

## THE ROLE OF ARABIC STUDIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

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### Abstract:

*Arabic studies skill was found to be contributory to entrepreneurial performance and as such entrepreneurs are advised to embark on capacity building in Arabic studies skill in the area of teaching and learning and Languages practicing. Entrepreneurs are agents and drivers of development in most economies of the world including Nigeria. The entrepreneur establishes his presence through the formation of a small and medium scale enterprise (SME). Arabic studies on its part, is of great importance to the development of small and medium scale enterprises. Arguably, Arabic studies is the core academic discipline that aids the entrepreneurial drive given the popular opinion that is the language of business. The objectives of this study is to examine the role of Arabic students on entrepreneurship education for self-reliance and sustainable development in Zamfara State. The study considered the Arabic studies as profession and the major role it plays in entrepreneurship development. It is the submission of the authors that entrepreneurs with basic Arabic knowledge and entrepreneurial skills stand better chances of becoming self-reliant and attaining business success. The paper recommends among other things that government should remove those obstacles that militate against entrepreneurial development in Zamfara State.*

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### Introduction:

Entrepreneurship started to gain ground in Zamfara State as a result of the prevalence of unemployment of our youths after schooling. Many of our youths who could not embark on higher education after secondary school cannot be absorbed for paid employment both by the government and the private sector. In the same manner, many graduates from the universities, after the one year compulsory National Youth services start searching for unavailable jobs.

It is obvious that the government cannot employ all the graduate job seekers, the only way to tackle this problem is to be self-reliant and job employers and not job seekers. The basic freedoms of capitalism, is the opportunity for private property. There are important group of individuals that play essential roles in capitalism these are the entrepreneurs, managers, workers and consumers. (Kanu and Nwaiwu2010).

The entrepreneurs in Zamfara state required Arabic skills for proper management of their business. In the words of Dambo, L (1994), for any small scale enterprise to be successful, owners of business must possess appropriate skills and abilities to run the business. It is therefore very important for entrepreneurs in Zamfara state to develop all necessary skills required including Arabic studies skills for setting and effective running of the enterprise in order to contribute meaningful to development and self-reliance of the state's economy. To succeed in today's competitive market as an entrepreneur, one needs a broad array of entrepreneurial skills. Also argued that entrepreneurial skills are those qualities or attributes required for an entrepreneur to start and successfully manage a business in a competitive environment. From the foregoing analysis, it becomes clear that business owners need to possess basic skills

necessary to start, develop, finance and market their business. It also implies that inability to install a proper system would disallow business monitoring reporting and performance evaluation that are required for business survival. Many entrepreneurs have failed in the past probably for ignoring this important measurement apparatus. (S. I. Owualah 1987).

This paper therefore focuses on the impact of Arabic studies skills on the performance of entrepreneurs in Zamfara State.

### **Problem of study:**

For any organization to function effectively including small business firms, it requires leadership and decision making. Unfortunately, many of our entrepreneurs fail to succeed because of neglect of Arabic studies skills. The problem of the study stresses on how can entrepreneurs enhance their performance without Arabic studies skills. This paper therefore proffers solution to the above problem

### **Purpose of the study:**

To determine how Arabic studies skills can improve entrepreneurship in Zamfara State.

### **Research Questions:**

How can Arabic studies skills improve the performance of entrepreneurs in Nigeria?

### **Hypothesis:**

Hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H<sub>0</sub>: Possession of a proper Arabic Students skill by entrepreneurs will not significantly improve their performance.

H<sub>i</sub>: Possession of a proper Arabic Students skills by entrepreneurs will significantly improve their Performance.

### **Review of related literature:**

Entrepreneurship stimulates economic development, thus contributing to the

transformation of the traditional sector into a modern one, creation of employment, reducing rural and urban migration and serving as a training ground for managerial skill acquisitions. Entrepreneurs are found in many small scale business. (Aljumairy, 2007). Schools promote for over 90% of the entrepreneurs in Egypt, small scale entrepreneurs in Sudan indexed and promoted for about 98.5% of the non-primary business establishments, employing 79.1% of the country's labour force and contributing 50.8% of the shipment". It is quite agreed that economic development is a factor of industrialization, characterized by increasing growth of Arabic schools enterprises (ASE). These ASE make valuable contributions to the economics of both youths and proprietors and gave more development to the countries. (Ayuba A, 2001).

### **Qualities and skills for entrepreneurial success:**

It takes certain qualities and skills to make a successful entrepreneur. A new venture is risky and will demand time and resources, both personal and professional, but with a strong inner drive and some of the qualities as advocated below by Fijo and Obi (2012), success is sure; an entrepreneur ought to be:

- Committed, determined and persevering.
- Confident, vision and driven.
- Creative and innovative.
- Willing to work hard.
- Able to handle responsibilities.
- Goal-oriented and self-confident.
- Action-oriented and good leader.
- Problem solver and self-reliant.
- Willing to take calculated risk.
- Realist and quick learner.
- Open to feedback. Etc.

Being a successful entrepreneur is not an easy task, itemizing what it takes to be an entrepreneur could be an inexcusable list. No matter the kind of entrepreneur,

entrepreneurial vision is very necessary. An entrepreneur must have a formal, written business plan, and must concentrate on his mission statement: that guides him or her adequately.

#### **Link between entrepreneurial and self-reliance:**

Entrepreneurship which involves recognizing a business opportunity, mobilizing resources and persisting to exploit that opportunity is a necessary ingredient for self-employment. Employment creation and the boosting of income opportunity are part of Zamfara state's top challenges today. The Federal Government Policies and strategies are now being geared to encourage and support the private sectors in generating growth in self-employment through the introduction of entrepreneurship development, if the government policies and strategies are properly implemented, our educational system will now produce graduates who will be job creators, rather than job seekers. Entrepreneurship prepares people to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities, and thus become self-Reliant. According to Medayese (2010), a self-reliant person is one who is self-employed, because self-employment is one of the keys to work out of poverty. The benefit of being self-reliant through entrepreneurship can never be over-emphasized because entrepreneurship is the backbone of many great and developed nations today, such as China, United states of America, Japan etc. Consequently, self-reliance cannot be achieved in an atmosphere where entrepreneurial activities are lacking, hence entrepreneurship is a strong acquisition programme that will help people of a community like Zamfara state become better and greater.

#### **Entrepreneurial education:**

Education can be described as the process by which knowledge, skills, values and desirable attitudes are transmitted to members of a society to enable them contribute meaningfully to its development and sustenance. Thus, education is seen as the bedrock of any national development. Entrepreneurship education according to Arogundade, B.B (2011), seeks to prepare people, especially youths, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs. The international Labour Organization (ILO), defined entrepreneurship education as a type of education that equips the responding to environmental challenges. It is heart-warming to note that the new National Policy on Education emphasizes entrepreneurship education.

#### **Objective of entrepreneurial education:**

Entrepreneurship education according to Paul (2005) is structured to achieve among others, the following objectives:

- To offer functional education to the youths that will enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant.
- To provide young graduates with adequate training that will enable them to be creative and innovative in identifying new business opportunities.
- To serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development.
- To reduce high rate of poverty.
- Reduction of rural migration.

#### **Small and Medium Skills Enterprises Scale (smes):**

**Small and medium skills enterprises:** are catalysts in the socio-economic development of any country. According to Onuoha (1997) the economic prosperity of Nigeria lies in the dynamism and growth of entrepreneurs. The catalytic roles of SMEs as indicated earlier, have been amply displaced in all the newly industrialized countries of

South East Asia, commonly referred to as Asian Tigers. The Federal Government of Nigeria has long recognized the need to promote the development of Small and medium skills enterprises in order to stimulate employment, mobilize local resources, reduce migration from rural to urban areas and disperse industrial enterprises more evenly across the country. This is why the government of Nigeria has established Entrepreneurship Units in all high institutions to promote SMEs. These efforts would promote the development of Small and medium skills enterprises in the country and would have yielded mixed results.

Today, the entrepreneurial skills in Zamfara state are faced with a myriad of challenges, which include.

- Harsh and unfriendly business environment.
- Insecurity and Lack of access to funds.
- Poor supervision on government policies.
- Poor management on Book-keeping.

#### **The Arabic Studies Profession/Skills:**

The Development consensus has emerged at a time when many Departments of Arabic are grappling with the root concerned to provide decent and productive work especially for their burgeoning graduates which are likely to be unemployed due to the high rates of economic crises, many departments have begun to explore entrepreneurial initiative as means to facilitate job creation and inclusive economic growth, however, many challenges impeded the Arabic student from reaching their full potential. (Muhammad G.W, personal communication, 2022).

The Arabic studies profession has been described as the backbone of our societal life. Business organizations in Pakistan use Arabic skills as information to plan

and control their activities and to report the results of these activities to shareholders, creditors, and even government agencies. Non-profit organizations such as Mosques, town unions and clubs also use Arabic studies skills as information for planning, conducting and reporting their activities. (Aliyu U. (2014)

Professionals speak the language of business as it records all transactions of organizations that have monetary implications. Thus Arabic language as a discipline involves the systematic gathering, classification, analysis, interpretation and transmission of information to assist users make economic decisions. (G.Umar, personal communication, 2022).

The profession of Arabic studies has helped several countries to build stronger and more stable economies. In fact the profession is empowered by Arabic readers and Arabic scholars' to build confidence on public trust.

In Zamfara state, the practice of Arabic studies skills is guided by the Arabic and Islamic Education Board (AIEB), Zamfara State Shariah Research and Development (ZSRD), Zakat and Endowment Board (ZEB), Colleges of Arabic Studies (CAS) and National Association of Teachers of Arabic and Islamic studies (NATAIS). (Y.A. Mafara, personal communication, October 3, 2022).

The Scholars of Arabic studies in Zamfara have two legally recognized bodies in the State. According to their research, the scholars of Arabic studies in Zamfara SASZ are devoted to such ethical issues as integrity, transparency and accountability under the supervision of Zamfara state Ministry for Religious affairs and Zamfara state Arabic and Islamic Education Board.

Arabic studies skills are the totality of skills ranging from integrity, attention of direction, financial management,

transparency, accountability and reporting skills that are expected to promote effective decision, good performance in evaluation. (Abdullahi A, 2009).

According to (Al-Jahiz 1059 AH) to be successful in any careers, graduates of Arabic studies need skills and abilities that beyond theoretical and technical knowledge, these should include communication skills, analytical skills and interpersonal skills, Arabic graduates are also expected to be able to receive and send information, identify and solve unstructured problems in unfamiliar issues and exercise judgment. Agbiogwu (2010) highlighted nine (9) common traits to entrepreneurs besides Arabic studies skills, these are as follows:

- Physical and mental stamina.
- A desire to take control of their own destiny.
- A competitive instinct.
- Resilience in the face of defeat.
- Good Judgment.
- Decisiveness.
- The ability to inspire others.
- An unfailing positive attitude.
- Great communication skills.

#### **Methodology:**

This paper focuses on the research, techniques adopted and used for the study with the aim of achieving the research objective. Survey research design is adopted in this study. This method was chosen because the sampled elements and the variables are being studied also, are simply being observed without making any attempt to control or manipulate them. Data were collected from a sample of entrepreneurs, Arabic Schools, Arabic Scholars and Arabic students as well as graduate of Arabic studies to determine the impact of Arabic studies skills on the performance of entrepreneurs in Zamfara state.

However, the study was restricted to Zamfara Municipal. Primary method of data collection was used in this study. It

consists of items in well-structured non-disguised questionnaire that was administered to and completed by the respondents. The respondents returned at least 130 questionnaires personally administered. Data collected were analyzed with the use of chi-square.

#### **Arabic studies skills:**

The learner of the Arabic studies, must learn the four skills that will undoubtedly help him to master the Arabic language or even any skills in a short time, as the studying of these articles make him able to know how to use the skills to monitor any aspect of his life, the skills are four: Listening skill, reading skill, writing skill and speaking skill. The Arabic students should learn these skills with each other at the same time apply it to any skills if he is able to do so. (Kamal B, 2006).

#### **Listening skills:**

This is the first skill that the Arabic students should start with. This is the first portal and the first entrance to understanding the concept of entrepreneurship. According to Ibn Khaldun, in his introduction about the skill of listening that it is the most important skill ever, the child cannot speak the language or learn any skill until he hears the language or idea from those around him. It is the real way to learn the language of any skills, because the difference between student's awareness depends on their interest in learning this skill. The student who keeps always on learning the listening skill in the language's skills as program or on television or the Internet or with a teacher is a student who learns the language or skill correctly and quickly.

#### **Reading skill:**

It is one of the important skills that the Arabic students must pay attention to. Reading is one of the most important means of transmitting knowledge, it has considered as one of the most important tools that conveys the science of any



skill. The more the student increases the skill of reading in whatever skills, the more he has knowledge and know more about the language of the skills. Reading enables the student of knowing the vocabulary and its meanings, and different language styles.(Yusuf Y, personal communication, Oct 6, 2022).

There are two types of reading: First: the silent reading: which depends on reading with the eye and mind only without pronunciation, and this is used by students or graduate in advanced level in learning the skills of studies and it will increase the goal of information and knowledge of proposed skills. The Second, is literal reading, skill teacher will pronounce the letters of the skill in a loud voice and then listen to the student and to correct the pronunciation, sounds, words and sentences. In any case both methods of reading are important to the Entrepreneurial skills.(Kamal, 2006).

#### **Writing skill:**

It is one of the most important skills that the teacher must care about, because through it he can know how the student expresses what he learned from vocabulary or sentences or culture of any skill in general. Through the Writing skill, the teacher can train the student on how to write letters in different forms and in different places, like the beginning, the middle and the end of the word. The student can learn through this skill punctuation and how to organize speech and sentences.

#### **Speaking skill:**

This is the fourth and final skill of the skills that must be learned by the student, which is one of the most important skills as specialists call it the fruitful skill so, it is undoubtedly that the biggest goal of any person wanted to learn a particular skills, especially the Entrepreneurial skills, is to speak as it is the first and most important goal in the study of Entrepreneurship. The teacher and the student as well must make the

studying of the conversation of order as a part in their Entrepreneurial plan. The conversation is the cornerstone in building the mastery of the any skill.

#### **Relevance Arabic Studies to Entrepreneurship Education and SME:**

The relevance of Arabic studies to entrepreneurs can be better appreciated when one considers its role in the community as discipline of individual management. These contributions are summarized hereunder:

- Arabic studies has been described as “the language of business” as it improve and guide all individual transactions and monitor organizations that have monetary implications.
- Arabic studies as skills provides proper information, on the basis of which business plan can be controlled as well as making and taking decisions.
- Arabic students are stronger in their perception of business, because they have basic Arabic studies skills as knowledge. According to Althalabiy, 188AH) has stated that, learning Arabic language is always increasing and wise in the mind.
- Arabic studies is of great importance in the life analysis and interpretation of future perception in order to assess soundness of the business.

From the foregoing, it is clear that Arabic studies has contributed and will continue to contribute to the enhancement and development of entrepreneurial skills as well as business success.

#### **Conclusion:**

Entrepreneurship is an agent of transformation with reference to creation of employment, reducing rural migration and serving as a training ground for managerial skill acquisition. Arabic studies skills are highly contributory to entrepreneurial

performance and is therefore required to be possessed by graduate of any discipline for effective development in Zamfara state in particular and Nigeria at large.

### Findings

The Research also recognized that, despite the problems and challenges. The Arabic studies have made great impact on changing the bad behaviors of the citizens. In the same vein, it has enhanced learning activities among people with emphasis on religious education. This includes the knowledge of the basic tenets of Islam and its practical devotional acts. Both the adults and the children have benefited from such educational services as well as local entrepreneurial skills services

### Recommendation:

This paper proffers the following recommendations;

- Entrepreneurs should embark on capacity building in Arabic studies skill in the area of entrepreneurial skills for better performance in economic development.
- Government at all levels should encourage entrepreneurship education and training for entrepreneurs.
- Government should make it mandatory for entrepreneurs to keep proper training for graduate of Arabic studies to prepare them for good performance on entrepreneurial skill.

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