

TECHNICAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION AS STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR SPEEDY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Education is the underpinning for personal, communal, national and global development. It must prepare the citizenry for contributions for national development. Qualitative education serves as a meal ticket for anyone that can access it and is ready to continue learning. Education provides people the abilities to acquire knowledge to be put to work as a useful citizen for the advancement of human society. But this is not actually the case in many developing nations such as Nigeria. In the most recent years, the number of educated people have continued to multiply in Nigeria. Hundreds of thousands of University graduates are produced annually in both local and international institution without any significant impact on the economy. On this note, this paper studies the land scape of Nigerian higher educational system, its impact on national development and how the situation on the ground can be improved upon. Statistical method was adopted in analyzing investments in education and the corresponding development of Nigeria. Results of this research shows that a lot need to be done on technical and entrepreneurial education. As technical education is designed to develop the occupational skills of students with academic programs targeted ad acquiring life skills for defined works, it can only produce maximally when mixed with entrepreneurial spirit. The research concludes that technical entrepreneurial education holds the key for speedy national development as it prepares the students for practically-based careers where modern scientific tools are adopted to solve traditional challenges and doors are open to discover new frontiers for human advancement.

Keywords: Technical Education, Entrepreneurial Education, National Development, Skill Acquisition.

1 INTRODUCTION

Education is the most powerful weapon for the enlightenment of a society for which the most educated and literate societies of the world, are also the most advanced in most aspects of human endeavour. This leads to technological and scientific breakthroughs and sophisticated economies. The prominence of technological know-how and innovative business initiatives and tools needed to drive national development cannot be over-emphasized. The absence of adequate technical skills and local environment-provoked business ingenuities have turned Africa into a waste ground for old and new technologies.

Universally, technical education has been the foundation for sustainable national development strategies, as it creates the base for enhanced productivity and economic growth. Technically-based developmental approach creates skills and tools for development [1], while entrepreneurial education open doors to harnessing the opportunities around our environment and mobilize resources for transformation of seemingly overlooked prospects to wealth. Technical education is the academic and vocational preparation for jobs involving applied science and modern technology where greater emphasis is placed on practical applications of basic sciences and mathematical tools for solving national problems [2]. The shortage of technical manpower reveals why African is on the back seat of industrialization. The consequences of poor industrialization is seen in the mass unemployment of the youths and the ravaging social vices in the society.

Entrepreneurship education is the process that provides trainees with knowledge, skills and attitudes to create wealth for poverty reduction and self-employment. Covenant University have played a significant role in promoting entrepreneurship education in Nigeria. This have impacted greatly on graduate of Covenant University [3]. Small business growth has long been recognized as the foundation of economic and industrial growth. Worldwide, entrepreneurship have contributed immensely to the development of various national economies. In a developing nation like Nigeria, where the rate of unemployment is ever-increasing, the promotion of entrepreneurship for employment creation and as a tool for poverty alleviation is very strategic. Many developing nations have recognized the importance of entrepreneurship education and have been channeling their energy and