

Entrepreneurship and National Development: An Overture for Educational and Sustainable Development

¹Geraldine Oluchi & ²Ezenwafor Emmanuel C.

¹*Department of Mass Communication*

²*Department of Accountancy*

Federal polytechnic Oko Orumba North L.G.A, Anambra state

Abstract

This paper deliberate in all the process of ministering the entrepreneurial personality, right from childhood to the time of retirement from active entrepreneurial practice, if ever possible, as development. It also specifies development as a construct used to explain economic expansion. It posits an agenda of developing the entrepreneur from cradle to the grace which involves active participation of virtually all forms of institutions in the society; the models to be used as vehicle for promoting entrepreneurial development are outlined. The paper contends that the era of relying on natural entrepreneurs for economic development, based on the experience from south East Asia is gone. Therefore, if we hope to have sustainable economy, skilled entrepreneurs should be properly trained so as to face the challenges of the next century. This calls for active involvement of all economic, social, political, technical institutions and firms. It also focuses on the development of multiple skills in our entrepreneurs.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship, National development*

Corresponding Author: Geraldine Oluchi

Background to the Study

The entrepreneur in the context of this paper is the originator or creator of a profit seeking organ of the society or economic organization established for the purpose of providing goods and services for the consumption of the society, in which such organization is located. The entrepreneur is often referred to as the agent of economic, technological and social systems (Ogundele and Olayemi, 2004). Entrepreneurship is considered as the processes of emergency, behaviour and performance of entrepreneur (Ogundele, 2004a). The formal processes of equipping the entrepreneur with necessary insight and skill are through formal education, entrepreneurial training and development.

Educational is commonly considered as formal process of learning in school, college or university. Development in the general sense is many sided process. At the individual level; it implies increase skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline responsibility and material well being (Rodney, 2005). The achievement of any of those aspects of personal development is very much tied with the state of the society of a whole. At the level of social groups development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationship. (Rodney, 2005) is of the view that the tool with which men work and the manner in which they organize their labour are important indices of social development.

(Rodney, 2005) notes further that development when used exclusively in economic sense, refers to how members of a society increase, jointly exercise their capacity for subduing the environment. This capacity is dependent on the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (science) and on the extent to which they put (technology) and on the manner in which work is organized. All these are assisted by the processes of formal education, training and development in the society.

The evangelistic dimension is concerned with massive propagation of all activities that will result in quantum movement of people into entrepreneurial activities. This will be based on zealous efforts at spreading entrepreneur vision and practice through the nation. The agenda component relates to sequence for sustainable entrepreneur development for a great and dynamic economy in Nigeria.

Development is viewed in this paper as the systematic process of training and growth and through it, the individual gains and apply knowledge, skills, insights and attitudes, with which he/she manages profit seeking and other work organizations effectively. Great as used in this paper refers to above ordinary or outstanding/unique level. The dynamic economy refers to one that is growing and at the same time has inbuilt capacity to adjust to fast changes in the environment in the overall economic system. This paper contends that entrepreneurship development in Nigeria must focus on producing new breeds of entrepreneurs with visions for the future development of the country and they must have multiple skills for dynamic adjustment to changes in the environment.

Conceptual Framework

Development, as noted by (Hornby, 1974) is gradual advancement through progressive stages of growth from within. From this point of view development implies 'changes' and this is very

important in any consideration of entrepreneurship education and development. From a broader perspective, the development approach to entrepreneurship considers the nurturing of the actual or potential entrepreneurs to become more effective in running their own organizations (Singh, 1996), notes that this has to be done at various stages and in various training and development institutions. The development theory developed by (Singh, 1986), has its foundation in massive education, training and development of the entrepreneurs from childhood, on the need for achievement motive.

(Singh, 1986) notes further that entrepreneurial performance is influenced by three factors. First factor is his or her attitude towards his/her occupation. Second, the role expectations held by the sanctioning groups. Third factor is the operational requirement of the job. He notes that society's value are most important determinants of the first two factors, education, training and developments crucial for the third.

Ekpo-Ufot (1988) provides an account of an entrepreneurship development program that was carried out at the University of Lagos. As a result he produced a list of seven determinants that affect entrepreneurship response. These are (1) society's value and need (2) family (3) schools (4) work organization (5) urbanization and industrial estates (6) availability of financial resources and (7) government. He states that there are several ways in which determinants can be structured to accelerate entrepreneurship development. The program reported by him was on the development of planning skills in the entrepreneurs by involving the entrepreneurs in producing the feasibility studies of their projects. This paper therefore argues for a restructuring of our educational system for educating and developing entrepreneurs for economic development in the 21st century.

(Okaka, 1990) observes that entrepreneurial success depends on development. That to be successful entrepreneurs need to possess certain qualities in addition to skills and knowledge concerned with the technical aspect of owning a business, such skills are acquired through organized education, training and development.

(Rao, et. al., 1990), note that the focus of development approach is entrepreneurship skill. These skills include: (1) Development of entrepreneurial spirit, characteristics and personality (2) Development of technical, technological and professional competencies needed for productive work employment (3) Development of enterprise-building and small business development, capabilities to initiate and start one's own business or self-employment and (4) Development of managerial capability to run the business and other self-employment tactivity successfully.

(Ogundele, 2000) notes that the areas covered by the development theory involve both macro and micro level issues and determinants of entrepreneurship. At the macro level it covers training in opportunity awareness, relating to relevant publics, technology, market and dealing with government agencies to mention only a few. The micro level issues include entrepreneurial personality in terms of attitudes, motivation, values education, and work experience. The approach emphasizes education, training and development as important

determinants of the processes of entrepreneurship. The development theory envisages the positive effects or consequences of education, training and development on several determinants that affect entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. The utilization of this approach holds much promise for the under developing countries like Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

Interactive Model of Social-economic Development

The interactive Model of self-reliant socio-economic development is intended to complement the model on entrepreneurial development with a view to producing technological innovation and result oriented entrepreneurs who have practical training in relevant industrial sectors of the economy. In figure 2 below, the principal institutions of development are the double headed arrows. Ascending arrows in the schools system depict academic career growth whereas descending ones emphasize the role of the higher institutions to provide instruction to match their classroom learning with practical work experience in industry. Workers in the industry will, also ensure that learning and research are made relevant to the needs of this country (Ogundele, 2005a).

Installing Educational, Training and Development Programmes or Entrepreneurial Development

It must be stated here, that the levels of formal education will affect entrepreneurship (Ogundele, 2000). In addition, the levels and types of technical, vocational, managerial and other forms of specialized education, training and development will equally affect entrepreneurship. The other side of the coin is that the lack of appropriate and necessary education, training and development would adversely affect the pace of emergency, patterns of behaviors and consequently lead to a slow pace of performance of the economy.

Therefore, appropriate entrepreneurial educational training and development programmes European Scientific Journal March edition vol. 8, No.6 ISSN: 1857 – 7881 (Print) e - ISSN 1857- 7431 142 must be provided for pupils and students of various levels of Nigeria educational systems and for the adult in other forms of social institutions of which they are members.

Basic Entrepreneurial Education at Primary School Level

At the primary level, it is not enough to teach pupils the skills of reading, writing, calculating and elementary science. They must be taught how to apply these skills in solving the problems of society; this is where model 2 above becomes highly relevant. They must be taught to develop vision of a better future society, thus making infants to be visionary conscious. They must be initiated into intuitive sensitivity of seeing order in disorder through practice and deep listening. The young ones must be educated on self awareness and risk tasking confidence, which are part of the need for achievement. Based on the challenges of globalization our pupils should be educated to develop the skill of multicultural responsive that is analyzing different culture to know more about the world of others and how they could be exploited. They must also be introduced to the various occupational areas in their local environment. The above requirements mean that they become very large bearers in developing great and dynamic economy. Therefore, entrepreneurial educations have to be provided to pupils and teachers at the primary level.

Entrepreneurial Education at the Secondary School Level

If the 6-3-3-4 educational policy in Nigeria is made functional there would have been little problems in building on the foundations which have been laid at the primary schools level. There are serious defects in the provision of facilities, equipments and personnel at the primary school level. The implementation of the 3-3 educational programmes at the secondary school level is a must for producing students who will be agents for national development in the 21st century. During the first three years teachers at the secondary school level will have to build on, and further develop the skills of intuitive sensitivity, self-awareness, risk taking, visionary consciousness and multinational responsiveness whose foundations should have been laid at the primary school level, at secondary level the last three years of the students will focus efforts in areas where they have exhibited the best competences to contribute most to the social development. Those who are not best suited for pure academic pursuit would at this level branch out into relevant vocational area for them.

They will immediately become agents in the process of producing the desired great patterns of national development. They will be expected to be actively involved in the practical implementation of model 2 of this paper. Again at this level entrepreneurial education have to be provided for both the trainees and the trainers.

Entrepreneurial Education, Training and Development at the Tertiary Education Levels:

This level includes the colleges of education, the polytechnics, the Universities at graduate and post graduate levels and other forms of private initiatives designed to promote entrepreneurship. It is to be noted that presently, there are some forms of entrepreneurship education and development at the tertiary educational levels. In some institutions it is taught only in one semester out of eight in four years of a student's academic experience with varying course contents. Some institutions are even planning to provide their students with facilities and fund to practice their pet ideas. The best practice will be to ensure that students take at least a course in entrepreneurship in every year of their academic pursuit at the tertiary educational level, under varying titles such as entrepreneurship development, small business management, management of small scale industry, managing your own business, etc. The implementation of model 2 is particularly relevant at this level. The functional approach will equip the practicing and would be entrepreneurs with, planning, initiating, controlling, supporting, information, evolution, development of technical, enterprise building and managerial skills. The behavioral approach will focus on building appropriate entrepreneurial attitudes, values, beliefs, norms, customs, perception, motives and needs.

It is environment of the entrepreneurs' spirit, characteristics and personality. The environmental aspect refers to the external environment in figure 1 above; the impetus at this level has to be provided by others. These include the family environment, social and religious groups, formal educational systems, government agencies and private initiatives, the legal and political framework, available technology and cultural system. All of these must act as facilitators for entrepreneurial practice. In addition there must be provision of necessary financial assistance and conducive rural and urban environments, for nurturing and supporting entrepreneurship (Ogujiuba, Ohuche and Adenuga, 2004). These will lead to the development of entrepreneurs who will be agents in spearheading national development economy.

Entrepreneurial Development for the Masses:

The widespread level of unemployment in the country could have been minimized if Nigerians of varying age groups and backgrounds were exposed to entrepreneurial education, training and development across levels. The quest for producing great and dynamic economy, in the 21st century, if Nigeria is not to be left behind the rest of the world in the match towards propensity demands that all hands must be utilized to provide entrepreneurial education training and development for the general populace. The evangelistic agenda will not be complete if any segment of the society is not catered for. Everybody must be an entrepreneurial crusader from the urban to rural areas. This will be in our community centres, in the urban and rural areas, through special programmes by the churches and mosques designed for installing entrepreneurial spirit in the individuals. At specified schools, adult education programmes at convenient times, should be put in place to have all round entrepreneurial education and development programmes for Nigerians. This means that there must be entrepreneurial evangelism. This also calls for large number of trainers for these programmes.

Skills to be developed in Entrepreneurs and the General Populace for National Development in the 21st Century

The demands of globalization have shown that Nigeria entrepreneurs must have Multiples skills if they are to be agents of national development. (Ogundele, 2005a) presents three broad categories of such skills which have twenty eight elements. The first is Management Development Perspective Skills. There are thirteen elements in this category, they are; time managements, entrepreneurial self development, managing change for competitive success; decision-making, human resources environment of business; helping people to learn; team building; project management, re-engineering or business processed design; total quality management, organizational development, corporate excellence and people skills.

The second is Interpersonal Skills. There are also twelve elements in this group, they include; leadership; subordinate development, delegation and counselling, information technology, re-engineering entrepreneurship ventures, managing information, employee empowerment, conflict management, negotiating, and communication skills. The third category is cross-sectional skills. This group consists of four elements which are innovation/creativeness, planning, organizing and Kaizen skills.

The above outline educational and developmental programmes and areas of skills development constitute the proposals of evangelistic agenda for entrepreneurship education, training and development for national development economy. The adaptation and implementation of these proposals should be the sure foundations for rapid national development in Nigeria in the 21st century.

The four categories of developing the entrepreneurs call for massive propagation, at local, state and federal government levels. Other relevant actions that will complement the approaches listed above are:

1. Commonly accepted slogan on dignity of owing your own business should be developed around which all propaganda is built. This should be propagated in all major Nigeria languages.

2. The mass media be actively involved in mobilizing the masses for effective entrepreneur activities to promote national development.
3. High employment salaries e.g. paid in oil sector, bank and specially politicians are disjunctives to entrepreneur development. Government should therefore create fund to assist genuine entrepreneur before their ventures begin to yield returns e.g. graduate and those thrown out of jobs consequence upon current economic downturn.
4. Electronic commerce has been used by all developed countries to achieve greater strides in taking advantage of globalization and attendant competition. This should be positively employed in Nigeria.
5. Women should be used as a special agent in this proposed programme, they are in the majority and they need more flexibility in the use of their time than men.
6. Rural areas must be properly integrated in the programmes it should not be an urban affair, must bridge in gap between aging retiring entrepreneurs and their young successors to minimize the problem of entrepreneurial succession.
7. Government to concentrate more on infrastructure development at all levels, local, state and federal (Abercrombic et al. 2002).
8. There is the need for moral entrepreneurs championing the restoration of proper moral values, as a crusade against unethical business actions on the part of beneficiaries from the proposed entrepreneurial development evangelistic agenda.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Education training and development play very crucial roles in entrepreneurial development and skills acquisition. It is position of this paper that the hope for any meaningful development that will produce great and dynamic economy in Nigeria in all aspects of its people endeavors lies in rigorous and massive entrepreneurial education, training and development, right from childhood and continually until one retires from gainful employment. At the primary school level the “catch them young concept” should be the central objective. At the secondary and tertiary levels students are to be provided with some form of background knowledge on entrepreneurs and based on model 2 in figure 2, this should be complemented with industrial experience by the learners. For example, at secondary, polytechnic, undergraduate and graduate levels students presently are being provided with conceptual skills and skills which entrepreneurs require to perform in specialized functional areas such as accounting, marketing, production, personnel, etc. The

Dynamic global environment requires that skills should be upgraded constantly hence the need for expansion as provided in the 28 listed skills areas. Several private and government agencies in Nigeria e.g. Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) and Centre for Management Development (CMD) have programmes for developing indigenous entrepreneurs to upgrade their skills. The methods of training and development and the course contents in all these institutions need to be refocused and upgraded based on the discussion in this paper. There is need for a “people change approach” if we are to have great and dynamic economy in Nigeria. The models presented outlined the various groups and areas for training and development. Governments as well as private organizations' supports are required urgently to produce needed positive changes. The other important ingredients are values reorientation, disciplined behavior and leadership by example. All these are components of entrepreneurship education, training and development for National development in Nigeria in the 21st century.

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