

THE NEED FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN METAL WORK TRADE IN FEDERAL SCIENCE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BAYELSA STATE.

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ABSTRACT

The study was based on the need for entrepreneurship skill development in metal work trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State. Two research questions and one hypothesis was used in the study. The instrument for the study was a self structured questionnaire known as Availability of Entrepreneurship Programmes for General Metal Work Technology Students [AEPGMTS] and Instructors Interest on General Metal Work Technology Entrepreneurship Programmes [IIGMTEP]. The instruments were used for evaluating research question 1 and 2 respectively. A total of fourteen [14] items were used to answer questions in research question 1 and 2. The questionnaire items for research question 1 was a five point Likert Scale instrument consisting of highly available [HA], available [A], moderately available [MA], not available [NA] and undecided [UN] which are weighed as 5,4,3,2,1 respectively. Questionnaire items for research question 2 consist of a four point rating scale consisting of highly interested [HI], interested [I], not interested [NI] and undecided [UN] which are weighed as 4,3,2,1 respectively. The instruments were face validated by two experts from mechanical option in Technical Education department in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. . Split-halves method was used to obtain the data from the students. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to analyse data collected. The result yielded 0.92 and 0.95 respectively for AEPGMT and IIGMTEP items. The data were collected and analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions. The findings from research question 1 showed that entrepreneurship programmes are not available for students offering General Metal Work Trade. Also, instructors are highly interested in the introduction of entrepreneurship programmes in metal work trade. Finally it was recommended that NABTEB curriculum should include entrepreneurship courses that are related to Metal Work Trade.

KEYWORDS: General Metal Work Trade, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development.

INTRODUCTION

Technical workshops should be fully maximised and utilized for practical teaching of technology. Effective utilization of the workshop according to the personal opinion of the writer is when a workshop teacher makes a genuine and economic use of resources such as tools, machines and materials in order to achieve the objectives of his teaching i.e. the acquisition of skills by students [Ordu and Nwabudike, 2007]. Practical work [Odu, 2001] is necessary for the development of prescribed standards of performance of craft skills. It includes demonstration of physical actions and practical application of knowledge by the workshop teacher and students. Practical teaching of technology is essential for reinforcement of learning and the training of students to observe, discover and deduce for themselves. The over-riding requirement for practical is the ability of the teacher and the learner to be able to do the job rather than to talk about it only [Ordu and Nwabudike, 2007].

Skill acquisition is one of the surest ways through which young people [youths] can find ways to the labour market either in the public or private sector. Skill acquisition varies in nature and complexity according to the trade involved. Individuals who opt to vocational technical education should, among other things, possess qualities such as interest, ability, aptitude, patience, personality characteristics and other physical qualities that would enable them succeed in it [Ordu,2007]. He further stated that Nigeria's secondary school leavers do not have such skills because of the poor implementation of technical and vocational programmes in the school. So they could not be self-reliant neither could they be self-employed.

Entrepreneurship education is the means of instilling the qualities of entrepreneurship in people with the continued general activities of managers or what can be the purposeful activity of an individual, undertaken to initiate, maintain or organize, a profit oriented business unit for the production or distribution of economic goods and services [Omeje,2013]. Entrepreneurship creativity requires a paradigm shift and there are many techniques available to help the entrepreneur to see things in a different perspective, to come up with new ideas. Innovation involves implementing newly created ideas and the process can be classified as invention, extension, duplication and synthesis [Koroye, 2014]. Entrepreneurship programme is needed in most engineering profession to enable young technicians to effectively market their skill in the society.

In every programme of technology education, especially at the post-primary and post-secondary school levels, three-credit subjects, which may be titled 'Entrepreneurship' or small business management should be introduced and made compulsory for all technology education students [Ordu, 2007]. A successful programme, according to Nwaokolo [2003], will enable a student either get a job or create a job and employ others thus reducing unemployment and enhancing the per-capital income of Nigerians. The training for entrepreneurship, as Nwaokolo [2003] observed, must be in addition to the usual skills training in any of the technology areas. Some common technological trade offered in Nigerian technical schools are tractor system, motor vehicle mechanics works, automobile electrical works, electronic works, computer craft studies, general metal work, carpentry, furniture making and so on.

In general metalwork's, students are exposed to metal working tools, heat treatment process of metals, filling operations, welding operations and so on. Technical students exposed to these skill in metal work should be properly trained on how to produce perfect finished products to enable them excel in the labour market. It is however important that the introduction of entrepreneurship education does not disadvantage the manipulative skills loading of technology education syllabus [Ordu, 2007]. Therefore is the need for entrepreneurship skill development in metalwork trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study specifically seeks to;

1. Determine the entrepreneurship skill available for metal work trade students in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State.
2. Find out the interest of instructors on the introduction of entrepreneurship skill in metal work trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study;

1. What are the entrepreneurship skills available for metal work trade students in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State?
2. To what extent are instructors interested in the introduction of entrepreneurship skill in metal work trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to instructors in mechanical department in Federal Science Technical College, Tungbo, Bayelsa State. It is also limited to metal work trade.

METHODS

Simple survey research design was used in the study. The populations consist of 3 technical instructors in mechanical technology department in Federal Science Technical College, Tungbo, Bayelsa State. Federal Science Technical College, Tungbo, Bayelsa State is the only functional technical institution in the state. The entire populations were used as sample for the study. The instrument for the study was a self structured questionnaire known as Availability of Entrepreneurship Programmes for General Metal Work Technology Students [AEPGMTS] and Instructors Interest on General Metal Work Technology Entrepreneurship Programmes [IIGMTEP]. The instruments were used for evaluating research question 1 and 2 respectively. A total of fourteen [14] items were used to answer questions in research question 1 and 2. The questionnaire items for research question 1 was a five point Likert Scale instrument consisting of highly available [HA], available [A], moderately available [MA], not available [NA] and undecided[UN] which are weighed as 5,4,3,2,1 respectively. Questionnaire items for research question 2 consist of a four point rating scale consisting of highly interested [HI], interested [I], not interested [NI] and undecided [UN] which are weighed as 4,3,2,1 respectively. The instruments were face validated by two experts from mechanical option in Technical Education department in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. The experts checked the language content of the questions if it is in line with the curriculum need of General Metal Work Technology Programme. The researchers made some corrections observed by the experts before the final copy was produced for distribution. AEPGMT and IIGMTEP instruments were administered to instructors in mechanical unit of Vocational Education in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Split-halves method was used to obtain the data from the students. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was

used to analyse data collected. The result yielded 0.92 and 0.95 respectively for AEPGMT and IIGMTEP items. The questionnaires were administered and collected personally by the researchers. The entire questionnaire items were retrieved by the researchers. The data were collected and analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions. Mean value less than 3.50 was rejected. While mean value from 3.50 and above was accepted.

RESULTS

RESEARCH QUESTION1

What are the entrepreneurship skills available for metal work trade students in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State?

TABLE 1: Instructors response on the availability of entrepreneurship programme.

S/N O	ENTREPRENUER SHIP PROGRAMMES	H A 5	A 4	M A 3	N A 2	U N 1	N R	MEA N	STANDA RD DEVIATI ON	REMA RK
1	General metal work business trade.	-	-	1	2	-	3	2.3	2.4	Reject
2	Business communication.	-	-	-	2	1	3	1.7	3.0	Reject
3	Market development of metal work fabrication.	-	-	-	3	-	3	2.0	2.7	Reject
4	Establishment of small scale enterprise of fabricated metal work parts..	-	-	-	3	-	3	2.0	2.7	Reject
5	Business publicity.	-	-	-	3	-	3	2.0	2.7	Reject
6	Customer relationship.	-	-	-	3	-	3	2.0	2.7	Reject
7	Career development in General Metal Work Trade.	-	-	-	3	-	3	2.0	2.7	Reject

The result of table 1 revealed that items numbers 1 to 7 were all rejected to the various questions by the instructors. This is evident as the mean values of the various responses were below 3.50 decision rule.

RESEARCH QUESTION 2

To what extent are instructors interested in the introduction of entrepreneurship skill in metal work trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State?

TABLE 2: Instructors interest level on the introduction of entrepreneurship programme.

S/N	ENTREPRENEURS HIP PROGRAMME	H I 4	I 3 2	N I 2	U N 1	N R	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	REMARK
1	Business trade should be included in General Metal Work curriculum.	2	1	-	-	-	3.7	1.8	Accept
2	General Metal Work Business communication skill should be taught in the class.	2	1	-	-	-	3.7	1.8	Accept
3	General Metal Work market development should be included in the curriculum.	2	1	-	-	-	3.7	1.8	Accept
4	Students should be trained on how to start a small scale business enterprise in General Metal Work.	3	-	-	-	-	4.0	2.7	Accept
5	Business publicity should be taught in General Metal Work Technology class.	3	-	-	-	-	4.0	2.7	Accept
6	Customer relationship course should be included in General Metal Work curriculum.	3	-	-	-	-	4.0	2.7	Accept
7	Students should be taught on carrier development in General Metal Work Technology.	3	-	-	-	-	4.0	2.7	Accept

Table 2 revealed that responses on item number 1 to 7 were all accepted to the various questions. This is evident as the mean values of the various responses were above 3.50 decision rule.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following are the summary of findings of this study based on the data collected through the stated research question and hypothesis;

1. The result of table 1 of research question 1 revealed that items numbers 1 to 7 were all rejected to the various questions by the instructors. This indicates that entrepreneurship programmes are not available for General Metal Work students in

mechanical technology. This is in line with the statement of Jimah and Unuigbokhai, [2011] that youths and graduates from tertiary institutions are not equipped with the skills with which to exploit the natural resources that abound in Nigeria.

2. Table 2 of research question 2 revealed that responses on item number 1 to 7 were all accepted to the various questions. This indicates that there are high interest rates by instructors in the establishment of entrepreneurship programme in General Metal Work Technology.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study was based on the need for entrepreneurship skill development in metal work trade in Federal Science Technical College, Bayelsa State. The findings from research question 1 showed that entrepreneurship programmes are not available for students offering General Metal Work Trade. Also, instructors are highly interested in the introduction of entrepreneurship programmes in metal work trade. Finally it was recommended that NABTEB curriculum should include entrepreneurship courses that are related to Metal Work Trade.

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