

## Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition as A Tool for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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### Abstract

This study aimed to examine the opinion of business education students in Ekiti State, Nigeria regarding the effectiveness of entrepreneurship education in terms of skill acquisition and job creation. A survey design was employed. The population of the study consists of all business education students in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The sample size of the study was 520 students. The instruments used for data collection were a set of structured questionnaires and observation. Descriptive statistics were used for the data analysis. Results from the study indicated that corporate entrepreneurial education has the potential to create job opportunities for the students and to equip them with the necessary skills for business establishment and development. The study also revealed that the students had a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship education and believed that it could lead to financial and business success. The study concluded that entrepreneurship education is an effective educational tool for equipping business students with the necessary skills for job creation and self-employment. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the government should continue to promote entrepreneurship education in the business education curriculum, to give students the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become successful entrepreneurs. Furthermore, entrepreneurship education should be enriched by incorporating new teaching methods and techniques such as case studies, practical exercises, and simulation.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneur, ,Skill Acquisition, Self-Employability, Development

### Background

Economists have never had a consistent definition of “entrepreneur or entrepreneurship “the word entrepreneur “comes from the French verb entrepreneur, meaning “to undertake”. An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the reward .Entrepreneurship education is the type of education which has the ability to impact on the growth and development of an enterprise through technical and vocational training. Juhari *et al.*, (2023) stress that entrepreneurship is the aspect of education which equips an individual and creates in the person the mindset to undertake the risk of venturing into something new by applying the knowledge and skills acquired in school. Entrepreneurship education creates the willingness and ability in a person to seek out investment opportunities in the society and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities[2]. This means that entrepreneurship education helps to provide business education students with the knowledge, skills and innovation to encourage entrepreneurship in variety settings. Entrepreneurship education particularly in Nigeria is structured to achieve functional education for the youths so as to enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant; offer graduates with adequate training that will Assessing Entrepreneurship Education for Skill Acquisition and Job Generation by Business Education Students in Nigeria. Nigeria enables them to be creative and innovative in identifying novel business opportunities; provide university/colleges graduates with adequate training in risk management to make certainty bearing

feasible; provide the young graduates with enough training and support that will enable them to establish a career in small and medium sized businesses; offer graduates adequate training in the acquisition of skills that will enable them meet the manpower needs of the society. The process of setting up a business is known as entrepreneurship. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods services, and business or procedures[3], [4]. Entrepreneurs play a key role in any economy, using the skills and initiative necessary to anticipate needs and bringing good new ideas to market. Entrepreneurial skill is a practice and discipline and like other discipline, it can be learn. Entrepreneurial skills process occurs over a period of time and requires the active involvement of entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship is a process through which individuals and groups pursue opportunity, leverage resources and initiate change to create value[5]. Therefore, considering all the works cited entrepreneurship education generally provides creative skills and knowledge needed to start and grow a business, in other words it prepares individuals to create and successfully operate a business enterprise. Different government regimes have made many attempts to reduce unemployment by generating jobs in the public and private sectors through the diverse development agenda, but the problems seem to be unabated. It is widely believed that people who have a flair for entrepreneurship and skill acquisitions are more likely to start companies, build jobs, and make more positive contributions to economic growth and the reduction of poverty. Several academics and politicians alike corroborate this point. The word entrepreneur, for example, has been explained in various ways by different authors. One of the leading economists, Jean Baptist Say, perceives the term to mean someone who has the ability to allocate capital to increase economic competitiveness and growth.

The classicists, however, see the entrepreneur as a scarce resource coordinator, so that the allocation of resources becomes more successful and thus increases productivity with growth. In addition, [6] sees an entrepreneur as one who is imaginative and inventive, who overturns known modes of production and generates economic imbalances that lead to new opportunities required to improve productivity. Is there a need for a thorough understanding of the interface between entrepreneurial awareness, skill development and economic growth in an innovation-driven world? The innovation process is a feature of access to existing information and is therefore deemed to be one of the critical issues in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship, Skill Acquisition and Economic Growth and the understanding of development, Innovation is one vehicle that diffuses and upgrades existing information, thereby acting as a medium for the realization of spillovers of knowledge. Innovation often involves an improvement in the inventory of valuable information through the learning of skills. In most North American countries; entrepreneurship, skill development and creativity have been identified as major determinants of economic growth [7]. Increased entrepreneurial activities in the area have resulted in sustained economic growth and regulated unemployment over the past 20 years, he also explained. The ability of entrepreneurship to boost growth rates and minimize unemployment has been realized by researchers and policy makers in Europe and Asia. Zoltan and Audretsch have shown emphatically that regions or sectors with higher levels of entrepreneurship have higher levels of innovation and economic development. This indicate that Entrepreneurship that proves to be successful in taking on the risks of creating a (startup) means Entrepreneurs who want to develop a product or service for which they believe there is demand. .Is rewarded with profits, fame and continued growth opportunities. Entrepreneurship that fails results in losses and less prevalence in the markets for those involved.

However, when an individual set out to learn a new skill, he usually starts with a communicable programme of instruction. Good learners do not jump into an operation without first receiving the necessary verbal instruction. Thus the instruction given in bits, units modules in stages, perhaps must be fused together to form a skilled performance. There are many processes of acquisition and development in achieving entrepreneurial skills. [8] outlined the four main stages of acquisition and development of entrepreneurial skills to include: Analyze and identify the current and foreseeable skill needs to business, in terms of management, administrative and technical skills and relative importance of these. Identify the entrepreneur's own personal goals, objectives and analyze and evaluate his/her own skills and resources in relation to these. Produce a realistic personal development plan for the potential entrepreneur. Monitor on-going performance on follow-

up of the entrepreneur once the business has started and progress made towards developing the new skills that had been previously identified as necessary for the success of the business.

Entrepreneurship education is an intervention programme which was introduced into Nigeria's tertiary education sub-sector is to remedy the unemployment challenge; and redirect the attention of our youths towards job generation by inculcating the importance and relevant of entrepreneurial skills that will positively grow and develop the economy. The goals and objectives of the programme seem laudable and for these goals and objectives to be achieved, publicity and enlightenment has to be vigorously pursued. The relevance of this programme in the curriculum of all tertiary institutions in Nigeria is geared towards creating an avenue for entrepreneurial culture and its spirits in the student's manner, attitudes and behaviour. The major purpose of this study is to assess of entrepreneurship education for skill acquisition and job creation by business education students. Specifically, the study sought to: (i.) Examine the extent to which entrepreneurship education could contribute to acquisition of skills by business education students for job generation in Nigeria.(ii.) Assess the perceptions of business education students on entrepreneurship education as a tool for reducing unemployment.( iii.) Identify the strategies for enhancing better entrepreneurship education for business education students.

## 2. Methodology

This quantitative research design was adopted for the study because of the need to determine the opinion of the respondents on entrepreneurship education for skill acquisition and job generation by business education students in Ekiti State. The population of this study consists of all 520 ,three hundred level and four hundred level business education students in the college of technology school of Vocational and entrepreneur studies of the Bamidele Olumilua University, Education, Science and Technology Ikere Ekiti State. The population therefore was five hundred and fifty-five

**Table 1: Distribution of Population**

Option	Third year	Four year
Accounting education	60	50
Office Management Technology	35	56
Marketing education	50	65
Entrepreneurial education	86	45
Management	53	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>236</b>

Sample and Sampling Techniques;

The sample size for the study was five hundred and twenty

## Findings and Results

**Table 2. Research Question; one**

To what extent does entrepreneurship education contribute to acquisition of skills by business education student?

Mean responses of the extent entrepreneurship education contribute to acquisition of skills by business education students.

**Entrepreneur Skill**

SN	Entrepreneur Skill	X	SD	Remark
1	Possessions of sound human relations skills have relevance in setting up entrepreneurship venture	3.45	0.35	Agreed
2	. Managerial skills acquired have relevance in ensuring entrepreneurial success.	3.56	0.64	Agreed
3	Communication skills possessed as a result of entrepreneurship education has relevance in starting and managing a business venture.	3.25	0.58	Agreed
4	Accounting and financial competency skills have relevance in starting and managing a business venture	3.0	0.6	Agreed
5	Marketing skills possessed as a result of entrepreneurship education has relevance in starting and managing a business venture	3.06	0.82	Agreed

The data presented in the table above showed that all items have their mean values ranging from 3.0 to 3.56 indicating that all the respondents agreed that the items are ways entrepreneurship education contribute to acquisition of skills by business education students in Bouesti ,EkitiState. The items had a standard deviation range of 0.82 to 0.35 which shows that the respondents were close together in their responses to each items and were not far from the mean.

Table 3: Research Question Two: What is the perception of business education?, Is Entrepreneurship education served as a tool for reducing unemployment in Nigeria. The responses of the perception of business education students on entrepreneurship education is that it served as a tool for reducing unemployment for undergraduate student

SN	Students Perception	X	SD	Remark
1	Entrepreneurship education helps to reduce poverty	3.65	0.32	Agreed
2	Entrepreneurship education empowers student to face the challenge of unemployment after graduation	3.25	0.45	Agreed
3	Entrepreneurship education exposes students to the business world	3.75	0.62	Agreed
4	Entrepreneurship education enables students to be self-reliant	3.62	0.38	Agreed
5	Entrepreneurship education helps to develop creativity and innovativeness in students	3.48	0.48	Agreed

The data presented in the table above showed that all items have their mean value ranging from 3.25 to 3.84 indicating that all the respondents agreed that the items are perception of business education students and as well as entrepreneurship education served as a means for reducing unemployment. The items had a standard deviation range of 0.62 to 0.32 which shows that the respondents were close together in their responses to each items and were not far from the mean

**Table 4. Research Question three:**

How do the students enhancing entrepreneurship education as a mean of solving their problem...

SN	Students Perception	X	SD	Remark
1	Provision of funds by government, financial institution and NGO's	3.64	0.54	Agreed
2	. Provision of interest free loans to start up their own business.	3.48	0.52	Agreed
3	Establishment of a center for Entrepreneurship development	3.25	0.45	Agreed
4	Provision of conducive environment and facilities for the teaching and learning of entrepreneurship studies.	3.20	0.35	Agreed
5	Installing educational training and development programme	3.14	0.24	Agreed

The data presented in the table above showed that all items have their mean value ranging from 3.14 to 3.64 indicating that all the respondents agreed that the items are strategies for enhancing entrepreneurship education by business education students. The items had a standard deviation range of 0.35 to 0.54 which shows that the respondents were close together in their responses to each items and were not far from the mean. .

#### Discussion of Findings

Mean responses of the strategies for enhancing entrepreneurship education by business education students.

. In Table 2, all the five items were accepted as perception of business education students on entrepreneurship education as a tool for reducing unemployment by student. This is in consonance with the previous findings of [1], [9]–[13] that entrepreneurship education helps graduates to acquire increase understanding of entrepreneurship and equip them with skills relevant for job generation.

. The study evidence shows that entrepreneurship education creates inspiring awareness to business opportunity, provides exposure to entrepreneurship process. Builds self-confidence, equip graduates the knowledge and skills and engender self-employment as an alternative career option [14]–[16]. In Table 3, all the five items were accepted as strategies for enhancing entrepreneurship education students. This finding is line with [17] who outlined provision of funds by government, financial institution and NGO's; provision of interest free loans to start up their own business; establishment of a center for Entrepreneurship development; provision of conducive environment and facilities for the teaching and learning of entrepreneurship studies and installing educational training and development programme as strategies for promoting entrepreneurship education.

#### Conclusion and Recommendations

Entrepreneurship is channels through which skill acquisition and innovative knowledge takes place, hence, i recommend that a good entrepreneurial curriculum should be adopted in all tertiary institutions of Nigeria. Based on the findings, this paper investigated the relationship between entrepreneurship education programme and jobs creation ability of tertiary institutions graduates. The Study found that most of those who took courses on entrepreneurship education indicated interest in establishing personal businesses Nigeria. We believe, may lead to sustained economic progress through increased productivity the following recommendations are proffered.

The youths should be encouraged to become self-reliant entrepreneurs through implementation of relevant policies, in order to forestall the problem of graduate unemployment in the country. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) should intensify effort to re-orient unemployed graduates on the benefits of not solely relying on white cooler job. The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) should as a matter of fat make fund available for all undergraduate who registered for entrepreneur to established their own business Expansion of exchange and employment exchanges.

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