

**A PAPER**

**PRESENTATION ON THE ECONOMIC /INVESTMENT  
SEMINAR FOR ASANG YOUTH AND WOMEN**

**ON THE TOPIC:**

**SKILLS ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article elucidate on the need for youth and women of Asang Nsit Area to acquire skills and entrepreneurship as a panacea to wealth creation and unemployment. The paper defined terminologies such as skills (b) Acquisition and entrepreneurship, it highlight the purpose of skills acquisition and entrepreneurship among youth and women. Looking at vocational training, it's objective and impediments. Lastly, the write-up concluded by elaborating some angles for improving skills acquisition and make recommendations on the way forward.

**Keywords:** Vocational Skills, Poverty Eradication, Youth Empowerment and Wealth Creation. – Asang Nsit Area.

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## 01. INTRODUCTION

The quest for skills acquisition and entrepreneurship is important and necessary for the development of youth and women of Akwa Ibom State, Nsit Ibom L.G.A. in general and Asang Nsit Area in particular.

Wait a minute, **what are skills?** According to Oxford advanced Learner's dictionary of current English by A.S. Horn by: Defined skills as the ability to use one's knowledge effectively and readily in execution of performance; technical expertise's, a power or habit of doing a particular thing competently, hence maximum skills acquisition involves that ability to perform any given tasks with ease, competently and expertly without much stress and sweat.

**Acquisition?** This is the act of acquiring; gaining.

**Entrepreneurship:** Ability to organized and manages a commercial undertaking.

**Again who is Youth?** The term Youth is the time of life when the individual is young especially the period between childhood and maturity. The word youth, adolescent, teenage and young persons are usually used interchangeably. Youth as a special group of people with strong stamina and passion for realizing some goals and purpose.

In Nigeria the National youth development policy refers to all young persons of age 18- 40 years as youth, this category is present in most cultures, the most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population, socio- economically, emotionally and in other aspects, the youth share certain characteristics that distinguish them from other generation.

These characteristics include:

- a) Impatience for change – wants their stuff Now,
- b) Zealousness – energy, enthusiasm, greats
- c) Rebellions - Behaviour, not easily controlled
- d) Curiosity - Eager to know, dispartate about future
- e) Hardwork - Energetic
- f) Ego and ambition
- g) Radicalism – certain beliefs and policy

The youth being the engine room of the society can be engaged on national development if their mindsets are channeled in the right direction.

## **02. History**

It is common knowledge that 80% of graduates in most Nigeria universities find it hard or difficult to get employment every year, this is largely due to the curricula of the universities and other tertiary school with emphasis on training for white collar-job. Nigeria has an estimated population of 170 million people. (NPC) 2004.

This population is endowed with abundant human and natural resources and a favourable geographical location in the world map. Nigeria like other developing countries is faced with a number of problems ranging from youth and graduate unemployment, high level of poverty, insurgency, conflict and diseases, insincerity, over dependency on foreign made goods, low economic growth

development, lack of capacity and required skills to move the economy forward and urbanization, etc.

The national population commission (2013) are of the view that sixty four (64) million of the Nigeria youth are unemployed while one million six hundred thousand (1.6) million are under employed bringing the total number of youth population to eight (80) million representing youth population. When this percentage is deducted from the total population of Nigerian then you would agree with me that repositioning entrepreneurship education in our schools and community would salvage this gap as it were against the white collar job ambition. Consequently, National Directorate of Employment (NDE) policy document (2009) states that the skills acquisition activities should be centred on the trainee in order for them to acquired maximum skills for self development and fulfillment in the labour market. Regrettably, due to some barriers, the level of practical skills acquired by these trainees compared with the demands of labour market and technological advancement is very low. This explains why most employers of labour in the state believed that the project of these trade men are half-baked.

Worst still, these graduate trainee too are unable to establish their entrepreneurial skills ventures because they would not be able to put into practice what they learnt over time.

### **03. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this paper is to examine the role of skills acquisition and entrepreneurship amongst youth and woman, however, the specific objective are:-

- i. To examine whether skills acquisition by youth and women would have any impact in empowering them.
- ii. To evaluate the existing institutional arrangements by the government and non-governmental organization on their strategies for up-lifting the living standard of the youth and women of Nsit Ibom and Asang Nsit Area.
- iii. To see whether skills acquisition by the youth and women would stimulate income rising above critical minimum level.

### **04. Purpose of skills acquisition and entrepreneurship among youth women**

- i. It provides youth and women adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying great business opportunities.
- ii. Also offer functional trade to youth and women to enable them to be well empowered and self –reliant persons in their own right.
- iii. It reduce the high rate of poverty, insecurity and violence.

- iv. It incubate the spirit of perseverance in the youth which will enable them to persist in any business venture they may embark upon.
- v. Again, reduces rural-urban migration.
- vi. Create a smooth transition from tradition to modern industrial economy.

### **0.5 VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Entrepreneurship would hardly yield the needed desired result unless it is accompanied with skills acquisition and knowledge component, vocational skills therefore becomes indispensable for economic growth (Eg).

- a. Engineering:** The formal and informal sectors are responsible for vocational trainings and skills acquisition centres engaged in local engineering works.

The structure can be sub-divided into:

- a) Electrical/ Electronic works
- b) Mechanical / Auto-mechanics work
- c) Woodwork/Carpentry
- d) Welding and metal fabrication s
- e) Masonry and Architectural Draughtmanship
- f) Home economic services:
  - i. Tailoring and fashion designing
  - ii. Catering
  - iii. Bakery and confectionaries
  - iv. Cosmetology

- v. Craft making
- vi. Hair making and dressing

(g) Information and communication technology (ICT) etc.

Breakdown

Masonry and Architectural Draughtmanship

This category of sub-structure involve building technology and the art of architectural draughtmanship. Young men and women are trained under an experienced masons in building techniques. Modern buildings with its innovative and latest architectural designs required careful skills.

The informal or private sectors are not left out.

#### **b. An Architect**

Designed a building plan alongside it's elevations, These professional are ready to impact same to would be trainee.

**c. Quantity Surveyor:** Manage cost on construction; prepare bill of engineering measurement and quantities Control quality of materials brought to site, prepare valuation to contractors. Q.S. is known as a cost manager or consultant.

**d. Land Surveyor:** These men provides the co-ordinate, contours for measurement (i.e) length and breadth of a particular plot of land with beacons into paper alongside their dimension know or call a surveying plan.

**e. Town Planners:** There are professional vested with the technical knowledge of designing a layout, also ascertaining different angles and direct the proper positioning of building.

**f. Estate Surveyor:** They managed properties and put value on building after construction etc.

**g. Information and Communication Technology:** This is what is driving the economy today basically nothing that is done without the (ICT).

This can be sub-divided into:

- (a) Information management accessibility
- (b) Communication gadget – phones
- (c) Computer and the likes.

**h. Woodwork and Carpentry:**

Training workshop either owned by Govt.; organized private sectors or individuals are available in various types of woodworks and carpentry.

**j. Welding/Metal Fabrication:**

This is one of the fast growing structure of training in the state, welding work that either use electricity or gas are sited alongside mechanized and Auto mechanic workshops in both formal and informal sectors. Metal fabrication training receive a boost as a result of the criminal activities of some Nigerian, families and organizations had to use strong iron doors, windows and gates locally fabricated to provide strong security to their homes and organizations. Also some agricultural processing machines are also being locally made in the state.

**06 Note:**

Lack of skills acquisition and entrepreneurship has stire up poverty, many policies and programmes meant to eradicate or alleviate poverty, especially among youth and women have not being successful due to corruption,



inadequate finances, poor planning and poor administration of programme as well as lack of political will.

Government effort at reaching out to the rural communities and providing the enabling environment that would make them acquire skills so as to supplement their income has been at abysmal. This study is therefore undertaken to encourage the need for the youth and women to acquire vocational skills in various trades as a means of improving their quality of life.

### **07. Conclusion**

Skills acquisition and entrepreneurship has been clearly observed here as a vehicle to ride off the endemic problems of poverty, hunger and youth restiveness. When the youths are provided with the training in practice, they explore opportunities in their immediate environment instead of chasing shadows in the cities. The development of skills acquisition and entrepreneurship will go a long way in creating employment, give young people the opportunities to develop their enterprising skills, empowering the youths to be job creators and not job seekers through the provision of necessary skills and knowledge to raise their output, income and wealth. However, youth needs re-engineering in order to strategically reposition themselves as the true leader of tomorrow.

### **08. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) I strongly recommend sensitization on media, advocacy and grassroots mobilization of support for skills acquisition and

entrepreneurship programmes focus and funding together with the political will and stability on government policy thrusts.

- 2) Establishment of more skills acquisition and entrepreneurship centres where youth and women could go and acquire skills.
- 3) Guidance and counseling units should be put in place to create career awareness to the trainees.
- 4) Establishment of special scheme whereby interested youth and women can be supplied with take up equipment and loan to enable them start up their own skill acquisition and entrepreneurship centres.

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