Youths' Entrepreneurship Programme as a Panacea for Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

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Abstract

The growing trend of unemployment has remained a cause for worry to the government and good spirited individuals. The government has over the years sought a means of reducing youth unemployment but the problem continues unabated. Youth unemployment in Nigeria has become alarming thereby leading to all kinds of crimes and criminalities in the country. It is against this background that this paper takes a look at youth entrepreneurship programme as a panacea for youth unemployment in Nigeria. The paper used library research as a method of gathering data. The economic theory of entrepreneurship was adopted as a framework for analysis. The paper revealed that government over the years has made efforts to reduce youth unemployment through agriculture but these efforts did not yield the desired results. In the recent time, entrepreneurship has been acknowledged globally as a key to economic growth and development and employment generation. The government of Nigeria has initiated several programmes aimed at equipping young people with basic skills necessary for employment generation and self-reliance but such efforts have not translated into the desired economic prosperity. The finding of the paper shows that greed and "get-rich-quick syndrome" is a major obstacle to entrepreneurship development in Nigeria at the moment and recommended among others that the menace of online financial fraud should be tackled with vigour to redirect the attention of the youths to entrepreneurship programmes as this is the only sure way to reduce youth unemployment in the country.

Keywords: Youths, entrepreneurship, unemployment, online fraud, rural infrastructure

Introduction

The problem of unemployment has become a global challenge. This is as a result of the growing number of people without works all over the world, given rise to high rate of crimes (Ajaegbu, 2012). The problem of unemployment in Nigeria has worsened over the years. The unemployment situation in Nigeria today has become alarming. The government of Nigeria has made efforts to improve the living condition of the citizens through agriculture by initiating policies aimed at national food sufficiency and employment generation but the situation persists.

The problem of unemployment in Nigeria started with the coming of the Europeans and the introduction of cash economy and subsequently, paid employment. Since independence, Nigeria has faced the problem of unemployment and this informed her efforts over the years to find solution through agriculture.

Nigeria is blessed with vast area of land with abundant natural resources that can turn the fortunes of the country into great prosperity, but unfortunately various efforts in the past have not yielded positive results. Such policies as the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution, the Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) to name a few have been introduced to improve the living condition of Nigerians through agriculture.

Before independence, most Nigerians were engaged in agriculture, and these subsistence farmers produced most of the food crops for local consumption. The rural farmers sold the surplus produce in feeding the nation (Wikipedia, n.d.). By early 1960s many of the small farming were no longer profitable making the farmers leave their own farms to lie fallow and to look for income by working on farms producing export crops. Besides, a new generation of educated youths left the rural areas to the urban area in search of paid employment. This rural-urban drift created more problems of joblessness to the urban areas (Wikipedia, n.d.).

Researches have shown steady increase in the rate of unemployment in Nigeria. Adeniyi (2021) argues that the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme in the mid 80s worsened the unemployment situation in the country. According to him:

> In sum, the objective of SAP were to restructure the fundamentals of the macro economy of Nigeria in line with market forces with the hope to engender privatization, diversification, commercialization, growth, improve balance of trade and payment and moderate inflation with little attention to the employment or unemployment impact (Adeniyi, 2021, pp. 46-47).

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) according to him was later established to ameliorate the painful effects of SAP.

The oil boom of the 1970s afforded the opportunity to industrialize and diversify Nigeria's economy but corruption and mismanagement did not allow Nigeria's leaders to do the needful.

In the recent times, the unemployment situation has worsened in the country, accentuated by the economic decline since 2015 resulting mainly from the fall in the price of oil, Nigeria's major export. Nigeria eventually slipped into recession in 2016 leading to massive job losses amidst weak economy in the area of job creation (Adeniyi, 2021). A study by Nnebe (2019) as cited by Orjinta and Orjinta (2020) revealed that seven out of every ten graduates in Nigeria are either, unemployed, under-employed or unemployable. This according to Orjinta and Orjinta (2020) has heightened the prevalence of crimes and all kinds of vices in the country.

However, in further attempt to find solution to the problem of unemployment and by extension youth unemployment in Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria directed the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other higher institutions' regulatory bodies to develop curriculum for entrepreneurship study and to make the course compulsory for all students. And in the 2007/2008 academic year, entrepreneurship education became a General Study (GS) course for all students (Orjinta & Orjinta, 2020).

Since the creation of the various entrepreneurship programmes earlier mentioned in this introduction and the introduction of entrepreneurship study as a G.S course in the higher institutions, youth unemployment has continued to soar. It is against this backdrop that this paper takes a look at Youth Entrepreneurship Programme as a Panacea for Youth Unemployment in Nigeria, with a view to finding whether or not the programmes have achieved the desired results. To achieve the above stated goal, this paper is partitioned into five sections including this introduction. The second section takes a look at some of the entrepreneurship programmes in Nigeria. The third examines how those programmes have either helped in creating jobs or otherwise. The fourth x-rays entrepreneurship as a panacea for youth unemployment taking into cognizance, the obstacles to entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The fifth section draws the conclusion with recommendation.

Conceptual Clarification

Entrepreneurship Defined

Our study observed that many authors used the terms entrepreneur and entrepreneurship to mean the same thing. We are going to use the terms differently. Hence an entrepreneur is a person who habitually creates and innovates to build something of recognized value around perceived opportunities (NBTE, 2007.) quoted in Orjinta and Orjinta (2020). Okoye-Nebo, Iloanya and Udunze (2014) see entrepreneurship as the act of being an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship, therefore, is a process by which an individual identifies opportunities, allocates resources and creates values. It can be seen also as the act of seeking investment and production opportunity, developing and managing a business venture so as to undertake production function, arranging inputs like land, labour, material, and capital, introducing new techniques and products and identifying new sources of the enterprise. It is seen as the totality of self-asserting attributes that enables a person to identify latent business opportunities, together with capacity to organize needed resources with which to profitably take advantage of such opportunities. It is also a process of creating a new enterprise and bearing any of its risks, with a view to making profit. It is the ability and readiness to develop, organize and run a business enterprise along with any of its uncertainties in order to make a profit (Orjinta & Orjinta, 2020). Omeodu and Owaba (2020, p. 49) defines entrepreneurship as *"the application of enterprise skills specifically to creating and growing organizations in order to identify and build on opportunities"*. They went further to operationalize it as the willingness and ability of a person to acquire educational skills to explore and exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage a successful business enterprise. Entrepreneurship is a process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, assuming the accompanying financial, psychological and social risk receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence (Okoye, Ifeanyi-Uche, & Okoye, 2020). Gana (2001) defines it as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment and be able to established and run an enterprise successfully based on

identified opportunities. It is seen by Etuk (2020) as the process of combining all the available productive resources including land, labour and capital to produce something new for profit. In this paper therefore, we are going to define entrepreneurship as the process of applying business ideas and innovations to the creation and managing a successful enterprise aimed at filling a gap in need, personal satisfaction, independence and, profit maximization.

Unemployment

Many scholars have given various definitions of unemployment but for the purpose of this paper, we are going to give a few samples here. Hence, Udu & Agu (2005) as cited by Kayode, Arome & Anyio (2016) see unemployment as a situation in which capable and willing persons are unable to find suitable paid jobs. Feyisetan (1991) sees it as a set of people of a country who are willing and are able to make themselves available at any given point in time, their efforts for gainful employment. Pettinger (2010) defines unemployment as a situation where a person of working age is not able to get a job but would like to be in full time employment. Amadeo (2005) sees it as the situation where people who do not have job, have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and are currently available for work. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) (n.d.):

> an unemployed person is a person aged 15 or above: without a job during a given week; available to start a job within the next two weeks; actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks or having already found a job that starts within the next three months".

(https://www.unsee.fr/en/metadonnees/definition/c1129)

Unemployment, therefore, is a term used to refer to the active labour forces who are without any job at all, and who are willing to work and actively searching for job at any given time.

Youth

Youths belong to the workforce of any nation. Youths are the most active segment of the population of a nation. Most of the works on youth defined it in terms of age limit. The United Nations defines youth as persons of age range of 15-24 years. Citing the World Health Organization's report on violence and health, Ayinla & Ogunmeru (2018) categorized youths as persons between the ages of 10 and 29. The Nigerian Population Commission according to Osakwe (2013) sees youths as young persons between the ages of 18 and 24. The second National Youth Policy Document of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2009) defines youths as persons between the Ages of 18-35 years, male and female who are citizens of Nigeria.

Implicit from the above is that youths are persons who are between 18 years and 35 years of age in Nigeria. Youth is equally implied in the 1999 constitution of Nigeria, when it states that full age means the age of eighteen and above and any woman who is married shall as well be deemed to be of full age. We can therefore, deduce from the above that the official youth bracket in Nigeria is young men and women between the ages of 18 and 35. These are the most active and productive age in any society. This group of men and women are expected to channel their energy in productive activities for the betterment of the society.

Consequently, youth unemployment refers to a situation where young men and women between the age of 18 and 35 years are willing and searching for job but could not find any.

Research Method

This paper is essentially a qualitative work. Therefore, the method used in gathering data for the paper is the library research method. This is based on secondary sources of data. It does not involve the collection of primary data (Agbonifoh & Yomere, 1999). As a qualitative work, it applies non-statistically based data which nevertheless can be empirically studied (Obasi, 1999).

The secondary data were gathered from books, journals, magazines, newspapers, internet and internet materials; which were the original works of the authors. The works were selected based on their relatedness to the topic of study. And as a qualitative work, we carefully analyzed the works to avoid superficiality, so as to achieve scientific objectivity in the work.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted in this paper is the Economic Theory of Entrepreneurship. The forerunners of this theory include: Richard Cantillon, Jean Baptist Say, John Satuart Mill, Carl Menger, Frank Knight, Frederic Barnard Howley Alfred Marshall, Nicolas Bandean and Jacques Turgot. The economic theory believes that the economy is in one way or the other affected by entrepreneurship. The theorists revealed that entrepreneurship and economic growth will take place where economic conditions are in favour of the business environment (https://ncfeindia.org/theories-of-entrepreneursip/Toc86777677) They argue that economic incentives are the main forces for entrepreneurial activities in any country. Many factors encourage or discourage entrepreneurship in a country. Such factors include:

a. availability of credit facility in a country

b. high capital formation with a good flow of savings and investments.

c. supply of loanable funds with a lower rate of interest

d. increased demand for consumer goods and services

e. availability of productive resources

f. efficient economic policies like fiscal and monetary policies

g. infrastructural facilities.

According to Cantillon, an entrepreneur acts as both producer and exchanger. His action highly affects the supply chain of raw products being collected, to become an end product for consumer. This can only become possible where the economic conditions for businesses are favourable.

Relating the theory to the Nigeria situation, one sees a harsh business environment where no business can survive with ease. It has been argued that Nigeria is richly blessed with abundant human and material resources, but the question that has kept agitating progressive individuals is: why have these resources not launched Nigeria into prosperity? Many individuals have established skills acquisition programmes as foundation to equip young people with necessary skills for self reliance but these have not yielded the necessary results. The governments at various levels have introduced various programmes to stem the tide of Youth unemployment in the country to no avail.

It is believed that entrepreneurship still holds the key to economic growth and development. Nigeria must clear all obstacles to entrepreneurship if the country hopes to reduce youth unemployment to the barest minimum in the nearest future.

Entrepreneurship Programmes in Nigeria

Skills acquisition, innovation and invention are keys to entrepreneurship. This section examines entrepreneurship programme in Nigeria. It is important to note that the government of Nigeria does not have established skill acquisition centers where people can learn necessary skills. However the government through its agency such as National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) organize skill acquisition progammes for the youths to equip them with vocational skills for self-employment. Besides, the government through its various agencies such as the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), World Bank, Non-governmental Organizations and even private philanthropists has made efforts to equip young Nigerians with basic skills for self-employment (Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], 2012).

Government had in the time past made efforts towards employment generation through agriculture but to no avail. The introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), as a means of rescuing the Nigerian economy in the mid 80s paid little attention to the employment or unemployment impact (Adetunji, 2021). The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was later set up as a complementary policy to ameliorate the painful effect of SAP (Adetunji, 2021). In 2007/2008 academic session, the Federal Government made entrepreneurship studies a General Studies (GS) course and compulsory for all students with the aim of equipping the students with requisite skills for self-employment in the face of lack of employment opportunities in the country.

However, the unemployment situation in Nigeria has worsened in more recent time, accentuated by the global economic decline since 2015 arising from the fall in oil price which is Nigeria's major export product (Adetunji, 2021). Nigeria eventually entered into recession in the second quarter of 2016 leading to more job losses. As the

economy was struggling to pick up gradually between 2017 and 2019, the Covid-19 broke out with its negative effects on small businesses and job creation. The government through the CBN had between 2006 and 2008 initiated and supported Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs), launched the Microfinance Policy, Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Nigeria, The NYSC Sensitization, Venture Prize Competition and NYSC Entrepreneurship Training Programme, to help empower the youths (CBN, 2012). The government has also initiated programmes with the aim of empowering youths with skills aimed at job creation. Such programmes include: Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (You WIN), Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria (YISA), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), African Youth Empowerment Nigeria (AYEN), Youth Entrepreneur Support Programme (YES-P) and the N-Power Empowerment Scheme (Omeje, Mba & Ugwu, 2020).

Some of the Entrepreneurship programmes initiated by NGOs and some philanthropists include: Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI), Diamond-Crest for Youth Education Initiative, Tony Elumelu Foundation for Entrepreneurship in Africa, New Era Foundation, Youth for Technology Foundation, LEAP Africa etc (Omeje, Mba, & Ugwu, 2020).

The above programmes were aimed at skills acquisition, job creation, poverty reduction, income generation both to the government and the individual thereby leading to general economic growth and development in the country.

Entrepreneurship as Panacea for Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

It is generally believed that Entrepreneurship programmes have great potentials for job creation and reduction of unemployment in any nation. Writing in the view of Andow (2010) and Alabi, Bahal and Alanana (2014), Alabi and Abdulmumin (n.d.) argues that past studies have shown that Entrepreneurship especially among youths has been an antidote to joblessness and general underdevelopment. Kalagbo and Harry (2019, p.63) argues that the drive towards youth Entrepreneurship is anchored on the belief that it will make good number of youths create jobs for themselves and also employ other. The entrepreneurs according to them move to create new enterprises rather than seeking employment in existing enterprises.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2021) in the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP) 2021-2024, reiterated that economic growth in Nigeria in recent years has not resulted in a rapid poverty reduction or sufficient decent job creation for the young and rapidly growing labour force. A study by the FRN (2021) revealed that 37 percent of young people think that funding for a business or having the right training to know how to start a business are most important to obtain a decent job. The government has mapped out policy and institutional framework for economic recovery and employment creation. Such policy and institutional framework include:

1. Economic Recovery and Growth plan which aims at creating jobs by developing labour-intensive sectors (such as agriculture, manufacturing, housing and construction), continuing and extending existing public works programmes and encouraging private sector participation in the economy. It is also intended to foster infrastructure development in sectors with the capacity to create demand for labour, particularly local labour. It sets to sustain N-Power programme and support small and medium-sized enterprises in maximizing their potential for employment creation (FRN, 2021 p. 18).

2. National Employment Policy aims at creating enabling environment for productivity and employment-intensive growth in Nigeria and outlines strategies for the creation of decent work, transforming agriculture, providing and maintain physical infrastructure and improving access to markets and credit facilities for business, provide incentives to private sector for investing in skills development, employment and production. It focuses more on government intervention for employment generation, particularly in Agriculture and demand-driven skills acquisition. In order to implement the NEP, the government has constituted a body: The National Employment Council (NEC) which included a wide variety of stakeholders including the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development (FMYSD).

3. The National Youth Policy aims to provide appropriate framework that protects the fundamental human rights of all youths, promote their optimal development and well-being, and enhance their participation in every sphere of national development process. The policy focuses on a number of strategic thrusts including: productive workforce and sustainable economic engagement of youths; participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all youths, promotive and protective environment for youth development among others.

4. The National Policy on Labour Migration focuses on skills development aimed at improving employability both in Nigeria and aboard.

5. The National Social Protection Policy intends to provide a framework for promoting social justice, equity and inclusive growth. The policy intends to among other things, provide support for sustainable livelihood through skills training, access to land and input for smallholder farmers, affirmative action for youth and women's employment. (FRN, 2021 pp. 18-19).

All the programmes and policies discussed above are sound and wonderful and are capable of achieving the desired results. But the question one may ask is why have these programmes and policies not been able to lead to significant reduction of youth unemployment in the country? The above question will be addressed in the next section which we now turn on.

Entrepreneurship Programmes as Panacea for Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

The role of Entrepreneurship in the socio-economic development of any nation has been acknowledged by both the governments and development experts all over the world. According to Alabi and Abdulmumin (n.d): entrepreneurship *"is central to the progress of any nation given its contributions to the economy by creating jobs and generating employment, increasing productivity, creating wealth and value added to sustain growth and overall society growth"* (p.132). For Okoye-Nebo, Iloanya and Udunze (2014), the problems and challenges to entrepreneurship notwithstanding, it possesses great potentials for employment generation; contribute to economic growth and development regardless of the constraints and difficulties in their operating environment.

Youths comprise of young men and women between 18-35 years of age in Nigeria. This age bracket is seen as the most active and productive age in any society. Unfortunately, this age brackets are hit by the inability to get paid employment and inability to create job for themselves. As the population of the youths in Nigeria keeps growing, unemployment is also growing. The introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme in 1986 resulted into collapse of many teething domestic firms resulting in loss of many jobs (Onwuka, Ugwu, Chukwuma & Chijioke, 2015). Studies have shown steady increase in unemployment rate in the country since 1986. Consequently, report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), shows that the rate of youth unemployment, has increased from 50.80 percent to 53.40 percent in the last quarter of 2020 (https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/youth-unemployment-rate). Studies have also shown steady increase in general unemployment rate in Nigeria. In the last quarter of 2020, it increased from 27.10 to 33.30 percent while youth unemployment stood at 53.40% at the same period (https://tradingeconomics.com/Nigeria). Agusto & Co a credit rating agency had reported that the unemployment rate has risen from 33.3% to 35% in 2022. It is noteworthy that 33.30% rate and 53.40% rate for youths rate is 2020 reports of the NBS. When put together the number of graduates from 2020 to 2022 and the effect of covid-19 on job loss, it is understandable that the rate must have increased within two years considering the weakness of the economy in job creation.

Despite the existence of various entrepreneurship programmes by both the government and some individuals which were aimed at creating job for the teeming youths, unemployment continues to soar in the country. Nevertheless, many scholars have identified the following as the causes of unemployment in Nigeria:

1. rapidly growing urban labour force arising from rural-urban migration.
2. rapid population growth
3. obsolete school curricula and lack of employable skills
4. rapid expansion of the educational system resulting in increased supply of educated manpower above corresponding demand for them
5. continued collapse of existing industries and non-existence of new ones to absorb the unemployed youths
6. corruption among public office holders
7. misplaced priority among policy makers
8. lack of innovative ideas
9. low infrastructural facilities
10. over dependence on oil by the state
11. tribalism and favouritism
12. low investment in entrepreneurship development (Okoye-nebo, Iloanya & Udunze 2014; & Ayinla & Ogunmeru, 2018).

Nevertheless, the study conducted by Kalagbor and Harry (2019) found that YEDP and YISA made numerous efforts at entrepreneurship development and employment but that such efforts have not produced the desired results in the areas of entrepreneurship development and employment generation.

Over the years, entrepreneurship in Nigeria has faced a lot of challenges. Some authors have identified lack of or inadequate capital, infrastructure, inadequate and poorly trained manpower and corruption as the major challenges to entrepreneurship in Nigeria (Omeodu & Owaba, 2020; Omozuawo & Ugheoke, 2020; Onwuchekwa & Ahamefula, 2020; & Akuaka & Leonard 2020). Onwuchekwa and Ahamefula (2020) further identified the non-challant attitude of students towards entrepreneurship education as another challenge worthy of further explanation here. Students do not see the entrepreneurship education beyond a requirement for the award of certificate just like any other course. In some schools, there is non-existence of entrepreneurship training centers. Entrepreneurship education ends in the classroom. No skill acquisition centre to demonstrate and acquire the basic skills needed for self-employment. Even when some schools have the skill acquisition centers, they do not have the facilities needed. They build the center for their accreditation purposes, not necessarily for their students to learn the basic skills for self-employment. This is consequent upon the over emphasis on paper certificate in the country.

Another challenge that the present writer has found is greed and craving for wealth. Nigeria is steeped in get-rich-quick syndrome. The youths in Nigeria are trapped in the get-rich-quick mentality. This has led the youths into committing all kinds of online crimes popularly known as Yahoo Yahoo and ritual killings. There have been several cases on the media of young men of between 15 and 20 years of age killing their girl friends for money rituals. It is a common occurrence in our cities today of young men between the ages of 15 and 30 years driving exotic cars worth millions of naira without any job or business doing. Yahoo yahoo has become a big industrial sector in Nigeria engaging millions of Nigerian Youths with all kinds of cyber crimes. Some youths with skills are even leaving their jobs to join the yahoo yahoo business. There have been unconfirmed reports of bankers resigning their jobs to join the yahoo business.

The yahoo yahoo industry has shifted away the minds of Nigerian youth from skill acquisition for self-reliance to various kinds of crimes and criminalities in order to get-rich-quick. It is now well known that many Nigerian youths have no job and yet are not looking for any. This makes it more difficult to assertion an accurate rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This paper has once examined entrepreneurship programmes as panacea for youth unemployment in Nigeria. The paper started with an introduction in which the basic concepts in the paper: entrepreneurship, unemployment and youth were clarified. The findings of the paper revealed that unemployment in Nigeria started with the introduction of cash economy in the country. The paper also found that since independence Nigeria has continued to face the problem of unemployment. The finding of the paper also shows that the government has sought solutions through agriculture but the effect of rural-urban migration has hindered such effort. The paper also shows that the period of oil boom provided ample opportunity for diversification of the economy especially in the area of industrialization, but Nigerian leaders did not see the opportunity and did not do what was needful.

As the unemployment rate has continued to grow intractable the government sees solution in entrepreneurship. This study aligns with previous studies that hold that entrepreneurship holds the key to employment generation and individual self-sufficiency.

Nevertheless, infrastructure, corruption, inadequate capital and manpower have been identified as challenges to entrepreneurship in Nigeria. In addition to the above and many other problems, this paper has identified greed and "get-rich-quick syndrome" as the major obstacles to entrepreneurship in the present period. The paper therefore concludes that regardless of the obstacle entrepreneurships still holds the key to employment generation and solution to youth unemployment in the country. The paper also posits that entrepreneurship programmes can be a panacea to youth unemployment if the following recommendations are followed:

1. Agriculture holds the key to the development of Nigeria because Nigeria has enormous resources in agriculture. Therefore if the government hopes to reduce youth unemployment through agriculture, the government must checkmate rural-urban migration by providing infrastructures at the rural area especially electricity, water and accessible roads.

2. The government must tackle corruption head on and must be seen doing that physically and not on the pages of newspapers.

3. The government must ensure that recovered looted monies are used for tangible projects.

4. Greater attention should be paid to skills acquisition in the entrepreneurship studies in various schools instead of granting certificates to students without necessary skills.

5. Government should give apprenticeship scheme attention as this will go a long way to empower young people to be self-sufficient. Only those with certificate of proficiency should work for any government department or ministry.

6. The menace of online fraud should be seriously tackled. Yahoo yahoo has become a bi g industry in Nigeria and young people pay more attention to the menace than skill acquisition because it gives them quick money. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), shows almost on weekly bases hundreds of young people arrested for fraud but have never shown any of them prosecuted and punished. The only thing that the EFCC does is to confiscate their cars, money and property and let them go without appropriate punishment according to law. What the EFCC does in what Nwabueze (2016, p.145) referred to as *"a case of the authorised thief-catchers joining in stealing the recovered money"* because such recovered property are never accounted for to the government.

7. Access to credit should be made simple and easy so that young people with skill will be able to obtain capital for takeoff of their ventures.

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