

INFLUENCE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMMES ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION AMONG YOUTHS IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study assessed the influence of entrepreneurial programmes on poverty alleviation among youths in Osogbo metropolis. Simple Random sampling technique was adopted to select the 120 respondents from the study population. The sampling techniques adopted give all element of the population equal opportunity of being selected. Data collected was analyzed, summarized and interpreted through descriptive. Descriptive Statistical techniques involving total score and simple percentage were employed. Each table was followed by logical explanations or interpretations of the results of the table. The technique used is regression analysis. The results reveals the contribution of entrepreneurial training programmes on poverty alleviation through Skill acquisition, Youth Empowerment Schemes, Education, Agriculture and social welfare service improvement will be much significant if entrepreneurship is encouraged at all level in the state especially at local and community level. Youth development and empowerment are vital stages in life for building the human capital that allows young people avoid poverty and live better life. Education and training helps individuals to be empowered and escape – poverty by providing them with the skills and knowledge to raise their output, income and wealth. The following recommendations are made; Entrepreneurship development should be inculcated into the school's curriculum to promote human empowerment and development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition and training. There should be collaboration between small business entrepreneurs and research institution for exploitation and research findings of those institutions to achieve technology development.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Programmes, Poverty, Alleviation Youths.

Introduction

The driving force for economic development and nation building depend so much on the quality of the human resource. If a nation is blessed by natural features such as land, good weather and other resources that can serve as basic necessities to foster development. Human factor is the key to tap into the resources and make meaningful and product we impact on the economy. For this to happen there is the need for people who can innovate, create and also bear risk by establishing their own businesses. Such people are called entrepreneurs, i.e people who can make things happen.

Anyone who is mentally sound, hardworking and can persevere is fit enough to start a business without any monopoly of sex, age, religion or community. The requirement is for the entrepreneur to tailor the business towards the right direction and also possess the necessary attributes which will facilitate the success of the enterprise. Entrepreneurship is like blocks arranged in a particular relevant pattern to bring out the shape of a building. The foundation is

well fortified to carry other blocks or load that will bring out a beautiful structure that will bring out a beautiful structure.

When various entrepreneurial programmes emerge in a given environment, the economic status will improve and lives of people will change. In a nation where entrepreneurship does not thrive the level of poverty will be high. This is common to some African countries where government does not seriously address and encourage the growth of small scale businesses through loans and sensitization exercises.

Entrepreneurship is the oil that lubricates the wheel of the economy in Nigeria. It is the source of major wealth creation especially now that economy is affected globally. Entrepreneurs spring up now a days than before especially with the number of youths who passed out from various tertiary institutions without jobs in the labor market. It is observed that quite a lot of them engage in their own small businesses to make ends meet. Some of them tap into their God-given talents as opportunity to make money. Such jobs include art work, music industry, entertaining, designing, graphic work, and the likes.

GEDI (2015) stated that one of the sources of backwardness is unproductive entrepreneurship where one group gives and another only takes. This form of rent-seeking is prevalent in many developed and developing countries, Nigeria inclusive. If rent-seeking by government persists, entrepreneurs will remain reluctant to make the long-term investments of time and money that are needed to create productive, high impact firms. This suffices that everyone has to be on his or her toes to be gainfully employed and employed and contribute meaningfully to the economy.

Objectives of the Study

1. Identify various entrepreneurial programmes among small and medium scale enterprises in Osogbo metropolis.
2. Examine the effect of entrepreneurial education on youth empowerment in Osogbo metropolis.
3. Determine the extent of impact of entrepreneurial skill acquisition on poverty reduction in Osogbo metropolis.

Hypotheses

Ho₁: Entrepreneurial programme does not exist among small and medium scale enterprises in Osogbo metropolis.

Ho₂: There is no significant effect of entrepreneurial education on youth empowerment in Osogbo metropolis.

Ho₃: Entrepreneurial skill acquisition does not have any effect on poverty reduction in Osogbo metropolis.

Literature review

Entrepreneurship and the Entrepreneur

According to Ogundele (2016), no single definition of entrepreneurship/ entrepreneur can be captured. This is simply because the two concepts have universal parenting. It is the baby of all academic disciplines. He buttressed further that entrepreneurship is a behavioral variable, like leadership and organization and that entrepreneurship is a variable of all areas of academic disciplines.

Entrepreneurship as defined by Akutson (2015), is the process of identifying profitable business opportunities in the market place, conceiving ideas of doing something new, starting and building a new business venture, or better put, the process of being entrepreneurial.

Abdullahi (2010) cited in Akutson (2015), viewed entrepreneurship as an organizational managerial approach that enables a person respond to changes and solve problems in different situations adopting what he describes as the five element of entrepreneurship (Entrepreneurial process) which are observing the environment, identifying opportunities , gathering the necessary resources to exploit the opportunities, implementing the activity and receiving the reward. From the management science point of view, entrepreneurship is a creative, innovative and strategic process of starting and also revitalizing an organization.

Ilesanmi (2012), states that entrepreneurship in a simple term is a process which involves the formation of a new enterprise. It is an act that involves combining resources to initiate changes in production. Entrepreneurship is the creation of new enterprise. This suffices that entrepreneurship is basically the art of creative process. It suggests that entrepreneurship requires creative skills from the entrepreneur to be relevant in the art. What an entrepreneur does is referred to entrepreneurship and it means that the two are interwoven.

Drucker (1965), cited by Ilesanmi (2012), affirmed that entrepreneurship is essentially the acceptance of change as an opportunity and acceptance of the leadership in change as the unique task of an entrepreneur.

Who is an entrepreneur?

The definitions given by scholars on this concept are inexhaustible. The entrepreneur is viewed from different perspectives. In the first instance an entrepreneur is an opportunity seeker not a problem focused person. He turns every opportunity to a profitable advantage.

Badi (2005), citing some authorities on entrepreneur said according to Oxford English Dictionary that an entrepreneur 'is one who undertakes an enterprise-acting as intermediary between capital and labor'. While economists see an entrepreneur as a person is geared into action primarily by profit motive.

David. C. McClelland, wrote that 'an entrepreneur is an individual who takes moderate risks and brings innovation he also suggests that an entrepreneur is not characterized by routine task which are managed by usual managers and situations of high risks such as gambling or betting. The entrepreneur exhibits a desire to take personal responsibilities for decisions preference for moderate risks and interest in concrete knowledge of business and possible outcomes.

Alaka (2016), asserts that entrepreneurs evaluate and choose strategies that will lead to business growth and perform over a period of time. While Oyende (2011), states that an entrepreneur is a person who risk time and money to start and manage a business.

David (1996), quoting Kirzner posited that the entrepreneur is someone who is alert to profitable opportunities for change. He or she is able to identify suppliers and customers and act as the intermediary, which means there is no need to own resources and profit arises out of the intermediary function.

Basically all the definitions emphasized the issues of opportunity, risks, strategies and profit. This suggests that the entrepreneur is someone who is smart enough to put logistics in place and launch out to his advantage of making money with moderate risk set an appropriate

time, that is , he or she takes cognizance of time and the market situation.

Unemployment / Poverty saga

Unemployment menace is a big issue that stirs the face of government, individual and the general populace at large. It is a global issue that requires adequate and prompt attention before it gets out of hand. It is observed that unemployment as reported by many researchers has become a big masquerade that hunts humanity in recent times.

Gone are the days when people choose jobs to do out of many alternatives when economy was buoyant. In the 19th century especially in Nigeria, a school certificate holder could easily get white collar job and begin to rise from there to the top after engaging in extra mural classes, short term professional courses.

The reverse is the case in this current time simply because higher institutions are turning out graduates at a geometrical rate, and the jobs they are trained for are not available. Hence the experience of vices in the society due to joblessness of teeming youths, who should be gainfully engaged productively and enhance the development of the nation's economy. It is pertinent that the issue of unemployment should be addressed with the measure it deserves.

Emeh, Nwanguma and Abaroh (2012) cited (Pettersson et al, 2006) affirmed that unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy and Nigeria is not exempted. Its impact has been more intense on the youths. Further quoting other researchers like (Alanana, 2003), Echebiri (2005), Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) and Okafor,(2011) the research revealed that youth unemployment across the globe has reached a great height and may likely increase further. It is becoming more a menace as the rate at which institutions across the country turn out graduates yearly without any job opportunities available for them. Hence, the level of poverty will increase since those youth who are still in their prime and active age range are still at the mercy of their parents/guardians to feed.

The national population commission, (2001) posited that the economy of Nigeria is a youth economy. The large number of vibrant youths falls into the category of those who should be engaged in active development of the economy. (Emeh, et al, 2012)

Poverty

Badghebo & Michael (2015) succinctly states that three dominant views are identified as the meaning of poverty in the literature they reviewed. First one sees poverty as non access to some basic human needs at individual or house hold level. Secondly poverty is also defined as non-access to material things which can be assessed in monetary terms. Although quoting Aliyu (2000) in quantitative analysis poverty reveals that in comparing the definitions across countries, it fails to recognize the non-material forms of deprivation such as illiteracy, and social discrimination among others.

Jonathan and Deen-swarry(2006) opined that poverty has many dimensions, varies across time to them absolute poverty is defined in the Copenhagen, declaration as 'a condition characterized by sever deprivation of basic needs including food, safe drinking water, sanitation, facilities, health, shelter, education and information while relative poverty is defined as the minimum economic, social, political and cultural goods needed to maintain an acceptable way of life in a particular society citing (Todaro, 2000).

This informs that poverty is a serious menace characterized by a lack of wealth, material goods and resources. Socially it reduces an individual to a serious level of separation,

dependency and the inability to live a life that is termed a 'normal' or balanced life.

Government Policy

In the quest for reducing poverty among the youth in Nigeria, Federal and state governments put in place series of palatine programmes to reduce level of poverty. This is because quite a number of people who fall into poverty level are mostly vibrant youth who are in their active years but either graduated from tertiary institutions without jobs or are young members of the society who find it difficult to be gainfully employed.

This is corroborated by the policy of Osun State Government initiating 'the yes we can' spirit that drives O YES is fast turning the fortunes of the state commendation evolving 21st century model for tackling joblessness. Both educated and partly educated unemployed are beneficiaries of the scheme which in one way or the other is improving their wellbeing.

Against the grain of millions of unemployed in Nigeria and thousands in Osun, the state through 'O YES' programme encourages the youths to tap into their potentials with the assumption that if there is a way if there is will. This informs that the beneficiaries are liberated and set on a gentle push to liberate them to greater heights.

Government Policy to Reduce Unemployment in Nigeria

N-Power: The federal government introduced this program to reduce youth unemployment in Nigeria. This program is engaged in the massive deployment of 500,000 trained graduates. They are engaged in the development skills among the youth each of those who are participating will learn and master skills that will enable him to create work.

Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI): This youth empowerment programme was established in 2011. The aim of this is to inspire youths of the Nigerian society in such a way as to reduce the rates of HIV and stigma in the lives of youths and young ones. There is expansion of this program and they are creating more opportunities for youths and target and they target the challenges they are facing.

African Youth Empowerment Nigeria (AYEN): The function of this organization is to help youths develop in a way that will make them functional in the society. Their program involves seminars, workshops, vocational programs. e.t.c. AYEN renders financial and educational aid to youngsters and they ensure that children are in their classrooms. They utilize cooperative bodies, local donors.

Young Entrepreneurs of Nigeria (YEN): This particular organization offers extensive leadership training and programs. The essence of this program is to help youths enhance their personal attributes. YEN has offered aid to many youths in many areas and has made them self-developed.

Youth Empowering People (YEP): This particular program has helped to shape the youth mindset especially those of the Niger Delta region and a good number of these youth have been put into meaningful jobs and this has enabled them to reduce rate of poverty and unemployment. This youth empowerment promoted the acquisition of skills, entrepreneurship and employment.

Youth Enterprise with Innovative in Nigeria (YouWin): The youth enterprise with innovative in Nigeria in collaboration with the ministry of communication technology and ministry of youth

development functions to inspire youths that are entrepreneurs in Nigeria. They encourage enterprise development among youths and enable them to create more jobs.

Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P): This program otherwise known as SURE-P is a scheme that is formed by the federal government of Nigeria during the time of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as president of Nigeria. The essence is to reinvest the federal government savings from the removal of fuel subsidy on certain infrastructural projects and social safety net programs including direct impact in citizens of Nigeria. This is one of the the pivots of the transformation agenda of the Nigerian Federal Government.

Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria (YISA): The essence of this program is to correct, encourage, educate, inspire, train and support young people to take up agriculture as an enterprise and not just a development project. It is made up of all sets of youths both graduates and non-graduates of agricultural discipline.

Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS): The GIS aims at creating an opportunity for 5000 eligible youth graduates to be mobilized as interns in effective and functional private sector firms in other to promote building of the manpower requirement so as to drive the nation's transformation agenda and vision 20:20:20.

New Era Foundation: This organization was incorporated on the 17th of January, 2000 with the corporate affairs commission, Abuja. The launching and the public presentation were done on the 21st march, 2000. The conduction of the affairs of the foundation are conducted by men and women with senator Oluremi Tinubu presiding as the president and founder. In this foundation, the programs from the beginning are geared towards the wholesome development of the youth development centres. Organizing contests with the mental and physical scope in order to encourage social and academic performance.

National Youth Service Corps: The national program is for graduates and it last for a year. The graduates engage in many vocational activities in order to promote their skills. Different types of skill development programs are available as the graduates render service to various organizations.

Youth for Technology Foundation: They bring access to technology and resources to the rural communities. Youths are empowered in this program.

Foundation for Skills Development: This organization is engaged in empowering unemployed persons with the technical and vocational skills that will enable them to become self-employed.

United Nations of Youth Network Nigeria: This organization aims at empowering youths for a positive change for a world that is united. They partner with many youths across many countries including Nigeria and they are a non-governmental organization.

International Centre for Development Affairs: The aim of this organization is to sustain and lead civil society empowerment through communication and development education.

Lagos Digital Village: This digital center offers training for youths on digital enterprises.

Leap Africa: This organization equips trains and empowers a cadre of youth for effectiveness, accountability and leadership.

Movement for youth actualization international: They engage in youth productivity programs and youth liberalization. They educate and develop the less privileged.

Problems of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria: The key roles of entrepreneurship include mobilization of domestic savings for investment, significant contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI), harnessing of local raw materials, employment creation, poverty reduction and alleviation, enhancement in standard of living, increase in per capital income, skills acquisition, advancement in technology and expert growth and diversification.

Methodology

Sample and Sampling Techniques

Simple Random Sampling technique was adopted to select the 120 respondents (10% of the population) from the study population. The sampling techniques adopted give all element of the population equal opportunity of being selected. The method was used especially because of its efficiency in maximizing the required time. This is represented in the table below:

Table 1

Respondents	Samples	Percentage
Education Industry	25	20.8
Fashion Designing	45	37.5
Agro-Allied Business-Fadama	50	41.7
Total	120	100.0

Source: Researcher Compilation, 2019

Method of data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed, summarized and interpreted through descriptive. Descriptive Statistical techniques involving total score and simple percentage were employed. Each table was followed by logical explanations or interpretations of the results of the table. The technique used is regression analysis.

Test of Hypotheses

Ho₁: You are aware of Skill Acquisition Programme, Agricultural programme and Education and Self Developmental Programme in the Osogbo Metropolis.

Table 2:

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	112	93.3
No	8	6.7
Total	120	100

Source : Field Survey ,(2019)

Table 2 shows the awareness of skill acquisition programme, both agricultural, education and self-developmental programmes. In which 112 (93%) of the respondents were fully aware of the programmes, while the 8 (7%) of the respondents were not aware of the skill acquisition, agricultural, educational and self-developmental programmes with Osogbo

metropolis. The study concludes that the respondents were fully aware of the various programmes to reduce poverty in Osogbo metropolis.

Ho₂: There is no significant effect of Entrepreneurial Education Programme on youth empowerment in Osogbo metropolis.

Table 3: A Summary of the Multiple Regression Analysis of the Interactive (Relationship) between Entrepreneurial Education Programme and youth empowerment

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.498*	.248	.2411	1.198

***p<0.05 a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurial Education Programme**

The model summary table 3 gives R² value = (0.248). This shows that Entrepreneurial Education Programme has positive impact on youth empowerment. Thus this model is predicting 24.8% of the variance in education pooling all motivating factors together simultaneously; meaning that 25% of the variance in youth empowerments can be predicted from the various entrepreneurial education programmes captured in the model from the selected area.

Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis Showing Significance of Predictors on youth empowerment scheme

Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	55.765	1	55.765	38.885	.000 ^b
Residual	169.226	118	1.434		
Total	224.992	119			

***p<0.05 a. Dependent Variable: (Youth Empowerment Scheme).**

Table 4 shows that entrepreneurial education programme variables used is significantly predicted the level of youth empowerment scheme (1, 118) = 38.885, p < 0.05 F – statistical indicates that the overall regression model is highly statistically significant in terms of its goodness of fit since the value of F_{tab} (1, 118) > F_{cal} (38.885). Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected. The study concludes that there is significant positive impact of entrepreneurial education on youth empowerment scheme in Osogbo metropolis.

Table 5: Contribution of each Predictor on entrepreneurial education programme variables

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.893	.210		4.258	.000
1 Entrepreneurial Education Programme	.490	.079	.498	6.236	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Youth Empowerment Scheme.

Source: Author’s Computation using SPSS 20.0, (2019).

The Table 5 shows the contribution of the predictors. In this case, Entrepreneurial Education Programme contributed with Beta = .498, p < .05 and t-value = 6.236. The contribution is statistically significant to youth empowerment. Hence, the null hypothesis is

rejected and the study concludes that entrepreneurial education programme has positive effects on youth empowerment program in the selected area.

H₀₃: There is no significant effect of entrepreneurial skill acquisition programme on poverty reduction.

Table 6: A Summary of the Multiple Regression Analysis of the Interactive (Relationship) between Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme on level of poverty reduction

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.616*	.380	.375	1.038

*p<0.05 a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme

The model summary table 6 gives R² value = (0.380). This shows that Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme has positive impact on poverty reduction. Thus, this model is predicting 38.0% of the variance in skill acquisition pooling all factors together simultaneously; meaning that 38% of the variance in level of poverty reduction can be predicted from the various entrepreneurial skills acquisition captured in the model in Osogbo metropolis.

Table 7: Multiple Regression Analysis Showing Significance of Predictors on level of poverty reduction

Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	77.951	1	77.961	72.286	.000 ^b
Residual	127.249	118	1.078		
Total	205.200	119			

*p<0.05 a. Dependent Variable: (Level of Poverty Reduction).

Table 7 shows that entrepreneurial skill acquisition programme variables used is significantly predicted the level of poverty reduction, $F(1, 118) = 72.286$, $p < 0.05$. F – statistical indicates that the overall regression model is highly statistically significant in terms of its goodness of fit since the value of $F_{tab}(1, 118) > F_{cal}(72.286)$. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected. The study concludes that there is significant positive impact of entrepreneurial skill acquisition on level of poverty reduction in Osogbo metropolis.

Table 8: Contribution of each Predictor on Poverty Reduction.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.795	.191		4.173	.000
	Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme	.730	.086	.616	8.502	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Level of poverty reduction.

Source: Author's Computation using SPSS 20.0, (2019).

The Table 8 shows the contribution of the predictors. In this case, Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme contributes Beta = .616, $p < .05$ and t-value = 8.502. The contribution is statistically significant to poverty reduction. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the study

concludes that Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition Programme has positive effects on the level of poverty reduction in Osogbo metropolis.

Conclusion

The contribution of entrepreneurial training programmes on poverty alleviation through Skill acquisition, Youth Empowerment Schemes, Education, Agriculture and social welfare service improvement will be much significant if entrepreneurship is encouraged at all levels in the state especially at local and community level. Youth development and empowerment are vital stages in life for building the human capital that allows young people avoid poverty and live better life. Education and training helps individuals to be empowered and escape – poverty by providing them with the skills and knowledge to raise their output, income and wealth. The technical skill is significant, as seen in the relationship between the technical skill and youth empowerment for the selected areas. This shows that government should promote entrepreneurship training and education through appropriate policies in the state.

Recommendations

To encourage entrepreneurial training programmes and education, the following recommendations are made:

- ✧ Entrepreneurship development should be inculcated into the school's curriculum to promote human empowerment and development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition and training.
- ✧ There should be collaboration between small business entrepreneurs and research institution for exploitation and research findings of those institutions to achieve technology development.
- ✧ Governments at all levels could intervene in postulating good policies to reduce the problems of entrepreneurs through the supply of needed technological and business information and advices.
- ✧ Although Entrepreneurship training is part of programmes of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Nigeria to make the fresh graduate self-employed after a year mandatory programme to serve their father land, more emphasis should be placed on it for effectiveness.
- ✧ The National Universities Commission (NUC) should mandate all Universities in Nigeria to create Entrepreneurship development centres to put in place two compulsory courses on Entrepreneurship for all undergraduate students" irrespective of their discipline. The same thing should be done for the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

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