

STRATEGIES FOR MAKING MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS SELF RELIANT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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ABSTRACT

This paper exposed diverse ways through which Mathematics educators from Nigerian tertiary institutions could become self-reliant after their training from the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. It has become a known fact that government cannot provide enough employment for all these graduates that are turned out every year by these tertiary institutions. This makes it imperative that an alternative way of making these graduates, especially Mathematics educators, self-reliant should be explored. This was in fact the main focus of this paper. It is hoped that this paper would help young Mathematics educators who could not get government employment after graduation to discover how they can survive in this new millennium without government employment. This paper also suggested how such graduates could be assisted by the government to stand on their own. Recommendations were made at the end on how tertiary institutions could develop entrepreneurship education programmes in Mathematics education to help these graduates to be self-reliant after training from tertiary institutions. Other workable recommendations such as these were also made: that government should offer financial assistance to any Mathematics educator who wishes to start something on his own; that government should be willing to purchase materials developed by Mathematics educators who are on their own. All these measures, if properly implemented, would certainly make Mathematics educators self-reliant in this new millennium.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria as a nation has been faced with economic depression for a long time now. The federal and state governments have been making frantic efforts to see if they can improve the economic situation. The economic depression at the moment gives concern to many Nigerians. This is evidenced as many graduates from different tertiary institutions are produced without any gainful employment from the federal and state governments. To worsen the already debilitating situation, some of the already employed graduates and non-graduates are being retrenched from their already employed sectors as a result of the nation's poor economic situation.

As a result of these ugly developments, many Nigerian graduates and non-graduates roam about the streets without any employment opportunities from either the

