

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AN OPTION FOR THE MITIGATION OF SOCIAL UPHEAVALS AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTHS

Michael Effiom & Anietie Efi
Department of Business Management
University of Uyo, P.M.B. 1017 Uyo, Akwa Ibom State
Email: mikefiom.power@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

It was in congruence with the present situation in Nigeria as characterized by fear, threats to individuals' lives of Nigerians and their property amidst hunger and unemployment that interest was developed to x-ray the possible strategic option of achieving national peace and normalcy. However, the topic coinage was an attempt to clinically assess the root causes of social unrest and other vices and the possible strategies of ameliorating them. Since this research was library based, it was gathered that the present security situation in Nigeria is championed by young citizens who are frustrated and lack confidence in the government that has practically marginalized most youths because of ethnicity and regional sentiments, precipitating from government weak decisions in terms of policies implementation and lack of transparency. The strain theory violence gave detail explanation of why the youth react the way they do, and it was further corroborated by the frustration theory as postulated by Atkinson and Atkinson (1975). Meanwhile, it was discovered that unemployment and weak educational system have made most youth lack confidence in themselves because of the automatic poverty effect this has plagued on them among other sufferings. Social infrastructures available were discovered to be not enough to encourage massive involvement in entrepreneurship. Similarly, government patronage of foreign manufactured products was also realized as a very demotivating factor. It was therefore recommended that clear communication channels should be established so that the youth can relate freely with their political leaders at all levels of government. Finally, it was also recommended that entrepreneurship support infrastructure be made sufficient in the country as this would also checkmate the rural-urban migration of persons.

Keywords: Restiveness, infrastructure, unemployment and entrepreneurship

INTRODUCTION

Every society across the globe has its peculiar problems and challenges. Nigeria is not an exception. As a developing country, she faces her own share of social, political, economic and cultural problems which has in no small measure affected the well-being of the populace. Such problems



bedeviling the country include youths' unemployment and the rising wave of crime, which have serious implications on national development. Unemployment rate in Nigeria has continued to be on the increase despite the abundant human and natural resources available in the country. Chronic youths' unemployment is evident in Nigeria. Every year, thousands of graduates are produced but there are no jobs for majority of them. Nigerian streets are littered with youth hawkers who ordinarily would have found gainful employment in some enterprise (Okafor, 2011). The large number of youths who are unemployed is capable of undermining democratic practice as they constitute a serious threat if engaged by the political class for clandestine, criminal, and other unholy activities (Adepegba, 2011; Ibrahim, 2011; Lartey, 2011; Olatunji and Abioye, 2011; Okafor, 2011). On the other hand, crime is often perceived as a threat to the fabrics of the society or as a symptom of a breakdown of the social order. Crime is a dysfunctional phenomenon as it threatens the stability of any society and it is therefore, a social upheaval that requires a well thought-out process towards proffering sustainable options to mitigating these upheavals.

Review of Related Literatures

Onoge (1988) posits that these vices thus demoralizes the social fabric by grinding down the sense of safety and security among Nigerians, which includes human individuals and corporate individuals. The media, both print and electronic is crammed daily with reports of crimes committed and the seeming helplessness of the law enforcement agencies especially the police, in curbing this ugly and disturbing trend in Nigeria, therefore evoking more worries about the future of the country. Crime is a universal phenomenon and differs only in degrees among the various nations of the world. The Nigerian crime-problem is multidimensional and is capable of undermining its corporate existence as well as efforts towards sustainable development. The Nigeria corporate existence and development can be undermined by a number of factors among which is an escalating and uncontrolled crime problem (Tanimu, 2006). Security and crime have been deeply rooted in the political history of this country, particularly in recent time, which has emerged as a key concept

in Nigeria's struggle for good governance, sustainable democracy and development. However, the struggle for good governance and sustainable democracy and development in Nigeria would only be a feasible goal if the afore outlined concerns bothering on the involvement of Nigerian youths in various crimes as the conduit pipes to destroying the social, economic, political, ethical and technological fabrics of the nation is given serious reactionary and proactive attention by the leadership of the country at various levels.

Meanwhile, there is a plethora of options which government can adopt to mitigating these social upheavals which may range from equal access to qualitative formal education, social integration/inclusion, accountability and good governance, access to political leadership, promotion of vocational/technical education, provision of basic social amenities, and entrepreneurship (Anasi, 2010; Adebayo, 2013; Egbefo, 2015). Conversely, studies have shown that Nigeria happens to be one of the poorest countries in the world with a poor indices of economic development. This poor includes lots of youth in major cities in Nigeria who scuffle to earn a living through their involvements in some spurious and derogatory menial activities just to survive, and hardly the proceeds from these activities can keep them living above the poverty line.

Theoretical framework

Although there are a number of theories for clarifying observable truths generated in research undertakings. The "Strain Theory of Deviance and the Frustration Theory" were therefore adopted for this work. These theories became eminent because most factors influence youth restiveness could be better explained within this context as they are however characterized by dissatisfaction and unrealized goals (Ejumudo, 2014). The Strain theory as propounded by **Merton (1938)** contends that deviant behavior results not from pathological personalities; rather, it is a consequence of the culture and structure of society itself. He reasoned that because all members of the society are placed in different strata of the social structure, they do not have the same access to the realization of their shared values and goals. The shared values and goals translate into



cultural goals which could be material possession, educational attainment, and significant others. Merton (1938) further notes that people feel strained when they are incapable of meeting the cultural goals to which they are exposed to owing to inaccessibility to the culturally approved and acceptable means of realizing the goals. The tendency therefore is to resort to deviant and unacceptable means.

In the same vein, the Frustration theory presupposes that a continuing or unresolved motivational conflict is a source of frustration (Atkinson and Atkinson, 1975). This theory argues that when a person's progress toward a desired goal is blocked, delayed, or otherwise interfered with, he or she encounters frustration. Blocked goal seeking therefore produces confusion, bewilderment, and annoyance. Frustration, by implication, connotes an event rather than an emotional state; thwarting circumstances rather than their consequences (Ejumudo, 2014). Apart from the various types of conflict that provide a major source of human frustration, there are other barriers to the satisfaction of drives (Atkinson and Atkinson, 1975). Frustration, whether it is the result of obstacles, deficiencies, or conflict, has both immediate and remote consequences. This viewpoint is premised on the reasoning that when blocked in goal seeking, the individual or youth may react immediately or develop attitudes toward uncertainty or risk taking that has more enduring consequences. Restlessness and tensions are usually associated with many actions indicating unhappiness, dissatisfaction, and frustration and closely related to increased tensions; and restless movements are the rage states that metamorphose into destructiveness and hostility as evidenced in the Niger Delta region (Ejumudo, 2014). Although aggression is often the result of frustrating circumstances, an explanation of aggression based solely on environmental influences is incomplete. Because of the problems inherent in the original version of the frustration-aggression hypothesis, Berkowitz (1965) suggested three alterations to the theory. He opined that emotional reaction does not compulsorily cause aggression, but it creates a predisposition for aggressive acts.

The above reality is typical of the Southern Nigerian youth who have little or no access to the environmental opportunities of their region due to the insensitivity and neglect that characterize or underpin the activities and roles of the Nigerian state in an unholy alliance with the oil multinationals and the local bourgeoisie (primarily the Northerners). Thus, the inability of the youths to actualize their goals through the institutionalized means in the face of the opportunities that abound in their environment has produced strains and frustrations culminating in all shapes of social problems and deviant practices that consequently pose serious threats to the same micro (Southern Nigeria) environment and the macro (Nigerian state) environment. The strain theory of deviance and the frustration theory therefore have the utilitarian explanatory value for the youth restiveness and the attendant militancy activities in the Niger Delta region and almost all parts of the eastern states of Nigeria. Disappointed, dissatisfied, unfulfilled, and miserable, they try to find a chance to express their anger against the state and therefore resort to protests against the government, and violence like vandalizing and destroying public property and hideous and unlawful acts like kidnapping, bunkering, cybercrimes (yahoo) and human parts harvesting as experienced in recent times in our immediate society and its surroundings (Ordu, 2013; Eze-Michael, 2020). Summarily, it is on the strength of the foregoing that this work shall isolate entrepreneurship as a strategic option for mitigating social upheavals among youths in Nigeria.

Understanding Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship ever since it hits the academic domains has been globally embraced with a barrage of definitions. However, it would be worthwhile to take a look at the concept from the perception of the initial progenitor Richard Cantillon. The word originally is derived from a French verb *Entrenprendre* which means *to undertake*, and Richard Cantillon is said to have first coined the phrase in his manuscript in 1730 (Khanka, 2000). Substantial amount of research on entrepreneurship focused on the economic importance and risks of entrepreneurship. Cantillon offers one of the earliest definitions of the field and he defines entrepreneurship as self-employment of any kind and



entrepreneurs as non-fixed income wage earners and risk takers as they invest known amount without knowing how much amount it will generate (Gupta, 2006).

Entrepreneurship is defined as an activity that involves the discovery, evaluation and exploitation of opportunities to introduce new goods and services, ways of organizing, markets, processes and raw materials through organizing efforts that previously had not existed (Venkataraman, 1997; Shane and Venkataraman, 2000). Other definitions subscribe to the notion of innovation as a key attribute of entrepreneurship. From the perspective of Kirzner (1997), the entrepreneur is an individual who is alert to opportunities for trade. The entrepreneur is capable of identifying a value chain and acting as an intermediary where profit emanates from such intermediary option (Deakins and Freel, 2006). By contrast, the Schumpeter (1934) perspective involves innovations that result in new combinations that spur creative destruction where the newly created goods, services or firms can hurt existing goods, services or firms (Shane, 2003). Zimmer and Scarborough (2005) hold that entrepreneurs are new business or combinations that arise in the face of risk and uncertainty for the purpose of achieving profit and growth. The factors that distinguish entrepreneurs most strongly are innovation, opportunity recognition, process, and growth in a business and employment of strategic management practices in the business (Carland, Boulton and Carland, 1984; Watson, 2001).

Innovation involves inventing novel and better ways of doing things that are commercialized whilst scientific invention entails the creation of a new product or concept almost for its own sake or to serve a purpose other than commerce (Rwigema and Venter, 2005). Inventors may be motivated by the challenges of solving a problem rather than commercializing their invention. These individuals hold allegiance to idea generation rather than operationalization and commercialization. They are concerned with ephemeral satisfaction rather than long-term optimal business commitment and the finance and investment behavior this implies. Meanwhile, entrepreneurship, according to Onuoha (2007), is

the practice of starting new organizations or revitalizing mature organizations, particularly new businesses generally in response to identified opportunities (Mbhele, 2011).

However, entrepreneurship in its simplistic definition may be reasoned as the undertaking of any projected economic activity by an entrepreneur for the sustainability of oneself and contribution of a positive abysmal quota to the development of his immediate environment. Contextually, an entrepreneur may be anybody who has discovered an opportunity to satisfy the needs of others by adding value to an existing product/service or by creating a new one so as to make a living. A study by world economic forum (2018) reveals that entrepreneurs who are under 25 tend to perform poorly. The probability of success increases once people reach 25, then performance seems steady among people aged between 25 and 35. Meanwhile, another study negates the fact that people at 25 are less likely to succeed, by establishing that from 23 years old to 52 forms the age bracket for most successful people in entrepreneurship and made their pivotal achievements expansive. But, with determination, courage, perseverance, and social and environmental support anyone can become a successful entrepreneur (Gupta, 2006). Notably, the above cited works reveal that youths filled a greater chunk of the global entrepreneurial space.

Characterizing the Nigerian Entrepreneurial Space

Nigeria is a country located in West Africa and has thirty six states. It is the eighth most populous country in the world and stands as the most populous country in Africa. As far as the economy and business of Nigeria is concerned, the country has a fastest growing economy and is an attractive business location. Nigeria has been one of the most prominent members of the SWOT Analysis of the Commonwealth Nations and is listed among the other countries considered the "Next Eleven" economies. The concept of *Next Eleven* or N-11 countries refers to the list of those eleven nations which possess a great potential and ability to become the world's largest economies in 21st century. Nigeria



is one of those countries which rely heavily on their natural resources, especially oil.

Though corruption, political instability, poor management, and lack of infrastructure prevail throughout the country Nigeria is a country located in West Africa and has thirty six states. It is the eighth most populous country in the world and stands as the most populous country in Africa. As far as the economy and business of Nigeria is concerned, the country has a fastest growing economy and is an attractive business location. Nigeria has been one of the most prominent members of the SWOT Analysis of the Commonwealth Nations and is listed among the other countries considered the "Next Eleven" economies, it has been classified as a newly emerging market (CIA, 2010). Since the year 2007, the country has been experiencing a high GDP and the government has been trying constantly to curb the mismanagement and inflation as well as imposing new policies and reforms to improve the financial and services sector of the country. Despite this, the country provides an attractive place for investments in its different business sectors but the inadequacy of utilities and infrastructure prevents the entrepreneurs from setting up their businesses. Moreover, the existence of ethnic groups and diverse languages makes Nigeria a more complex country. For this purpose, it has become imperative to identify and analyze those factors which are vital for the success of the business and those which contribute adversely towards entrepreneurial growth in Nigeria (Babalola and Rashidat, 2013).

Essien, 2014 explains that a lot of Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) operate within the entrepreneurial space in Nigeria but with comparative negative differences in terms of GDP and employment generation. The research maintain that their increase in number is due to the fact that they require less capital, fewer labour, low technological knowledge and a little managerial ability to establish. That globally, SMEs generates employment, contributes to rapid economic growth and industrialization, and utilizes indigenous resources. Beyond these, small scale enterprises forms the life blood stream of an economy.

The roles of small scale enterprises to national economy have also been acknowledged in many other countries of the world such as Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Zambia and India among others. Empirical studies have shown that small scale enterprises contribute over 55% of GDP and over 65% of total employment in high income countries. They also account for over 60% of GDP and over 70% of total employment in low income countries, while they contribute over 70% of GDP and 95% of total employment in middle income countries (Fan, 2003; Ariyo, 2006). Adversely, the SMEs in Nigeria have not performed creditably well, and have not played expected significant roles in economic growth. They equally have been seen not to influence apprenticeship so as to accelerate employment and poverty eradication in order to foster Nigerian economic development (Osotimehin, Jegede, Akinlabi and Olajide, 2012). It may be deduced that there are a lot of factors in the Nigerian business environment but not limited to the following that have negatively impacted the performance of SMEs with some spillover effects of the significant majority of the Nigerian population;

- I. Unemployment
- II. Poverty,
- III. Social insecurity
- IV. Poor access to credit facilities/funds
- V. Insufficiency of business support infrastructures
- VI. Lack of government patronage on locally made goods
- VII. Political instability
- VIII. Poor funding of educational system
- IX. Lack of attention to vocational/technical education
- X. Government insincerity and non-transparency and
- XI. Environmental pollution
- XII. Poor implementation policies (Babalola and Rashidat, 2013; Essien, 2014, Egbefo, 2015).

Unemployment and Youth

Youth face numerous challenges affecting their development and well-being. Among the greatest of these challenges are unemployment and the lack of decent work for youth, which many countries including Nigeria



have struggled unsuccessfully to address. Similarly, despite the progress made in raising basic literacy rates, many countries have been unable to provide their youth populations with quality education and the skills they need for the world of work. As the global youth population continues to increase, greater investment is needed to enhance the rising young people's education and employment opportunities in order to leverage their human capital. Without such investment, quality education and decent work will remain out of reach for youth in many in Nigeria.

The key issues facing Nigerian youths in the realms of education and employment within the wider context of achieving sustainable development annexes from the formative period between childhood and adulthood, young people begin to define their aspirations, pursue economic independence and establish their place in society. For many, this period includes the transition to the world of work. The reality is that for a substantial number of youths, the transition from school to work is not easy or smooth but instead represents a period marked by instability and frustration. For these young people, participation in the labour market is characterized not by decent work but by income insecurity and poor job quality. For those able to find a job, informal sector work and underemployment are common, while many others face prolonged periods of unemployment at the start of their transition to the workforce. During these extended periods without decent work, the skills young people acquired as students are eroding and declining in economic value. Many youths in developing economies can only find work in the informal sector, and with poor job security, low wages and limited opportunities for on-the-job learning, such youth often find themselves among the working poor. Education past primary school is often out of the reach of young people living in poverty and those who are otherwise vulnerable or marginalized, as they are expected to help cover their family's more immediate needs, and this early exit from education further limits their future employment options (UN,2018).

Consequences of Youth Unemployment

According to Alabi (2014), unemployment in Nigeria as in other African countries has youth and gender dimensions. Employment data for Nigeria presented earlier has shown that majority of the unemployed are youth. High level of unemployment, especially youth unemployment has several negative consequences. Youth unemployment leads to anti-social behaviours such as:

- i. Emergence of street children,
- ii. Involvement of youth in crimes and in armed conflict (militancy in the Niger Delta, and currently the Boko Haram crisis which is fuelled by youth unemployment and poverty in addition to religious and other related factors),
- iii. Increased prostitution among young women, as well as exposure to HIV/AIDS (Curtain, 2000; Chingunta, 2002; Okojie, 2003 Alabi and Alanana 2012).

In the Niger Delta, lack of employment opportunities was highly correlated with the high incidences of youth restiveness and conflicts (UNDP, 2006). An unwholesome aspect of youth unemployment and underemployment in many cities in Nigeria is visible 'idleness', whereby youth congregate at bars and eating places to drink, watch football matches, converse or smoke marijuana, for substantial parts of the day (Chigunta, 2002). Such places encourage the development of street gangs and criminal activities. The youth denied of legitimate means of livelihood, grow up in a culture that encourages criminal behaviour. Similarly, Alabi(2014) corroborates that they survive by engaging in various activities such as petty trading, casual work, barrowing, stealing, pick-pocketing, prostitution, touting and other illegal activities (such as internet and financial frauds in Nigeria).

Poverty and Youth Restiveness

The phenomenon of increasing poverty levels has remained a major concern in most developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Nigeria where the problem of poverty affects a large part of its population and contributes to the proliferation of social problems such as street



crime, substance abuse, internet fraud, armed robbery, ritual killings, kidnapping, as well as many other social and public health concerns. As noted by a recent World Bank Poverty and Shared Prosperity report of 2017, Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the total number of extremely poor people consistently rises rather than decreases and affecting over 41% of her total population (While the rate of extremely poor persons, has dramatically declined globally and falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to approximately 736 million persons today, an estimated 413 million people currently live in severe poverty in Africa. This number, as noted by Müller-Jung¹, is more than half of the world's total poverty rate. Poverty has however provoke some youth in causing panics in the oil rich Niger delta because of the seeming difference between the oil workers and the indigenes. The Niger-Delta being an oil rich region of Nigeria happens to be the region with country's source of income and economic well-being of the nation. Despite this statement, the youths are of the opinions that little contribution has been made to region as the region lacks good roads, poor communication, education, and health facilities as well as lack of potable water and even arable land (Okojie, 2016). This implies that the economic well-being of the people is affected as oil spillages is the order of the day. Oil companies operating in the area are often held responsible for the plight of the people of the Niger Delta and therefore suffer attacks, which results in abduction of staff and vandalism of facilities (Inyang, 2016). The sharp contrast in the standard of living between the indigenes and staff of oil companies is a source of envy.

Social Insecurity and Youth Involvement

The challenge of insecurity would be best understood by first presenting the concept of security. In the view of Akin (2008) security refers to "the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions". It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threats to their lives or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals,

groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Ogunleye, et al, 2011). According to Igbuzor (2011) it demands safety from chronic threats and protection from harmful disruption. Security however, can be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighbourhood and by people around. It focuses on emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group which can offer one protection) (Achumba, Ighomererho and Akpo-Robaro, 2013).

However, it should be noted that unhappy, unsatisfied and frustrated individuals among the youth class form the significant majority of the instrument of insecurity in Nigeria. Meanwhile, a proactive government should think in the direction of social inclusion of youths in the areas of security as an interfacing between the communities, security agencies and the political class at almost all the time, and not just arming them to carry out their seasonal dirty political tasks and thereafter disposing them without due process. These aggressive youth become easy agents of destruction and terror in the society with these weapons and charms around them. The government has the duty of redesigning the political/ election process in Nigeria to help curtail the rate of weapons flow in the country among the youths.

Inadequate Access to Funds for Entrepreneurs

Afolayan (2016), explains adequate access to finance as serving as impetus for the growth, prosperity and vibrancy of all firms, especially the newly-established ones. In a study conducted by National Bureau of Statistics, it is evident that 97 per cent of all businesses in Nigeria employ less than 100 employees, implying that 97 per cent of all businesses in Nigeria are small businesses. The study also shows that the SME sector provides on the average, 50 per cent of Nigeria's employment and 50 per cent of its industrial output (NBS, 2007). Fatai (2011) claims that about 80 per



cent of SMEs are stifled because of poor financing and other associated problems. However, Agwu and Emeti (2014) argue that the problem of financing SMEs is not so much the sources of funds but rather its accessibility. Beck, Demirguc-Kunt, Laeven and Maksimovic (2006) note further that firms with greater access to capital are more able to exploit growth and investment opportunities. However, lack of access to credit as observed by GOK (2005) is a major impediment inhibiting the growth of micro enterprises. Factors identified to be inhibiting funds accessibility according to Adepoju (2003) are the stringent conditions set by financial institutions which include lack of adequate collateral and credit information and cost of accessing funds. Gichuki, Njeru and Tirimba (2014) observe that small and medium enterprises operate on tight budgets often financed through owner's own contribution, loans from friends and relatives. This usually makes it difficult for them to meet day-to-day expenses let alone purchase machinery, equipment and raw materials. In the study of Ntakobajira (2013), access to finance was found to affect performance of SMEs to a great extent because it limited the entrepreneurs' ability to take advantage of opportunity as and when they arose.

Insufficiency of Business Support Infrastructure

Gaal and Afrah (2017) believe that Infrastructure is the basic equipment and structures such as roads and bridges that are needed for a country, region, or organization to function properly. Infrastructure contributes to economic development by increasing productivity and providing services, which enhance the quality of life. The services generated as a result of an adequate infrastructure base will translate to an increase in aggregate output such as increased agriculture output of farmers through improved roads, creation of a sea ports, Rail links., Electrical generation, transmission and distribution, Water and irrigation projects,- Increase quality of life and Urbanization of different areas (Akinyosoye, 2010). Majority of poor people in the world live in rural areas where the level of public infrastructure especially roads seems low. The inadequate roads and poor road access put high cost of transportation; reduce ability to use access high quality inputs; limit the uses of local markets to the sales of

their products, the purchase of consumer goods and opportunities for off-farm employment. Poor road access has put nevertheless constraints for rural poor people in terms of access to other social infrastructure such as education and health facilities. Therefore, improvement of rural road seems to be a clear means by which large numbers of people might acquire the opportunity to participate in the market economy and thereby raise themselves out of poverty (Oraboune, 2008).

Infrastructure is a key element of poverty alleviation. It often acts as a catalyst to development and enhances the impact of interventions to improve the poor's access to other assets, like human, social, financial, and natural assets. Its impact is felt both on the economic and social sectors. Without roads, the poor are not able to sell their output on the market. In India, it has been shown that roads alone account for seven percent of the growth in aggregate output of the rural areas. Without electricity, the industrialization process, which provides the poor an important source of employment, is unlikely to take off. In Costa Rica, a retrospective review of the rural electrification experience through electrification cooperatives indicates that for one of these cooperatives the number of major businesses jumped from 15 to 86 after electrification meanwhile Nigerian situation is unusual. Without potable water, sanitation, and health facilities human health is at risk. The social and economic impact often go hand in hand (Pouliquen, 2000) Many of the world's poor people live in rural areas isolated by distance, terrain and poverty from employment and economic opportunities, markets, healthcare and education. Lack of basic infrastructure such paths, trails, bridges and roads and access to transportation services make it difficult for most people to access markets and services in Nigeria. There is clear evidence that rural isolation is associated with low agricultural productivity linked to poor market access and low use of fertilizers and modern agricultural technologies. It is also linked with poor health and low school enrolment. Rural isolation can imprison the elderly and people with disabilities. Good transport infrastructure is a necessary condition for economic growth and poverty alleviation, but transportation investments alone cannot address the problems of the



poorest households (Starkey and Hine, 2014). The adequate supply of infrastructural services has long been viewed as essential for economic development and poverty reduction, both in the policy and academic realms. More recently, increasing attention has also been shifting to the impact of infrastructure on poverty and inequality (Ariyo and Jerome, 2004; Calderon, 2008; Estache and Wodon, 2010; Ogun, 2010; Gaal and Afrah, 2017).

Low government patronage of made in Nigeria products

The Nigerian government at all levels to a greater percentage go for foreign made products against the ones fabricated within and this is a complete reversal of economic boost and demotivating local entrepreneurs from advancing the production prowess and capacity in the wake of the host government shunning their products and disbelieving in their competence. Dandaura (2013), in conjunction with the British Council, identify ten different sectors within the cultural and creative industry. While these sectors contribute to the growth and development of the economy, their percentage contributions are not the same. However, whether movies, dance, craft fashion or stage drama, they all represent creativity and the conversion of imaginative ideas into reality. Architecture, hospitality and creative arts also, contribute greatly to the nation's growth in diverse ways and the government should be the primary consumers to these industries, rather they channel the resources to importing foreign product and service (Alakwe, 2016).

Poor Funding of Educational System

The educational system in Nigeria is simply characterized by incessant strike actions which is usually provoked by a number of factors like poor remunerations, non-payment of allowances and other accruable benefits, inadequate teaching and learning aids and the general funding of exchange and research oriented programs in public institutions of learning thereby making qualitative education inaccessible to the majority of the families who are low and average income earners. Entrepreneurship education is crucial and key in assisting young people to develop awareness that ownership of a business is a viable option,

develop entrepreneurial skills, attributes and behaviors. The Australian Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) has defined enterprise education as: —Learning directed towards developing in young people those skills set, competencies, understandings, and attributes which equip them to be innovative, to identify, create, initiate and successfully manage personal, community, business and work opportunities, including working for themselves (Australia Government Department of Education, 2000). Regarding the higher education sector, Charney and Libecap (2000) conducted an evaluation of the Berger Entrepreneurship programme in the US, comparing business school graduates who completed the programme to other graduates. They found out that Entrepreneurship education is found to contribute significantly to risk-taking, the formation of new ventures, and the propensity to be self-employed. In addition, entrepreneurship graduates have higher incomes, higher assets, and indirectly higher job satisfaction compared to other business graduates. Entrepreneurship education contributes to the growth of small firms that employ entrepreneurship graduates, and firms owned by entrepreneurship graduates tend to be larger and have more sales than those owned by non-entrepreneurship graduates. Entrepreneurship education also promotes technology-based firms and products.

Social and Cultural Barriers Attitude towards Youth Entrepreneurship

However, one of the Hofstede's six dimensions theory to understanding culture which is uncertainty avoidance has become a setback to most Nigerian youths. This dimension of the theory as explained by Agodzo (2014) measures the extent to which a culture can accept ambiguous situations and tolerate uncertainty about the future. As cultural and social backgrounds influence an individual's 'approach to life, they similarly influence entrepreneurial activity and enterprise culture. Enterprise culture is defined as —set of attitudes, values and beliefs operating within a particular community or environment that lead to both enterprising 'behavior and aspiration towards self-employment (Gibb, 1988). Researchers have long realized that cultural attitudes influence the entrepreneurial activities of a population, a country, region



or ethnic group and that the interaction between culture and entrepreneurship is stronger in the case of some groups than it is in others. Thus cultural differences between nations are increasingly understood as an important determinant of a nation's level of economic and entrepreneurial development. A cultural environment in which entrepreneurship is respected and valued, and in which business failure is treated as a useful learning experience rather than a source of stigma, will generally be more conducive to entrepreneurship. Promoting an enterprise culture amongst young people would demand finding out their level of awareness, attraction and involvement with business and enterprise, in order to establish a benchmark of their current attitudes and behaviors with the subject topic. Promotion of credible role model could have an influence on young people's personal environment and could be used to encourage and motivate young people to engage in businesses. This could be by using someone who has succeeded in business and with the help of media, could encourage parents to allow their children to go into businesses. The use of events like business plan, competitions, expositions, and awards could also be used to motivate young people to accept entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

The Significant Roles of Entrepreneurial Towards Curbing Youth Challenges

Scarborough (2013), explains that owners of small businesses believe they work hard, earn more money, and are more satisfied if they worked for someone else. However, if the Nigerian government makes it easy for youths to actively participate in entrepreneurship it will to a great extent ameliorate the present negative situation of the country as regarding youths restiveness because of the following reasons;

1. **Opportunity to create their own business:** this will provide the youth the independence and the opportunity to achieve what is important to them as everyone enjoys independence. Also, it would be leading to goal attainment.
2. **Opportunity to make a difference:** most entrepreneurs go into business because they see it as an opportunity to make the difference in

the society in a cause that is important to them thereby enjoying the accompanied attributable ego.

3. **Opportunity to reach ones full potential:** contrary to some employees who find their works to be boring and exhaustive entrepreneurs derive see theirs as a means to achieving self-expression and self - actualization.
4. **Opportunity to contribute to the society and be recognized for their efforts:** often small business owners are the most respected and most trusted members of their communities. Youths who are involved in business practices enjoy this trust and respect from their communities and thus may cause them to undertake some advisory and leadership roles in their communities thereby weakening the intensity of unwarranted tendencies among the youths.
5. **Opportunity to reap impressive profits:** almost money may not be the only propelling force that drives most entrepreneurs, the profits their businesses can yield are enough motivation to grow into bigger companies and this places the entrepreneur on the ladder of becoming super rich.

In conclusion, youth anywhere in the world could always be managed by government and Nigerian case is not also different. it is and will be more appropriate for the Nigerian government to close the large gaps which have been created by it to artificially create a dichotomy among citizenry. This artificial dichotomy is the root cause of the youth's restiveness among other social vices in the country. It is therefore incumbent on the government to pay keen attention to the educational needs of the country, make a conscious attempt to reduce the level of unemployment which has seriously plagued majority of the youths, by revamping and strengthening existing industries while resuscitating the ailing ones so that many youths seek white collar jobs could be taken off the streets. Basic business and life support infrastructures should be created cities and as well replicated in the rural areas to encourage smooth entrepreneurial practices in all communities of the country. Finally, government honesty and transparency is key to achieving youth support and sympathy as



reverse is always the case when government is caught in the web of contradicting itself in the areas of policies implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made in line with the subject matter review;

- i. The Nigerian educational system should be revitalized and fortified with the basic facilities to support effective learning and teaching. This may include equitable remuneration of teachers and lecturers, provision of sufficient lecture venues, class rooms, well equipped laboratories to encourage science education, and provision of industrial equipment to advance technical education in Nigeria. With this as a strategy, there will be an extraction of total commitment from both teachers/lecturers and students, and most of the students would become competent, confidence and independent to a certain extent after graduation.
- ii. The local communities should be saturated with basic social and economic support infrastructure amenities. The services generated as a result of an adequate infrastructure base will translate to an increase in aggregate output such as increased agriculture output of farmers through improved roads, creation of a sea ports, Rail links., Electrical generation, transmission and distribution, Water and irrigation projects, and good and cost effective access to good communication system. If the infrastructural base is boosted, rapid economic boom will not just be the resultant effect but it will definitely inhibit the rate of rural-urban migration which usually culminates into overpopulation of the cities and high cost of living which at some points dissolves into diverse crimes for the purpose of survival.
- iii. There should be improved channels of communication that defy segregation and discrimination between the government and the citizenry, most particularly the youth in Nigeria. With effective channels of communication, there will be a stronger bonding and confidence between the leaders and the led, since fears and doubts have given way for peace and peaceful coexistence.

Ombudsmanship may be one of the adopted channels through which the positions of the youth could get to the respective government circles uncensored

- iv. Marginalization and unequal distribution of the wealth of the nation should be completely avoided as this is seen to be one of the surest ways of fueling upheaval among ethnic groups and geopolitical regions in Nigeria today as evident the emergence of the Niger Delta militancy and the newly rebirthed independent people of Biafra (IPOB). This parameter is pertinent to achieving national peace in Nigeria because when every citizen has possesses that sense of belonging and equal right, it is at this point that the theories of frustration and strain would cease to hold.

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