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Students' Perceptions on the Need for Entrepreneurship Education in Addressing Youths Unemployment Challenges in Nigeria, Strategies for Implementation

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Abstract:

This study is on student's perception on the need for entrepreneurship education in addressing unemployment challenge in Nigeria. Three research questions of this study have been analyzed using a descriptive research design. In light of this study, the following findings were made which include that entrepreneurship is essential for rapid and sustained economic growth, development and it creates the required manpower and skills necessary for accelerated growth, reduce unemployment and poverty. The curriculum of vocational and technical education should be reviewed periodically to identify the technical and vocational skill needed in the economy and youths should be exposed to training in technology, especially new discoveries from time to time to keep them in tune with trends of the technological world and thus avoid drudgery in their business.

Keywords: Education, entrepreneurship, unemployment

1. Introduction

It is a common perception that education can create high scope of employment. But in the 20th century, Nigeria had seen deviation from this case, where many educated youths are not able to get jobs. A person who is neither has joined to any company or not able to create any job is known as unemployed. Catering to this situation, the entrepreneurial skills have become a way of survival. Unemployment is such a curse that can grasp any streams' people like farmer, artists, technicians, musicians etc. International Labour Organization (1982) describes it as situation where people cannot get a job which they are actively searching in the last five weeks. It is a bad situation where the human work force is looking for job very actively but not able to be appointed by anyone or not able to create any opportunity for themselves (NBS, 2015). The formula is to find the total number of unemployment rate is to divide the total number of human work force who is jobless divided by the total number of human work force present in the economy.

As per a report of the Newsweek (2011), a huge number of people approximately 200 million in global context are looking for job. Half of the developing countries are facing this severe burden on themselves. It has slowed down their economic growth rate severely. People are being malnourished physically mentally. They are breaking law, suffers from serious depression, stress, burn-out. Taking about the problem of youth, although they are highly skilled but lack marketing and application related skills. As per the report of the Daily Trust (2008), approximately the unemployment rate is 80% and the underemployment rate is 10%.

The unemployment rate varies from 12.6% to 31.1 % within 2000 to 2009. Almost 40% unemployed people are within 15 years to 24 years age bracket. People with secondary education are more unemployed compared to people having primary education. Males constituted 17.2% males are unemployed while females constituted 23.3% in the field of unemployment. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (2004) highlighted the importance of self-reliance and development to solve the problem of unemployment. A proper, well-structured education system helps to reduce poverty and creation of value which can create scope of employment (Agi and Yellowe, 2013). Education certainly has the potential to provide strength to face any kind of socio-cultural, economic, political, and technological challenges. The role entrepreneurship education is very essential and pertinent here. It can act as positive catalyst from creating job and huge transformation in education system. The education of entrepreneurship can build innovation, risk taking attitude, creativity among students (Gauntam and Singh, 2015).

Entrepreneurship builds skills which are essential for creating the scope for employment. It also includes the development based on creativity (Oseni, Momoh & Momodu, 2012). Entrepreneurship leads to the development of small, medium and sometimes large-scale businesses based on creativity and innovation. If success can be achieved from business, the economy can run fast. 'Job seekers' will become 'job creators'. Chiguta (2001) highlighted that entrepreneurship is gaining popularity across the globe as a source of job creation. Unemployment rate is found to be negatively associated with entrepreneurial development (Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjoye, 2011).

1.1. Research Objectives

To find out the attitudes of the Nigerian students towards the necessity of the entrepreneurship education for generating better scope for employment is the main purpose of this study.

The objectives are listed below:

- Attitude towards the Nigerian students regarding the reasons of unemployment in this country.
- Attitude of the Nigerian students regarding the steps that can reduce the problem of unemployment in the economy of this country.
- Students' perceptions about the extend up to which the entrepreneurship education can solve the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria.

2. Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design. This survey design was considered appropriate as it sought perception of a sample of the population. The population of this study comprised of students in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The total number of students obtained from the school data base is 17,128 from all ten (10) faculties that make up the institution. Random sampling technique will be adopted to select five departments in the school which constituted 50% of the institution's total faculties. This sampling technique was adopted so as to get a true representation of the selected faculties. The selected faculties were; Education, Science, Engineering, Law and Social Science.

The instrument use for the collection of data was basically a researcher developed questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections; Sections A and B. Section A contain questions relating to the demographic characteristics of the respondent such as age, sex, marital status. Section B was designed to elicit information on respondents' opinion about the topic under discussion. The questionnaire was based on five scale point viz Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). Face and construct validity were conducted by three (3) experts in Faculty of Education, University of Benin City, Edo State of Nigeria. Split-half reliability technique was used to test the reliability of the instrument. The Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient produced an (r) value of 0.77, which showed that the instrument was reliable. The Mean(X) and Standard Deviation (SD) were used as the method of data analysis to answer the research questions.

3. Results and Discussion

- Research Question 1: What are students' perceptions of the causes of unemployment in Nigeria?

S/N	Items	X	SD	Decision
1.	Students love to participate in entrepreneurship activities in higher institution but they are not adequately trained.	4.07	0.027	Agree
2.	Goal and objectives of entrepreneurship education will not make one to be self-reliant and productive.	3.03	0.021	Agree
3	The jobs available for graduates are not taught in entrepreneurship education.	2.96	0.014	Disagree
4	Parental negative attitude toward Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) has given room for joblessness among graduates.	3.48	0.020	Agree
5	Government Lukewarm attitude toward technical and vocational education (TVE) programme and failing standard of Entrepreneurship education had resulted in youth unemployment.	3.75	0.027	Agree
6	Lack of personnel, Equipment and material is a problem associated to student attitudes toward entrepreneurship Education which leads to youth unemployment.	3.21	0.016	Agree
7	If Nigeria will achieve the millenniums development goals (MDGs), then entrepreneurship Education is the key	3.51	0.020	Agree

Table 1: Mean Rating on Students' Perception of the Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Table 1 showed that most of the respondent agreed with a mean (x) rating ranging from 3.03 to 4.07 with exception of item 3 with mean score of 2.96. Therefore, students have a perception that lack of entrepreneurship is the major cause of unemployment in Nigeria.

- Research Question 2: What are student's perceptions on the effect of unemployment in Nigeria?

S/N	Item	X	SD	Decision
1	The easy way to reduce unemployment among technical and vocational Education graduate is the teaching and learning of Entrepreneurship Education in School	3.08	0.031	Agree
2	Entrepreneurship Education focuses on pursuit of entrepreneurial behaviours, skills and attributes to gain employment.	2.45	0.025	Disagree
3	Role of entrepreneurship Education is that tendency of equipping and making students experts in the production of certain items	3.79	0.026	Agree
4	Entrepreneurship education can greatly help addressing the level of poverty among undergraduate thought employable job	3.24	0.016	Agree
5	Entrepreneurship Education involves a systematic search for an analysis of opportunities	2.95	0.024	Disagree
6	Entrepreneurship creation can help to develop creativity in youths	3.39	0.023	Agree

Table 2: Mean Rating on Students' Perception on How to Curb Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Results in Table 2 showed that most of the respondents agreed to the items in the table with a mean (x) rating ranging 3.08 to 3.79 while 2 item 9 12 disagreed with mean (x) rating ranging from 2.45 to 2.95.

- Research Question 3: Student's Perceptions on the need for improvement of entrepreneurship education and strategies for solving the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria?

S/N	Item	X	SD	Decision
14	Entrepreneurship Creation can help to develop manipulative skills in youth	2.57	0.028	Agreed
15	Entrepreneurship creation can be raised to develop youths for self-employment	1.92	0.042	Disagreed
16	Self-reliance and independence can be achieved among Nigeria youths through entrepreneurship education	2.95	0.019	Agreed
17	Entrepreneurship education can be used to achieve development goals in Nigeria	2.95	0.019	Agreed
18	Low availability of teaching and facilities from teaching and learning Entrepreneurship education should be addressed.	3.79	0.020	Agree
19	Low availability of funds to purchase needed instrumental facilities should be addressed.	2.66	0.028	Agreed
20	Low availability of fund to execute formulated plans should be addressed.	2.8	0.949	Agreed

Table 3: Mean Rating on the Need for Entrepreneurship Education and Strategies in Solving the Problem of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Table 3 showed that most of the respondents disagreed with a mean (x) rating ranging from 1.92 to 2.95. It can be concluded that students 'hold a perception that the problem of employment can be solved up to a remarkable extend through introducing the entrepreneurship education.

4. Discussion of Findings

The analysis of the result shows that youth believe that entrepreneurship had not addressed the issue of unemployment adequately. They also perceived that entrepreneurship education offered at the universities falls far short of being able to equip the youth with employability skills as no adequate facilities had been provided in the programme. The analysis of research question 3 shows the strategies to be adopted in improving entrepreneurship education to facilitate employment. Their perception regarding the strategies to improve entrepreneurship education was indicated on answering the research question 3 on table 3.

5. Conclusion

It is quite clear that the education of entrepreneurship is very essential. It needs to introduce in the higher education system of Nigeria. Students with any kind of specialization should know about it. Proper planning along with governmental policy to enforce this education in the syllabus is very important. It will help to create employment. It will facilitate the economic growth, which in turn creates wealth in the economy. The knowledge and skill of entrepreneurship will not only create the scope of employment but also, financial, creative, communicative, marketing and technological skills will be improved with the introduction of this syllabus.

Entrepreneurship education is a life-long learning process starting as early at the elementary school and progressing through middle or secondary school to tertiary levels including adult and non-formal education. Since the benefits of entrepreneurial education are enormous, adequate steps should be taken to requisite entrepreneurial education

by providing at the various levels of governance-federal state and local government areas, suitable environment through proper curriculum planning and implementation, and by proper funding and equipping of the demand of modern society such as unemployment entrepreneurship education centres/units/departments of our Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges.

6. Recommendation

The following suggestions can be implemented:

- The syllabus of the vocational and technical education needs to be reviewed periodically, such that the actual skill that is required in the economy can be implemented.
- The skill of entrepreneurship can be mixed with the training programme of the above-mentioned educations.
- Young minds should be exposed to training in technology; especially new discoveries from time to time keep them in tune with trends of the technological world and thus avoid drudgery in their business.
- Universities should start to commercialize their research findings instead of leaving them in the shelves.
- To be effective, educational system in Nigeria also must ensure that entrepreneurship training and knowledge transfer become an integral part of their culture, highly valued by national university commission and vice chancellors and their senate.
- Entrepreneurship teaching has to go beyond the traditional teaching in schools. This implies the need to involve student in experiential training.
- Any new discovery with high potentials for entrepreneurship should be encourage and fully funded.

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