

Globalizing Entrepreneurship for Self Reliance and Nation Building in Nigeria

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Abstract

There is no doubt that the 21st century has brought about a paradigm shift in all aspects of human life and nation building. One of such is globalization which has reshaped the economic pattern of all nations. Applicability of globalization to entrepreneurship is hinged on the significant role it plays in poverty alleviation and socio-political transformation the world over. Entrepreneurship is concern with bringing about self-reliance through innovative thinking for nation building. In view of this, this paper discussed globalizing entrepreneurship for self-reliance and nation building in Nigeria. The paper concludes with the following recommendations such as a call on the government to provide infrastructure such as good road networking, effective transportation system and electricity to attract investors and allow the linkages of the rural dwellers with the western world. Modern equipment and facilities such as computers should also be provided in tertiary institution by the government to facilitate effective teaching and learning of entrepreneurship.

Keywords: *Self-reliance, Globalizing, Entrepreneurship, Social political, Nation building*

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Background to the Study

Education is the key to social, economic and political transformation in the world over. It is a veritable tool for civilization and a potent instrument for poverty alleviation. It is based on this that quality education at all levels became a fundamental right of the citizen. In view of this importance of education in the world economy order, declaration of education for all (EFA) in 1990 became a renewed global concern geared towards widening people access to education. In the light of this, Jide and Tijani (2012) reflected that any nation that plays with the education of her teeming population is directly or indirectly breeding hunger, disease and social political instability.

The whole world has turned to a global village which demands a paradigm shift in all facet of the economy towards knowledge driving powered by entrepreneurship development. In the context, Tessema (2007) believed that the quest for entrepreneurship is on the increase because with entrepreneurship, people can be self-employed and that improved the economic power of the individual as well as the nation. Following this though pattern therefore, any nation that wants to be relevant in the business of a modern world should globalize his education for efficiency, effectiveness and changes to meet the challenges of our time. In view of the above exposition, this paper is focused on globalizing entrepreneurship to engender self-reliance and nation building.

Concept of Globalization

The whole world has become a global village in the 21st century era of computer. Thus, there is demand for global economic competitiveness among nations in all facet of human engagement through removal of certain social economic and cultural barriers as hindrance to accelerated growth and sustainable development. The concept of globalization has no universally acceptable definition. Rather, it depends on who defines and from which angle it is defined. Yaduma (2013) simply perceived it as “Global village” where everything is within the reach from anywhere. Ogakwu and Isife (2013) visualize globalization as:

The increase of national economy, the removal of barriers to free trade in such a way that people in different part of the world are being connected to each other like never before, that what happen to people in one part of the world will have direct consequences to others in a completely different and the decision by and the interest of some in one country may impact on the lives of many in other countries.

According to Nyeke (2004) opines that globalization is the trans-boundary movement of capital, people, good, information and culture. Oleforo (2013) referred globalization as a country tracing of expansion of human population and the growth of civilization that has accelerated dramatically in the past fifty years.

The above perception of globalization underscores absolute lack of consensus among scholars on the concept. However, the central focus of globalization as perceives in this study is interaction, interconnectivity, interdependency and partnership manifesting in

poly-socio-economy, educational, cultural, recreational and institutional cooperation among nations of the world. In other world, globalization is a universal framework of transformation that is devoid of language, ethnic and territorial barriers. It is the unification of mankind across the globe that is geared towards unprecedented growth and development.

Self-Reliance and Nation Building

Part of the key philosophy of the Nigerian society is the utilization of education to become a self-reliance nation a dynamic economy. In line with this, the Federal Republic of Nigeria state the acquisition of appropriate skills and the development of mental, physical and social abilities and competencies as equipment for the individual to live in and contributes to the development of the society.

Otaobasi (2009) saw self-reliance as the ability to do or decide things by oneself rather than depending on other people for help. In the same vein, Olabosu in Agu (2009) opine that self-reliance is the act of making use of one's own resources to bring about improve and accelerated social political and economic development. Similarly, Gandu in Agu (2009) expressed self-reliance as a development strategy aimed at looking inward creatively and providing solution to nation socio-economic and entrepreneur problems through its own pace and its own valuation constitute with its own long term interest.

In contrast, nation-building as a concept cannot be overemphasized because of its relevance to human and material resources development. This is why Mezieobi and Nwosu (2016) averred that (nation-building) is seen as a democratic divided". Definitions of nation-building are numerous. Mbakwem (2009) sees nation-building as "a concerted effort to bring peoples together (in a nation) for the purpose of achieving common objectives". Birabel and Ibekwe (2016) defined a nation-building as "the solid and incremental sustainability of a nation in order to ensure its functional longevity in the overall interest of the citizenry and the nation".

On the other hand, Meziobi (2016) simply sees a nation-building as "the collective effort of all in relatively large group who have been brought together by a superior force or collective agreement to inhabit a more or less definite area or a common solidarity or national consciousness are continuously striving relentlessly to move the distinctive territory they are occupying as a country or nation and their own- community of persons from more or less comfortable stage of development and a living standards to higher or better stage in all facets of national life".

Nigeria as a nation, that gained its independence from the British colonial masters on the 1st October, 1960. Since Nigeria's independence, Nigeria has wallowed in neocolonialism indirectly without knowing. This is because (Nigeria) still relies on the countries of the world for financial and material aids, export and import, oil refining and so on. Nigeria is located in the western part of Africa. Mezieobi and Nzegbulem (2016) said that Nigeria "lays between latitudes of 4° and 14° and 150 east of the Greenwich Meridian covers an area of 922, 220 square kilometers".

Globalizing Entrepreneurship

Any developing country that wants to shake of its syndromes of poverty, insecurity, child trafficking, child labour, unemployment and other social vices must accept that entrepreneurship is the key driver to such realization. It is one of the aspects of education that is crucial to the entire education system. Entrepreneurship stand to keep up with changing saleable employment skills need in various stages of transformation for security stability. Ihejirika (2013) the orientation and belief of developing country like Nigeria is to relay on foreign man power, product and strategies to execute plans had reduced self-reliance, national security, transformation, self-actualization of its people in the society. The rate of youth joblessness and unemployment in the population is in geometric growth while the job opportunity growth is in arithmetic progression. The World Bank estimated high unemployment rate of forty million youth age 15 – 24 as unemployed (Memza 2010). On this note, there is need for entrepreneurial skills that will promote skills acquisition of the youth for self-actualization in their various endeavours.

The unemployed individuals or students should not, for live be dependent on the immediate members of his family and the society at large for necessary support and provision (Adeniyi 2008). Therefore, to bail them out of the impediment the society has placed on them, there is need to find ways of rediscovery their potentials, developing them and eventually maximizing them for their own benefit and the society. These potentialities according to Adediran, Adeyanju & Orukotan (2015) can be rediscovered through entrepreneurial skills. An entrepreneurial skill according to Abimbola (2007) is an education capable of reducing poverty in a population and empowering the disadvantaged segment of the population. It provides education that will help foster the development of small and medium scale enterprises and viable local enterprise that are crucial in promoting economic development as well as alleviating poverty. Entrepreneurship is to make up different type of experiences that are capable of giving the leaner the ability and vision on how to access and transform opportunities of different types. It is all round increasing student ability to anticipate and respond to societal changes (Ihejirika 2015). It helps to prepare the individual for life and most importantly it gives a career opportunity to students who may want to be self-reliant.

Developing entrepreneurial skills will best be achieved through an active leaning process skill. What learners learn is greatly influenced by how they are taught. A teacher according to Ihejirika (2013) is expected to develop in students the entrepreneur skills that may propel them for their future careers. With this in place they can be able to face the life challenges. Entrepreneurial development should be continuous exercise if its purpose was to be realised. It cuts across all sectors of the economy and it is something that needs to be developed in the individual, who occupies a position of leadership in any organisation or institution be it governmental or parastatals or an institution of learning and even private organisation, as entrepreneurial according to Oviawe & Oviawe (2009) is responsible for developing new markets, discovering new sources of materials, mobilizing capital resources, introducing new technology and creating employment, towards the realisation of national, organisational or institutional goals and objectives,

no amount of fund and time spent on the development should be regarded as waste. With entrepreneurship skill development in students, they will be able to prove wrong through their meaningful contribution to their society.

Globalizing entrepreneurship according to Adediran (2016) therefore connotes making entrepreneurship to be in line with “global best practice” which according to UNESCO in Yaduma (2013) was originally borrowed from the profession of Medicine, Law and Architecture where “good practice or best practice are everyday phrases used to describe solid, reputable, state of the art work in a field. The term “best practice” is a short-hand emblem of serious, thoughtful, informed responsible, state of the art teaching. Taking about best practice in education generally, Yaduma (2013) reflected that virtually all the authoritative voices and document in every teaching field are calling for schools that are more students centered, active, experiential, authentic, democratic, collaborative, rigorous and challenging. According to this author, students learn best when faced with genuine challenges, stresses and responsibility in their own learning.

Yaduma (2013) opine that global best practice is required to make entrepreneurship response to several major issues and problems which have hindered the progress in Nigeria. In this regard, the unemployment problems, lack of good standard of living and other economic issue may reduce if social entrepreneurship is being globalized in Nigeria and other part of the world. From the foregoing, globalizing entrepreneurship require best practice in the nation where formulation of formidable policies and effective implementation strategies are put in place. In addition, globalization of entrepreneurship demands qualified personnel who can drive home the modality and strategies that may enhance the programme.

The overall concept of entrepreneurship can according to Dees (2007) and Light (2009) trace its origin back to the 1980's where it emerged from the people like Bill, Drayton at Ashoka, whose philosophy is to use to promote positive social change through investment in entrepreneurs. Ashoka (2011) and Ed-skloot at new ventures who was helping explore new sources of income. Although, entrepreneurship is, as stated earlier, a relatively new concept, it has gained increasingly acknowledgement during the past decade at an international level with international organization world class, universities, government, public agencies, private corporation and entrepreneurial forms paying attention to and allocating resources to entrepreneurship (Dees, 2007, Chell, Nicolopoulou and Karatas, Ozkan, 2010). Due to this increase acknowledgement, entrepreneurship has now evolved into a global phenomenon (Nicholls, 2008, Jiao, 2011). These and many more innovative ideas will bring about self-reliance and also enhance nation building due to its global recognitions

Conclusion and Recommendations

Globalizing entrepreneurship will make provision for alternative possibility for the era of world economic order, therefore, attempt by any country not align its self with different means of boosting its economic power through global demands, and it's tantamount to

socio-economic backwardness in the 21st century and beyond. Entrepreneurship is a process of creating value by combining resources in new ways, intended primarily to explore and exploit opportunities to create social value by stimulating social change or meeting social needs. It is also the process of using entrepreneurial and business skills to create innovative approaches to social problems. These profit ventures pursue the double bottom line of social impact and financial self-sustainability or profitability. Nigeria as a developing country needs global partnership in technology to develop her economy for human resource, food security, create job opportunities, advancement in infrastructure and social stability.

In realizing the above, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government should make provision for the development of rural areas through the provision of infrastructure such as good road network, effective transportation system and electricity to attract investors and allow the linkages of the rural dwellers with the western world.
2. Education sector should be well funded. Therefore, the Nigerian Government should comply with 26% budget of allocation to education people since it is the back bone of national economy and development.
3. Government should make fund available for anybody who has the mind for the setting up a venture that may bring possible societal changes to nation.
4. Government should encourage an individual that has innovative ideas which may call for self-reliance and economy sustainability to the nation.

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