

International Journal of Technology and Systems (IJTS)

**Role of ICT in Entrepreneurship Education for
Employability in Nigeria in the New Normal**



Role of ICT in Entrepreneurship Education for Employability in Nigeria in the New Normal

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Abstract

This work specifically concerned on the role ICT in entrepreneurship education for global employability and competitiveness in Nigeria. The purpose of this paper is to find out the role of Information Communication Technology in entrepreneurship education for global employability and competitiveness in Nigeria in the new normal. A large proportion of young graduates in most African countries exist without clear job prospects. Self-employment is the potential answer to issue of entrepreneurship education. However, this necessitates the introduction of entrepreneurship education for global employability and in Nigeria in the new normal. ICT should be seen as an ideal tool to accelerate the development, growth and process of Nigeria's entrepreneurship programs in the new normal. It has also been discovered that restricting factors such as irregular power loss, shortage of skilled technicians/repairers, availability of insurance, emergencies, and uncertainty are barriers that any potential entrepreneur will overcome. Among other issues, the following suggestions were made among other; that the government subsidizes these ICT resources imports to minimize the expense of such tools to enable them to remain in business and the government should be health insurance for these ICT businesspersons in the event of injuries, fraud and natural catastrophe.

Keywords: *ICT, Education, Employability, Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship, New Normal.*

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has earned the designation of the giant of Africa by good worth of its size in terms of population and vast resources. However, the pitiable state of infrastructure, low standard of education, wearing a way of value system, and many other tribulations prevalent in the society has caused the country to be fast losing its respect across the sphere. Nigeria is blessed amply with all the resources to be the best in all ramifications but yet the educational system is in shambles just because it is a product of Nigerian norm where in most cases normal things are abnormal and abnormal things are normal (Usman,2018). The widespread recognition that education is a major driver of economic competitiveness in an increasingly knowledge-driven global economy has made high-quality education more important than ever before (Asiyai, 2015).

Therefore, it is imperative for countries to strive towards raising candidates with higher level entrepreneur skills and sustain a globally competitive research and knowledge breeding base to the benefit of society at large. Quality education equips people with the ability that will enable them explore the world and manipulate it for their survival and establishment (Njoku,2016). It has been the backbone of development in most countries of the world, because it propels both economic and social emancipation of a nation (Iniobong, 2013). For quality education to be achieved in a nation, the principal actors of learning (teachers, learners and the environment) should be cooperatively organized. In other words, the teacher must be adequate in quality and quantity, the students must be well trained and required facilities must be provided as well (Adegbesan, 2011).The fact that Nigeria's education system is still characterized by a few high performing and many low performing schools is not acceptable to stakeholders in the education sector (Okebukola, 2013). The situation needs to be improved so that the country can compete with its peers in employability which is geared towards the new normal.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) consists of a broad range of technical tools and services used to develop, archive, interact, disseminate, and handle information. Enhanced exposure and skills to such innovations are changing the country's economies by creativity in the development and distribution of resources and producing new entrepreneurs (Jorgenson and Vu, 2005). This ICT-driven entrepreneurship is the capacity to develop and accelerate an ICT-based market strategy that uses such innovations to manufacture and distribute products and services (Koellinger, 2005). The Internet has been described as one of the main generators of entrepreneurship (Castells, 2011; Gyaase & Asante, 2014; Iwu & Nzeako, 2012; Jainaba & Kah, 2008; Suleiman, & Zuwo, 2020, Okiyi, et al., 2019; Jarrar, et al., 2020; Awobamise, 2018). The ability of information and communication technology (ICTs) to change societies and economies has been demonstrated in the literature. The expectation that ICT will play a transformative role is more evident in Nigerian education system.

Entrepreneurship can be defined as a process to turn a company into a venture or to increase and diversify assets or business units with high growth potential. Entrepreneurship is

perceived as a topic that dominates the world's education circles from the late twentieth century (Ngozi 2012; Tavakoli 2013). The relationship between ICT entrepreneurship and small business growth has brought about research issues in the creation of entrepreneurship education, this particular, idea of ICT entrepreneurship has drawn a great deal of research attention over a decade. Majority of scholars in the world of business have concluded that the growth of entrepreneurship may lead to small business success through the skills it allows to grow inside the company (Morgan and Sanchez, 2008 in Amue et al, 2013; Tamil & Bartus, 2006). In reality, ensuring the performance of organizations can be seen as the primary aim of small business growth initiatives in entrepreneurial firms most research on the partnership between ICT entrepreneurship growth and small business creation remains far from being thoroughly clarified. The research of Migisha (2011) suggests that ICT is a medium for growth, but that it can only flourish if small technology start-ups expand and generate new employment by creativity, and that technology is not the only problem, but also entrepreneurship.

Employability is a set of achievements, skills, understandings and personal activities that makes graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, which benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy. Employability, therefore, is not just about getting a job, it is about a broader set of skills and attributes that will enable a graduate to be successful through their working life. However, according to Evans and Wurster (2019) the information society is characterized by rigorous use of Information communication and Technology and a shift from an industrial to a knowledge-based economy. There is a change from current entrepreneurship education in our institutions, which is technically as normal, to entrepreneurial spirit/skills creation in institutions (Iwu & Nzeako 2012; Suleiman & B/Zuwo 2020; Oladimeji, 2018; Sharma & Jaipur, 2013). Nigerian Agencies for Promoting Entrepreneurship Development Several organizations have been set up in Nigeria to encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment. Some of them are highlighted below:

1) National Directorate of Employment (NDE): The Federal Government of Nigeria founded the National Directorate of Employment in 1986 in its efforts to ensure that its people are self-employed. The government expects that this organization would reduce homelessness, which is a restriction on our culture.

2) Special Public Works Programme: A system has been set up to recruit-displaced people in the development and renovation of socially beneficial programs.

3) National Development for Employment Entrepreneurship Development Programme (DEEP): NDEEDP runs an Entrepreneurship Development system for students of tertiary institutions and former public / private sector employees to allow them to recognize market opportunities. Participants are marked through awareness-raising preparation during the NYSC orientation program. Which does the Start-Your-Own-Business Learning Course accompany? In 2004, 37,687 NYSC participants benefited from the Entrepreneurship Training System, while 15,374 students of tertiary institutions benefited from Start-Your-

Own Company Training (NDE, 2004 cited in Onwukwe, 2008)

4) Entrepreneurship Development Studies in Universities (EDS): The National Universities Commission has made it compulsory for all students to be subject to university-level entrepreneurship training. Many colleges have centers for entrepreneurship research in place. Several courses are offered to students in their third year of study. Courses are compulsory for all students, regardless of discipline.

5) Private Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (PEDP): Some NGOs also provide programs for the growth of entrepreneurship, like the FATE Base in Lagos, which supports market and entrepreneurial creation. It equips young entrepreneurs with the expertise; resources, networking, and funding they need to develop productive companies. It is aimed at young people between 22 and 23 years of age with a university degree. This is a mentoring system as well as a loan assistance scheme for young entrepreneurs.

6) Industrial Training Fund (ITF): The Industrial Training Fund was founded by Decree No 47 of 8 October 1971, to foster and facilitate the acquisition of skills in Industry and Commerce to generate a pool of indigenous skilled staff necessary to meet the needs of the economy (ITF Pamphlet).

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ICTs provides an avenue for job creation that could help tackle global unemployment in the following ways;

Internet to marketing: an individual business can be marketed throughout he helps of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and so on.

Phone repairers: These are entrepreneurs that uses laptop to work with phones which is one of the ICT facilities. Also, in the development of the mobile phone applications industry has created new opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Some firm provides a digital application to the Apple app store, for example, gains access to over 500 million app store account holders however, ICT plays an important role in all aspects of our personal and business lives.

(Fashion Designers: Fashion designers make use of YouTube with the help of their phone or laptop for upgrading of their skills and searching for better designs available and obtainable by their client.

Business Centre and Internet Café: This is a business run by individual, the centres take charge of uploading and downloading of WAEC results and also carry out training to some individuals in the use of ICT facility whom will turn out to be an entrepreneur in business centre and Internet Café. However, the majority of entrepreneurship learning programs are offered in business and economic institutions and disciplines. ICT entrepreneurial learning is required to address this state of affairs. There must be an entrepreneurship focus on areas that drive change in today's digital world, particularly

According to Sulaiman and Bakin-Zuwo (2017), there are some possible roles ICT plays on Entrepreneur for employability in the new normal

Internet Travelling Agency: Though this is not common in the rural areas big cities, travelers book, and liaise with national airlines and other airlines operating within the country through the entrepreneur running such a business by making travel arrangements for them. He can provide the service of ticketing and booking of airlines through net provided they are ready to pay.

Computer Technicians: The technicians who service and maintain the equipment are entrepreneurs that are making their living through this service.

This is even the cheapest because one does not need much money, rather tools and excellent knowledge of the computer and its parts. They make a lot of money from this because the equipment must have problems and people must call them and they charge as they like and you have to pay because you are not knowledgeable there. The ICT entrepreneurship opportunities are too numerous that one could go on and on to write on them.

Computer Training Centre: This is one of the roles ICT entrepreneurs is playing by creating jobs for people and educating people who wish to learn ICT or even knowledge-based users. The entrepreneur makes a lot of money in this especially if he has enough staff and students even the facilities for teaching and learning.

According to Iwu and Nzeako (2012), ICT plays important roles on Entrepreneur for employability in the new normal.

1. Modification of Traditional Industries: The creation of indigenous and local businesses and technology can be accomplished by entrepreneurship education. Countries like Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, and so on have made significant improvements in their local and traditional industries through indigenous entrepreneurship education

2. Rural Saving Mobilization: Establishing community banks is a program to further generate rural resources for economic purposes. Such savings help to improve economic growth in rural areas.

3. Generation of Employment Opportunities: Both small and medium-sized businesses produce more job prospects than any big companies do. Most people rely on their companies for their work and can employ someone to support them.

4. Stimulation of Indigenous Entrepreneurship Development: The knowledge and expertise acquired in small companies assist in the activity and management of big enterprises.

PROBLEMS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

According to Suleiman and Bakin-Zuwo (2017), there are some limiting factors that can prevail the opportunities available for an entrepreneur: they are as follows;

1. **Tax system:** The entrepreneur suffers the problem of multiple taxes, and numerous revenues to pay. These in most cases discourage the entrepreneur from his establishment. It is little or no tax relief for the entrepreneur to encourage him to contribute positively to the economy.

2. **Lack of qualified technicians/repairers:** An entrepreneur suffers at times when there is a fault in the ICT tools because some of the technicians are not specialists in the maintenance of these tools, which delays operations and services. This affects the livelihood of the entrepreneur.

3. **Lack of mentorship:** A mentorship plan for educational programs needs to be implemented so that aspiring companies can benefit from established businesspersons

4. **Crises and insecurity:** Crises or insecurity which are the major issues in the country could cause the entrepreneur everything he has labored for in less than an hour. This is not a healthy development for him. Some states are no go area now in Nigeria because of bombing and kidnapping that is common with them, and people would not want to invest in these places or be happy that their investment went down the drain in such places. This would affect development in such areas and poverty will be on the increase

5. **Power failure:** ICT entrepreneurs cannot operate without adequate power supply and this is a major challenge because the power supply in the country has been in a coma and is still there. The cost of buying, fueling, and maintaining a standby generator is on the high side

6. **New technology:** The entrepreneur does not have enough money to continue to change the latest technologies being pumped into the market every time. There is always a new one on a weekly or monthly basis

7. **Cost of facilities:** The ICT tools are expensive due to importation costs. This problem makes some interested entrepreneurs to be discouraged because of the money involved in establishing the business.

8. **The short duration of Programs:** Most services are limited in length, varying from one week to a few weeks/months. There will be ample room for functional components to be integrated

9. **Inadequate funding and capacity:** Considering the extent of the issue of youth jobs in Nigeria and the number of possible beneficiaries, further studies are expected to hit a greater number of young people annually

10. **Absence of linkages between training agencies and institutions:** Most educational institutes have almost no proof of collaborative arrangements between them and growth agencies in the country

CONCLUSION

By the foregoing, it can be shown that many countries' policy considers entrepreneurship as the underpinnings of their economy's industrialization and therefore promotes

entrepreneurship. ICT entrepreneurship, however, still has a significant amount of growth. Entrepreneurship is a prerequisite for the development of technology, and the development of technology is a foundation for entrepreneurship education. Government agencies should develop and strengthen the entrepreneurial background in computer technology, which is communication and information networks, and provide easy access to these networks while developing and developing the use of networks, as well as design and evaluate rules and regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Giving regard to the important comments discussed, the following recommendations should be made to boost the ICT Entrepreneurship Development Education quality in Nigeria and thus alleviate poverty among graduates of colleges and universities in Nigeria, as follows:

1. The government and private sectors must establish a core agency to build entrepreneurship, creating investors, and promoting a vast number of entrepreneurs in various economic sectors.
2. Energy shortage should be resolved to ensure companies are remaining in the sector, raising revenue, employing people, and growing poverty in the area.
3. Educators with sufficient experience in the curriculum of entrepreneurship will be provided with compulsory kits to build a small-scale business for ICT issues.
4. Upon graduation, every tertiary graduate student should be allowed to own basic hand and computer tools that match his or her area of expertise for entrepreneurship.
5. Throughout the event of soft loans, the government wants to offer financial support to aid and enable students and other representatives of the public who growing to join the self-reliance market.

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