

REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NIGERIA THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF SELECTED SMALL BUSINESSES IN ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examined entrepreneurship development as a means of reducing unemployment in Nigeria, using selected small scale businesses in Anambra State as the study area. The study which was designed as a descriptive survey evaluated the role of government in trying to make the process an effective means of tackling the menace of unemployment. An item structured instrument designed to reflect the options of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and undecided popularly referred to as the five (5) points modified Likert scale, was used to elicit information from the respondents who were predominantly practicing entrepreneurs. The data generated in the study were analyzed in two sections namely; answer to the research questions and test of hypotheses. Whereas summary statistics of percentages were used to answer the research questions which were already in Likert scale format, Chi-Square (χ^2) inferential statistics was used to verify the claims of the null hypotheses. All tests were carried out at a significance level of 0.05 and 16 degrees of freedom (df). The study revealed that tertiary institutions and other entrepreneurial training centers can be reformed to make them responsive to the needs of the trainees. It was found also that the cost of doing business in Nigeria negatively affect entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. In the light of these findings in the study, it was recommended among others that the government should reform and sufficiently equip the relevant institutions and other entrepreneurial training centers across the nation to make them responsive to the needs of the trainees so that they can acquire the necessary skills and knowledge needed to start up a business venture and manage it successfully.

Keywords: Unemployment, Small Businesses, Start-ups, Entrepreneurship Development.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In the mid 1970s, Nigeria was quoted among the richest 50 countries of the world and just a few years after, she became one of the 25th poorest countries in the World (United Nations Development Programme Report on Nigeria, 2006). Nigeria, as the sixth largest exporter of petroleum products in the world, it is hard to believe that more than 60 percent of her citizens live below US\$2 (about N700) a day, going by the current naira exchange rate, with the majority of the people living in the rural areas where access to electricity, clean water and sanitation, good roads, other government essential services, etc, are almost non-existent. Also, despite the alleged strong economic growth, Chukwubuike (2008) observes that youth's full-time unemployment rate has continued to increase rapidly. Similarly, a recent United Nations Human Development Report for Nigeria (2012), indicates that poverty persists in Nigeria because past Nigerian leaders, instead of focusing on how to deliver essential services to the people assumed control of major sources of national income to the advantage of only a few. Thus, researchers and other scholars have started prescribing

entrepreneurship development as the feasible and permanent solution to the extreme hunger and poverty which accompanies unemployment in Nigeria. In the opinions of Anyadike, Emeh and Ukah (2012), the 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 micro and small scale enterprises. To Idemobi (2015), as an employment strategy, entrepreneurship can lead to self-sufficiency and economic buoyancy for the people. He reiterates that self-employment provides entrepreneurs and their families with the potential to create and manage businesses in which they function as the employer or boss, rather than merely being an employee.

Problem Statement

Unemployment is a socio-economic problem and every nation deals with it within their respective capacities. As could be seen from individual research reports and other government statement, the situation in Nigeria has gone out of hand as about 75 percent of those who are willing to work cannot find gainful employment in Nigeria, especially among the school leavers and graduates of tertiary institutions (NBS, 2014). As a result, many youth have taken to various crimes including robbery, kidnapping, drug and child trafficking and all kinds of armed banditry all in a bid to earn their living. It does not matter any more whether the means is legitimate or not. The situation appears to have gone beyond remedy (Ideyi, 2010).

Every year, new sets of graduates and school leavers add to the stock of unemployed youth; resulting to increased frustration and aggression against the society that have refused to provide for them. Successive governments have made several efforts to combat the menace of youth unemployment but it appears that the efforts have not impacted significantly on the level of unemployment as it has continued to be on the increase in the country. Studies such as (Ekong and Ekong, 2016; Akanwa and Akpanabia, 2013; Anyadike et al, 2012; Emeh, 2012; Ibrahim, 2010; Kaegon and Nwogu, 2012 and Udeorah, 2014), have all prescribed entrepreneurship development as a sure means of tackling the growing rate of unemployment in Nigeria. However, the prescriptions are devoid of the specific roles the government is expected to play to make the intervention effective and result oriented. This study is aimed at prescribing the specific roles government can play to reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria, specifically outline and discuss in great details the role of government in making the prescription effective towards the realization of the objectives.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine how entrepreneurship development can be used to combat the rising rate of unemployment in Nigeria. However, the specific objectives are to:

- i. determine the level at which educational institutions and other entrepreneurial training can affect the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.
- ii. examine the degree at which the cost of doing business in Nigeria can hinder entrepreneurship development.
- iii. ascertain the extent in which government incentive on small businesses can influence entrepreneurship development in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the objectives of the study:

- i. To what level can relevant institutions and other entrepreneurial training affect the rate of unemployment in Nigeria?

- ii. To what degree can the cost of doing business in Nigeria hinder entrepreneurship development?
- iii. To what extent can government incentive on small businesses influence entrepreneurship development in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the objectives of the study and strengthen the analysis:

- i. Relevant educational institutions and other entrepreneurial training centers cannot affect the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.
- ii. Cost of doing business in Nigeria cannot hinder entrepreneurship development
- iii. Government incentives on small businesses cannot influence the level of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The study will enrich the body of literature thereby expanding knowledge in the area. As could be seen from past studies in the area, entrepreneurship development has been the popular prescription for reducing the increasing rate of unemployment in Nigeria. Also, the policy dialogue that will arise from the findings would be of immense benefit to different categories of people and they include the government, the practising and prospective entrepreneurs, the students, researchers and the general public.

1. The government: The government would be sufficiently enlightened on how to make entrepreneurship development impact unemployment significantly.
2. Practising and Prospective Entrepreneurs: These categories of people would be better informed on how to access government incentives to boost their operations by reducing cost of doing business.
3. Students and Researchers: This group will find the result very useful because it will serve as good starting point for those who might want to carry out further studies in the area.
4. The General Public: Members of the public will be better-off because increase in the number of entrepreneur's will enhance the overall welfare of the people.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Introduction

In this section of the study, we reviewed related literature to the subject matter of the study under the following sub-headings: conceptual review, theoretical literature/exposition, theoretical framework and empirical review. Also, the theoretical literature/exposition was expanded to reflect and adequately highlight the specific objectives of the study.

Conceptual Review

Under the conceptual review of the literature, major concepts such as unemployment, entrepreneur, entrepreneurship, micro and small scale business, etc, were among others, scholarly defined within the context of the phenomenon under investigation. For instance, the international labour organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as the number of all economically active population who are without work but are available for and are seeking work, including those who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 2008). Also, in the opinion of 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. In the same vein, Awodun (2005) defines entrepreneurship as an act of recognizing opportunities in your environment, mobilizing resources to take advantage of such opportunities, ensuring the provision of new or improved goods and services to customers and finally obtaining profit in return for the risk taken. Therefore, entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek for investment opportunities, to establish and run an enterprise successfully. It serves as a linchpin between invention, innovation and introduction of new products and services in the marketplace and also enables the entrepreneurs to act as engine of growth in the economy (Ketchen, 2003).

Entrepreneurship Development and Training Institutions

The introduction of entrepreneurship education in tertiary institutions in Nigeria in 2007/2008 academic session was received with so much expectations. This is perhaps due to the fact that government's past efforts toward the reduction in youth unemployment and poverty in the country had recorded minimal success (Okojie, 2008; Osibanje, 2006). However, many years into the implementation of the policy, not much can be said to have been achieved as unemployment is still soaring higher in the country. So many problems have been identified to be responsible for the situation. From the perspective of institutional deficiency, Kaegon and Nwogu (2012) observed that entrepreneurship development centers located within the tertiary institutions where the students are being trained to acquire knowledge and develop requisite skills for managing businesses, do not have the necessary facilities and infrastructure that would make the centers function effectively. In support of this, Nwosu (2009) observes that the trainees in those institutions are never introduced to successful small enterprises nor are they taught the rudimentary and practical entrepreneurial attitudes which are the essential components in the critical formative years of the trainees. Therefore lack of opportunities to become familiar with entrepreneurial and managerial tasks during the period of training will not allow them to fully appreciate the benefits of entrepreneurial education while in school or after school they added. There is also the issue of funding and inadequate manpower. From literature, it could be seen that the government has less commitment to the policy and the instructors in the programme has less capacity to teach the courses under the programmes. Okebukola (2009) posits that the curriculum of learning is not practical oriented and as such the cooperation of the trainee could not be enlisted.

As Akpan and Etor (2009) have noted, the initiative to teach students in tertiary institutions entrepreneurship, is a move in the right direction but the government should move a step further by showing the necessary commitment to the implementation of the policy through proper funding and repositioning of the institutions to make them responsive to the needs of the trainees so that the trainees can show interest in the programme. They noted that at the moment, the trainees do not see the courses under the programme beyond the required courses they are supposed to pass to make up the required credit load for achieving the degree or certificate in view, and not necessarily for acquiring entrepreneurial skills that will enable them start up businesses for self employment after graduation.

Entrepreneurship Development and Cost of Doing Business in Nigeria

The huge deficit in infrastructure, especially power supply has made business establishment in Nigeria very unattractive. The prospective entrepreneurs have been greatly discouraged by unfavourable business environment. Salami (2011) observes that the problem also include poor access to credit due to collateral demand and high interest rates that are always from 20 percent and above as well as lack of water supply and bad roads network. Other problems are all kinds of illegal charges: rates and levies from different levels of government and their

agents on small scale businesses that are yet to find their footing (Duru, 2011). For this reason, many would-be entrepreneurs have had their dreams dashed because they could not cope with the demands of the business environment. As Hillary (2012) has noted, the small time business operators who did not sustain production on the alternative sources of power such as generators or solar panels, have had their businesses shut down completely. This is because when production cost increases, attempt to recover cost of production with marginal profit leads to increase in the prices of such goods and services thereby making them very uncompetitive in the market and it is obvious that without revenue, no business can survive. Therefore, the factors stated above has really hindered the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

Government Incentives and Entrepreneurship Development

Concerning incentives, the government can play a very significant role by designing an incentive structure to attract both the practicing and prospective entrepreneurs to invest and run their businesses with relative ease. Dike (2009) is of the opinion that incentive could be in the area of tax-holidays of some years for some categories of businesses with small capital outlay, removal of collateral and high interest rates, supply of water, roads network and constant electricity in the industrial clusters as well as reduction in the length of processes for new business registration. He noted that such incentives would no doubt woo investors and lead to development of entrepreneurial activities in the country.

In the opinions of Inyang and Enuoh (2011), government recognizes the strategic role she should play in the development of entrepreneurship in the country but the will to match policies with actions has been lacking. They observed that government should provide business friendly environment by providing the necessary infrastructure and a framework of enforceable competition, law that discourages monopoly and unfair competition as well as by intellectual property rights that protect a firm's valuable but often intangible, knowledge assets. In the same vein, Adegun and Akomolafe (2013) have reiterated that government should create an enabling environment that reduces the barriers to market entry. They stated further that government should also invest in diverse sources of risk capital to fund entrepreneurs while providing the fiscal incentives for investors to provide the needed funding. This way, they remarked, development of entrepreneurship in the country would be accelerated.

The Prospects of Entrepreneurship Development in Reducing Unemployment

Ogundele, Akingbade and Akinlabi (2012) have stated that contribution of entrepreneurship training and education on unemployment through youth empowerment will be much significant if entrepreneurship is encouraged at all levels in the economy. Also, Akpama, Esang, Asor and Osang (2011) have observed that through entrepreneurial studies, which is inter-disciplinary training that focuses on the acquisition of relevant skills needed to start and run a new business venture, unemployment and poverty can be reduced. As Onyeizugbe, Orogbu and Oyigbo (2015) have observed, attempts to provide solution to societal problems often set processes in motion such that the opportunities for engaging human efforts called job creation are provided. They noted that jobs are created when firms established by entrepreneurs employ people with requisite skills to occupy vacant positions. To Tijani-Alawiye (2004), entrepreneurs successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to growth and sustainable level so that more hands can be engaged in the running of the enterprise. Through such processes, he remarked, job opportunities are created.

Entrepreneurship development affords the youth the opportunity to be productively engaged so as to divert their attention from negative vices such as crime, militancy and so on. According to Rasmussen and Stroheim (2005), its major role is wealth creation. Persons engaged in entrepreneurship, either on their own efforts or inside an organization pursue opportunities without regard to resources under their control. Also, Enaohwo (2011) emphasizes the need for youth entrepreneurial empowerment to harness their potentials and intellectual creativity. This, to him, is because its potency is capable of lowering unemployment and poverty level and elevating living standards and quality of life of Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

The theory upon which this study is anchored is the psychological theory of entrepreneurship propounded by McClelland in 1961. McClelland introduced the concept of need for achievement and goal setting. He argues in his book “The Achieving Society”, that the drive towards achievement is the basis of activity for most entrepreneurs. He used the Jews in his illustration. According to him, the Jewish child is shown from the beginning that he has to maintain and remain on top in order to counteract the attitude of the society to him. McClelland concludes that because of this method of rearing which the Jews operate, they are always on top and strive for excellence wherever they found themselves. McClelland’s belief is that achievement motivated people are generally those who make things happen and get results and this extends to getting results through the organization of other people and resources. The implication is that doing things better when the requisite skills must have been acquired, will naturally open up ideas and job opportunities through the expansion of business ventures to eventually absorb the army of unemployed youth in Nigeria.

Empirical Review

Anyadike, Emeh and Ukah (2012) conducted a study on Nigeria’s growing unemployment situation and how it is increasingly dwindling the potentials of the country, especially following the official figures of the National Bureau of Statistics that puts the figure at about 50 million Nigerian youth in 2011. The study found that entrepreneurship can generate enough employment opportunities to mitigate the rising rate of unemployment in Nigeria. It was concluded that the government should make skills development for entrepreneurial activities a priority in Nigeria.

In a similar study, Taiwo (2014) carried out an empirical research on impact of entrepreneurship development on job creation in Nigeria. He found out that in any given economy, entrepreneurship development always give birth to job creation which encourages the people to do something that will better their lives and the country at large. He concluded that job creation or employment opportunities in any economy can be traceable to entrepreneurship training and development.

Okoye, Iloanya and Udunze (2014) carried out research work on the extent to which entrepreneurship in Nigeria has helped to reduce youth unemployment. Their study showed that government policies and initiative have not affected the “transformation question”. This is due to the increase in the rate of corruption, inadequate funding and maladministration. They concluded that entrepreneurship in the country is supposed to be an engine of growth and job creation, innovation and diversity but unfortunately it is not because of all the inadequacies listed above. They concluded also that the Nigerian entrepreneurs have a long way to go before they can actually drive the desired change in the economy.

Onyeizugbe, Orogbu and Oyigbo (2015) carried out a study on entrepreneurial development and job creation in selected local government areas in Enugu State, Nigeria. The study was meant to determine the extent that innovativeness affects youth empowerment in the selected LGAs. The study which was designed as correlational study found that innovativeness has no significant relationship with youth empowerment. It was concluded that government should pay more attention to the issues of entrepreneurship for job creation. Similarly, Ekong and Ekong (2016) did a study on skills acquisition and unemployment reduction in Nigeria, using the National Directorate of Employment as the study area. The study period was 1987-2012. Designed as a descriptive survey, the study found that positive link exist between skills acquisition by NDE and unemployment reduction in Akwa Ibom State.

METHODOLOGY

In this section of the study, we discussed the procedures and methods used in carrying out this study under the following sub-headings: research design, area of the study, nature and sources of data, population of the study, determination of sample size, sample and sampling technique, method of data collection, validity of the instrument, reliability of the instrument and method of data analysis.

Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The choice of the design was informed by the fact that a sample of the population would be studied for the purposes of generalizing the results for the entire population of interest. Also, as Obasi (1999) puts it, 'the use of survey is always adopted because it provides an important means of gathering information especially when the necessary data cannot be found in any statistical record in form of secondary data'. The area of the study was Anambra with particular reference to Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha industrial axis of the State because available records shows that micro and small scale enterprises owned by existing entrepreneurs concentrates more in the zones mentioned above. Sources of Data were mainly from primary source which were complemented with secondary data sourced from journal publications, textbooks and other academic works.

Population of the Study

The population for the study consists of existing entrepreneurs that employed between 5 to 100 persons in their firms. From the directory of industries domiciled in the State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and a pilot study commissioned by the researcher, 1009 of such businesses were identified across the three Zones with 281 being from Awka, 399 from Nnewi and 329 from Onitsha.

Determination of the Sample Size

It was impracticable to study the whole population therefore the study settled for a sample size using Taro Yameni's statistical formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

- n = sample size to determined
- N = entire population of interest
- e = error margin (0.05)
- 1 = constant

Substituting we have:

$$n = \frac{1009}{1 + 1009(0.05)^2}$$

$$= 334.3273691$$

$$n = 334 \text{ (Nearest whole number)}$$

Table 1: Population and Sample Distribution

S/N	Zone	Population	Sample Allocation	Percentage of Total
1.	Awka	281	93	27.8
2.	Nnewi	399	132	39.5
4.	Onitsha	329	109	32.6
	Total	1,009	334	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the sample across the zones in the state. The proportion of target population determined the sample allocated to each zone. As could be seen, Awka zone with the least population figure was allocated 93 respondents and it represents 27.8 percent of the sample. Also, Nnewi zone with the largest population was allocated 132 respondents which represents 39.5 percent of the sample, and Onitsha was equally allocated 109 respondents depending on the population. Thus, each zone was proportionately allocated the sample based on the population.

Method of Data Collection

Structured questionnaire designed to reflect the options of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and undecided, popularly referred to as the five (5) points modified Likert scale was used to elicit information from the respondents. The researcher used direct questionnaire distribution approach. The method enabled her to assess whether the respondents really understood the questionnaire items. Also, the method helped to reduce the volume of non-response which often associates with surveys of this nature. Out of the 334 copies of the questionnaire that were issued out, 321 were completed and returned thus showing a response rate of 96.1 percent which was considered very adequate.

Validity of the Instrument

The instrument for data collection was both face and content validated. This was achieved by giving some copies of the instrument to the supervisor, other senior lecturers in the faculty who are quite knowledgeable in questionnaire drafting and experts from other tertiary institutions, to criticize and comment on the structure and content. The comments and corrections made by the experts were duly reflected in the final draft of the questionnaire.

Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability of the instrument was ascertained by giving 20 copies of the questionnaire to a group of 20 entrepreneurs outside the study area to answer. After an interval of two weeks, the same instrument was administered a second time on the same group of people. The first and second responses were collated and analyzed through the application of Spearman rank order correlation coefficient. The result of the analysis showed 0.90, 0.83, 0.73 and 0.80 for the four research questions respectively (see details of the estimation in Appendix II). The average coefficient of 0.82 shows that the instrument is 82 percent consistent and therefore reliable.

Method of Data Analysis

The data for the study were analyzed quantitatively through simple summary statistics of percentages and chi-square (χ^2) test of independence. Being in a Likert Scale format, it was easy to determine the extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with a given opinion on the issues surrounding unemployment and entrepreneurship development as the perceived solution, while the test of hypotheses were carried out through the inferential statistics of Chi-square (χ^2). All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance and 16 degrees of freedom (df).

RESULTS

Introduction

The analyses were done in two sub-sections namely; answer to research questions and the test of hypotheses. Whereas summary statistics was applied to the Likert scale responses to determine extent of agreement or disagreement, Chi-square (χ^2) inferential statistics was used to verify the claim of the null hypothesis.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research question1: To what level can relevant institutions and other entrepreneurial training affect the rate of unemployment in Nigeria?

Research question one was answered with questionnaire item 1,2,3,4and 5

Table 2: Functionality of the Institutions and Entrepreneurship Development

S/N	Items of the Questionnaire	Alternative Responses					Total
		SA	A	D	SD	UND	
1.	Institutions of higher learning and other centers where the prospective entrepreneurs are being trained have not been properly structured to impact the trainees by the government.	135 (4.21)	139 (43.3)	20 (6.2)	17 (5.3)	10 (3.1)	321 (100)
2.	Government has good intentions to reduce unemployment but the will and commitment to effectively implement the policies are grossly lacking.	141 (43.9)	133 (41.4)	20 (6.2)	16 (5.0)	11 (3.4)	321 (100)
3.	Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria can only be achieved by reforming the institutions that train the would be entrepreneurs to enable them acquire need skills for managing business enterprises.	129 (40.2)	154 (48.0)	25 (7.8)	8 (2.5)	5 (1.6)	321 (100)
4.	Entrepreneurship development centers in our tertiary institutions cannot perform as expected because they are not adequately equipped to do so.	149 (46.4)	127 (39.6)	30 (9.3)	10 (3.1)	5 (1.6)	321 (100)
5.	Practicing entrepreneurs must be invented as guest or visiting lecturers at the training centers to impact their practical knowledge and experience to the trainees before any head way can be made.	120 (37.4)	160 (49.8)	25 (7.8)	10 (3.1)	6 (1.9)	321 (100)
Total		674	713	120	61	37	1605
Percentage of Total		(42.0)	(44.4)	(7.5)	(3.8)	(2.3)	(100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages

: (SA = Strongly agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree and UND = Undecided)

From Table 2, it could be seen that on the average, 42 percent of the respondents strongly agreed with all the items, 44.4 percent merely agreed, 7.5 percent disagreed, 3.8 percent

strongly disagreed and 2.3 percent had no opinion on the issues raised. It could be seen therefore that about 86.4 percent of the respondents agreed that the institutions and other training centers could be made to respond to the entrepreneurial needs of the trainees.

Research Question 2: To what degree can the cost of doing business in Nigeria hinder entrepreneurship development?

Research question two was answered with questionnaire item 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Table 3: Cost of Doing Business and Entrepreneurship Development

S/N	Items of the Questionnaire	Alternative Responses					Total
		SA	A	D	SD	UND	
6.	Many prospective entrepreneurs are discouraged from venturing into business establishment due to long process of business registration.	120 (37.4)	160 (48.8)	25 (7.8)	10 (3.1)	6 (1.9)	321 (100)
7.	Businesses that have shut-down are mainly due to due multiplicity of taxation and other rates and levies.	150 (46.7)	139 (43.3)	20 (6.2)	7 (2.2)	5 (1.6)	321 (100)
8.	The rate of infrastructural deficit is one of the major reasons that businesses are not being established.	154 (48.0)	129 (40.2)	25 (7.8)	8 (2.5)	5 (1.6)	321 (100)
9.	High cost of credit is the most discouraging factor while trying to start up a business concern.	131 (40.8)	147 (45.8)	29 (9.0)	8 (2.5)	6 (1.9)	321 (100)
10.	Nigerian business environment is very hostile and as such entrepreneurship can hardly develop and expand.	129 (40.2)	150 (46.7)	30 (9.3)	6 (1.9)	8 (2.5)	321 (100)
Total		684	725	129	39	30	1,605
Percentage of Total		(42.6)	(45.2)	(8.0)	(2.4)	(1.9)	(100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages

: (SA = Strongly agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree and UND = Undecided)

As could be seen from Table 3, about 42.6 percent of the respondents on the average strongly agreed with all the items. 45.2 percent agreed but not strongly, 8 percent disagreed, 2.4 percent strongly disagreed while 1.9 percent of them were indifferent on all the issues raised. Thus about 87.8 percent were of the opinion that cost of doing business hinders growth of entrepreneurship and business expansion hence unemployment could not be impacted.

Test of Hypotheses

All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance and 16 degrees of freedom (df).

Hypothesis One

H₀₁: Relevant educational institutions and other entrepreneurial training centers cannot affect the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

Table 4: Summary of Chi-Square (χ^2) Test for Hypothesis I

Hypothesis	Sample Size (n)	Degrees of freedom (df)	Chi-Square (χ^2) values		Significance level (α)	Decision rule
			$\chi^2_{cal.}$	$\chi^2_{crit.}$		
I	334	16	89.311	26.296	0.05	Rejected

Note: χ^2_{cal} means the calculated value of χ^2 and $\chi^2_{crit.}$ means the critical value of χ^2 .

Decision Rule I

At 0.05 level of significance and 16 degrees of freedom, the calculated χ^2 value (89.311) is greater than the critical χ^2 value (26.296) (See Appendix III for details). Consequently, the

null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative which suggests that reformation of relevant institutions and other training centers can significantly make entrepreneurship development more responsive to impact unemployment was accepted.

DISCUSSIONS

The central argument in this study is the evaluation of entrepreneurship development as a viable means of reducing the rising rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria. In doing this however, we looked at the specific roles of government towards making the intervention really impacting. We also looked at the effect of cost of doing business in Nigeria's business environment, the incentive structure government could design to make the practice of entrepreneurship more attractive and whether entrepreneurship development can actually be a viable solution to the menace of youth unemployment in Nigeria.

The result of the first test of hypothesis indicates that the reformation of the relevant institutions and other entrepreneurial training centers will make entrepreneurship development will reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria. This result supports what Adegun and Akomolafe (2013) meant when they observed that higher institutions of learning should be reformed to support and promote innovation and entrepreneurship so that businesses and institutions can partner to nurture prospective entrepreneurs. This way, the students would be sufficiently equipped with the necessary skills needed to start and run business ventures successfully.

The result of the second test of hypothesis shows that high cost of doing business in Nigeria negatively affects entrepreneurship development. This is because it discourages those with good business ideas from investing. This finding is in line with the opinion expressed by Idemobi (2015) when he observed that an unfavourable business environment does not only hinder foreign investors but also and more importantly, thousand of local entrepreneurs who want to start or expand small businesses in the areas of agriculture and agro-allied industries, services and even manufacturing. Nigeria's business environment has been noted as one of the most hostile in the world. This is not a good development for a nation that wants to solve the problem of mass youth unemployment through entrepreneurial activities. Finally, the difference between this study and those before it is that it has highlighted the specific roles government should play in making entrepreneurship development very responsive in impacting unemployment.

SUMMARY

Summary of Findings

The study examined the effectiveness of entrepreneurship development in reducing the rising rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Through the administration of questionnaire to micro and small scale business operators in Anambra State, the role of government in the process was reviewed. It was found that when government reforms and equip the institutions and training centers, they will become more responsive to the needs of the trainees. Also, it was found that many new businesses will emerge when the government reduces the high cost of doing business in Nigeria. This it can do by providing the enabling environment in the areas of provision of infrastructure, especially electricity, removal of double taxation, giving access to credit facilities and start-up capitals as well as offering of tax incentives to local firms. It is our firm belief that through such policies, enough businesses that can give employment to millions of people would be created in Nigeria within a short period of time.

CONCLUSIONS

From the findings made in this study, it is quite safe to conclude that entrepreneurship development can be a solution to the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria if the government can play the leading roles that can make the process as effective as possible. The multiplier effect of the policy leaves us without doubt that it is a preferred option against others. Entrepreneurs drive every economy including job creation and we need to help them succeed in Nigeria to create the jobs that we badly need. The government, surely, should play the leading role but at the same time cannot do it alone. It requires the support of all and sundry, especially the youth who must show sufficient interest through a conviction that acquisition of entrepreneurial skills is many steps towards the solution to the unemployment problem in the country.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings made and the conclusions reached in the study, we made the following policy dialogues:

1. The need to reform and equip the institutions and other entrepreneurial skills acquisition centers to make them more responsive to the needs of the trainees cannot be overemphasized. This is because many of the training centers including the tertiary institutions do not have what it takes to produce the would-be entrepreneurs that can later establish and manage business concerns successfully.
2. Many entrepreneurs have been forced to close down because of high cost of doing business in Nigeria. The government should step in and make policies that will lower the cost of doing business so that both the moribund and the new ones can get up and begin to add value to the economy.
3. There is also the need for the government to structure some incentives that will ameliorate the problems being faced by entrepreneurs in the country. Problems of multiple taxation by government and those who claim to be her agents, non-supply of electricity, high interest rates and collaterals are some of the areas that the government need to consider to make things easier for business operators in Nigeria.
4. Entrepreneurship development have been found to be a viable solution to the problem of unemployment in Nigeria. Government need to be holistic in its approach. There is need for huge capital expenditures to improve the business environment, especially the power sector, provision of unhindered access to finance to all practicing and prospective entrepreneurs, either as start-up or top-up to boost entrepreneurial activities in the country.

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