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REFOCUSING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The educational system in Nigeria needs reform, as it currently faces numerous challenges. These challenges include a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate resources, and a lack of focus on entrepreneurship education. Refocusing the educational system towards entrepreneurship education can have numerous benefits, including economic development, job creation, and the fostering of creativity, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. This systematic review examined the current state of the educational system in Nigeria, the benefits of entrepreneurship education, and the challenges and opportunities that exist in refocusing the system towards entrepreneurship education. In conclusion, entrepreneurship education has the potential to transform the educational system in Nigeria and has numerous benefits for individuals, businesses, and the economy as a whole. However, the implementation of entrepreneurship education faces several challenges, including a lack of support from the government and a lack of trained teachers. It is therefore important to address these challenges and create policies and programs that will enable entrepreneurship education to thrive. Only then can we realize the full potential of entrepreneurship education. This paper therefore highlighted the need for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria discussed the benefits and challenges of implementing this type of education, and proposed solutions to these challenges. By addressing these challenges, entrepreneurship education can be a powerful tool for development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Refocusing, Educational System, Entrepreneurship, Education, Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful tool for individual and societal development. It provides people with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to live fulfilling lives and contribute to their communities. In Nigeria, education has played a key role in the country's development,

contributing to economic growth and reducing poverty. However, despite progress, there are still many challenges facing the education system in Nigeria. One of the biggest challenges is the issue of access to quality education. While enrollment rates have increased, there is still a large disparity in access to quality education, particularly between rural and urban areas. In rural areas, there is often a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of resources. In urban areas, there is more access to quality education, but it is often expensive and out of reach for many families. Another challenge is the issue of gender equality in education. For instance, according to the World Bank (2020), only about 60% of the population in Nigeria has access to quality education. In addition, the teacher-student ratio in primary schools is 1:35 and 1:40 in secondary schools (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], 2020). These statistics highlight the severe shortage of qualified teachers in the country, which has a negative impact on the quality of education.

While there has been progress in terms of gender parity in education, there are still many challenges facing girls and women in Nigeria. For example, many girls do not complete their education due to early marriage, childbearing, and domestic responsibilities. In addition, there is a lack of female teachers, particularly in rural areas, and a lack of female role models in the education system. As a result, girls often face discrimination and face barriers to completing their education. These are just a few examples of the many challenges facing education in Nigeria. One important strategy is the expansion of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) program, which aims to provide free and compulsory basic education for all children in Nigeria (FRN, 2014). This program has made significant progress in expanding access to education, but there are still challenges in terms of funding, teacher training, and infrastructure. Another important strategy is the promotion of girls' education through programs that provide financial support for girls' schooling and raise awareness about the importance of girls' education.

Another important strategy is the development of alternative learning pathways, such as distance learning, vocational training, and adult literacy programs. These programs can help to reach individuals who may not have access to traditional education. In addition, it's important to address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to educational disparities, such as poverty, gender inequality, and cultural barriers. Community-based initiatives, such as parent-teacher associations and community learning centres, can also play a role in expanding access to education and addressing these issues. Community-based initiatives can play a key role in addressing the gaps in quality education, particularly for marginalized groups (Ogunniyi et al., 2016). These initiatives can work in partnership with schools and government programs to provide support for students and families, and to create a more inclusive learning environment. This can help to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Education is considered a fundamental human right by the United Nations, and it is enshrined in international treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In Nigeria, the Constitution recognizes the right to education, and the government has made efforts to expand access to education in recent years (United Nations, 2015). However, there are still gaps in access to quality education, particularly for children from marginalized groups such as girls and children with disabilities. One key gap is the lack of qualified and well-trained teachers, particularly in rural areas. This is exacerbated by the low pay and poor working conditions for teachers in Nigeria, which can lead to high levels of teacher turnover and absenteeism. This in turn can have a negative impact on student learning and outcomes. Another gap is the lack of educational resources, such as textbooks, libraries, and

technology. This is especially true in rural areas, where students may not have access to the same level of resources as their urban counterparts.

Another gap in quality education is the lack of infrastructure, such as classrooms, toilets, and clean water. This can have a significant impact on student's health and well-being and can affect their ability to learn. In addition, there is often a lack of adequate support for students with special needs, such as those with disabilities. This can lead to these students being excluded from the education system and can have lifelong consequences for their development and quality of life because education is a powerful tool for economic and social development. However, there are still challenges to be addressed to improve access to quality education for all (World Bank, 2021).

One challenge is the lack of qualified teachers, especially in rural areas. Another challenge is the lack of adequate infrastructure, such as classrooms and libraries. To overcome these challenges, the government has made significant investments in education, and there is evidence that these investments are paying off. For example, the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has grown steadily over the past decade, and the rate of extreme poverty has increased. Though, there is still a long way to go to ensure that all Nigerians have access to quality education. For instance, the literacy rate is also quite low, at 62% for men and 52% for women. Despite these challenges, the government has taken steps to improve the situation, including the introduction of the Universal Basic Education program and the School Feeding Program. However, more needs to be done to ensure that all Nigerians have access to quality education (World Bank, 2019; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2015).

One possible solution to the challenges facing education in Nigeria is to provide incentives for teachers to work in rural areas, such as higher salaries and better working conditions as well as investing in the construction of new schools and libraries, and the provision of modern learning materials and equipment. These solutions would require significant financial investment from the government, but the benefits of improved education would be worth it. Given the challenges facing education in Nigeria, the topic of refocusing the educational system towards entrepreneurship education is of critical importance. This paper aims to provide an evidence-based analysis of the challenges facing education in Nigeria and potential solutions for addressing them, with a focus on how entrepreneurship education can help to improve the educational system and the country's economic and social development.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This content analysis is anchored on the Human Capital Theory of 1960 by Theodore Schultz, cited in Haider and Solon (2020).

The Human Capital Theory

There are several theoretical frameworks, however, the human capital theory is considered to be the most relevant for this particular study. The human capital theory was first developed by the economist Theodore Schultz in the 1960s. He argued that investments in human capital, such as education, are just as important as investments in physical capital, such as machinery and infrastructure (International Monetary Fund, 2021). Schultz believed that these investments would lead to increased productivity and economic growth. Since then, the theory has been expanded upon and refined by other economists, including Gary Becker, who won the Nobel

Prize in Economics in 1992 for his work on human capital theory. The human capital theory states that education is an investment that has both public and private benefits (Haider & Solon, 2020). The individual who receives the education benefits from increased earning potential, while society benefits from increased economic growth. However, there are diminishing returns to education, and the skills and knowledge acquired through education can depreciate over time. Therefore, it is important to continue investing in education throughout one's life to maintain and increase the stock of human capital.

One important element of the human capital theory is the concept of externalities. Externalities are the unintended consequences of an action, which can be positive or negative. The positive externalities of education include increased social cohesion, reduced crime, and improved health outcomes. The negative externalities of education include increased inequality and brain drain. Brain drain refers to the phenomenon of skilled individuals leaving a country in search of better opportunities elsewhere (Cunha et al., 2019). In Nigeria, for example, there is a high rate of brain drain, as many educated individuals seek opportunities in other countries. This can lead to a lack of skilled workers, which in turn hinders economic growth and development. To prevent brain drain, the government can invest in improving working conditions for educated individuals and providing incentives for them to stay in the country. This could include improving infrastructure, increasing salaries, and providing other benefits.

More so, the human capital theory also emphasized the idea of "signaling", which refers to the use of education as a way to signal to potential employers that an individual is qualified for a job. Employers use education as a signal because it is a way to distinguish between qualified and unqualified candidates. In other words, employers assume that someone with a college degree is more qualified than someone without a degree, even if both candidates have the same skills. The theory furthermore advocates for credentialism which is the belief that credentials, such as a degree or certificate, are more important than actual skills or knowledge. Credentialism can lead to situations where individuals with degrees are hired for jobs that they are not qualified for, while individuals without degrees are overlooked for jobs that they are qualified for (Rothstein, 2019).

In the context of this study, the human capital theory implies that the government should focus on providing education that is specifically geared towards developing entrepreneurial skills. This could include developing a curriculum that focuses on critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. It could also include providing opportunities for hands-on learning through internships and other practical experiences. The ultimate goal would be to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to start their businesses and contribute to economic growth, in the job market. This is particularly important in a country like Nigeria, where the economy is rapidly changing and new technologies are constantly emerging. Lifelong learning can take many forms, such as continuing education, professional development, and self-directed learning.

Another implication of the human capital theory for this study is the need for collaboration between the government, the private sector, and educational institutions. For example, the government could partner with private companies to develop programs that combine academic learning with hands-on experience in the workplace. This could help to bridge the gap between education and the job market and ensure that students are prepared for the real world. Additionally, educational institutions could partner with local businesses to develop a curriculum that is specifically tailored to the needs of the community.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Education

Education is a comprehensive and transformative process that involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes, facilitating personal development and societal progress. It is a lifelong endeavour that occurs in various formal and informal settings, encompassing diverse methods of instruction. Education can be broadly defined as the systematic process of facilitating learning, encompassing the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. According to UNESCO, education is a fundamental human right and a key driver of sustainable development. It empowers individuals to participate fully in their communities, make informed decisions, and contribute to societal progress (UNESCO in Egana del Sol, 2020). Education is not confined to traditional classroom settings; it extends to various formal and informal contexts, including family, community, and workplace environments.

Education serves diverse purposes, and scholars have identified various dimensions that contribute to its multifaceted nature. Bruner in Wells (2002) emphasized the role of education in shaping the mind, arguing that it involves the transformation of information into knowledge through active engagement. Višňovský and Zolcer (2016) viewed education as a process of socialization, asserting that it prepares individuals for effective participation in democratic societies. These perspectives underscored the dynamic and multifaceted nature of education, highlighting its cognitive, social, and cultural dimensions.

Education occurs through formal and informal channels. Formal education typically refers to structured programs within institutions such as schools and universities, following a prescribed curriculum. On the other hand, informal education is often spontaneous and occurs in everyday life, encompassing experiences within families, communities, and workplaces. Both forms of education contribute significantly to an individual's overall learning experience (Eraut, 2010).

The current educational system in Nigeria is divided into three levels: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The primary level, which is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 11, is made up of 6 years of schooling. The secondary level, which is not compulsory, it consists of 3 years of junior secondary school and 3 years of senior secondary school. The tertiary level includes universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. This system is based on the British model of education, but it has been adapted to fit the needs of Nigeria (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], 2021). In 2014, the Nigerian government introduced a new educational system known as the 9-3-4 system. This system consists of 9 years of compulsory basic education, 3 years of senior secondary school, and 4 years of tertiary education. The goal of this new system is to improve the quality of education and make it more relevant to the needs of the country (Adeyemi, 2018). However, the implementation of this system has been slow and there are still many challenges to overcome.

One of the main reasons for the slow implementation of the new system is the lack of funding for education. The government has not been able to provide the necessary resources to implement the new curriculum and build new schools. This is exacerbated by the lack of infrastructure, such as electricity and internet access, which makes it difficult to implement modern teaching methods. In addition, the shortage of qualified teachers makes it difficult to train new teachers on the new curriculum. The challenges of the education system in Nigeria make it difficult to improve the overall quality of education, which in turn has a negative impact

on the country's development. The lack of quality education means that there is a shortage of skilled workers, which makes it difficult for the country to grow its economy and compete in the global market. This also has a negative impact on social mobility, as it is difficult for people to improve their socioeconomic status without access to quality education. These challenges have a ripple effect throughout society, making it difficult to break the cycle of poverty and inequality.

The challenges of the education system in Nigeria include a lack of funding, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified teachers. These challenges have led to low literacy rates, high dropout rates, and a significant gap in educational attainment between rural and urban areas (Kalu, 2019). These challenges have had a negative impact on the country's economy, development, and competitiveness in the global market. The poor quality of education in Nigeria is a barrier to social mobility and economic growth, as it is difficult for people to improve their socioeconomic status without access to quality education. One way to address the challenges facing education in Nigeria is to shift the focus of the educational system from rote learning to a more entrepreneurial approach.

This could include introducing a curriculum that emphasizes problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity. It would also involve increasing access to technology, such as computers and the Internet, to help students develop the skills they need to compete in the global economy. The government should focus on attracting and retaining qualified teachers by providing them with better working conditions, such as competitive salaries, professional development opportunities, and a supportive working environment. By making these changes, the government can ensure that the educational system is better equipped to meet the needs of students and prepare them for success in the modern economy.

In addition to the poor state of infrastructure, another challenge is the lack of access to modern educational tools, such as computers and the Internet. This lack of access is due to both the poor state of infrastructure and the high cost of internet access. This has a negative impact on students' ability to learn, as they are unable to access the latest educational resources and information. This has created a digital divide between schools in urban and rural areas, as well as between students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Students in urban areas and from higher socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to have access to the technology they need to learn, while students in rural areas and from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to be left behind. This has serious implications for the future of Nigeria, as it will create a gap in educational attainment and hinder the country's ability to develop (Lajide et al., 2020).

The shortage of qualified teachers also creates a vicious cycle of underperformance in schools. When students do not receive a quality education, they are less likely to pursue higher education or seek employment in higher-paying fields. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty and educational underperformance. Furthermore, the lack of qualified teachers makes it difficult to train new teachers, as there are few experienced teachers to mentor and guide them. This further exacerbates the shortage of qualified teachers in the country (Raji & Rasheed, 2020).

The shortage of female teachers also has a negative impact on the educational attainment of girls, as they are less likely to pursue higher education if they do not see women in teaching roles. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty and inequality, as women without a high school education are more likely to be poor and less likely to participate in the workforce. Furthermore, the lack of female teachers also has an impact on boys, as they do not have the opportunity to learn from women role models in the classroom. This can lead to a lack of understanding and respect for women, which can contribute to gender-based violence and

discrimination. The shortage of female teachers therefore has wide-ranging consequences for the educational system and society as a whole.

Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education is a multifaceted discipline that aims to equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to engage in entrepreneurial activities successfully (Cui et al., 2021). Rooted in the belief that entrepreneurship is not merely a business function but a holistic approach to problem-solving, creativity, and value creation, this educational concept transcends traditional business education. It encompasses a diverse range of elements, including the development of an entrepreneurial mindset, the acquisition of practical skills, experiential learning, and mentorship, all of which contribute to preparing individuals for the challenges and opportunities inherent in the entrepreneurial landscape.

At its foundation, entrepreneurship education seeks to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset. This mindset is characterised by attitudes and traits that include creativity, resilience, adaptability, and a willingness to take calculated risks. Fostering this way of thinking is essential, as it forms the basis for individuals to build the other necessary skills for entrepreneurship. Those with an entrepreneurial mindset are more likely to identify opportunities, navigate uncertainties, and persevere in the face of challenges attributes crucial for success in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

The concept of entrepreneurship education is not limited to theoretical knowledge; it extends to the practical application of skills directly relevant to the entrepreneurial process. These skills span various domains, including business planning, financial management, marketing, and networking (Venesaar et al., 2021). Practical exposure to these skills goes beyond the classroom, enabling individuals to develop a comprehensive understanding of the operational aspects of entrepreneurship. For instance, the ability to create a business plan is not merely an academic exercise; it serves as a practical tool for guiding the entrepreneurial journey, securing funding, and ensuring strategic direction.

Experiential learning is a cornerstone of effective entrepreneurship education. This approach involves providing students with hands-on experiences, such as internships, startup projects, or simulated environments that replicate real-world scenarios (Aithal & Aithal, 2023). By immersing themselves in practical situations, aspiring entrepreneurs can apply theoretical concepts, confront challenges, and learn from both successes and failures. Experiential learning not only reinforces classroom teachings but also hones problem-solving skills and enhances decision-making abilities, preparing individuals for the unpredictable nature of entrepreneurial endeavours.

Mentorship plays a pivotal role in entrepreneurship education. Connecting students with experienced entrepreneurs, industry experts, or educators with entrepreneurial backgrounds provides valuable guidance and insights (Elliott et al., 2020). Mentorship serves as a bridge between theory and practice, offering a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities within the entrepreneurial landscape. Through mentorship, aspiring entrepreneurs gain practical wisdom, avoid common pitfalls, and build a supportive network within the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Furthermore, the scope of entrepreneurship education extends beyond the traditional notion of starting a new venture. Intrapreneurship, or acting like an entrepreneur within an existing organization, is a key aspect (Manimala & Thomas, 2017). Recognizing the need for

innovation and adaptability, many companies encourage an entrepreneurial culture within their workforce. Entrepreneurship education, therefore, equips individuals not only to launch their ventures but also to contribute to the entrepreneurial growth and innovation of established organizations. The dynamic nature of the global economy underscores the importance of adaptability and continuous learning in entrepreneurship education. Industries evolve, technologies advance and market landscapes shift rapidly. Entrepreneurs must stay informed about emerging trends, acquire new skills, and remain agile in responding to changes. Entrepreneurship education catalyzes this ongoing learning process, preparing individuals for the ever-changing landscape of entrepreneurship.

In other words, entrepreneurship education is a comprehensive and evolving field that goes beyond the confines of traditional business education. It aims to foster an entrepreneurial mindset, impart practical skills, facilitate experiential learning, and provide mentorship. Through this multifaceted approach, entrepreneurship education equips individuals with the tools and mindset necessary to navigate the complexities of entrepreneurial ventures, contribute innovatively within established organizations, and drive economic growth. In a world characterized by rapid change and innovation, the significance of entrepreneurship education cannot be overstated, as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of individuals and the entrepreneurial ecosystem at large

Benefits of Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education is a type of education that teaches students the skills and knowledge necessary to start and run their businesses. It typically covers areas such as business planning, marketing, finance, and management. Entrepreneurship education also emphasizes the importance of creativity, problem-solving, and risk-taking (González-Piñero et al., 2019). Business planning is an important part of entrepreneurship education. It involves creating a plan for how to start and run a business, including identifying the target market, setting goals, and developing a financial plan. This is important because it can help to ensure that a business is successful and sustainable. Marketing is another important topic covered in entrepreneurship education. It involves learning how to identify the target market, develop a marketing strategy, and use marketing tools to reach the target audience. This is important because it can help a business to attract and retain customers.

Finance is another key area covered in entrepreneurship education. It includes learning about financial statements, cash flow management, and financing options for a business. This is important because it can help entrepreneurs make informed financial decisions and secure the necessary funding to start and grow their businesses. Without a strong understanding of finance, a business is likely to struggle to succeed. The ultimate goal of entrepreneurship education is to prepare students to be successful entrepreneurs and create new businesses.

The role of entrepreneurship in economic development: Entrepreneurship creates new businesses and jobs, which can help to stimulate economic growth and reduce unemployment. In addition, new businesses can bring innovative ideas and products to the market, which can lead to increased productivity and competitiveness in the economy. In the case of Nigeria, a country that has a high rate of unemployment, entrepreneurship education could play a vital role in creating jobs and reducing poverty. One good example of how entrepreneurship can drive economic development in Nigeria is Jumia, an e-commerce company founded in 2012 (Alfred,

2020). Jumia has created thousands of jobs and helped to stimulate the economy by providing a platform for small businesses to sell their products online. In addition, Jumia has helped to improve the efficiency of the retail sector by reducing the costs of doing business. This has led to increased consumer spending and economic growth.

The role of entrepreneurship education in fostering job creation: it can help to foster job creation. Many new businesses start as small businesses, and over time, they can grow and create more jobs. This is particularly important in developing countries like Nigeria, where there is a need for more jobs. Entrepreneurship education can help to prepare young people to start their businesses and create jobs for others, helping to boost the economy. An excellent example of how entrepreneurship education can foster job creation in Nigeria is the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWiN!) program (Ogbodo et al., 2020). This program provides young people with training, mentorship, and funding to start their businesses. Since its inception in 2011, YouWiN! has trained over 12,000 young people and funded over 1,000 businesses. Many of these businesses have gone on to create jobs and have a positive impact on the economy.

The benefits of entrepreneurship education to individuals: It can help individuals develop important skills, such as creativity, problem-solving, and decision-making. These skills can be applied in a variety of contexts, not just in starting a business. For example, individuals who have completed entrepreneurship education may be better equipped to solve problems at work or in their personal lives. This can lead to increased satisfaction and success in a variety of areas. A good example of the benefits of entrepreneurship education to individuals in Nigeria is the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) Entrepreneurship Programme. This program provides training, mentoring, and funding to young entrepreneurs (Ibrahim et al., 2019). One of the program's graduates, Adebowale Adefila, is the founder of Green Earth, a company that provides waste management and recycling services. Adefila credits the program with helping him to develop the skills he needed to start and grow his business.

Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

Some of the challenges of implementing entrepreneurship education in Nigeria include:

Lack of qualified teachers: As mentioned earlier, the lack of qualified teachers who can teach entrepreneurship is a significant challenge. This is due to a lack of teacher training programs and a shortage of experienced teachers in this field.

Lack of resources: Many schools in Nigeria lack the resources needed to provide effective entrepreneurship education, such as textbooks, computers, and other learning materials. This can make it difficult for students to learn about entrepreneurship.

Lack of government support: The government of Nigeria has not provided adequate support for the implementation of entrepreneurship education in schools. This lack of support includes a lack of funding, policies, and other resources needed to support entrepreneurship education programs. This makes it difficult for schools to implement effective programs. Some of the opportunities for implementing entrepreneurship education in Nigeria:

Increased demand for entrepreneurship education: There is an increasing demand for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, as people recognize the importance of developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. This increased demand can help to create more opportunities for implementing effective entrepreneurship education programs.

Increased availability of technology: The increasing availability of technology, such as the internet and mobile devices, can help to make entrepreneurship education more accessible and effective. For example, online courses and platforms can be used to provide entrepreneurship education to a wide range of people.

Increased support from the private sector: Some businesses in Nigeria have begun to support entrepreneurship education initiatives, such as through funding and mentorship programs. This support can help to improve the quality of entrepreneurship education and make it more accessible to students.

These challenges and opportunities imply that the lack of qualified teachers and lack of resources can lead to ineffective entrepreneurship education programs, which can in turn lead to a lack of entrepreneurial skills and knowledge among students. This can negatively impact the economic development of Nigeria. In addition, the lack of government support can limit the reach and impact of entrepreneurship education programs. However, the increased demand for entrepreneurship education, increased availability of technology, and increased support from the private sector can help to overcome some of these challenges. These opportunities can lead to more effective entrepreneurship education programs, increased entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, and ultimately, a positive impact on the economy of Nigeria. With the right policies and support, these opportunities can help to improve the economic development of the country. However, one of the key implications of the current challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurship education in Nigeria is that students may not have the skills and knowledge needed to start and run successful businesses. Without effective entrepreneurship education programs, students may lack the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complex world of business. This can have negative implications for their career prospects and economic well-being. However, with the right policies and support, students can develop the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

CONCLUSION

Education is an essential human right and a key driver of economic and social development. In Nigeria, the current educational system faces numerous challenges. One of the most pressing issues is the shortage of qualified teachers, who often lack the training and experience needed to provide effective instruction. This is exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure, with many schools lacking basic resources such as electricity, water, and computers. Furthermore, the lack of government support has left the educational system underfunded and lacking in resources. These challenges pose a significant barrier to the future success of Nigerian students and the economy. However, there is growing recognition of the importance of entrepreneurship education, which can help to address these challenges and foster individual and national development. The benefits of entrepreneurship education are clear, but there are also significant challenges to its implementation in Nigeria. These include a lack of funding, a dearth of qualified

teachers, and a need for more research on the effectiveness of entrepreneurship. With the right policies and investments, Nigeria can create a more dynamic and effective educational system that will benefit future generations.

Suggestions

To move forward with entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, the following suggestions could be considered:

- The Nigerian government (federal/state and the education ministry) and private sector organizations, such as chambers of commerce, business associations, and industry bodies need to formulate and implement policies to support entrepreneurship education as well as work together to ensure that the right resources are available. Civil society organizations, such as non-profit organizations help create awareness and support entrepreneurship education.
- The government need to streamline the process of registering a business and provide access to financing and other resources for entrepreneurs as well as create tax incentives and subsidies to encourage entrepreneurship.
- The government should invest in teacher training programs that are specifically designed for entrepreneurship education. These programs should be tailored to the needs of teachers and should provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to teach this subject effectively. This would be the most impactful and sustainable way to address the lack of qualified teachers in this field.
- The government should ensure they allocate a specific budget for the purchase of relevant learning materials. This budget should be large enough to cover the costs of textbooks, computers, and other essential items. Additionally, this budget should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is adequate to meet the needs of schools. This would help to ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to learn about entrepreneurship.
- Furthermore, the government should consider partnering with the private sector to provide access to the latest technologies. For example, companies like Microsoft and Google offer free or discounted tools and resources
- The government should create a dedicated agency or department responsible for promoting and supporting entrepreneurship education. This agency would be responsible for developing policies and providing funding and other resources to support schools in their efforts to implement entrepreneurship education programs. This would help to ensure that the government is fully committed to supporting this type of education and that schools have the necessary resources to make it a success.
- Additionally, this agency should work closely with the private sector to develop partnerships and collaborations that can further support entrepreneurship education in schools. The agency could also work to create national standards for entrepreneurship education that would guide

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