

THE EFFECT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON OGUN STATE FRESH GRADUATES' ATTITUDES TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT

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Abstract

This research work focuses on the effect of entrepreneurship development programmes on Ogun state fresh graduates' attitudes to self-employment. The objective of this study is to determine how gender factor influences fresh graduates' desire for self-employment and whether government programmes and policies enhance undergraduate desire for self-employment. A survey research design was used for the purpose of data collection while only primary source of data was adopted to get firsthand information on the subject matter. A total number of five hundred (500) fresh graduates were selected across Ogun state. Samples were selected through the use of quota sampling techniques, a non-random sampling technique. The study made use of non-parametric Chi Square test of goodness of fit test. Findings showed that gender factor as well as government programmes and policies help in enhancing undergraduate desire for self-employment. Therefore, it was recommended that graduates need to be more creative to become a successful business tycoon and that government on her own part should create an enabling environment for business to thrive through good policy making.

*Keywords: Entrepreneurship development, Entrepreneurial, Employment,
Self-employment, and Graduates*

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Background to the Study

The rising rate of insecurity according to Anene & Iman (2012) in Okolo (2010) cannot be divorced from the debilitating effects of poverty and unemployment, which have enveloped the country. They expressed worry over the high rate of graduate unemployment in the country. Katsina (2010) frowned at the increasing involvement of youth in criminal activities in the country and called on government at all levels to initiate proactive curricula in our educational system. Okolo (2010) describes unemployment and poverty as a very dangerous development that must be tackled in order to prevent the attendant to the nation.

Many scholars have written widely on entrepreneurship potency to generate employment, thus addressing the quite essence, significance and relevance of the sub-sector in the developed economics in relation to roles played by entrepreneurship cannot be overemphasized especially among the developing countries. In order to highlight its significance in relation to the growth and development of a given economy, entrepreneurship has been variously referred to as "Source of employment generation". This is because entrepreneurial activities have been found to be capable of making positive impact on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of people (Adejumo, 2010).

Studies have established positive relationship with stimulation of economic, growth, employment generation and empowerment of disadvantaged segment of population, which include women and the poor (Oluremi & Gbenga, 2011, Thomas & Mueller, 2000; Raymond, 1987). The dexterity with which hunger and poverty have devastated lives and future ambition of scholars prescribing graduates in Nigeria, have led scholars prescribing entrepreneurship development as the paramount cure for extreme hunger and poverty necessitated by unemployment hence economic displacement is one of the central forces that influence the development of entrepreneurship. This 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 nation and need for small and medium enterprise. Therefore, this paper would provide answers to certain questions that are connected to unemployment and entrepreneurship issues in Nigeria, and these are:

- i. Does gender attributes of fresh graduates influence their desire to be self-employed?
- ii. Does government programme and policies enhance the graduate desire to be self-employed?

Literature Review

Economics regard land, labour, capital and entrepreneur as the main factors of production. The main task of entrepreneur is to organized the production system and assume the risks of production. Entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new form of business; continue to manage it until it is successful. Udeh (1999) says an entrepreneur is the originator, the sole and the ultimate creator of wealth. An entrepreneur is defined as an individual who has the ability to seek, search and find business opportunities in his

environment, who has the ability to initiate appropriate action which can ensure business success. An entrepreneur is also known as an action oriented highly motivated individual, who has the ability to see and evaluated business opportunities, gathers necessary resources to take advantage of them, initiate appropriate action to ensure success and takes risks to achieve goals.

According to Adeloluyi (2007), entrepreneurship skills are simply business skills which an individual acquire to enable them effectively function in the turbulent business environment as an entrepreneur or self employed. Entrepreneurship is the process of bringing together creative and innovative ideas, combining them with management and organization skills in other to combine people, money and resources to meet and combine people, money and resources to meet an identified need and thereby create wealth (Agamuo, 2002). It is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. Entrepreneurship is thus the process of learning the skill needed to assume the risk of establishing a business. Entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of creating incremental wealth by the individual who assume risks in terms of allocation or time, energy resources, skills and or career commitment of providing values for products or services.

Some people believe that anybody who invests his money and engages himself in any business actually is an entrepreneur. They use the two (2) terms i.e business men and entrepreneur interchangeably. Meanwhile, there is a clear distinction between them. Olagunju (2004) postulated that small business owners for example establish and managed their enterprise usually for personal gains. The business therefore, reflects his need, goal, personality and value. An entrepreneur is an exploiter of an idea who creates an enterprise (Small or big) not only for personal use but also for socio and developmental gains. As such, he establishes his enterprises to promote one idea or the other for the benefit of the society and from there he derives his living. So, an entrepreneur is an innovator who discovers new ideas. To this end he employs creative ideas and modern management techniques. The individual who sits down managing a successful company cease to be an entrepreneur, he becomes a manager.

Research Methodology

This study is mainly a descriptive research carried out in form of field study with numbers of selected fresh graduates in Ogun State. It seeks to find out the determinant of fresh graduate attitude towards entrepreneurship and self-reliance. The main source of the research work is primary source through the use of personally administered questionnaire distributed to the respondents to get first hand information about the issue at hand on project work. For this research work, a sample size of three hundred (300) would be selected to represent the entire population and questionnaire was used to gather the required data. For the purpose of the analysis, Chi-square test was carried.

Analysis

Hypothesis 1

H₁: The gender attributes of fresh graduates influence their desire to be self-employed

O	E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
181	95	7396	77.85
143	95	2304	24.25
12	95	6889	72.52
81	95	196	2.06
58	95	1369	14.21

$$\chi^2_c = 191.09$$

Degree of freedom (DF) = k-1 = 5 - 1 = 4

Decision Rule: The critical value is 191.09 (a) 4 degree of freedom: the decision is to accept H₁ if the calculated value is greater than the critical value. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, we conclude that the gender attributes of fresh graduates influences their desire to be self-employed.

Hypothesis 2

H₂: Government programme and policies enhance the desire to be self-employed.

O	E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
92	95	9	0.09
116	95	441	4.64
101	95	36	0.38
64	95	961	10.12

$$\chi^2_c = 15.75$$

Degree of freedom (DF) = k-1 = 5 - 1 = 4

Decision Rule: The critical value is 15.75 (a) 4 degree of freedom: decision is to accept H₁ if the calculated value is greater than the critical value. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, we conclude that government programme and policies enhance the desire to be self-employed.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, it must be admitted that possession of university or professional certification by tertiary institution in Nigeria is good, but what is the use of academic degree and or professional certificate, if the graduates are not working or unemployed. You either work for others and get paid or create work yourself entrepreneurially and pay yourself. Whichever mode of value of creation, either paid employment or entrepreneurship, you may adopt at the end really requires integrity. Indeed, character is the true collateral security of our values, learning and entrepreneurial success. It keeps the society and system going. Therefore, in all entrepreneurial pursuits and skills acquisition, character development should be given a prominent place. The present state of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria mark by under-funding negligence, lace of political will, support and investment by government and corporate bodies to invest in educating cannot produce graduates who are employable or having ability to employ others.

Given the various challenges facing the country and her teaming unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions and professionals today, the sure remedy is not only the profession of certificates but also of development of entrepreneurial skills which could help them identify and take advantage of the numerous opportunities. Moreover, the entrepreneur education in Nigeria should re-focus the teaching and training of student inculcating entrepreneurial skills that can help to be creative, innovative, develop feasible business plan and set up new business venture.

Having undergone this research work, it is recommended that:

- i. Youth entrepreneurship programmers should be made compulsory right from the secondary schools. Moreover, curriculum in the higher institution should be redesigned to capture the current readily of producing job creators and not job seekers.
- ii. There should be institutional support for youth. Entrepreneurship programmers at all levels at all tires of government; local, state and federal.
- iii. Government on her part should create more awareness on their plans, programs and policies in order to help graduates and individual with entrepreneurial interest in mind.
- iv. More support should also be given by financial institution because the demand for collateral these days scare people away, so there is need for ways to soften access to capital to help graduates with intent to become entrepreneurs.
- v. Graduates need to be self confident about the term “entrepreneur” and there is also need for creativity on their part in order to discover which line of business they are to invest in. they should be help to start income generation activities for their livelihood to reduce dependency syndrome.

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