

The Nexus between Entrepreneurship Education and Self Efficiency among Nigerian Youths

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Abstract: The position of this paper was aimed at investigating on how entrepreneurship education can equip the Nigerian youths in attaining self actualization and efficiency. The benefits of entrepreneurship education are innumerable. In a world where chances of getting white-collar jobs are becoming slimmer by the day, this situation will no doubt tell negatively on the society and the most hit most times are the youths. There is no telling the effects of this kind of situation on the youths, and they will for sure, resort to means of survival which most times are negative. The youths who are the future of this country, need to be taught on how to be job creators and not job seekers. This is a theoretical review where areas such as the benefits of entrepreneurship education, academic and non-academic training programs, the level of awareness of both trainers and the youths of the benefits of entrepreneurship, and sources from which funding can be sourced to help kick start and entrepreneurship idea were identified. To lend credence to this study, the researchers hinged this work on the psychological and economic theories of entrepreneurship. The study found out that most youths are not aware of this type of education and the few who have knowledge of it, find it difficult to source for fund to execute their brilliant entrepreneurship ideas. It was revealed in the course of this study that entrepreneurship education makes youth to be self efficient, reliant and productive both for them and for the society. The acquisition of entrepreneurship skills helpsto reduce youthful delinquencies that lead to social vices and ultimately reduce their dependency on white-collar jobs. Itis recommended that awareness should be created to expose the youths to trainings on entrepreneurship skill acquisition, and funds should be made available and easily assessable for youths to execute their entrepreneurship ideas.

Keywords: Education, Entrepreneurship education, Youth, Skill acquisition, Development, Self efficiency.

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I. Introduction

Living in a time where the concept of globalization and technological inventions are making opportunities very slim for humans, the need to survive, the need to become one's own boss - entrepreneurship - certainly becomes a critical issue to be attended to. In every society, the youth are described as the future. This means that once they get strained in any form or way, that state of strain will negatively tell on that society as they would act out their delinquencies by taking a revenge on the society. The age range of 'youth' in Nigeria is between the ages of 18 to 35 years, and it is during this time that they make choices that will either positively or negatively affect their future.

Time and again, these group of individuals, some of who have got the opportunity to attend citadels of learning celebrate their graduations out of several institutions; and as fishes changing habitats, they are introduced into the society where they engage in intense battles with those who have come before them - competition - in order to survive and discover who they are. Those who are strong and have some kind of connections survive; whereas those who get incapacitated along the way eventually become nuisance to the society.

It therefore, becomes necessary for this group of individuals to be given some kind of trainings either within an academic environment or vocationally to equip them and give them hopes in this challenging and competitive world. The entrepreneurial spirit which is characterized by innovation and boldness to take risks need to be awakened in them and that will no doubt help them in finding who they are – self actualization. It will help them to know their strengths – efficiency, and focus on that. Their innovative spirit, no doubt, will be an essential part of the Nigerian nation's ability to succeed in an ever changing and increasingly competitive global market.

WHAT IS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION?

Before discussing the afore mentioned, it will not be out of place to first word a working definition to the concept of entrepreneurship though it in itself defies a holistic definition. The word entrepreneurship according to Chinonye (2015), came from a French word "entreprendre" which means "the act of doing something" in a military expedition as a strategy to win a war. She buttressed to say that entrepreneurship, "Is the recognition and pursuit of opportunity without regard to one's current control resources, with confidence and assurance of success, and with the flexibility to change topic as necessary and the will to rebound from any setback".

Hisrich, Michael and Shepherd (2005), see the concept as, "... the process of creating something new with value, by devoting the necessary time and efforts, assuming the accompanying financial, psychological and social risks, and receiving the monetary rewards for monetary and personal independence."

In sum, entrepreneurship is the capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make profit

Entrepreneurship education, on the other hand, is the leading out or bringing to the fore the entrepreneurship spirit in an individual through relevant training and impartation of skills and knowledge. In the same vein, Wikipedia (2015), sees the concept as that which, "...seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings".

HOW ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION CAN EQUIP THE NIGERIA YOUTH IN ATTAINING SELF ACTUALIZATION

Suffice it to say that entrepreneurship education is an eternal venture that is very eclectic. Entrepreneurship is a key driver of the Nigeria economy. When the youths are educated to becoming entrepreneurially minded people, they can create business and job opportunities rather than depending on scarce *white-collar* jobs.

When the youths are constantly exposed to entrepreneurship activities and ventures, they become well developed and rounded to the point where they can confidently express themselves, and get to having the assurance that they have more opportunities to exercise their creative freedoms, higher self esteem, and an overall greater sense of control over their own lives. When educated both in an academic environment and vocationally as early on mentioned, they will inculcate experiences that will help them to build up the insight needed for self discovery and actualization; and create entrepreneurial opportunities even for others.

It becomes pertinent that awareness be created about this kind of education and the public in general need to be informed about the innumerable benefits entrepreneurship education can impact on them.

II. Funding

Becoming aware alone and embarking on entrepreneurship education may not help matters if there are no organizations, corporate bodies and well meaning individuals who are willing to assist entrepreneurially minded youth with funds that will help them execute their enterprise. A gap in this area will make the whole idea futile. An example of such helping gesture was the Ngozi Okonjo - Iweala's YouWiN program which according to <http://www.informationnigeria.org> has created over 26, 000 jobs for Nigeria youths. YouWiN which started in 2011 was, according to Gbenga Kayode (2015), "... a lifeline for jobless youth." It was strongly supported by the then Nigeria's President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. Gbenga quoting Mr. President says, "Unemployment among our youth is one of our biggest challenges. The time has come to create jobs and lay a new foundation for Nigeria's economic growth."

Another forum which made funds available for young entrepreneurs just like YouWiN, was Dragons DEN. Dragons DEN which debut in 2007 provided a platform for young entrepreneurs with great ideas in Nigeria. United Bank for Africa (UBA) in partnership with MTN Nigeria created so much awareness by bringing this business enterprise to Nigeria television viewers.

The idea behind the show was to give aspiring entrepreneurs known as pitchers an opportunity to present their business ideas to a panel of five Dragons i.e. successful entrepreneurs and investors. The pitchers must make their pitch to the Dragons and tell them how much money they need to meet their goals and how much equity (ownership) they are willing to give up in return. Each Dragon brings ₦10 million of his own money to the table, thus putting a princely sum of ₦50 million of potential investment up for grabs. According to (www.proshareeng.com), this was the biggest amount in the history of African reality television.

The question then is, how many families as at 2007 had the luxury of having television sets and telephones to watch and access these information? How many youths have the computer knowledge of accessing the internet and downloading YouWiN forms as at 2011, to apply for the grant? Most people also lacked proper information and guide, and of the right procedures to follow in order to win these grants. These were some of the challenges that faced these projects.

THE NEED FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUTHS

According to Nwangwu, 2007, entrepreneurial empowerment will:

- Offer functional education for the youth so as to enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant.
- Offer graduates with adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying novel business opportunities.
- Provide the young graduates with enough training and support that will enable them to establish a career in small and medium size businesses.
- Offer graduates adequate training in the acquisition of skills that will enable them meet the manpower needs of the society.
- To inculcate the spirit of perseverance in the youths and adults which will enable them to persist in any business venture they embark on.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Theoretical framework relates to existing body of knowledge that covers or support a particular topic under research. It lends credence to relevance and acceptance of thought expressed in a research work. There exist theories that guide the study of entrepreneurship which essentially explains the issues that influence the emergence, attitude and performance of entrepreneurs. These factors include: environment, frame of reference, knowledge, political/legal factors, finance, and implicit endowment, to mention a few. The researchers anchor this research work on the psychological and economic theories of entrepreneurship.

The psychological theory sees motives, traits and personalities as major factors that propel entrepreneurial spirit in someone. This theory believes that there is an inner urge or force in a man that makes him desire a change of status and position coupled with the need for achievement. To lend credence to this theory is McClelland who asserted in his studies that the entrepreneurial business is motivated by an individual's need for achievement which is a force that inspires an entrepreneur to originate idea(s) and energizes him to pursue the idea until it becomes a reality. (McClelland, 1961).

The economic theory, on the other hand, sees an entrepreneur as an agent of economic change who is rationally oriented and therefore sees entrepreneurship as a process to every economic revolution and that without entrepreneurs, the other factors of production (land, labour, capital, enterprise and technology) cannot be transformed into economic values. In support of this theory are Knight (1978) and Mises (2002) in Emmanuel (2002 and 2008). They postulated that entrepreneurs play a distinct role in the market system "... through their evaluations of factors of production." They added that, "... while consumers evaluate goods in use, entrepreneurs evaluate the productivity of goods towards generating value useful to consumers."

The researchers considered these theories discussed above to have closer bearing on entrepreneurship based on personal convictions. For instance, in the case of psychology, it takes an individual who has the burning desire and yearnings for achievement to take a look at his environment in search for what opportunities there are that he can take advantage of, to venture into entrepreneurship. The economic theory conversely, is also critical because it takes only a rational and economic agent to deploy personal capabilities in coordinating resources that are value adding that customers want and need which invariably leads to generation of wealth considered being the ultimate entrepreneurship endeavor.

III. Findings

The study found out that most youths are not aware of this type of education and the few who have knowledge of it, find it difficult to source for fund to execute their brilliant entrepreneurship ideas. It was revealed in the course of this study that entrepreneurship education makes youth to be self efficient, reliant and productive both for them and for the society.

IV. Conclusion

Entrepreneurship education and the acquisition of entrepreneurship skills will help to reduce youthful delinquencies that lead to social vices and ultimately reduce youth from depending solely on *white-collar* jobs.

V. Recommendations

It is recommended among other things that awareness be created to expose the youth to trainings on entrepreneurship skill acquisition; funds should be made available and easily assessable so that the youth can be effectively aided in executing their entrepreneurial ideas. Also, those who are to carry out training on the course should be properly trained on it so that they can train their trainees effectively.

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