

WEALTH CREATION THROUGH VOCATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION:

A MEASURE TO CHECK YOUTHS' RESTIVENESS FOR NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY NIGERIA

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Abstract

The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is alarming to such extent that the teeming school graduates roam the streets in search of jobs that do not exist. This paper noted that for training to be meaningful to youths such vocational training must be related to their realities of employment, otherwise youths would be exposed to frustrations and other vices. This is because, employment would lead to wealth creation through Vocational and Technology Education and serve as a measure for checking youths' restiveness for national development in the 21st century Nigeria: There are several dimensions to the problem of youth unemployment accompanied by restiveness. According to Idris (2011), if young people are provided with employment opportunities, they can become productive assets and take their part in mainstream society by offering the best of their skills and talents. If this opportunity is not forthcoming, there is a chance that disaffected youth will quickly turn to crime and violence in order to survive. The need to accord top priority to agriculture, use of call centres, etc in Nigeria with a view to tapping the vast economic potentials in these sectors is fast becoming more fashionable to boost the economic prosperity of the country. By means of this, the youths will be gainfully employed to cater for their basic needs in the spirit of entrepreneur.

Introduction

Vocational and technology education consciousness for wealth creation in nation development can only be acquired and translated through formal and informal education in order to be able to check youths' restiveness in the 21st century Nigeria. Many Nigeria youths are worried about what they will do with their lives and what kind of adults they will be after leaving school.

Many youths are very much concerned about early entry into the occupational world and finding productive and rewarding places in a rapidly fast changing society where wage employment is unlikely to be available on a scale sufficient to absorb more than a minute fraction of them when they do eventually arrive at the labour market for wealth creation for themselves, their societies and the country at large. Without mincing words, many youngsters and their parents do not want vocational education principally as an end in itself but as a means of getting employment (wealth creation) and improved living condition (Bulus, 1994). The youths are always pre-occupied with the type of work, either by a vocational or vocational, that will

give them a significant wealth as people.

Unfortunately, many education policies formulated by various governments in the country are unable to help youths prepare sufficiently for the realities of life after graduation from school. This challenge can give way to poverty. Poverty can be viewed from economic perspective which revolves around the nature and level of material deprivation which may lead to low income and/or low consumption, lack of physical necessities of life, lack of assets and others (Idakwoji, 2004). Poverty, manifests itself from social dimension, social inferiority, low status, lack of dignity or self-esteem, insecurity, vulnerability and social marginalization within the youths in all ramifications.

In political terms, lack of a nation's inability to create wealth or inability to possess a large amount of money or property and other resources is manifested in such areas as lack of political power, exclusion from the decision-making process and denial of basic natural and political rights. This type of trend is not good for a national

natural and political rights. This type of trend is not good for a national development in 21 century Nigeria and this calls for the country's vocational and technology education to be adequately put in a functional form.

Vocational and technology education are the type of education which make one more competent in one's group of occupations than another and should serve both individual and social needs, especially to serve as a measure in wealth creation for national development in the 21st century Nigeria to check Nigeria youths resistiveness in terms of crime prevention and insecurity. Technology and vocational education would continue to aim at forming the connecting link by the acquisition of multiple disciplinary skills between the school system and the employment market (Oranu, 1998:10).

This is because development in vocational and technology education is intimately linked to general trends in the economy and the labour market will be desired and would also aim at providing (youths) with self-employment and

entrepreneurial skills which will lead them to self-confidence and self-reliance. This will connect the Nigeria youths with the basic necessities of life such as food, drink, clothing, car and shelter which are required to keep the body and soul together for a crime-free society and enable them contribute to the development of the country in the 21 century.

Nigeria cannot be secured if proper attention is not given towards the vocational and technology education of the youths. Neglect of this type of education for youths will connect them with crime and insecurity which is characterized with armed robbery, recruitment of thugs for criminally-minded politicians and the breach of peace ritual killings, child abuse and trafficking, prostitution of younger girls and a host of other vices which may impede the national development in the 21 century Nigeria.

Wealth creation by youths can be consolidated by governments in terms of empowering them rather than watch them roam the streets engaging in criminal activities and posing threats to the residents. The

empowerment programme that would be in form of skill acquisition through vocational and technology education would make them become self-reliant, productive, useful and contribute to the national development. This also would translate to massive investment in vocational and technology education, if Nigeria must gain self reliance for the youths and sustainable national development and creating wealth. This is important because Anthony (2010) maintained that investment in vocational education for Nigeria should be a life for the future, because the national security, economic and technological growth and the whole strength of Nigeria entirely depend on the investment. With this pointer put in place, the path to wealth creation by youths for sustainable national development will be smooth to thread. However, for smooth path to be threaded for wealth creation by youths, they should be certainly pushful with a drive for achievement embedded with determination, vision, diligent,

able and astute in vocational education that will propel them into sustainable national development. This also has a lot to do with issues that can impact positively on the performance of the government in the area of providing adequate and current vocational education facilities to schools for youths to have proper teaching and learning of the skills which would transform into wealth creation for sustainable national development. The graduates of the programme will be made to be self-reliant especially, as it has to do with profitability, supply chain, vendors and customer pertinent to the success of wealth creation by youths for national development.

In the area of provision of quality vocational education, government should encourage public private partnership. In a situation where the governments have failed in their responsibilities, the private sector must think of how to drive the process to achieve meaningful economic, social and political development for sustainable development. For any meaningful development to take place in

vocational and technology education private sector must be seen and used as a veritable tool for national development for wealth creation.

The achievement of wealth creation calls for increase awareness of the need for self-reliant. Entrepreneurship is the engine that drives economic growth through the capacity to facilitate innovation and thus enhance productivity, value addition and job creation (Anya 2009; in Olaitan, 2010:18). The entrepreneurs themselves, are the life-line of every economy just put them in the field and provide a conducive environment and they will turn the economy around with their strengths (Onyko, 2009 in Olaitan, 2010:19). For wealth generation through youths for sustainable national development leadership, must improve the skills of the nation's workforce acquired through vocational and technology education programmes, reduce the cost drastically of carrying out or doing business and also make available the resources to the investors as may be required to compete and thrive in today's knowledge driven global economy.

The Need for Vocational and Technology Education Development in Nigeria Schools for Wealth Creation

Vocational education development is self-development over one's life span. It is a continuous, life long process, conscious and unconscious from pre-school to old age with various development stages (Bulus, 1994:11). It is very important to point out that the National Policy on Education (2004) focuses more directly on the need for teachers and counselors to help youths extend the period of time with problems of career development, especially with the need to clarify their own goals and to set rational vocational and technology education plans consistent with personal characteristics.

According to National Policy on Education (2004), many youths are ignorant about career prospects and problems of unplanned occupational pattern. This type of development may bring about obstacles to the envisaged wealth creation by youths for the attainment of national development in the 21 century Nigeria through vocational education. Obstacles to unplanned

occupational patterns according to (Okon 1979:12 in Bulus, 1994) include-lack of information on job seeking, scarcity and mal-distribution of job opportunities; discriminatory and other inefficient forms of employment practices such as nepotism, bribery, favouritism, discrimination on the basis of religion, place and ethnic origin of an applicants and lack of adequate skills in mathematics, scientific, commercial and technical fields.

These obstacles are most likely to emanate from the youths' inadequate knowledge of themselves and the world of work. These problems sum up the need for a variety of methods or approaches that will link the world of school and work, thus smoothening the transition to the path of wealth creation by youths for national development. Ipaye (1986 in Bulus 1994:12) warned that unless young people are consciously taught these operations (values and social skills that will prepare them for productive living after school) through the curriculum and unless they are taught how to make intelligent and informed decisions, they are likely to make errors in assessing their

opportunities and in deciding among alternatives.

In the light of the aforementioned information a great need exists for secondary school curriculum to encourage youths to choose future work roles, as wealth creation through vocational education for national development and to check their restiveness. Vocational and technology education programmes must explore a variety of ways to relate to youths to their future vocational and transition to adulthood, only this will guarantee the vision of wealth creation by youths through vocational education for sustainable national development and disconnect them from social vices.

Vocational and technology education is the most reliable type of education that can be used to develop the full potentialities of every youth while at the same time taking consideration of the need and welfare of Nigeria (NPE, 2004). Training from school to work should not be focused on only declining occupations but on new and emerging ones which are to be explored. Furthermore, vocational and technology education lead to increase pay and productivity, geographic and occupational mobility, employment, youths self-respect and respect of others

Empowering Youths for Reliable Wealth Creation for National Development in the 21 Century Nigeria

It is not an exaggeration that some good number of Nigeria youths have resorted to militancy and restiveness because of unavailability of white collar jobs and acquisition of saleable skills for adequate placement in the world of work (Ochani 2011:4) This development, no doubt will have a negative result if proactive measures are not taken to salvage it. That is why unemployment rate among youths is on the increase without commensurate economic growth to match. A development which has made the youths in the country to be restive and resort to all sorts of social vices to survive in the midst of abundant resources; such vices as robbery, terrorism, kidnapping child trafficking just to mention a few, cannot bring about sustainable development.

How many of leaders in Nigeria ever think in this direction even those who are beating their chests for outstanding performance in office today? How many successive governments attempted to provide succor to these youths? Although in 2009 Federal Government of Nigeria granted amnesty to Niger Delta youths but could not remedy the grievances bottled up in the minds of other Nigeria youths who could not

even afford a meal. The solution to these youths' restiveness lies in the hands of governments. Individuals and non-governmental organizations to begin to think about youths empowerment as a means of cushioning the effect of unemployment and crime rate in the country.

In the same vein, Amata (20i259) reported that every sane Nigerian must be appreciative of the efforts of Abia State Governor, Theodore Orji in the aspect of youths empowerment. According to the report it is only in Abia State that the unemployed youths numbering about 4.500 selected from all the council areas in the state are being paid N15,000 (Fifteen thousand naira) by the state government monthly. Beneficiaries of this N15.000 (fifteen thousand naira) monthly stipend and who were all unemployed can get themselves engaged in a meaningful means of livelihood. I believe with this development, the answer to youths' restiveness rests in complete establishing some businesses on their own as a means of wealth

creation that may lead to national development. The gesture should be accompanied by entrepreneurship skill training for the youth. He stresses for active personal involvement to commence their trades and businesses through the following ways.

- **Personal Savings:** Specific Percentage of his or her earnings to be sold to raise money
- **Family and Friends:** If enterprise lacks sufficient capital to start up a venture, then family and friends can be used to raise fund or loan;
- **Commercial banks:** One can approach banks that offer different loans in different forms to customers on short term basis to small businesses that are promising
- **Trade Credits:** Another form of short term financing in which an entrepreneur buys goods or services now and pays for them at a later date with interest free;
- **Thrift and Credit Cooperatives:** Individuals can join one to become a

member of many of the work places that have one or more cooperatives to raise capital to start a business. According to Ochani (2011:8) cooperatives provide opportunities that enable their members raise funds to finance small businesses in form of borrowing;

- **Partnership funding:** This is another way for an entrepreneur to enter into partnership with another person, this creates dilution in ownership.

When all these forms of raising fund to start a small business are put in place, mass employment would knock out unemployment among youths. The claims of the future is to ensure that youths are empowered both in finance and proper vocational and technology education to enable them fit in the society to contribute meaningfully to the national development. This is because; youths of a nation are the trustees of posterity. Empowerment programme that would be in form of skill acquisition through vocational training and finance to start a small business, the youths would become

self-reliant, productive and useful to the society at large. This will go a long way to checking youths' restiveness in the country and national development in the 21 century Nigeria.

Agriculture as a Means of Wealth Creation by Youths for National Development in the 21 Century Nigeria

In Nigeria, millions of youths are jobless even after graduation from schools. Youths are disillusioned; they have lost interest in school because they do not see any future dividends from education. Without job for the youths, there cannot be development in any country. Nigeria appears to be the type that does not create friendly environment for the youths to display their talents, wisdom and potentials.

Nigeria is basically an agrarian country. More than 75 percent of its people are engaged in subsistence agriculture and agriculture used to be one of the principal foreign exchange earner of Nigeria. At one time, Nigeria

was the world's largest exporter of groundnuts, cocoa and palm oil and a significant producer of coconuts, citrus fruits, maize, pearl, millets, cassava, yams and sugar cane (Akinbani, 2011:200). Better encouragement could be given to youths by government to support the small and medium scale enterprises (SMES) and micro credit scheme to support youths. This in no small measure will help the youths to be gainfully employed to cater for their basic needs and enjoy the privilege of training and retraining to take over from the foreign hands in the spirit of entrepreneur. By this means, youths will contribute to wealth creation and check their restiveness for national development.

Nigeria has Agro based manufacturing industries which include leather and textiles, plastics and processed food. The land

availability by the soil, scientists has proved that it will be able to produce well if appropriately managed (Akinbani, 2011), Although Nigeria soils are generally infertile, highly weathered, leached and acidic. Possible approaches such as efficient use of organic fertilizer, organic manure and planted fallows, could undoubtedly extend sustainability and significantly boost agricultural production in Nigeria. This will go along way in curtailing unemployment and pave way for wealth creation for national development.

Nigeria has corporate advantage to be a major producer of food in the world and that the present government would lay greater emphasis on food security and job creation for the youths through vocational education which

agriculture is part (Abdullahi, 2012:83). By means of this direction, youths' unemployment rate would drastically reduce and rid the country of crimes for Nigeria to move to another stage of development in 21 century.

As pointed out earlier in the paper, Governments, philanthropists, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should encourage agricultural practices to soften the effect of youths' unemployment and its accompanied restiveness in Nigeria. Abdullahi (2012:83) reported that the Kwara State Government earmarked the sum of N1.5 billion for micro credit scheme to support youths that are farmers and small and medium scale enterprises in the slate. The Governor of Kwara State demonstrated governments' plan to assist the farmers with the micro credit scheme

at the roll-out of the Federal Government Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA).

In line with this, for probity and transparency, micro-finance banks should be accredited for the loan disbursement and that the distribution of fertilizer and other farm inputs should be decentralized and the agro-dealers be involved to ensure that the product got to the right end-users. Agro-based businesses can take the form of organizing a small gari processing industry with a loan on self; setting up rice milling business by youths to be able to generate wealth for sustainable development. Starch production, baking and confectionary are businesses to start with little capital and grow in it. All these create alternatives to white collar jobs via self-employment which serves as a venue for communal and national development and poverty reduction. Agricultural education, if well

articulated, will go along way of uplifting youths from the dungeon of abject poverty to wealth creation and to a considerable comfort in the national development.

Use of Call Centres to create Wealth by Youths and Social Progress in Nigeria

In every day interactions among people globally, communication plays a vital role. Without communication, life would be very meaningless, frustrating, and lonely. There must be interaction among people God created man and woman, old and young. Therefore, communication is an indispensable tool in the interaction of human beings. This involves sharing of ideas or issues, of caring, and business transaction. Nigeria has experienced a lot of issues recently ranging from insecurity, poverty, unemployment of the youths which have resulted to indifferent social vices such as militancy, robbery, prostitution and a lot more (Okoruwa, 2012:69).

The use of call centres or internet/cyber cafes can be used by youths to create wealth for themselves and their society and the nation at

large. According to Ojidu (2012) the internet cyber cafes connect hundred of thousands of computers around the world These cyber cafes combine the knowledge of individuals, companies and institutions and make it accessible to any one with computer, telephone and a modem to link the two. Problems associated with social vices can he solved using these call centres to create jobs for the nation's economy and more importantly in the wealth creation by youths in a bid to alleviate poverty, unemployment and youths restiveness. There is employment opportunities in other sectors apart from the oil sector.

Okoruwa (2(112:69) reported that a lot of people have the impression that the oil sector is the only important sector in the economy but that after the oil sector, the next is the telecommunication industry. This is because, if you do not own a motor cycle or car or generator, you won't be bothered, but once you do not own a phone in your pocket, it will seem as if your entire day is completely messed up, There is the need to tap other areas in the technology industry, especially the call centres.

A call centre is a centralized location used by organisation for

purpose of receiving and transmitting a large volume of request from the public by utilizing the telephone, (Okoruwa, 2012). The contact centre can be bi-directional such as receiving and disseminating information including the emergency call centre. Publication organisation can improve through the call centre at the same time create employment opportunities to Nigeria youths to pave way for national development.

In particular, have grasped the enormous capacity of the new media to foster connectedness, communication and understanding between individuals and communities and they are turning to them as means of communicating with friends, communities, seeking information and news and of sharing their ideas and opinions (Benedict, 2009:11), many benefits, (apart from wealth creation for youths and the nation) flow in this call centres; families are able to maintain contact across distances, students and researcher have more immediate and easier access to documents, sources and scientific discoveries, hence they work collaboratively from different locations and also contribute to social progress.

A lot of jobs will be created by establishing call centres and it will go along way in addressing security issues because of people particularly the youths, they would not engage in frivolous activities. Most of these frivolous or social problems enslaving our youths are prostitution, child trafficking and terrorism) robbery, thuggery for criminally minded politicians and for the breach of security as being witnessed in the country today, conflicts (both political and ethnic) will reduce to give way to wealth creation and help mitigate violence in the country. Call centres are the product of vocational and technology education.

A research reported by Okoruwa (2012) has shown that call centres had worked tremendously in India, it has been estimated that India makes 70 billion Dollars from outsourcing call centre services per annum. He maintained that if Nigeria could get 10 percent of the business that goes to India, then in no time Nigeria could make \$10 billion annually from outsourcing call services. Nigeria should key into the opportunity by starting call centres,

so that they can get the businesses that otherwise would have gone to India.

This opportunity, when tapped will be of a great boost for the nation's economy. Apart from getting foreign business there is also the need to encourage local businesses to have call centres in order to help them improve their quality of services. This too will create a lot of jobs and this will go a long in addressing social vices because the bulk of the problems of insecurity and the rest in Nigeria is poverty which can be traced to unemployment If youths are employed, they would not engage in frivolous activities because they are receiving income and it will even bring people closer to government.

Conclusion

Vocational and technology education should be adopted to become a more relevant introduction to the world beyond it and a great need exists for government, teachers and counselors to consciously prepare youths for work and productive life and for national development in the 21st century Nigeria. The submission

remains that the government should provide and extend all essential facilities for wealth creation skills development through agriculture; supplying inputs such as fertilizers, herbicide and insecticides to boost production. Due to the economic recession, more youths have become unemployed adding to the security problems and restiveness across the country, call centres could bridge unemployment gap by providing makeshift jobs for the country's teeming youths

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made

1. Nigeria government needs re-orientation and re-organization of its vocational and technology education system in a way to integrate the traditional arid modern apprenticeship system into the overall system of education.
2. Government should embark on mass cultivation of wheat; rice, mass production of cassava by mobilizing farmers and private sectors with the multiplier effect of job creation

among the entire value chain, from planting to processing.

3. Nigeria should make effort to acquire 10 percent of call centre businesses to create wealth and jobs

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