

ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS ACQUISITION: PANACEA FOR YOUTHS EMPOWERMENT AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT TRIBULATIONS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The rate at which young people especially graduates seek employment in Nigeria, appears to outpace the capacity of the nation to provide employment for all the teeming graduates. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition is then a panacea for empowering the youths as well as a road map for reducing unemployment tribulations in Nigeria. In order to ascertain a conscientious work, this paper relied on secondary sources of data collection. Information was sourced from published books, journal articles and conference papers that anchored on the phenomenon under investigation. The human capital theory was adopted as the theory suitable to guide this work. The paper concludes that, entrepreneurial skills acquisition is a road map towards uplifting the standardization of our teeming youths thereby reducing unemployment tribulations, reducing high wave of poverty prevalent in our society and youths restiveness in Nigeria. The paper recommends among others that, for the fact that entrepreneurial skills acquisition is a veritable tool for youths empowerment, government at all levels in Nigeria, should ensure that skills acquisition centres are built in all localities, properly equipped, and rightful manpower engaged in order to enable our teeming youths to acquire different skills and be useful to themselves and Nigeria at large..

Keywords: Youths, Entrepreneurship, Skills Acquisition, Empowerment, Unemployment

Introduction

Nigeria like other developing nations is confronted with a number of issues which incorporate unemployment that has gotten to be a major issue bedeviling the lives of young people and graduates thereby causing disappointment, sadness, disheartening and reliance on family individuals and companions. The increased level of unemployment among youths in Nigeria has contributed to the increased rate of frailty, viciousness in decisions and destitutions (Ajufu, Ocheja & Abula 2013). As an absolute medium to advance employment creation, skills acquisition has become a portion of the strategy of the Nigerian government. Starting with the Directorate of Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DEFRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Family Support Programme (FSP), and now the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), and even the establishment of the Peoples Bank of Nigeria are some of the intervention programmes that were intended to promote employment generation (Chiejina 2011).

According to Olajide and Akojenu (2017), each country's development and improvement depends on the level of the cleverness of its citizens, majorly the adolescents. This compares to the quality of the preparing levels and arranged entrepreneurs' advancement within the nation in address. Development and improvement might be encouraged when adolescents within the society are productively utilized and a rise in per capital income of the economy is seen. Job creation conjointly self-reliance of adolescents can be upgraded by considering government arrangements adapted towards a utilitarian entrepreneurial programme. Daluba and Odiba (2013) stressed that the survival of person in a given society is exceptionally much subordinate on the procurement of valuable abilities and the acquisition of these abilities encourages individual's employability into any reasonable foundation hence decreasing repetition and unemployment issues among adolescents.

According to Muogbo and John-Akamelu (2018), entrepreneurial skills acquisition programmes are a well-prepared learning process which is planned to supply members with one or more collection of abilities which include interpersonal, inventive considering, risk-taking, innovation appropriation, and education abilities or fundamental entrepreneurial conduct required to begin a modern or support an existing one. Ogundele, Akingbade and Akinlabi (2012), maintained that the ability for entrepreneurial acquisition driving to self-employability can be classified into three areas. They are specialized abilities which include - composing, verbal introduction, organizing, and coaching; trade administration which include - beginning, creating, and overseeing a venture; and individual entrepreneurial skills which include - being imaginative, being change-oriented, being determined, and being a visionary.

Ariyo (2008) stressed that in the event that Nigeria must achieve its potential in terms of social and financial improvement, accentuation must be set on inborn business people in arrange to extend their commitments on the country's economy. Akpama, Esang, Asor and Osang (2011) narrated that Nigeria is quick to be an overwhelmingly energetic society with increased rate of unemployment. It requires preparing the youths on entrepreneurial skills, on specialized professional instruction as well as preparation to handle unemployment issues which have come to disturbing extents in Nigeria.

Entrepreneurial exercises are significantly diverse depending on the sort of organization exercises included. Agu, Chiaha and Ikeme (2013) contend that entrepreneurial abilities must be supported through appropriate education so that it can be coordinated to capable and enhancing little business endeavours that will advantage the people and the communities in which the business visionaries live.

Methodology

In order to ascertain a conscientious work, this paper relied on secondary sources of data collection. Information was sourced from already published books, journal articles and conference papers that anchored on the phenomenon under investigation.

Conceptual Clarifications

The Concept of Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition

According to Bolarinwa and Okolocha (2016), entrepreneurial skills are a wide run of competencies that are seen as entrepreneurial and valuable to youth business visionaries such as; information, abilities and individual characteristics. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition programmes are in this manner a well packaged learning procedure which is outlined to supply

members with one or more gathering of skills (interpersonal, imaginative considering, risk-taking, innovation appropriation, choice-making and monetary education skills) or essential entrepreneurial conduct required to begin a fresh wander or sustain an existing one. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition is the capacity of a person to utilize a thought and make a venture (little or huge) not as it were for individual achievement but moreover for social and formative achievement (Olagunju, 2004).

According to Maigida, Saba and Namkere (2013), entrepreneurial skills acquisition can be characterized as not close to obtaining abilities but procuring information and arriving towards undertaking abilities that improve individual source of revenue through accommodating business comings, upgrading business openings, and advancing financial advancement. In his own reaction, Umunadi (2014) posits that entrepreneurial skills are trade abilities which a person procures by and by to operate successfully in trade as a business person and be self-reliant. The skills comprise of viable utilization of thoughts and realities that offer assistance to apprentice create competencies and services as well as turn into profitable workers of organizations.

Ugwoke and Abidde (2014) averred that entrepreneurship got to do with a framework of thoughts and values that are not customarily treated as part of educational prospects. It is the method of utilizing personal imagination to convert a trade concept into new enterprise or to develop and expand an existing business with increased development prospects. In their quest, Hisrich and Peters (2002) maintained that entrepreneurial skills acquisition can be characterized as those aptitudes that a person ought to have to empower him/her succeed in a virtual learning environment. Hisrich and Peters continued that entrepreneurial skills acquisition could also be seen as the capacity to form something with esteem by committing the essential time and exertion, accepting the associated monetary related and social dangers, and accepting the coming about rewards of financial and individual fulfillment and freedom.

The Concept of Youths Empowerment

According to Commonwealth Secretariat (2007) youth's empowerment is seen as making and supporting the empowering conditions beneath which youthful individuals can act on their claim sake and possess terms instead of of at the direction of others. The method of youth empowerment is centered on the attitudinal, auxiliary, and social measurements of a person whereby he/she claim life (Tope, 2011). In his own direction, Oborah (2006) pointed out that youths empowerment entails making the adolescents being able to eat when they are hungry; being able to meet their fundamental needs; capacity to state their views in things of concern to them within the society; not being denied in any repercussion in life and capacity to cater for their needs at whatever point vital.

According to Punjab Youth Policy (2012) empowerment happens to be guaranteed when youths realize that there is upgrade in their capacities to control or adapt with their socio-economic parts. Empowerment rotates around three (financial, social, political) measurements which are the building pieces of the youth. Enabling youthful individuals implies making and supporting the empowerment beneath which youthful individuals can act on their sake and on their own terms instead of at the course of others. Common Wealth of Nations opined that youthful individuals are enabled when they recognize they have or can make choices in life; are mindful of the suggestions of these choices; make an educated choice unreservedly; take

activity based on that choice and acknowledge duty for the results of these activities (Wikipedia).

According to Oyekan (2015), dynamic countries recognize youths empowerment as a door to intergenerational value, civil engagement, popular government building and instructive change for self-reliant in economic riches creation and national improvement. Hence, empowerment is the method of reinforcing the otherworldly, political, social and financial control and capability of people to move forward their effectiveness in making significant openings for feasible improvement and quality human life. Jimba (2006) stated that youth empowerment includes distinctive ways the youth can be encouraged to cause changes in their life. Equally it could be seen as exposing the young people into skills acquisition that benefits them profitable. Jimba continued that youth empowerment implies a way of teaching the young people the soul of change of thoughts into imagination.

Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition as a Panacea for Youths Empowerment and Reducing Unemployment Tribulations in Nigeria

According to Gainer (2008), through entrepreneurial improvement, interpersonal and administrative skills are created. These skills which incorporate issue fathoming and decision making will not simply help business people oversee and organize their firms but to empower them work effectively within the work environment. Osuagwu (2006) stressed that entrepreneurial improvement ought to be perceived as a catalyst to extend financial development, make work openings, decrease importation of merchandise and diminish the exchange shortages that result from such imports. Entrepreneurial abilities that recipients of the trade instruction programme will secure incorporates the capacity to arrange, organize, source for finance, create human and open relations aptitudes, successfully oversee and facilitate both human and fabric assets, viably utilize benefits for growth and expansion of the firm and create wide base speculation arraigning and execution skills (Ubulom, 2013).

Gbagolo and Eze (2014) contend that, instead of permitting the young people roaming the road and subsequently engage in unpleasant hones to gain a living, skills acquisition and enterprises tutoring for the adolescents serve as succor to increased rate of unemployment in Nigeria. In their own contribution, Ezeji and Okorie (1999) maintained that Nigeria's social and financial issues will be radically diminished on the off chance that individuals are given satisfactory professional preparing in aptitudes, crude materials, machineries, and hardware. It is only with the trained men that materials can be saddled, controlled and changed into items. With quality skills acquisition programmes, developed nations have restored sedate addicts, school dropouts and a few dejected who inevitably contributed seriously to the economy and improvement of increased volume of efficiency in their nations (Ezeji & Okorie, 1999).

Maigida, Saba and Namkere (2013) opined that the lone way towards upgrading the standardization of the youths is to support them in procuring satisfactory and subjective entrepreneurial aptitude in arrange to make them self-employed and employment creators. Maigida, Saba and Namkere continued that entrepreneurial skills is a podium that aids adolescents youths procure the intellect set that are geared towards effectively being self-utilized or having a reasonable career alternative. Nwanaka and Amaehule (2011) stated that acquisition of skills is imperative because it gives youths the opportunity to be gainfully employed as well as preventing youths from becoming social misfits. Skill acquisition also helps

to arrest some social ills such as armed robbery, stealing and other forms of restiveness seen in our teeming youths in Nigeria.

Agweda and Abumere (2008) pointed out that, the benefits of entrepreneurial education cannot be over emphasized. Unemployment and wrongdoings are abridged through entrepreneurship education. It leads to exchange of skills, strategies and demeanor that upgrade and oversee development and inventiveness which in turn leads to financial development and advancement.

Enterprise instruction increments financial development and upgrades social and financial advancement. Arogundade (2011) emphasized that graduates entrepreneurial skills acquisition would generate employment opportunities and advance industrialization in Nigeria. The advancement plan of any nation is decided by the way the generation powers in and around the economy. Numerous nations in the world depend incredibly on the part of private division and thus, entrepreneurial skills acquisition has played most important part in this regard.

In the view of Osunde (2003), a healthier move to the annihilation of penury ought to be to break the generational shackle of penury by engaging the youth to be self dependent through vocational skills acquisition programme focused on the young people. In their own reaction, Adofu and Ocheja (2013) affirm that impoverishment is de-humanizing and also the foremost seen spark of most social indecencies. When any society reduces or fights against poverty then, the battle against most of the societal issues is nearly won. Entrepreneurial skills acquisition programme is an absolute instrument accessible to both the government and persons in their battle against the dangerous malady called destitution. Destitution that emerges for the most part due to unemployment can be eased through enterprise ability acquisition.

Okoli and Okoli (2013) maintained that the worldwide economy nowadays places emphasis on the capacity to ceaselessly overhaul aptitudes and information. Entrepreneurship advancement would deliver a person who can investigate and utilize accessible assets and start financially fulfilling commerce ventures that may well be a catalyst for decreasing unemployment issues in Nigeria. Similarly, Oyekan (2015) posits that it is basic for young people to have important imaginative thoughts, skills and right states of mind with positive entrepreneurial mentality. Customary participation of reasonable skills training programmes on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) will put young people at business and extra pay advantage among their peers. Adolescents ought to continuously grasp difficult work readiness to memorize, examine and accept novel thoughts with commitment towards proficient competence and greatness in working environment and business ventures as this will make them to become self-reliant workers and/or bosses of work with self-fulfillment.

Theoretical Framework

The human capital theory is adopted as the theory suitable to guide this work. The human capital theory was proposed by Theodore Schultz in 1961 and developed by Gary Becker in 1993. According to Becker (1993) cited in Nwosu (2016), the human capital theory hypothesizes that instruction through training raises the efficiency of workers by giving valuable information and abilities, subsequently raising workers' future earnings by expanding their

lifetime profit. Human capital theory emphasizes how manpower training and development programmes increment the efficiency and effectiveness of labourers by expanding the level of cognitive stock of financial profitable human capacity, which could be an item of natural capacities and speculations in human creatures. The arrangement of manpower training and development programmes are seen as beneficial venture in human capital which in turn leads to organizational objective at large (Kessler & Lulfesmann, 2006).

The implication and relevance of the human capital theory as it applies to this work is that, the human capital theory accrues to developing the knowledge and skills of our teeming youths through entrepreneurial skills acquisition. The human capital theory emphasizes the need for government, policy makers, corporate organizations, religious institutions, and philanthropists to initiate development programmes through entrepreneurial skills acquisition and map out the necessary finance or resources needed for actualizing the programmes as this will enable our teeming youths in Nigeria to acquire not only entrepreneurial skills but, values, ideas, attitudes and aspirations. By so doing, youth's restiveness accruing from high wave of unemployment such as armed robbery, kidnapping and ritual performances that is prevalent in our contemporary society will be drastically reduced.

Conclusion

For Nigeria as a nation to be termed a developed nation, all the sectors including education must function effectively. Education is the basis of development because it forms the foundation of technological advancement, knowledge acquisition, skills acquisition and ability to harness the natural resources of any given nation. Education through entrepreneurial skills acquisition is a creditable contrivance for enhancing human potentials, economic growth and national development. Typically, entrepreneurial skills acquisition is a road map towards uplifting the standardization of our teeming youth's thereby reducing high wave of poverty and unemployment tribulations in the form of cultism, drug abuse, drug trafficking, internet scam and political thuggery in Nigerian contemporary society.

Recommendations

Based on the deliberations on entrepreneurial skills acquisition as a panacea for youth's empowerment in Nigeria contemporary society, the following recommendations are considered apposite in this work.

1. For the fact that entrepreneurial skills acquisition is a veritable tool for youths empowerment and reducing unemployment tribulations, government at all levels in Nigeria, should ensure that skills acquisition centre's are built in all localities, properly equipped, and rightful manpower engaged in order to enable our teeming youths to acquire different skills and be useful to themselves and Nigeria at large.
2. Government, through the ministry of education should ensure the inclusion of and strict compliance to entrepreneurial skills acquisition programmes in the curriculum of the Nigerian public and private institutions as this will give our youths the opportunity of acquiring skills, knowledge and values and establish themselves since the rate of unemployment is increasing day by day in Nigeria.
3. Students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria should as a matter of necessity devote time and showcase every atom of seriousness in acquiring entrepreneurial skills as this will enable them to acquire relevant skills, values, knowledge and shy away from

unemployment tribulations such as cultism, armed robbery, political thuggery, and oil pipeline vandalism that is prevalence in our contemporary society.

4. Individuals, corporate bodies, religious institutions, and Nigerian government at large should endeavour to provide necessary materials or tools as well as finance to our indigent youths that have acquired entrepreneurial skills in order for them to establish their own outfit and in the long run, train other interested youths as this will help to empowering the youths and reducing the amplified rate of poverty in Nigeria.

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