
ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS FOR YOUTHS DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The paper adopted survey research design in order to determine entrepreneurial skills for youth's development in South-South, Nigeria. The population of the study was 2,400 youths from six states in South-South region of Nigeria. A structured questionnaire titled "Entrepreneurial Skills for Youths Development Questionnaire (ESYDQ) was developed and used for the study. The questionnaire was structured on a 4-point likert rating scale of strongly agree (4) points, agree (3) points, disagree (2) points and strongly disagree (1) point. The instrument was validated by 3 research experts. The reliability of the instrument was determined through a pilot study involving 30 eligible youths from Imo State which was outside the study area while Cronbach Alpha SPSS was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument which yielded overall reliability co-efficient of 0.88. 2,060 copies of questionnaires were retrieved out of the 2,400 copies distributed which yielded 86% retrieval rate. The data collected from respondents were analyzed using mean and standard deviations while z-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. It was concluded that youths in south-south desired to be trained in entrepreneurial trade skills. It was recommended among others that, government should make deliberate policies that will encourage youths in the South-South region of Nigeria to embrace trade skills acquisition for self-development.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship skill acquisition, skill, youth.*

Introduction

The challenges caused by unemployment are major setback to developing countries especially in Nigeria. The consequences of this unpleasant situation according to Okafor in Ile and Nwaokwa are that, it has become a source of sustained social and political instability, increase drug use and violence against women. The International Labour Organization, ILO (2022) reported that there are approximately 73 million unemployed youths globally. They added that youth unemployment remains a pressing economic, social and political issue affecting peace, stability, security and the development path of almost every country.

Vanguard news of 1st March, 2022 reported that the President of African Development Bank, AFDB, Dr. Akinnwuli Adesine, has lamented the high rate of joblessness among Nigerians, saying that about 40 percent of youths are presently unemployed and that the youths were discouraged, angry and restless as they look at future that does not give them hope. This is the reality on ground as most youths in Nigeria don't know where the next meal will come from and many are already leaving the country for greener pastures abroad. Also, the Punch Newspaper of 27th August, 2022 citing Jobberman in collaboration with young Africa works and master card asserted that the number of unemployed individual in Nigeria has hit 23 million, and this is not without its negative consequences on the nation.

The National Bureau of Statistics (2022) stated that the unemployment rate in Nigeria is estimated to reach 33 percent. However, the Business day of January 18, January, 2023 quoting the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) has projected that the unemployment rate in Africa most populous nation Nigeria has rise to 37% in 2023. This according to the latest report of NESG 2023, is due to weak performance in job elastic sectors, low labour absorption of the sectors that will drive growth and population growth estimated at 3.2 percent which will lead to a decline in real per capita income. Though 40.6% further rise of unemployment has been projected by World Bank, these projections if not taken seriously so that measures to return the economy to its proper place are put in place, further increase in the poverty situation of Nigeria may be witness.

Entrepreneurship places emphasis on skills acquisition and capacity for self-employment. It holds the key to the realization to deploy science, technology and innovation. A common understanding in all perspectives and studies in different fields of entrepreneurship, is the important role of three key factors namely, risk taking, innovation and identification of opportunities. Therefore, this study will adopt the definition of Histrich and Michael in Ikelegbe (2021) which defines entrepreneurship as the process of “creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, assuming the accompanying financial, psychic and social risks and receiving the resulting reward of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence”. The definition sees an entrepreneur as one who devotes efforts for creating something of value to the people of society and that it is a rewarding activity. It gives not only financial rewards but also freedom and personal satisfaction that are of immense reinforcement for the furtherance of entrepreneurship and it is also a risk bearing activity.

Sokyes, Wetnwan and Bewaran (2018) stated that a Skill is the ability to do something which is acquired through training. Entrepreneurship skill acquisition is the process which an individual acquire or leans a particular skill behaviour needed for business through training or education in order to identify and exploit entrepreneurial opportunities for self employment (Enitola and Atolagba 2022). Acquiring a skill brings about a change in behaviour as the new

acquired knowledge no doubt prepares the individual for better opportunities. Entrepreneurship and innovation are increasingly recognized as important drivers of economic growth, productivity and employment and as a key aspect of economic dynamism. With the rate of unemployment in Nigeria and absence of skills among many youths in south-south, Nigeria and the negative effects of depletion of the eco-system by oil companies which has brought about reduction of economic activities coupled with youth restiveness in the area, the need for skill acquisition for development of Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized.

According to Efe-Imafidon, Ade-Adeniji, Umokoro and Ajitemisan (2017), entrepreneurial skill acquisition, is a strong force in pushing self-employability. This according to the authors has become among other things part of policy thought of the Nigerian government in order to promote self-employability and reducing high unemployment rate among Nigerian youths.

Youth according to UNESCO (2009) is “a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence and awareness of independence as a member of a community”. United Nations (2015) defines youth as “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The African Youth Charter in its definition section sets the age for youth or young people within the age of 15 and 35 years. Irrespective of the definition of youths by various authors, the views of Robert in Alexander and Adigwe (2017) that “youth is the stage of constructing the self-concept necessitated by variables such as peers, lifestyle, gender and culture is important in this 21st century. Thomas (2003) stated that youth is a time of a person’s life in which he or she makes choices which will affect one’s future, while Holtzbrinck (2013) stated that it is time in life where one is young, the time between childhood and adulthood. This period in life is characterized by vigor and ability to get things work in order not to be left behind.

According to National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition NASET (2010), youth development is a process that prepares a young person to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and to achieve his or her potentials. Youth development is promoted through activities and experiences that help youth develop social, ethical, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies. Youth development is the stages that all children go through to acquire the attitude, competencies, values and social skills they need to become successful adults.

In Nigeria, entrepreneurial skills development programme design for youths have come among other things, part of the policy thrust of the Nigeria government in order to promote self-employability and reducing high unemployment rate among youths. This has always culminated into youth empowerment. Youth empowerment is the process where children and young people are encouraged to make change of their lives by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, value and attitudes (Chickering in Alexander and Adigwe 2017). Ledford and Lucas opined that youth empowerment focuses on creating greater community change which relies on the development of individual capacity. Also Reppaport in Alexander and Adigwe (2017) offered a functional definition of empowerment as “a process; the mechanism by which people, organizations, and communities gain mastery over their lives”. The master over one’s life is at the core of the cognitive, effective and psychomotor domains of education (Alexander and Adigwe, 2017). This is what entrepreneurial youth development equally strive to achieve in youth development programmes.

Statement of the Problem:

Unemployment in Nigeria has become a menace; it has caused poverty to Nigerians especially among the youths. It is a major challenge threatening the economic growth and development in Nigeria. The National Bureau of Statistics NBS (2022) stated that 42.5 percent of the 29.94 million young Nigerians in the labour force are unemployed while the NBS believe that a total of 33 percent of Nigerians who are willing to work are unemployed and this affects all regions in Nigeria. Also unemployment affects graduates and non-graduates. This scenario has brought about youth restiveness, high risk of depression, armed robbery, kidnapping and a heavy burden on the government of the day. Some authors believe that it is due to absence of relevant skills and entrepreneurial spirit.

Adesanye in Oyetunde, Oluwafemi and Opeyemi (2015) stated that what was learnt in schools could not be put in practice neither could it be used to earn a living. In south-south Nigeria, the situation is worst with the degradation of the eco-system due to oil exploration and gas flaring activities which has further depleted the soil that is used for farming as such, poverty has become the new norm since the two main occupations of the South-South people which is farming and fishing are greatly affected. This situation plus the non-absorption of greater percentage of working age youths into the labour markets by government and the private sectors and high inflation rate in Nigeria has resulted in several agitations by youths in South-South, Nigeria in order to get government attention. Though there have been government efforts through policies to introduce entrepreneurial programme, this is implemented without discernible impact. Also, the Amnesty programme of Federal Government of Nigeria targeted at the oil Niger Delta youths in South-South, Nigeria did not solve the problem of acquiring relevant skills in order to reduce unemployment because, the number of beneficiaries were very insignificant and most of the beneficiaries did not put the skills learnt into practice. This is because interest of beneficiaries were not considered before drafting them into the various trades they were made to acquire skills on, as such their interest to practice the skills acquired were lacking. To this end, it is necessary to determine and identify entrepreneurial trade skills for developing youths in South-South Nigeria in order to reduce the menace of unemployment.

Objectives of the Study:

The main goal of this study is the assessment of entrepreneurial skills for development of youths in south-south, Nigeria. Specifically the study sought to:

1. Determine entrepreneurial trade skills required for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria.
2. Determine constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria.
3. Determine strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What are the entrepreneurial trade skills required for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria?
2. What are the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria?

3. What are the strategies that will aid youths in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills by youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. Urban and rural youths will not differ significantly in their mean rating of the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria.
2. Male and female youths will not differ significantly on the strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria.

Methods

A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The study was carried out in south-south region of Nigeria. The population of the study comprised of 2,400 youths. The multi-stage sampling procedure was used to ensure that a good spread of respondents was chosen for the study. A structured questionnaire titled “Entrepreneurial Skills for Youths Development Questionnaire (ESYDQ)” was designed and used for data collection. The questionnaire was structured on a 4-point Likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1), and used to elicit response from respondents. The instrument was validated by two research experts in Business Education, from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and another expert from Department of Measurement and Evaluation, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki. In order to establish the reliability of the instrument, a pilot study involving 30 eligible youths from Imo State was conducted outside the study area. The data collected from the respondents were used to compute the reliability of the instrument. The Cronbach Alpha SPSS statistical procedure was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument which yielded overall reliability coefficients of 0.88. 2,400 copies of the questionnaires were administered to respondents with the aid of 12 research assistants, however, 2,060 copies of the instruments were retrieved which gave a retrieval rate of 86%. The data collected from respondents were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while the z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Where the z-value calculated was less than the critical or table value, it means that respondents do not differ significantly in their mean ratings and the hypothesis was accepted. Conversely, where the calculated z-value was equal or greater than the critical z-value, it means that the variable had a significant effect on respondents’ ratings and hypothesis was rejected.

Results

The data collected for the study are presented and analyzed in the table below based on the research questions and hypotheses.

Research Question 1: What are the entrepreneurial trade skills required for development of youths for self-employment in South-South, Nigeria? To answer this research question 1, items 1-67 were used. The result is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage scores of required entrepreneurial trade skills by youths in South-South, Nigeria.

S/N	Entrepreneurial Trade Skills	Figure/Percentage
	Sector/Occupation	
A.	Technical engineering services	
1.	Automobile mechanic	45(2.18%)
2.	Industrial mechanics	20(1.45%)
3.	Industrial electronics	22(1.06%)
4.	Refrigeration and air condition maintenance	26(1.26%)
5.	Tricycle assembly and maintenance	28(1.35%)
6.	Motorcycle repairs and maintenance	25(1.21%)
7.	Furniture making	50(3.88%)
8.	Solar photovoltaic installation	125(6.06%)
9.	Articulated vehicle driving	11(0.53%)
B.	Building construction sector	
10.	Heating and air conditioning	30(1.45%)
11.	Plumbing	42(2.23%)
12.	Masonry	18(0.87%)
13.	Painting and decoration	67(3.25%)
14.	Tiling	120(5.82%)
15.	Electrical installation	61(2.96%)
16.	Carpentry and joinery	30(1.45%)
17.	Welding	92(4.46%)
18.	Paint making	40(1.94%)
19.	Interior designing	38(1.84%)
C	Power sector	
20.	Power system protection	22(1.06%)
21.	Turbine maintenance	16(0.77%)
22.	Mechanical auxiliaries maintenance	12(0.58%)
23.	System electrical operation	15(0.72%)
24.	Power lines workers	10(0.43%)
D	Salon/Cosmetology	
25.	Braiding of hair	32(1.55%)
26.	Fixing and weaving	67(3.25%)
27.	Fixing and painting of nails	40(1.94%)
28.	Producing of closure	13(0.67%)
29.	Make overs	22(1.06%)
30.	Manicure and pedicure	12(0.58%)
31.	Massage	12(0.58%)
32.	Facial/spa facial	22(1.06%)
33.	Barbing of hair	51(2.47%)
E	Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism	
34.	Catering	28(1.35%)
35.	Pastry chef	15(0.72%)
36.	Guest service	08(0.32%)
37.	House keeping	12(0.58%)
38.	Travel agent	15(0.72%)

39.	Resort attendant	11(0.53%)
40.	Café personnel	10(0.43%)
41.	Food truck attendant	11(0.53%)
42.	Sports centre attendant	07(0.33%)
43.	Cruise agent	15(0.58%)
44.	Waiter/waitress	18(0.87%)
F	Information communication technology	
45.	Web production	24(1.16%)
46.	Telecommunication technology	60(2.91%)
47.	Mobile application development	20(0.97%)
48.	Digital services operations	10(0.48%)
49.	Creative media production	26(1.26%)
50.	Social media communication	44(2.13%)
51.	Computer hardware maintenance	42(2.23%)
52.	GSM/phone repairs	25(1.24%)
53.	Satellite installation and maintenance	35(1.69%)
54.	Photography and cinematography	43(2.08%)
55.	Office technology and management	31(1.50%)
G	Agric/Agro Processing	
56.	Rice milling	15(0.72%)
57.	Crop production	10(0.43%)
58.	Bee keeping	12(0.58%)
59.	Horticulture production	10(0.48%)
60.	Snail farming	20(0.97%)
H	Animal husbandry	
61.	Poultry farming	15(0.72%)
62.	Animal husbandry – goat, cattle, sheep, cow, chicken	20(0.97%)
63.	Aquaculture	14(0.67%)
64.	Fisheries	26(1.26%)
I	Fashion Design	
65.	Leather work/bags	18(0.87%)
66.	Garment making	86(4.67%)
67.	Shoe making	15(0.72%)

Source: Survey Data, 2023.

Table 1 above presented the frequency and percentage scores of entrepreneurial trade skills required by youths in south-south, Nigeria. The results of analysis showed that in the engineering technology services sector, trade skill required most is item 9, solar photovoltaic installation. 120 (one hundred and twenty respondents i.e. 6.06% of youths required skills in this area. This is followed by item 7, which is furniture making with 80 respondents, 3.50% and automobile mechanic in item 1, with 45 respondents, 2.18%. Every other trade in this sector was rated below 2%.

In the building construction sector 120 respondents rated item no. 14, which is tiling as the most preferred skill with 5.82%, also, 92 respondents rated welding as the next preferred trade skills with 4.46%, and 67 respondents with 3.32% rating preferred printing and decoration. 61 respondents with 2.96%, favoured electrical installation. 42 respondents i.e. 2.03% preferred plumbing. Every other item under building construction sector was rated below 2%.

In the power sector all the respondents rated the items below 2%, the highest being 22, which is 1.06% respondents ratings on power system protection. In the salon/cosmetology sector, items 26 and 33 have 67 and 51 respondents, with 3.25% and 2.49% respectively in trade skills such as fixing and weaving and barbing of hair respectively. Every other skills was rated less than 2%.

All the respondents rated all the items presented for hospitality, leisure and tourism below 2%. Also, respondents rated all items in agric/agro processing below 2%. However in the information communication technology skill trade, items 46, 50, and 51 with 67, 44, and 42 respondents had percentage scores of 2.9%, 2.13% and 2.23% which shows that respondents preferred communication technology, social media communication and computer hardware maintenance respectively. Also, in fashion design, item 66 which is garment making was preferred with 86(4.17%) respondents, while all other items were rated below 1%.

Research Question 2: What are the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in south-south Nigeria? To answer this research question 2, items 1-17 were used. The result is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Mean ratings and standard deviation on the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills by youths in South-South, Nigeria.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Interpretation
1.	Poor value toward skills acquisition	864	666	300	230	3.06	1.02	Agreed
2.	Emphasis on academic qualification	462	320	615	716	2.39	1.15	Disagreed
3.	Lack of quality skilled trainers	210	198	936	716	1.33	1.13	Disagreed
4.	Learning distractions	708	474	513	365	2.96	0.86	Agreed
5.	Poor funding by government	828	557	413	262	2.74	1.12	Agreed
6.	Lack of interest	620	765	312	363	3.11	1.04	Agreed
7.	Absence of instructional guidance	820	511	454	275	2.84	0.96	Agreed
8.	Poor attitude towards acquiring trade skills	846	625	365	270	3.07	1.03	Agreed
9.	Failure to make wise use of available opportunity in acquiring trade skills	920	524	368	248	2.98	1.14	Agreed
10.	Distraction through the use of mobile phones	779	670	376	235	3.09	1.02	Agreed
11.	Lack of dedication and commitment to learning trade skills	774	675	370	241	3.09	1.02	Agreed
12.	Poor group pressure/influence	870	660	310	220	3.06	1.04	Agreed
13.	Excess number of trainee	410	318	669	663	2.38	1.16	Disagreed
14.	Poor maintenance culture on available equipment for training	610	775	310	365	3.10	1.06	Agreed
15.	Poor mindset regard trade skills	722	810	320	205	3.09	1.14	Agreed

16.	Acute shortage of facilities	400	328	610	722	2.34	1.18	Disagreed
17.	Inconsistent follow up by government regarding motivation of youths on trade skills acquisition	767	628	300	365	2.67	1.14	Agreed
18.	Grand mean/SD					2.60	1.07	Agreed

Source: Survey data, 2023.

The results of data in table 2 shows that the respondents rated thirteen (13) items as agreed. They include items 1,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15 and 17 with mean scores of 3.06, 3.65, 2.62, 3.63, 2.75, 2.70, 2.98, 3.09, 3.09, 3.06, 3.10, 3.09, and 2.78. With a grand mean of 2.60 and standard deviation of 1.07, it could be affirmed that respondents are in agreement with the items presented as constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills. However, four (4) items which include items 2,3,13 and 16 were rated disagreed.

The standard deviation which is within 0.86-1.18 shows that the responses were clustered around the mean. This reveals that the respondents were homogenous in their responses.

Research Question 3: What are the strategies that will aid youths in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for self-employment in south-south, Nigeria? To answer this research question, items 1-11 was used. The result is shown below.

Table 3: Mean ratings and standard deviations on the strategies that will aid youths in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills in South-South, Nigeria.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Interpretation
1.	Government policies should be geared towards encouraging youths on trade skills to acquire	1,260	780	20	-	3.81	0.81	Agreed
2.	Trade skills to be learnt should be carefully design in order to be relevant for a long period	1,280	740	40	60	3.72	0.92	Agreed
3.	Families and communities should be involve in guiding youths on skills to be chosen	920	1,015	125	60	3.71	0.98	Agreed
4.	Guidance and counselors should aid youths in choosing trade skills to be learnt	926	900	160	74	3.20	0.91	Agreed
5.	Mentors who are passionate in training youths should be consulted and be involve in training the youths	980	860	160	60	3.11	0.95	Agreed
6.	Youths should be encourage to train in the entrepreneurial trade skills they have passion on.	1,069	960	40	-	3.68	0.71	Agreed

7.	Government should provide training facilities that will aid in training the youths for free in their area of interest	860	620	260	320	2.75	1.15	Agreed
8.	Qualified personnel should be engaged in training the youths	1,040	1,020	-	-	3.95	0.61	Agreed
9.	Youths who have been trained and are successful in their field should be involved in further training of youths	1,020	920	110	30	3.71	0.91	Agreed
10.	Mechanism for maintenance of equipment should be put in place to enable available equipment last longer	1,025	1,035	-	-	3.98	0.61	Agreed
11.	Youths should be motivated by supporting them financially in order to acquire equipment for start up.	920	1,015	85	40	3.71	0.78	Agreed
12.	Grand mean/SD					3.57	0.76	Strongly Agreed

Source: Survey data, 2023.

The analysis of data in Table 3 indicates that all the mean scores of respondents were above 2.50. With a grand mean of 3.57 and standard deviation of 0.76, it shows that respondents rated all the items presented in respect of strategies that will aid youths in acquiring entrepreneurial skills as strongly agreed. Also the standard deviation which is within 0.61-0.98 indicates that respondents were homogenous in their opinions.

Results of test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Urban and rural youths will not differ significantly in their mean ratings of the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 4: Summary of z-test analysis of the urban and rural youths mean ratings on the constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills.

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	@	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Urban youths	1,098	3.23	0.76					
Rural Youths	962	3.01	0.84	2,058	0.05	0.82	1.96	NS

Results of data presented in table 4 shows that the z-cal value is 0.82 while the z-critical value is 1.96 at 2,058 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Since the z-calculated value is less than the z-critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted. This indicates that urban and rural youths do not differ in their mean ratings of constraints in acquisition of

relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for self development of youths for self employment in South-South, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2: Male and female youths will not differ significantly in the strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 5: Summary of z-test analysis of the male and female youths mean rating on the strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in South-South, Nigeria.

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	@	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Male youths	1,098	2.99	0.79	2,058	0.05	0.43	1.96	NS
Female youths	962	342	0.71					

The result in data presented in table 5 reveals that the z-calculated value of 0.43 while the z-critical value is 1.96 at 2,058 degree of freedom and 0.05 levels of significant. Since the z-calculated value is less than the z-critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted. This implies that male and female youths do not differ significantly on the mean response on strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment in South-South, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The study finds that in the engineering technology services sector, photovoltaic installation and furniture making are preferred among the skills presented to the youths for skill acquisition. In the building construction sector, youths considered tiling/electrical installation and welding technology as preferred to other trade skills. While in the salon/cosmetology sector, fixing and weaving and barbing were considered preferable to others in the list presented to the youths. Also in the fashion and design sector, garment making was rated higher than others presented on the list. In the information and communication technology sector, telecommunication technology, social media communication and computer hardware were the most preferred. All other items scored below 2% in rating by the youths of South-South, Nigeria.

The study revealed that constraints in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills includes, poor value towards skill acquisition, learning distractions, poor funding by government, lack of interest, absence of instructional guidance, poor attitude towards acquiring trade skills, failure to make wise use of available opportunity in acquiring trade skills, distraction through use of mobile phones, lack of dedication and commitment to learning trade skills. Others are peer group pressure/influence, poor maintenance culture on available equipment for training, poor mindset regarding trade skills and absence of follow up by government representative regarding motivation of youths on trade skills acquisition.

The study found that strategies that will aid youths in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills includes; that government policies should be geared towards encouraging the youths in trade skills they wish to acquire, trade skills to be learnt should be carefully design in order for such skills to be relevant, families and communities should be involved in guiding youths on skills to be chosen, guidance and counselors should aid youths in choosing trade skills, mentors who are passionate in training youth should be consulted and be involve in training

the youths. Government should provide training facilities that will aid in training youths. Others includes; qualified personnel should be engaged in training the youths, youths who have been trained and are successful in their field should be involved in further training of other youths, mechanism, for maintenance of equipment should be put in place to enable available equipment for training last longer and youths should be motivated by supporting them financially in order to acquire equipment for start-up.

There was no significant difference between urban and rural youths regarding constraint in acquisition of relevant entrepreneurial trade skills for development of youths for self-employment by youths in south-south, Nigeria. Also there was no significant difference between male and female youths regarding strategies that will aid in acquiring entrepreneurial trade skills for self-employment of youths in South-South, Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that youths in South-South Nigeria desire to be trained in entrepreneurial trade skills but such training is faced with some constraints. It is also concluded that if the right strategies are put in place, youths in South-South Nigeria will acquire entrepreneurial trade skills for development and for self-employment.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made;

1. Government should make deliberate policies that will encourage youths in the South-South region of Nigeria to embrace trade skills acquisition for self-development.
2. Government should establish entrepreneurial training centres/workshop that would be used as training centres for youths.
3. Government should ensure that such training centres are entirely free in order to encourage those without financial backing to be accommodated in training.
4. Those who are facilitators in the training programs should design programs that are sustainable in nature.
5. Guidance and counselors should be engaged to aid youths in making a choice that is sustainable.
6. Youths should be encouraged to make choices of trade skills which they have passion.
7. Facilitators with youth training programs should make deliberate effort to collaborate with establishments that, youths in the programme can visit to be encouraged.
8. Youths who have successfully been trained with abilities should be assisted financially in order to acquire equipment for startup.

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