Entrepreneurship Education and National Development in Nigeria

Olayemi, O.T., Ajayi A.K., Abiola, A.O. & Ajibade Q.T

Department Of Public Administration
Okeogun Polytechnic, Saki, Oyo State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
It is an undisputable fact that no country in the world has met the required development in all ramifications except with proper functioning and efficiency of the entrepreneur. The more entrepreneurs a nation has, the better and the chances for a fast and accelerated national development. This paper examines the concept of entrepreneurship; discusses the importance of entrepreneur in enhancing sustainable development, stresses entrepreneurship as a solution to the problems of unemployment and identifies various obstacles facing entrepreneurship development in Nigeria and proffers solutions to them, among which is development of vocational and technical education.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Unemployment, National development.

INTRODUCTION
Entrepreneurship according to Omolayo (2006) is the act of starting a company, arranging business deals and taking risks in order to make a profit through the education skills acquired. Nwangwu (2007) in the same vein opined that entrepreneurship is a process of bringing together the factors of production, which include land labour and capital so as to provide a product or service for public consumption. Arogundade, Babatope and Bukola (2009) also defines entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of a person or persons to acquire educational skills to explore and exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage a successful business enterprise. Entrepreneurship in the language of the economist involves a whole range of aptitude like innovativeness, capacity to take risk and forecast prospect of an enterprise and confidence in one’s ability to meet unforeseen adverse situation or marked use of competencies in business. Thus entrepreneurship is the personal quality that enables people to start a new business or vigorously and innovatively expand an existing one, thereby maintaining and vitalizing the growth of an economic (Ogundare (2010)

Odeyemi, Kehinde, Bankole, and Abifarin (2004) define Entrepreneurship as a process of organizing managing business and assuming the risk of an enterprise. According to Gana in Odeyemi (2004), he defines entrepreneurship from economic and managerial point of view 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.

Entrepreneurship and National Development
From the beginning of human society up to around 1,000 AD, African was either developed or at a similar level of entrepreneurship development with Europe. Notable among societies and cultures that had attained outstanding levels of technological and artistic development are Ancient Egypt, Nigeria etc. From the time of colonial occupation of Africa the British and colonial masters found Africa and other Ancient countries development for their own interest, they found it necessary to destroyed many agents of our antecedent development such as our local industries and other commercial and economic activities so
as to find markets for their own products, raw materials for their industries, and to avoid competition between our products, industries and markets within their own. For example, in Kano and other part of Nigeria the colonial government tried to destroy the textiles dyeing, adopted various measures and leather industries local varieties of cotton were banned from being cultivated, weavers and black smitten were subjected to heavy fines payable in British currencies so as to leave handcraft in favour of wage labour, production of local types of alcohol was banned, colonial firms forcibly took over iron ore production. So also in the west, where we have subsistence farming, blacksmithing, calving & design dyeing of clothes (Adire) etc. Prior to Nigeria’s independence and even for some time after, business climate was almost totally dominated by the colonial and other European multinational companies like UAC, GB, Ollivant, CFAO, PZ Leventis and UTC to mention a few. Almost all these companies engaged in bringing into Nigeria finished goods from abroad.

To worsen the case, various Nigeria Governments even aided them to become stronger and bigger with several generous incentives such as favourable tariffs and tax concessions. Since independence there was no significant or appreciable economic self reliance/entrepreneurship development due to oil boom. There were several attempts by the Federal Government to make sure that Nigerian plays a worthwhile and active role in the development of their economy through different plans & policy to encourage the use of local resources in our industries.

Presently, entrepreneurship constitute over 80 percent of all registered companies, some are in retailing, agro based and allied industries, rubber based and leather shoes industries, chemical, electronics, and Artisans etc. But majority of these entrepreneurs are incapacitated by various obstacles and contribute little to solving the problem of unemployment and national development which will be examined in this paper.

The role of entrepreneurship in national development as experienced in many countries of the world, mostly the Asian territory such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan India etc shows that entrepreneurship contribute substantially to the national development.

In Nigeria, where poverty is on the high side, which served as a persuading factor, industrialization strategy can mostly be by way of inducing entrepreneurship development.

Our society is not static; it keeps changing in the past the graduates in Nigeria are faced with the problem to reject among the various opportunities waiting for them. Then possession of a good certificate was synonymous with obtaining a very attractive white collar Job. But today it is the survival of the fittest, the story has tremendously changed, there are high rate of unemployed youth.

Those who are lucky to secure one, stand the risk of losing the jobs at any given time. The government on her part has little or no plans for welfare and security of her workers due to irregular payment of workers salary underemployment and poor condition of service which led many citizens to illegal and anti social business in Nigeria.

The importance of small business differ from one type of business to another small forms cannot be fully explained without the analyzing the major areas of business activities involvement, product manufacturing, various type of product distribution and service to be rendered for accomplishing the activities. The existence of large manufacturing provides small manufacturers the opportunities, but mass production processes normally depend on the small production plant for the supplies and components e.g motor vehicles, airplanes, refrigerators, radio, T.V etc.

The local manufacturing firms like printing press, bakeries, bottling, plants etc are present in every community which provides the needed products for local consumption. The growth and expansion of community depends on the opportunities derive from local manufacturer.

The middlemen in the channel of distribution sell products to the retailers. Mass production system depends on the small specialized manufacturing plant which at the same time dependent on the small merchant and retail dealers to handle several thousand of different units of production from large manufactures.

Consumer goods reach the last stage of distribution through wholesale the majority of which are small business, that is large producers buys from numerous small and mostly local establishment, wealth of production to her people for immediate use, service businesses like bank, insurance, estate survey or
provides several types of service to consumers, governmental agencies etc service business are organized in small employment with requirements of small initial investment depended on personal supervision for example the barber, watch repairer, cobbler shops have not achieved mass production.

In Nigeria small business accounts for local and national economic growth, it cares for 60% of all private employment and about 20% of the nation’s total output of goods and services. Ogundare (2010) The Federal Government has spent money on the popular to discourage them from depending on white collar jobs by motivating small businesses to function in the country. By this motivation, new jobs were created from small (labour intensive) companies hence, the vital economic importance of these small business units can be examined under: the following which return will lead to National developments.

2. Competitive maintain ability.
3. Innovation.

**Business Interdependence:** All business activities life is based on interdependence. No modern business can stand alone; it must depend on other firms and sell either to different business owners or to customers in competition with many other businesses. This is to say that there is a place for individual that has something to offer and is able to offer it effectively.

The establishment of small business has enabled the large firms concentrate effectively on activities where their efforts are needed. A number of small wholesalers, retailers, industrial distributors etc transferred the finished goods to the last consumers. Without their middlemen within the states as sales representatives for big firm’s warehouse mass distribution of mass production would not be possible.

Furthermore, the producers of automobile, electronic gadgets etc which are of great importance to the world or society depend on hundreds of small independent services, establishments for the repair, upkeep and maintenance of these products, small firms perform also a wide variety of professional technical and electrical services both for big business itself and for other customers in need of their specialized skills and knowledge. Big business and small business work hand in hand during manufacturing process in some goods production procedure. Besides, it provides most component parts to feed large assembly lines including a wide variety of industrial supplies, small enterprises are also essential users of many of large firm products. Thus, big business cannot prosper without small business supplying its needs and buying its products.

**Competitive Maintainability:** Small enterprises compete with big firms to cater or ensure the system of free independent enterprise in order to avoid superiority by big firm over small firms different laws and edicts were promulgated in Nigeria in recent years, the aims and objectives were to avoid or prevent monopoly and except this is done, security and well – being of the small firms cannot be realized. Competition is a vehicle of change through innovation or improvement. Business competition can be in term of price, credit terms, service product improvement etc. The existence of independent enterprises is necessary if any nation is to maintain free competition of business activities.

**Innovation:** Ideas and inventions were normally provided by individuals and small business through personal contribution to research and development. In most cases small business enterprises managed by their owners appear more innovative than large publicly because people were genuinely to discover new ideas relating to gain profit in more direct way of motivation. Large businesses concentrate on products having steady or predictable demand but risky items are left for small operators. Pioneers of new ideas emanate from when demand was not there for the product. It can therefore be concluded that larger business support innovation when small independent enterprise has developed a conducive markets for product sales.

There are thousands of enterprises in Nigeria, which fall into the category of small businesses. They include carpentry, pottery and ceramics weaving, farming, fishing, piggery and animal husbandry, poultry, ceramics and metal work, retail trade, tailoring, dress making, mechanic, repair workshops, brick and block making, transportation etc. The bulk of Nigeria small-scale enterprise is in the commercial sector the trend is now towards services industries. For example in 1980, the registered companies in the commercial sector totaled 2,080 represents about 38 percent of the total figure of 5,455 for that year.
The importance of small business to the economy
Small Business has special importance to the economy of the country for the following reasons:
1. Promotion of even development and fair distribution of industrial activities throughout the country.
2. Creation of substantial employment opportunities. Amao A.I. (2003) opined that for an economy strongly supported by numerous small scale projects, the rate of employment is usually high.
3. Rapid expansion and diversification of the industrial and service investment.
4. Stimulation of indigenous entrepreneurship serves as a training ground for entrepreneurs.
5. Transformation and modernization of traditional industries.
6. Integrated agro-industrial development and orderly growth of urbanization through the establishment of small scale industries in the growth centres in different parts of the country.

Other advantages of owning a business enterprise
1. Security and income
2. Self expression
3. Short line of communication
4. Close contact with employees and consumers
5. Close decision making
6. Ease of entry
   The small and medium enterprises have a number of advantages which derive from the fact that they are:
i. More labour intensive and therefore capable of creating more jobs.
ii. Conducive for the provision of effective training ground for entrepreneur and development of managerial talent
iii. Less complex in terms of technology and can therefore be managed by entrepreneurs themselves.
iv. Much likely to utilize local raw materials and thereby stimulate rural development.
v. Likely to provide linkages between the larger enterprises through production of semi finished raw materials.
vi. Within the financial reach of many entrepreneurs as the demand of the sponsors for the contribution of equity is less taxing, this in the long run, will stimulate capital formation.
vii. Likely to stimulate the development production of truly indigenous technology as key to real economic development
viii. Amiable for location over a wider geographical area of the Federation and will therefore lead to a better spread economic and socio-political powers
ix. Speed up indigenous enterprise
x. Capable of promoting better industrial relations and environment
xi. Generate substantial employment opportunities for the unemployed as compared with large scale industries.
-xii. Mobilize available but hitherto untapped local resources of raw materials and skills
-xiii. Stimulate growth of indigenous entrepreneurship
-xiv. Encourage industrial dispersal to rural areas thereby helping to reduce the incidence of rural – urban immigration with its disturbing socio-economic and political implications;
-xv. Provide effective avenue for import substitution thereby saving much needed foreign exchange and
-xvi. Lead to dispersal of uncomplicated technology for easy acquisition and understand by the predominantly semi-skilled labour force in the country and thereby contribute to the growth of indigenous skilled manpower technology.
Problems of entrepreneurship in Nigeria
The factors highlighted below have constrained the growth and contributions of entrepreneurship in the development process are.

*Inadequacy of finance:* This is a critical problem facing many small-scale entrepreneurship which has affected their scale of operation. Majority of them have limited access to foreign exchange as well as institutional credits.

*Inadequacy infrastructure base:* Availability of infrastructure facilities is grossly inadequate in many countries especially the developing ones. These are mainly in the areas of access road, electricity, water supply and telecommunication; private provisioning of these facilities is usually at great costs and reduces the funds available for their activities (Renkatarman in Odunbanjo, 2000).

*Low entrepreneurship skills:* According to Oshagbemi in Odubanjo (2000), organizational success is mainly hinged on the entrepreneurial skills management; unfortunately, many small-scale industries lack good exposure to management theories’, training and practices, which impacts negatively on their performance.

*Multiplicity of policies/regulatory measures:* Small-scale entrepreneurship especially, in Nigeria, are confronted with multiple taxes, several changes on loans, and importation etc. coupled with their ever changing dimension, which pose very seriously challenges inimically to their growth (Onwumerin in Nassar 2000).

**Strategies for sustainable development through Entrepreneurship**
It has earlier said that no country in the world that has met the required development in all ramifications except with proper function and efficiency of the entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship will definitely bring about national development, if the following ingredients are taken care of:

1. *Education for sustainable development.*
   Arogundade, Babatope and Bukola (2011) opined that education for sustainable Development is such that seeks to equip peoples towards creating a sustainable future. UNESCO (2000) in the same view assert that the way each nations cultural group and individual views sustainable development will depend on their own values, hence government policy should enhance education which will cut across all sectors and specialize in skill and development of talent rather than theory.

2. *Improved vocational and technical education.*
   Ojomoh (2002) defines vocational and technical education as that aspect of education which leads to the acquisition of practical and applied skills and basic scientific knowledge. Vocational and technical education is an instrument to a buoyant modern economy as it requires for rapid growth and development skilled manpower in all ramification of life.

   Alam (2007) Observed that education was previously seen as fundamental, not only to the economic development but also to the social and political development within a nation and for individuals.

   Alam (2007) argued that human capital theory has power influence on the analysis of labour market thus investment in education and training produce benefits both to the individual and to society as a whole. The return on investment for society will be a skilled work force that will enable global competitiveness and economic growth, while the return on individual will be a better career path, increased earning and a better quality of life. The World Bank policy paper on TVE (1991) says “that to get the maximum benefit to national development from TVE certain factors must be considered.

   - Well – timed modern course linked to local and global demand
   - Relevant and up-to-date TVE courses need to develop.
   - Proper justification in respect of individual country at which level of schooling is best in offering TVE courses and
   - Wide range of TVE couriers need to be developed in terms of demand and cost effectiveness.

It has been noted that vocational education is designed to offer training to improve individuals, general proficiency, especially in relation to improve individual’s general proficiency, especially in relation to their present or future occupations but in Nigeria many of the vocational and technical education are also in theory but not in practices. More so, for Nigeria to experience a constant national development,
government should also embark on youth empowerment programmes which will reach the poor masses in the rural areas. There is need for governmental policy on entrepreneurship development which will allow constant monitoring, evaluation and feedback for corrective measure. The school curricular should inculcate and give enough time for practical which in turn will help in developing the skills and talents of citizens.

Government should equip the schools with correct laboratory, workshops for practicals. Government and organization should embark on constant training and development programme for workers. Another important point is that continuity, in Nigerian educational system has been politicized, formerly we have 6:3:3:4 system now it is 9-3-3 system of education without continuity in a policy, Nigerian cannot get to her level of sustainable development.

Finally one of the problems of entrepreneurship in Nigeria is lack of capital; government should encourage Nigerians by giving loan to graduates to practicalize the knowledge acquired in school.

CONCLUSION

Various sound economic programmes have been instituted by the Federal government primarily to redeem poverty, unemployment and encourage entrepreneurship in Nigeria in the last three decades, yet none have worked. The real solution is mostly in our leaders and partly in the followers. We shall get result when we all think right, act right and take up challenge to develop entrepreneurship which in turn will lead to national development. It is better to be a small head than to be a big tail, hence, to be an employer of people is better than to be a servant whether civil or modernized servant, a servant is a servant and have little to offer in national development.

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