

Rising above the Gathering Storm of Unemployment through Entrepreneurship Education: Implication for National Development

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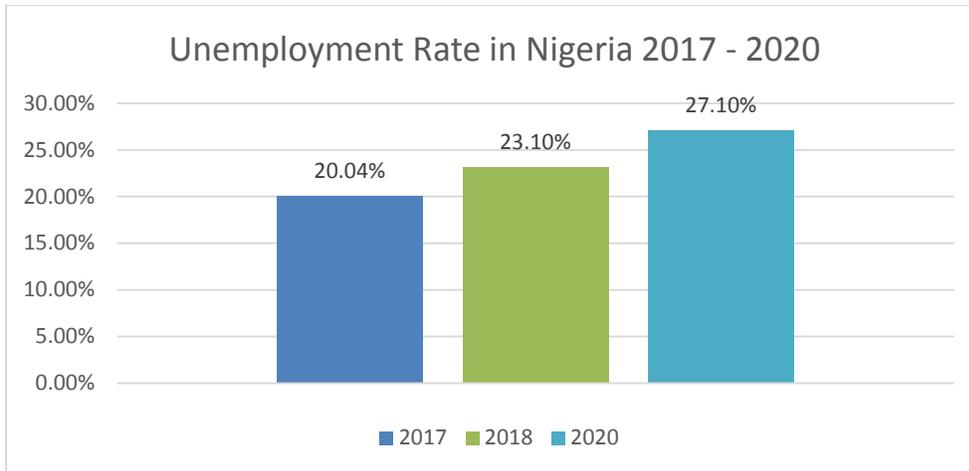
Abstract. There is the need to create employment opportunities to minimize the rate of unemployment globally and especially in developing countries such as Nigeria. Entrepreneurship is seen as a vital instrument that engenders employment, innovativeness, and sustainable development. Therefore, this paper focused on rising above the gathering storm of unemployment through entrepreneurship education: Implication for national development. This paper also provides techniques on how a young graduate of science education can start a small-scale business. It further provides some small-scale business opportunity that is available for young graduate of science education; such as improvisation of instructional material such as development of computer aided instructional packages, projected and non-projected material for supplies to primary, secondary and tertiary institutions and a list of some farming opportunities. Finally, it was recommendations among others that Government should make adequate provision for bail-out funds for both private and public industries that have collapse to create employment opportunity and as a matter of urgency evolve ways to deal with impediments' and threats confronting the manufacturing sectors and other investors in the country to deal with the gathering storm.

Keywords: Unemployment, Entrepreneurship, Self-reliant, Improvisation.

1. Introduction

The global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in 2018, and 2019 was 3.4%, and 3.6% respectively, and it expected to rise to 3.7 (International Labour Organization 2017), however

with the impact of Covid-19, global GDP growth forecast in the negative territory (-4.9%). These statistics shows that countries' economies have less capacity to generate employment opportunities. This implies that in many countries and specifically in Nigeria a large number of university graduates will not find employment opportunities in their field of studies. Furthermore, there have been increasing global concern over the continuously expanded rates of unemployment around the world, particularly in most developing countries, where the youths have been identified as the most affected groups. Unemployment has become a major problem for most countries of the world, for instance, unemployment has increased from 5 per cent in 2007 to 9 per cent in 2011 in US which gives the Obama administration a cause for concern. In UK, it has increase from 5.3 to 8.1% while the average unemployment for the Euro area is 10.7%. One of the greatest challenges of a developing economy is unemployment especially in sub-Saharan Africa where the unemployment rate is 77.4 in 2013 the highest in all the regions and Nigeria has one of the highest figures in this region. International Labour Organisation (2007), unemployment a situation where individuals who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work and have actively search for work. Unemployment is "a situation in which persons capable and willing to work are unable to find suitable paid employment" (Udu and Agu, 2005). The growing percentage of unemployment in Nigeria calls for concern for instance the percentage unemployment according to available data for 2017, 2018 and 2020 are 20.40, 23.14, 27.10 this can be illustrated by a bar chart



Source: National Bureau of Statistics/ www.tradingeconomics.com

Going by official data, the unemployment figure which stood at 19.7% in 2009, rose to 21.1 in 2010 and further increases to 23.1% in 2018. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of unemployment. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that 54 per cent (“More than half of youth population in Nigeria were unemployed) “Of this figure, females were 51.9 per cent while their male counterpart were 48.1% unemployed (Vanguard 17 Dec. 2013). Others reported a high increase in 2013, Unemployment rate continue to rise annually from 11.9% in 2008 to 19.7% in 2009, and over 37% in 2013% (Ogunmade, 2013). The government may not be consistent with unemployment figures, the NBS put the figure of the unemployed in Nigeria at 23.1% as at 2018. While the minister of labour and productivity believe that the figure could be up to 33.50%. Meanwhile, experts and critics have disagreed with the NBS and Minister’s figure, arguing that “research had shown that the current level of unemployment in Nigeria was above 40% and would rise to 50% at the end of this year 2014” (Ogunmade, 2013) in (Asaju, Arome, & Anyio, 2014).

By the year 2030 the figure can only be imagined with graduates been added into the already saturated labour market yearly. Subair (2013) reported that approximately 4 million people entered the labour market every year, this is a gathering storm. Former president Obasanjo alluded to this fact when he addressed the 100th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland (1 – 17 July 2011), Obasanjo was quoted as saying that “Nigeria was sitting on a keg of a gun powder given the rate of unemployment which according to him may lead to revolution, and that hopeless idle hands is not only a

devil’s workshop, but also a ‘tinder box’” (Folabi, 2013)

An unemployment ratio of 23.9 per cent of total population implies that over 38 million Nigerians are unemployed. These figures are more than the number of persons living in Lagos, Kano and more than the population of Ghana (24,223,431); Benin Republic (9,325,032) and many other African countries (Vanguard July, 1st 2014). The paper captures the headline as Unemployment, a ticking time bomb and indeed is a gathering storm because this crowd may one day take to the street to protest unemployment saying they need jobs to survive. Unfortunately, the federal and state government seems not to be in a tall position to quickly resolve the increasing unemployment situation in the country. Every quarter, government published figures of growth in the economy, but this growth does not transcend into physical reality of job opportunities and Economic empowerment for her citizens. Ford (2007) warned that poverty has been linked to high crime rates and social unrest which is cause by unemployment. The problem of insurgency in some parts of the country is closely associated with idleness and unemployment, hence, they become available tools for religious or ethnic bigots and extremist. This was further buttress by ILO that Unemployment is among the biggest threats to social stability in many countries (including Nigeria), putting the global rate at 12.6% (ILO, 2012). Therefore, entrepreneurship education and self-reliance may be the antidote for unemployment which is a gathering storm and ticking time bomb in Nigeria. Hence, the drive for this paper.

The Federal Governments National Economy Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) has the major objective of empowering Nigerians Economically, young graduates of Science Education

inclusive, but this laudable programme has not translated into physical reality. Federal Government intervention programmes introduced to reduce mass unemployment and poverty such as the Nigerian Directorate of Employment (NDE), Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), Subsidy Re-investment Programme (SURE-P), YOUWIN programme just to mention a few have not made any meaningful impact because of large scale corruption and the quality of the graduates that are produced at all levels of education. However, there is a cheering news, the Federal Government has provided an enabling environment for the production and marketing of locally made goods and small-scale businesses to thrive in the country through the ban and the imposition of stiff sanctions on the importation of some foreign goods.

In view of the foregoing young graduates (especially Science Education Students) should take advantage of the situation and change their orientation from depending on the Government for employment to that of being self-reliant and employers of labour; Maximize and take advantage of the vast abundant resources present in our country to be self-reliant and empower themselves economically. Hence the need for human capacity building towards entrepreneurship.

Bill Gates was a university dropout twenty years ago with an idea for a new computer operating system. Bill today is one of the richest men in the world. His worth is estimated at over 50 billion dollars. It may sound unbelievable that some of the richest people in the world today started with little or no money a couple of decades ago. (David, 2003). The choice of this topic was prompted by the presenter's observation on the high unemployment rate of Science Education graduates and low per capita income. According to Duniya, (2004), Nigeria is being ranked by the World Bank as a low-income country based on per capita income and among the 25 poorest countries of the world, despite the vast mineral resources and the enabling environment for small scale businesses to thrive. It is pertinent to observe that because of unemployment the youth get involved in all kinds of social vices such as Cultism, Political thuggery, among others. The significance of this paper includes: to change the orientation of young graduates from depending on Government for employment to that of being self-employed, to expose graduates of Science Education to the opportunities available in the education sector and to take advantage of these opportunities to make good use of the vast resources in our environment and to motivate and stir the potentials of young graduates to invest for the attainment of one of the goals of the

Philosophy of Education; which is to build a strong and dynamic economy.

2. Concept of Entrepreneurship

The word entrepreneurship was first used in a business context as someone who buys goods and services at uncertain price intending to sell them at an uncertain price in future bearing an unmeasured risk. Therefore, entrepreneurship is bringing together the factors of production with the provision of adequate management and taking of risk. An entrepreneur therefore can be seen as an individual who can see and evaluate business opportunities, gather the necessary human and material resources and harness these resources to achieve his goals. The process an entrepreneur follows to achieve success, or his goal is called entrepreneurship.

The word business has been viewed by different people in different ways, some view it as only buying and selling to make a profit. Others view it as an interaction between two or more people that will bring monetary gains. In actual sense, business is an all-inclusive term which embraces all profit-oriented economic or commercial activities carried out by individuals or group of persons.

A small-scale business or enterprise is a relative term which depends on an individual point of view. A business or enterprise may be big when viewed as a singular entity but when compared with others it may be categorized as small. However, an enterprise is big or small depending on the capital worth of such an enterprise, using various parameters such as total investment cost, size of the workforce, level of turnover and the operational environment as judged by government. Duniya, (2004) reported that in the Nigerian context a small-scale enterprise or business could be seen as any business with a total investment of less than one million naira with twenty employees. It is important to note that whatever is the size of a small-scale business they share the same characteristics.

Identification of Investment opportunities is the ability to recognize a distinct, previously undiscovered need in the market-place. Business-minded individuals see what no one else sees. They are driven by a passion to produce what has never been in the market; they initiate and invest peculiar products and services. Investment opportunities abound in every environment. However, the availability of raw materials also differs from one environment to the other. The availability or non-availability in an environment can be the yardstick to

search and identify an investment opportunity. An individual can analyze a business opportunity by asking the following questions: What is the need of the people/market need in society? In such a business already saturated? What are the factors affecting such a business? What will be the worth of such a business? Finding adequate answers to these questions one will be on his way to being an entrepreneur. In recognition of the need to prepared students for entrepreneurship, the Nigerian government introduced entrepreneurship education to prepare students to be entrepreneurs after school.

3. Entrepreneurship Education

Every individual requires entrepreneurship skills and education in the 21st-century because entrepreneurship skills and disposition are similar to the survival skills of the 21st-century (Zhao, 2012). It is important to highlight that helping students develop entrepreneurship intention or mindset is not only about starting a business and creating jobs but a life-long survival skill for a global economy that is dynamic and evolving. Schwarz, Wdowiak, Almer-Jarz and Breitenacker (2009) opined that entrepreneurs have contributed significantly to the economy, society, humankind, and the world at large. Similarly, entrepreneurship is a critical issue with regards to economic growth and development, it is seen as the engine for wealth and job creation as well as an instrument for revenue generation (Adekiya & Ibrahim, 2016). It is reported that the import of entrepreneurship includes poverty reduction, employment and economic empowerment (Israr & Saleem, 2018; Neneh, 2014)

In recognition of the significant role of entrepreneurship, the federal government of Nigeria has included entrepreneurship education for all students irrespective of the cause of the individual. Literature has highlighted the positive relationship between entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurship intention (Jusoh, Ziyae, Asimiran 2011 & Kassian, Vanevenhoven, Liguori, & Winkel, 2015). It is observed that entrepreneurship education equip an individual with the ability to take a risk, manage the business situation as they appear, it assist the youth to critical search for innovation that will create opportunities for economic prosperity (Olawolu and Kaegon, 2012)

3.1 Take Advantage of Needs

NEEDS. (National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy). This is a federal Government Programme that is packaged and aimed at reducing

poverty and towards empowering the people economically. Under this programme, there are funds made available by the government to relevant government agencies so that interested individuals can access it with very low interest rate. This programme is also available at the State and Local Government levels which are also called State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) and Local Government Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (LEEDS) respectively. A young graduate can approach any of these relevant government agencies to obtain loan or assistance.

Considering the abundant/vast mineral resources in our environment there are many business opportunities available. All that is needed of an individual is to develop an idea that can harness these resources into a product. For a young graduate of science education, the business opportunity may include:

Improvisation is the act of designing and producing a replica of something to make it look and function or play the role of a realia (real things) using available materials. According to Enaiyeju (1983), improvisation is the act of using alternative materials and resources to facilitate instruction whenever there is a shortage of some specific first-hand instructional materials. It is important to note that instructional materials are ingredients in teaching because it does not only increase the attention span of students and sustains interest, but it also reduces abstractness in some science concepts. Therefore, many primary schools, secondary schools, and tertiary institutions need these instructional materials, suffice it to say that most of the models used in all our schools are imported. The materials to be improvised could include; Development of computer-assisted instructional packages in form of computer simulation, computer animation, drill and practice and so on

Instructional Models such as Human Male and Female Urino-genital System: This can be constructed or modelled using materials such as plastic, paper mace, mud, wax and can be carved using wood. Human respiratory system: This can be moulded using mud, cement. Weather station and Rain Gauge: Construction of Mitosis and Meiosis model: This can be carved using wood. Model of Simple pendulum, compass just to mention a few. Non-projected materials and are usually two-dimensional materials that are designed specially to communicate a message to the learners. Graphic materials may include charts, pictures etc. all these

that can be produced for nursery, primary and secondary schools. Other opportunities in agriculture could include, bee farming, fish farming, poultry keeping and livestock keeping. Extra mural centers can also be created, among others.

4. The Implication for National Development

The overall implication of this in national development is that individuals will be able to contribute meaningfully to national development by becoming job employers and not job seekers. Since unemployed people may accept and work below capacity and operate below their skill level, it reduces the economy's efficiency. It leads to loss of potential output in a developing economy. However, if the youth are gainfully employed, they will no longer be idle tools in the hands of religious bigots and desperate politicians and the society will be a better place and this will, in turn, attracts investors and investment opportunity. Unemployment brings about increase social vices such as 419, hooliganism, prostitution, stealing and armed robbery just to mention a few. In most cases, graduates of the higher institution who are caught in these acts attribute their involvement in those crimes to unemployment. Therefore, self-reliance could minimize if not put an end to the occurrence of these social vices. Such that the huge amount required to fight these social vices and rehabilitate those who addicted to some of these vices will be used to provide electricity, good roads, quality schools and educational facilities and scholarships as well as good hospitals among others.

5. Conclusion

The level of a country's growth economically and technologically is directly proportional to the level of its education. In the absence of job opportunities or inability of the government to create job opportunities, small scale business or entrepreneurship remains the only viable means. Given the proceeding, it will be logical to conclude that entrepreneurship education and self-reliance may be the antidote for unemployment which is a gathering storm and ticking time bomb in Nigeria waiting to explode.

In the light of this, it is a welcome idea to include entrepreneurship as a course in our Universities but much more graduates of higher institution of learning must embrace self-reliance. If this is successfully done it will go a long way to reducing unemployment, poverty and most importantly reduced all kinds of social and financial crimes which

are caused largely due to unemployment. Young graduate should focus on providing jobs for themselves and others and not seekers of jobs in the saturated labour market. The storm of unemployment is gathering swiftly, and we must act fast to encourage and provide enabling environment for entrepreneurship.

6. Recommendations

The Nigerian situation is peculiar in the sense that if the available resources are better managed and utilized, the country will not face this high level of youth unemployment. Therefore, Government should make adequate provision for bail-out funds for both private and public industries that have collapsed to create employment opportunity. As a matter of urgency, evolve ways to deal with impediments' and threats confronting the manufacturing sectors and other investors in the country to generate employment. This may help to deal with the gathering storm before it degenerates into an uprising like the Arab uprising which came up because of unemployment and poor governance. Improvisation should be included as a course for students of Science Education. Federal, State and Local Governments should make a loan available for people interested in small scale business to access at very low-interest rates. There should be an emphasis on entrepreneurship education in secondary school to enable students to acquire the basic and important skills for self-reliance before they graduate

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