



APPRAISING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAREERS AND PROFESSIONS TOWARD ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY.

MR. OLANREWaju, J. 'DELE,
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EDUCATION, F.C.E. (TECH.), BICHI.

ABSTRACT

Careers and Professions are elements within and without the concept of Entrepreneurship as regard Human capital development for a self-sustaining developing economy such as Nigeria. Nigeria needs a large pool of indigenous entrepreneurs as expectation of foreign direct investment keep reseeding. This paper, analyses through a theoretical paradigm of National System of Innovation, contributions (prospects and problems) of these conceptual elements towards building appropriate population of entrepreneurs for the growing Nigerian economy. The paper also advances some suggestions to solve identified problems.

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurial population explosion in the 1960s and 1990s in Asian transformed many Asian countries through knowledge (Sciences, technology and skills), production and trade into domineering global competitors popularly called, 'the Asian Tiger', Dike 1991). Career is defined as an occupation undertaken for a substantial period of a person's life's Hornby (2000). Career could be made from menial jobs, crafts and trades (sub-professions) and the professions (accountancy, engineering, law, teaching, medicine, architecture, etc). From all these careerists are made. However, only people engaged in menial job face a tenuous transformation into Entrepreneurship. For an economy to take-off in a transformation process, Rostow (1974) states that such economy requires a group of innovative Entrepreneurs whose innovative drives are mostly enhanced by acquired knowledge and skills. Here lies the need to encourage the sub-professionals and professional to be entrepreneurs in order to expand the population of the latter and propel the Nigerian economy into a take-off stage towards the desired economic growth, all other things being equal. By the end of an economic take-off stage, Rostow (1974) posits that, on economy should have about 60% of her working force to be professionals and sub-professionals most of who are to be potential and or entrepreneurs. Where is the Nigeria economy now? Also, what do we (the economic Managers) need to do?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: The National System of Innovation (N.S.I.)

Entrepreneurship and innovation built into the country manpower trainings’ curricular in a coordinated manner with industries through research and technological development will produce the right type of and population of entrepreneurs as required by the economy. Ewuziwe (2009), observes that, the Nigerian economy still now have shortage of competent entrepreneurs who can help manage private businesses and create expanding employment opportunities for the development of the country’s economy. Along this scenario, Nigeria requires a national Framework that fuses education, technology, industries and economic opportunities to facilitate the building of the required population of Entrepreneurs for the country.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATION.

Lundvall (1992) defined the National System of Innovation – N.S.I – as, A dynamic economic system that displays learning as its central and social activity involving all stakeholders and characterized by positive feedback and reproduction. The system therefore, emphasizes the roles of national institutions through which the state and its policies are viewed and assessed. Fine (1992), further explains the notions of the National system of Innovation through the South Korean experience that, the nature of technology and technical change pervasively transformed the economy through linkages with industries, institutional training and mutual reinforcement in both the public and private sectors of the economy

TABLE : 1.0 Contrasting best practised National Systems of Innovation

NSI INDICES COUNTRIES	RATIO OF R&D INGNP	SOURCES OF R&D (TECHNOLOGY)	FOCUS OF Ph.D TRAINING	INSTITUTIONAL/ INDUSTRIAL LINKAGES.
United State	2.0%	Firm-based	Extensive on Applied Research and Development	Very High
Japan	2.7%	Firms-based	Strategic Industrial Technology	Very High
East Asian			Industrial Human capital	

	2.0%	FDI Firm financed	in Technology and /Vocational Education	High
--	------	-------------------	---	------

Source: Dike (1997): NISER (2005) NOTE: FDI – Foreign Direct Investment.

Dike (1997) from table 1.0 asserts that, for a country to acquire technological capacity with the right human capital, she must concretize inter-linkages and mutual reinforcement. If the above best – practice NSI is vigorously pursued the right type (not just money – making ones) and population of Entrepreneurs may emerge.

ENTREPRENUERS AND THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY: AN OVERVIEW.

Apart from infrastructural deficiencies facing the Nigerian economy, the development of the technology and human capital are added challenges inhibiting the production of knowledge – based and skillful Entrepreneurs.

Table 2.0: Institutional Comparison of Educational Systems – Nigeria and two (2) Industrial Countries.

COUNTRIES LEVELS OF EDUCATION	NIGERIA	GERMANY	UNITED STATE
Primary	6 years	10years	Terminates at middle school
Secondary	6years-3years, junior 3years Senior	1 – 3years middle school with class – room training and apprenticeship	High school 3 – years training.
Tertiary	2 – 6 years University/Degree, Polytechnics – Diploma, College of Education NCE	3 – 4 year terminal Master Technical Certificate/Degree	4 years Bachelor Degree.
Post Graduate	Master and Ph.D Degree	Doctoral Degree	Master and Ph.D Degree.

Sources: Nigerian National Policy on Education (1979). Dike (1979).

The Nigerian educational system as at 1979 (Table 2.0 above refers) was not really functional – the system had been fairly reformed since then, but still, inexpedient – and fairly apeing the American instead of /German educational system which incorporates technical skills acquisition through formalized apprenticeship trainings. Empirically, the population of Nigerian entrepreneurs is dominated by illiterate and semi-illiterate (some skilled in craft – trades), entrepreneurs who mostly acquired skills through informal apprenticeship trainings. See Tables 3.0 and 4.0 below. Also, skilled professional Entrepreneurs (most of them in consultancy services) are even in short supply, Olanrewaju (2004)

Table 3.0: List of Survey of Entrepreneurial respondents per Table.

Trades	No of Respondents
Tailoring	28
Furniture/Carpentry	28
Auto-mechanics	28
Hair dressing	28
Radio and Television Servicing	24
Secretarial Training/Services	20
Refrigeration and/Air – conditioners Repairs	20
Electrical Installation Services	24
TOTAL	200

Source: NISER Research Field Survey (1999) (Omisakin, 1999).

Table 4.0: Sources of Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition in Nigeria.

Sources	Percent
Apprenticeship	47.6
Vocational Training	15.2
Formal School Education	14.8
Self - Trained	4.3
Others	2.7

Sources: DPC. Field survey (1999).

From the above, it is to be noted that illiterate or semi-illiterate and poorly skilled Entrepreneurs with modern technology are not right for a desired knowledge – based and technology – driven economy for Nigeria. Efforts by Nigeria Governments to turn-around the undesirable position by the provision of skills and competencies through Agencies such as the Nigerian Directorate of Employment (NDE), Industrial Training Fund(ITF). Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Industrial Development Centres (IDCs), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), etc., are well noted but with inadequate impact to build the much – needed population of skilled Entrepreneurs as these Agencies are bogged down with bureaucratic red – tapism, NISER (2005). Infusion of entrepreneurship educational curricula might not be enough also.

CONCLUSION.

Within the 1960s, India, Malaysia and Philippines were in deep economic recessions with high unemployment mostly exported to developing countries. Now, in the new millennium years, these economies through entrepreneurship, small and medium industrialization are now classified as emerging economies in the era of drying Foreign Direct Investment and global economic crisis. Analysis in this Paper makes it imperative for Nigeria to embrace entrepreneurship, train and re-train sub-professionals and professionals and rapidly expand the population of her Entrepreneurs. To realize this Goal, the following suggestions are proffered.

SUGGESTIONS:

- (I) Professional bodies should review their curricula to include the study of Entrepreneurship.
- (II) Nigeria sub-professional Entrepreneurs should upgrade their knowledge and skills, through further training, e.g. a Tailor to be a Fashion Designer, Nafi‘u (1995).
- (III) On-going curricula inclusion of entrepreneurship at the tertiary education level should be extended to all levels of educational system in the country
- (IV) Nigerian Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to go more into capital/commodity
- (V) production on small, medium and large-scales instead of the prevalent service-rendering (e.g. Consultancies) Entrepreneurship.

Table 3.0 refer.

REFERENCES:

- Abumere, S. I., Aigbokhan, Ben E. ; Mabawonku, Ezeez O. (2002); Building the Nigeria Private Sector Capacity: An Assessment of Problems and Policy Options, Ibadan, Development Policy Centre (DPC), Research Report No. 38
- Dike, E. (1991): Economic Transformation in NIGERIA: Growth, Accumulation and Technology, Zaria, Ahmadu Bello University Press Limited.
- Ewuziwe, A. (2009). Entrepreneurship Challenges, Business Day Newspaper, Lagos, Business DAY Media Ltd., (Jan. 26)
- Fine, B. (1992). Economic Development and Technological Change: From Linkage to Agency, Working Paper, No. 14 Department of Economics – SOAS., University of London (March).
- Hornby, A.S. (2000). Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 6th Edition, Oxford University Press.
- Lundvall, B. (1992). National Systems of Innovation and Interactive Learning, London, Pinter Publishers.
- Nafi'u, T. (1995): Developing a Garment Industry in Austerity time (Economic Instability), A Paper presented at the School of Vocational Education, Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi, (Dec.)
- NISER OCCASIONAL PAPER NO 4 (2005): Strategic Options for Reforms in small and Medium Industries in Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER).
- NISER OCCASIONAL PAPER 6 (2005): Commercialization of Research and Development (R & D) Results in Nigeria, policy challenges, Ibadan, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER).
- Olanrewaju, J.D. (1999): Human Capital and Technological Accumulation in Nigeria: A National System of Innovation Perspective, An unpublished M.Sc. Economics Thesis, Zaria, Ahmadu Bello University.
- Olanrewaju, J. D. (1999): Examining Elements of Vocationalism and Professionalism in Business Education and its Potentials for the Nigerian Economy, Oyo Department of Business Education, Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, pp. 58 – p 64.

Omisakin, I. S (1991): Factors Influencing success or failure of Enterprises in the Informal Sector, the case of Ibadan City, NISER Monograph Series No. 9, Ibadan, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic research (NISER).

Rostow, W.W. (1974): The Stages of Economic Growth, Second Edition, London, Cambridge University Press.