
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR POVERTY
ALLEVIATION: THE MISSING LINK

AGBIONU Clementina Uchenna¹;

IBENTA, Steve²;

and

EGBUNIKE, Patrick Amaechi³

¹Department Of Business Administration

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

²Department of Banking And Finance Nnamdi Azikiwe University,

Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

³Department Of Accountancy & Department Of Entrepreneurship,

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The challenges posed by the ever increasing rate of poverty in Nigeria are enormous. Despite all the efforts made by successive governments in Nigeria to alleviate poverty, it keeps on rearing its ugly head into the hooks and crannies of the Nigerian nation. Part of the recent strategy to combat poverty in Nigeria is the introduction of Entrepreneurship Education in the Nigerian Education System. This type of education is aimed at equipping graduates with entrepreneurial values, attitudes and mental capacity for creative thinking and innovative behaviour that can provoke their venture spirit to generate new ideas and ways of doing things. But the theory and practice of this programme in the Nigerian Education system needs much to be desired and if drastic steps are not taken to address this issue, it may end up in the ways and manners previous strategies in Nigeria ended up without achieving their desired aims and objectives. Inculcating the right entrepreneurial skills for a successful entrepreneurial practice as against vocational skill acquisition has been suggested in order to bring about attitudinal change in the Nigerian youths. Cognitive restructuring and role modeling techniques have specifically been advanced as relevant in bringing about this desired change. It is strongly believed that if the Nigerian youths have the right role models, there could be some positive attitudinal change to adequately equip them to achieve the aims and objectives of entrepreneurship for poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Economic Development, Poverty Alleviation.

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