
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as a developmental strategy of the Governments, has several benefits that can offer for more private investments in the critical areas of service delivery since government alone cannot provide everything in the face of limited resources. Technical, Vocational Education and Training in Nigeria will not be able to alleviate poverty, promote peace, conserve the environment, improve the quality of life for all and may not help in achieving sustainable industrial development. This paper highlights the benefits and the needs to improve public-private partnership (PPP) achievable through Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for sustainable industrial development of Nigeria. It is recommended that Government should enact laws and entrust all technical, vocational education and training programs with absolute funding and administrative freedom that will improve public-private partnership for Nigeria's industrial development.

Keywords: Public Private Partnership, TVET, Sustainable Development and Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Technical and Vocational education is all about work and training for work. It is an instrument for sustainable industrial development in Nigeria. One of the goals of Technical and vocational education as stated in the National Policy on Education (2004) is to give training and impart the necessary skills to individual who shall be self-reliant. Mohammed and Umar (2003) defined Technical and Vocational Education as that kind of education and training that equips beneficiaries at their work places or educational institutions with the basic scientific knowledge and practical skills for the organized productions provisions, distribution and maintenance of materials and physical services. Idialu (2007) assert that Technical and Vocational education is a

form of education, training or retraining which is directed towards developing the learner to become productive either in a paid or self-employment. Also Uwaifo (2010) opined that it is the type of training which is targeted at developing not only practical skills but also attitudes and habits that make the recipient creative, innovative and resourceful.

Based on the researcher's personal experience, the current global recession is affecting every aspect of human endeavor. This is because a depressed economy like ours in Nigeria is affecting the skills acquisition especially in terms of the vocational and technical education and training for its sustainable industrial development. Nigeria is facing very serious economic problems which are affecting its well-planned policies on technical and vocational

education and training because of some factors such as corruption and non-implementation of its well-planned policies on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), there are also more specific problems in technical teaching in Nigeria, but more of these problems have become more pronounced as a result of the poor economy that can never sustain our industrial development in Nigeria.

A nation like Nigeria is made up of people whose individual contribution are directed towards national growth, individuals need to develop and acquire necessary skills to enable them meet the challenges of particular occupation or jobs, meet their aspirations prepare for higher responsibilities and for a future needs. In the same vein, Government has severally challenge all stakeholders to find other innovative funding measures such as partnership with the private sector of the economy globally known as the Private Public Partnership (PPP).

Olaitan, (2000) corroborated this view as an arrangement between two resource group i.e. educational institutions and an industry to assist learners developed functional skills for the world of work and give them the opportunity of matching theoretical learning with practice. In his contribution, Onyeabor (2004) stressed that measures such as national skills development problems, self-employment, partnership with institutions of technical, vocational education and training and public private collaboration could serve as the best ladder to achieve vision 20: 2020 in Nigeria under a well-planned and execution of due measures. Where focus is given to skills such as farming, arts, trading, technicians, home economics etc. could go a long way in solving the problems of poverty and sustain our industrial development in Nigeria.

Public-Private Partnership as a concept, is defined by Savas (2000) as a partnership between the public sector and the private sector for the purpose of

designing, planning, financing, constructing and or/operating projects which would be regarded traditionally as falling within the limit of the public sector. In the same vein, The Canadian council for PPP defined Public-Private Partnership as "comparative venture between the public and private sectors, built on the expertise of each other, that based meets clearly defined needs through the appropriate allocation of resources, risk and rewards"(Adirieje, 2009 pp55).

Technical and Vocational education is all about work and training for work, therefore Government need to allocate a lot of resources, but in Nigeria, Education is among the list budget in the country's appropriation. It is based on this background that the researcher finds the enhancement of public-private partnership (PPP) as a developmental strategy for improving Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) since Government alone cannot meet the funding challenges of TVET.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

The concept and practice of public private partnership (PPP) initiative is a recent development in Nigeria. It is part of Nigerian Government's reform agenda for the realization of the Vision 20: 2020 plan. It is aimed at improving the quality of performance of public enterprises through private investment in cash and kind especially where some tasks can be best performed by private bodies, according to the Bureau of Public Service Reform (2006), PPP's original concept comprises joint ownership, contracted forms of PPP and private financing. The joint ownership according to BPSR (2006) is an arrangement whereby 'a legal entity is formed for a new Greenfield investment or in order to pull out useful assets from a moribund or 'misused' indebted government business.' The Bureau went further to explain the following:

contracted form of PPP, the lease version, concession and private financing.

Contracted Forms of PPP

Contracted forms of public-private partnership are in form of "concessions, leases and contracted agreements, which are just simply procurement such as maintenance contracts, where a particular aspect of a government's operation is contracted out" (p.28). Usually, the contracted forms comprise "Build-Operate-Transfer" (BOT), "Build - Own - Operate - Transfer" (BOOT), Rehabilitate - Operate - Transfer" (ROT), and "Build-Own-Operate" (BOO).

The Lease Version

The lease version is a case in which "a contract to assume control and use of a government asset for commercial purposes" is entered in with an appropriate organization. It is not privatization and in the view of bureau of public service reform (BPSR), it is better than full privatization since "an investor does not buy the whole business and all assets".

Concession

Concession is "a right to serve a set of customers for a given service in a specific geographical area, or a set of customers already served by a network (electricity, water, bridges, and roads) or set products". It usually involves use of existing assets.

Private Financing

Another public private partnership (PPP) alternative, involves capital hospitals, etc. while it pays the investor for the use of the facilities. The public private partnership (PPP) strategy can also be used for training and skills acquisition, hence relevant for poverty alleviation. Its benefits could be three-

pronged namely the investor, the client i.e. the government and lastly the society, which is the user and the major beneficiary.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING TVET THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Nigerian Government has sought to increase the involvement of the private sector in the delivery of public service especially with regards to TVET as Government alone, cannot shoulder all the responsibilities. African Development Bank (2006) enumerated the following as strategies for improving TVET through PPP;

- Government should enact laws that will improve public - private partnership in national technical vocational education to employment opportunities.
- Government should establish a council for technical and vocational education and training that will be responsible for coherence within the diverse Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in Nigeria.
- Government encouragement in the innovation of skills traditional apprentice and master artisan nationwide by provision of innovative material to them.
- Government should help the roadside technicians, mechanics, welders, traders, agricultural farmers, tailors, home economics etc. Through Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) who supply more than 5% of labour in Nigeria as part of partnership with the public.
- Government should provide information and enlightenment campaign nationwide towards public private partnership in the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme.

- Government should set-up national public – private training bodies responsible for generating genuine training of Nigerian youth for the enhancement and sustaining industrial development and economic growth of Nigeria.
- Government should maintain zero level of corruption and implement all policies relating to Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This will go a long way by reducing unemployment in the country.

THE NEED TO IMPROVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

According to ADB (2006), technical assistance to people could best be achieved when public private partnership are strengthens as this will reflect a significant social and economic benefit for an improved technical and vocational education. If technical, vocational education TVE is strengthens, it can help to solve issues at medium, small and long term range of economics and social development. In addition, it could build a harmonious Nigeria society, because it will reduce youth unemployment, develop and sustain small and medium scale industries.

Improving public private partnership (PPP) could help to address the problem of shortage of skilled man power (workers) in Nigeria thereby enabling the country to have a reliable high skilled manpower i.e. (technicians) who can positively help in our growing manufacturing and processing industries leading to sustain industrial development of our great country, Nigeria, improving public private partnership (PPP) in the provision of TVE will mismatch the gaps that exist in Nigeria between the labour market demand and supply aid that will improve and sustain

industrial development of Nigeria. Improving public private partnership in Technical, Vocational Education TVE could help to play a vital role in enabling migrant workers to find better jobs with higher and more stable income, thereby have an orderly and effective process of rural urban migration and urbanization in Nigeria.

Robert (2007), opined that strengthening public/private partnership is the key to improving technical and vocational education TVE's relevance and transformation needed into one which is demand driven and competence based. These reforms will help to closely stimulate, motivate and encourage public – private participation and partnership in TVE development for sustainable industrial development in Nigeria. Robert (2007), further stressed that public private partnership in TVE would include a wide range of issues from sector management and administration. Naledi (2008) stressed that “the general priority of Africans (Nigerians) of technical vocational education programs for students in strategies field includes, environmental management, information and communication technical, construction and maintenance are developmental issues for Africa to pay attention to these laudable goals therefore require all stakeholders in the society to come together, join hands and resources for the realization of technological advancement”.

Naledi (2008) further pointed out that technical and vocational education and training objectively would provide valuable employment for our young people, such TVE skills development should not be ignore so that we could complete globally not to be only a catch-up continent in the world. Ewa (2005) in his contribution stated that, joint stock ventures is the most important form of business organization in any economic development. Running TVE programs and training would require capital to buy resources, through joint efforts of public's private partnership

more fund could be mobilize and the venture would at long run enjoy the economics of large scale.

STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

The need to revitalized Technical, Vocational and Education and Training as the best alternative to producing the needed skilled manpower for the Nigerian industries cannot be compromised; therefore strategies for sustainable industrial development are needed. Sanusi (2001) stated the initiatives designed to promote and assist small scale industries are:

- The mandatory minimum credit allocation by Banks to small scale industries.
- Establishment of development finance institutions to channel long term low cost funds to the small scale industries sector.
- Introduction of schemes such as family economic advancement programme (FEAP), World Bank small scale enterprises loan programs.
- The establishment of small scale industries equity investment scheme.
- The recommendation by the vision 2010 communities that entrepreneurship education should be taught in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria.
- The establishment of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) described as a plan for prosperity for Nigeria which covers a wide range of development plan including entrepreneurship activities.

According to chenery & syrquine (1997), "Not only is there a strong statistical association between the rise of industry and the level of per capital income, but virtually all countries that have achieved high

living standard by any measure have also industrialized to a substantial degrees, however little. In their contribution, Scitorsky & Scoff (1971) have demonstrated that if countries pursue wrong industrialization strategies, this can jeopardize prospects of successfully achieving the overall goals of economic developments Kuznets (1966), Chenery & Syrquin (1997), provided the relationship between industrialization and development in their analytical framework.

CONCLUSION

The public private partnership (PPP) as a development strategy has several benefits especially if it can attract more private investments in the critical areas of service delivery since government alone cannot provide everything in the face of limited resources. It is considered necessary for the Federal Government to take another look at the public private partnership (PPP) and return to the drawing board with regard to the strategy for improving partnership and enhancement of technical, vocational education and training, (TVET) that can sustain industrial development and economic growth of Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public private partnership effort in Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) must be resuscitated. Resuscitating their shared effort could be a means to achieve quality Technical, vocational Education and Training (TVET). This can take Nigeria to a promising land, even though it requires expedient of public private partnership. Based on the needs identified, the following recommendations are made:

- Nigerian government should enact simulative laws that will improve public private participation in technical, vocational education and training (TVET).

- Government should involve and entrust all technical, vocational education and training (TVET) programs with absolute funding and administrative freedom.
- Good learning materials for technical, vocational education and training (TVET) should be put in place and the established bodies for public – private partnership be allowed to effectively manage.
- Anti-corruption bodies should from time to time inspect and audit allocation and movement of fund for effective and efficient public private partnership in technical, vocational education and training (TVET).
- Intensifying incentives towards training and provision of qualitative and performing technical, vocational education and training (TVET) instructors.
- Therefore, if government can positively respond to these suggestions, this will help to improve public private participation for the enhancement of technical, vocational education and training (TVET) for sustainable industrial development of Nigeria.

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