

## **Refocusing Entrepreneurship Education towards Eradicating Security Challenges for National Development**

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### **Abstract**

The security situation in Nigeria today is very worrisome and is threatening the very existence of the nation. Many innocent lives and properties worth millions of Naira are being lost almost on daily basis throughout the country as a result of insurgency, herdsmen and farmers clashes, terrorist attacks, arson and other miscellaneous crimes across Nigeria. There are many reasons for insecurity such as lack of acquisition of relevant skills, lack of access to quality general education, hunger, poverty and unemployment amongst others. It is the contention of this paper that refocusing entrepreneurship education intentionally, will make graduates become innovative, creative, productive and busy-these ideally, will not give space for involvement in vices but rather make them to use their time and skills in positive activities that will promote peace and national development. In consonance with the foregoing, this paper recommends that refocusing entrepreneurship education to provide employment, self-reliance and creation of wealth will to a large extent reduce joblessness, poverty and hunger thereby helping in eradicating or reducing the incidence of insecurity which is key for national development.

**Keywords:** Refocusing, Entrepreneurship education, Security challenges, National development.

### **Introduction**

Security challenges have been a recurring decimal in Nigerian history especially after the civil war that lasted between 1966-1970 when there were readily 'available arms' in the hands of miscreants who used them for example, in armed robberies. However, over the years insecurity seems to have taken a new dimension with mass violence such as bombings, violent ethnic and religious crises, kidnapping as a lucrative business, political thuggery and assassinations, terrorism, farmers and herdsmen clashes, arson, unknown gunmen attacks, ethnic militias, Boko Haram insurgency, and other forms of crimes-across Nigeria-the list is endless.

Prolonged economic and political down turns coupled with lack of access to quality education, unemployment, poverty and hunger among others are some of the causes of the security challenges across the country (Carson in Badaru, 2012). All these are threatening the very, existence of Nigeria as a sovereign state, as no nation can develop in the midst of crises especially multifaceted security challenges.

These writers believe that one of the ways to mitigate or eradicate the menace of security challenges in Nigeria is through access to quality education which is recognized as the bedrock of any meaningful development in any given society. It is a process of teaching, training and learning.... to improve knowledge and develop skills (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, 2010). Thus, education generally, and entrepreneurship education in particular, are tools used to achieve national cohesion and development. A well trained entrepreneur will not only become self-reliant but also an employer of labour, thereby reducing idleness and the level of poverty in the land.

Unemployment, poverty and hunger can only be fought through quality job creation by the entrepreneur that is to say that individuals especially our teeming youths will be able to channel their talents and energies toward contributing to the well-being of society and by extension national growth through the development of local initiatives for production. It is therefore, a given that the wealth or poverty of any nation depends on the quality of education it offers her citizenry. This implies

that refocusing entrepreneurial education will help in eradicating or reducing security challenges for national development.

### **Clarification of Concepts**

The following concepts have been clarified to aid in understanding better how they were used in this paper, thus: Refocusing; Entrepreneurship education; security challenges; and National development.

### **The Concept of Refocusing**

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, to refocus is to pay special attention and effort to something new or different. It is to pay special and sustained attention to real issues at stake.

### **Concept of Entrepreneurship Education**

Entrepreneurship education is designed to teach the skills and knowledge needed for embarking on new business ventures since it is believed that this would enhance opportunity identification and avoidance of the many pitfalls awaiting those without the relevant skills and knowledge. Anho (2011) sees the concept as associated with various activities but not limited to the following: Innovation, risk taking, creativity, visionary, focus, team spirit, resourcefulness, financial control, self-confidence, dynamic thinking, versatility, knowledgeable, people oriented, originality, flexible in decision making and taking, objective responses to suggestions and criticisms, needs achievement driven, profit oriented, persistent and persevering, energy for hardwork, future looking and readiness for adjustments to challenges. Entrepreneurship education is an educational programme that provides the knowledge, skills, ideas and managerial abilities necessary to set up and run a business and become self-reliant. It prepares the graduates to be responsible, develop enterprising habits and think reasonably on how to contribute meaningfully in their community and by extension to the development of the nation.

### **Concept of Security Challenges**

To Adisa (2012), security means the assurance of future well-being and freedom from threat. It

means safety, anything that gives or measures safety, secure, free from danger, free from fear, assured and certain. Anything short of these indices means insecurity.

Thus, 'security challenge' is the state of insecurity. It is action(s) or event(s) that put at risk lives, properties and the comfort of the people as well as the sovereignty of the state at stake. Thus, the current reality in regards to security in Nigeria- is that no one is safe, each day the security situation in the country is deteriorating to frightening proportions without a clear-cut remedy in sight.

### **Concept of National Development**

Development is the conversion of community into socially, economically, politically, educationally, orderly, and materially desirable status, with sole aim of improving the quality of life of the people. It is also referred to as the collective distribution of resources, the integration of the people into national economy; it is a socio-economic process which seeks to bring about a more equitable distribution of resources and income within the society (Mundi, 2008) Education in particular serves as a cornerstone to any form of development as it lies at the heart of every society's development. In concert, Ndulah (2016) posited that development is a process of empowering people through qualitative and functional education to maximize their potentials and the ability to exploit their skills to meet daily and future needs thereby contributing to national progress.

National development therefore according to Lawal (2014) is the ability of a nation to improve the lives of its citizens in terms of human capital, economic and social improvement among others. To Ogai (2003) in Yilben, Dakup and Goyit (2011), national development is the gradual manifestation of positive changes in the economic, industrial, political, social, cultural and administrative life of a country. It entails the idea of deliberate planning in order to direct, influence, facilitate and accelerate economic, administrative, social-political cultural, educational and industrial changes in a condition considered to achieve the progress and growth of a nation.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, poor leadership and inconsistencies in the socio-economic policies of successive governments led to the emergence of unprecedented high rate of unemployment and poverty as well as crime rates in Nigeria. Government efforts towards salvaging the situation according to Anyadike, Emeh and Ukah (2012) gave birth to entrepreneurship education policies which directed the addition of entrepreneurship education in the syllabus of all higher institutions of learning with a magnificent idea, to ensure that graduates cease to be job seekers but wealth creators.

Entrepreneurship education as a discipline is studied up to doctorate level in some universities, with one of its core objectives being to provide graduates with training skills that will enable them to be self-reliant, foster job creation and reduce or eliminate unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. Unfortunately, however, this is not the case, there is still high rate of unemployment, poverty and hunger in the land. Hence, the need to refocus entrepreneurship education in the face of upsurge in criminal activities across Nigeria today which have posed serious security challenges that is threatening the very existence of the country.

Therefore, through the knowledge gained in a refocused entrepreneurship educational policies that highlight self-reliance, self-employment, gainful employment and job creation that is consistent with global best practices, majority of Nigerian teeming youths will have their hands full with very little time for recourse to crimes. The result of their economic activities would in no small measure contribute to mitigating or eradicating security challenges and by extension national development.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the need for refocusing entrepreneurship education towards eradicating security challenges for national development. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out the factors responsible for security challenges in the country.
2. Identify the entrepreneurial knowledge, skills and competencies required in a refocused entrepreneurship education towards eradicating security challenges.
3. Examine how a refocused entrepreneurial education stands out as one of the most reliable means towards eradicating security challenges for national development.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the factors responsible for security challenges in the country today?
2. What are the most probably knowledge, skills and competencies required in a refocused entrepreneurial education towards eradicating security challenges for national development?
3. What makes a refocused entrepreneurship education stand out as one of the most suitable means for checkmating security challenges for national development?

### **Methodology**

To achieve the purpose of this study, a survey design was used and the target population were lecturers and students from the College of Education and Federal University of Technology (FUT) - both in Minna. Questionnaire tailored towards the four Likert Scale was used in collecting data from the sampled respondents:

The sample size for the study was eighty (80) respondents, consisting of twenty (20) lecturers and sixty (60) students. Three (3) research questions were formulated for this study. Data collected were analyzed using frequency distribution and simple percentages:

**Data Analysis and Discussion**

**Research question one:** What are the factors responsible for security challenges in the country today?

Table 1: Responses to Research Question 1

S/NO	STATEMENT	RESPONSES				
		SA	A	SD	D	Total
1.	Political and economic down turns	60	15	0	5	80
2.	Lack of access to functional quality general education	50	20	5	5	80
3.	Lack of employable skills by graduates.	70	10	0	0	80
4.	Unemployment	65	15	0	0	:80
5.	Poverty, and Hunger	70	10	0	0	:80
	Total	315	70	5	10	.400
	Percentage	(78.75%)	(17.5%)	(1.25%)	(2.5%)	(100%)

**Source:** Field Survey 2023:

From the table above 315 (78.75%), of the respondents strongly agreed 70: (17.5%) agreed, 5 (1.25%) strongly disagreed and 10 (2.5%) disagreed. Therefore, majority 385(96.25%)of the respondents agreed with the statements that political and economic down

turns, lack of access to functional quality general education, lack of employable skills by graduates, unemployment and poverty and hunger are some of the factors responsible for security challenges in the country today.

**Research Question two:** What are the most probable skills and competencies required in a refocused entrepreneurial education towards eradicating security challenges for national development?

Table 2: Responses to Research Question 2

S/NO	STATEMENT	RESPO				
		SA	NSES A	SD	D	Total
1.	It emphasizes on imparting to students entrepreneurial intentions or readiness while in school or upon graduation.	50	20	4	6	80
2.	It lays emphasis on creating the students entrepreneurial achievement consciousness - that is, high desire for achievement in entrepreneurial activities	60	5	5	10	80
3.	Emphasis or instilling in students attitudinal change from the mentality of white-collar job to self-employment and creation of wealth consciousness.	60	10	5	5	80
4.	It re-emphasizes the importance of self-employment, self-reliance and promotes or serves as instrument for economic growth, and development.	70	10	0	0	80
5.	It emphasizes strongly the acquisition of skills and competencies in entrepreneurial activities.	65	10	0	5	80
6.	Emphasizes the inculcation of the spirit of going into partnership with others for pooling resources together.	60	15	0	5	80

7.	It emphasizes a curriculum that stresses the importance of hands - on and active participation within real life entrepreneurial environment where constructive feedback from experts will be provided (Internship).	65	15	5	5	80
8.	It emphasizes and provides education that addresses visionary creative and initiative characteristics as well as productive human resources that will bring about changes to the society.	70	10	0	0	80
9.	It emphasizes the creation of. self-awareness by students so that they become entrepreneurs thus reducing the high rate of unemployment and poverty and the creation of employment opportunities for others.	70	10	0	0	80
10.	It emphasizes education that. will eliminate the ugly and worrisome situation of crime infested society, of armed robbers, sreet roaming young men and women, school dropouts, runs girls (prostitutes), drug trafficking, kidnapping among others.	55	20	0	5	80
11.	It emphasizes the creation of a strong indigenous entrepreneurship and accelerates the supply of well-trained entrepreneurs to both small and large enterprises.	70	10	0	0	80
12.	It advocates educational and monetary policies that will be fully entrepreneurship friendly.	60	15	0	8	80
13.	It is an education that emphasizes the sensitization of students to access government's various entrepreneurial interventions like NAPEP, SURE-P and host of others, but not dependent on them	70	10	5	5	80
14.	<b>Total Percentages</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>80</b>

**100%**

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

From table 2 above, 685 (78%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement 157(18%) agreed, 10 (1%) strongly disagreed and 28 (3%) disagreed. Therefore, majority 842(96%)of the respondents agreed with the statements that critical thinking, Business Management, Teamwork and Leadership, Communication and Technology'(ICT),

Analytical and problem solving, Financial Management, Strategic thinking and planning, Time Management and Organization and Branding, Marketing and Networking are some of the probable skills and competencies required in a refocused entrepreneurial education towards eradicating security challenges for national development.

**Research question three:** What makes a refocused entrepreneurship education stand out as, one of the most suitable means for checkmating security challenges for national development?

**Table 3: Responses to Research Question**

S/NO	STATEMENT	RESPONSES				Total
		SA	A	SD	D	
1.	It emphasizes on imparting to students entrepreneurial intentions or readiness while in school or upon graduation	50	20	4	6	80
2	It lays emphasis on creating the students entrepreneurial achievement consciousness - that is, high desire for achievement in entrepreneurial activities	60	5	5	10	80
4	Emphasis or instilling in students attitudinal change from the mentality of white-collar job to self-employment and creation of wealth consciousness	60	10	5	5	80
4.	It re-emphasizes the importance of self-employment, self-reliance and promotes or serves as instrument for economic growth, and development	70	10	0	0	80
5	It emphasizes strongly the acquisition of skills and competencies in entrepreneurial activities	65	10	0	5	80
6.	Emphasizes the inculcation of the spirit of going into partnership with others for pooling resources together	60	15	0	5	80
7	It emphasizes a curriculum that stresses the importance of hands - on and active participation within real life entrepreneurial environment where constructive feedback from exert ill e pswb provided (Internship)	65	15	0	0	80
8.	It emphasizes and provides education that addresses visionary creative and initiative characteristics as well as productive human resources that will bring about changes to the society	70	10	0	0	80
9.	It emphasizes the creation of self-awareness by students so that they become entrepreneurs thus reducing the high rate of unemployment and poverty and the creation of employment opportunities for others	55	20	0	5	80
10	It emphasizes education thatwil eliminate the ugly and worrisome situation of crime infested society. of armed robbers, street roaming young men and women, school dropouts, runs girls (prostitutes), drug trafficking, kidnapping among others	70	10	0	0	80
11	It emphasizes the creation of a strong indigenous entrepreneurship and accelerates the supply of well-trained entrepreneurs to both small and large enterprises	60	.15	0	8	80
12	It advocates educational and monetary policies that will be fully entrepreneurship friendly	60	10	5	5	80
13	It is an education that emphasizes the sensitization of students to access government's various entrepreneurial interventions like NAPEP, SURE-P and host of others, but not dependent on them	70	10	5	5	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>80</b>

Percentage	78.37 %	14.22%	2.31%	4.90%	100%
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*Source: Field Survey, 2023*

From table 3 above, 815 (78.37%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that refocused entrepreneurship education stands out as one of the most suitable means for checkmating security challenges for national development. 150 (14.42%) also agreed with

### Discussion of the Findings

The findings show that majority 385 (96.25%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that certain factors were responsible for security challenges in the country today. Some of these factors are in affirmation with what Carson (2012) in Badaru (2012) said that, security challenges across Nigeria are often caused by hunger, poverty, unemployment and lack of access to education among others. Utomi corroborated this when he wrote that apart from the socio-economic consequences of unemployment, there is also security consequences. The frightening security challenges in the country today, to a large extent can be attributed to very high unemployment rate, especially of the teeming youth.

Further findings showed that majority 842 (96%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that the acquisition of certain skills and competencies in a refocused entrepreneurial education will tremendously help towards eradicating security challenges for national development. Accordingly, Ajiji, Maina and Gokum (2015) pointed out. that a society that produces highly skilled individuals may be a crime free society. It was also discovered that majority 965(92:79%) of the respondents to research question three on table 3, agreed that emphases: on imparting to students entrepreneurial intentions or readiness while in school or upon graduation; on instilling in students attitudinal change from the mentality of white-collar job to self-employment and creation of wealth consciousness; on acquisition of skills and competencies in entrepreneurial activities and advocating educational and monetary policies that are fully entrepreneurship friendly among,

the statement. 24 (2.31%) of the respondents strongly, disagreed with it, while 51 (4.90%) just disagreed. From these results, a majority 965(92.79%) of the respondents agreed with the statement, therefore, it is accepted as true, and thus valid.

many others are some of the reasons why refocused entrepreneurship education stood out as one of the most suitable means for checkmating security challenges for national development.

### Conclusion

From the findings of this paper, it is obvious that Nigerians, especially the youths need a refocused entrepreneurship education. This is imperative because of the high level of poverty and hunger in the land occasioned by the high rate of unemployment and its consequences one of which is the danger it poses to national security and development.

A refocused entrepreneurial education will empower the youths as it promotes self-employment, self-reliance, creation of jobs and by extension wealth. Such education will encourage the youths and adults to use their brains and hands to acquire suitable skills and competencies to design and produce within their reach using abundance resources available all over the country.

Therefore, in order to eradicate the security challenges in the country, there is the need to refocus entrepreneurship education to redirect the consciousness of the youths towards being empowered with the various skills and competencies obtainable at various institutions and centres across the country for the promotion of industrial and economic growth, national integration and development.

### Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the way forward:

1. Governments at all levels should make functional entrepreneurship friendly policies

towards a refocused entrepreneurial educational programme.

2. There should be made available mechanisms for effective implementation of these policies to the letter.

3. The acquisition of the various skills and competencies must be programmed in such a way that in the refocused curriculum, students will learn and own them.

4. Qualified and motivated teachers should be used in the refocused entrepreneurial educational programme who will among others

make teaching and learning in the programme interesting.

5. Emphases should be laid on imparting to students entrepreneurial intentions or readiness, attitudinal change from the mentality of white-collar job to self-employment, self-reliance, job creation and creation of wealth consciousness among others.

6. Governments should make funds available as soft loans to existing and intending entrepreneurs.

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