



Full Length Research

## Entrepreneurship Education A Boost To National Security

**HARUNA Emmanuel Ojogbane**  
Department of Social Studies  
Federal College of Education, Kano  
P.M.B. 3045  
Kano State - Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the need for promoting entrepreneurship education in Nigeria and as a boost to national security. It is therefore discovered that the majority of youth's vices such as kidnapping, boko-haram, militancy, banditry, cattle rustling and other problems like unemployment and poverty can greatly be reduced by engaging youth in entrepreneurship ventures. It is also discussed that government should mobilize competent entrepreneurship personnel to move round schools and communities using both formal and informal approaches to train and retrain youths and adults, literates and illiterates. Government and its agencies should deliberately encourage entrepreneurial culture and skills in Nigeria in order to attack and eventually reduce the high level of insecurity situation in the country so that the nation will boost its economic development. Thereby making Nigeria a safe to live. Some recommendations are given such as government creating enabling environment and to also make power available. Entrepreneurship education is basically acquisition of skills and training for the sake of creating employment which leads to reduction in crime rate in Nigeria. It leads to the development of small, medium and sometimes large scale business based on creativity and innovation.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship: Education: Creativity and Innovation: National Security: Nigeria

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### 1.0 Introduction of the Study

Various scholars have written extensively on the origin of entrepreneurship. What is interesting is that most of the scholars who wrote about the origin and the genesis are either economists or historians. Basically the concept of entrepreneurs is derived from the French concept "entreprendre" which literally is equivalent to the English concept "to undertake", from the business point of view. Undertake simply means to start a business (Quick MBA, 2010). From the historical point of view Schumpeter (1951) opined that the French economist, Richard Cotillion, was the first to introduce the concept "entrepreneur" in his work in 1755. He viewed the entrepreneur as a risk taker (Burnet, 2000). However, some scholars contend that it was an economist, Jean-Baptiste Say, who analysed the concept in an advanced way in his work in 1821 where he identified entrepreneur as a new economic phenomenon (Wikipedia, 2010). By the foregoing, we can infer that the concept "entrepreneur" is almost as old as the formal discipline of economics itself (Schumpeter, 1951) especially given the fact that it was an economist such as Adam Smith, David Ricardo and John Stuart Mill who have written extensively on it, albeit referring to it, as "business management".

However, unlike Smith and Ricardo Mill stressed the significance of entrepreneurship for economic growth. Another renowned economist, Alfred Marshall buttressed Mill's view by formally recognizing entrepreneurship as an important factor of production in 1890. The researcher viewed entrepreneurship as organization creation and believed the entrepreneurship is the driving element behind organization (Schumpeter, 1951; Burnett, 2000). In

addition, Schumpeter (1951) contends with this view and opined that though many economics scholars agree that entrepreneurship is necessary for economic growth, they do not agree on the actual role that entrepreneurs play in generating economic growth. These debates evolution different scholars have put forward different characteristics that they believe are common among most entrepreneurs, theoretical foundations extend from economics to other disciplines such as history, politics, education, ecology, culture experience and networking and so on. To this effect, Schumpeter (1951) concludes that by combining the various disparate theories, a generalized set of entrepreneurship qualities can be developed. He then listed the characteristics of entrepreneurs as; risk-bearers, coordinators and organizers, gap-fillers, leaders and innovators or creative initiators. He submitted that though not exhaustive, this can help explain why some become entrepreneurs while others do not (Burnett, 2000).

## 2.0 Literature Review

### 2.1 Definition of Entrepreneurship

There are many definitions of the concept entrepreneurship. Putari (2006) observed that scholars had not been in agreement in their definitions of entrepreneurship and chronicled the definitions of entrepreneurship by various scholars. Penoos (1963) viewed entrepreneurship as the activity that involves identifying opportunities within the economic system while Leibenstein (1968) perceives entrepreneurship as involving activities. According to Wikipedia, "is the act of being an entrepreneur" or one who undertakes innovations, fiancé and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods; this may result in new organization or may be past of revitalizing nature organizations, in response to a perceived opportunity. The most obvious form of entrepreneurship is that of starting new business which is referred to as Startup Company. Entrepreneurship has been simply captured as the use of human courage to seek investment opportunities and established a profit-orientated enterprise (Ikene & One, 2007). Entrepreneurship is generally viewed as a process of creating something new. Doing this involves a lot of time and effort devolved to ensure the tasks at and the resulted effects include monetary and personal satisfaction as well as independence. Entrepreneurship involves creation process, conscious devotion of time and effort, involves risk and has some rewards.

Gana (2001) defines it as 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. Hisrich and Peters (2002), simply captured the term as the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth. They went further to explain that entrepreneurship is the personalized version of actualizing one's desire, ambition and expression. Okpara (2000), defines entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identifiable opportunities. In addition, Nwachukwu (1990) regards entrepreneurship as a process of seeing and evaluating business opportunities gathering the necessary resources to take advantage of them and initiate appropriate action to ensure success. Thus from the definitions above we can see that while defining the concept "entrepreneurship, laid emphasis on a wide spectrum of activities such as

- (a) Self-employment of any sort.
- (b) Creation of organization.
- (c) Innovation applied to a business content.
- (d) The combination of resources.
- (e) Identification and exploitation of opportunities within the economic or market.
- (f) The bringing together of factors of production under uncertainty.

We can therefore conclude that whatever activity that involves any or all of the above activities can be regarded as entrepreneurship. Therefore entrepreneurship refers to all the processes and activities involved in establishing, nurturing and sustaining a business enterprise.

**2.2 Entrepreneur:** An entrepreneur is an enterprising individual who builds capital through risk and for initiative. The term was originally a loan word from French and was first defined by the Irish-French economist Richard Cantillo. Entrepreneur in English is a term applied to a person who is willing to help launch a new venture or enterprise and accept full responsibility for the outcome. The word entrepreneur was coined from a French word called "entrepren" which means a person who voluntarily head the military expedition. It was first used during the French military history in the seventeenth century. Ojeifo (2010) in his book, a handbook on entrepreneurial development in Nigeria defined an entrepreneur as the owner or the manager of business enterprise who through

risks and initiatives, attempts to make profit. Pinson (2010) visualized the entrepreneur as a person who starts a business to follow a vision to make money to be master of his/her own soul (both financially and spiritually) and is an 'educated' risk taker. Murphy (2010) conceives an entrepreneur as a person who is dynamic and consumes to seek opportunities and or different methods of operation and will do whatever it takes to be successful in business. Given the above wide range of actors and behaviours which are used to define the concept 'entrepreneur'. We can see the difficulty and impossibility of finding a unified definition of the 'entrepreneur'. Hence to Di-Masi (2010), the concept of entrepreneur can be best used in the past tense to describe successful business person who identified the existence of business opportunities, and based on this, they created business thereby creating new products, new production methods, new markets and new forms of organization to satisfy human needs and wants mostly at a profit.

### 2.3 Entrepreneurship Education

The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed an assembly of 149 world leaders where they met and proposed salvaging strategies for nation across the globe popularly known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which gave birth to the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in Nigeria professionals from different fields were constituted to address issues of economic scientific and technological development, some of the NEEDS resolutions that gave impetus to the introduction of entrepreneurial and computer education as contained in the Federal Government document titled: Meeting everyone's needs amongst others includes:

- (a) Providing courses that build vocational and entrepreneurial skills and
- (b) Improving training and exposure to information and communication technology.

This resolution was further stressed by the master plan for technical and vocational education development in Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> century popularly known as vision 2010 whose recommendation stated that "Entrepreneurship Education should be incorporated in all technical and vocational education core curricular. The translations of these visions and strategies led to the introduction of Entrepreneurial Education in Colleges of Education and polytechnic in technical and vocational education related courses as contained in the minimum standard. Therefore, the course (Entrepreneurial Education) is a response to global reform which is evolutionary to the curriculum and has some objective and philosophy with the already existing ones.

This is confirmed by Akale (2002) where he stated that; the infusion of entrepreneurship education into our curriculum of teachers education is a reaction to the escalating incidence of graduate unemployment. The goal of entrepreneurship education is to orient students towards self-reliance of wage earning jobs become inaccessible. Okojie (2011) equally stated that Federal Government in 2002 directed that "Entrepreneurship Education be injected in the curriculum of university education in Nigeria". Obeniyi (2007) explained that the plan of government was to make Entrepreneurship Education compulsory in tertiary institutions in Nigeria regardless of the course of study from 2007/2008 session. Presently the course is run in Colleges of Education, polytechnics and universities.

### 3.0 Objectives of Entrepreneurship Education

The hallmark of entrepreneurship education revolves around facilitating self-employment leading to economic and social development of the society Johansson (1991) as cited by Utolu (2010) identifies five learning objectives of entrepreneurship as:

- (a) The know why-developing the right attitudes and motivation to start-up.
- (b) The knowhow – acquiring the technical abilities.
- (c) The know who – creating networks and making necessary contacts for entrepreneurial ventures.
- (d) The know when - exploring the venture at the right time.
- (e) The know what – that is being current about entrepreneurial growth and development.

While Okojie (2011) stated that government objectives in the introduction of entrepreneurship education is "to empower students as they become job creators and not job seekers. Scholars of vocational and technical education amongst who are Nworkolo (1997) and Uwameji (1994) identified the essence of entrepreneurship to students as:

- (1) Identifying students with entrepreneurship traits and to motivate and encourage them to launch their small enterprise after graduation.
- (2) To imbibe in the students the mindset of enterprise and innovativeness.
- (3) To create necessary awareness and motivation.

- (4) To promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among students from the school level with the hope of continue partnership after graduation.
- (5) To train potential entrepreneurs to establish small business that will consequently improve in the production of goods and services.
- (6) To expose the students to relevant trades and encourage them to adopt one on graduation.
- (7) To make them realize global trends on employment and private sector initiatives.
- (8) To guide students to government laws and regulations and other requirements in establishing new entrepreneurial ventures.
- (9) To inform them of their responsibilities to their entrepreneurial environment and the society.
- (10) To highlight sources of finding/financing of business enterprise to facilitate quick start up on graduation.

#### **4.0 Importance of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria**

Entrepreneurship is a key driver of our economy; wealth and a high majority of jobs are created by small businesses started by entrepreneurially minded individuals. Many of whom go on to create big businesses. There is more creative freedom for people who are exposed to Entrepreneurship Education. There is higher self-esteem, and an overall greater sense of control over their own lives. It is the believe of many experience business people, political leaders, economist and educators that fostering a robust entrepreneurial culture will maximize individual and collective economic and social success on a local, national and global scale. It is with this in mind that the National Standard for Entrepreneurship Education (NSEE) was developed to prepare youths and adults to succeed, in entrepreneurial economy. As mentioned earlier, Entrepreneurship Education is a lifelong process starting as easily as elementary school and progressing through all levels of education, including adult education. The standards of their supporting performance indicators are a framework for teachers to use in building appropriate objectives, learning activities and assessments for their target audience and will enable them to develop the insight needed to discover and create entrepreneurial opportunities, and the expertise to successfully start and manage their own businesses to take advantage of these opportunities.

The importance of entrepreneurship to any economy is like that of entrepreneurship in any community. Entrepreneurship activity and the resultant financial gain are always of benefit to a country. Entrepreneurship Education focuses on developing understanding and capacity for pursuit of entrepreneurial behaviours, skills and attributes in different context. It can be portrayed as open to all the propensity to behave entrepreneurially is not exclusive to certain individuals. Different individuals will have a different mix of capabilities for demonstrating and acquiring entrepreneurial behaviours, skills and attributes. These behaviours can be practiced, developed and learned, hence it is important to expose all students to Entrepreneurship Education.

Entrepreneurial skills and attributes provide benefits to society, even beyond their application to business activity. Obviously, personal qualities that are relevant to entrepreneurship such as creativity and a spirit of initiative can be useful to everyone in their working responsibilities and in their day-to-day existence. Also the relevant technical and business skills need to be provided to those who choose to be self-employed and or to start their own venture or might do so in the future. Finally, the economic importance of the entrepreneur has been recognized for several decades. So many writer shave discussed from different perspectives, the importance of entrepreneurship to different countries in the industrial era. Schumpeter (1947), who is, perhaps believed to be the first major economist to analyse the role of entrepreneurship in economic development, attributed innovation to the entrepreneur. He described entrepreneurship as the engine of economic development. He argued that “to study the entrepreneur is to study the central figure in modern economic history”.

#### **5.0 The Concept of National Security**

Oriakhe & Osemingie (2012) viewed National Security as a “state where the unity, wellbeing, values and beliefs, democratic process, mechanism of governance and welfare of the nation and her people are perpetually improved and secured through military political and economic resources. Held and McGrew (1998; pg 226) traditionally understood national security as the acquisition, development and use of military force to achieve national goals. For Ogbonnaya & Ehigiamusoe (2013), the concept of national security cut across many disciplines covering military protection, surveillance, protection and human rights. Romm (1993), in providing an implicit sense, saw national security as the ability of a nation to preserve its internal values from external threats. Hence, “national security implies that appropriation and development of state apparatus of coercive force to deal with situation of crises,

nationality or internationally” (Akhakpe, 2012). Next to the concept of security is the concept of insecurity. Insecurity only portrays the absence of security. Achumba et al. (2013) term insecurity as “the antithesis of security”. They further acknowledged that due to the many ways insecurity affects human life and existence, the concept of insecurity has been variously interpreted.

There are some common descriptors used to define insecurity, they include – want of safety, change, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, doubtful, inadequately guarded or protected, lacking stability, troubled, lack of protection, and unsafe to mention a few (Achumba et al., 2013). In his paper, Boeland (2005) describe insecurity as the state of fear and anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. Achuba et al. (2013) posit a working description of insecurity as “not knowing, a lack of control, and inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group or what make them vulnerable. This insecurity matures to phenomenon of terrorism. Little wonder Oriakei & Osenewingie (2012) purport that insecurity and terrorism are two inseparable phenomena, they argued that domestic terror and other social vices are perpetuated in the absence of strong security structure. This has being the case of Nigeria for sometimes now. Not only that terrorism had held sway in the country, it has progressed from Niger Delta militancy to present seemingly intractable *Boko Haram* insurgency, banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping etc. Consequently, insecurity threatens the stability of any nation. As regards to the concept of national stability, Cole (2014) opines that the concept signifies a feeling of well being or contentment among citizens of any country; a contentment driven by the level of the citizens’ engagement with the system that governs them.

#### **6.0 Recent Studies on Insecurity in Nigeria**

For sometimes now, as Nwadelor (2011) rightly observed, the problem of insecurity, which used to be one of the lowest in the hierarchy of social problems facing Nigeria, seems to have assumed an alarming proportion since the end of Nigeria Civil War in 1970. So high is the rate of insecurity in Nigeria now that every facet of Nigeria life and economy is badly affected. Fear and distrust of the other person loom large in the polity and these have bedeviled our developmental exploits as a country. The current state of insecurity has posed serious challenges and menace to Nigeria’s macroeconomics activities. Not only has the country suffered colossal losses in terms of infrastructure, proportion human life as economic development has also experienced retardation. For any sustainable development, there must be security, which is not just an intrinsic aspect of development but an essential precondition for one. Ujah and Eboh (2006) in their study examined security as an important element of business environment across Nigeria states. The study was of the view that, crime and insecurity are bad for business. It also argued that perception of security greatly influence business and investment decisions and that adequate emphasis needs to be given to perceptions about security threat in the business environment.

#### **7.0 Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on National Security**

Entrepreneurship is acquisition of skills and ideas for the sake of creating employment. It leads to the development of small, medium and sometime, large scale business based on creativity and innovation. The success of this business in turn helps in developing the nation. It also reduces poverty rate, crime rate with visible increment of employment rate among the youths. Practically entrepreneurship has the following impacts on National Security.

- i. It enhances job creation and reduces crime: self employment and job creation will increase. Also the menace usually visible due to youth unemployment and restiveness such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, banditry, robbery, *Boko Haram* etc. will be highly reduced. It is certain that the current number of polytechnics, colleges of education and universities offering small business management and entrepreneurship education has grown in Nigeria. Also, at present the National Universities Commission (NUC) has made it mandatory that all university students must offer a course on entrepreneurship AT General Studies Level, notwithstanding the course of study. Studies outside Nigeria reveal that countries like Zambia, Ghana, and South Africa have low level of unemployment compared to Nigeria because of high level of entrepreneurship in the countries when Nigerians, especially unemployed youths are mentored and provided the needed resources and enabling environment for business start-ups, thereby shunning the illegal acts of hostage taking, kidnapping, bombing, cattle rustling, vandalism etc.
- ii. Reducing rural and urban migration by engaging the rural population gainfully. Overcrowding has been associated with agitation, joblessness, robbery, stealing, gangsterism, oil pipe vandalism theft, rumor mongering, among other vices, which breach personal and societal peace; hence national security concern. Development and encouragement of a new class of professional technical entrepreneurs, establishment of

promotional agencies, and cooperatives, setting up of rural entrepreneurship development centres and upgrading informal apprenticeships are ways of promoting entrepreneurship in Nigeria (Onyeeho, 2011). Entrepreneurship also mobilizes domestic savings for investment, significant contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), and Gross National Income (GNI), harnessing of local raw materials employment creation, poverty reduction and alleviation enhancement in standard of living, increase in per capita income skills acquisition. The Nigerian youths, therefore, need to learn that life is partnership in which the individual strives to fulfill himself with the active support of others. With the spirit of collaboration, inter-existence and the desire for collective survival of all, there would be a steady growth of development, mutual support and networking. With this, there would be need to transform them into confident, aggressive and purposeful individuals thereby shunning illegal practices such as robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling, *Boko Haram*, banditry etc. With this Nigeria will be a better place to live.

- iii. Entrepreneurship Education provides practical application for student. Training in entrepreneurship has been used by nations like Germany to set up unique engineering-oriented business programmes in the university where their potentials engineers are encouraged to seek out ideas and subsequently develop the promoting ones from invention phase to commercialization. Similarly entrepreneurship programmes developed in some universities have graduated into business schools. With these youths graduate from schools having ideas of what to do to earn money instead of roaming about the streets looking for white collar jobs that are no where to be found. Or engaging in criminal activities.
- iv. It enhances structure change in business and society. Entrepreneurship plays crucial roles in initiating and constituting change in the structure of business and society. Entrepreneurs dislike idleness. They welcome new things, entrepreneurs change the structure of business in the society and the effect of the change is the growth of the economy. Nigeria's bane of economic growth could, therefore, be attributed to the lack of exhibiting entrepreneurial spirit. The economic condition of any country is the economic condition of any country is to an extent mirror of the level of her entrepreneurial philosophical development which cases out insecurity.
- v. Provision of resources to a large firms in every society, large firms look into small scale firms for the supplies of their needed resources. The resources are physical, financial, human time and informational. Large firms benefit a lot from small-scale firms established by entrepreneurs through entrepreneurship.
- vi. Creation of new technology. Entrepreneurs having the ingenuity of translating scientific intentions into the realm of human needs help to create new technologies. Technology as the best method of most efficient method of doing things is one of the hallmarks of entrepreneurship. As entrepreneurs pursue increased productivity and enhanced health, they conversely pursue efficiency. The pursuance of efficiency leads to the development of new technologies and new products and or new services. Every new technology reduces the values of the old ones which it has come to improve upon. Therefore entrepreneurial activities are bound to create new technologies, new products and services.

### 8.0 Conclusion of the Study

In Nigeria, crime rate, unemployment and poverty have been found to be high based on lack of entrepreneurial development. This justifies the need to increase entrepreneurial activities to reduce high rate of unemployment and poverty with their negative effects. The youths through training developed inner qualities for self and organizational improvement. They also learn the need to develop common sense, creativity and wisdom. The young entrepreneurs must learn to overcome innovative barriers. However, things may not be in order as planned hence the need for psychological training to prepare the young entrepreneurs for the rainy day. Therefore, through a well planned and executed entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, unemployment and poverty rate which are the causes of the present day crimes such as kidnapping, *Boko Haram*, cattle rustling, robbery, oil pipe vandalism and others in our society will surely reduce and become a thing of the past. The study recommends that; education curriculum must be immediately reversed to incorporate skills and enterprise development; hence a processor a programme geared towards training youths in Nigeria in entrepreneurship is of utmost necessity. They ought to be progressive, proactive and pragmatic. Addressing the youth unemployment in Nigeria requires an integrated holistic approach. Shortcuts will not work. The World Bank 2008 reports advocates a comprehensive model that caters for rural development, rural urban migration, preparation of young people for the labour market and investments in agriculture, thereby occupying their minds in productive ventures which will definitely reduce crimes and other social vices in the society. The Federal Government should monitor the activities of the power sector in terms of policies to make power supply affordable and constant as this would hasten and encourage entrepreneurial activities in the country, as power is a major factor in economic development. There should be a government regulated means

of entrepreneurial development sponsorship devoid of politics and the likes that have crippled those erstwhile attempts to encourage entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. The aim of every government should be to create enabling environment to promote investments. This includes provision of power, maintaining law and order, and adequate security. Likewise Nigeria should key into the ICT so as to refurbish her declining infrastructure in telecommunications, social amenities and technological advancement. Finally, entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning process and should start easily at the elementary school and progress through secondary school (JSS/SSS) to tertiary levels, including adult and non-formal education. It is therefore, a key to individual, state, national, continental and world economy by generating wealth through creation of jobs, thereby helping to meet the ever-changing social, political, and economic demand of modern society such as unemployment, poverty, crimes, insecurity among others. Doing this will help us to maintain a stable security in the country and this goes a long way to making Nigeria a better place to live. Long live Nigeria.

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