
THE ROLE OF TVET AND BUILDING TECHNOLOGY TRADES IN REDUCING THE RATE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTH EASTERN STATES OF NIGERIA.

BY

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Abstract

The success of TVET in any country can be considered a key factor of the countries growth and technological development. For a country to be considered developed, building technology trades must play a vital role. A country like Nigeria which its population is rapidly growing, requires youth engagement in TVET for skill acquisition. This paper discussed the role of building technology trades for reducing the level of unemployment among the youth in North Eastern States. Building Technology trades training either in formal or non formal way has potentials for creating wealth and job opportunities for the youth to enable them be equipped and face the challenges of life. Therefore, strategies should be formulated through institutions that create or generate skills and training in the TVET sectors especially building Technology trades which will encourage the technical college graduates and discourage them from criminal activities. Conclusion and recommendations are made among others that North Eastern States government should face the reality across the states to motivate the youth, engaging them into TVET related discipline e.g building technology trades.

Keywords: Building trades, Job creation, Skills acquisition, Training, and Youth Unemployment

Introduction

Building Technology trades training is given to an individual willing to acquire practical skills and the manipulative ability necessary for self-employment in a particular occupation such as blocks/bricks molding, blocks/bricks laying, rendering, inter- lock molding and tiles laying. Building technology is linked to all levels of education, which starts from secondary school, adult education, Technical colleges and tertiary institutions (Paul 2015).

Youth unemployment refers to the shares of the labour force ages from 15 to 25 years without work but seeking employment or jobs. The World Bank (2013) showed a great concern on the massive youth unemployment in a country like Nigeria. That has a verse land and mineral

resources. Teaching and learning of building technology trades is the utilization of materials/facilities for the purpose of acquiring practical skills Ghana (2012).

Building technology trades has among others the following objectives: job creation, cultural heritage, productivity and self-employment for individual. Youths as future leaders represent the future and hope of every country. They are the driving force of every developing and developed country. In view of these important roles that the youth are expected to play, it can only be achieved if they are given the opportunity and empowerment through active involvement in manipulative skills and training in building technology. Therefore, there is need to develop the youth to be self-employed in

their early days rather than late through (TVET) because the level of retrenchment of workers in many sectors as a result of application of computer and privatization. (Ari, 2012) reported that Youth unemployment in North Eastern States is increasing from 18.10% in 2011 to 23.90% in 2013 (National Bureau of Statistics 2013).

In Nigeria, the unemployment rate of youths has outnumbered the job available in many states (Ghana, 2012). One of the critical challenges facing Nigeria economic development is the rising figure of unemployment. There are about 64 million youths without means of any lively hood which is minding boggling (ILO, 2014). The problem is that these youths who are unemployed came out every day looking for how to survive which has caused them to evolve into violence and criminal act that constantly threaten the security of the populace. Therefore, TVET as skill training programme which can contribute to an individual's moral discipline, personal development, productive and skillful which can effectively reduce the youth unemployment. TVET can help to reduce poverty, and generate income to the citizenry. This is because the knowledge and skills gained by the youths through TVET could be a source of a colluby's economic growth and social development. For that, an optimum development of building tread training should be at all levels of education is necessary so that before graduation, students will acquire maximum skill and technical knowledge that will make them to sustain their living morally, socially and economically through self-employment.

Problem of Youth Unemployment

Statistics have shown that unemployment among the youth is increasing in several states. It has reached about 40%. Today, being a graduate from university or secondary school even with good grade does not guarantee employment. This could be due to lack of practical skills, lack of self confidence, lack of

self-esteem and lack of working place (Ghana, 2012). (***Hamman Saleh & Gana Dauda***

youth which is made up of young boys and girls below the ages of 22 to 23 years are unemployed. This made many observers to predict that Nigerian youthfulness is like a time bomb waiting to be detonated if it is not properly taken care of (Okechukwu, 2013). The author further stressed that, youth unemployment is the biggest problem facing Nigeria at large. Unemployment is the root cause of poverty, robbery, kidnapping, vanderlization and political thugs. A large number of youths graduate from universities, secondary schools, technical colleges and polytechnics, year in year out but majority dropped out because they can't afford to further their education due to high expense of higher institutions. Youth unemployment has frustrated many parents as they see their wards turn into criminals and prostitutes because of unemployment. The growing negative impact of unemployment rate amongst the youths in Nigeria, particularly in is worrisome as Nigeria have come to the end of 2015 millennium development goals(MDGs) with so many challenges that haves not been down up to now.

Thus North Eastern states have skills acquisition centers, technical colleges and a best center which train youth in different trades. All these centers train the youth to become self-reliant and remain useful to the society they live in. But one wanders why there is still high rate of youth unemployment in the North Eastern states. Is it due to lack of finance to support these youth by the parents , lack of government support or government see these youth as an unproductive (Ubale 2011).

The Roll of (TVET) in Curbing Unemployment

The growth of any nation can be influenced by a well articulated and organized technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programme. Technical, Vocational Education

and Training (TVET) is a form of education whose purpose is to prepare individual for employment in an occupation. This implies that TVET is a type of education given to an individual to develop his creative and manipulative potentials for the benefit of means of lively hood. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are the systematic learning experiences designed by institutions, industries, firms or government agencies to fit individual for employment as semi- skilled worker or technicians or sub-professional (Ndirputa, 2014). Nigeria has the largest cheap unskilled labour force; this is as a result of lack of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programme.

However, the core role of TVET is to enhance and offer skills and knowledge to the unskilled individual for gainful employment. By implication, TVET delivery system has the potential to train the skilled workforce that the state needs and create employment for the youths and emerge out poverty, unemployment, underdevelopment and technical backwardness (Audu, 2013).

Going by these functional advantages, any responsible nation or state that establish as policies for improving (TVET) programme should be within the frame work of the broad policies to implement the principles of lifelong education through open and flexible structures for training. Technical, Vocational Education and Training TVET is increasingly viewed as a potential solution to the youth unemployment crisis.

Unemployment Level of Youths in North Eastern States

According to Akintoye, (2008), about 85% of the world youth live in the developing countries, Nigeria inclusive are unemployed. This youth unemployment is not possible to change in the near future. . Unfortunately, the

youth of Nigeria below the ages of 20 years are relatively unemployed. Report by (ILO, 2014) show that the rate of unemployment of university graduate is increasing in the country not to talk of secondary and technical colleges graduates that are more than 45% of the population. According to William (2011), if the level of youth unemployment persists, it could reduce the development of the state's economy.

The problem of youth unemployment particularly secondary school graduates in North Eastern states is lack of access to finance, micro credit and landownership. Thus, North Eastern states government have shown some seriousness in the programme called SURE – P, which served as micro credit empowerment scheme to graduate, still there is a failure on the part of the youth. This is because they misused the opportunity by not utilizing the scheme. Against this backdrop, there is the need for the government and private sectors to put in place a job creating programmes that will reduce youth unemployment in Adamawa state. Some of these secondary school graduates most at times involve themselves in criminal cases because they are at the adolescent stage, with of redundancy and they need to survive. There is no doubt that Adamawa state is faced with political and developmental challenges such as terrorism, corruption and environmental issue (flood). Behind these are the issues of lack of job creation which is everywhere in the zone. Its effect could make the youth to be idle and unemployed who the successive government failed to address to date.

Building Technology Trades as a Means of Reducing Unemployment

The beneficiary of any TVET programme is the youth. They should be trained to acquire the necessary skills and competencies needed to have a solid foundation for their future lives. Friend (2009), highlighted that Technology at all level is designed to help individuals to

acquire and develop skills, knowledge and esteem necessary for self-reliance. Building Technology is a sub –field or one area of (TVET) which could contribute to the reduction of unemployment and job creation. The 2013 National policy on education stressed that there is need for practical training in building tread area such as block/bricks molding, tiles molding inter-lock molding and lying.

TVET creates awareness among youth for the need to acquire skills in vocational and technological disciplines (building) among others, therefore Secondary School and Technical College graduates should learn a tread which does not require much manipulative skills, but they should concentrate on practical skills necessary for economic development (Modebelu, 2013).

The provision and impacting the necessary skills in the field of building trades to secondary and technical colleges' graduates will lead to creation of jobs and consequently reduce youth unemployment in the North Eastern states.

Implications of Unemployment

What can young people do to create job? How are they going to find job? How are they going to present themselves in the labour market? These are some of the hundreds of questions which secondary and technical colleges graduates (youths) are looking for its solution or answers. Igbokwe (2015) reported that, despite the fact that the level of youth unemployment is increasing, millions of jobs in developed countries like America (US) are unfilled, but in a Nigerian, especially in North Eastern states, graduates have limited job opportunities. North Eastern states youths should be at formidable advantage for the development of the economy of their states if well harnessed. In addition in constituting a dynamic work force for the production of goods and services for the states, they should also

make up the entrepreneurial class to drive the economy.

Adamu, (2014) reported that youths can perform effectively if given the right courage and atmosphere to explore their talents through hard work and creativity, youth are very important assts to waste. Therefore the society that plays with its youths is like the society is playing with its destiny, because youths are the sub-structures on which the entire state is to build upon.

Conclusion

To eradicate youth unemployment and poverty in North Eastern states, innovative TVET programmes and training methods should be used to tackle unemployment. Building Technology trades has always been our highest employer of labour and has contributed in the reduction of youth unemployment in the states. If states can train and support the youths in building technology trades practice, engage them after graduation from school, the society will produce building material and beautiful houses for the states and more youths will be employed. Therefore, building technology trades can create wealth and generate as much jobs that the youths require. Furthermore, TVET should be a favorable instrument of social engineering for achieving changes such as economic growth and reduce youth's unemployment.

Recommendation

1. Government should face the reality across the states and start motivating the youth in engaging them into TVET related discipline (building trades).
2. There should be synergy between the federal and state governments in youth unemployment.
3. Young people should be job creators not jobs seekers.

4. Current administration should increase security for sustainable economic growth and youth employment.

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