Entrepreneurship in Library and Information Technology for Self Reliance

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Abstract

This paper examined the concept of entrepreneurship as the person who assumes the responsibility in risk taking for business venture or undertaking with the ultimate aim of making profit, and remain independent of his own. Entrepreneurship has been found and accepted worldwide as indispensable driver of skill, knowledge propeller and capacity driven when possessed, drives away poverty from the possessor – individual, family or nations worldwide. Thus entrepreneur is a self-reliant, successful business-man or woman in his chosen field of business, trade, or venture undertaking. It is the backbone spirit and zeal of any great and developed nations like China, United States (US), and Japan to mention a few. This study further sees entrepreneurs as job-creators or providers, initiators of successful business men and women worldwide. Entrepreneurs channel their natural energies, talents, zeal and gifts towards the production of goods and services for exchange of monetary reward. The study therefore, concludes by stressing and recommending full adaptation and inclusion of entrepreneurial subjects into library and information technology curriculum for the training and education of upcoming graduates of the Federal Technology, Minna, as a right step in the right direction, and compliance to the National Universities Commission (NUC) mandate and clarion call.

Introduction

The present information ruling age, according to Bygrave (2003) is an entrepreneurial revolution and driving force age for mobilization of economic and social transformation worldwide. In other words, entrepreneurship is ongoing key driver of many economies worldwide including of course Nigerian economy as this concept is stressed through Nigerian universities. Entrepreneurship as noted by Inegbenebor (2005) in the last three decades has emerged as an area of study by economists, sociologists, anthropologists and management scientists and has developed worldwide as an academic discipline. Entrepreneurship is indispensable for economic and social development of Nigerian (Ojukwu, 1999).

The term entrepreneurship originates from the word "entrepreneur". According to Encarta (2009) an entrepreneur is one who assumes the responsibility and the risk for a business operation with the expectation of making a profit. The entrepreneur generally decides on the product, acquires the facilities, and brings together the labor force, capital, and production materials. Investopedia also defines an entrepreneur as an individual who, rather than working as an employee, runs a small business and assumes all the risk and reward of a given business venture, idea, or goods or service(s) offered for sale. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as a business leader and innovator of new ideas and business processes. Meredith (1983) added that an entrepreneur as a person(s) who possesses the ability to recognize and evaluate business opportunities, assemble the necessary resources to take advantage of them and take appropriate action to ensure success.

Qualities and Skills for Entrepreneurial Success

Some of the qualities as advocated below by Fijo and Obi (2012), success is sure; an entrepreneur ought to be;

- Committed, determined and persevering.
- Confident, vision driven.
- Creative and innovative
- Willing to work hard

received in Nigeria's tertiary institutions and the actual needs of industries and other employers of labour, (Obisesan, 2010 and Ekere and Ekere, 2012). The third and perhaps, most poignant factor is the general orthodox orientation of Nigerian graduates, including library professionals, to depend on paid employment upon graduation rather than use their training and exposure to create jobs and allied economically-viable businesses".

Compelling Reasons for Repositioning Library and Information Graduates for Self-Employment

Is entrepreneurship really important? If yes, why is it? According to Anyanwu, Oduagwu, Ossai-Onah and Amaechi (2013), the following were stated as the rationale for repositioning library and information science graduates through entrepreneurship education.

Entrepreneurship education will provide library and Information science graduates the additional skills that will empower them to transform their ideas into visible business.

It will empower the graduates to create jobs for themselves.

Entrepreneurship education according to Amoor (2008) when integrated into the curriculum of Nigerian universities will create a motivation into the students to dream big dreams of business ownership and work hard to make things happen.

Entrepreneurship and small business has been acknowledged as a fundamental component of economic growth and health (Plumly et al, 2008).

Since Nigeria is driving towards entrepreneurial economy, library and information science graduates need to be repositioned through entrepreneurship education for them to succeed.

Many have this erroneous assumption that a graduate of library and information technology ends up in the four walls of a library and no place elsewhere because such people they think that the knowledge graduates possess can only be effectively utilized within the library. It is worthy to note that entrepreneurial skills are taught to students of library and information technology to equip them, sharpen their intellect, embolden their skill such they can compete in the world of work outside a library.

Richen and Salagrik (2003) noted that entrepreneurial skills are acquired through training that emphasizes the acquisition and development of appropriate knowledge and skills that will enable an individual to maximize the resources and opportunities around him within the limits of his capacity.

Importance of Entrepreneurship and Self-reliance

Jimoh (2010) also opined that the importance and benefits of being self-reliant through entrepreneurship can never be over-emphasized. Since entrepreneurship is the backbone of any great and developed nation today, such nations like China, United States, and Japan etc, are good model examples which we can borrow a lift from. Hence, the importance and benefits of being self-reliant through entrepreneurship can futher be summarized as follows:

You are responsible for your own success and you can determine what that success will be

The sky is not the limit of an entrepreneur but his stepping-stone.

The satisfaction of achieving a goal for your personal benefit

You are the "Boss" of yourself

You are able to control your own destiny as you have self-esteem, respect and self-confidence.

It encourages risk taking and learning from failure, learn to identify and recognize useful opportunities.

It helps in writing business plan in applying economic principles and basic marketing skills for proper idea generation in assessing feasible idea and manages risk

Creating of employment opportunities for others, thereby contributing positively to the

services in the library, achieve self-employment and remain relevant. They went further to highlight some of the skills which are relevant to library and information profession.

Professional Skills include:
Information technology skills : These include networking, library automation and digitization, web based services, reprography, micrographs, facsimile, video text, teletext, database creation and management systems including CDS,ISIS,LIBSYS, content development, desktop publishing, intranet, presentation, hardware/software skills and relational databases including the ability to create data structures which facilitate the indexing and retrieval of information and thesaurus development. Farkas (2006) noted some specific technical skills like HMTL, network administration, PHP and MYSQL, efficient use of search engines, use of blogs to provide services, web cast and search skills.

Information literacy skills: Information literacy skill is the skill, know-how and ability which learner, student or researcher possess to locate information efficiently and effectively, evaluate information critically and competently and using information accurately and creatively to solve a problem or task before him or he. Also included here is the economics and marketing of information products and services, information resource management, information processing and organizing, e-mail, multimedia perspectives and video conferencing. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning and enables learners to master content and extend their investigations to become more self-directed, thereby assuming greater control over their own learning.

Other Skills include:
Managerial skills: These are the business management skills such as marketing, financing, accounting, control, planning and goal setting, decision making, human relations and managing growth. They are essential in launching and growing a new venture. Embedded here is also the knowledge of records management principles and electronic book keeping.
Personal entrepreneurial skills: These include inner control/discipline, risk taking, innovativeness, change orientation and ability to manage change, persistence, and visionary leadership.

Technical skills: Written and oral communication, interpersonal, monitoring environment, the ability to organize, and network building. These skills form the basis of the modular approach to an entrepreneurship curriculum. Farkas (2006) noted that by laying out the modules, a course or sequence of courses can be developed depending on the needs, interests, and resources of the particular department. This approach will help to ensure that the most important areas of the field are covered in the courses offered.

Self-Employment Opportunities Available to Library and Information Science Graduates in Nigeria
The diversity nature of the field of study, library and information science presents its graduates with various prospects within the subject field and other areas, a few of these opportunities are stated below as highlighted by Anyanwu (2013) and they are as follows:
Publishing: The publishing sector is a viable option for library and information science graduate. With proper entrepreneurship education, the graduates of library and information will be better disposed to undertake ventures in publishing.
Development of Computer Software: Graduates of library and information science can take the option of developing computer software that will be used specifically for specific tasks in libraries and information centres.
Production and Sale of Library Equipment's: Production of library equipment is another option available to students of library and information science. Graduates in library

studies as part of the national economic development strategies. This implies enriching the curriculum to incorporate more vocational and technical training. The development of apprenticeship scheme would give new graduates some work skills and experiences.

There should be School-based enterprises where students identify potential business, plan, create and operate small business by using the school as mini incubators.

Government should establish small business schools where interested students and community members can participate. This will make students to be self reliant.

Government should develop entrepreneur internship programme by matching students with locally successful entrepreneurs with clearly established education programmes.

The Government should establish an enterprise college aimed at fostering the specific skills required for entrepreneurship. This will serve as skill acquisition centre for the youths.

Government should create an economic friendly environment. This centres on reduction of taxes on small scale businesses.

There should be enough incentives for students of vocational and technical schools. This will motivate them to establish their businesses after school.

Conclusion

The study concludes that entrepreneurial subjects and skills should be included in the study of Library and Information Technology (LIT) Career in Federal University of Technology, Minna in particular and similarly in other courses in other Nigerian Universities system generally. This is the right step in the right direction, above all compliance to National Universities Commission (NUC) mandate. This will reverse the ever job seeking pattern after graduation to job creators / providers in the immediate future and drive away poverty in our midst.

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