

Using Adult Education and Vocational Education for Entrepreneurship Development

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Abstract: This study covers the area of using adult education and vocational education for entrepreneurship development. The study covers definition of adult education, entrepreneurship, vocational education etc. The study also emphasized on some training in Adult education and vocational education. It also delved into entrepreneurship development skills that can be acquired through adult education and vocational education. The researcher also explained entrepreneurship education and some core knowledge one can acquire through entrepreneurship education. The relationship between adult education, vocational education and entrepreneurship education were mentioned. The importance of entrepreneurship education was also emphasized. The researchers concluded by encouraging the out of school children and adults who could not attend formal education to enroll in any adult education programmes in order to acquire knowledge and skills. Recommendations are that government should provide and equip adult literacy centres for skill acquisition and provide micro-finance institutions to support the learners to establish and run good business.

Keywords: Adult Education, Vocational Education, Entrepreneurship, Development and Entrepreneur.

INTRODUCTION

It is no longer news that Nigeria is facing serious challenges of unemployment which culminates into increasing rate of poverty in the country. This social problem is threatening the peace and security of Nigeria [1]. reported that to reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria and encourage self-reliance, the government of Nigeria has over the years been encouraging the citizens of Nigeria to be entrepreneurial in their disposition. According to [2], entrepreneurship is 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 identified opportunities. This implies that entrepreneurship gives people the ability of seeing opportunities through setting up business enterprises and equip people with skills for successful business management at profit [3]. explained that the realization of these goals could be possible through education. This is because education is an asset to the society and leads to the achievement of societal and personal goals.

Education is seen as the wheel of development in any society. Education is important for stimulating entrepreneurship because of several reasons, these are:

- Education provides individuals with a sense of autonomy, independence and self-confidence.
- Education makes people aware of alternative career choices
- Education broadens the horizons of individuals, thereby making people better equipped to perceive opportunities, and
- Education provides knowledge that can be used by individuals to develop new entrepreneurial opportunities.

This is true because the role of adult education in the development of any society cannot be overemphasized. Adult education is therefore necessary and indispensable for economic, social, political and technological growth and advancement of any nation [4]. This is why UNESCO regards it as a human right and essential ingredient for achieving equality, development and peace. It is a tool that helps and equip one to face problems with a conscious mind.

According to [5] Adult Education refers to any educational programme that is organized for all ages regardless of the content, place of study, form of study once the programme is flexible to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the beneficiaries and their community. Adult Education is a wide range of educational activities in which adult takes part and it includes vocational education and training, Non-vocational courses, correspondence education, full-time and part-time courses [6].

Vocational education is education that prepares people to work in a trade, a craft, as a technician, or in support roles in professions such as Engineering, accountancy, nursing, medicine, architecture, or law [7]. Entrepreneurship is when a person organizes and manages enterprise especially with considerable initiative and risk.

According to [8] entrepreneurship involves the capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make profit. The most obvious example is the starting of new business. Its spirit is characterized by innovation and risk taking, and is an essential part of a nation's ability to succeed in an ever changing and increasingly competitive.

According to [9], It should be recognized that adult education calls for special skills, knowledge, understanding and attitudes on the part of those who are involved in providing it. In whatever capacity and for any purpose, it is desirable therefore that they should be recruited with care according to their particular functions and receive initial and in-service training for them according to their needs and those of the work in which they are engaged. Therefore, having regard to the close relationship between guaranteeing the right to education and the right to work and to the need to promote the participation of all, whether wage-earners, craftsman or not, in adult education programmers, not only by reducing the constraints to which they are subject but also by providing them with the opportunity of users in their work, the knowledge, qualifications or aptitudes which adult education programmers are designed to make available to them and of findings in work a source of personal fulfilment and advancement, and a stimulus to creative activity in both work and social life towards using adult education and vocational aspects of it for entrepreneurship [10]. Training in adult education include all practicable aspects of skills, knowledge, understanding and personal attitude which are relevant in entrepreneurship. Adult education offers training programmers outside the formal school system which are based on the needs of both the adult and the youths. They acquire knowledge and realize their potential for development through entrepreneurship. Adult education and vocational education can be used

in engaging the adults and youths in diverse activities, trading, arts, crafts, business etc. this involves training and re-training in literacy centres. Some of these training programmes according to [11].

- On-the-job-training: This is upgrading training for employees who need particular skills efficiently in their new employment and upgrading specific skills of present employees who need promotion.
- Job promotion: this is a type of training which could generate new employment opportunities for group of individuals. People that can benefit from such training programmes are artisans, craftsmen, tailors, carpenters etc.
- Specialized vocational skills: these skills are needed for those people that engage in technical and commercial works who need practical skills to function efficiently in rural areas where they live. Such people need skills for maintenance of equipment, sewing equipment, farming equipment, hand tools, computer equipment, generators, television, radio, etc.
- Managerial and business skills: these are meant for people who engage in business which demand skills in record and stock keeping, purchasing and sales, import and export investment, personnel management
- Home industry and home improvement skill: these are for those who produce on a small scale and undertake simple improvement and maintenance of their home. Programmes for home making and decoration serve the needs of house wives and women in general.

Adult education and vocational education are the case of both individual and society's economy due to the fact that it equips the recipients with skills with which they could explore their environment and harness the available resources which could serve them and the society [12]. Vocational training is a specialized training organized either in formal or informal setting for the purpose of imparting occupational skills to group of individuals [6]. reported that vocational education empowers an individual to acquire skills in order to upgrade his skills in a chosen occupation or profession. From the foregoing, it could be seen that adult education and vocational education has potential of making people to become enterprising. It could also make the recipients to be able to identify viable business opportunities in its major component. Enterprising according to [13] means having an idea and making it happen [13]. Further stated that entrepreneurship is viewed as a critical element in the establishment of self-sustaining communities that create jobs, build local wealth and contribute broadly to

economic community development. It can also be referred to as an individual's ability to turn idea into action.

Entrepreneurial activity is popularly believed to be a product of certain characteristics embedded in a person's personality including being opportunist; creative, individualist hard working [14, 15] listed the entrepreneurial traits as follows: initiative/action bias, energy, Thrives on ambiguity, desire, perseverance, Ego development, persuasive, self-confidence, self-discipline, problem solver.

Entrepreneurial development

Entrepreneurial development may be conceived as a programme of activities to enhance the knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes of individuals and groups to assume the role of entrepreneurs as well as efforts to remove all forms of barriers in the part of entrepreneurs. According to [16] entrepreneurship development is anchored on the firm belief that entrepreneurship involves a body of knowledge, skills and attitudes which can be learned and applied by most people who are sufficiently motivated. Entrepreneurship development recognizes that many individuals have latent potentials to fit into the role of entrepreneurs. Such potentials can be actualized through training programmes. Potential entrepreneurs can be trained to sharpen their skills to:

- Identify a need that he/she can satisfy with a product or service which may or may not be innovative
- Develop a viable business plan
- Assessable resources
- Launch the business includes registration of the business and obtaining various permit and licenses
- Recognize that adversity and crises are a fact of business life and develop capacity to deal with such events.
- Develop effective management skills especially planning, coordinating and control [17].

According to [15] entrepreneurship supports individuals in their daily activities in society. It also makes

Employees aware of the context of their work and utilize opportunities, as well as provide a foundation for individuals establishing a social or commercial activity. According to [18], Entrepreneurship education is not just about teaching someone to run a business. It is also about encouraging creative thinking and promoting a strong sense of self-worth. According to [19], the core knowledge created via entrepreneurship education includes:

- The ability to recognize opportunities in one's life
- The ability to pursue opportunities by generating new ideas and find the needed resources.
- The ability to create and operate a new firm
- The ability to think in a creative critical manner

So, besides knowledge and skills in business, entrepreneurship education is mainly about the development of certain beliefs, values and attitudes, with the aim to get students to consider entrepreneurship as an attractive and valid alternative to paid employment or unemployment.

The concept of entrepreneurship education

As the name suggests, entrepreneurship education is the education aimed at providing recipients with necessary knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings [20]. stated that entrepreneurship training is designed to teach one the skills and knowledge one needs to know before embarking on a new business venture. Entrepreneurship education refers to programmes that promote entrepreneurship awareness for career purposes and provide skill training for business creation and development. Entrepreneurship education inspires young people to do all the right things and understand the relevance of good education, gain financial literacy, plan for financial independence, explore their talents and most importantly stay in school and develop pathways to college. It is a lifelong learning process, starting as early as elementary school and progressing through all levels of education including adult education. It encourages recipients to have progressive challenges in educational activities, and the expertise to successfully start and manage their own business [21]. Affirmed that entrepreneurship education consists of three ingredients which include creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Creativity entails the ability to create all kinds of ideas which forms the basis for decision making. Innovation in this context involves the ability to find value in selected ideas. The value attached to each idea determines to a large extent its utilization in the venture in question. Entrepreneurship entails the development of a business from the innovative idea [22]. asserts that entrepreneurship education is structured to achieve the following objectives;

- To offer functional education for youth that will enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant
- Provide the youth graduates with adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying noble business opportunities

- To serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development
- To reduce high rate of poverty
- Reduction in rural-urban migration etc.

In addition [23], is of the view that entrepreneurship education has been applied in various settings to achieve various objectives which include:

- People empowerment: teaching people innovative ways to make a living and taking control of their circumstances
- Diversification-teaching recipients how to recognize and seize diverse opportunities for financial gains
- Creation of employment: enabling people to start the small and medium enterprises to better their lots
- Individual competency: imparting into recipients qualities such as self-motivation, self-discipline and financial responsibility.

Relationship between Adult Education, Vocational Education and Entrepreneurship

Adult Education and vocational education are enterprise that plays invaluable roles in the socio-economic and political development of any society. [24] stated that the role of education is mainly with awareness creation, and has the aim of preparing students on the issues concerning their survival in life. Thus, Adult education and vocational education deals with the training of aspiring students for a career in self-employment with the aim of encouraging students to set-up and run their own business. Students are taught the practical skills required for business management. Some subjects are designed for the preparation of a business plan in the way of entrepreneurial education. Such training provides skills, knowledge and attitude for entrepreneurs to go out and innovate and solve their own problems.

While according to [25], entrepreneurial education aimed at providing an opportunity to learn about the conditions favouring new business creation, as well as the various theories concerning the type of characteristics required for successful entrepreneurship were focused on education and training for small business owners and have classified the types of training into three categories, which seems to be related to the individual's stage of development. They are:

- Business awareness education that usually appears in secondary school;
- Field education and training for small business ownership;
- Specialist education conceived to enable people to update their skills.

According to [22] and [19], the aim of entrepreneurship education are the following:

- To get knowledge which is useful for entrepreneurship
- To increase capacities in the use of techniques, in the examination of business situations, and in the creation of action plans.
- To identify and stimulate entrepreneurial skills
- To develop empathy and support for all issues of entrepreneurship
- To develop attitudes towards change
- To promote new start-ups and other ventures

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- Creation of employment: enabling people to start the small and medium enterprise to better their lot
- Individual competence-imparting in to recipient's qualities such as self-motivation, self-discipline and financial responsibility.

Adult Education, Vocational Education and Educational Entrepreneurship Programmes and Agencies

Adult education and vocational education has multiple activities which can be subsumed within the category of education for entrepreneurship. Broadly, the aims and objectives can be divided into the following

categories, which are not mutually exclusive according to [26] and [27];

- The acquisition of key (or core) skills;
- The development of personal and social skills; and
- Skills relating to business startup or financial literacy

Some of the intervention agencies include;

- National directorate of Employment (NDE)
- Small and Medium Enterprise development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
- Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS)
- The Nigerian Agricultural, Cooperative and rural Development Bank (NACRDB)
- Nigeria Export Import Bank (NEXIM)
- The Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN)
- Bank of Industry (BOI) [28]

The above institutions provide a variety of finance and support services to entrepreneurs.

CONCLUSION

Using Adult Education and vocational education is a good strategy for people to develop the interest, creativity, innovation and other skills that can channel one to be a good entrepreneur. Adult education and vocational education are educational systems where people will be able to acquire different skills of one's choice. It is therefore necessary to encourage people especially drop-outs and those who could not attend any formal education to go and participate in any of adult literacy programmes where such a person will get skill acquisition. These people should be able to get investment opportunities and be able to establish and run enterprises successfully.

RECOMMENDATION

- Government should endeavour to establish and equip many adult literacy centres where people can go and receive training towards acquiring skills
- People should be able to get themselves involved in adult literacy programmes to acquire knowledge that they could use to set themselves up perfectly for future.
- Private microfinance or government micro-credit should assist people in raising money in starting up a small business outfit such as small farmer's cooperatives, credit and saving cooperatives
- Those adults or young adults who could not complete their education should be encouraged to enroll in adult education programmes to update their knowledge and acquire the necessary skills. This will give them access to opportunities, afford them the ability to negotiate the bureaucracies of

finance and government and give them the courage to voice their opinion when required.

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