

BUSINESS EDUCATION AS PANACEA FOR CURBING INSECURITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Insecurity has caused a lot of damages to the economic system of the country. Without any doubt, there is no aspect of economy that is working effectively as a result of insecurity. This has led to high rate of poverty, kidnapping, bandits, boko -haram, armed robbery among the youths. And it has affected individuals to go on their daily business activities without any fear. However, this paper examined the concept of insecurity; causes of insecurity in Nigeria as well as ways Business education programme can be repositioned to alleviate insecurity. The role of Business education to create wealth, poverty reduction, and employment generation are also established. In conclusion, Business education curriculum must contain cognate skills that will prepare the recipients to be successful entrepreneur. It was recommended among other things that Business education students must undergo thorough training in Business skills that will prepare them against unemployment, poverty, and other forms of societal maladjustments.

Keywords: Business education, Insecurity and Unemployment

Introduction

The fundamental human right of every citizen is security which must be provided by Government. In the section 14(2) (b) of the Nigerian 1999 constitution states clearly that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government. Insecurity is a situation where there is no peace and there is threat to live and properties which include crime waves, kidnapping, armed robbery, Boko Haram insurgency, suicide bombing, ethnics and religion crisis which majorly is caused by youth unemployment. Most business cannot thrive in the absence of peace and security even foreign investors will find it difficult to establish their businesses (Aliyu, 2017). Nigeria is witnessing high rate of insecurity presently because of idle youths and the only solution is to find a way of reducing unemployment and poverty is through Business Education Programme. Business Education Programme is one of the vocational courses that is centered on self-reliance. Business education aimed at equipping individual with knowledge, skills, vocation and attitudes needed to manage personal business as well as function effectively in the economic system (Oluwa, 2018). Business education according to Agomuo, (2018) is a comprehensive occupational programme that is focusing on training skills and general education subjects that are systematically arranged and prescribed for possible certification. The course is a global programme that aims at preparing individuals for an improved economic participation through equipping them to be intelligent consumer and producer of business products. It equips the recipients with relevant vocational skills in order to be employer of labour. Business education can solve insecurity problem through setting up of a business venture, recruitment of skill manpower, provision of financial aids for Business Education and provide business skills that require by entrepreneurs.

Azazi (2018), described Business education as education for the development of skills, competencies, attitudes and attributes which are necessary for the efficiency of the economic system. Oluwa, (2018) explained that Business education as a part of total education that provides vocational, personal consumer and socio-economic competencies that are needed for inclusive societal development. Business education is offered in polytechnics, Colleges of Educations and Universities, courses offered in Business education are Accounting, Office Management, Computer, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Sales Management. The main purpose of Business education is to enable students acquire relevant skills and knowledge in related business course to enable them become employer of Labour.

Njoku (2015) identified the following objectives of Business Education:

- i. To provide opportunity for practical job preparation or vocational studies for students/masses in order to make them render effective and efficient service in office, distributive and services occupation.
- ii. To prepare the students individual for leadership position in both private and public life.
- iii. To enable public/individual to be self-employed and become employer of labour.
- iv. To prepare students/individual with career consciousness and economic understanding of the free enterprise system.

- v. To serve as a guide for individuals for suitable placement in business, government and office employment. By all indications, it shows that Business education programme has what it takes to solve insecurity problem in Nigeria.

Concept of Insecurity

According to Ali (2013) is the state of fear or anxiety, stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic and social security. Insecurity connotes absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty and lack of protection. Azazi, (2018) expressed that insecurity is a state of fear; worry, uncertainly, unsureness about the future. It is vulnerability, risk, danger, weakness, uncertainty, hazard which is caused by increase in crime. In a situation when security of citizen is not guaranteed it will discourage investor's peace and harmony. Security refers to the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions (Aliyu 2017). Insecurity has paralysed many activities in Nigeria especially in the North East. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is becoming worrisome considering the high rate at which innocent people falls to the guns of criminals in the country. Presently countries are facing famine now because of shortage of food which mainly provide by North East. Farmers cannot be able to have access to their farm because of bandits. Education in the North East, North Central and North West have been paralysed due to bandit and kidnapping of school children and demanding for a ransom which majorly is caused by youth unemployment (Oluwa, 2018).

Forms and Causes of Insecurity

Political Factors: Politics as a process of electing leaders through democracy, it is the activities associated with the governance of a country through democracy, unexpected power shift from the northern to a minority geo-political Zone of South-South, as a result of the death of president Yar'adua could be linked to the high tempo of insecurity. In addition, the refutation of the North- South agreement on rotational presidency within the People Democratic Party is another major factor (Adeyemo, 2018).

Leadership Factors: Aliyu, (2017) defined leadership as a way of attaining position of authority in a country, the Nigerian state for some time now has not had the benefit of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for their personal gain. Often, sadly, these crops of political leaders oppress the citizen with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to robbers or engage in other forms of crime when they are dumped by the politician after elections thus constituting a major threat to the security of the nation.

Unemployment Factors: This is a situation where people actively search for job but unable to find work (Aliyu, 2017). Idle hand, they say is the devil's workshop so as the rate of unemployment continues to rise so does the wave of crime and its attendant effect. These unemployed people now employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, bunkering and other nefarious activities.

Job Racketeering Factors: Today in Nigeria, job are for sales and only for the highest bidders, job seekers to this extent have continued to suffer great losses, as often a lot of money have been collected from them without getting the promised job and contributed to the high level of insecurities.

Business Education and Insecurity

As indicated earlier, Business education is an educational programme that provides the students with knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to start up small scale business and be employer of labour instead of being a job seeker. Based on these, the following are the ways through which Business education can prevent insecurity in Nigeria:

Diverse business opportunities: Business education equips the recipients with skills that would enable them to identify viable investment opportunities in their societies. Through this, they would be able to see opportunities where others see chaos. It would also equip them with skills that would make it possible for them to use the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and threats) analysis to function well as entrepreneurs. With this background in mind, it could be observed that Business education could promote entrepreneurship by prompting people to strive toward the utilization of the identified opportunities through taking calculative risks (Gidado & Akaze, 2014).

In addition, Enyi (2020) illustrated the following as the ways in which Business education has contributed to the security of this country:

Poverty Alleviation: Many who are fortunate to graduate in a regular school system and excel in various fields of learning fall back to the skills acquired in technical and vocational institutions in time of employment crisis. Such persons who possessed skills are better off financially.

Crime Reduction: Skill acquisition reduces crime rate in many nations of the world. People only begin to think of dirty activities when they are jobless in most cases (an idle hand is a devil workshop). The rising level of poverty has been blamed for security challenges confronting Nigeria. Crimes like insurgency, banditry, kidnapping are all products of poverty.

Wealth Creation: Potentials in business education skills encourages wealth creation which could lead to higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Establishment of Printing Press/Business Centre: The establishments of such businesses in the rural areas will helps to boost the economy of those areas, also check rural-urban migration.

Promotion of Nigeria Economy: It promotes national economy through foreign exchange by exporting our products. The knowledge of entrepreneur skills helps to reduce the importation of foreign goods which lessen our import dependency and encourages export of our local products.

Increase Standard of Living: Business education, if well harnessed helps to raise the standard of living of business beneficiaries and like most industrialized nations, may survive in a complex society. **Entrepreneurship Strategy:** Business education offers the beneficiary the ability to be self-reliant, to be job creators and employers of labour

Conclusion

The poor economic climate and present economic meltdown in the world which has worsened the unemployment rate was necessitated the need to incorporate in Business education and practical terms of entrepreneurship. To this effect acquisition of business skill will go a long way in addressing the problems of prevailing unemployment among youths in Nigeria.

Suggestions:

Based on the observations, the suggestions were made:

1. Government should invest heavily on Business education by providing all the resources required for the quality instruction in the programme.
2. The school management should also utilize the available resources provided by the government judiciously for the benefit of the recipients of the programme.
3. The lecturers should strive to acquire knowledge on the modern business tools that could be incorporated into the Business education curriculum.

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