

INTEGRATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A RECESED ECONOMY

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Abstract

The paper examined the integration of entrepreneurial training in library and information profession for national development in a recessed economy: Entrepreneurial training which include capacity building remains the sinequanone to unraveling the anticipated national development in Nigeria and across the globe. For Nigeria and any nation of the world to come out of recession entrepreneurial training should not be handled with levity. Entrepreneurial training should migrate from theory to practice. Training in entrepreneurial skills should start from primary to tertiary levels of education. Integration of entrepreneurial training into the curriculum of library and information technology profession is one of the major avenues of making the graduates of this profession to become self-reliant, creative, innovative, productive and employers of labour rather than being job seekers. A plethora of job opportunities are available for graduates of this profession which could help to mitigate the effect of recession in a country like Nigeria if they take up such job opportunities. Some of the job opportunities that are available for graduates of library and information technology includes: publishing, information brokerage, selling of books, software development etcetera. If prospective graduates of this profession are gainfully employed, they would contribute their own significant quota to gross domestic product (GDP) of any nation including Nigeria thereby stimulating economic growth and national development. Recession would remain unabated in any economy including Nigeria until proper entrepreneurial training and orientation is given to the youths including those in library and information technology profession. The training should commence from primary to tertiary institutions of learning. The non-formal sectors should as well be included in entrepreneurial training. Government at all levels should show strong and genuine political will to support entrepreneurial training in Nigeria if the country is to get out of the recession as a strong and vibrant economy.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Training; Library and Information Technology Profession; National Development; Recessed Economy.

Introduction

One of the major focus of national development scheme is capacity building, which involves series of training among which is the entrepreneurial training. Any form of exercise that is designed or packaged to deliver basic skills and knowledge on a particular vocation or profession to individual or group is what the term entrepreneurial training connotes. This has become part and parcel of formal process of education in Nigeria and globally.

Information is vital to a nation's development, and the library is the centre which provides access to variety of information resources and opportunities for interactive communication. Therefore, for efficient and effective storage and dissemination of useful information the technology is required. In other words information technology became an indispensable tool to manage information in the library.

Information technology is a collective term for various technologies involved in the processing and transmission of information. The technologies include computing, telecommunications and microelectronics. Application of information technology to library information services, gives birth to the profession of library and information technology.

The word integration connotes an action of combining things to become whole. It is the process that involves bringing two separate variables together to work as one. Therefore, the process that brings the concept of entrepreneurial training into the concept of library and information technology is integration.

However, the aim of this paper is to exhibit the necessity of entrepreneurial training to library and information technology profession for national development.

National development in a recessed economy lies in the ability of the nation's government, through her parastatals or agencies, professional bodies and organisations to develop and introduce capacity building programmes, one of such programmes is entrepreneurial training. In like manner, the library and information technology profession plays a significant role in the development of education in the country; it involves development of a wide range of technical skills in both library and media services that can lead to or enhance employment in the field of librarianship and other related fields. It is important for entrepreneurship skills to be relearnt in the new arena within which to apply the skills. (Anyanu, Oduagiu, Ossai-Onah & Amedri, 2005).

Entrepreneurship as a Concept

In 1700, the word entrepreneur was frequently used by the French contractors handling government projects. The crucial role of entrepreneur was identified as economic development as recognised by "cantillon" an Irish man living in France. Entrepreneur was seen as instrument or an organ of the society that can generate goods and services for the purpose of profiting the economy of the society. Nwafor (2007). Ogundele and Olayemi (2004) described entrepreneur as the agent of economic, technological and societal systems.

Harisch and Peters, (2002) defines entrepreneurship as the process of creating something new of value by devoting the necessary time and efforts, assuming the accompanying financial, psychic and social risks, and receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence. In other words, the author is referring to innovation through commitment with the necessary available resources. Equally, entrepreneurship refer to the ability to be prepared to risk personal energy and financial resources to achieve unpredictable results or the result of a discipline, systematic process of applying creativity and innovations, to the needs and opportunities in the market place (Anyanwu, Oduagwu and Ossai-Onah, 2013). Fundamental to entrepreneurship is innovation which translates to a new method of production and new markets. When individuals meet the idea of starting their own business, it plays a significant role in their decision to embark on a business. Hisrich (2005: 21) stressed that the development of particular skills, namely inner control, risk taking, innovativeness, being change oriented, persistence and vision differentiates an entrepreneur from manager. Herron and Robinson (1999: 75) said entrepreneurial skills are the ability to discover opportunities for profitable reallocation of resources to new endeavours. Entrepreneurship therefore, is the acquisition of skills and ideas for the sake of creating employment for one's self and also for others and the most effectual method of bridging the gap between science and market place.

Concept of National Development

Development is said to be critical and essential to the growth and sustenance of any country. As a matter of fact, it is the pride of every government to attain a higher level of development in such a way that its citizens can derive natural attachment to government. (Tolu, 2011).

The concept of development had been captured by many authors of which few will be explored for the purpose of this study Gboyega (2003) captured development as an idea that embodied all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. Chrisman (1984) viewed development as a process of societal advancement where improvement in the well-being of people is generated through strong partnerships between all sectors, corporate bodies and other groups in the society. If one would critically look into the Chrisman definition one can see his view on integrating all sectors or other strong partnership among professionals.

National development on the other hand, and according to Longman dictionary of contemporary English (2004) puts national development to mean a phenomenon that embraces a whole Nation. National development therefore, can be described as the overall development or a collective socio-economic and political advancement of a nation (Tolu, 2011). It is the ability of a country to improve the social life (welfare), economic activities of the people without the exception of the surrounding environment in this regards, emphasis would be laid on the integration of entrepreneurial training with the library and information technology profession to bring about development of individuals in the profession and at national level.

- The following steps can help to achieve national development through entrepreneurship:
- i. Introduction of massive evangelistic entrepreneurial education, training and development throughout the nation.
 - ii. Inclusion of basic entrepreneurial education in secondary and tertiary education.
 - iii. Identification of the innovative entrepreneur among individual and body of professions and motivate them with financial and policy back up.
 - iv. Encourage research and development programme.

Development of a Recessed Economy

When we talk about development in a recessed economy that means there is a drift or shift in the level of development in a country. Of course, it is obvious that Nigeria is experiencing recession right away which affects all sectors, corporate bodies and individual. The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (2008), defined a recession as a "significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than few months, normally visible in a real gross domestic product (GDP), real income, employment, industrial production and wholesale retail sales" from thus definition, recession should only occur for few months but unfortunately Nigeria is experiencing economic recession since her first and second quarters growth in 2016. (Emmanuel, 2016).

What then is the way out of recession through Library and information Technology Profession is the major focus of this paper. This only can be achieved when the major causes of recession can be identified. According to Emmanuel 2016, causes of global recession may include;

- i. High inflation leading to low purchasing power
- ii. Accumulation of foreign debts.
- iii. High interest rate which drives out investors
- iv. fall in aggregate demand, wages and income
- v. Mass unemployment

The last factor listed above would be the angle from which this paper would focus its point of solution. What happens when the government fails to provide employment for the graduates? If Nigerians had envisioned the current economic recession in the past administrations, the leaders could have introduced some policies, schemes and programmes of interventions which would have prevented the recession from taking place at all or mitigate its effects to the barest level.

What are, those things that must be done to redevelop the recessed economy with emphasis on entrepreneurial training opportunities that are available in library and information technology profession?

Elements of Entrepreneurial Training in Library and Information Technology

Since entrepreneurial training has been established as one of the ways out of recession and a means for promoting national development, there are opportunities for library and information technology professionals that can be used as skill empowerment instruments. The discipline of library and information technology is designed in such a way to produce information professionals that will competently serve different stakeholders for development. Therefore, the graduates of the profession ought to be empowered through entrepreneurial skills relating to library and information services, so that at graduation, they can become employable instead of looking for white collar jobs.

The following are the elements (opportunities) available to library and information technology profession graduates in Nigeria.

1. Publishing skills:- Graduate from the profession can undertake ventures in publishing if properly exposed to quality entrepreneurial education.
2. Software development:- for specific task as related to library information services.
3. Production and sales of E-books:- Many prefer to enter into library and purchase e-books rather than going through the stress of checking through shelves.
4. Provide consultancy services:- to various clients from different disciplines by repackaging information for them
5. Book selling business: -They can choose to supply books to libraries and other shops; they can as well liaise with academic institutions such as universities, polytechnics and colleges to supply books.

- ICT skills: They can establish business centres where all computer related activities can be carried out.
- They can also engage in media advert for corporate organizations, small and big enterprise.

The indispensability of integrating entrepreneurial training into the library and information technology profession cannot be over emphasised which include:

- Providing additional skills with which the graduates of the discipline can transform ideas into business.
- Enabling the graduates of the profession to be self-employed.
- Motivating them to dream big and work harder (Amoor 2008).
- It is a gateway to national development because individual, socio-economic life will gain stability, thereby improving the nation's gross domestic product (GDP)

Conclusion

It is apposite to conclude that high unemployment rate in a country is closely associated with low degree of entrepreneurial activities. This can be minimized in Nigeria if graduates of library and information technology profession and related field can be exposed to entrepreneurial education, training and development. There is no society in the contemporary world that can achieve meaningful progress without taking cognizance of entrepreneurship as a way of life. The recent development in south east Asia has shown all other developing countries like Nigeria that the national resources alone cannot determine the progress and economic development of a nation until, human capacity and capability are used effectively in responding to challenges in the environment. Therefore, library and information technology professionals should see the need for ensuring full implementation of entrepreneurship education in the training of library and information technology practitioners not only in theory but in practice.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in the light of the study

- The Nigeria education sectors should embrace and include rigorous and massive entrepreneurial education programmes in their curricular. The integration of entrepreneurial education should be done at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. Entrepreneurship education that is library and information technology biased should be integrated in all tiers of education with the ultimate aim of making the prospective graduates employers of labour rather than job seekers.
- Students of library and information technology discipline should be given proper orientation and practical exposure on the need for entrepreneurship education.
- All lecturers of the library and information technology profession should possess ICT skills and they should be sent on retraining on entrepreneurship education as this will reposition them to impact the entrepreneurial knowledge to the students.
- Necessary mechanism should be put in place, such as upgrading of workshops and laboratories in library schools in order to make real their practice of theory.
- Entrepreneurship education will not deliver its dividends on library and information technology if all efforts are not made to ensure that the programme is practical oriented.

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