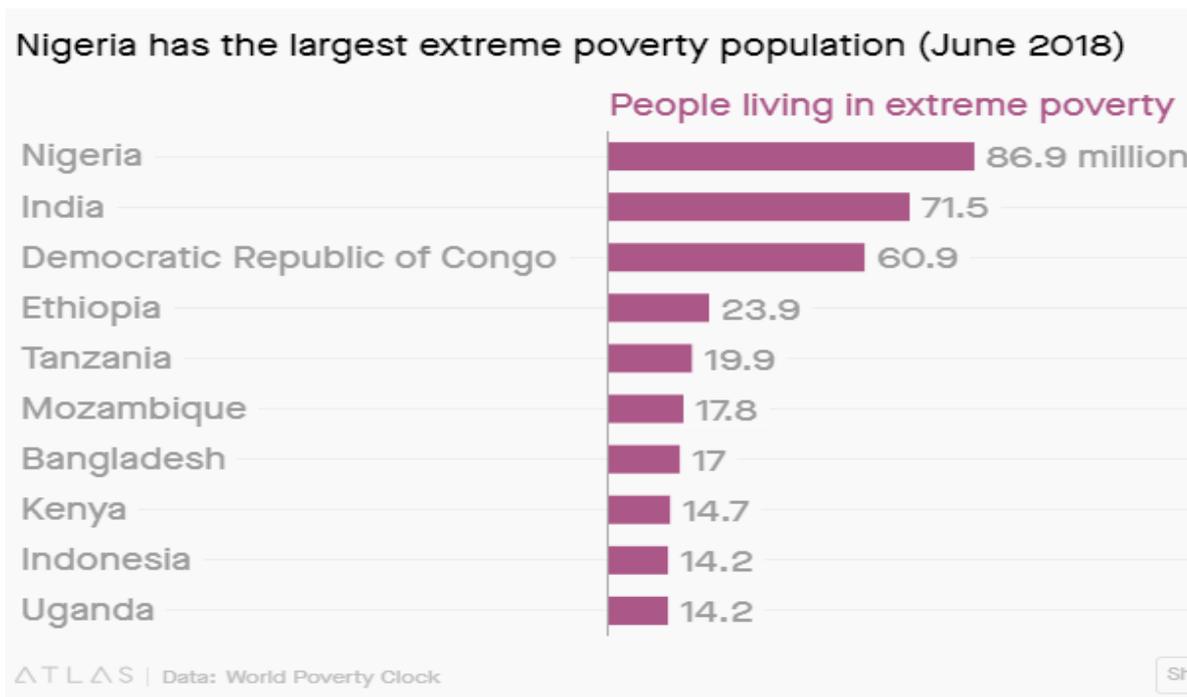


Fig. 1: Poverty Rate in Some Selected Countries in Africa

Poverty and unemployment are crucial to the development of an economy. John et al (2012) conducted a research on poverty and unemployment in Nigeria 1987 – 2011, their study employed incidence of poverty as a function of unemployment, agriculture, manufacturing and services contribution to real GDP. The result of the study revealed that unemployment; agriculture and services contributions to real GDP as well as population have positive determining influence on poverty level, with only agricultural sector statistically insignificant. Also that, manufacturing sector contribution to real GDP and inflation rate exhibited negative relationship on poverty level in Nigeria with only manufacturing sector appearing significant. They recommended that, holistic effort should be made by government at all level to create jobs and arrest unemployment, and finally boost the real sector meaningfully to reduce poverty in the country.

However, considering the rate of unemployment among the school leavers and graduates, there is the need to acquire adequate knowledge and skills (required to be self-reliance and self-sufficient) that would help the youths develop and manage ideas into viable commercial enterprises, instead of dependence on government and/or for white collar jobs. Once an individual is equipped with necessary entrepreneurial skills, he/she is assumed to have been exposed to the techniques on how to develop and manage business idea into viable commercial enterprises/ventures.

Literature Review

Concept of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is the activities associated with being an entrepreneur. An entrepreneur is a 'person who sets up business and business deals. According to Gina in Abdulwasiu (2008) the single function which constitute entrepreneur is innovation. Entrepreneur is a person with some funds to spare, to buy and sell, open an office with purpose of rendering business education service, invest money in a manufacturing facility. He also innovate skills to create a profit-oriented business, he is a risk taker in order to exploit business opportunities. A typical entrepreneur is a risk bearer, who braves uncertainty Zahradeen et al (2006). And the idea of entrepreneurial refers to having the qualities that are needed to succeed as an entrepreneur.

Concept of Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education can be expressed as the process of learning how to develop personal qualities in creativity, spirit of initiative, independence etc. Kurya, (2006) viewed entrepreneurship education as the ability to see and evaluate business opportunities gather the necessary resources to take advantage of them and initiate appropriate action to ensure success. The primary objective of such education is to prepare individuals for entry into business careers; or having entered into such career to render more efficient service and to advance their present levels. Abdulwasiu (2008) stressed that entrepreneurship education could be more comprehensively defined as organized training that is aimed at providing skills and knowledge to

prepare them for both office work, self-employed economic activities, entrepreneur teaching e.t.c.

Entrepreneurship education creates awareness for self-employment as a career option. It involves learning that emphasized on how to set up mini-enterprise, training on how to start a business. Baldassari in Abdulwasiu (2008) state that, entrepreneurship education is viewed in different perspective which has to do with acquiring qualitative (and sound) skills for self-employment and self-dependence. The introduction of entrepreneurship education into academics curriculum will not only help in the acquisition of skills and knowledge into the lives of Nigeria youths but will also serve as an antidote for eradicating unemployment, poverty and enhance stable economy.

Benefits of Entrepreneurship

The development and growth of entrepreneurial activities have greatly enhanced and benefited individuals, groups and the nation. According to Abdulkadir (2008), the benefits that are derivable from entrepreneurial activities include the following:

- i. It provides gainful self-employment and employment for others, often in better jobs and offers more job satisfaction and flexibility of the work-farce thereby, helping to improve the living standard of individual and the nation at large. In fact, the biggest employer is the private business sector, which provides millions of jobs. Such massive employment has the multiplier and accelerator effect on the economy.
- ii. It helps in minimizing overdependence on public/government jobs, salaried and wage employment.
- iii. It assists in the development of more enterprises and industries especially in rural areas.
- iv. It facilities income generation and increases economic growth.
- v. It assists an entrepreneur in becoming a positive thinker, an innovator, promoter, an organizational leader arid a decision maker.
- vi. It encourages the processing of local materials into finished goods for domestic markets and consumption as well as for export, thereby reducing dependence on imported goods.
- vii. It encourages healthy competition, thereby encouraging high quality products.
- viii. Entrepreneurship promotes the use of modern technology in small-scale manufacturing to enhance larger productivity.
- ix. It develops entrepreneurial qualities and attitudes among potential entrepreneurs, which can also bring about significant changes in rural areas.
- x. It equally provides jobs for entrepreneurship educators.

Impediments to successful entrepreneurship

Despite the laudable benefits of entrepreneurship education which any economy wishes to attend, Nigerian entrepreneurs like many other developing countries is faced with some bottle-neck that hinders the successful operation of their enterprise. Nigerian entrepreneurs are confronted by the following constraints:

- i. Lack of adequate capital: a business without adequate capital will not be able to with stance its competitors. This will affect the sales volume which will eventually affect its profit.
- ii. Lack of working capital management: working capital management is very important in any business. Lack of it may lead to liquidation of business as the firm many not be able to settle the supplier and other debt.
- iii. Wrong location of business: location of a business is very vital for the success of any business. Therefore location of a business in a wrong location will affect its patronage and profit.
- iv. Inability to initiate appropriate actions towards the actualization of business objectives: adequate actions or decisions taken at the right time help the business to survive within the industry.
- v. Selling too much on credit: a business that embarks in too much credit to its customers is burn to crumble or fail; as the capital will be tired-up receivable which may leads to some bad debts. With this, losses may be recorded.
- vi. Borrowing money from the financial institutions or relatives without planning on how and when to pay back: any financial facilities to be obtained from financial institutions or relatives need to be judicious use for the business purposes, anything short of that may put business in danger.
- vii. Poor relationship with customers, employees, suppliers and general public: a good relationship with customers, employees, supplier and general public

- will promotes the image of the business. Especially good relationship with customers will improve the patronage of the business. Any poor relationship with these stakeholders will affect the business negatively.
- viii. Inability to understand that risk taking is part of the equation for success: analysis of business risk and its understanding is very important in any business set-up; without this, taking a wrong business decision will put the success of the business in jeopardy.
 - ix. As a risk-taken venture, when a business witness a slump, recession or depression and other economic uncertainties and fluctuation, the entrepreneur is effected very often, which adversely affect the health of entrepreneur by having high blood pressure or mental disturbance which could eventually lead to the collapse of the business;

Conclusion and Recommendations

Entrepreneurship education is required as one of the major means to reduce unemployment and poverty rate in Nigeria, and when supported by the real sector will serve as a yardstick towards sustainable development. Thus, recipient of entrepreneurship education should be able to set-up and manage small and medium enterprises, for sustainable future.

References

- Abdulkadir, A.A. (2008). Entrepreneurship in a globalized economy: The case of Nigeria. *Journal of Vocational, Technical and Business Education*, 3(1), 250 - 257.
- Abdulwasiu, S. (2008). Entrepreneurship education: as a tool for eradicating poverty and national development. *Journal of Vocational, Technical and Business Education*, 3(1), 291 - 297.
- Adeyemi, A.B and Usman, L. K (2004). Strategies for creating favourable environment for the survival of small and medium scale enterprises in Africa. *Journal of Business and Management*. 2(2).
- David, H. Holt (2006). *Entrepreneurship: New venture creation*. Prentice hall of India private ltd, New Delhi.
- Eriki, P. O (2006). *Financing a business venture: sources, financial planning and control. The fundamental of entrepreneurship*. Malthouse press ltd, Lagos, 74 – 76.
- John, O.A and Bright O.O (2012). Poverty and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Business and social science*. 3(20).
- George, O.E (2001). Role of SMEs industries in economic development. *Journal of national accountant*, 9(2), 51.
- Inebenebor, A. U (2006). *The fundamentals of entrepreneurship*. Malthouse press ltd, victorial island, Lagos.
- Kurya, U. L (2006). *Building entrepreneurship skills and confidence. Entrepreneurship education for vocational and technical students*. Second Edition. Benchmark Publishers Limited, Kano, Nigeria.
- Kazon, J.M (2006). *The mistake undergraduate often make*. New Nigeria Tuesday, November 14. P 10.
- Njoku, C.V (2007). *Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria*. AMBIX printers Nigerian Ltd, Owerri.
- Nongo, S.A (2003). Private sector entrepreneurship catalyst for economic development: The case of Benue state. *Journal of Economic and Management studies*, 1(1).
- Ranbir .S. (2013). *Entrepreneurship development*. S.K. Kaitaria & Sons, Daryaganj, New Delhi.
- Robert, D.H, Michael, P.P, and Dean, A.S (2008). *Entrepreneurship*. Seventh Edition. McGraw Hill International Edition, New York.

The study recommended that:

- i. Entrepreneurship studies should be include into secondary school syllabus and institutions (i.e. University, Polytechnics and College of Education) so that the number of unemployed graduates across the country would reduce. With that, more knowledgeable and skilled entrepreneurial graduates who are capable of meeting the needs of present day industry would be produced and consistently increase.
- ii. The various government agencies involved in job creation and skill acquisition such as Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agencies of Nigeria (SMEDAN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) etc should liaise with the tertiary institutions and create zonal centres for more entrepreneurial experience after graduation.
- iii. Various governments should provide financial and moral assistance to local entrepreneurs who want to start their own business.
- iv. The banking system should provide credit facilities to entrepreneurs with sound business ideas which have been well articulated in the plan. Credit facilities should be considered on merits without too much collateral.

Titiloye, K. A. (2006). Entrepreneurship through business education: An overview. *Journal of Vocational, Technical and Business Education*, 1(1), 133 - 136.

Zahraddeen, U.A, Aliyu, M.M, Kurya, U. L, and Kurfi, A. K (2006). *Entrepreneurship education for vocational and technical students*. Second Edition. Benchmark Publishers Limited, Kano, Nigeria.