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Mobile Phones, Mobile Internet and Poverty-Unemployment Nexus in Awka South Local Government Area

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Abstract

Nigeria pays a high price for its inadequate infrastructure in lost opportunities for growth, for poverty reduction, for employment generation and for access to services that improve people's lives. This study examined the effect of mobile phone and mobile internet on poverty-unemployment reduction in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria. The specific objective of this study is to identify the effect of mobile phone and mobile internet on poverty-unemployment in Awka South Local Government Area. The Keynesian theory of povery formed the framework of this study. The population of this study is 10, 250 households in the Local Government Area. The sample size of this study is 285 from the filled and returned questionnaire of 385. The analysis was carried out using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The results show that electricity provision has positive and significant effect on health services in Awka South Local Government Area. The result showed that mobile phone and mobile internet services have positive and significant effects on poverty-unemployment reduction(employment generation) in the Local Government Area(B = 0.537, P = 0.000). This implies that a 1% increase in the effectiveness of mobile phone infrastructure services by the providers and operators leads to 53.7% increase in employment generation in the Awka South Local Government Area. The coefficient of determination which is 0.783 indicates that 78.3% of the variations in the employment generation in the Local Government Area are explained by the independent variables mobile phone and mobile internet. The p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicates that mobile phone infrastructure services have significant effects on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area. This study concluded that mobile phone and mobile internet has positive and significant effect on poverty-unemployment reduction in Awka Local Government Area. This study recommended as follows: More license should be given to more providers as this strategy would no doubt make GSM/mobile communication much cheaper and accessible to the grass root populace.

Keywords: *Mobile phone, Mobile internet, Pearson product moment correlation, Poverty, Unemployment.*

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Background to the Study

The conceptual explanation to poverty in the development literature varies, however, Kolawole (2021) defined poverty as lack of command over basic consumption needs. According to Obayelu and Uffort (2020), poverty has been perceived by many as not just lack of money, food and assets but also as lack of access to education and healthcare and lack of security, dignity and independence. Meanwhile, a person's perception of poverty is a function of his present experience, condition of environment, the aim of such definition, his vocation and his definition of the good life. Within the Nigerian context, the following conditions are perceived as poverty in line with the submission of Taiwo and Agwu (2016): Households or individuals below the poverty line, and whose incomes are insufficient to provide for their basic needs; households or individuals lacking access to basic services, political contracts and other forms of support; people in rural areas who lack essential infrastructure; female-headed households whose nutritional needs are not being met adequately; persons who have lost their jobs and are unable to find employment as a result of economic reforms and ethnic minorities who are marginalized, deprived and persecuted economically, socially, culturally and politically. Measures of poverty include the Poverty Gap Index which measures the shortfall or gap between the average income of the poor and the poverty line, the Gini Index measuring the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within a population deviates from a perfectly equal distribution, the Human Development Index (HDI) which was recently developed by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) to provide a composite measure of both the economic and social indicators of human development. The HDI, using longevity, knowledge, income as data, combines measurement of purchasing power with measures of health and education attainment to indicate progress or retrogression in human life. Specifically, a country's poverty line represents the value of basic food and non-food needs considered essential for meeting the minimum standard of living with the society including the Awka South Local Government Area. It is noteworthy that above 70 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line (Okhiria & Obadeyi, 2020).

The United Nations Organization defined employment/unemployment as all those of working ages who , during a short reference period , were enagaged in any activity to produce goods and provide services for pay or profit. The National Bureau of Statistics(NBS) defines unemployment as follows: *Employed:* Anyone who worked at least one hour for pay or profit in the last seven days, even if they were temporarily absent. *Unemployed:* Anyone who is not employed but is actively searching for paid work and available to start paid work within the next two weeks. Labour Force: Any one aged 15 and above who is willing and able to work. Eurostat, the European Union Agency has published three new harmonized indicators of underemployment. These indicaors compliment the In ternational Labour Organization measure of unemployment to include: i) Full-time and part-time workers not seeking additional work, ii) unemployed part-time workers, iii) unemployed persons, iv) Active persons, v) persons seeking work but not immediately available, vi) persons available to work but seeking work, vii) potential additional labour force. Although, there are various measures for employment and unemployment, this paper utilized vocational skills to measure employment. As submitted by Mustajah and Irwan(2023) , vocational training/skill

acquisition have emerged as a pivotal strategy in addressing the challenges of unemployment , offering targeted skill development to equip individuals with the competencies required for gainful employment. It occupies a central position in the broader perspectives on human capital development, providing a bridge between education and employment by equipping participnats with job relevant proficiencies and enhancing marketability.

Mobile internet is the use of the internet ona mobile device, sucha as a smartphone or tablet to access information, services, and social interactions. Mobile internet is also known as mobile broadband, and it is made possible by wireless cellular connections. The use of mobile internet can effectively promote the employment and increase the income of the labourers and enhance the efficiency of the labour market matching (Yuan, Chen & Jialan, 2021). Access to the internet affect economic welfare in multiple, potentially inter-related ways by reducing information frictions, lowering search and transaction costs, and expanding opportunities for both businesses and customers. Meanwhile, Chiplunakar and Goldberg(2022) has suggested that 3G internet newtwork has had meaningful , positive effects on the employment opportunities of both men and women. Digital economy is rapidly growing output and productivity(Idris & Maikomo, 2024). The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development(OECD, 2019) defined the digital economy as the economic and social activities enabled by the internet and related technologies. There is no argument that digitalization creates economic growth(Bukht & Heeks, 2017). Digitalization is enabled through information and telecommunication technology including mobile phones, computersand associated applications(Kabongo & Okpara, 2014). A mobile phone is a wireless handheld device that allows users to make and receive calls and to send text messages , among other features over a wide distance or geographical area. Today's mobile phones are packed with additional features- browsers, games, camera, video player , navigational systems, email and internet access, photography, money transfer and banking services.The deployment and adoption of mobile phone and internet services have broad implications for the developing countries, Nigeria inclusive. It improves efficiency(Aker & Mbiti, 2010); increased employment generation(Hjort & Poulsen, 2019) and reduce household poverty while promoting employment(Bahia et al., 2020, 2021).

A profile of unemployment rate in Nigeria showed that in Q1 2024, it recorded 5.3% , a rise from 5.0% in Q3 2023; 4.3%, a reversal of the figure of the previous three quarters' risng trend ; 9.2% in Q2 2024, a decrease from 10.6% in Q1 2024 for underemployment. By education, 9.0% for those with post-secondary education and 4.0% for those with primary education(NESG, 2024). The profile further showed that by unemployment by age, about 6.5% for those aged 15-24 ; by location 5.2% in urban araeas and 2.8% in rural areas. For labour force participation rate, about 79.5% in Q2 2024, up from 77.3% in Q1 2024 and by employment-to-population ratio about 76.1% in Q2 2024 up from 73.2% in Q1. Relying on available statistics, as at 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics(NBS, 2021) recorded that Anambra state had an umemployment rate of 44.2%. As regards under-employment, the state's rate stood at 16.48% in 2020, a decline from the 17.6% recorded in 2018. In the 2023, Anambra state had 4.8 % unemployment rate compared with other states in the Southeast region of Nigeria(NBS, 2024).

While employment generation and unemployment reduction has continued to be the focal point of policy making in Nigeria. The National Employment Policy(NEP) has continued to evolve and has formed the policy thrust of every government. Despite the various employment opportunities created through different startegies in Nigeria across states and regions, and improvement in the digitalization process, unemployment has continued to soar. This paper examine the impact of mobile phones, mobile internet on poverty-unemployment reduction in Awka Local Government Area, Anambra State. The rest of this paper is structured af follows: Section 2 presents the empirical literature review and the research gap. Section 3 presents the methodology while section 4 is on the result and analysis. Section 5 presents the conclusion and policy implication of the results.

Empirical Literature Review

There are plethora of empirical studies on the link between mobile phone, mobile internet and poverty-employment nexus. However, some of the empirical studies are reviewed. Rabia and Abdul(2014) examined phone usage and employee performance in Pakistan. A field survey with structured questionnaire was utilized. Data was collected from 200 employees conviently drawn from four major industries in Pakistan. The data collected was analyzed using SPSS-17. Results show that most of the employees agreed that the use of cell phone has improved their working efficiency and that the cell phone is necessary for better performance of work. Furthermore, the employees in the manufacturing sector viewed that using cell phone during work is harmful and put impact on productivity negatively.

Edeh, Chime, Faluyi and Edeh(2019) explored the impact of mobile phone technology on job performance on human resource managers in Nigeria. A descriptive research design and a total of two hundred and twenty questionnaire(220) were used on managers selected from both public and private sector managers. The findings show that majority of the respondents used the mobile phones for communication, knowledge sharing, staff engagement, internet access, contact with family and colleagues, training, feedback and in-training. Nsabimana and Funjika(2019) investigated mobile phone use, productivity and labour market in Tanzania, using farm household and individual labour force information from Living Standard Measurement Study –Integrated Survey Agriculture(LSMS-ISA). The NPS uses stratified multistage cluster sampling method to derive a naturally representative sample. The results show that mobile phone access has heterogenous labour market effects, depending on the age of individuals.The results suggest that using mobile phones to stimulate agricultural developments would improve marginal productivity of labour in the farming sector and induces a surge in off-farm employment opportunities.

Balgobin and Dubus(2022) analyzed mobile phone, mobile internet and employment in Uganda. The Financial Inclusion Insight(FII) survey with cross-section annual data 2015 and 2016 were used. Data from the FII surveys are representative of the national population in Uganda. Data at the household level, and household are chosen randomly based on the national census. A sample of 3,566 individuals were used. The results show that the adoption and use of basic mobile phones are positively related to employment and job quality, the study argued on the regulatorsto focus on promoting the affordability of basic phones and mobile

airtimes. Muthulashmi and Kothai(2023) studied the impact of mobile phone usage at the workplace on employee productivity in the Chennai region and non-random sampling (convenience) on a total of 51 respondents were utilized. The study showed a positive relationship between mobile phone usage and employee productivity.

Whelan and Ofir(2023) researched on personal use of smartphones in the workplace and work-life conflict : a natural quasi-experiment. The study was conducted at the European branch of a global pharmaceutical company. At the time the study, 250 people were employed at the branch. Atwo-study sequential mixed research approach was adopted –initial quantitative study explored further with qualitative study. The result showed that work-life conflict declines when a ban on using smartphones for non-work purposes in the work place is revoked. Grzybowski and Patel(2023) examined the impact of mobile phones on change in employment status in South Africa using five waves of panel data from the National Income Dynamic Surveys(NIDS), which was constructed in South Africa between years 2008 and 2017. The study included a vector of observable individual and household characteristics and accounted for unobserved heterogeneity amongst individuals. The results show that mobile phone ownership has a positive impact on the change in employment status from unemployed to employed. On the other hand, ownership of a computer by a household and computer literacy do not increase the likelihood of getting employed.

Summary of Empirical Literature Reviewed

From the empirical literature reviewed, studies on mobile phone, internet and employment cut across several countries. Pakistan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Chennai region of India, Europe and South Africa. This reinforces the importance iof infrastructure especially telecommunication in promoting employment, output and productivity. The reviewed studies reveal significant contributions to extant body of knowledge on the subject matter. Most importantly, it shows different research designs- structured questionnaire, descriptive statistics, panel survey, financial inclusion survey, and mixed research approach and national income dynamic survey. The findings of these studies show that: cell phone has contributed to working efficiency, and better performance; mobile phones have been used for communication, knowledge sharing, staff engagement, internet access and for training. It has also been used to stimulate agricultural development with improved marginal productivity of labour in the manufacturing sector; promotion of employment and job quality and the decline in work-life conflict when a ban on smartphones for non-work purposes in the workplace is revoked. Mobile phone ownership has a positive impact on the change in employment status from unemployed to employed.

Gap in Research

From the reviewed studies(Rabia & Abdul, 2014; Nsabimana & Funjika, 2019; Balgobin & Dubus, 2022; Muthulaksmi & Kothai, 2023; Whelan & Ofir, 2023, Grzybowski & Patel, 2023) examined the link between mobile phone, mobile internet and employment in Pakistan, Europe and South Africa. The study by Edeh *et al*(2019) which was focused in Nigeria is related to this study that focused in Awka Local Government Area, Anambra state, the Southeast region of Nigeria. With the exception of Balgobin and Dubus(2022) of Uganda,

this study focused on mobile phone, mobile internet and employment. However, the link between poverty and employment reduction was also examined by the current study. In term of research design, this study utilized the survey research design and used the Pearson moment correlation analysis , unlike (Rabia & Abdul, 2014; Muthulakshmi & Kothai, 2023, Edeh et al, 2019) used integrated surveys. Balgobin and Dubus(2022) used the Financial Inclusion Insight Survey and Whelan and Ofir(2023) used the quasi-expermental design. While the reviewed studies used employment and employee performance to measure employment , this study used the vocational skill to measure employment. Vocational training which combines structured learning on the job with classroom training, leads to certified skills that are relevant to employers and innthe labour market. Again, countries with strong vocational training programmes are in a better position to avoid rising youth unemployment.

Methodology

Research Design

The research design of this study is the experimental research design. In this design, the authors tested the hypothesis of casual relationship between mobile phone, mobile internet and poverty-employment nexus. The design is preferred since it not only reduces bias and increase reliability, but it permited drawing inferences about casuality.

Area of the Study

Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State is the area of the study. The focus is on the public sector. Anambra State is one of the 5 states in the Southeast. The state is made up of 21 Local Government Areas and Awka South is among these 21 Local Government Areas. It has a common boundary with Enugu State at Amansea, a community in the Local Government Area. The citizens of Awka South are known for agriculture, trading and blacksmithing. The Local Government Area has 9 communities. The Local Government has two major market-Amaenyi market and Eke Awka market. The Local Government host the Government House. International Convention Centre, the Professor Dora Akuniyili Development Centre. Major tertiary institutions are located in the Local Government including the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Federal Technical College, Anambra State University, Teaching Hospital, Amaku, Saint Paul University, and Awka among others. The map of Anambra State and Awka South is presented in the chart hereunder.

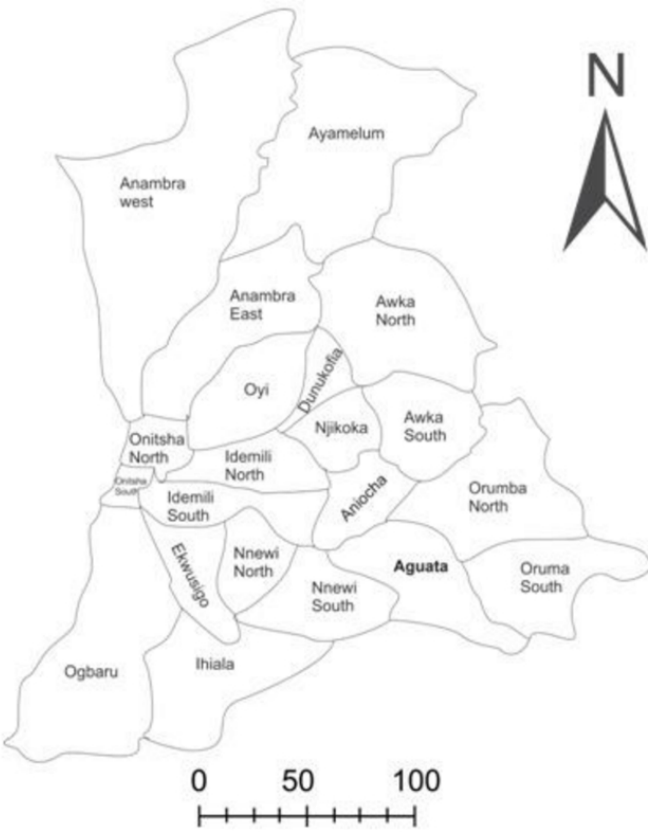

Figure 1.
Source: Google Map

Population of the Study

The population comprises the entire universe, that is relevant to a particular study. It is the subject concerned in a particular research exercise and in this study, households in the Local Government Area selected based on internet usage, access to education (minimum of secondary school level and access to National Health Insurance Scheme, NHIS). These indicators are in line with the proxy measures of public project in the nine communities that makes up the Local Government Area. The population of this study is 10,250 households (Awka South Local Government Area, 2024).

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample is drawn from the population. Nwodu (2017) describes a sample as a cross-section of a population. The determination of an adequate sample size is crucial in any survey, and is the process by which this study calculates the optimum number of participants required to be able to arrive at a scientifically valid results. This study employed the Taro Yamani sample size determination since the population is of a finite proportion. The formula is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2}$$

Where n = desired sample size, N = population size, e = margin of error; I – constant. For the above formula and indeed. Others, a 10% margin of is rather wide (MUO, 2020). 5% level of significance is the standard statistics.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2}$$
$$n = \frac{10{,}520}{1+10{,}520(0.05^2}$$
$$n = \frac{10{,}520}{1+26.3}$$
$$n = \frac{10{,}520}{27.3}$$
$$n = 385.$$

Hence, the sample size of this study is 385 households. The multi-stage sampling refers to different stages of sampling. The first stage of sampling will be to select which communities to conduct this study through simple random sampling technique. The communities are Amawbia, Awka, Ezinato, Isiagu, Mbaukwu, Nibo, Nise, Okpuno and Umuawulu. Each of these communities has equal chances of been selected for this study. The second stage involve stratification on the secondary education, access to NHIS and usage of internet. This will entail stratification on the basis of (minimum of secondary school education; access to NHIS and internet usage). The researchers after this stratification randomly sampled from the three groups to obtain the households/respondents for this study. The third stage of sampling entailed selection of sample respondents within the households. This can also be done through stratification of the respondents.

Method of Data Collection

The data for this study was collected through the administered questionnaire. The primary data was generated through the representative samples which are the households in Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State. The content of the questionnaire is made up of both demographic and thematic questions. While the demographic questions addressed the personal characteristics of the respondents, the thematic questions are research questions oriented. The questionnaire was designed in a four (4) step Likert scale format which are strongly agree (SA), agree (A); disagree (D) and strongly agree (SA).

Method of Data Analysis

This study adopted the two stages of analysis: the descriptive and inferential analysis. The descriptive statistics was analyzed using frequencies, and others-tables, charts and graph for the demographic. The second stage of the data analysis used the use of inferential analysis involving the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The hypotheses was tested using t-statistics.

Reliability of Research Instrument

The test-retest approach was used, which entails giving the research instrument the second time to the same group of respondents. Reliability was confirmed through correlation between the scores on the two independent instruments. The outcome of the test was calculated using Cronbach's Alpha with Statistical Package of social sciences. The result showed a high level of internal consistency for the six variables.

Table 1: Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Results

S/N	Variables		Cronbach's Alpha
1	Electricity	4	0.74
2	Lack of Health	4	0.86
3	Lack of Education	4	0.77
4	Internet usage	4	0.74
5	Road transportation	4	0.81
6	Unemployment	4	0.78

Source: Social Science Package (SSPS, 24).

Validity of Research Instrument

Validity borders on the issue of whether the research instruments actually measure exactly the research intent of this study. In this study, face validation was utilized. The research instrument was given to professionals in survey research. Professionalism refers to degree of experts, training experience of these people the instruments are given to evaluate.

Administration of Research Instruments

The research instruments are administered through research assistants. These research assistants were trained by the researchers. They research assistants was trained on how to administer the questionnaire, on how to assist the respondents (households) and how to retrieve the questionnaire.

Results and Analysis

Data Presentation

Data for this study was collected from the households in the nine communities that make up the Awka South Local Government Areas, namely: Amawbia, Awka, Ezinato, Isiagu, Mbaukwu, Nibo, Nise , Okpuno and Umuawulu. The total number of 385 questionnaire were distributed across these nine communities and 280 were successfully completed and collected. This implies a 72. 73% completion rate of the survey conducted. The demographic distribution of respondents based on location of their community, gender, and age is shown in Table 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 2: Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Characteristics	*n*(%)
Gender	
Male	167 (59.643%)
Female	113 (40.357%)
Age	
18 – 34	40 (14.286%)
35 – 64	225 (80.357%)
65+	15 (5.357%)

Source: Field Survey (2024)

From table 2, of the 280 respondents from the nine communities of Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra states, 167 (59.64%) of them were male while 113(40.36%) of them were female.

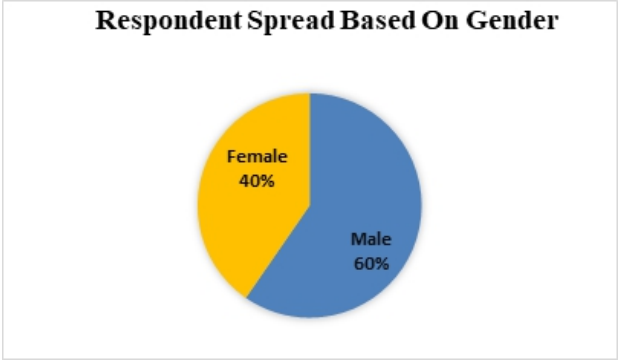

Figure 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents
Source: Field Survey (2024)

Furthermore, 40 (14%) of the respondents were between the ages of 18-34 years; 225 (81%) of the respondents were between the ages of 35 – 64 years and 15 (5%) of the respondents were 65 years old or above. This is graphically illustrated in Figure 3.

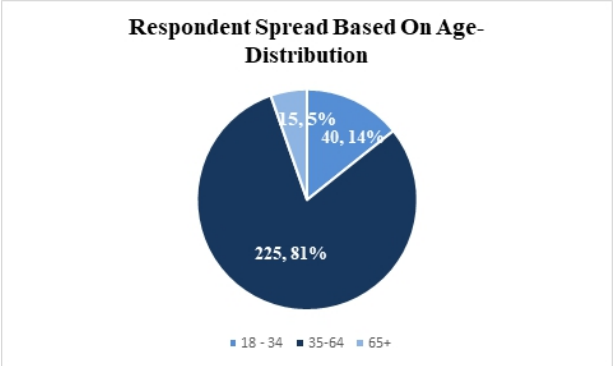

Figure 3: Age Distribution of Respondents
Source: Field Survey(2024)

Next, the demographic characteristics of households in the nine communities revealed their classification and income levels.

Table 3: Demographic Characteristics of Households

Classification	*n*(%)
Education	
Primary	66 (23.57%)
Secondary	97 (34.64%)
Tertiary	117 (41.79%)
Income	
₦0 - ₦500,000	46 (16.42%)
₦500,000 - ₦2m	110 (39.29%)
₦2m - ₦5m	124 (44.29%)

Source: Field Survey(2024)

From table 3, 66 representing 23.57% were households with prmary education, 97 (34.64%) were households with secondary education while 117 (41.79%) were households with tertiary education. Similarly, 46 representing household had annual income ranging from N0-N500,000, while 110 (39.29%) had income ranging from N500,000 to N2,000,000,000 and 124(44.29%) had income ranging from N2m to N5m.

Table 4: Summary Statistics of Respondents' Views on Mobile Phone, Mobile Internet and Poverty- Umployment Reduction

S/N	Items	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
1	Mobile phone and mobile internet has significant effect on poverty-unemployment reduction in Awka South Local Government Area	4.07	1.650	Agree
2	For employment to be generated in Awka South Local Government Area, the mobile phone service providers and operators must perform optimally	4.23	1.434	Agree
3	Mobile phone and mobile internet has significant effect on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area	3.68	1.534	Agree
4	There are government policy strategies to improve on mobile phone and mobile internet services for employment generation in Awka South L.G.A	4.50	1.525	Agree

Source: Researcher's Computation using SPSS

Table 4 showed the respondents responses on mobile services and employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area with mean values greater than 3.50. From the results, it can be concluded that ICT infrastructure(mobile phone) in particular has significant effect on employment generation within the sample period (mean = 4.07); optimally functioning of the mobile phone service providers and operators has significant effect on employment generation in the Local Government Area(mean = 4.23) and policy strategies to improve mobile service operation has significant effect on employment generation (mean = 4.50). Given these results, the third hypothesis of this study was tested to statistically determine if mobile phone services have significant effect on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area, using coefficient of determination, t-statistic and probability values. The result is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Mobile phone, Mobile Internet and Poverty-Unemeployment Reduction in Awka South Local Government Area

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.443	.243		4.443	.001
	Mobile phone, Mobile internet	.537	.048	.520	8.236	.004

R-square = 0.783, Adjusted R-squared = 0.676, R = 0.834, P = 0.000.

Source: Field Survey(2024)

Table 5 shows the regression analysis of the effects of mobile phone services on employment generation in Awka Local Government Area. The result of the analysis showed that mobile phone services(providers and operators) have positive and significant effects on employment generation in the Local Government Area within the reviewing period (B = 0.537, P = 0.000). This implies that a 1% increase in the effectiveness of mobile phone infrastructure services by the providers and operators leads to 53.7% increase in employment generation in the Awka South Local Government Area. The coefficient of determination which is 0.783 indicates that 78.3% of the variations in the employment generation in the Local Government Area are explained by the independent variables included in the model. The p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicates that mobile phone infrastructure services have significant effects on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area.

Discussion of Findings

From the results , it can be concluded that mobile phone and mobile internet has significant effect on poverty-unemployment reduction within the sample period (mean = 4.07); optimally functioning of the mobile phone service providers and operatiors has significant effect on employment generation in the Local Government Area(mean = 4.23) and policy strategies to improve mobile service operation has significant effect on employment generation (mean = 4.50). Given these results, mobile phone and mobile internet have significant effect on poverty-unemployment reduction in Awka South Local Government Area, using coefficient of determination, t-statistic and probability values. The findings further showed that mobile phone, mobile internet have positive and significant effects on poverty-unemployment reduction in the Local Government Area within the study period (B = 0.537, P = 0.000). This implies that a 1% increase in the effectiveness of mobile phone and mobile internet infrastructure services by the providers and operators leads to 53.7% increase in employment generation in the Awka South Local Government Area. The coefficient of determination which is 0.783 indicates that 78.3% of the variations in the employment generation in the Local Government Area are explained by the independent variables included in the model. The p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicates that mobile phone infrastructure services have significant effects on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area.

This findings are in line with the conclusion of Lola, Olufemi and Agboola(2012) that the Global system for telecommunication(GSM) has contributed in so many ways to the growth of the Nigerian economy especially in the areas of employment generation, foreign direct investment and domestic investment. In the same vein, Adebayo(2012) concluded that mobile phone has empowered the poor by opening up veritable windows of wealth generation for them to get out of the scourge of poverty. Global system for mobile communication indeed contributed immensely in providing several jobs, especially in the informal sector , and income for the individual household members who were either unemployed or unpaid in the formal job.

Implications of Research Findings

The following are implications of the findings. The findings show that mobile phone and mobile internet have positive and significant effects on poverty-unemployment reduction(employment generation) in the Local Government Area (B = 0.537, P = 0.000). This implies that a 1% increase in the effectiveness of mobile phone and mobile internet leads to 53.7% increase in employment generation in the Awka South Local Government Area. The coefficient of determination which is 0.783 indicates that 78.3% of the variations in the employment generation in the Local Government Area are explained by the independent variables included in the model. This implies that government policy actions to enhance the provision of mobile phone services by the providers and operators should be enhanced by the government.

Conclusion

The results from Table 4 and 5 shows the regression analysis of the effects of mobile phone, mobile internet on poverty-unemployment reduction(employment generation) in Awka Local Government Area. The result of the analysis showed that mobile phone and mobile internet have positive and significant effects on poverty-unemployment reduction(employment generation) in the Local Government Area within this study period(B = 0.537, P = 0.000). This implies that a 1% increase in the mobile phone and mobile internet leads to 53.7% increase in employment generation in the Awka South Local Government Area. The coefficient of determination which is 0.783 indicates that 78.3% of the variations in the employment generation in the Local Government Area are explained by the independent variables included in the model. The p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicates that mobile phone infrastructure services have significant effects on employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area. Based on the result, the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative hypothesis was accepted and concludes that mobile phone and mobile internet has significant effect in employment generation in Awka South Local Government Area within the reviewing period.

Recommendations

The following policy recommendations were made based on the findings of this study.

The government should expand the tele-density to accommodate the rural populace. More licence should be given to more providers. This policy approach would make GSM/mobile communication much cheaper and accessible while enhancing healthy competition and quality of service delivery at the grass root levels

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