

ENHANCING ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION SKILLS IN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: *The Paper discussed the enhancement of entrepreneurial education skills in Electrical installation for sustainable economic development. School leavers from various institutions face skill opportunities of securing employment including those that studied electrical installation maintenance work. Entrepreneurial education was discussed as a suiting solution that would enable the graduates learn skills that would make them survive by establishing electrical installation related enterprises for sustainable economic development. Some factors that would promote entrepreneurship education include adequate provision of fund to establish entrepreneurial education system, revitalization of electricity supplies and expansion of educational facilities for entrepreneurial development. Entrepreneurial competences identified for sustainable economic development among Electrical Installation graduates include managerial, accounting, marketing and competitive skills. The paper also identified concrete reasons for entrepreneurial education to include provision of necessary skills, ability of students to transit from school to work among others. When entrepreneurial education is enhanced, sustainable economic development will be realized.*

KEYWORDS: entrepreneurial education, economic development, education, skills, electrical installation

INTRODUCTION

Countries that are developing are facing harsh economic realities resulting from unemployment of youths orchestrated by governments and companies downsizing their workforce as developed nations constantly flood the market with their numerous products. The graduates from various levels of educational institutions face slim chances of getting employment without adroit skills of rare quality in these developing nations. Ogbuanya and Abdulahi (2014) pointed out that the optimism of any country yearning for technological advancement and relevance in the world would depend on her attainment in the field of Vocational and Technical Education successful attainments. Therefore Technical and Vocational Education is designed to prepare individuals to enter into paid employment and other recognized occupations in the world of paid employment. This scenario is expected to aid developing nations break the shackles of youth unemployment giving credence to sustainable economic development.

The present education system needs to emphasize skills acquisition for employability and economic development rather than the earlier educational curriculum that did not place emphasis on practical skills acquisition resulting to army of youths that cannot secure employment. The contemporary education system should therefore emphasize practical skills acquisition, competency, capacity building training and retraining. This calls for the need for entrepreneurial education with Technical and Vocational Education as thematic areas.

UNESCO (2012) pointed out that the first education curriculum was reviewed simply because graduates produced under that system were unable to meaningfully fit into the work opportunities within the society. If Entrepreneurial education is adopted in Educational system, it can be a valuable asset in the contemporary society. Entrepreneurial education refers to a phenomenon associated with entrepreneurial activity of enterprising human action in pursuit of the generation of value, through the creation or expansion of economic activity, by identifying and exploiting new products, processes or markets. Entrepreneurial education is thus activities related to establishment and running of business ventures. Ile (2001) noted that entrepreneurial education is the ability and willingness of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. Alabi (2010) described entrepreneurial education as an area that involves attitudes and skills essential for responding to one's environment when conceiving, starting and managing a business enterprise. Entrepreneurship could depict individual's ability to successfully organize a business. Hornby (2004) along this point, described entrepreneurship as the ability to organize a business, undertaking and assuming the risks for the sake of profit, or the ability and willingness of a person to initiate, control and direct; the process of production of goods and services and bearing the attendant risks of such a business. Offor (2011) regarded entrepreneurial education as a structured knowledge provided to empower the youths as a means of development of the total man who is creative, confident, analytical, innovative, independent, self-sufficient and capable of responding positively to starting and assuming the risk of business entries.

Some tertiary institutions in Nigeria offer Technical and vocational education. Electrical Installation and maintenance is one of the courses offered by students trained in this area and are expected to acquire skills that can lead them to self-reliance facilitated by entrepreneurial education also taught them during the regular school curriculum implantation. The Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2004) had earlier stated that tertiary institutions among other things are charged with the responsibility of producing Technologists for the nation's industrial Development. Electrical installation and maintenance work content consists of basic and applied Electricity, battery charging, domestic and power installation, cable jointing, motor and generator winding and re-winding, high and low tension installation and transformer, motor and equipment installations. Electrical installation of buildings was described by Cosmas (2010) as an installation comprising various kinds of electrical apparatus fixed in a position ready for use, together with the necessary connecting wires and control gear switches. Gupta (2014) mentioned the following as types of electrical installation work: Conduit wiring, bare conductor wiring, Rubber sheathed installation, P.V.C. (Polyvinyl Chloride) wiring, lead-sheathed installation with earthed concentric wiring and electrical machine installations. Electrical installation would be most suitable under specified condition, that particular method would satisfy the consumer or client. Ogbuanya (2013) further pointed out that domestic installations are concerned with installation of electrical components or equipment in a building such as fixing of home appliances, surface wiring, maintenance of electrical fittings like illumination lamps and industrial machines.

Sustainable Economic Development through Training in Electrical Installation Maintenance Work

To effectively utilize practical skills obtained through training in electrical installation, entrepreneurial skills should attract fundamental emphasis. Ali (2006) stated that due to the fact that students were not exposed to entrepreneurial work based skills during their learning activities in schools, graduates shy away from taking up employment where they might be called upon to demonstrate their skills. The ill-equipped electrical graduates thus remain unemployed resulting to harsh economic realities on them and consequent underdevelopment. UNESCO (2012) along this line pointed out that the first education curriculum was reviewed simple because graduates produced under that system were unable to meaningfully fit into the work opportunities within the society. There is therefore a worrisome concern among industrialists that graduates of tertiary institutions do not imbibe efficient work-skill needed for gainful employment to contribute to sustainable development, (Nguum, and Ogwa, 2018). Unemployment restrains development. To this end, Alabi (2010) observed that unemployment is both an economic and social problem emphasizing that a society that does not have economically vibrant youth force is bound to collapse. Skills inadequacy gives credence to low productivity, poor product quality and escalated production costs. It is thus obvious that industrial development and sustained growth in electrical installation maintenance will continue to dwindle unless reliable avenue is created where entrepreneurial education will be utilized to spur graduates to utilize their skills for productive ventures in the world of paid employment. It becomes imperative to determine how to promote entrepreneurship education in electrical installation trade for sustainable development.

Enhancing Entrepreneurial Education

Except entrepreneurship in education is carefully and purposefully enhanced, the reduction of unemployment that would culminate in sustainable development will elude developing countries including Nigeria. Supporting this assertion, Nguum and Ogwa (2018) pointed out that until government redirects efforts in tackling and solving the problem of chronic unemployment, the dreams of Nigeria to be seated among the comity of industrialized nations of the world by 20, 2020 will be a mirage. Entrepreneurship Education can be promoted in the following was among others:

Adequate Funding

Funding of entrepreneurial education by the government will undoubtedly enhance its development. Ile (2001) stated that government funding of entrepreneurial education in Nigeria is very poor. Considering the overall economic realities in the country today the ability of individuals to raise enough found to set up surviving entrepreneurial business is very remote. To promote effectual entrepreneurial education, funds are needed to employ competent personnel, pay workers' salaries, supply teaching facilities and provide conducive classrooms. Offor (2011) noted that most times, salaries and allowances of workers in educational systems are paid after series of disputes that usually end up in strike actions by worker's union. It is clear that this ugly situation does not encourage educational system personnel to give the best of their services for effective learning to occur. When workers are well motivated through financial remuneration in paying them their entitlements, they will become more effective in tackling their jobs thus promoting skills acquisition among students of entrepreneurship training for sustainable development.

Revitalization of Electricity Supply

Another source of promoting entrepreneurial education is revitalization of electricity supply. Doile (2010) noted that no meaningful entrepreneurial activity survives in an environment without relatively steady electricity supply. Incidence of epileptic power supply in both urban and rural dwellings does not encourage development of entrepreneurial activities for self-reliance. Many economic activities that were expected to yield sustainable development had closed because of incessant power failures. Therefore the revitalization of the power sector would undoubtedly promote entrepreneurial education for more sustainable development.

Expansion of Educational Facilities

Expansion of educational facilities to enable tertiary institutions admits more students is very imperative. Presently, the Nigeria universities commission stipulates the number of students that should be admitted each year. Offor (2011) stated that only few of the targeted population under this NUC condition actually benefit from the entrepreneurship education at this level.

Societal Security

Societal insecurity hampers entrepreneurial education that otherwise, would lead to sustainable development. Societal insecurity gives credence to rampant theft activities, armed robbery, kidnapping and demands for ransom and consequent migration of best brains to establish in some more stable nations. This ugly trend potentially contributes significantly to defeat the progress of entrepreneurial education. When government braces up and tackles these insurgencies, entrepreneurial education would be enhanced among the youths for sustainable societal economic development.

Entrepreneurial Skills for Sustainable economic Development

Entrepreneurial skills are varied and need synergy to tackle successfully, business ventures. Umunadi (2014) identified four main categories of skills needed for success in entrepreneurship to include managerial, sales, accounting and competitive skills or competences.

- **Managerial Competencies or Skills:** Entrepreneurial managerial skills include communication, writing, knowledge, planning, control, inventory supervisory, job scheduling and maintenance of good human relation skills. Knowledge of business growth and development are also necessary competencies that an entrepreneur need to acquire for success.
- **Accounting competencies or skills:** These competences include good knowledge of accounting systems, payroll and deductions, management of profit and loss. Other financial skills borders on the ability to source funds, obtaining loans, local government, state and federal government levies and taxes, knowledge of business laws and safety rules involved in business enterprises. Advertising skills and knowledge of manufacturing, importation and exportation are all needed competences of a good or successful entrepreneur.
- **Sales or Marketing Skills:** Sales or marketing competences include the capability to determine the products that will sell very well in the market, ability to successfully forecast a venture, determine availability of materials for production purposes and strength of competitors in the market. Entrepreneurship marketing skill also involves being able to determine customer's market needs or demands.

• **Market Competition Skills:** Competition competences involve the following abilities

- (a) Funding capital to start a business
- (b) Know how to recruit or lay off an employee successfully
- (c) Being able to determine employee salaries and incentives in advance
- (d) Knowledge of building accommodation for the business at hand.
- (d) Assessing equipment or machines required adequately

Electrical installation and maintenance work graduates need the above stated entrepreneurial skills to adapt to the changing society in creating self-reliant jobs or being employed in recognized institutions. Entrepreneurship education is thus important in raising entrepreneurs that can contribute to sustainable economic development.

Values of Entrepreneurial Education

There are concrete reasons for entrepreneurial education in the school system. Igbo (2014) enumerated some reasons for entrepreneurship to include among others the following:

- To provide necessary training skills required in meeting the country's manpower needs
- To stimulate fresh economy and business ventures for industrial growth and development
- To enable students transit to industry from school studies
- To provide training for skills acquisition in relevant areas for graduates.
- To improve organization of small and medium scale business enterprises
- To help individuals respond to change in business set up
- To provide training that will spur creativity and productivity
- To adjust to increasing global market competition especially in developing economy.
- To provide functional education that would lead to self-reliance and less dependence on government or white color jobs.
- To reduce insurgencies emanating from lack of work and idleness among youths in the society.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper discussed the enhancement of entrepreneurial education skills in electrical installation for sustainable economic development. Presently, the society especially the youths are facing serious unemployment saga. This had led to a variety of vices in the contemporary society resulting to poor economic status of many a youth. The paper succinctly delineated that when training in entrepreneurship is promoted in electrical installation, the youths trained in this area will acquire the skills to establish viable business ventures relating to various electrical installation and maintenance work. Thus, the government should endeavour to finance the teaching of entrepreneurship in the schools to enable the youth gain skills of business establishment instead of waiting for unavailable government work. The graduates will therefore become self reliant in the world of work as they practice electrical installation business such as domestic, industrial installations, high tension work, machine servicing and others. When teaching facilities are well provided the instructional activities that would enable students become competent entrepreneurs will be

developed thus leading to reduction of unemployment and giving credence to sustainable economic development.

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