



THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

***SHITU BELLO KURYA & **HARUNA GALADIMA**

F. C. E. (TECH) GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE.

ABSTRACT

The role of indigenous vocational training in the development of entrepreneurship has been examined in this paper. The paper highlighted the concept and functions of entrepreneurship: creativity and innovation for self-employment and profitable venturing. The paper also gives a brief historical perspective of indigenous vocational training and different types of entrepreneurial activities that are taking place in form of crafts and trades. The authors recommend that government should reinvigorate the indigenous vocational training and apprenticeship system of training alongside with vocational technical education in order to enhance the speed in which the country moves towards its ambitious goal to become one of the world's top 20 economies in 2020.

Introduction

Nigeria has three different educational systems: Traditional (Indigenous), Religious (Islamic and Christian) and the modern (Secular school) system. The indigenous form of education involves participation in community life to train young people in farming, crafts and other occupations. Indigenous Vocational Training has been an age – long method used in training youth in trades and crafts, agriculture, business etc in Nigeria. Before the advent of the colonial masters there existed a kind of training in which skills were learned, practiced and used effectively to sustain a living and contribute towards the development of the entire community. Under the programme, individuals receive training in a variety of vocations such as carving, carpentry, catering, boat – making, mat – making, dying, painting and decorating, farming, building, smiting, sculpting etc.

Though western education has almost taken over the training of youth, but, the importance and relevance of Indigenous Vocational training remained very vital, considering the level of knowledge and skills acquired under the system. With the increasing wave of unemployment and the level of poverty coupled with the Nigeria's ambitious goals to become one of the world's top economies during the next two decades, the country needs to increasingly put more hands on apprentice work and Indigenous Vocational training that would promote entrepreneurship, reduce poverty, reduce unemployment and stimulate economic growth and development through enterprise development.

Conceptual Issues:

Indigenous Vocational Training:

Oranu (1998) posited that technological education (though not so named) had existed before the advent of the Europeans. It took the form of the apprenticeship system which youths were trained in local handicrafts such as smiting, carving, and waving etc. these handicrafts form the rudiment of technological education as they exist today.

Indigenous Vocational training given by craft and trade centers or by such master craftsmen or tradesmen, as black smith, farming, raffia works carving and pottery making. Traditional medicine men also train people in their profession (Anikpo, 1991). The system of training was mostly informal, with unwritten and unstructured curriculum. But, it was an effective means of imparting skills, knowledge and values to the young ones, (Oranu 1998). The training has implications whereby the youth that were trained and brought up under this method of training are almost the present independent entrepreneurs. The rate of entrepreneurs coming from indigenous vocational training are generally and reasonably high due to vigorous effort made by the government and private sectors on the improvement of indigenous technology as well as apprenticeship system of training in Nigeria.

Concept of entrepreneurship

Aluwong, (2008) revealed that the concept of entrepreneurship was first introduced in the 1700s and it is a French word which is derived from the root word, 'entrepreneur', meaning - one who undertakes tasks.

Hisrich (2002) defined entrepreneurship as the process of creating something different with value by devoting the necessary time and effort; assuming the accompanying financial,

psychological and social risk; and receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction'. In line with Hisrich assertion, Kurya (2006) believed that entrepreneurship does not mean creating a new firm neither bearing the risk of buying at certain and or selling at uncertain price nor one's need for advancement and risk – taking propensity only, but an effort to create value through recognition of business opportunity and putting together human, financial and material resources necessary to bring a project to fruition. This is what indigenous vocational training is all about, that is about an individual creating a market from his ideas, expertise, skills and resources.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship through Indigenous Vocational training

Indigenous vocational training is one of the important and sensitive areas that have a positive with entrepreneurial activities. But, the stumbling block towards the achievement of effective entrepreneurship development in Nigeria is lack of effective support to informal educational sector like apprenticeship and indigenous vocational training; lack of adequate financial assistance to mobilize both human and material resources for easy retention and expansion of the trades and occupations.

As highlighted earlier, Indigenous Vocational training did not receive the required attention until recently, when government looked back and realized that the only way out for the country is to reinvigorate it (the indigenous vocational training) and apprenticeship system of training alongside with vocational and technical education. This would enhance the speed in which the country moves towards its ambitious goal to become one of the world's top economies in 2020.

Indigenous vocational training is a system of training where the recipient acquires technical and business skills on the job which in turn would help them to have a relevant experience for entrepreneurial activities. Fluitman (1994) opined that training in the work place result in inexperience in, and the development of general business and managerial skills, including customer relation skills, crucial to apprentices' future survival as independent entrepreneurs.

A survey on Ghanaian manufacturing enterprise, revealed that majority of traditional apprentices gained wage employment in the field in which they had training, 28.5% and gone on to start their own business; 37.5 continued working for the firm and only 1% were known to be unemployed (Frazer, 2006).

Kurya (2008) posits that the training given by the crafts, trades centers and industrial training organization in Nigeria; like National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Industrial Training

Fund (ITF), and Entrepreneurship Development programmes (EDP) and skills acquisition centers (SACs) throughout the federation signifies that the skills acquired by the graduates gave them the opportunity, zeal, motivation and understanding on how to start their own business enterprise. He further states that the micro-loan of equipment and complementary cash given to graduates of various trades in the skill acquisition centers will enable them to establish and run a business venture thereby becoming independent entrepreneurs.

Nigeria is a country with diverse human and material resources. Therefore, various communities were engaged in production of different products, such as clothes of local weavings of different styles, Dane guns with their local ammunitions, Iron casting, bronze, spears, cutlasses, hoes, mat-weaving, dying, aluminum pot making, gold smiting etc, Tanko (2009). There is no community, urban or rural in Nigeria without trades or occupations with special skills and the way in which they produce their goods and services. For example, towns like Bida is known for Iron casting, Sokoto leather work and dyeing; Kano leather work and plastic production; Zamfara, Cotton ginnery and black smiting; Abba, shoe making; Nwewi, Automobile spare parts; Osun, Soap making; Ondo, Cocoa Processing; Benue palm oil processing etc. this shows the traces of entrepreneurship activities in different parts of the country.

Conclusion

The nation's economy depends significantly on oil revenues. As the country tries to diversify away from dependence on oil, one would ask, how important is entrepreneurship to the future of the Nigerian economy? Virtually, Indigenous vocational training is desirable for the infusion of relevant and appropriate skills and competence that enable the recipients to be self-reliant and efficient in production. It also enhances entrepreneurial activities as well as indigenous technological development for the attainment of the national economic prosperity.

For entrepreneurship to thrive in Nigeria, our leaders should encourage it and give room for it to grow. Nigeria is blessed with great human (Onile, 2007) and natural resources and an average Nigerian possess a great entrepreneurial spirit. The government should embrace and fund small business in form of grants to help Nigeria in its quest for growth and development.

References

- Aluwong, S. W. (2008) Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable National Development in Nigeria: A lead paper presented at the 1st Annual National Conference of the Federal College of Education (Tech) Gusau. 5-7th August,
- Anikpo, M.O.C. (1991) Social Studies for Junior Secondary Schools, 2. Ikeja, Longman Nigeria PLC.
- Frazer, G. (2006). Learning the Master's Trade: Apprenticeship and Human Capital in Ghana'.
Journal of Development Economics; Forthcoming.
- Fluitman, F.(1994). Traditional Apprenticeship', in Hussien, T. and Postlethwaite, T. (eds) International Encyclopedia of Education (2nd Ed), Oxford: Pergamon.
- Histrich, R.D. (2002). Entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship: Methods of creating new companies that have an impact to the Economic Renaissance of an Area', in Entrepreneurship, Intrapreneurship and Venture capital, ed. Robert Histrich: M.A. Lexinton Books p.96.
- Kurya, S.B. (2008). The Role of Skills acquisition centers toward the development of entrepreneurship in Zamfara State. A paper presented at 1st National Conference of school of Vocational, Technical and Business Education (JOVOTEB). Held at FCE (T) Gusau, 5th – 7th August.
- Kurya, U.L. (2006). Concepts of Entrepreneurship and types of Entrepreneurs . In Zaharaddeen, U.A. Aliyu, M.M., Kurya, U.L. and Kurfi. (Eds). Entrepreneurship Education for Vocational and Technical Students (2nd) ed. Kano: Benchmark Publishers Ltd.
- Palmer, R. (2007) Educating out of Poverty? A synthesis Report on Ghana, India, Kenya Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa: Center of Africa studies, University of Edinburgh.
- Oranu, R.N. (1998). Vision and Mission of Technical and Vocational and Technological Education in Nigeria for the 21st Century , In Isyaku et al (eds): Vision and Mission of Education in Nigeria: The Challenges of the 21st Century Kaduna, NCCE Publications.
- Onile, T. Globalinks Financial, CEO Cent: 09:32Am Friday May 04, 2007-US
- Tanko N.D. (2009). Entrepreneurship Education: an effective strategy for poverty reduction.
Lecture notes. F.C.E.(T) Gusau.