

**Entrepreneurship as a solution to unemployment in
our communities**

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5th November 2015

Entrepreneurship as a solution to unemployment in our communities

The rate of unemployment in our communities today had been on the increase over time and space. It has been a disease in our communities that when not treated and addressed, can spread like a wild wind. The dangers of unemployment cannot be over-emphasized. Unemployment has over the years drawn so many youths to lives that have endangered their goals and ambitions in life. As a result of unemployment amongst our youths in our communities, many have been drawn into drug abuse, prostitutions, arm robbery, impersonation during examinations, corruption, etc. I took a statistically analysis on the unemployment rate in our communities; basically Numan, Demsa and Lamurde Local Government Areas, and I see that it is increasing on an alarming rate. Whenever I go back to school and return, I make assessment of the number of groups of idle youths formed in my community usually called "Majalisa or Daba", I always find out that it is on the increase every time. Youths are drawn to sit in group chatting, gossiping and drinking than getting their selves engaged with one work or the other that will empower them.

Unemployment as defined by Wikipedia occurs when people are without work and actively seeking work. Emphasis has been attached to the fact that the major causes of unemployment in recent times include disruptive technologies and globalization. It is seen that work that should have been done by twenty (20) people is assigned to one computer to carry it out. Foreseeing the future then leave us with the analysis that people will be replaced by machines and technologies that will make so many people unemployed if we attach much interest to employment that will be provided by government ministries.

It is on this note that a solution is therefore needed to curtail this disease that is spreading like a wild wind in our communities today. But is again very unfortunate that the government both in the federal, state and local levels is not doing anything helpful to curtail such an epidemic called unemployment. Procrastination had always been the order of the day the lips of the politicians that job opportunities will be created for our youths. There are no proper strategies or programmes put in place to create employment opportunities in our communities. Over the years, the government have been able to create not more than 5,000 jobs for an alarming population of over 120million in Nigeria. It therefore leaves us on the brick that, it is one's individual effort and pursuit that makes him employed or unemployed. I was one day discussing with a colleague of mine, and he said unemployment is a thing of one's mind. You choose to be employed or unemployed. He told me that God has given you the brain to create wealth for yourself and your community. He has given you hands to work, which makes you employed (self-employment). God has given you legs to walk into your destiny with or without the government employing. God has made it clear in His word in the Holy Bible that: ***“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and [that] ye may have lack of nothing. 2 Thess 4:11-12.***

It is on this background that the universal antidote against unemployment comes into play in this essay – *Entrepreneurship*. Entrepreneurship has for long been neglected with the discovery of some raw materials in our communities today. People tend to turn their attentions to white collar jobs than them getting self-employed.

Entrepreneurship is a term that consists of two words: “entrepreneur” and “ship”.

Entrepreneur is defined as an individual who organizes or operates a business or businesses.

The point of emphasis here is “an individual” not necessarily “group of individuals”.

Entrepreneurship is the process of starting a business, typically a start-up company offering an innovative product, process or service.^[1] The entrepreneur perceives an opportunity and often exhibits biases in taking the decision to exploit the opportunity. The exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities includes design actions to develop a business plan, acquire the human, financial and other required resources, and to be responsible for its success or failure.^[2] Entrepreneurship may operate within an entrepreneurship ecosystem which includes government programs and services that support entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship resources (e.g., business incubators and seed accelerators), entrepreneurship education and training and financing (e.g., loans, venture capital financing, and grants).

Entrepreneurship makes possible self-empowerment which promotes self-reliance and further lead to community development through project executions. Entrepreneurship gives room for both educated and uneducated citizens of a society to be self employed. In communities such as ours where the production rate of goods and services is very low compared to places like Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Jos, etc, there is a need to employ entrepreneurship skills to be self employed. Not only is the production rate low but the number of ministries that offer jobs for employment. Hence, entrepreneurship is the answer to unemployment in communities like ours.

Just as seen from the definition given above, it deals with perceiving the opportunities and exploiting them. We cannot talk about entrepreneurship without bringing the idea of

business into our discussion. These are two words that you cannot separate from each other. Every entrepreneur is business oriented with the mind of buying and selling goods and services to maximize profit. The opportunities perceived as an entrepreneur is conceived in one's mind long before hand. Proper study of the environment one is in also helps identify the opportunities to be exploited. One cannot sell what one's community does not demand or need. You sell what your community wants and needs. That will defines your entrepreneurial skill.

I being a student of University of Maiduguri, a student of Computer Engineering saw the need in the school to establish a computer business centre to render computer services. This was done under proper feasibility study of the environment am in. Seeing to the fact that, the environment consist of students that need to photocopy handouts, type projects, laminate, spiral bind, print, repair their computers, etc.

In our community "The Numan Federation", there are so many things that one can be involved in to be self employed and be self empowered. The good thing about the idea of entrepreneurship is that it does not only affect the entrepreneur's life positively but also goes a long way to affect his/her community.

From the feasibility study carried out in my immediate communities: namely; Numan, Demsa and Lamurde, the following entrepreneurial activities can be carried out to help one to be self employed and self empowered. They include:

1. Agriculture: This include crop production, rearing of farm animals such as goats, sheep, cows, poultry farming, fish farming, etc.

2. Commercial Services: Barbing Saloon, Hair dressing, medicine store (commonly referred to as “chemist”), pure water business, sales of recharge card, computer centre business, etc.
3. Transport Services: “Keke Nape”, taxi (cab)
4. House rentals business
5. Training and education

All these entrepreneurial activities have better grounds to thrive through in the three communities mentioned above. Looking at the fertility of the soil in these areas that support crop production. You can imagine cultivating a hectare of land and getting like 150bags of maize or rice in these areas mentioned. Also, the climatic condition of these areas allow for poultry farming. A broiler for instance can be sold at the rate of 3000naira. When you multiple that price by about 1000 broilers, then you can imagine the income. These agricultural produce sell well in these areas based on the feasibility study carried out in these areas owing to the nature of festivities always taking place in these areas.

Flooding which is a natural phenomenon over the years had displaced settlements like Imburu, Zangun and other villages in these three communities. As such one can build rooms that he can rent out to such people to serve as a form of shelter pending the time their villages will be free of such flooding. Such villagers flux into the main towns to look for shelter, as such, such houses can be rented out to them.

Moreover, a recent entrepreneurial activity one can be employed in for self empowerment is the transport service business which has to do with “Keke Nape”. Getting such a machine with a daily return of 2000naira empowers you and get you self employed. People find it

difficult to walk under hot sun owing to the nature of the weather of these communities, hence, “Keke Nape” sells a lot in these communities.

The sources of finance for getting yourself self employed through these entrepreneurship activities include: personal savings, loans from friends and families, borrowing, grants, etc. All someone needs is a little capital that you can start something little. Before one knows, he/she will be thinking like Dangote, Bill Gates and the rest of the Billionaires being mentioned in the world.

Like I have mentioned earlier on, the words entrepreneurship and business cannot be separated, hence the need for one to have a good business plan that outlines the details of what the business is all about; the goods and services one intends to sell, the financing, sources of finance, the profit he/she expects to get at the end of the business.

It is on this note that I will like to say that, every individual in our community “the Numan Federation” be it a civil servant, a student, an applicant or whatever category you fall under should be involved in one or more entrepreneurial activities. Entrepreneurship is for the betterment of both the individual and his/her community at last. One being an entrepreneur can also become an employer of labour paying 10-20 people working under him. It was on this note that the YouWin programme was introduced under the just concluded administration to help solve the problem of mass unemployment among the teeming population in our communities today.

It is therefore a call to the “Numan Federation” to engage in one or more entrepreneurial activity for the betterment of our land. White collar jobs are no longer there for our

graduates, hence the need to be self-employed and be self empowered for that is the solution to unemployment.