

GOVERNMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND SMALL & MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISE SUCCESS IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study empirically examined government entrepreneurship development programmes measured by Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (Youwin), National Directorate of employment (NDE), and its effect on small and medium scale enterprise success. 103 operators of small and medium enterprises were drawn from the population size of 114 using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table for the 38 small and medium enterprises for this study. 92 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and analyzed out of the 103 copies of the questionnaire administered leading to the rejection of the null hypotheses and acceptance of the alternate. Hence government entrepreneurship development programmes enhances success of small and medium scale enterprise, thus firms through its technology should create an enabling environment in embracing and applying government entrepreneurship development programmes as it would induce success of small and medium scale enterprises. It was recommended that: Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should create policies that would enhance Youwin programmes using the latest technological approaches available to increase performance. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should ensure adequate employment of NDE programmes to squarely allocate its benefits to enhancing the age and size of small and medium scale enterprises. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should enhance their product and services following their operational experience due to the age of small and medium scale enterprises. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should capitalize on the benefits of the large sizes of small and medium scale enterprises to harness their activities to bring about high quality services to customers. Modern technological approaches should be adopted in attracting and utilizing government entrepreneurship development programmes in a bid to improve the successes of small and medium scale enterprises.

Keywords: *Age of SME, Government Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, NDE, Size of SME, SME Success, YouWin.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian government like several other governments of the different countries of the world is saddled with the responsibility of creating jobs to better the lots of her citizenry. In an event where this is not visible; it encourages her citizenry to engage in small and medium scale enterprises and unveils several programmes to ensure these small and medium scale enterprises succeed.

Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) noted that percentage(s) of small and medium scale enterprises operating in any economy has increased tremendously in recent times; hence they are regarded as an economy's growth engine. Large firms have lost some of their patronage to the benefit of small and medium scale enterprises which have become major source of employment thereby reducing the high rate of unemployment and economic stagnation, as it enhances socio-economic harmony and improve the living standard of the citizenry.

SMEs are today a strategically interesting field to any economy (Lin, 1998). The affirmative effects of small and medium scale enterprises on the states', regional, national and international economies improves its competitive environment, by creating development and flexible opportunities while adapting to new technologies, to the actual market requirements, occupying market segments that are non-profitable to large enterprises, enhance the chance to quickly meet local demands, and efficiently capitalizing opportunities by the use of local resources. The SME sector contributes in ensuring balanced economic success and social growth based on their ages and sizes (Lin, 1998).

As stated earlier, the government engages in programmes that enhance SME success in an attempt to curb youth unemployment because youth unemployment continues to be a developmental challenge in Rivers State despite the positive economic growth rates experienced over the past decade. There are indicators that this growth has not generated sufficient and decent employment opportunities for the youth (UNECA, 2011).

In an effort to create jobs for the youth, various measures addressing the demand and supply sides of labour have been created and implemented. Promotion of entrepreneurship programmes and overall self-employment through targeted youth empowerment schemes are increasingly considered as viable options (Culkin and Smith, 2000). Certainly, previous research shows that in addition to job creation, entrepreneurship has the potential to improve livelihoods and economic independence of young people (Chigunta, 2002). Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) noted that in the recent past, the governments of Nigeria (federal and states) have also initiated programmes to support youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Tende (2014) noted that the Nigerian government, at various levels, has adopted policies aimed at enhancing the performance of some sectors in other to reduce unemployment. As a result, different administrations; often in collaboration with the private sector, have embarked on youth employment programmes, leading to the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agencies (SMEDAN),

The Poverty Alleviation Programme, the Subsidy Reinvestment Programme (SURE-P), and the Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN), Better Life Programme, Peoples' Bank, National Agency for Poverty Eradication, (NAPEP), the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme, The Graduate Job Creation Loan Guarantee Scheme, and Agricultural Sector Employment Program. Despite these policies and programmes, youth unemployment/empowerment remains a major challenge to the developmental process of the Nigeria economy (Idam, 2014; Tende, 2014).

Based on the forgoing, numerous scholarly works has been carried out (e.g. Culkin and Smith, 2000; Baidoun, 2003; and Cooke-Davies, 2002) to examine the effect of government entrepreneurship programmes on SME performance; but none has been extensive enough to capture the issues regarding government entrepreneurship development programmes on SME success in Rivers State. Given the identified knowledge gap, our point of departure from previous research is to empirically fill this gap in literature that has been noticed. Hence, we intend to ascertain the influence of government entrepreneurship development programmes on SME success in Rivers State, and how technology was adopted to moderate the relationship between government entrepreneurship programmes on SME success in Rivers State.

It is true that successful small and medium scale enterprises propel the successes of the Nigerian economy. However, the successes of these small and medium scale enterprises are not attainable due to obvious challenges they face. For instance, the prevalent challenge has a lot to do with their age and sizes which is traceable to inadequate cash reserves, inability to access funds, lack of enabling environment, inability to define and understand the consumption pattern and habit of the consumers, failure or inability to anticipate and adequately react to competition, technology, and market fluctuations or changes.

Based on the above, the government has from time to time introduced several entrepreneurship development and empowerment schemes to sensitize, inform and prepare lots of Nigerians on how to go about fixing these challenges in a bid to increase the gross domestic products (GPD) by reducing the heightened unemployment rates.

In an attempt to redress the deepened unemployment situation in Nigeria, especially in Rivers State; this research work intends to ascertain whether adopting and institutionalizing government entrepreneurship programmes would put the small and medium scale enterprises on high speed of success.

Conceptual Framework for the Study

The diagram below shows the relationship between government entrepreneurship development programmes and small and medium scale enterprises success.

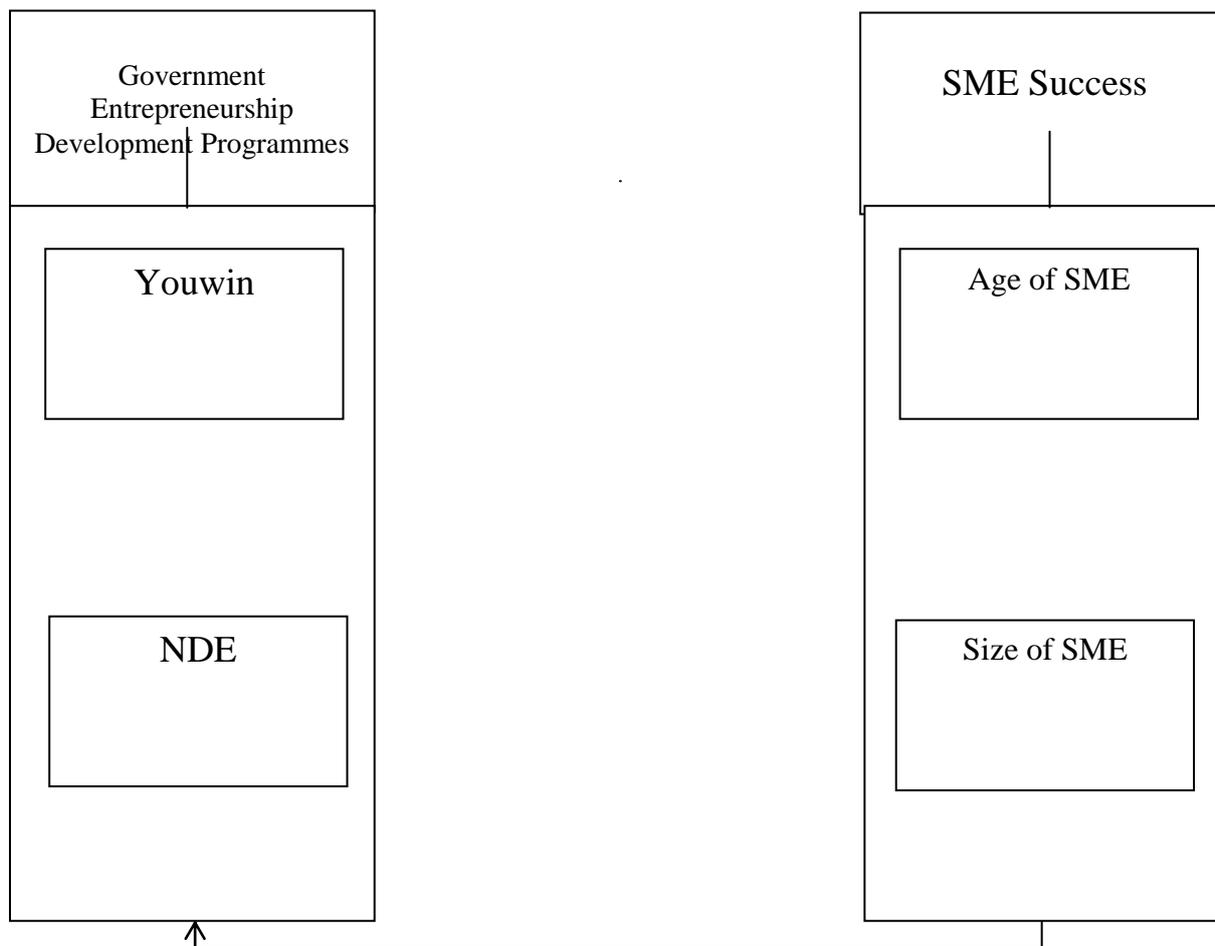


Fig 1.1 Adopted from the works of Idam (2014), and Lin (1998).

The predictor variable in this study is government entrepreneurship programmes. Established by the work of Idam (2014); its dimensions include: Youwin (Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria), and NDE (National Directorate of Employee). On the other hand, the criterion variable is SME Success. Established by the work of Lin (1998); its measures include: The age of SME, and the Size of SME.

1.1 Aim of the Study

The overall drive for this study is to examine if there exists any relationship between government entrepreneurship programmes and SME Success in Rivers State.

1.2 Research Hypotheses

This research work is guided by the following propositions stated in the null form:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between Youwin and the age of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between Youwin and the size of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between NDE and the age of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State.

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between NDE and the size of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State.

2.0 Literature Review

Since the mid-1980s there has been an increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development especially after the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 1986. Added to this are the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN) (Ogundele and Abiola, 2006). The Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria programme is a collaboration of the Federal Ministries of Finance, Communication Technology and Youth Development to organize an annual Business Plan Competition (BPC) for aspiring young entrepreneurs in Nigeria (Tende, 2014).

Nkechi, Ikechukwu and Okechukwu (2012) noted that these documents whereby policy measures may be implemented and progress observed may include: A review of the Youwin to encourage entrepreneurship as a poverty reduction strategy to favour the youths. National Directorate of Employment was established in November 22, 1986 and its objective is to promptly and effectively fight unemployment by designing and implementing innovative programmes, which are directed towards the provision of training opportunities through the guidance and management support services to graduate farmers and small scale entrepreneur.

Concept of Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship evolved naturally over the years. The first economist to have used the term entrepreneurship was Richard Cantillion, a French economist of Irish descent (Holt, 1998). Cantillion is credited with giving the concept of entrepreneurship a central role in economics. Cantillion described an entrepreneur as a person who pays a certain price for a product to resale it at an uncertain price, thereby making decisions about obtaining and using resources while consequently assuming the risk of enterprise (Holt, 1998).

An entrepreneur is one who brings together the factors of production and combines them into a product as entrepreneurship is the process of creating value by bringing together a unique package of resources to exploit an opportunity. An entrepreneur is ordinarily called a

businessman, who combines capital and labour for the purpose of production, organizes and manages a business unit assuming the risk for profit (Drucker, 1985; Holt, 1998).

Government Entrepreneurship Development Programmes

Ogundele and Abiola (2006) revealed that the role of government in entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant only after the Nigeria civil war (1967-70). Since the mid-1980s there has been an increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development especially after the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 1986. Added to this the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN) (Ogundele and Abiola, 2006). Fundamentally, the Nigerian government promotes entrepreneurial culture through initiatives that build business confidence, positive attitude, pride in success, support and encouragement of new ideas, social responsibility, providing technological supports, encouraging inter-firm linkages and promotion of research and development.

Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (Youwin)

Tende (2014) revealed that the Nigerian government(s), particularly since the structural adjustment programme (SAP) of mid 1980s, have put in place policies and programmes aimed at entrepreneurship development, as a means of employment generation, poverty alleviation and rapid economic development, which brought about Youwin (Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria).

The Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria programme is a collaboration of the Federal Ministries of Finance, Communication Technology and Youth Development to organize an annual Business Plan Competition (BPC) for aspiring young entrepreneurs in Nigeria (Tende, 2014). The programme provides a one-time Equity Grant of N1million - N10 million to 1,200 selected aspiring entrepreneurs to start/expand their business concepts and mitigate start up risks; and to further generate some 80,000-110,000 new jobs for unemployed Nigerian youths over a three-year period (Akande and Okuwa, 2009).

National Directorate of Employee (NDE)

National Directorate of Employment (NDE): One of the steps taken by the Nigerian government to reduce the problem of unemployment in Nigeria was the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), which was established in November 22, 1986. The objective of NDE was to promptly and effectively fight unemployment by designing and implementing innovative programmes, which are directed towards the provision of training opportunities through the guidance and management support services to graduate farmers and small scale entrepreneurs.

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was established on the 24th October, 1986 and it commenced full operation in January 1987 with the primary aim of promoting skill acquisition, self-employment and labour intensive work scheme. The scheme was targeted at school leavers, apprentices, graduates etc. The programme was to address four (4) major

areas; (1) Small Scale Enterprises programme, (2) Vocational skill development programme, (3) Rural employment promotion programme, (4) Special public work programme. The aim of the agricultural programme is to generate employment for graduates, non-graduates and school leavers in the Agricultural sector, with emphasis on self-employment in agricultural production and marketing. The programme is monitored by a team of Agricultural professionals in the Agricultural department of the directorate.

Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SME) Success

The success of small and medium scale enterprises has been of interest to many researchers, international organizations, and policy makers (Baidoun, 2003), and therefore has become the subject of a great deal of analysis. This success may have two strategic outcomes that are often referred to in the literature as firm success or failure (Baidoun, 2003). In a management field, success and failure can be interpreted as measures of good or indifferent management (Davies, 2002), but it may occur for other reasons such as luck (Davies, 2002). Numerous terms have been used in the literature to describe firm failure, for example: bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation, death, deregistering, discontinuance, ceasing to trade, closure, and exit (Baidoun, 2003). These terms overlap each other to some extent (Cooke-Davies, 2002) and thus, the concept of failure is ambiguous, as it can have different interpretations by different people (Havaleschka, 1999). The many different interpretations and definitions of both success and failure make it very hard to compare research findings on the success of small firms.

Age of Small and Medium Scale Enterprise

Most studies (Forsman, Hinttu, and Kock, 2002; Geene, and Brown, 1997) that look at business age focused on the number of years that the business has been in operation legally. Geene and Brown (1997) defined small and medium scale enterprises age in terms of the number of years small and medium scale enterprises has been engaged in exporting operations. Chen (2005) categorized small and medium scale enterprises age into three groups: enterprise operating less than five years, those operating from six to ten years, and more than ten years respectively.

While Baidoun (2003) focused on just new small and medium scale enterprises and old small and medium scale enterprises; measured small and medium scale enterprises age as the number of years elapsed from the establishment of the business. Baidoun (2003) emphasized that measuring age bigger firms is not always straightforward, due to factors such as mergers and relisting.

Size of Small and Medium Scale Enterprise

Several studies reported that increase in firm size can contribute towards increased SME success for the following reasons: larger companies are more able to take advantage of economies of scale, concerning operating costs and the costs of innovation and greater size means the likelihood of more divergence of activities, allowing businesses to cope more successfully with possible market changes, as well as with high-risk situations (Obert and

Olawale, 2010). Papadogonas (2007) reported a positive relationship between firm size and SME success. The deductions by (Obert and Olawale, 2010) indicate that an increase in firm size beyond the ideal level can mean reduced SME success. The lesser possibility of owners controlling managerial action, as a consequence of increased size, can contribute to finding a negative relationship between size and SME success (Owolabi, Obiakor, and Okwu, 2011).

One of the reasons why this occur may be because the propensity of managers are better informed than owners about companies' specific characteristics and investment openings, to invest in projects that make the scale of the company grow beyond the optimal level. Accordingly, increased size does not necessarily contribute to increased SME success (Amato and Burson, 2007). Hence, the tendency of conflicting findings; suggest further findings on the relationship between the Firm size and SME success.

Relationship between government entrepreneurship development programmes and SME success

Government entrepreneurship development programmes have been remarkably resurgent over the past decades in Nigeria that achieved substantial poverty reduction (Ishola and Akintoye, 2008). In the 1980s stag inflation and high unemployment caused a renewed interest in supply side economics and in factors determining success. Simultaneously, the 1980s and 1990s have seen a revaluation of the role of small firms and a renewed attention for government entrepreneurship development programmes. In fact, understanding the role of government in entrepreneurship development programmes in the process of SME success requires the decomposition of the concept of government entrepreneurship development programmes (Ishola and Akintoye, 2008).

Having considered the concepts of government entrepreneurship development programmes, SME success individually, ascertaining the link between the two concepts would not be unachievable. The idea that government entrepreneurship development programmes and SME success are very closely and positively linked together has undoubtedly made its way since the early works of Ogundele and Abiola (2006). An increase in the number of entrepreneurs leads to an increase in SME success. This effect is a result of the concrete expression of their skills, and more precisely, their propensity to innovate.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

For the purpose of this research work; research design can hence be described as a process that rationalizes and simplifies the phases desirable to conduct an efficacious research assignment.

The cross-sectional research design was adopted for this study as the study deals with the collection of necessary data from respondents at different locations, and also, the respondents were independent of the researcher, and this design is suitable when a study is concerned with the test of relationship between two or more variables (Kothari, 2008; Sekaran, 2003). This

research work is qualified to be prescribed as a cross sectional study since data was collated using the questionnaire which was administered to the respondents to test the relationship between government entrepreneurship development programmes and SME success.

3.2 Population of Sampling Procedure

The accessible population is one hundred and fourteen (114) operators of SME`s which is a subset of the target population of Seven Hundred and Twenty Seven (727) registered small and medium scale enterprises with Port Harcourt Chambers Of Commerce in Rivers State. One hundred and three (103) randomly selected Operators of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State that are registered with the Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce from thirty-eight (38) firms were studied. Therefore, the elements for this study comprise the Operators of the one hundred and three (103) small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State.

Simple random sampling technique was adopted in this study in other to ensure that each member of the subset has an equivalent probability of being selected or to assure good representation of each member of the population (Kothari, 2008).

Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table was used for this study which will give a sample size (S) of 103 Operators of the small and medium scale enterprises registered under the Port Harcourt chambers of commerce. The instrument for this study (questionnaire) was proportionately distributed according to the staff strength of the various firms.

3.3 Data Collection Method

For the purpose of this work, data was obtained both from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was generated by the researcher and mostly through the questionnaire (which was designed to obtain answers from the respondents on the concepts of Government entrepreneurship development programmes, SME success and technology), while the secondary was the data which have already been gathered, processed, and reviewed by several other scholars; hence an extensive literature review (journal articles, columns in newspapers and other online materials).

3.4 Data Analysis Techniques

For the purpose of analyzing the research data for this study, the data analysis technique that was used is the Spearman's Rank Order Correlation Coefficient with the aid of the statistical package for social sciences version 21. The Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient was chosen because the study is concerned with analyzing the relationship between government entrepreneurship development programmes and SME success; and the impact of technology on the variables under review. The formula for the spearman's Rank-Order Correlation Coefficient is given as:

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6\sum d^2}{N(N^2 - 1)}$$

Where: $\sum d^2$ = sum of the squared differences in the ranking of the subject on the two variables.

N = is number of subjects being ranked;

4.0 Results and Discussion

Test of Hypotheses

The decision criteria for our test of hypotheses would be a rejection of null hypotheses when p-value is less or equal than 0.05. This implies that our relationship coefficient could be weak but we would take decisions firmly on the p-value if it is less than or equal to 0.05.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship existing between Youwin and Age of small and medium scale enterprises

Correlations

			YOUWIN	AGE_OF_SME
Spearman's rho	YOUWIN	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.547**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	92	92
	AGE_OF_SME	Correlation Coefficient	.547**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	92	92

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis one shows a significant relationship existing between YOUWIN and age of SME with a correlation coefficient of 0.547 and a p-value of 0.000 less than alpha of 0.05. We would therefore reject the null hypothesis.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship existing between Youwin and size of small and medium scale enterprises

Correlations

			YOUWIN	SIZE_OF_SME
Spearman's rho	YOUWIN	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.113
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.281
		N	92	92
	SIZE_OF_SME	Correlation Coefficient	.113	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.281	.
		N	92	92

Hypothesis two shows a negative relationship existing between YOUWIN and size of SME with a coefficient of 0.113 and a p-value of 0.281 which is higher than alpha of 0.05. We would therefore accept the null hypothesis.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship existing between NDE and age of small and medium scale enterprises

Correlations

			NDE	AGE_OF_SME
Spearman's rho	NDE	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.788**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	92	92
	AGE_OF_SME	Correlation Coefficient	.788**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	92	92

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis three shows a significant relationship existing between NDE and size of SME with a coefficient of 0.788 and a p-value of 0.000 which is less than alpha of 0.05. We would therefore reject the null hypothesis.

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship existing between NDE and size of SME

Correlations

			NDE	SIZE_OF_SME
Spearman's rho	NDE	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.413**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	92	92
	SIZE_OF_SME	Correlation Coefficient	.413**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	92	92

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis four shows a significant relationship existing between NDE and size of SME with a coefficient of 0.413 and a p-value of 0.000 which is less than alpha of 0.05. We would therefore reject the null hypothesis.

Discussion of Findings

This research work explored the bond between government entrepreneurship development programme and success of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State. Four hypotheses were formulated.

Hypotheses one and two explored the bond between Youwin and the measures of success of small and medium scale enterprises (Age of small and medium scale enterprises, and Size of medium scale enterprises). The outcomes led to the rejection and acceptance of the null hypotheses respectively, stating that Youwin has significant relations with Age of small and medium scale enterprises, and Size of medium scale enterprises.

Based on the results, it was concluded that Youwin has a positive and significant relations with success of small and medium scale enterprises in Rivers State. This result was in consonance with the studies of the other scholars (e.g. Ogundele and Abiola, 2006). Ogundele and Abiola (2006) studied the link between government entrepreneurship development programme and organizational sustainability and noted that the Nigerian government promotes entrepreneurial culture through initiatives that build business confidence, positive attitude, pride in success, support and encouragement of new ideas, social responsibility, providing technological supports, encouraging inter-firm linkages and promotion of research and development. 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 Centre's goal is to make the graduates self-employed, create job opportunities for others and to generate wealth (Ogundele and Abiola, 2006). At the end of the war the 2nd National Development Plan focused on the development of the 3Rs objectives of Reconstruction, Re-development and Reconciliation. The activities in the plan challenged/tasked the ingenuity and inventive skill of the individuals. This early period witnessed an economic development ideology of industrialization as the ultimate source of economic growth, and industrialization itself as the product of technical progress and investment.

Ogundele and Abiola (2006) noted that in the past forty years or so, the government had established various support institutions specially structured to provide succor and to assist small and medium scale enterprises to contend with some of the hurdles along their growth path. Some of these specialized institutions include the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry, the National Economic Reconstruction Fund, the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, the National Directorate of Employment, Industrial Development Coordinating Centre, Peoples Bank, Community Banks, Construction Bank, Family Economic Advancement Programme, State Ministries of Industry SME schemes, the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Development Bank, Bank of industry and so on. They therefore concluded that, increasing the level of government entrepreneurship development programmes among the participants of the firm will lead a corresponding increase in the sustainability and success of the firm.

Hypothesis three and four explored the bond between NDE and the measures of success of small and medium scale enterprises (Age of small and medium scale enterprises, and size of medium scale enterprises). It was found that, significant relations exist between Age of small and medium scale enterprises, and size of medium scale enterprises and NDE, therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. In a similar study, Iwayemi (2013) submitted that, the government entrepreneurship development programmes help it achieve competitive advantage and value creation, through enhance market share achieve through technological advancement noting that past studies have shown that small and medium scale enterprises success (Havaleschka, 1999) patterns are connected to the demographic characteristics of small and medium scale enterprises such as age. Phillips and Kirchhoff (1989), agreeing with Baidoun (2003) and Havaleschka (1999) discovered that young small and medium scale enterprises that display high success levels have twice the probability of survival as their less performing counterpart. They concluded that small businesses' success is often closely linked with Small and medium scale enterprises overall success and survival. Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria programme starting to disburse to its 1,500 beneficiaries who are expected to create on average nine jobs each, and government continued in 2015 with the implementation that identified another 1,500 young entrepreneurs to support (Iwayemi, 2013).

5.0 Conclusion

Availability of government entrepreneurship development programme tends to stimulate anticipated equitable policies that are success driven. Specifically, the application of government entrepreneurship development programme enhances success of small and medium scale enterprises. Thus, firms through its technology should create an enabling environment in embracing and applying government entrepreneurship development programme as it would induce success of small and medium scale enterprises.

Recommendation

From the research analysis and conclusions above, the following recommendations were made to aid operators of small and medium scale enterprises:

- i. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should create policies that would enhance Youwin programmes using the latest technological approaches available to increase performance.
- ii. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should ensure adequate employment of NDE programmes to squarely allocate its benefits to enhancing the age and size of small and medium scale enterprises.
- iii. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should enhance their product and services following their operational experience due to the age of small and medium scale enterprises.
- iv. Operators of small and medium scale enterprises should capitalize on the benefits of the large sizes of small and medium scale enterprises to harness their activities to bring about high quality services to customers.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study offers realistic confirmation on government entrepreneurship development programme in enhancing the success of small and medium scale enterprises. The conceptual model designed for this study offers a new perspective of the bond between government entrepreneurship development programme and success of small and medium scale enterprises as it makes available realistic indication relevant for building new models in entrepreneurship.

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