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INFLUENCE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AND WEALTH CREATION AMONG YOUTHS IN OWERRI MUNICIPAL, IMO STATE: A Case for Empowering Families for Sustainable Survival and Well-Being

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ABSTRACT
The general purpose of the study was to investigate the role of entrepreneurship training and wealth creation among youths in Owerri Municipal, Imo state (A case for empowering families for sustainable survival and well-being). The research adopted 5% of the entire population which is 479. Self-constructed and validated questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The findings of the study showed that all the types of entrepreneurship training programmes should be inculcated into school curriculums to promote human empowerment and development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition. It is a means of reducing unemployment through entrepreneurial skill acquisition. It is a means of reducing unemployment since it is skilled oriented and employment motivated. Based on the findings, recommendations were made that private partners and non-governmental organization (NGO) should be help to ensure that the production capacities of the youths are enhanced through adequate funding of entrepreneurship training programme and other necessary contributions. The government should help out in the establishment of skill acquisitions centres all over Nigeria to aid in the smooth transfer of skill to the out-of-school youths in Nigeria.

Keyword: Entrepreneurship, Training, Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation

Introduction
Entrepreneurship training is a programme or part of a programme that prepares individuals to undertake the formation and/or operation of small business enterprises which also includes franchise operations for the purpose of performing all business function relating to a product or service with emphasis on social responsibilities, legal requirements and risks

for the sake of profit involved in the conduct of private business enterprises (Garcai-Rodriguez, 2017). Arogundale (2011) states that entrepreneurship training entails a philosophy of self-reliance such as creating a new cultural and productive environment, promoting new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of future challenges. It involves combination of various resources to increase value and introduce change and innovation into the production process for creating wealth and employment opportunities.

According to Osuala (2010), entrepreneurship training could turn around the economic fortune of any society by providing jobs and reducing the unemployment rate in such society. Entrepreneurship could aid people in identifying investment opportunities and also help them to harness untapped natural resources in the environment in order to produce the goods and services needed in the country. These will no doubt reduce or eliminate poverty and help to increase per capita income in the country which is one of the cardinal points of the entrepreneurship ventures.

Entrepreneurship training seeks to prepare people (particularly the youths), to be responsible enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinker by immersing them in real life learning experience thereby taking risks, manage results and learn from the outcome of the entrepreneurial activities (Suleiman, 2010). Through entrepreneurship training, people come to know that they can either take or create jobs which make them to be self-employed. Entri

Ubah (2013) emphasize that it is through entrepreneurship training that most youths are sensitized and made aware of income generating activities such as; poultry management, mechanized farming, cassava processing, soap making, basket weaving, and among others. Thus, Agboeze (2012) also emphasize that there are many entrepreneurship training programmes where youths are empowered. For instance, there are sociological and technological entrepreneurship training programmes, and more specifically, agricultural/agro-allied activities where there are foodstuffs, restaurants, fast food vending etc. in the area of solid minerals, there are quarrying, polishing and crushing engineering. In power and transport, there are power generations, Haulage business (Cargo and Passengers). In the area of information and telecommunication business, there are manufacturing and repairs of GSM accessories and the printing and selling of recharge cards. In hospitality and tourism business, there are hotels, accommodation, film and home video production in oil and gas business, there are construction and maintenance of pipelines, drilling, refining bye products.

Empowerment entails a process of changing the distribution of power both in interpersonal relations and institutions. Thus at individual level, empowerment can be perceived as the ability to direct and control one's own business. It is the process in which people gain control over their lives, by knowing and claiming their rights at different levels of the society (Fatoki & Oni, 2014). Knowledge and understanding are part of empowerment. The knowledge of self-awareness, acquiring the visible tools of power and positive self-concept cannot be

achieved over night (Strongquist, 2016). Empowerment should be a preparation for the next stage, example economic empowerment.

Economic empowerment according to Ogbe (2006) is a way of motivating individuals in the society to be productive and self-dependent by inculcating into the individual's entrepreneurship skills such as personal business initiatives and basic skills in business development. In fact, the best foundation for nay business success is to have several possibilities for creating profits. However, profit creation is determined by the choice of the business, self-concept, interest, resources, and aspirations which in turn would enable the person to achieve self-development, self-actualization and self-fulfillment. Production empowerment according to Idachaba (2006) is the basic focus of entrepreneurship initiatives. It is determined by what the person trained wants to produce, how to produce ad whom to produce the goods for.

Family empowerment and sustainable survival means providing families with the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. This includes ensuring access to clean water, nutritious food, and adequate shelter, as well as education, healthcare, and other services. It also means empowering families to make their own decisions and take control of their own lives. When families are empowered and have the resources they need to survive and thrive, everyone benefits (the youths). Families can shift from their present condition to better and happier household through functional Home Economics in form of skills acquisition, training and entrepreneurship education in various areas of the subject (Anyakoha, 2015).

An emerging trend in economic empowerment of youths in Nigeria is entrepreneurship education. Entrepreneurship has received increasing recognition as a source of job creation, empowerment for the youths and economic dynamisms in a rapidly globalizing world. Entrepreneurship is often used for developing enterprising people and inculcating an attitude of self-reliance using appropriate learning processes. Furthermore, entrepreneurship education is a vital key that unlocks the economic potentials to the people. It also empowers and equips out-of-school youths in Imo State to participate in, and benefit from the national economy; facilitates and provides the basis for all round empowerment (Aluwong, 2010).

Wealth creation is the "accumulation of assets (especially those that generate income) over a long period of time". In other words, it involves generating long-term financial wealth through informed decision-making, disciplined saving, and strategic investing. Wealth creation process always starts with setting financial goals. Then these goals have to be classified based on the time period through good entrepreneurship training. For example, goals that an investor wants to achieve in the next few years will be short term goals.

Against this backdrop, Entrepreneurship training has emerged as a vital strategy for empowering youth to create wealth and stimulate Economic growth. The Nigerian government has emphasized the impact of entrepreneurship development in Addressing youth unemployment, and

initiatives has been launched to provide training and support for young entrepreneurs.

Statement of the Problem

The present rate of unemployment in Imo State is threatening. The desire to provide employment in the state is one of the major aspirations of the government. The government has over the years evolved measures of providing job opportunities both at the federal and state levels. The job being provided seems not to be enough as a result of the teeming population in the state. The inability of the government to provide adequate job opportunities has rather made some youths take to armed robbery; kidnapping; prostitution and other social vices, which have made them become deviants in the society, and has in turn led to insecurity in the nation. This may be because the youths are not informed on the types of entrepreneurship programmes to be embarked upon, and therefore, calls for entrepreneurship training programme.

Several attempts have been made at encouraging entrepreneurial activities to empower the youths in Owerri Municipal in the past, producing the desired results. Large no of youth are still unemployed leading to rise on insecurity in the area. Therefore, this study was carried out to determine the role of entrepreneurship training on wealth creation among youths in Owerri Municipal Council of Imo State

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the influence of production potentials and wealth creation on youths in Owerri Municipal?
2. What is the influence of skills acquisition and wealth creation on youths in Owerri Municipal?

Research Method

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study using structures questionnaire as instrument for data collection. The structured questionnaire is titled entrepreneurship training and wealth creation of youths questionnaire (ETWCYQ). The population of the study is nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty seven (9,957) comprising male and female youths in Owerri Municipal (Census, 2006). The sample size of the study was four hundred and seventy eight (478). This was determined using 5% of the entire population. A total of 478 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the youths of Owerri Municipal. One of these, 250 copies of the questionnaire were duly completed and returned for analysis.

Presentation and Discussion of Results

This chapter dealt with the presentation of data analysis and result of the data collected for this study. Mean statistical analysis is used for analyzing the data collected with regards to the research questions.

Analysis of Data

Research Question One: What is the influence of production potentials and wealth creation on youths in Owerri Municipal?

Table 1: Mean response on relationship between production potentials and wealth creation of youths

S/n	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Outcome of technological activities improves individuals and nations economy	116 464	95 285	27 54	12 12	250 815	3.26	Significant
2	Technological entrepreneurship helps to achieve commercial objectives	111 444	108 324	21 42	8 8	250 818	3.27	Significant
3	Technological entrepreneurship helps in identifying high potential, technological entrepreneurship intensify business opportunities for youths	78 312	95 285	41 102	26 26	250 725	2.90	Non-Significant
4	Technological entrepreneurship helps in creating attractive business opportunities for great value positions for youths	118 472	105 315	19 38	8 8	250 833	3.33	Significant
5	Technological entrepreneurship helps to target at existing market or create an entirely new ones for youths	73 292	80 240	61 122	36 36	250 690	2.76	Non-Significant
	Significant Mean Value						**3.07**	

Sources: Field Survey, 2023

Result on table 1 indicates that at a significant value of 3.07, production potentials relates to wealth creation in three main aspects. There are the outcome of technological activities improves individuals and nations economy (x = 3.26), technological entrepreneurship helps to achieve commercial objectives (x = 3.27) and technological entrepreneurship helps in creating attractive business opportunities for great value position for youths. The other two reasons namely, technological entrepreneurship helps to achieve commercial objectives (x = 2.90) and technological entrepreneurship helps in identifying high potential, technological entrepreneurship intensify business opportunities for youths (x = 2.76) have less than the significant mean value of (3.07). The significant mean value (3.07) shows that production potentials have positive relationship with wealth creation of youths in Owerri Municipal.

Research Question Two: What is the influence of skills acquisition and wealth creation on youths in Owerri Municipal?

Table 2: Mean response on the relationship between skills acquisition and wealth creation of youths

S/n	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
6	Entrepreneurship training enhances functional skills among the youths.	98 392	121 363	22 44	9 9	250 808	3.23	Significant
7	Entrepreneurship training enhances business attitude and habits that make the youths resourceful	73 292	80 240	61 122	36 36	250 690	2.76	Non-Significant
8	Entrepreneurship training helps for technological skill development among youths	91 364	107 321	32 64	20 20	250 755	3.08	Significant
9	Relevant skills acquired through entrepreneurship training promote personal and national greatness	81 324	75 225	60 120	34 34	250 703	2.81	Non-Significant
10	Inculcation of entrepreneurial skill reduces the rate of dependence on the government for the provision of white collar jobs for its citizens	107 428	98 294	31 62	14 14	250 798	3.19	Significant
	Significant Mean Value						**3.01**	

Sources: Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 shows that mean response on the table. Result on table 2 indicates that at a significant value of 3.01, skill acquisition relates with wealth creation in three main aspect. These are; entrepreneurship training enhances functional skills among the youths (x = 3.23), entrepreneurship training helps for technological skill development among youths (x = 3.02), and Inculcation of entrepreneurial skill reduces the rate of dependence on the government for the provision of white collar jobs for its citizens (x = 3.19). the other two reasons namely, Entrepreneurship training enhances business attitude and habits that make the youths resourceful (x = 2.76), and Relevant skills acquired through entrepreneurship training promote personal and national greatness (x = 2.81) have less that significant value (x = 3.01). the significant mean value (x = 3.01) shows that skill acquisition has positive relationship with wealth creation of youths in Owerri Municipal, Imo State.

Discussion of Findings`

The findings of research question one show that production potentials of youths in Owerri Municipal were significant. The finding is in line with the works of Okenna (2010) stated that technological entrepreneurship is needed to propel technological innovation efforts into the market. He added that technological entrepreneurship is initiated and culminated in design, development, production, engineering and commercialization of innovative new products and processes.

The findings of research question two shows that skills acquisition of youths in Owerri Municipal is significant. The findings of this study is in line with the view of Duniya, (2010) which emphasized that the acquisition of appropriate talents and skills acquired through the appropriate implementation of a skill-oriented curriculum un Nigerian is critical for the nation's sustainable development and global competitiveness. Effort in these directions

would revolutionize the competence of youths with the resultant creation of various employment opportunities and wealth generation.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded thus:

In the light of the findings above, the conclusion was drawn. The study has successfully investigated the relationship between entrepreneurship training and wealth creation of youths in Owerri Municipal, Imo State. The study revealed that production potentials and skill acquisition have significant effect on wealth creation of youths in Owerri Municipal, Imo State.

Recommendations

In line with the findings, the study recommended as follows:

1. All the types of entrepreneurship training programmes should be inculcated into school curriculum to promote human empowerment and development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition. It is a means of reducing unemployment since it is skilled oriented and employment motivated. All school programmes should be geared toward providing entrepreneurial skills.
2. The private partners and non-governmental organization (NGO) should be help to ensure that the production capacities of the youths are enhanced through adequate funding of entrepreneurship education programme and other necessary contributions. This involvement should be seen by firms as a long term investment, and as an aspect of their corporate social responsibility to the nation.
3. The government should help out in the establishment of skill acquisitions centres all over Nigeria to aid in the smooth transfer of skill to the out-of-school youths in Nigeria.
4. Conferences and workshops should be organized and sponsored by the government to inculcate in every youth the cat of marketing so that these youths will be able to sale their products after production.
5. The government should make more provisions for providing infrastructures, personnel and the funding of entrepreneurship education programmes in Nigeria.

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