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## QUALITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Technology has been considered as the bedrock of industrialization in the developed countries. Nigeria is blessed with abundance of human and material resources, yet it experiences high rate of unemployment leading to poverty, social, political and problems. This paper discusses how Technical Education can bring about effective entrepreneurship in Nigeria. It explains the concept, the goals, and role of Technical Education for achieving effective entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Recommendations were made as policies concerning Technical Education should be effectively implemented, Nigerian should be re-orient more through electronic media so as to boost entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

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### Introduction

Technology was identified as dominant factor for economic development of any country. According to United Nation Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO 1990), development in technical education was intimately linked to the general trends in the economy and labour market which are particularly susceptible to the effects of technological changes. For any nation to realize technological development, emphasis must be geared towards creating training opportunities for the production of technicians, technologist and other skilled personnel who are capable of utilizing and transforming available natural resources into goods and services. No nation can be self-reliant without developing and utilizing her indigenous technologies. Nigeria require technologists and other skilled personnel who can harness the abandoned natural resources into goods and services in various sectors of economic and social life. It is obvious that other factors of production are idle unless and until technology is in place and properly used or implemented. According to Procter (1985), an entrepreneur requires technical competence, mental ability, human relation skill, high achievement drive and creativity. For entrepreneur to achieve target goals, technology must be employ to propel other means of wealth creation and distribution of goods and services. Technical education is an academic programme with various branches that can transform Nigeria into a producer/manufacturer nation from

present status of a consumer/importer nation. Its various courses are career oriented and thus produce skilled man power to work in the chosen trade or profession. National policy on education (2004) describes technical education as those aspect of educational process involving in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences and acquisition of practical skills, attitude, understanding and knowledge relating to the occupations in various sectors of economic and social life. Similarly, Okorie (1998) viewed technical education as an aspect of education which is career oriented with career specific courses offered in institutions such as secondary schools, technical colleges, business schools, colleges of education (technical), polytechnics and universities, which are meant to equip the learner with knowledge, understanding and skills of different occupational area in the industry. The acquisition of skills leads to the development of new career and consequently metamorphosed into self-reliant. Olaitan (1993) says that technical education is any form of education whose primary purpose is to prepare person for employment in recognized occupation. It provides skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for effective employment in specific occupation. Equally Osuala (1978) sees technical education as a training intended to prepare student to earn a living in an occupation in which success is dependent on technical information and an understanding of laws of science and technology as applied to modern design, production distribution and services. By the above points, technical education is geared towards the development of a new careers and occupation for self-reliance.

### **Goals of Technical Education In Nigeria**

Technical Education as contained in section 7 of the FRN(2004) has the Following goals:

- | ) To provide trained manpower in the applied sciences and technology and particularly at craft, advanced craft and technical level.|
- | ) To provide the technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agricultural, commercial technological and economic development.|
- | ) To give training and impart the necessary skills to individual who shall be self-reliant economically.|

From the above, it is clear that the primary purpose of Technical Education is for the production of technicians, technologists and related Personnel for direct employment in industry. Olaitan (1996) describes

Technical Education as a form of education which emphasized the development of occupational skills needed as preparation for work. It equips the learner with salable and entrepreneurial skills and also promote the dignity of labour by enhancing work as the goal of education.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship was viewed by Agagu (2006) as the pursuit of opportunity regardless of resources currently controlled. According to Onah (2002) entrepreneurship is the growing of venture through the use of innovatives and risk-assuring management. It is an act of creating

business through innovative and risk-assuring management. An opportunity is first identified, labour is put in and consequently the fruits of ones labour are harvested. Entrepreneurship can also be described as creative and innovative response to environment. Such responses can take place in any area of human endeavour such as building technology, electrical, woodwork, mechanical, education social work and services of all types on the formation of small scale business units within the informal sector. These business units have high potential for creating new job increasing output and improvement in general standard of living. According to Dike(1994), fifty percentage of total urban development can be counted for by jobs created in the small scale enterprise sector. Enterprenuers requires technical skills in addition to managerial qualities as well as personal-social relationship for the growth and sustenance of enterprise. Procter (1985) revealed the attributes necessary for entrepreneurs, such as technical competence, mental ability, human relation skill, high achievement drive and creativity. Similarly, Onah (2002) described entrepreneur as a man or woman who dreams on ideas or issues which have many dimension of development. He or she has the expertise or the management capability to develop ideas into fruition. In view of the above points, we understand that an entrepreneur is an innovator which could be in any of the following.

1. The introduction of new goods (un-existing goods) or an improvement in the equality of existing goods.
2. The introduction of new methods of production with less time Consuming and maximum output.
3. The open of new market-in particular and export market in new territory.
4. The conquest of a new source of supply of raw material or half manufacture goods and the creation of new type of industrial organization in- particular the formation of a trust or some other type of monopoly.

### **The Role of Technical Education In Achieving Effective Entrepreneurship in Nigeria**

According to the commission on the review of higher Education (1992) report, Technical Education was aimed at the production of technician and technologists and other similar business related personnel for direct employment into industries. Technical Education also provide people with the ability to be creative in the transformation of natural resources in their immediate environment into goods and services. For instance, from local construction of farm tools e.g. hoe, axe, e.t.c to the construction of shelters, mobilities, clothes e.t.c. technical Education also provide people with the opportunity to utilize available resources and dependant on indigenous technologies inherited which is not capable of satisfying our demand. We have developed alternate source of energy e.g solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, and thermal for health living and industrialization. It offers entrepreneurs new method of construction and design to meet the present demand and also enhance maximum production in firms with less time consuming, it enables them transact business effectively with the outside world through internet (I.C.T). The use of electronic media such as computer, scanner, photo copier e.t.c cannot be over emphasized because it saves time, money and reduce burden. Entrepreneurs can also effectively measure the competency of individual technologist to be employed for better placement and

allocation of duties in both production line and service industry. It again makes entrepreneurs undertake routine maintenance on different machines, equipment and other capitals to avoid total breakdown which is an antidote to production.

### **Constrains In Technical Education Responsible For Ineffective Entrepreneurship In Nigeria**

Despite the significant role played by Technical Education for producing high skilled personnel's' in specific occupation for self-reliance, it is faced with some constrains which has greatly affected entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Some of these problems will be discussed.

) Inadequate funding/ Insufficient capital|

The success of every occupation or career depend largely upon the financial ability/capacity as well as physical facilities needed for such programme.

Money is being the most valuable factor of all the resources required because without money other factors of production cannot be provided. Okorie (1993) said that fund and instructional facilities in consonance with industrial development in the country are grossly inadequate. Similarly, okoro (1993) observed that technical education suffers some serious problems that have limited its effective contribution, one of these problems is funding leading to inadequate teaching facilities. A situation where funds are lacking or inadequate not much could be achieved and this will equally deter the clamour towards wealth creation and self-reliant. Technical education is experiencing gross inadequency of teaching and learning facilities and little that are available are either outdated, broken down or out of use due to related problems such as lack of consumable materials and electricity, power supply for operating the equipment and machine. Fund was identified as one of the impediment in the development of technical education which in turn adversely affects the trainee, high rate of interest place on bank loans by bankers and other financial institution has also scared those with zeal to embark on small scale enterprise for self-reliance.

) Poor implementation of Government policy and programme|

Over the years, good policies have been formulated on technical education, strategies for improving the present status of technology were identified. But they are either not implemented or poorly implemented.

) Poor Economy|

Economical problem such as high cost of raw materials and goods greatly affect the growth of some business as huge amount is invested in the purchase of raw materials, transportation of

facilities. While the market demand is low, some finished products have been in warehouses for months. This reduces the entrepreneur zeal to produce more thereby making him / her indebted to pay the staff wages.

#### ) Negative Attitudes|

Some people have strong believe that professions like banking, farming and paramilitary are the utmost means of achieving lively needs or fetch more and enrich people easily,thereby developing less interest and emphasis on vocational occupations or enterprises for self-reliant.

#### ) Erratic Power Supply|

Irregular supply of electricity directly reduces the production. In a situation where entrepreneur cannot afford to fuel His/Her power plant no production shall take place for some days. The money He/She supposed to us for the maintenance of machines and other capitals are sometimes converted to the purchase fuel.

### **Conclusion**

Technical Education has been identified as that greatest tool to be used in reducing high rate of unemployment, poverty, social, political and other problems through wealth creation in various sectors of economy. Therefore, anenabling environment must be put in place for functional Technical Education the bedrock of sustainable entrepreneurship programmes.

### **Recommendations**

) Adequate fund must be provided to run technical education for producing Skilled personnel demanded in industry, agricultural and commerce. Federal Government should provide sufficient instructional facilities in technical institutions. In fact, the national policy of science and technology (1996) recognized that one important means of

achieving National development is to have strong technical education programme in all levels of education. It must be realized that technical education played an important role towards industrialization. Adequate modern facilities and sophisticated equipment should be provided in our schools, colleges and universities for training students in various professions or vocations for self-reliant.

) Policies concerning technical education should be left to those in the field of technology to formulate and implement them. Formulation and implementation of Technical Education policies by the general educators has a serious obstacle to the development of productivity in this country.|

) Nigerians should be re-oriented through electronic media (Television, radio newspapers e.t.c) on the significance of technical education to economic development. Free training as well as seminars, workshops and conferences on significance of Technical Education in various fields of human endeavour should be provided for self-reliant.|

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