



STEMMING THE TIDE OF OVERSEAS EMIGRATION FOR GREENER PASTURES THROUGH BUSINESS EDUCATION

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Abstract

Nigeria is a country blessed with various natural, human and material resources. Under normal circumstances, the citizens need not experience economic hardships. Nevertheless, lack of functional business education and effective economic planning policy make unemployment and under employment prevalent in the country. Thus, reasonable percentage of the labour force are vulnerable to these and the associated socio-economic vices such as drug abuse, prostitution, cultism, fraud, among others. A large number of the youthful population have chosen to 'japa' – leave the country in search for better livelihood in advanced countries. As a way forward to eliminating these vices, this paper examines the concept of business education, objectives of a functional business education, causes of overseas emigration, the role of business education in curbing unemployment and stemming the tide of overseas emigration for greener pastures. The paper concludes that employment creation through business education could be used to stem the tide of overseas emigration in Nigeria. The paper therefore suggests that effective and efficient business education will lead to establishment of viable and prosperous enterprises that will help in reducing unemployment in Nigerian and solve the disturbing emigration problem. The paper recommends that while in schools, Nigerians should be trained to be self-employed and that government, in addition to providing adequate functional instructional facilities and equipment, should provide for the training and retraining of business education instructors.

Key Words: Business Education, Emigration, Greener Pastures

Introduction

Migration is part of human activities that has existed for decades. It is a common phenomenon that is embarked upon by citizens in many countries of the world. In Nigerian, like many African countries, unusual migration started manifesting since the year 2010. The rate of migration in Africa is so high that it seems to affect the resources, and stability of the countries of migrants. Nigerian youths are transiting to developed countries in droves which called for national concern. Business education is a programme of instruction which consists of two parts, office education (a vocational education programme for office career through initial refresher, and upgrading education) and general business education (a

programme to provide students with information and competencies which are needed by all in managing personal affairs and businesses). According to Peter (2008), business is one of America's most profitable and fastest growing career fields. The U.S. Bureau of Labour predicts a considerable increase in job opportunities for marketing professionals, sales managers, and financial analysts throughout the next decade (Worldwide Learn, 2009). It has been recognized that no meaningful socio – economic, political and technological development can take place in any country if the citizens are not given qualitative education.

Growing economies like Nigeria are faced constantly with the challenge of how to fully utilize education to develop people's

abilities to manage and induce change as well as improve their living standard. In government, industry and commercial establishments, people with various practical skills are highly needed to carry out different tasks. Such practical skills are mostly provided by business education. As a result of the increase in the economic activities of the Nigeria, there is need for a strategic plan and training of the right caliber of personnel through business education.

Over the years, the critical role education plays in our economic success has become more and more apparent. Good and strong school systems encourage people to settle in regions because industries are more apt to locate in areas that are attractive to potential employees. Also, a well-educated population tends to spark community activism and involvement. Quality education causes neighborhoods to become more vibrant, and citizens to be more active. Standard school system ultimately causes wages, personal income, and the economy to grow. However, businessmen generally find that many of today's graduates lack adequate skills (Killinger, 2009). They often have difficulty in reading, writing and communicating, they are frequently unprepared to work in teams, think critically or solve problem and they may have poor work habits. The existence of functional business education provides most of these skills.

Unemployment is one of the major causes of overseas migration in Nigeria. According to Ademola (2013) unemployment means not being engaged in any productive activity. It connotes idleness

and it is associated with widespread poverty and unequal distribution of income. Edgar (2016) opined that unemployment is the stock of all those individuals who are not engaged in any productive activity and who are either unable to find work at the prevailing real wage rate or who are in the process of switching to a new job. Causes of unemployment in Nigeria include rapid population growth; dependence on inappropriate foreign technology; low level of foreign direct investment; poor economic planning; and defective educational system among others. These has forced many Nigerians to look for greener pastures overseas.

According to Wiktionary (2024) greener pasture means any place or condition that is more favourable or beneficial. Nigerians seek greener pastures abroad due to economic challenges in Nigeria, a country that failed to develop the youthful population mentally and economically thereby forcing them to migrate to other countries for greener pastures (Business Day Newspaper, 2022). Migration of Nigerians seeking greener pastures abroad is no news but the rate at which they are leaving poses a cause for concern bearing in mind the vital role they play in the growth and development of the economy. Reasons why Nigerian youths are leaving the country include high rate of poverty, high unemployment, increase in social vices (armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping, and so on), poor human capital development, poor education, and insecurity (<https://businessday.ng>> article)

Based on the foregoing, this paper examines the concept of business education,

objectives of business education, and its benefits. It also discusses the roles of business education in stemming the tide of overseas emigration for greener pastures.

Business Education

Business education is an area of education which deals with the study of the subject of related disciplines. It is a combination of two disciplines dealing mainly with the art of shorthand writing, type writing, accounting, business mathematics, secretarial duties and commerce and office practice. The field of study offers every individual an opportunity to develop those abilities, skills and understanding of the vocational opportunity available. Amoor (2010) stated that business education plays a significant role in Nigeria's economic growth and development. It improves personal qualities and builds the attitudes of youths that are necessary for adjustment to personal and employment situations. Business Education also provides knowledge, skills and competence for individuals to function well in office occupation and also create jobs for themselves and others thereby reducing the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

The introduction of entrepreneurship courses into the curriculum of business education programme by Nigerian government is a right step in the right direction and at the right time because entrepreneurship education provides additional skills, resources and techniques to business education graduates to transform their ideas into visible and viable businesses after graduating from the school. Umar et al (2021) opined that business education is an

education for and about business. It combines both theoretical and practical knowledge which exposes the recipient to the economic system and lifelong skills that help to make reasonable judgement as a producer, employee or consumer of goods and services.

According to Aluwong (2007), business education is one of those major occupational areas of technical and vocational education. By extension, it is an integral part of the total education package. Like other technical and vocational education programmes, it consists of organized educational programmes offered in a sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals in paid or unpaid employment or emerging occupations. Business education is taught to aid understanding of businesses. As the business world is further developing it is essential to have relevant knowledge that is needed for business ownership.

Wikipedia Encyclopedia (2009) stated that business education is the enterprise of education directed at the study and research of the field of business. It includes secondary education and tertiary education or university education, with the greatest activity in the latter. It is inclined to grooming the learners for the practice of an occupation in business- or business-related fields. Business education is becoming increasingly more popular as students must learn business skills to compete in a competitive economy. According to Adeshina (2008), business education aims at providing occupational and career orientation and exploration of job opportunities and requirements in business.

It helps in the development of occupation, knowledge, attitudes and skills in the clerical, stenographic, book keeping and accounting, data processing, marketing and sales, office administration, business ownership and management fields.

Business education is a veritable tool for entrepreneurship development. It is not a course of study reserved for those with lower intelligence, but rather, individuals who are of high intelligence. Ugwuogo (2017) opined that business education is an education for business, or training in business skills which are required for use in business offices and clerical occupations. Business education programmes are designed to instill in students the basic theories of management and production. The main goals of business education programmes are to teach the process of decision making, the philosophy, theory, and psychology of management, practical applications, business start-up and operational procedures.

Concept of Migration

According to Oxford English dictionary (2019), migration is the movement of a person or people from one country, locality, place of residence to settle in another. United Nation Migration Agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM) stated that a migrant is any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the causes for the

movement are; or what the length of the stay is (IOM, 2019). Wikipedia opined that human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location. Migration could be internal (within a country) or external (one country to another country) migration. External migration is of two types: emigration (citizens leaving their country) or immigration (foreigner coming into a country).

Causes of Migration

Koser (2016) viewed migration as an integral part of human history and that human beings have been moving from place to place for social, economic or political reasons from their earliest days. The causes of migrations are classified into two main groups namely; the pull factors and the push factors. The pull factors are factors which attract a person to a new host country, among them are: the economic causes such as; availability of jobs, better jobs, higher wages, the promise of a better life, higher standard of living and educational opportunities. The push factors are those which make people want to move away from their country of origin among these are; unemployment, lower wages, poor labour standard, overpopulation, insecurity of life, unfavourable economic condition, and the likes.

Objectives of Business Education Programme at The Nigeria Certificate in Education Level

The National Commission for Colleges of Education (2002) minimum standards specifies the objectives of Business Education at the NCE level as follows:

- a. To produce well qualified and competent NCE graduates in business subjects who will be able to teach business subjects in our secondary schools and other related educational institutions.
- b. To produce NCE business teachers who will be able to inculcate the vocational aspects of Business Education into the society.
- c. To produce NCE Business Teachers who will be involved in the much-desired revolution of vocational development right from the primary and secondary schools.
- d. To equip students with the necessary competence so as to qualify them for a post – NCE degree programme in Business Education.
- e. To equip graduates with the right skills that will enable them to engage in a life of work in the office as well as for self – employment.

Benefits of Business Education

Business education have many benefits for learners. Christopher et al (2010) identified the following benefits:

- a. Students without prior business experience will be able to develop skills that are in demand and will have better career opportunities as a result of their business education.

- b. People who work in other fields will be able to develop basic business skills that can help them advance their careers.
- c. Business education programme focuses on topics such as marketing, money management, report writing, and management. All of this information can help professionals become more effective.
- d. Business education also have a positive impact on companies where continuing education is valued.
- e. When employees develop business skills, companies benefit in the form of efficient or increased production. This can help drive sales and reduce expenses caused by inefficiency.

Roles of Business Education in Stemming the Tides of Overseas Emigration

The role of business education as an aspect of vocational education has to do with the preparation of people for organizations as employees or employers, that is, self-employed. The basis of business education is to prepare her graduates for work which will earn them a living and for the development of the society (<https://bijejournal.com>). Business Education programme is rightly perceived as the vehicle for effective human and national development. It equips students with the desirable skills needed to perform specified office business function and provide students with technical knowledge and expertise needed for use in business. It makes her graduates self-reliant, self-employed and self-sufficient.

Business education plays a vital role in stemming the tides of overseas emigration by:

1. **Developing Entrepreneurial Skills:** Business education encourages individuals to start their own businesses, creates job opportunities and thereby reduces the need to emigrate (Aimtrain, 2009). When people have the spirit of entrepreneurship, the passion to be job creators will override the desire to migrate.
2. **Improving Employability:** Business education enhances graduates' employability skills, making them more attractive to local employers, and reducing brain drain. Graduates of business education have greater chances of being employed locally instead of going abroad to seek menial jobs.
3. **Fostering Innovation and Creativity:** Business education encourages innovative thinking and problem-solving, leading to the development of new industries and job opportunities. Establishment of new industries helps in tackling unemployment problems which is one of the major causes of overseas emigration.
4. **Promoting Economic Growth:** Educating individuals on how to contribute to economic growth, leads to increased economic stability and reduced emigration. Business education enables people to recognize the value of resources and hence make judicious use of them.
5. **Enhancing Management and Leadership Skills:** Developing effective managers and leaders, essential for driving business growth and job creation.
6. **Encouraging Social Responsibility:** Fostering a sense of social responsibility, encouraging businesses to address social and environmental issues, and creating a more attractive environment for individuals to stay and contribute.
7. **Facilitating Access to Global Markets:** Educating individuals on how to access global markets, enables them to conduct business globally from their home country.
8. **Developing Financial Literacy:** Business education provides people with necessary consumer education. Business education assists the individuals to become intelligent buyers of goods and services. Educating individuals on financial management enables them to make informed decisions and reduce financial instability. This will result in profitable business ventures that help to retain enterprising individuals.
9. **Supporting SME Development:** Business education provides an individual with various skills needed for self-reliance. Encouraging and supporting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), creating job opportunities and driving economic growth.
10. **Fostering Collaboration and Partnerships:** Encouraging collaboration between businesses, academia, and

government, leading to innovative solutions and job creation.

By playing these roles, business education can help to stem the tides of overseas emigration by providing individuals with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to succeed in their home country.

Conclusion

The importance of business education cannot be over emphasized. The one and only solution to the present unemployment crisis in this nation is business education. Business education gives graduates quality education which is required for self-employment and also creates employment opportunities and proffers solution to the japa syndrome (i.e. emigration for greener pastures). In recognition of the immense benefits of business education in Nigeria the National Policy on Education advocates for the incorporation of business education into our educational system right from the junior secondary school level for a gradual skill development and competency.

Recommendations

Sequel to the above discussion, the following recommendation were made in promoting Business Education in Nigeria:

1. Adequate and functional instructional facilities and equipment as specified by NCCE (2002) must be provided at the right time and in the right places and this should match the increasing number of students. When this is done it will enable the students acquire the necessary skills they needed.

2. Manpower in business education should be exposed to training and retraining through seminars conferences, workshops, symposia, etc. This should be the responsibility of both federal and states governments and that will encourage young and prospective entrepreneurs.
3. Adequate and relevant textbooks, journal, information communication technology (ICT) should be provided. To take business education seriously, facilities should be provided to enable both the teachers and students to keep pace with the current trends in business world.
4. Sufficient funds should be made available for the running of business education in educational institutions. This will also enable teachers and students to go on excursion trips to some business enterprises to see and feel the practical aspect of business other than relying on government.
5. No business can thrive efficiently without adequate and stable infrastructures. To achieve the entrepreneurship programmes, the requirements for good road, rail networks and efficient air travel service, stable supply of electricity, water and efficient telecommunication systems must be met.

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