



## SECURITY OF BUSINESS EDUCATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP GROWTH: AN IMPERATIVE FOR NIGERIA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Abstract

*This paper examined security of business education for entrepreneurship growth: An imperative for Nigeria's national development. There exists a relationship between security of business education and entrepreneurship. The diverse skills offering of business education is a recipe for entrepreneurship growth which boosts national development. This paper considered the concepts of business education, entrepreneurship, security of business education and national development, strategies for effective security of business education and challenges to security of business education. The paper concluded that security of business education is strategic to national development through its provision of skilled labour force, entrepreneurs and self-reliant citizens. Based on the conclusion, it recommended amongst others that business education should be adequately funded, provided with equipment, infrastructural facilities, quality legislation and quick policy implementation.*

**Keywords:** *Business Education, Entrepreneurship, Security of Business Education/National Development.*

### INTRODUCTION

Business Education is identified as the wheel that drives entrepreneurship. It is penchant for skills acquisition and self-reliance is considered a solution to unemployment especially due to high turnout of educated individuals in the labour force. By its diverse skills offering, the recipients acquire self-reliant skills and capacity for entrepreneurship. Therefore, security of Business Education becomes essential for entrepreneurship growth which serves as a key to national development and for overcoming economic challenges. It has been observed that lack of relevant occupational skills, capacity and knowledge has constituted a bane to entrepreneurship growth among the populace and the youths in particular who are the unemployed citizens. This can be traced to lack of security of business education. Nowadays, government is focusing on entrepreneurship for economic growth and development. This is premised on entrepreneurship capacity for job creation, self-reliance and checking unemployment. However, without adequate business education security, leveraging on the



potentials of entrepreneurship is elusive among the youths who constitute the future economic players and the vulnerable group of unemployed citizens (Okiridu, 2018).

Moreover, the fact is that most educated graduates in Nigeria labour force are best suited for white collar jobs as they lack relevant vocational abilities that predispose engagement in entrepreneurship hence, the dearth of entrepreneurial ambition among the youth population (Gaius-Okeh and Chinakwe, 2016). This further awards the reason for the need of security in Business Education being the type of education that is skill oriented and tailored towards self-reliance of the recipients. Business Education which is a critical part of economic development requires adequate security as its relevance is vital to entrepreneurship growth.

### **Business Education and Its Relevance**

There are different educational branches and each addresses various needs of the society. Business education on its own part focuses on the fundamental needs of the society which is job creation that drives self-employment, economic growth and well-being of the society. Business education by its mandate has the capacity to re-engineer the economy by bequeathing citizens and recipients with those skills, abilities, aptitude, and knowledge to become economic players; employers of labour and quality employees. The recipients further have the capacity to become entrepreneurs.

Business education is an embodiment of vocational knowledge and skills needed for employment and advancement in a broad range of business career. It is education for business training skills which is required in business office, clerical occupation and business policy analysis. Business Education offers specialized training in knowledge, skills and aptitude usable for office occupations, classroom instructional delivery and general business or entrepreneurial practice. It is also seen as consisting of training for office occupational opportunities (office career) and teaching. Okoye (2013) defined business education as an education programme that orientate students in the art of business, making use of computers, service delivery, secretarial jobs, stenography, accounts clerking, office information system and management. Okoye further corroborated that business education prepares students in two interrelated areas; (i) education for business (ii) education about business. The objectives of business education are primarily to produce competent, skillful, and dynamic individuals in the world of work. The diverse skills offering by business education to its recipients has been brought to bear in different occupational fields. This has in various capacities impacted on economic diversification, growth and development of the economy of the nation, through this means entrepreneurship is bolstered, leading to development of small, medium, and sometimes large scale businesses based on creativity and innovation (Ukoima, Charles and Nworgu, 2022).

Furthermore, Chinakwe and Goody-Mkpa (2020) outlined significant roles played by business education in Nigeria's national development to include - Creation of employment as its skilled graduates become self-reliant and self-employed; thereby increasing the productive revenue base of the economy. Production of skilled and quality workforce upon which every economy thrives. Creation of wider entrepreneurship awareness and development which drives economic diversification and sustainable development. Production of diverse skilled and knowledgeable manpower as a key to economic diversification and sustainable development through engaging into productive ventures and services. Increased



entrepreneurial knowledge and skills offering to citizens to become self-reliant, employers of labour and entrepreneurs. It also widens the economic base and transforms the nation's economy leading to increased productivity, entrepreneurial activities and enterprise creation.

### **Entrepreneurship Growth as an Off-Shoot of Business Education**

Entrepreneurship is generally conceived as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment and being able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on identified opportunities. According to Hisrich, Peters, and Shepherd (2017), entrepreneurship is the capacity and willingness of individuals to assume risks, mobilize resources, and apply creativity and managerial skills to establish and sustain business ventures in a competitive environment. Udukeke and Usoro (2023) defined entrepreneurship as the innovative process of utilising resources for the start of a business, introduction of a new product or the addition of incremental value to an existing product, process, method, market, project or organisation so as to meet human needs. It is the process of initiating, organizing, managing and assuming risks of a business venture. Essentially, it is the process by which organizations come into existence. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] (2017) stated that entrepreneurship is viewed as a key driver of innovation, employment generation and societal well-being.

However, without business education being embraced, entrepreneurship can fail among graduates particularly; if the educational system is bereft of self-reliant skills, capacity and opportunities (Okiridu, 2018). Badgett, (2016) opined that given the above assertion business education no doubt inspires entrepreneurial interest and increases choice of entrepreneurship as a career among the recipients and equally gives insight into the processes involved in initiating and managing a new business enterprise or venture. Business education equips learners with entrepreneurial competencies, financial literacy, and business-planning abilities needed to establish and manage enterprises. It also bequeaths the willingness, capacity and ability of a person or persons to explore and exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage useful business leading to national development.

Precisely through business education individuals are exposed to entrepreneurship knowledge and acquainted with the process involved with bringing together creative and innovative ideas coupled with management and organizational skills that combine people, money, materials to meet identified needs and create wealth (Asuquo, 2016). Agu and Ezeugo (2021) asserted that when the programme is adequately secured, it becomes a strategic tool for reducing unemployment and stimulating the growth of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises.

### **Security of Business Education and National Development**

Security of business education refers to the safeguarding, continuity and sustainability of business education programmes to ensure effective teaching, learning, and the production of competent graduates capable of contributing to economic and societal development. Nwogu and Nwoye (2022) opined that it includes financial stability, curriculum relevance, technological adequacy, human resource quality, institutional stability, and infrastructural protection. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) (2021) emphasized that securing business education also implies ensuring policy consistency,



maintaining academic standards, and integrating risk-management strategies that guarantee uninterrupted programme delivery in a dynamic educational environment. Egbo (2022) asserted that security of business education further involves periodic curriculum review to align with contemporary business, technological and labour-market demands. In other words, securing business education means ensuring that the programme remains relevant, accessible, protected, and capable of producing competent business professionals for the economy. Scholars confirm that dimensions of security in business education include:

1. Financial Security – consistent and adequate funding supports of ICT tools, modern equipment, instructional materials, and staff development (UESCO, 2021).
2. Curriculum Security – continuous curriculum updates which ensure alignment with evolving business, entrepreneurial, and technological innovations (Egbo, 2022).
3. Technological Security – the protection and modernization of digital infrastructure to enhance e-learning and digital skills acquisition (Okoye and Okwelle, 2019).
4. Human Resource Security – stable governance, consistent educational policies, and reduced political interference to protect programme continuity (UNESCO, 2021).
5. Institutional and Policy Security – stable governance, consistent educational policies, and reduced political interference to protect programme continuity (UNESCO, 2021).
6. Infrastructural Security – adequate classrooms, laboratories, and digital learning spaces to support teaching and learning (Egbo, 2022).

Okoye and Okwelle (2019) also argued that without adequate financing, digital resources, qualified personnel, and sound governance structures, business education programmes become vulnerable to obsolescence and systemic failure. Therefore, securing business education is essential for sustaining its relevance to national development.

### **Strategies for Effective Security of Business Education**

Achieving security of business education is a conscious effort in national development. However, it must be hinged on the following factors:

1. **Provision of adequate funding:** No school programme or project can thrive without adequate funding. Sufficient budgetary allocation would aid successful implementation of business education programme and mandate in Nigeria. Provision of adequate fund will assist and enable the acquisition of facilities, equipment and qualified manpower need for training.
2. **Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities:** Functional education largely depends on availability of facilities and equipment. Its availability is key to achieving the objectives of the school programme. This implies that the smooth running of an educational system depends extensively on availability and adequacy of facilities and equipment put in place. This will enhance the quality of the programme and products.
3. **Provision of adequate staff and personnel:** Observably, students' enrollment into business education has tremendously increased well above staff personnel increment. This has resulted to increased work load and inefficiency of the staff and personnel. Adequacy of this factor no doubt will enhance staff/personnel quality output and as well impact positively on the quality of the products.
4. **Technological compliance:** Incorporation of technological innovations and changes into business education programme will make the graduates acquire the relevant



technological skills for self-reliance and productive use of resource for the growth of the economy and development of the nation.

5. **Quality legislation and policy:** Through quality legislation business education is strengthened and well backed by law and as well provision of sound policies will help give a better direction to the programme. Both would enhance the delivery of business objectives and mandate.
6. **Adequate staff motivation and welfare:** Good staff motivation and welfare is another effective strategy to security of business education. If staff are well motivated and cared for, they become committed and dedicated to the delivery of programme objectives.
7. **Maintenance of regular academic calendar and payment of salaries.** This will bolster staff moral as it ensures avoidance of strike actions and truncating of academic calendar which impacts positively on the products and maintenance of the academic programme (Chinakwe, 2019).

## **CONCLUSION**

The paper concludes that security of business education is significant to national development. Securing business education for entrepreneurship growth is essential for national development as it supports human capital formation, enhances entrepreneurial activities, strengthens national productivity, and builds a competitive knowledge-driven economy. Given the myriad of opportunities accruable from the security of business education if well harnessed, it can impact positively on entrepreneurship economic growth and diversification which are essential to national development. Skills acquisition is promoted which results to self-reliance entrepreneurial activities and employment of the citizens are enhanced.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the conclusion the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Federal government should make sufficient budgetary allocation for business education to enable it provide for equipment, facilities and manpower.
2. Federal government and supervisory agencies should make adequate provision of infrastructural facilities for functional business education programme.
3. Adequate staff/personnel should be made available by the ministry of education to reduce workload for teachers and staff.
4. Ministry of education and her agencies should ensure quality organization of business education programme
5. Quick implementation of education policies should be adhered to by the ministry of education and her agencies.
6. Ministry of education and her agencies should ensure quality administration and supervision of business education programme.
7. Quality and effective assessment strategies should be developed and adopted by the ministry of education and her agencies.
8. Quality legislation and policy should be pursued by the government, ministry of education and agencies to strengthen the programme and ensure quality delivery of the mandate.



9. Regular payment of salary and quality welfare should be maintained and pursued at all time by the ministry of education.
10. Technological innovations and changes should be incorporated into business education programme by the ministry of education and supervisory agencies to make easy teaching and learning.

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