
THE NIGERIAN ENTREPRENEUR AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT

This paper focus on Nigeria entrepreneur and resources utilization, which has become a fundamental issue for national development and social reconstruction. The challenges of this study was as a result of the observation of the low level of resource consciousness and utilization by Nigerian Entrepreneurs, and the misconception of buying and selling to innovation and creativity. Therefore, this study investigated who an entrepreneur is, characteristics that made up entrepreneur, resources that are still in an entrepreneur; Nigerian resources that are still in neutral form and also the need to inculcate the practical skill on entrepreneurship into individual Nigerians, irrespective of course of study. The paper concludes that resources consciousness and utilization will not only create employment for the timing population but also aid in her economic growth, both locally and globally. Conclusion was reached as well as recommendations proffers.

Key words: Resource utilization, Entrepreneur, Social Reconstruction

INTRODUCTION

It is unarguably true that entrepreneurship that is becoming very useful, and play a major role in national development. In fact the delusion that developments around the world have no place in Nigeria, is due to the low level of resource consciousness and utilization by Nigerian Entrepreneurs. And misconception of buying and selling to innovation and creativity. As observed by (Otokiti, 2009) "Resources is a means of attaining given ends, while these ends may be the satisfaction of individual wants or the attainment of social objectives". In the same vain, (Omole, 2009) sees an Entrepreneur as that person's who mobilize and utilize resources to satisfy a want. Entrepreneurship, one of the antidotes for national development and social development, at present, is now a child's talk, there is no comprehensive knowledge on resource consciousness by Nigerian entrepreneurs. No wonder (Zimmermann, 1980) claims that, "knowledge is truly the mother of all resources", through knowledge man is able to solve the mysteries of nature and convert the 'neutral stuff of yesterday into resources of today'. Indeed, knowledge is power, the number of enrollment into the primary to tertiary school is increasing geometrically Nigerians are seeking for knowledge, to improve their economical status. However, only few achieve this dream and many are faced with frustration which has led to violent and all sorts of crime in the society. At present, research studies in this area are very limited. Even though most countries, organizations and institutions are promoting entrepreneurship to curb unemployment, yet it is a misconception of buying and selling, an atomic characteristic of an entrepreneur.

Therefore, it then becomes imperative that entrepreneurs' knowledge should go beyond paper work in the school buying and selling in the market place.

Objectives of the study

This study is aimed at calling attention of Education policy makers, individual Nigerian and the government into the missing link in quest for national development and social reconstruction and also to create awareness of resource around us for economic development.

Literature Review

Nigeria, the elephant of West African is embodied with complex social and economic difficulties, more so as a giant of Africa, it exhibits the structure of a developing economy. However, in order to curb these problems, development in particular has been taken more seriously. Ranging from the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of 1986 to the 1990, the present modified rolling plans and vision 2020 agenda of the present government, all these are economic sound plans aimed at alleviating poverty and promoting national growth, but can only be achieved through proper implementation of good educational policy and utilization of the country's resource. However, the ineffectiveness of these brilliant development plans, aimed at alleviating poverty and ensuring sustainable economic development and standard of living, could be attributed to inconsistent budgetary policies, negligence in the agricultural sector and requisite knowledge for implementation, among others (Adeyemi, 2011). For instance, the Structural Adjustment Programme (1986) was aim at building an entrepreneur spirit in Nigerians. In his submission, Otokiti (2009) observed that there is need for "High – Powered" Resource consciousness in Nigeria, Resources are the basis of the economic prosperity of various nations. Citing an example of developed nation like the USA which according to him they are prosperous because they possess vast resources and sound philosophy of education. On the other hand, in most parts of Africa and Asia though nature has been quite benevolent, but due to lack of "knowledge" as resources, the deficiency of resource consciousness made them unable to turn the huge mass of the neutral stuff into resources.

Conceptualizing Entrepreneurship

The concept "entrepreneurship" from a personal perspective has been explored reflecting principles and terms from business, managerial and personal perspective which includes:

- (1) Initiative taking,
- (2) The organizing and reorganizing of social and economic mechanisms to turn resources and situations to practical account,
- (3) the acceptance of risk or failure.

Michael (2010) see entrepreneurship as not just a business, but a process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort assuming the accompanying financial, psychic, and social risks and receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence.

Entrepreneurship is subjected to;

- (1) Creativity – creating something new of value,
- (2) Devoting necessary time and effort,
- (3) Rewards is independence and
- (4) Personal satisfaction.

Early author on entrepreneur Marco-Polo sees' entrepreneur as an individual who takes risks and starts something new. In attempts to modify the early century writers, authors of the 20th century define entrepreneur as an innovator and a creator of something unique.

The Concept of Resources

According to Otokiti (2009) resource is a means of attaining given ends. These ends may be the satisfaction of individual wants or the attainment of social objectives", he concluded that anything useful or anything having the attribute of utility may be termed as resource.

Characteristics of an entrepreneur as observed by Ogundele (2008) are;

- (i) Creativity
- (ii) Innovation
- (iii) Opportunity identification
- (iv) Devotion

Nature of Nigeria Resource

Nigeria is blessed with vast natural resources ranging from material to non-material resources. Nigeria is not just a resource center, but resource depot which requires knowledge and continuous process of the resources a to attain greatness.

Thus the awareness about these arrays of opportunities is exhibited through proper Education.

Nature of Nigerian Education

Education as the bedrock of every nation, has been define by various writers, according to Abayomi (2006) Education is an integral and functional aspect one needed for national growth and development. He argued that any nation educational curriculum supposed to be drawn out of her ideas, hopes and aspirations rather than those of far away. Land as in the case today with western education in Nigeria. Ogundele (2007) contended that Nigerian Education is gear towards white collar jobs. More over, secondary schools which should have serve as preparatory grounds for take off into entrepreneurship, succeeds only in producing a crop of ambitious young men and women whose ambition is to go to America or to be a politician. Ironically, Education in Nigeria is factored to suit the Western World. A means of enslaving us mentally to remain a slave for their development. In quest to reveal the truth Walter Rodney in his wide read book (How Europe underdeveloped Africa) said 'Africans must say it to themselves that, the solutions to our problems is in our hands. At this point, it is paramount that Nigerian school curriculum should be for national growth and development and not for Western development.

What is Resource utilization and how is it Related to National Development and Social Reconstruction

Omotejopo, (2010) gave an intermediate definition of resource utilization. According to her resource utilization is "the ability to explore/make use of available resources/opportunity in the enterprise and the individual whose function is to carry them out are entrepreneurs".

The concept of exploitation includes:

- Resource consciousness; creation and control which Nigerian entrepreneurs are not familiar with (Otokiti, 2009).
- Knowledge, imparting the right knowledge through education for employment generation (Ogunde, 2007).
- The opening of a new market: Market where the brand of the product has not previously entered, whether or not this market has existed some where before, Otokiti (2007) quoting Share and Venkataraman, (2000).

Hence, resource utilization is synonymous to employment generation which can be use for national development and social reconstruction thereby promoting orderliness and harmony in the society.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the survey used in the study most Nigerian business men/women are not interested in resource consciousness or utilization due to poor infrastructure and power failure. In fact, to them it is a waste of time and energy they prefer the buying and selling. Therefore, it is apparent that there is need for proper curriculum development that will postulate the entrepreneur skill physical mentally and socially. It is recommended that awareness of available resource should be created to promote entrepreneur development. The government should try as much as possible to create an atmosphere that will promote entrepreneurship, instead of running to developed nations for help. The government should be able to look within and Nigerian must rid themselves of the delusion that the country could not develop like others. Transformation is about a change.

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