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Impact of entrepreneurship on employment and insecurity amongst youth in Ikwerre L.G.A. rivers state

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Abstract

The study examined the impact of entrepreneurship on unemployment and insecurity amongst youths. Questionnaire were prepared and distributed to 133 respondents. The distributed questionnaire were retrieved and analyzed using frequency and percentage. The result obtained showed that majority of the respondents were of the view that the predominant causes of unemployment and insecurity is that most youths want to leave an easy going life; it was also realized that all the skills outlined were strongly agreed by the respondents' as skills that are available in recent times as means of survival; it was also deduced that majority of the respondents believed that all the skills and entrepreneurial activities outlined have significant effect on youth unemployment and insecurity; and lastly, majority of the respondents' strongly agreed to the suggested solutions capable of reducing unemployment and insecurity amongst youth. Based on the above findings, the study recommends that government should genuinely recognize the essence of entrepreneurship training, job creation and innovation to unemployment reduction by providing the enabling environment for the youths to be gainfully empowered; entrepreneurship education should be incorporated into the curricula of secondary schools and tertiary institutions as this will help shift the youth from being job seekers to job creators; and that government should concentrate on those activities where youth are known to have comparative advantage as a means of promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, unemployment and insecurity

Introduction

Entrepreneurship can be described as a vehicle of economic development which affects economic growth through job creation, knowledge spillovers, introduction of new innovations and productivity enhancements (Acs, 2006; Van Praag and Versloot, 2007) [1, 22]. It also provides individuals with adequate training that enables creativity and skill acquisition which encourages self-employment. In terms of business, society and overall development, entrepreneurship performs numerous roles (Onyeneho and Ezeano, 2011) [20]. Without entrepreneurship development, all factors of production (labour, land and capital) would be rendered ineffective and unproductive. Akanwa and Akpanabia (2012) [5] defined entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. Adejumo (2000) [2] also stated that entrepreneurship development has the capability of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people.

Unemployment and insecurity today constitutes a major challenge facing the third world countries and particularly Africa with the worst case in Nigeria. According to World Bank (2009) [21], unemployment is the share of the labour force that is without work but available for and seeking unemployment. The United Nations publications according to Borode (2011) [11] has it that over one billion people in the world today are unemployed mostly in developing countries, particularly in rural areas of low income countries in Africa with the youths within the ages of 14-50 years as the worst target (Ajaegbu, 2012) [3]. This is a serious problem to the Nation as this vulnerable group is susceptible to all sorts of crimes such as prostitution, armed robbery, kidnapping and assassination. In Nigeria, unemployment has become a major problem harassing the lives of Nigerian youths (Ajufo, 2013) [4]. Unemployment is a common thing in Nigeria which is devastating to the society and the individuals and has to be addressed because a society bedeviled with high prevalence of unemployment and insecurity especially

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amongst youths as it is currently the case in Nigeria will have its peace and stability endangered with dire consequences of retrogradation. Nowadays, the government is often blamed for the rate of insecurity in the society without actually finding out other related factors that are responsible for the cause of insecurity. In order to reduce the rate of unemployment and insecurity among youths, the concept of entrepreneurship should be embraced (Ekezie and Deebom, 2019) [14].

Nigeria is naturally endowed with entrepreneurship opportunities. These entrepreneurship skills have developed in several areas and include: computer skills such as computer operation, programming and repairs; technical skills such as building, welding, plumbing, aluminum works, electrical installations, photography/video, GSM maintenance, interlocking spurs; domestic skills such as fashion design, soap making, catering, hair dressing, bead making and tailoring; agricultural skills such as crop production, fisheries, piggery and poultry. Different scholars have also prescribed entrepreneurship development as the permanent cure for unemployment and insecurity (Nkechi, Ikechukwu, and Okechukwu, 2012) [18]. Inspite of the fact that entrepreneurship development has been regarded as the bulwark for employment generation and insecurity in Nigeria, there is a neglect of the impacts of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. There is therefore a great need for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria today as it employment.

According to the National Bureau of statistics (2009) [16], the national unemployment rates for Nigeria between 2000 and 2011 showed that the number of unemployed persons constituted 31.1% in 2000; 13.6% in 2001; 12.6% in 2002; 14.8% in 2003; 13.4% in 2004; 11.9% in 2005; 13.7% in 2006; 14.6% in 2007; 14.9% in 2008; 19.7% in 2009; 21.19% in 2010 and 23.9% in 2011. In 2012, unemployment rate in Nigeria increased to 24% and this wide rate of unemployment was also transmitted through the various states in the country. For instance, within the period under review (2000-2011), unemployment in Rivers State increased from 3.9% in 2000 to 7.0% in 2005 and then to 27.8% in 2010. In the first quarter of 2017, Rivers state was the highest unemployment rate of 41.82% in the country implying that for every 10 persons in Rivers State, 4 are without anything doing (National Bureau of statistics, 2017). A critical observation of the rate of unemployment in the state indicates that the rate of growth is faster and sharper on the rise than on the fall. Based on these pathetic situations, it interests the researchers to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship on employment and insecurity amongst youth in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. Entrepreneurship when and if gallantly developed in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State will take its pride of place in quelling unemployment and insecurity and thus generating employment amongst youths.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to examine the impact of entrepreneurship on unemployment and insecurity amongst youth in Ikwerre local Government Area of Rivers, Nigeria. Objectively, this study tends to:

- Identify the causes of unemployment amongst youths in Ikwerre local Government Area of Rivers, Nigeria.
- Identify entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent time as survival strategies.
- Determine the effect of available entrepreneurial activities and skills on youth unemployment and insecurity.

- Identify solutions to unemployment and insecurity amongst youths in Ikwerre local Government Area of Rivers, Nigeria.

Materials and Methods

Research design

The study employed descriptive research design. The descriptive research design is a design used to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship on Unemployment and Insecurity Amongst Youth in Ikwerre Local Government Area, the first design is exploratory research design which helps in identifying problems, generate hypotheses and gain insight into the subject.

Area of study

The study was carried out in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The Ikwerre nation is arguably the largest ethnic nationality in present day Rivers State. The reasons for this deduction are not far fetch. It is made up of not less than four major Local Government Areas, and occupies the largest land mass in the state. Like most ethnic groups in Nigeria, the history of Ikwerre could be contested. However, several researchers have linked their origin to Igbo in South Eastern part of Nigeria. Ikwerre is often highlighted as the richest and most industrious nationality in Rivers State, an observation that could have been due to the quality indigenes it has produced in recent time.

Population of the Study

The total population size of Ikwerre local Government comprises of 188,930 people (2006 National census). The target population for this study comprises of all the youth from four selected Local Government Council (Aluu, Igwuruta, Omanwa, and Omerelu) whose age group falls between 18years to 35years.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size for the study.

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

Where

n = Sample size

n = Population size

1 = Constant

e = Error limit or margin of error or level of significance

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{188930}{1 + 188930(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{188930}{1 + 188930(0.025)}$$

$$n = \frac{188930}{1 + 472.33}$$

$$n = \frac{188930}{473.33}$$

n = 399

To determine the proportion on the sample size, the proportionate sampling formula was used.

$$P = \frac{u}{N} \times \frac{n}{1}$$

Where:

P = Proportion

u = Size of stratum

N = Population size

n = Sample size

Hence, for proportion of the youths:

$$P = \frac{62961}{188930} \times \frac{399}{1}$$

$$P = \frac{25131193}{188930}$$

$$P = 133$$

Hence, the proportions of youth that made of the sample is 133.

Validity of the Instrument

To ensure the validity of the instrument, the questionnaires were submitted to the project supervisor and other lectures in the department for scrutiny and suggestions, correction and

amendment.

Administration of the Instrument

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents with the help of research assistant by carefully reading out the instructions to them, to ensure that the entire study area is fully covered, completed instrument was collected immediately after completion by the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

The data obtained from the fieldwork were subjected to Social Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22 and the frequency and percentage were obtained.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What are the causes of unemployment in Ikwerre LGA?

Table 1 below showed that ten (10) researched questions were assessed and analyzed as the cause of unemployment in Ikwerre L.G.A. B1: (Most youths want to leave an easy going life) has been reported to be the more prevalent cause of unemployment amongst the youths of Ikwerre L.G.A., it had 90.90% of the number of respondents in agreement, while others had between 67.00% - 87.90% of the number of respondents in agreement to the other research questions, the least response was question B6 (Rapid growth of population in Ikwerre L.G.A), while the highest response was question B5 (Lack of government employment).

Table 1: Reports on the causes of unemployment amongst the youth in Ikwerre L.G.A.

Decision	B1		B2		B3		B4		B5		B6		B7		B8		B9		B10	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.80	1	0.80	2	1.50	4	3.00	0	0.00	8	6.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.50	6	4.50
Disagree	9	6.80	19	14.30	17	12.80	16	12.00	9	6.80	14	10.50	8	6.00	7	5.30	11	8.30	4	3.00
Undecided	2	1.50	16	12.00	22	16.50	16	12.00	7	5.30	22	16.50	16	12.00	13	9.80	16	12.00	16	12.00
Agree	40	30.10	48	36.10	51	38.30	60	45.10	58	43.60	56	42.10	46	34.60	55	41.40	57	42.90	53	39.80
Strongly Agree	81	60.80	49	36.80	41	30.90	37	27.90	59	44.30	33	24.90	63	47.40	58	43.50	47	35.30	54	40.70
	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00

Keys: F = Frequency

B1 = Most youths want to leave an easy going life

B2 = So many youths are not interested in hand work

B3 = Most youth do not regard entrepreneur activities or skills

B4 = Skills are not taught in schools

B5 = Lack of Government employment

B6 = Rapid growth of population in Ikwerre L.G.A

B7 = Insurgency reduced peaceful living

B8 = Crazy for white – collar jobs

B9 = Rural Urban Migration

B10 = Economic slow down

Research Question 2: What are the different entrepreneurial activities and skills in recent times?

Table 2 showed the reports on some entrepreneur activities and skills available in recent times as means of survival. The result shows that all the skills outlined were strongly agreed by the respondents' as skills that are available in recent times as means of survival. Adejumo (2000)^[2] stated that entrepreneurial development has been found to be capable of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people. This is the reason why entrepreneurial activities should be encouraged for the betterment of lives. The findings of this study agrees with Deebom and Baridoma (2017)^[12] who found out that skills such as barbing/hair dressing, computer software, catering services and fashion designing are entrepreneurial skills that

helps to reduce unemployment rate. Anho (2014)^[8] reported that entrepreneurial skills are a panacea for unemployment, poverty reduction and national insecurity in developing and underdeveloped countries. He also recommended entrepreneurial skills for job creation to grow the economy.

Research Question 3: What are the effects of some available entrepreneur activities and skills on unemployment and insecurity?

Table 3 indicated the reports on some available entrepreneur activities and skills on youth unemployment and insecurity in Ikwerre LGA. The result shows that all the skills and entrepreneurial activities outlined were strongly agreed by the respondents' as having significant effect on youth unemployment and insecurity. The above results obtained

corroborates with the findings of Adejumo (2000) [2], which stated that entrepreneurial development has been found to be capable of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people. This is the reason why entrepreneurial activities should be encouraged especially among youths for the betterment of lives through creation of employment opportunities, thus reducing the level of insecurity in the nation. The findings of this study agrees with Deebom and Baridoma (2017) [12] who found out that

skills such as barbing/hair dressing, computer software, catering services and fashion designing are entrepreneurial skills that helps to reduce unemployment rate. Anho (2014) [8] reported that entrepreneurial skills are a panacea for unemployment, poverty reduction and national insecurity in developing and underdeveloped countries. He also recommended entrepreneurial skills and activities for job creation to grow the economy and improve standard of living.

Table 3: Reports on Effects of Some Entrepreneur Activities and Skills Available on Unemployment and Insecurity.

Decision	D1		D2		D3		D4		D5		D6		D7		D8		D9		D10	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Disagree	4	3.00	1	0.80	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.30	3	2.30	1	0.80
Disagree	10	7.51	10	7.50	3	2.30	3	2.30	1	0.80	5	3.80	7	5.30	5	3.80	5	3.80	0	0.00
Undecided	22	16.50	26	19.50	12	9.00	4	3.00	14	10.50	33	24.80	10	7.50	8	6.00	16	12.00	7	5.30
Agree	52	39.10	62	46.60	69	51.90	54	40.60	37	27.80	67	50.40	70	52.60	76	57.10	68	51.10	59	44.40
Strongly Agree	45	33.83	34	25.60	49	36.80	72	54.10	81	60.90	28	21.00	46	34.60	41	30.80	41	30.80	66	49.50
	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	120	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00

Keys: F = Frequency

D1 = Petty trading helps youths to be self-employed

D2 = Fast food business increases the self-reliance

D3 = Hair dressing helps youth to be independent

D4 = Fashion and designing has created more job opportunities

D5 = Computer knowledge has enhanced the economic

D6 = Fabrication and welding is income generating

D7 = Shoe and bag making have engaged the youths actively

D8 = Decoration and painting have reduced unemployment

D9 = Catering and interior decoration are good skills

D10 = GSM repairs has increased the level of employment

Research Question 4: What are the solutions to Unemployment and insecurity amongst youths in Ikwerre local Government Area of Rivers, Nigeria?

Table 4 showed the reports on some entrepreneur activities and skills available in recent times as means of survival. The result shows that majority of the respondents' agreed and strongly agreed as well to the reports on the solutions to unemployment and insecurity amongst youth in Ikwerre L.G.A. The findings show that unemployment and insecurity in Ikwerre L.G.A. can be solved if the Government encourages skills acquisition in rural areas. This was followed by gainful employment after school (ranked 2nd) and the initiation of quarterly skill acquisition in the villages and the Local government levels. Duru (2011) [13] recommended entrepreneurial skills as essential for rapid economic growth and development. He also stated that the manpower and skills are necessary for accelerated growth, reduce poverty and unemployment. Emeh (2012) [15] recommended that Nigerian youths should embark upon massive youth development programmes with entrepreneurial skills acquisition as a key target, hence a viable intervening tool for unemployment. The respondents also cited financial empowerment as a way

forward in solving unemployment and insecurity. This supports the findings of Ali and Jabeen (2016) [7] who stated that youths were not willing to take up self-employment but due to lack of access to capital, they could not start any entrepreneurship skills. Though the unemployed youth had the knowledge of entrepreneurship and willing to start it, they were not having access to capital and financial empowerment. In order to stop the migration of people from the rural areas, the respondents cited that the rural areas should be developed. This was followed by rapid industrialization (ranked 7th) and inclusion of entrepreneurial activities in academic curricular (ranked 8th). Mania (2013) recommended that all stakeholders should encourage the proposed introduction of entrepreneurship study across faculties and departments as a general course in the country. He also added that this will to a greater extent; assist in solving the problem of high unemployment and underemployment. Other solutions to unemployment and insecurity cited by the respondents in their order were regular seminars and teaching entrepreneurship (ranked 9th) and the establishment of small and medium enterprises in rural areas.

Table 4: Reports on the solutions to unemployment and insecurity.

Decision	C1		C2		C3		C4		C5		C6		C7		C8		C9		C10	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.80	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.80	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.80	0	0.00
Disagree	5	3.80	2	1.50	5	3.80	2	1.50	6	4.50	4	3.00	3	2.30	11	8.30	3	2.30	2	1.50
Undecided	3	2.30	10	7.50	9	6.80	9	6.80	10	7.50	12	9.00	18	13.50	12	9.00	10	7.50	6	4.50
Agree	51	38.30	67	50.40	48	36.10	58	43.60	65	48.90	59	44.40	69	51.90	48	36.10	61	45.90	42	31.60
Strongly Agree	74	55.60	54	40.60	70	52.50	64	48.10	52	39.10	57	42.80	43	32.30	62	46.60	58	43.50	83	62.40
	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00	133	100.00

Keys: F = Frequency

C1 = Gainful employment after school

C2 = Inclusion of entrepreneurial activities in academic curricula

C3 = Initiation of quarterly skill acquisition programs in villages and the L.G.A levels

- C4 = Financial empowerments of youth
 C5 = Regular seminars and teachings on entrepreneurship
 C6 = Training entrepreneurs academically
 C7 = Small and medium enterprises in rural areas
 C8 = Development of rural area will stop the migration of people
 C9 = Rapid industrialization should be created
 C10 = Government should encourage skills acquisition in rural area

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that entrepreneurship has an impact on unemployment and insecurity among youths in Ikwerre L.G.A. of Rivers State. The study further found that youth unemployment is a menace in Ikwerre Local Government and constitutes a threat to social, economic and political development. However, the incorporation of entrepreneurship, technical and vocational education and guidance helps to bring employment opportunities and reduces insecurity. Despite these benefits, entrepreneurship development in Ikwerre L.G.A. are faced with challenges to include lack of training on entrepreneurship, lack of entrepreneurship skills in rural areas and financial empowerments to start up skills acquired. Entrepreneurial skill acquisition therefore becomes a necessary option that should be promoted by the government of Rivers State and embraced by youths to reduce unemployment as well as insecurity in Ikwerre Local Government Area. Conclusively, entrepreneurship is relevance in the reduction of unemployment and insecurity among youths in Ikwerre L.G.A. Rivers State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that

- i. Government should genuinely recognize the essence of entrepreneurship training, job creation and innovation to unemployment reduction by providing the enabling environment for the youths to be gainfully empowered.
- ii. Entrepreneurship education should be incorporated into the curricula of secondary schools and tertiary institutions as this will help shift the youth from being job seekers to job creators.
- iii. In promoting youth entrepreneurship, government should concentrate on those activities where youth are known to have comparative advantage. Like the kind of skills they wish to acquire and they will do well if they are taught and will practice it as well.
- iv. The Rivers State government should explore how the ICT industries can provide new jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth in Ikwerre Local Government since modern information and communication technologies are offering significant opportunities for job creation globally.

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