



**COMPUTER AS AN ELECTRONIC PRODUCT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
USEFUL IN FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

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Abstract

Electronics, as an aspect of science and technology, has made it possible for the emergence of computers. Computers can be applied in entrepreneurship for economic empowerment. Entrepreneurship is really needed in Nigeria due to massive unemployment in the nation. The focus of this paper was for computer to serve as an essential electronic product of science and technology that can be applied in entrepreneurship to fight unemployment for economic empowerment in Nigeria. Issues discussed in the paper were: fighting unemployment in Nigeria through entrepreneurship; computer as an electronic product of science and technology; relevance of computer in ensuring economic empowerment. The paper explained that computers can boost entrepreneurship for economic empowerment because it can be utilized to: store information that can be retrieved, increase work productivity, offer educational value, and provide security. Recommendations and conclusion in the paper geared towards encouraging the use of computer in fostering entrepreneurship for economic empowerment in Nigeria.

Key Words: science and technology, electronics, computer, unemployment, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment

Introduction

Among the economic problems preventing Nigeria becoming a developed nation is unemployment. Unemployment is a disturbing situation because it leads to emotional instability and evil acts that can inhibit economic development. So, there is

urgent need to fight unemployment in Nigeria for economic empowerment of the masses. Economic empowerment is a situation by which one has means of generating income to handle financial needs for a happy living. A means of ensuring economic empowerment through fighting



of unemployment is embarking on entrepreneurship for it enables one to be self-employed and become a 'job creator' and not a 'job-seeker'.

Simply stated, entrepreneurship is creation of business in form of self-employed job for obtaining of money. Ezeife (2021) and Amechi (2017) viewed entrepreneurship as a means of providing employment and income generation in the country and the remedy to poverty reduction and pathetic unemployment situation. Effiom (2017) stated that operationally, entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of a person or persons to acquire educational skills to explore and exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage a successful business enterprise.

Entrepreneurship can be fostered through the application of science and technology. Effiom (2017) emphasized that in this period characterized by science and technology, entrepreneurial skill development is hinged on science and technology. Science and technology is concerned with understanding of natural phenomenon and the use of the knowledge obtained for provision of products or services that can make human environment become more pleasant and comfortable for living. Among the popular field of science and technology existing in this 21st century is electronics. A prominent product of electronics is computer. Thus, the use of computer can serve as a scientific and technological means to enhance entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

The paper discusses on the value of computer in fostering entrepreneurship for fighting unemployment to ensure economic empowerment in Nigeria. Issues the paper looks at are fighting unemployment in Nigeria through entrepreneurship, computer as an electronic product of science and technology, relevance of computer in ensuring economic empowerment.

Fighting Unemployment in Nigeria through Entrepreneurship

It is worrisome that a lot of people in Nigeria, especially the youths that graduated from tertiary institutions, do not have means of getting income because they are unemployed in government or private organizations. Nigeria Millennium Development Goals Report of 2013 has it that two-third of Nigerians are living in poverty and unemployment rate is 37.70 percent, which ranked Nigeria among the countries with the worst youth unemployment record in sub-saharan Africa (Ogbogu, Okagbare and Oluwatobi, 2017). Unemployment is an undesirable situation that leads to emotional disturbances and existence of social vices like prostitution, duping, kidnapping, robbery and killing that can retard social and economic development of a nation. Unemployment is a serious economic challenge in Nigeria for it has subjected a lot of people to suffering. Onyishi (2015) pointed out that unemployment could lead to frustration which could subsequently lead to suicide if the situation persists and could cause a graduate who is idle engage in armed



robbery or prostitution on the basis that an idle mind is a devil's workshop.

To fight the menace of unemployment for actualization of economic empowerment, there is need to encourage entrepreneurship. Fostering entrepreneurship is a means of empowerment for self-reliance, which is essential for development (Ezeife & Amechi, 2021). According to Nwosu, Nnabuenyi and Igwe (2015), entrepreneurship borders on self-reliance for it is establishment of business in which one works as self-employed person for the purpose of making a living and solving people's needs. Entrepreneurship is concern with the willingness and the risk-taking attitude that is demonstrated in a creative performance; hence, it involves innovation, creativity and intellectual building-up of innovative ideas (Nwagbara, Ogudo & Ukaegbu, 2019). Oviawe in Ezeife and Amechi (2021) acknowledged that entrepreneurship is important in ameliorating some socio-economic problems especially poverty, unemployment and all sorts of social vices in the society.

It is greatly expected that in this period of seeking economic empowerment, Nigerians, especially the youths, should place great value in entrepreneurship since it enables one become a job creator and then avoid being a job seeker. Nwosu, Nnabuenyi and Igwe (2015) believed that time has come for Nigerians to build strong orientation towards entrepreneurship by focusing on being job creators than being job seekers. Matching towards

entrepreneurship for actualization of economic empowerment can be done by applying electronics,

Computer as an Electronic Product of Science and Technology

In this 21st century, a field of science and technology that has greatly revolutionized human activities is electronics. Chiwetalu in Nnabuenyi and Nzekwe (2019) stated that electronics is concerned with the study, design, construction and application of devices, whose operations are based on the conduction of electricity in vacuum (vacua), or gases or semiconductors. Pitt in Ezeilo, Chijioke and Nzekwe (2013) pointed out that modern electronics is principally concerned with semi-conductor devices; vacuum and gas-filled devices are rapidly becoming obsolete, apart from a few specialized uses. Nnabuenyi and Nzekwe (2019) noted that almost all of modern technology involves the use of electronics; and electronics bring about production of systems like telephone, computer, television, digital clock, photocopier, calculator, video machine, audio amplifier, etc that has helped in the development of human society.

Among the products of electronics that are mostly used in this modern era is computer. Computer consists of hardware and software components. The hardware component is the physical electrical circuits that make up the computer while the software component is the program containing set of logical instructions that manages operations in the computer. Computer can be seen as an electronic



device that receive data as input, and then processes the data very fast to give out result as the output. Ohayagha in Amechi and Nwosu (2017) view computer as a device with high-speed electronic brain that accepts, analyzes, synthesizes and generates information by an operator.

Computer has technological features that enables it operate in such a manner to reduce stress and difficulty in work in almost every aspect of human activities. Nwosu (2016) acknowledged that computer is a vital electronic device that has certain features of technological value: provision of accurate results, possession of high operational speed, high memory capacity for storage of data and information, flexibility in modification of data and information, maintenance of reliability in its operation, ability to handle complex tasks, performance of neat job, wide utilization in human endeavor. Sadiq, Nnebe and Momodu in Nwosu (2016) noted that computer is useful in human endeavour for it is a machine used for fast generation, calculation as well as storage of information; and its invention serves as a useful assistance to manual labour since it quickens data processing activities or functions. It should be known that existence of computer brought about the emergence of the Internet (concerned with information technology) that enables global communication. Based on the technological value of computer, as an electronic device, it can be applied for economic empowerment in Nigeria.

Relevance of Computer in Ensuring Economic Empowerment

In this modern era characterize with some advancement in science and technology, revolution of human activities has occurred through the use of computer. Computer can be valuable in ensuring economic empowerment by its application in boosting entrepreneurship. Computer is a prominent aspect of electronics that can foster economic empowerment, through entrepreneurship, for it can: store information that can be retrieved, increase work productivity, offer educational value, provide security,

Entrepreneurship, just as any other human activity, function with information. Some of the information obtained can be stored in the computer, as an electronic device with high memory capacity, and later be retrieved for effective and efficient operations in the business enterprise. Computer can enable the creation of website, as seen in information technology, with the use of the Internet for storage of information that can boost entrepreneurship in a business organization. With a secured website, documentation can be made in the Internet such that vital records and information lost or destroyed in an organization can be retrieved for continuous operations in the organization (Nwosu, 2016).

Entrepreneurship demands high productivity. Productivity is the output resulting from a given resource input at a given time (Nwachukwu, cited in Amechi & Nwosu, 2017). Productivity is high when



there is economy of time and energy by performing a task in a short time with less energy (Nwosu, 2016). Computer can enhance productivity in entrepreneurship for it works, to produce accurate output, in such a manner to save time and energy. Thus, entrepreneurial works which are stressful and difficult can be handled with ease in a short time using the computer, thereby increasing productivity in the business enterprise aimed at ensuring economic empowerment. Ekemeziein Ezeife and Amechi (2021) asserted that the purpose of computer system is to speed up problem solving and increase productivity. Computer can also serve as a means for enhancement of productivity in entrepreneurship through the use of the Internet as the largest computer network in the world for global communication. Internet has facilities (such as online phoning, e-mail, zoom) for fast and cheap means of global communication that can increase productivity by dismantling distance and boundaries in communication.

Computer can be applied in encouraging education relevant to acquisition of knowledge and skills pertaining to economic empowerment. Nnabuenyi and Nzekwe (2019) acknowledged that computer can be used for practical learning and intellectual development. It is possible to have software packages pertaining to entrepreneurship installed in the computer for imparting and acquiring entrepreneurial knowledge and skills that can lead to economic empowerment. Entrepreneurial knowledge and skills can also be obtained using the computer by browsing on the

Internet. Nwosu, Nnabuenyi and Igwe (2015) observed that communication of technological knowledge and skills from any part of the world is possible using the Internet.

Computer can offer security value in achieving economic empowerment through its use in protecting human and material resources concerned with entrepreneurship. It is possible to build a computerized electronic security system that can be employed in a business enterprise to dictate the unauthorized presence of an intruder or a criminal for necessary security action. The use of Internet as a communication medium can offer security value that can enhance entrepreneurship. Using the Internet can help reduce transportation hazards because one can be in an office or home and do transactions in the Internet without moving far, thereby avoiding transportation risks or dangers (Ezeilo, Chijioke & Nzekwe, 2013). Computer can provide security value by providing some jobs to enable one become an entrepreneur and then avoid idle mind that can lead to acts that can be threatening and injurious to actualization of economic empowerment in human society. One can embark on entrepreneurship by working as a computer operator, computer scientist/programmer, computer engineer/technologist or technician, computer tutor, consultant in computer-based activities, vendor of computerized products, or manager in computer-based organization (Ezeife & Amechi, 2021).



Conclusion

A serious economic problem that militates against national development in Nigeria is massive unemployment being experienced mostly by great number of youths with higher education. Unemployment, which denotes jobless situation, can lead to committing of various evils and illegalities that negatively affect national development. Nigeria as a developing nation should greatly engage in developmental strategies that will usher in economic empowerment of the masses for national development. So, it is pertinent to map out a strategy to fight unemployment in Nigeria for economic empowerment of the populace. Fighting unemployment can be done by encouraging entrepreneurship that will in turn foster economic empowerment.

In this 21st century characterized with applications of science and technology, computer can serve as a useful electronic device that can be utilized to boost entrepreneurship in Nigeria. In other words, computer can be employed as a product of electronics to ensure economic empowerment in this era of massive unemployment in Nigeria. Adequate use of computers will boost entrepreneurship for it has the potential to store information that can be retrieved, increase work productivity, offer educational value, and provide security. It will be appreciated if the government and citizens of Nigeria embrace a value system that encourages the use of computer in fostering entrepreneurship.

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