



ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB AVAILABILITY IN SOUTH EAST NIGERIA

Anugwu, Clara Chika

Lecturer, Department of Entrepreneurial Studies,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra State, Nigeria
cc.anugwu@unizik.edu.ng

Adani, Nnenna Ifechi

Lecturer, Department of Entrepreneurial Studies,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra State, Nigeria
nnenneluv@yahoo.com

Abstract

The research develop the concept of entrepreneurship, the benefits and need to adhere strictly to economic development, job availability, modernization and industrialization through entrepreneurial development in South East Nigeria. The study reviewed several studies on entrepreneurial development in Nigeria, Africa and beyond. The study employs survey research design. The analysis employ mean scores and correlation tools to analyze the respondent questionnaire, in order to understand what the data is informing the researcher. The results show strongly agree and agree are significant with significant value of 0.000 and the mean score of 4.0 approximately, which implies that the alternative hypothesis will be accepted. Having assessed the study, the decision rule implies that entrepreneurial development has effective benefit to job availability in South East Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship development, Job availability, Economic development, Unemployment.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, entrepreneurship development is an important recognized headway, as a veritable tool for tracking unemployment. Policy makers and the leaders in the state are yet to give entrepreneurial development its deserved attention. Poor infrastructural development, bad roads, poor railway networks, security and inadequate electricity contribute heavily to deficiencies in entrepreneurial development and thereby promote unemployment problems in the state. Unemployment remain the major cause of poverty, kidnapping, armed robbery, insecurity, trafficking in persons, inadequate electricity, labor force, infrastructural developments and child labor all these or more can be attributed to unemployment in South East Nigeria. Unemployment is defined as a situation where someone of working age is not able to get a job but would like to gain employment. Those who are willing to work, able to work, qualified to work cannot find jobs to do and earn a living (Adebayo, 2014). Briggs (2001) defined unemployment as the difference between the amount of labor at current wage rate and working conditions and the amount of labor not hired at these levels. However, Gbosi (2006) defined unemployment as a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs. The unemployment is a number of an economical active population who are without work but available for and seeking for work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work. Unemployment has caused several problems in the society and in the country at large such as, rising cases crime rates because people are unable to meet their needs through work. Divorce rates often raise because people cannot solve their financial problems; the rising cases of homelessness, also the rates for mental and physical problems and cases also rises. This has called for concern for people to be self employed. Entrepreneurship is any modern business enterprise, including all manufacturing and non manufacturing small activities in commerce, services, maintenance, distribution, construction and production, employing a limited capital outlay. Also, the functional and general management of such an enterprise revolves on one or at most two or three people who also make all the important decisions in the business. According to Gana (2012), entrepreneurship is ability to seek investment opportunities and persisting to exploit that opportunity. On the hand, Anyakoha (2006) sees the entrepreneur as one who chooses or assumes resources, initiates actions and stabilities organizations or enterprises to meet such demand or market opportunity. Frequently, entrepreneurship is through to apply only to the management of small businesses such as the roadside furniture maker, cobbler, tyre vulcanize, hairdresser and so on, but recent giants like dell computers and Microsoft have shown how a small business that started small can grow into a conglomerate if given an enabling environment. In the early twentieth century, Joseph Schumpeter created another model and cast the entrepreneur as being the central actor in the process of change. Anyakoha (2006) contended that the single most important function of the entrepreneur was

innovations. Weber's (2002) opined that the main motivation factor for entrepreneur was religious belief or the protestant work ethic, which established social norms that discouraged extravagance, conspicuous consumption and indolence. The result was higher productivity, increased savings, and investment all of which are vital for economic growth. Unemployment is a major economic virus militating against the economy and well being of many countries in recent times. It has resulted in increasing insecurity in South East Nigeria and Nigeria in particular, Zakaria (2006) and Ajufo (2013) support this by stating that unavailability of job opportunities among youth especially graduates have been identified as one of the major factors responsible for youth restiveness and other social vices including prostitution, armed robbery, destitution and political thuggery in the state. It is based on the increasing problem posed by unemployment on individuals and the nation at large that government at all levels in the state embark on various policies to control, reduce unemployment and the promotion of entrepreneurship in the state but has not yielded enough positive result, rather it seems to be escalating. Based on these problems of unemployment, the researcher has decided to carry out this study on assessment of unemployment problems and entrepreneurial development in Southeast Nigeria as a place of study. The aim of this study is to assess the effect of entrepreneurship development on job availability in South East Nigeria.

1.2 Objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to assess job availability and entrepreneurial development in Southeast Nigeria.

1.3 Research Question

The study is guided by the question:

What are the significant effects of entrepreneurship development to job availability in the selected study area?

1.4 Hypothesis

The study tests the following hypothesis:

Hi: Entrepreneurship development significantly affects job availability in South East Nigeria.

Ho: Entrepreneurship development does not significantly affect job availability in South East Nigeria.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Entrepreneurial Development

The term entrepreneurial development (ED) has been defined in various dimensions. However, Ndechukwu (2001) refer entrepreneurial development to the productive transformation of an entrepreneur, a single thread runs through all of them: the ability to

identify business opportunities, the ability to be able to harness the necessary resources to use opportunities identified, the ability and willingness to initiate and sustain appropriate actions towards the actualization of business objectives. Ameashi (2007) defined entrepreneurial development as a process in which persons are injected with motivational drives of achievement and in sight to tackle uncertain and risky situations especially in business undertakings. The process of entrepreneurial development focuses on training, education, reorientation and creation of conducive and healthy environment for the growth of enterprises. Entrepreneurial Development (ED) refers to the process of enhancing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through structured training and institution-building programmes (McOliver, 1998). ED aims to enlarge the base of entrepreneurs in order to hasten the pace at which new ventures are created. This accelerates employment generations and economic development. Entrepreneurial development focuses on the individual who wishes to start or expand a business. Furthermore, entrepreneurship development concentrates more on growth potential and innovation. Essentially, this means the acquisition of skills that will enable an entrepreneur to function appropriately and adequately in terms of;

- a) Attaining present result based on previous decisions and planning for the future, based on present circumstance.
- b) Maintaining and developing the organized capability which makes achievement possible, and
- c) Coordinating the specialist functions that should enable a firm to perform the technical task in marketing, personnel, research and development, manufacturing, finance and control, especially in the face of changing technology and dynamic industry trend.

To perform these functions, the entrepreneurial development process, procedures and skill acquisition must entrench certain skills. These include conceptual skills, human skills and technical skills, which will transform the entrepreneur into a taskmaster, mediator and motivator. Entrepreneurial development depends on three entrepreneurial skills, which affect positively the strategic management and development of entrepreneurial organizations in Nigeria.

A study carried out by Efe (2014) in Abraka, Delta State to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship on human resources. The study revealed that it is very important in the training and development of human resources in any country through the impartation skills, capacities values, knowledge and attitudes which can be used in the transformation of individuals, communities, nations and the world at large. He also found out that entrepreneurship education is used for wealth creation, poverty reduction, and ensuring social- economic empowerment, sustained self and national development. In a study to examine the impact of entrepreneurial development on poverty alleviation, Njoku &

Ihugba (2011) at Owerri revealed that it is an established economic reality that the size of the workforce directly impacts on a country's GDP growth. Not only the workforce produce manufactured goods or services or agricultural produce in direct proportion, but also brings in its wake increasing purchasing power, which in turn fuel economic growth. The study recommends that the agricultural sector as a medium of reducing unemployment in Nigeria should be harnessed and advises that government and all relevant stakeholders continue in their quest towards reducing unemployment, as well as give their support in ensuring that the agricultural sector is not downtrodden but embraced in this task. Also, Akanwa & Akpanabia (2014) investigated the correlation between unemployment and entrepreneurial development at Enugu, the study showed that the relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurship has been with ambiguity. The study advice government and its agencies should deliberately encourage entrepreneurial culture and skill in Nigeria in order to attack and eventually reduce the high level of unemployment situation in the country so that the nation will boost its economic development.

Many authors have carried out research on job availability and entrepreneurial development but none has carried out this research to the grass root of South East Nigeria especially in rural areas and communities. Since the research has not reach the grass root of Southeast Nigeria especially the studied area and their local governments, the researcher decided to carry out this study in order to fill this gap in these studied local area so as to reduce unemployment through entrepreneurial development.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design that was adopted for the study was survey method. The research design establishes the structure of the study, the method and procedure used for writing and analyzing the needed data (Nwogu, 2006). According to Lim (2006) and Lim (2010), research design could be seen as a frame work or plan that is used as a guide in collating and analyzing the data collected for research study which allows the researcher to draw conclusion between dependent and independent variables. The data for study were gotten from both primary and secondary data. These are data gotten directly from the respondents. The primary data consisted of structured questionnaire and oral interview. The structured questionnaire items have Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D), Strongly Disagreed (SD), and Undecided (U).

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The researcher used structured questionnaire to obtain information from the respondents. The researcher personally visited the respondents to administer the copies of the questionnaire and collected the copies of the questionnaire. Three hundred (300) copies

of the questionnaire were properly filled and collected. That means, 75% of the sample size was used for the study.

3.3 Population of the study

Population is an aggregate number of people living in the geographical area, location, and territory. Asika (2001) defined it as all conceivable elements, subjects or observation relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher. The target population of the study comprised of residents of Awka South, Enugu North, and Owerri North Local Government Area, Abakiliki and Umuahia geographical areas of South East Nigeria. The total population of the study is 450051.

3.4 Sample Size Determination and Sampling Technique

The study adopted the use of Taro Yamani's formula to determine the sample size of the study. Taro Yamani's formula is given as;

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

Where: n = Sample size, N = Population, e = sampling error (0.05) or 5%

Where N = 450051

$$n = \frac{450051}{1 + 450051(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{450051}{1 + 450051(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{450051}{1 + 1125.128}$$

$$n = \frac{450051}{1126.28} = 399.6448$$

Approximately, the sample size is 400.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The data for this research study was analyzed using simple percentages for respondents characteristics, while, mean statistics be adopted in analyzing data collected on the research questions. The use of means score and Pearson correlation statistics with the aid

of SPSS computer software was adopted in testing the hypothesis formulated for the study.

4. STATISTICAL PRESENTATION AND RESULTS

Response Rate

The 75% sample size was used in analyzing the data gotten from the respondents.

Table 1: Gender Distribution

Gender	Frequencies	Percentage
Female	148	49.33
Male	152	50.67
Total	300	100

Table 1 showed that only 148(49.33%) of the respondents were female respondents, while 152(50.67%) of the respondents were male. This shows that the respondents were evenly distributed.

Table 2: Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Educational Qualifications	Response	Percentage (%)
FSLC	47	15.67
S.S.C.E	58	19.33
OND/HND	72	24
B.SC.	63	21
M.SC. & Above	60	20
Total	300	100

Table 2 revealed that 47(15.67%) were with FSLC, 58(19.33%) of the respondent signifies that they were S.S.C.E qualified, while 72(24%) were OND/HND certificate holders, 21(21%) of the respondents also were B.SC certificate holders while only

20(20%) have attained M.Sc. qualifications. This showed that majority of the respondents have the academic knowledge to properly respond to the questions.

Table 3: Work Experience of Respondents

Work Experience	Response	Percentage (%)
1-5 years	62	20.67
6-10 years	71	23.67
11-15 years	87	29
16 years & above	80	26.66
Total	300	100

Table 3 establishes that 62(20.67%) of the respondents are workers with 1-5 years of experience, while 71(23.67%) fall within the work experience years of 6-10; 87(29%) also fall within the years 11-15, while 80(26.66%) of the respondents have worked for 16 years and above. This showed that most of the respondents used for the study have adequate knowledge in giving required answers for the study.

Analysis of Data

Research Questions 1: How will entrepreneurial development effectively benefit job availability in South East Nigeria?

Table 4: Mean Ratings of how Entrepreneurial Development effectively benefit job availability in South East Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	SD	D	U	X	Decision
1	Development of entrepreneurial skills	155	107	21	17	0	4.33	Accepted
2	Develop programmes to sensitize entrepreneurial development.	120	141	12	24	3	4.17	Accepted
3	Develop policies that will highly favour SMEs and entrepreneurs in region.	183	74	31	11	1	4.42	Accepted
4	Sponsor indigenous SMEs by the government to promote entrepreneurs.	73	166	7	46	8	3.83	Accepted
5	Make entrepreneurial studies a compulsory skill for students in high institutions.	122	127	26	20	5	4.14	Accepted
6	Government should provide adequate infrastructural facilities to easy SMEs beginners.	98	143	25	31	3	4.01	Accepted
7	Government should provide skill acquisition centers.	203	73	11	13	0	4.55	Accepted
8	Government should provide basic capital for indigenous people that developed entrepreneurial concepts.	162	107	21	9	1	4.40	Accepted

In table 4, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have mean scores of 4.33, 4.17, 4.42, 3.83, 4.14, 4.01, 4.55 and 4.40 respectively. The responses of the respondents signify that entrepreneurship development will effectively benefit job availability in South East Nigeria.

Table 5: Pearson Correlations Analysis

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided
Strongly Agree	Pearson Correlation	1	-.981**	.253	-.898**	-.864**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.546	.002	.006
	N	8	8	8	8	8
Agree	Pearson Correlation	-.981**	1	-.376	.870**	.827*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.359	.005	.011
	N	8	8	8	8	8
Strongly Disagree	Pearson Correlation	.253	-.376	1	-.494	-.339
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.546	.359		.214	.412
	N	8	8	8	8	8
Disagree	Pearson Correlation	-.898**	.870**	-.494	1	.855**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.005	.214		.007
	N	8	8	8	8	8
Undecided	Pearson Correlation	-.864**	.827*	-.339	.855**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.011	.412	.007	
	N	8	8	8	8	8

Table 5 shows the Pearson correlation of the respondents of the questionnaires. The responses developed were used for the analysis of the Pearson correlation. User-defined missing values are treated as missing. Statistics for each pair of variables are based on all the cases with valid data for that pair. The correlation results shows that strongly agree and agree has a very strong significant relationship with 0.000 significant levels. This shows that the respondent of the variables strongly agree and agree are highly significant to the responses of the questionnaires. However, the variables, strongly disagree and disagree are highly insignificant with 0.214 significant value. The results support the decision of the mean scores tests which show that the alternative hypothesis will be accepted. Its decision is that there is an effective benefit between entrepreneurial development and job availability.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary of Findings

The following findings were made based on the analysis carried out. It was discovered that entrepreneurial development will effectively benefit job availability in South East Nigeria by developing an entrepreneurial skills, developing programmes to sensitize

entrepreneurial development, developing policies that will highly favor SMEs and entrepreneurs in the region, sponsor indigenous SMEs by the government to promote entrepreneurs, by making entrepreneurial studies a compulsory skill for students in high institutions, government to provide adequate infrastructural facilities to easy SMEs beginners, government to provide skill acquisition centres and government to provide basic capital for indigenous people that developed entrepreneurial concepts.

This was in line with Gana (2001) statement that entrepreneurship development seeks investment opportunities and persisting to exploit that opportunity. Anyakoha (2006) also added that the entrepreneurial development as a programme chooses or assumes resources, initiates actions and stabilizes organizations or enterprises to meet such demand or market opportunity.

It was also found out that there are significant benefits of entrepreneurial development in generating job availability in the society. In this study, it was find out that entrepreneurial development is the key to economic growth, country's development, modernization, industrialization, adequate livelihood, capital growth and enhances infrastructural development in the region.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the study concluded that entrepreneurship helps entrepreneurs to better fulfill their personal needs as well as the economic contribution they make. Beyond increasing the national income through job creation, entrepreneurship acts as a positive force in economic growth by serving as a bridge between innovation and the market place. Although an entrepreneur frequently lacks both technical and business skills, they serve as the major link in the process of innovation, development and economic growth. Entrepreneurial development has helped to solve problems of job availability through making people entrepreneurs.

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