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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CREATING EMPLOYMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

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Introduction

Background to the Study

Before the advent of colonial government in Nigeria, unemployment has a rare phenomenon because of people were highly entrepreneurial and productively engaged. The Igbo ethnic groups were recognized internationally for its culture of entrepreneurship and enterprises development (Nicks, 2008). Nigeria like most developing nations of the world is faced with myriad of problems and realities which include poverty, unemployment, conflict and disease. These situations pose great challenges to the very existence of individuals in most developing nations thereby calling for the training of educated men and women who can function effectively in the society. Nigerian Universities Commission (2004) reiterates that there is massive unemployment of Nigerian universities graduates in the country.

Abstract

This study investigates an assessment of the role of government in creating employments through entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. The study used survey research design to carry out the study. The population of the study consisted of (750) SME beneficiaries around Sokoto metropolis. The study selected (260) out of (750) SME beneficiaries using research advisor (2006) table for determining sample size. The study used self constructed questionnaire to elicit information from the targeted population. The study used descriptive statistics such as percentages, tables and frequency counts to answered the research questions, while corresponding hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of

Significance using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC). Based on the analysis, it was found among other that the major role of the government in employment creation was provision of adequate funds, establishment of entrepreneurship training and skill acquisition centre's. The study concluded that provision of adequate funds, establishment of entrepreneurship training and skill acquisition centres, creation of awareness were the major role of government in creating employment for the youth and unemployed graduates. Based on research findings and conclusions, the study recommended among others that adequate funds should be provided by the government to help in sustaining entrepreneurship development program that serves as nerve centers of employment creation for youth and unemployed graduates. Study suggested among others that there is need to conduct a research on assessment of the role of government in eradicating poverty through entrepreneurship development programs in Nigeria.

Keywords: Assessment, role of Government, Employment, Entrepreneurship Development, Nigeria.

This problem is said to be traceable to the disequilibrium between labor market requirements and lack of essential employable skills by the graduates (Diejomah and Orimolade, 1991). Entrepreneurship is critical for the economy and it is an engine of economic progress, job creation as well as social adjustment (Gurol and Atsan, 2006). The growing need to hasten economic development by generating new ideas and to translate into profitable ventures making entrepreneurship an attention for the scholars as well as the policy makers (Tuker and Selik 2008).

Entrepreneurship with all attendant ingredients is one of the best means of triggering economic and social development in developing nations like Nigeria, thus catalyzing the process of entrepreneurship in developing countries will accelerate the process of economic growth and social development (Thomas and Mueller, 2002). There is a great need for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria: more than ever, this is necessitated by the rate of unemployment and its effect on both the people and the nation and the need for small and medium enterprises. In spite of the fact that entrepreneurship development has been regarded as the bulwark

for employment generation and technological development in Nigeria, the sector nevertheless has had its own fair share of neglect with concomitant unpleasant impact on the economy (Okpara, 2008).

The expansion of employment opportunities across country is far below the growth in population because of lack of productive skills and investments. This reality leaves youths and unemployed graduates in the country without any sustainable means of livelihood, as a result of which, poverty and unemployment have become the ugly twin faces of the country's economy. There is no doubt that one of the problems confronting many nations is how to combat the challenges of unemployment, with entrepreneurship development seen as a remedy to this problem. It is against this background that this present study is based.

Statement of the Problem

The issue of youths and graduate unemployment had become source of concerned and worrisome in Nigeria. This is because of considerable number of students graduating from universities, polytechnics and colleges of education on a yearly basis coupled with uncontrollable increase in population, corruption and mismanagement of resources which culminated to high poverty rate, hunger and starvation and entrepreneurship that would create job opportunity has not been given serious attention by the government. Furthermore, unemployment as it is called has been an issue of disease in Nigeria; this has grown large that the situation cannot be addressed by mere campaign or words of mouth (Nwankwo and Ifejiofor, 2014).

It requires the combined efforts of both individuals and the government of the country in particular and the world at large to formulate a lasting strategy to curb this menace. Unemployment in Nigeria has affected the youth and the economic development of the country from a broad spectrum of socio-economic perspective. It is obvious that the situation especially that of youth and graduate unemployment affected Nigeria's progress in several ways. Apart from the economic waste it brought to the nation, it also constitutes political unrest for the country (Ipaye, 1998). According to Ezie (2012), the unemployment situation in Nigeria is disturbing and even more disheartening that the country's economic conditions cannot absorb an optimal proportion of its labor force. This situation has resulted in the continuous increase in crimes and kidnapping, hooliganism, insecurity

suicide bombing etc. experienced in our society in recent time. To salvage this ugly situation several strategies have been employed by successive administration in curbing unemployment trend in the country.

The establishment of National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Youth Empowerment programs (YES), Entrepreneurial skills acquisition centers etc. these strategies are all found in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship make substantial contribution towards entrepreneurship development in Nigeria, however, the realization of these potential contributions has been flawed by a lot of challenges. Despite the potential contributions of entrepreneurs towards entrepreneurship development, entrepreneurship in Nigeria has continued to perform below expectation.

Research Questions

The following research questions have been formulated for this study:

1. What are the challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria?
2. What are the roles of government in curbing challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria?
3. What are the contributions of entrepreneurship development to economic growth in Nigeria?
4. What are the influences of entrepreneurship development programs on employment creation in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to investigate the role of government in job creation through entrepreneurship development. Thus the specific objectives of the study are to find out:

1. The challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria;
2. The role of government in curbing challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria;
3. The contributions of entrepreneurship development to the economic growth in Nigeria; and
4. The influence of entrepreneurship development programs on employment creation in Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

This study is aimed at investigating the roles of government in creation employment through entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. This is due to alarming rate of youths and graduate's unemployment that has become source of concerned in Nigeria. The study is hope to be of great significant because it would provide useful information to government at all levels, policy makers, Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Stakeholders in their efforts to put an end to the problem of poverty and unemployment rate that has become cog in the wheel development of our dear country. It is expected that the outcome of this study would assist government (i.e. Federal and state) to create conducive and enabling environment for prospective entrepreneurs informs of loan facilities and procedures of getting other forms of assistance direct from governments to be self-employed and reliance, since the white collars jobs are no longer available.

Another significance of this study is that it would help to identify possible factors that would reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria. This is because the study would highlight the importance of entrepreneurship training and its impact on unemployment reduction in Nigeria. One of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) goals highlights education (training) as a critical factor to reducing poverty and dependency. This study would also generate greater awareness among tertiary institutions on the importance of having proper and practical strategies for acquiring entrepreneurial skills. It is expected that the result of this study would provide useful knowledge on factors that might have impact and contribute to the successful adoption of entrepreneurship training, skills and acquisition by all Nigerian youths and graduate. Finally, the study is hoped to open gate for further research in the area.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Concept of Entrepreneurship

The definition of entrepreneurship has been debated among scholar, researchers, practitioners and even policy makers since there is no universally accepted definition of the concept. The entrepreneur has been seen as an actor, innovator or a developer of technology. Akanwa and Akpanabia (2012), entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and own an enterprise. Successfully, Esonomu (1998), defined entrepreneurship as the

effective manipulation of human intelligence as demonstrated in a creative and innovative performance.

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Onyebueke and Ochnongo (2002) sees entrepreneurship to be an act which involves recognizing a business opportunity, mobilizing resources and persisting to export that opportunity. Tijani Alawiye (2004), defines entrepreneurship as the process of adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to grow and sustain them, with a view to achieving board socio-economic development goals. It is also the process of bringing together creative and innovative ideas and copying them with management and organization skill in order to combine people, money and resources to meet an identical need and thereby creating wealth. Shepherd and Douglas in Akanwa and Akpanabia (2012) observed that entrepreneurship development is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture by combing information from the functional disciplines and from the external environment in the context of the extraordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which fees a new business ventures. Entrepreneurship development has been found to be capable of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people (Adejumo, 2008). On the other hand, Amington (2002) sees the entrepreneur as one who chooses or assumes risks, identifies business opportunity, gathers are sources, initiates action and establishes an organization or enterprises to meet such demand or market opportunity. Allawadi (2010) describes the carryout of new combinations as “enterprises” and the individual whose function it is to carry them out as “entrepreneur”. He further tied entrepreneurship to the creation of five basic “new combinations” of introduction of a new product, a new method of promotion opening a new market, conquest of new source of supply and creating a new organization. Stevenson (2002) defines entrepreneurship as the pursuit of opportunity through innovative leverage of resources that for the most part are not controlled internally

Concept of Unemployment

Unemployment and poverty remains key developmental challenges in Nigeria over a long time. According to Udu and Agu (2005), unemployment is “a

situation in which persons capable and willing to work are unable to find suitable paid employment. According to the international labor organization (ILO) (2007), unemployed workers are those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work and have actively search for work. Nigeria does not seem to have credible data on the rate of unemployment (Udu and Agu, 2005) because no institution has been able to produce accurate figures showing the state current rate of unemployment (Udu and Agu, 2005).

There is great need for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria today, more than ever, is necessitated by the rate of unemployment and its effect on both the people and the nation and the need for small and medium enterprises. According to Salami (2011) despite the abundant human and natural resources notwithstanding, Nigeria is still one of the poorest countries in the world and has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in sub-Sahara Africa despite of its alleged strong economic growth. Going by the study of World Bank (1998) defines the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work. According to Fajana (2000) unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy, the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges.

Development of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

The role of government in entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant only after the Nigeria civil war (1967-70). Since the mid – 1980s there had been an increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development especially after the introduction of the structural adjustment program (SAP) in 1986. Added to this is the establishment of the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and the Small and medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN

In the early 2000s, entrepreneurship studies were introduced into the Nigerian educational system especially in higher institutions as a mandatory course. The centre for entrepreneurship development (CED), which has the

objective of teaching and encouraging students of higher institutions (especially in Science, Engineering and Technological (SET) to acquire entrepreneurial, innovative and management skills, was established. The center's goal is to make the graduates self employ, create job opportunities for others and to generate wealth (Thaddeus, 2012). He continued that entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant only after the Nigerian civil war. At the end of the war the 2nd National Development Plan focused on the development of the 3Rs objectives of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation. The activities in the plan challenged/tackled the ingenuity and inventive skill of the individuals.

In the past forty years or so, the government had established various support institutions specially structured to provide succor and to assist SMEs to contact with some of the hurdles along their growth path some of these specialized institutions include the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB), the Nigerian Bank for Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND), the Nigerian export – Import Bank (NEXIMB), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Industrial Development Coordinating Centre (IDCC), peoples Bank, Community Banks, construction Bank, Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP), state Ministries of Industry SME Schemes, the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Development Bank (NACDB), Bank of Industry (BIO) etc. These support institutions and other incentives created by the government notwithstanding, policy instability and reversal in addition to high turnover and frequent changes in government have impacted negatively on the performance of the primary institutions responsible for policy formulation, monitoring and implementation resulting in distortions in the macroeconomic structure, low productivity and dismal performance of SMEs.

Other major problems which have contributed to the poor performance of SMEs include: limited resources, access to long term capital, high cost of even short term financing, poor partnership spirit, dearth of requisite managerial skills and capacity, illegal levies, street-urchins', harassments, over dependence on imported raw materials and spare parts, poor inter and intra-sectoral linkages that make it difficult for the SMEs to enjoy economic of scale production, bureaucratic bottlenecks and inefficiency in the administration of incentives that discourage rather than promote SME growth, weak demand for products arising from how and dwindling consumer purchasing power,

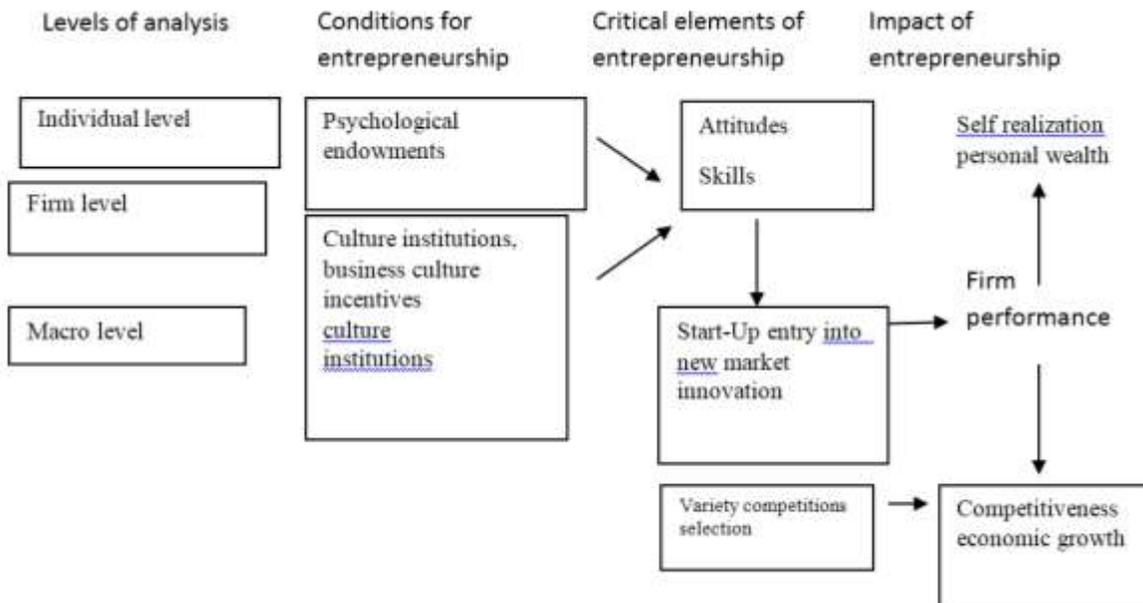
incidence of multiplicity of regulatory agencies and taxes that have always resulted in high cost of doing business and poor corporate governance and low entrepreneurial skills arising from inadequate educational skills. (Akanwa & Akpanabia 2012).

The Relationship between Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth and Development.

It is widely believed that entrepreneurship is beneficial for economic growth and development. Entrepreneurship has been remarkably resurgent over the past decades in countries that achieved substantial poverty reduction (Nwakeaku, 2013). In the 1980s stagflation and high unemployment caused a renewed interest in supply side economics and in factors determining growth. Simultaneously, the 1980s and 1990s have been a reevaluation of the role of small forms and a renewed attention for entrepreneurship. In fact, understand the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic growth requires the decomposition of the concept of entrepreneurship (Wennekers and Thurik, 1999). Having considered the concepts of entrepreneurship economic growth and economic development individually, ascertaining the link between the two concepts would not be unachievable.

In terms of how entrepreneurship has been a stimulant in economic growth, there exist enormous discussions and debates but it is however eminent to realize the importance of constant innovations and rivalry enhancement (Todtling and WanZanbock, 2003). There has been a problem in defining and measuring entrepreneurial factors and this has further complicated the exact contributions to economic growth. In addition, Carree and Thurik (2002) explained that the concept of entrepreneurship is multidimensional and largely ill-defined. Understanding the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic growth will therefore require a framework because of the nature of intermediate variables and connections which exist (Bygrave and Minniti, 2000). In addition Olagunju (2004) and Adebayo (1999) assert that there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth while Aladekomo (2004) explained that entrepreneurship is increasingly being recognized as a primary engine of economic growth. By combining existing resources with innovative ideas, entrepreneurs add value through the commercialization of new products, the creation of new jobs, and the building of new firms. The Global Economic growth indicates that nations with high

levels of entrepreneurial activity enjoy strong economic growth. In short, entrepreneurs are the link between new ideas and economic growth.



Furthermore, Naude (2013) posited that entrepreneurship will, in light of the above, contribute to growth and employment creation in advanced, emerging and least developed economies alike. This is a reasonable expectation – one that is supported by finding of historians, economists, and managerial scientists. “With too many entrepreneurs, levels of aspirations in a country may rise, it is well-known that with increasing material wealth (or opportunities) people’s aspirations increase: Entrepreneurs create jobs – and we know that unemployment is a major and significant cause of unhappiness. We also know that goods that entrepreneurs provide, such as health and experiential activities, raise happiness levels.

Problems of Entrepreneurship in Employment Generation 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. Irrespective of the benefits associated with entrepreneurship, there are lots of barriers that have

prevented youths from fully realizing their potentials and assuming responsibilities in the society. Prospectively, people had gradually moved out of the farms into urban areas for lack of agricultural incentives. Even in the urban areas and cities, infrastructure had continued to deteriorate, road uncared for water supply was irregular, power outage was a regular phenomenon, and even for people who could afford to use electricity – generating sets, petroleum products to power than might not be available as at when needed.

These barriers are however differently grouped by different authors and scholars in literature, but Onwubiko (2011) outlined his own under the following sub-heading.

1. Absence of infrastructural facilities: it is a universal belief that certain basic infrastructural facilities aid the development of the mind and body and assist productivity in any environment. These facilities have been identified in any as good roads, water supply, constant power, access to information and communication technology and other tools of trade. A cause where these are lacking in a country, the growth of the economy will be adversely affected. In Nigeria these basic work tools as well as the enabling environment is lacking. This state of affairs has frustrated a lot of young people with bright ideas and the corresponding spirit to effect a change in some areas of our national life. For instance, the power sector has proven the greatest challenges to any aspiring entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Power supply is epileptic and most times business have to be run on generators. The cost of this alternative source of power most often erodes whatever profit or capital the entrepreneurs has put aside for his enterprise. The worst still are the barbers, dry cleaners, and cyber café operators. In times of energy crisis when there is shortage of fuel supply, businesses are almost grounded due to unavailability of petrol or gas to power generators. This avoidable factor adds immensely to overhead costs and unnecessarily makes the cost of production very high. Due to this investment in manufacturing and entrepreneurial activities is made uninteresting.

2. Inadequate working capital: Even though many scholars such as Onugu (2005) have argued against non-availability of capital as the prime problem of entrepreneurship development, the availability of capital, say Onwubiko (2011) is central to the establishment and continued existence of any enterprise irrespective of the size, locus and objective. It has been observed

that for an entrepreneur in Nigeria to start a business, he must have adequate funds. In a situation where the working capital is inadequate or unavailable, it becomes a problem. Banks are before now reluctant to give out loans to intending entrepreneurs especially to young people. The procedures for accessing such credits are often rigorous and dependent on the provision of collaterals which the potential entrepreneurs may not possess.

Furthermore, the financial institutions charge outrageous interest rate sometimes as high as between 26 to 33% depending on the bargaining power of the applicant and the bank concern. With this situation one would have thought that the government would put in place practical programs and policies for assisting such people in need of start-up funds but the reverse is often the case. Where such funds are provided, they are distributed to relatives and those in government who misapply them and eventually fail to pay up at the maturity time thereby further creating the notion that young people are lazy.

3. Low standard of Education: There is no gain saying the fact that education is the key to knowledge and that it plays a strong role in forming the burgeoning entrepreneur. The world today is a global village and since an intending entrepreneur must be conversant and in tune with events around and about him, education becomes a critical factor in preparing and empowering the entrepreneur with the qualities required of him. Unfortunately, the role of education in forming young people to become change agents it seems, have been ignored. Year after year, the quality of education in the Nigerian institutions has gradually been on the decline, due to mass exodus over the years by qualified teachers. Those stuck in the system are there due to unavailability of alternative jobs. Government policy or lack of one has been schools are not adequately funded, equipped, regulated and managed to bring out their optimum potentials. Most times students are home due to strikes. Most people in government send their wards abroad for their education thereby preventing the will to address the urgent need for the sector. The result is half-baked workforces who are lacking within and make a mark in an area of human endeavor.

4. Lack of Adequate Training: A regrettable consequences of the immediate foregoing is the absence of adequate training for students such as will enable them meet the challenges of the future as leaders of business and change agents. It has been observed that the educational curriculum in Nigeria

focuses more on the theoretical without a corresponding practical approach. Most employers are always compelled to retrain their employees due to lack of knowledge of basic work ideas or familiarity with the area of study of the employee. Technology has been used to improve the quality of life through the use of the computers and other technological discoveries such as the internet. Where the youth does not have the knowledge or skill of the latest technology, it affects their outlook to life. It is surprising that in this stage and time when the computer and the internet are taken for granted in so many part of the world, the reverse is the case in Nigeria. Except for the cities, the internet and other ICT are not available in the rural area where majority of the Nigeria youth are located. This situation deprives these people an alternative mean of skill acquisition, information gathering and other advantages associated with the worldwide web. This has resulted in a situation where employers prefer to take people with on-the-job experience and required skills. Thereby making it impossible for the young person's to gather the much needed experience, skill, familiarity with a work environment and basic contents and network to pioneer a successful enterprise of a business or non-business nature. Where some of these basic trainings are offered, they are usually directed at the employees of big businesses considering the exorbitant fees charged by the institutions or bodies providing same

5. Economic, Social and Political factors: The economic, social and political factors are stifling the dreams and aspirations of the youths towards assuming entrepreneurship positions. Economic factors such as policy reversals, high and double taxations, difficulty in procuring business approvals, high inflation and unstable exchange rates are some of the areas of concern for the potential entrepreneur. The cost and procedure for establishing a company is rather prohibitive as the intending entrepreneur must engage a solicitor and accountant to take care of the legal and financial aspects. Politically, some of government's policies it seems are made to favor friends and associates. Even when it comes to award of contracts and other government patronages, cronyism is the word. This creates a situation of uneven advantage to certain people while others are meant to look like mediocre irrespective of pedigree, ability and expertise. One cannot complete this without mentioning the social malaise of systematic corruption which dissuades most people from venturing into enterprises. It seems most times

that whatever one needs to do must be coupled with some kind of favor to the person or authority granting the approval. This situation is almost frustrating and has kept many away from entrepreneurship with many youth preferring to be engaged in paid employments where they will be certain of picking their pay packages at the end of every month without the worries associated with running a business (Onwubiko, 2011). Following from the above, Salam (2011) asserted that entrepreneurship has been hindered by three major factors: structural, cultural and the lack of political will by policy makers.

Importance of Entrepreneur in Economic Development

There are number of roles played by the entrepreneur in economic development (Mustapha, 2002). These roles include but not limited to:

- 1. Employment Generation:** Unemployment is a chronic problem of undeveloped countries. Entrepreneurs generate large scale employment. As entrepreneur creates self employment an effort to million others by starting many industrial units they offered jobs to millions entrepreneurship is certainly the best way to fight the evil of unemployment plan and effect five role in reducing poverty in the country which intern aids economic development of the nation.
- 2. Increase in National Income:** Entrepreneurs always keep their eyes open. The explore and utilize opportunities, make effective resource, mobilization of capitals and skill, raise new goods and services and develop market for growth and the economy. The goods and services produced are for consumption within the country and to meet the demand of exports. Thus the national income is increased and an increase in national income is certainly a sign of economic growth.
- 3. Betterment in Standard of Living:** Improvement in the standard of living of the people is a quality feature of economic development of the country. Entrepreneurs play a key role in increasing standard by taking on newest investment in the manufacture of goods and services at lower price. This allows the people to get better quality goods at lower costs which results in betterment of their standard of living.
- 4. Entrepreneurship is a Key Driver of our economy:** Wealth and a high majority of jobs are created by small business started by entrepreneurially minded individuals, many of who go on to create big businesses. People exposed to entrepreneurship frequently express

that they have more opportunity to exercise creative freedoms higher self-esteems and on overall greater sense of control over their own lives. As a result, many experienced business people, political leaders, economists, and educators believe that fostering a robust entrepreneurial culture will maximize individual and collective economic and social success on a local national and global scale. It is with this in mind that the national standards for entrepreneurship education were developed: to prepare youths and adults to succeed in an entrepreneurial economy.

Review of Related Empirical Studies

This study reviewed the following related empirical studies.

Makinde (2013) conducted a research on curbing the unemployment problem in Nigeria through entrepreneurial development. The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 220 respondents. The researcher used questionnaire to collect data from respondents. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages, frequency counts and tables and chi-square (X^2) to test the hypotheses. The study revealed that the unemployment problem in Nigeria can be solved through entrepreneurial development and government effort in this regard is not sufficient given the magnitude of the unemployed in Nigeria. The study concluded that inadequate funds, as well as un conducive business environment are the challenges of entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommended that to curb unemployment problem in Nigeria there is need for governments at all levels to create enabling environment for the prospective entrepreneurs, as well as provision of adequate funds for sustainability.

Ogundele, Akingbade and Akinlabi (2012) investigated entrepreneurship training and education and strategic tools for poverty alleviation in Lagos Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design of correlation type the population of the study consisted of 250 entrepreneurs and apprenticeship from five recognized local government areas of Lagos state. The study stratified and simple random sampling technique. South Western Nigeria was selected as our respondents. Data were gathered through a self-monitored questionnaire. Simple regression analysis was used to test the hypotheses. The study revealed that youth empowerment is influenced by their acquired

skill. The study confirmed that entrepreneurship training and education are significantly related to the youth empowerment and social welfare services. The study recommended that effective technical education, youth empowerment and social welfare as a catalyst for poverty alleviation.

William and Godfrey (2015) investigated entrepreneurship education, job creation for graduate employment in south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The study used descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted across six (6) states that formed south-south geopolitical zone. The study takes 20% of the entire population and sampling technique was used. The questionnaire titled entrepreneurship education and job creation questionnaire (EEJCQ) of 5 likert scale of 1 to 10 was used data collection. The data analysis was done using t-test. The results were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The analysis revealed that career intervention in four dimensions of entrepreneurs' skills and level of skill acquired after completing entrepreneurship career are significantly very high. The study recommend that more emphasis should be laid on technical and vocational education and training.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive research design of the survey type to probe the opinion of respondents regarding the roles of government in job creation through entrepreneurship development programs. Oppenheim (1992) says that the design was ideal as it enhanced collection of data from the subjects on whether government at all levels are making efforts to reduce unemployment rate in the country through entrepreneurship. Similarly, Orodho (2005) observes that descriptive survey is used in exploratory studies to gather information, summarize, present and interpret for the purpose of clarification. It is also intended to provide statistical information about aspects of education that interest policy makers. The population of this study consisted of (750) SME beneficiaries around Sokoto metropolis. The study collected (260) out of (750) beneficiaries using research advisor (2006) stable for determining sample size using purposive, stratified and simple random sampling techniques.

Sources and Methods of Data Collection

The study used questionnaire to collect data from target respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two (2) sections A and B. the section A of the questionnaire formed the background information of the respondents which

has six (6) items (sex, age, local government, state of origin, educational background and religion). The section B of the questionnaire contains item that were formulated based on research questions. The questionnaire contains 25 items with agreed and disagreed likert scale to rate responses of the respondents. The secondary source of data collection were journals, textbooks, newspapers, magazines, libraries, private resource centre's and printed materials.

Data Presentation and Analysis of Responses From Questionnaire Administration

RQ₁: What are the roles of government in relation to job creation through entrepreneurship in Sokoto state?

The research question was answered and presented in table 1

Table 4.2.1: Government roles in creating jobs through entrepreneurship in Sokoto State

S/N	Item statement	Agreed		Disagreed	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Provision of funds at little/no interest rate for easy accessibility of capital	96	77%	29	23%
2.	Establishment of entrepreneurship development centers for acquisition and training for youth and graduates	102	82%	23	18%
3.	Entrepreneurship training and skill acquisition for enhancement of workers' productivity	84	67%	41	33%
4.	Government through entrepreneurship development programs has over the years creating jobs to reduce poverty level	79	63%	46	37%
5.	Government through entrepreneurship development program organizing seminars, workshops conferences with	93	74%	32	26%

the aim of creating awareness about the benefit they stand to gain when they embrace entrepreneurship

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

RQ2: What are the challenges of entrepreneurship in Nigeria

This research question was answered and presented in table 2:

Table 4.2.2: Government roles in curbing challenges of entrepreneurship in Sokoto State

S/N	Item statement	Agreed		Disagreed	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Lack of strong patent law is a challenge to entrepreneurship development in Nigeria	80	64%	45	36%
2.	High cost of doing business is a challenge to entrepreneurship development in Nigeria	98	78%	27	22%
3.	Political and religious crises are the challenges to entrepreneurship in Nigeria	94	75%	31	25%
4.	Misapplication of business finance to other areas is a challenge to entrepreneurship development in Nigeria	106	84%	19	16%
5.	Lack of infrastructural facilities are the challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria	92	74%	33	26%

Source: Field, Survey, 2017.

RQ3: What are the contributions of entrepreneurial development to economic growth of Sokoto state

The research question was answered and presented in table 3

Table 4.2.3: Contributions of entrepreneurship development to the economic growth in Sokoto State

S/N	Item statement	Agreed		Disagreed	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Government through entrepreneurship programs has been creating jobs to reduce poverty level in the state	101	81%	24	19%
2.	Government has been effective in creating enabling environment for entrepreneurship to thrive	88	70%	37	30%
3.	Entrepreneurship development programs has over the years improved standard of living of people	86	69%	39	31%
4.	Considerable numbers of youths and graduates have benefited enormously from development programs	102	82%	23	18%
5.	Accessibility to government loan facilities at little or no interest rate has improved economic status of entrepreneur in the state	89	71%	36	29%

Source: Field, Survey, 2017.

RQ₄: What are the influences of entrepreneurship development programs in job creation?

This research question was answered and presented in table 4

Table 4.2.4: Influence of Entrepreneurship Development Programs in Job Creation

S/N	Item statement	Agreed		Disagreed	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Technical education enhances youth empowerment	91	73%	34	27%
2.	Entrepreneurship operation transcend to social welfare packages	80	64%	45	36%
3.	Youths are developed when they attend technical schools	98	78%	27	22%

4.	Personal entrepreneurial skill improves social welfare	845	67%	41	33%
5.	A catalyst to social welfare is personal entrepreneurship knowledge	97	78%	28	22%

Source: Field, Survey, 2017.

Conclusions

1. Provision of adequate funds, establishment of entrepreneurship training and skill acquisition centre's creation of awareness about the benefits of engaging in entrepreneurship were the major roles of government in creating jobs for the youths and unemployed graduates.
2. It is believed that lack of strong patent law, high cost of doing business, misapplication of business finance other areas are lack of political will and religious crisis were the challenges confronting the development of entrepreneurship in the state.
3. The main contribution of entrepreneurship development are easy accessibility to loan facilities, consistent employment of youths and graduates, improvement in standard of living of people, as well improvement in government internally generated revenue.
4. The factors influencing entrepreneurship development are poor entrepreneurship skills and knowledge, lack of support for technical education, lack of political will to support entrepreneurship development program.

Recommendations

In the light of major findings and conclusions, the study recommends the following:

1. Adequate funds should be provided by the government to help in sustaining entrepreneurship development program that serve as nerve centers of job creation for youths and unemployed graduate.
2. There is need for government to create enabling environment for businessmen and women through enactment of policy that will create room for smooth business transaction in the country infrastructural facilities must be put in order to reduce cost of doing businesses.
3. Since entrepreneurship development program positively contributed to the economic development in the country, therefore, there is need for government to expand its capacity of reaching rural dwellers

through establishment of micro finance banks for easy accessibility to loan facilities, standard of living as well as ensure stand job creation among youth and unemployed graduates.

4. There is need for government to pay more attention on technical education for knowledge and skill acquisitions. Government still need redouble its efforts in the job creation for the youth to maintain political stability and security in the country.

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