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SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE NATURE OF IMPACT ACHIEVED

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Abstract
The society most pressing needs all over the world has raised concerns which are comprehensives, deep and quick. The development of any national depends on its social and economic strength as well as the contributions of her citizens. Their contribution now has an important place, but is only relatively recently that this contribution has been recognized by writers outside mainstream economic thinking. As attention has become more focused on the importance of entrepreneurship for economic security and creation of employment opportunities, so greater attention has been directed at social enterprise sector. Thus, the new innovative culture has additionally spread to the social area. Progressively higher expectations are being set on social entrepreneurship in ameliorating social issues facing the world at large. Social entrepreneurship is a concept that covers the individual motivation and leadership behind the pursuit of social objectives. This can be best represented as the activity of pursuing social objectives through entrepreneurial. Accordingly, social business venture can include a somewhat expansive scope of associations and organizations those which acquires assets to implement social objectives. Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to examine the impact of social entrepreneurship in addressing social issues facing the world. It will explain the importance of the social entrepreneurship, concepts, social issues as well as impacts of social entrepreneurship. Additionally, Nigeria was cited in most cases as an example of such impact.

Key Words: Sectors, Social Economy, Social Entrepreneurship, Social Enterprise

Introduction
Society most pressing needs has raised concerns and debates among academicians, practitioners and organisations worldwide. It is a global challenge which seems to have defied a traditional approach. Social issues, an inclusive society as a society embedded each with right and responsibilities with active role to play (UNDP, 2006). The most affected countries believes that there are some countries without social and environmental issues but not knowing that it is a global challenge, that all countries of the world have a share in one a way or another. Stuck by the bleak of social issues, many individuals especially in the developing nations like Nigeria have been subjected into sex in exchange for money, crime and violence, kidnapping and armed robbery, insurgence and communal crisis among others which has a crucial situation. Over the years, governments in power, both developing and developed nations have expressed

concern and determination in ameliorating social issues facing the world. For instance in Nigeria, since the end of her civil war in 1970 various governments in power has emphasized the need for the eradication of social issues among the marginalized zones of country by launching some programmes like National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF), N-Power programme, National Social Safety programme (NASSCO), National Cash Transfer Programme otherwise called Trade Money, Grant for Vulnerable Group (GVG), Alternate School Programme (ASP). Also, there are some international agencies and organizations in Nigeria that are involved in some welfare and social work activities examples are Rotary Club, Red Cross, Lions Club, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHER), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which have consumed substantial amount of money in support of such government and donor agencies initiatives. Apparently, all these interventions initiated by the government and that of international agencies and organizations have not delivered the range of benefits a comprehensive approach can and this is evidence that social issues are still a national problem. However, while some of these initiatives address the issues relating to social challenges, others discuss poverty and unemployment issues. The use of social entrepreneurship as an agent of modern social change has largely been overlooked by the government.

Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to examine the impact of social entrepreneurship in addressing social issues facing the world. It will also focus on literatures and processes on the impact of social entrepreneurship. Additionally, Nigeria was cited in most cases as an example of such impact.

Literature Review

Social Economy

The term social economy and third sector according to Kean (2009) are used to refer to social entrepreneurship in a general sense. Historically, the term social economy dates back to twentieth century meaning to change (for example, poverty, inequality) as a result of the consequence of industrial revolution in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the English speaking world, the preferred term in scholarly research, until relatively recently was voluntary or not for profit sector. In France and some other continental European countries, the term social economy has been in wider use for over couple of decades. The difference between Anglo and France organizational forms explains this difference, with the former more closely tied to charitable causes and communities while the latter is based on the notion of political liberty and free association. Social entrepreneurship itself become popular in the 1970's and since then it has stimulated increasing interest in the social enterprise policy agenda of various countries example in Britain, the social entrepreneurship has been promoted by the likes of commentator Charles Leadbeater and Bill Drayton of Ashoka. The term social enterprise over the past two decades has also been carried to refer to innovative and financially sustainable activities targeted at social, problem while the third sector point incorporates of all array of such activities.

The Entrepreneur

The idea that the entrepreneur has a significant role in economic development has been developed by writers outside main stream economic thinking. Hisrich (2002) traced the concepts as follows:

1. During the middle ages, the entrepreneur was seen as an actor and person in charge of large-scale projects.
2. In the 17th century, the entrepreneur was seen as somebody who bears risks of profit or loss in a fixed price contract with government.
3. In 1725, Richard Cantillian describes an entrepreneur as a person bearing risks different from one who supplies capital.
4. In 1934, Joseph Schumpeter described an entrepreneur as an innovation who develops an untried technology.
5. In 1961 David Mclelland described an entrepreneur as an energetic moderate risk taker.
6. In 1964 Peter Drucker stated that an entrepreneur is an individual who maximizes opportunities.
7. In 1975 Albert Shapero defined an entrepreneur as a person who takes initiative, organize some social and economic mechanisms and accepts risks of failure.

According to Oduma (2012), an entrepreneur means different things to different people, accordingly he observed that:

a. To an economist, an entrepreneur is an essential element in generating investment opportunities.
b. To a sociologist, an entrepreneur as an energizer in modernization of societies.
c. To a psychologist, entrepreneur is an entrepreneur man and tries to decipher him as a character of economic development.
d. To a political scientist, sees an entrepreneur as a child of political system.
e. To a business man, an entrepreneur appears as threat to another entrepreneur (Onoh, 2004).

Entrepreneurship is crucial for rapid national economic growth (Chigunta, Schnurr, James-Wilson & Veronia, 2005) especially for youth development. It is the main hope of developing nations, in particular Nigeria to increase their per capita income (Oduma, 2012) and most parts of Africa. According to Nwaiwu (2010), Entrepreneurship is the life wire of national economic growth of nations as well as a driving force behind the rapid growth of the social sector. Entrepreneurship is not just about how individuals running business, but also encouraging creative thinking and promoting a strong sense of worth and accountability (Awajobi, 2006).Therefore, entrepreneurship is a force that controls other factors of production such as land, Labour and capital, it is a process of creating value by coordinating scarce economic resources to exploit business opens. It is also the facilitator of human business interest and positive attitude required for the establishment of new business for profit maximization.

In the last two decades, it has been very difficult for scholars to come out to a conclusion of what, constitutes the definition of social entrepreneurship. For instance,

social entrepreneurship has been defined as:

i. As an entrepreneurial activity with an embedded social mission (Austin, Stevenson & Wei-Skillern, 2006).
ii. As the sector located between the private and the public sector, which operates in accordance with the social mission and requires entrepreneurial spirit (European Commission, 2010).
iii. It regarded as the establishment of social enterprises (Harding, 2006).
iv. Is the process of pursuing suitable solutions to social problems (Abu-Saifan, 2012).
v. Individuals with the primary objective focused on social values creation as vital condition to ensure viability of social change.
vi. A simultaneous pursuit of social and economic change through enterprising ventures as a response to social challenges (Peredo & Mclean, 2006).
vii. Encompasses the creation of value through the fusion of capital technology, risk taking, pass and decline to accept short falls in resources (Rogers, 2003). Other scholars call it the catalyst for national economic growth (for example, Nicholls, 2006, Haugh, 2005, Institute for social entrepreneurs, 2021, Thompson, Alvy & Lees, 2000). However, it is clear fact that there is no consensus as opposing views and approach emerging from the literature, all seems to be saying the same thing in different forms.

Social Entrepreneur

Enthusiasm towards the role of entrepreneurship in the economic development has had an impact on the development of social entrepreneurship in the last few decades. Thus, the new entrepreneurship culture has also spread to social sector. Increasingly higher expectations are being set on social entrepreneurship in terms of addressing the needs in the social sector and achieving social economic security.

Social entrepreneurs are people or organizations that use economic and technical innovation to achieve social goals (Noya, 2009) social entrepreneurs are individuals often seen to be possessed by their ideas committing their lives to changing the direction of their field & (Alvor, Brown & Letts, 2002). They are ambitions and persistent, tackling major social issues from increasing college enrolment rate of low-income students to fighting poverty.

Social entrepreneurs act as a change agents for society, seizing opportunities other miss to improve systems, invent new approaches and create solutions to change society for the better.

Social Issues

No doubt that social entrepreneurial activity affects economic growth, reduce poverty and improve large-scale social development. Hence it becomes very important to specific what is meant by social issues. It is also known as social problems/challenge affecting every society, great or small. It's virtually impossible to avoid them. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia, the list of social issues in huge and not identical from area to area. In Nigeria, for example, some predominant social issues include, poverty, corruption, inequality, terrorism, high child mortality rate, unemployment, tribalism, domestic violence, drug abuse, prostitution, ritual killings and examination malpractice.

Other issues that may be considered social problems that are not common in Nigeria and other developing nation, but they are huge problems in Developed nations like the US Gun violence, Human Right , Healthcare, Gender inequity, pollution sexism, unemployment etc. The above mentioned social issues both in great and small nations inhibit the development of society. More so, all these social issues are related to each other and could seem hard to address one without addressing all. Therefore, it is important to know that social challenges within a society affect its interaction with other societies, which may lead to global problems, that is say that how other nations deals with the problems of the developing nation may continues affecting its relationship with the rest of the world for years to come. The very nature of social issues suggests that society itself is a problem (Kane, 2010). No nation has a perfect society where all live happily and where no problems exist. Perhaps this is prevented by the nature of human, thereby making it impossible to achieve meaningful goals.

The emergency of social entrepreneurship and its contribution at addressing society most pressing and daunting social issues is quite visible in all over the world. Evidence to prove this is the attention being accorded to the field in the recent times by institutions of higher learning across the globe by mounting courses at different levels of degree. Also a traceable fact to the contribution of social entrepreneurship as a major player in finding solutions to social and economic problems that are for constraint by free market thinking and policies could be found in the Nobel Peace Prize award given to the founder of the Grameen Bank, the world largest micro credit organisation Muhammad Yunus in 2006 to provide small loans to people, mainly women in order to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. Besides that, the general public are embracing it as solution to the crisis hitting the global economies (National Directorate of Employment, 2000, European Commission, 2010). The recognition of the importance of social entrepreneurship practice seems to have stimulated a growing level of scholars and Practitioners interest. Hence, two school of thought have risen namely; the social enterprises school of thought and the social innovation school of thought which were critical to the development in the field social entrepreneurship.

According to the social enterprise school of thought, the main purpose is business strategy to mass alternative income with the purpose of social mission. This school of thought sees social entrepreneurship as autonomous from any government and its agencies support in delivering their social mission activities. Scholars of this school of thought example Fine (2001) claimed that the social enterprise is built in the profit domain to become commercially by adopting business strategy. Social enterprise operates in the following ways, such as a sole proprietor, incorporated organisation and partners. Yunus (2010) claimed that the social businesses are related to mission driven by approaches that embed strong conditions designed to address social issues. The purpose behind adopting business strategy in social mission is to overcome some of the barriers in non-profit organisation such as inadequate human capital and lack of sufficient funds to support their operation. In addition, it adopts the method of self-sufficiency in their activities to ensure sustainability in market places. Therefore, social enterprise is directly involved in the business strategy to earn income to support its

running of the day to day activities.

The social innovation school of thought emphases innovation as an attitude of social entrepreneurship where they denoted as key agents of change in human creativity development and talent in business, replacing the existing products, process, ideas with one's new to impact on society. Scholars of this school of thought defined social entrepreneurship an individual who seek to reform the method of production in an innovative manner in order to move economic resources the low to higher level. Scholars like Dees & Anderson are of view that social innovation should be emphasized to create new and better ways to address social issues. The slight difference witnessed in the conditions between the incomes earned strategy and the social innovation school of thought should not be overemphasized. Dees and Anderson (2006) opined that the view of the two schools of thought stands out to balance the social purposes and economic growth of the society. Johnson (2010) in Schumpeter (1934) in his efforts to conceptualize social entrepreneurship from the innovation school of thought laid much emphasis on the social entrepreneurs as a person who deals with complex social issues in an innovative manners. Business venture is not a necessary tool of entrepreneurship but innovation in order to strike a balance in the social needs and its operation can positively influence social development and economic growth at the same time (Zahra, 2009).

Notable leaders and individuals foundation can be considered as the argument of the school of thought. The American tradition supports the social enterprise school of thought. Bill Drayton the founder of Ashoka foundation Vinoba Bhave (India), the founder and leader of the land Gift movement, Dr. Maria Montessori (Italy) developed the Montessori approach to early childhood education, Florence Nightingale (UK) founder of Modern nursing, John Muir (US). Naturalists and conservationist established national park system, Jean Monnet (France) responsible for the reconstruction of the French economic following World War II, Brighter Ghana F owner (Ghana), Olakunle Joe Adewale (Nigeria) Founder Tender Art, Amina Temilope Ayayi (aka mama Diaspora) (Nigeria), founder/CEO Nigerian American Agricultural Empowerment Programme (NAAEP) are example of few leading personality for the social innovation school of thought. In the context of the social entrepreneurship, opportunities are found in social needs.

The definition of social entrepreneurship has generated a lot of debates among research scholars as to reach a common consensus. Considering the difference in the definition of social entrepreneurship by the two schools of thought, basic points of interest are noted, Social entrepreneurship is innovative rather doing the same thing all over while the other one is an innovation that cuts across creating social value within the non-profit business or government sector (Austin, Stevenson, & Wei-Skillern, 2006). Dees & Anderson (2006) opined that social entrepreneurship entails a wider range of activities that encompasses organisation and business, suggest for a consensus on definition. Also on the other hand, scholars of the school of social enterprise advocate an establishment such as government agencies and charity organisations. Examples of such institutions includes, the global social benefits institute an institute of the Miller

centre for social entrepreneurship in Santa Clara university in silicon valley, California with the aim of helping social businesses grow up through a specific approach that pairs up the social entrepreneurs with silicon valley mentor. In addition, BRAC University in Bangladesh was founded in 2001 by Fazle Hasan Abed as an initiative of building resources across communities to foster entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship. Also, Social lab, an initiative that supports and promotes social change was founded in 2008 with offices in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. They support social entrepreneurs in the primary stages of the venture.

Processes

For any organisation to record a remarkable success in its venture, it must adopt some procedures. Therefore, Social entrepreneurship is not exempted from that in rendering their unique services for the most depressed society of the world. The following are processes adopted by social entrepreneurship for an inclusive activity.

i. Identification of social problems.
ii. Development of a social goal.
iii. Development of support and strategy.
iv. Development of sustainable model.
v. Regular impact assessment.

Impact Achieved

It is noted that the society is dominated by social issues and social entrepreneurship is the engine of social development and economic growth. Amawhule (1998) cited in Nwaiwu (2013) believed that people and government had hardly explored the potentials possessed by social entrepreneurship. The researcher opined that social entrepreneurship are the vehicle for rapid social development and economic growth of any nation. Oduma (2009) argued that social entrepreneurship accounts for over forty percent of the development in Nigeria. Hockerts (2006) is of the view that economic development is a factor of industrialization characterised by increasing growth of social entrepreneurship. This social entrepreneurship makes invaluable contributions to the economies of both developing and developed nations. It is a sure pathways to liberation of the society and improvement of socio economic status of individuals Thus, Social entrepreneurship are responsible for stimulating the society for economic growth, contributing to the transformation of the most social depressed society into a modern one, creating employment, reducing poverty and serving as a training ground (Seelos & Mair, 2005). Social entrepreneurship activities denominates in the economies of many developing nations. Essentially, it assists to achieve the much desired sustainable development goals on the agenda of the United Nations. It specifically assists society in addressing poverty and unemployment caused by social challenges. Social entrepreneurship activities equally help to make social challenged communities more functional. Most importantly, it enables communities be innovative and creative in visualising business opportunities in their environment. Social entrepreneurship has been high on the economic agenda of many nations example in Britain. Social entrepreneurship can be credited with the following benefits.

i. Provision of quality health care services to social depressed society by sitting up affordable health care system that guarantees access drugs and free medical test.

Also, educate patients who in turn cover gap been experienced in personal. A good example of a social entrepreneurs in this regard is Florence Nightingale who provided health care services for wounded soldiers and also trained Nurses free of any change in Nigeria. Another good example of the activities of social entrepreneurship is the mother to mother, who engage in identification of mothers with HIV positive ,support and educate them, empowering them, by providing treatment for them and their babies thereby putting an end to stigma.

ii. Social entrepreneurship have impacted in no small measure by providing quality education that have helped reduce high rate of school dropouts which is responsible for crime in the world. Their impact includes, providing infrastructure, instructional materials for effective teaching and learning, training of teachers at different levels (Kane, 2013).

iii. Again, Social entrepreneurship have done much in the area of human right such as equality, peace and justice by raising public awareness and engage government on the issues relating to human rights. An example of this is the role of Stars of Hope society in Palestine, who advocates for equal rights for Palestinians with disabilities by engaging and lobbying the government to enforce existing laws such as a five percent quota among all employment opportunities.

iv. Social entrepreneurship has performed creditable well in addressing environmental challenges by providing sustainable services, such as engaging government and captains of industries in reducing the ecological footprint.

v. Reduction of regional economic imbalances and contributing to the industrialization to the environment. Their result transform existing realities open up new pathways and unlock potentials to effect social changes (Dees, 2001).

vi. Social entrepreneurship has played an important role in emerging economies where lack of resources and corruption among government officials inhabits the attention given to multiplicity of social and environmental issues. This suggest that the basic essence of social entrepreneurship is to provide mitigation against economic downturn (Bornsetin, 2005).

vii. It also had driven accountability that attracts additional social investment that facilitates economic growth. For instance in Nigeria, donor agencies prefers to work with the social entrepreneurs at addressing social issues in the internally displaced camps. They do not only have to identify opportunities for social change, they also muster the resources necessary to turn these opportunities into reality (Mair & Marti, 2006).

viii. Above all, Social entrepreneurship provides an enabling environment that guarantees job opportunities.

Although it is difficult for the researchers here to present a clear or accurate statistics on the level of impact achieved by social entrepreneurship, but a mere observation confirms to the fact that social entrepreneurship have creditable done well in addressing social issues for example in Nigeria. Therefore, the relevance of social entrepreneurship cannot be overemphasized due to its unique services or products for the most depressed society of the world.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The recognition of the importance of social entrepreneurship by the institutions of higher learning across the globe is a welcome development. This new discipline is often referred to as social entrepreneurship. If this recognition is properly followed and maintained with diligent administrative and infrastructural provisions including constructivist instructional delivering strategy in the subject areas, it will definitely assisting to re-channel the mind-set of the recipient while in school on the need for the social entrepreneurship services. This nascent recognition equally will make the society more functional and as well as decentralising economic activities to the benefit of the society. As the level of poverty, frustration and social vices continue to soar among the society; it is equally believed that social entrepreneurship will be a panacea in assisting the most depressed society of the world. To achieve all the objectives of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations, the universities, academicians, practitioners and policy makers have very significant role to play in the realization of this targets. The institutions of higher learning need to properly focus in the new subject area. A social entrepreneurship activity appears indispensable in this regard because it is a tremendous force that has a huge impact on economic recovery and societal progress. The system should involve practitioners and social institutes to help provide recipient with practical experience in social entrepreneurship activities. This professional service will obviously assist to achieve the much desired functional society of our dreams.

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