



Entrepreneurship Education as a Panacea to Poverty Alleviation and Insecurity amongst Youth in Oyo State (A Study of Akinyele Local Government, Moniya, Ibadan)

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Abstract

The study investigated the effect of entrepreneurship education on poverty alleviation and insecurity amongst the youth. The study used structural questionnaire to a sample size of 100 drawn through a random sampling from different areas in Akinyele Local Government. The distributed questionnaires were retrieved and analyzed using frequency and percentage for demographic characteristics of respondents while Mean and Standard deviation were used to achieve the research objectives. The result obtained revealed that majority of the respondents were of the opinion that the prevailing cause of poverty and insecurity is unemployment; it was also realized that all the skills outlined were accepted by the respondents' as skills that are available in recent times as means of survival; it was also deduced that the majority of the respondents believed that all the skills and entrepreneurial activities outlined have significant effect. Finally, majority of the respondents' accepted to the suggested solutions capable of reducing poverty and insecurity amongst the youth. Based on the above findings, the study recommends that government should embrace entrepreneurship training, skill acquisition, job creation and innovation to poverty reduction by providing the enabling environment for the youths to be gainfully empowered; entrepreneurship education should be incorporated into the primary schools curricula, curricula of secondary schools and tertiary institutions as this will help the youth from being job seekers to job creators; and that government should concentrate on the development of the rural areas to discourage rural - urban migration among the youths.

Keywords: Demographic, Entrepreneurship, Poverty and insecurity

Introduction

The world's greatest problem and the most addressed issue is growth and development in a given economy. It has attained such a global dimension because of the interrelationship of all economic systems. The basic duty of any responsive government is to satisfy the basic needs of the majority of its people especially, the provision of security, poverty alleviation programmes, road network, communication and the accessibility of people to cheap and affordable food, consumable commodities which improve the living standard of the people as well as the economic development (George, 2000). In Nigeria, poverty has become a serious threat to the lives of the Nigerian youths as reported by the National Bureau of statistics (NBS) that 83 million Nigerians are in life-threatening poverty, surviving below \$1.90 per day, while 133 million (63%) of the country's population are wallowing in poverty. Moreover, it was made known (NBS report) that poverty is prevalent and deeply rooted in rural area. The majority of the villagers rely on subsistence farming as their main source of income, but due

to limited access to modern farming techniques, unpredictable weather patterns, and lack of infrastructure, their yields are often meager. The villagers lack basic amenities such as clean water, electricity, and proper sanitation facilities. The absence of reliable healthcare services further exacerbates the situation, making the villagers susceptible to diseases and unable to afford necessary medical treatments. According to the Nigeria Poverty and Inequality Report 2019 by the National Bureau of Statistics, the poverty rate in Nigeria was estimated to be 40.1 % in 2019. In general, it was reported that poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor, compared with 42% of people in urban areas. This is primarily due to factors such as better access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and employment opportunities in urban centers.

Entrepreneurship refers to the process of starting, managing, and growing a business venture. It involves identifying opportunities, taking risks, and organizing resources to create



a new product, service, or solution that adds value to customers. Entrepreneurship as described by Allen (2006) is a mind-set or way of thinking that is opportunity- focused and growth-oriented. It was defined by Drucker (2019) as only one who always searches for change, act on it and utilize it as an opportunity.

Entrepreneurship education refers to the process of teaching individuals the knowledge, skills, and mindset required to start, manage, and grow a business venture. It involves equipping students with the tools and resources to identify opportunities, develop innovative ideas, and navigate the challenges and risks associated with entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship education is a practical task of transforming an idea into reality and then really try to do it. Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings (Wikipedia, 2013). It is when dependable and practical entrepreneurship education is inculcated that poverty and insecurity among the youth will be alleviated and later on/ eradicated in our country.

The menace of insecurity in Nigeria constitutes a leading challenge confronting Nigeria. The hazard and precariousness connected with the level of insecurity have affected negatively the inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to Nigeria while many foreign investors were also discouraged to invest in Nigerian Economy. Chuku (2019) opined that the irritating level of insecurity in Nigeria has made the economy unattractive to citizens and investors from another country, who have become afraid of investing and putting their hard-earned resources in profitable investments in Nigeria.

The efforts of the Nigerian government to tackle insecurity and poverty through entrepreneurship training are commendable. However, there is still room for improvement in areas such as access to funding, infrastructure development, monitoring and evaluation, and addressing security challenges. Continued commitment and collaboration with relevant stakeholders are crucial for the success of these initiatives.

Entrepreneurship education has been identified as one of the tools that can break the cycle of poverty and insecurity by empowering individuals to create their own economic opportunities. It will encourage self-reliance,

resilience, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. By fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, individuals can identify and seize opportunities, even in challenging environments. However, it should be complemented with supportive policies and resources to address structural barriers and maximize its impact. Additionally, promoting social impact entrepreneurship can further contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Hence, the study intends to examine the effect of entrepreneurship education on poverty alleviation and insecurity amongst youth in Akinyele Local government Moniya, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Statement of the Problem

Government has been making considerable attempt to curb insecurity and reduce poverty in Nigeria and specifically in Oyo State. But no doubt, insecurity and poverty are still prevailing in the country. A greater proportion of the population are financially handicapped to afford the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. The citizen lacked basic ability rather than lowness of income as indicated by the World Bank which defined poverty as those living on less than \$1.90 dollar per day (NBS report, 2019). Poverty and insecurity continues to be a leading social and economic factor militating against the economy and welfare of many countries in recent times. Inaccessibility of productive employment coupled with the scourge of poverty has contributed to social unrest and an increase in crime rate in Nigeria. Insecurity and the resulting poverty have multi-variant consequences on the economic, social, political development of a nation leading to youth restiveness and personal society and national insecurity.

Purpose of the Study

The main objective of this study was to investigate the influence of entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation and insecurity amongst youth in Akinyele Local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria. The specific objectives included:

- i. to identify the causes of insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele Local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo state Nigeria.
- ii. to identify entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent times as survival strategies.



- iii. to determine the effect of available entrepreneurial activities and skills on poverty alleviation and insecurity.

Materials and Methods

Research Design

The study used the descriptive research design to examine the effect of entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation and insecurity among the youth in Akinyele local Government, Moniya Ibadan. The sample comprised 100 youths selected randomly from four cities in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya Ibadan. Data for the study were collected through the questionnaire designed to reflect five (5) point Likert scale. The questionnaires were administered to 100 respondents made up of Youths in Akinyele Local Government area of Oyo State. Out of the distributed questionnaires, 98 were properly filled and returned representing a response rate of 98%. The questionnaire used was divided into two sections - A and B. Section A dealt with personal data of the respondents while section B addressed the causes of poverty, insecurity and the entrepreneurial skills available to mitigate the negative effect of poverty and insecurity in the study area.

The data were analyzed by the use of frequency count and percentage for demographic variables of the respondents. Mean and Standard deviation was used to answer research questions raised in the study. For opinion purposes, any item means 2.50 and

above was accepted while any item mean below 2.50 was rejected.

Area of Study

The study was carried out in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Akinyele Local Government is the largest local government in present day Oyo State. It was formed in 1976 out of the then Ido Local Government.

Population of the Study

The population of people in Akinyele Local Government was 211,811 (2006 National Census). It is 222 square kilometres in area. The target population for this study comprised all the youth from four selected areas (Ojoo, Shasha, Moniya, and Orogun) whose age group falls between 18 to 35 years.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Sex Distribution of Respondents			
S/N	Variables	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	73	74
2	Female	25	26
	Total	98	100

Source: Researcher`s Fieldwork 2023

The table1 shows the sex distribution of the respondents. From the results, it is revealed that the majority of the respondents were males. Specifically, 73(74%) were males while 25(26%) were females.

Table 2 Age Distributions of Respondents

	Variables	Frequency	Percent
1	20-25	30	31
2	26-30	40	41
3	31-35	28	29
4	40 and above	0	0
	Total	98	100

Source: Researcher`s Fieldwork 2023

From table 2, Majority of the respondents 30(31%) were between the ages of 20 years and 25 years, 40(41%) were between 26 years and 30 years while a good number of them 28(29%) were also between 31 years and 35 years.

Table 3 Academic Qualification of Respondents

	Variables	Frequency	Percent
1	NCE	15	16
2	OND	28	29
3	HND	32	33
4	Bachelor's degree	22	23
5	Post graduate	1	2
	Total	98	100

Source: Researcher`s Fieldwork 2023



The table 3 results revealed that the majority, 32 (33%) of the respondents had Higher National Diploma (HND), 28 (29%) of them indicated they had National Diploma and 16% claimed that they had NCE certificate while 23% have Bachelor`s degree.

Table 4: Mean responses and Standard Deviation that indicate the causes of insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo state Nigeria.

S/N	Variables	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
1.	Bad governance	98	2.66	0.511	Accepted
2.	Poverty	98	2.80	0.687	Accepted
3	Fax Machine	98	3.23	0.516	Accepted
4.	Weak judicial system	98	3.09	0.539	Accepted
5.	Corruption	98	2.71	0.721	Accepted
6.	Unemployment	98	2.50	0.562	Accepted
7.	Poor security system	98	3.90	0.675	Accepted
8.	Porous border security	98	2.54	0.570	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4: above shows the causes of insecurity among the youths in Akinyele local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria. The table revealed that all the nine (8) items were

accepted signifying with the mean scores of 2.50 and above. The standard deviation of 0.511 to 0.687 all indicated that the respondents were close in their responses.

Table 5: Mean responses and Standard Deviation that indicate the causes of poverty amongst youths in Akinyele local Government Moniya Area of Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria.

S/N	Item Statement	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
1	Poor government policies	98	2.94	0.511	Accepted
2.	Laziness	98	3.05	0.637	Accepted
3.	Poor employment opportunity	98	2.60	0.526	Accepted
4.	Corruption among political office holders	98	2.95	0.514	Accepted
5.	Poor education system	98	3.07	0.502	Accepted
6	Poor saving culture	98	2.60	0.345	Accepted
7	Non diversification of the economy	98	2.72	0.516	Accepted
8	Poor investment knowledge	98	2.89	0.670	Accepted
9	Insecurity	98	3.11	0.426	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 above shows the causes of poverty among the youths in Akinyele Local Government Area of Ibadan, Oyo state Nigeria. The table revealed that eight (8) out of listed items were accepted which shows that the mean scores were all above the cut-off point of 2.50 and above, this implies that the

respondents acknowledged that all points raised are factors that are responsible for the prevalence of poverty in the study area except poor investment knowledge that was rejected. The standard deviation of 0.502 to 0.637 all indicated that the respondents were close in their responses.

Table 6: Mean responses and standard deviation that shows the entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent time as survival strategies.

S/N	Item Statement	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
1.	Computer and GSM repairs have increased the level of employment opportunity for youths	98	2.79	0.674	Accepted
2.	Bead making has enhanced the economic	98	3.20	0.512	Accepted
3.	Involvement of youths in Shoe and bag making have contributed to job creation in Akinyele LG.	98	3.85	0.599	Accepted
4.	Fashion and designing has created more job opportunities	98	2.73	0.601	Accepted



S/N	Item Statement	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
5.	Catering and interior decoration are good skills	98	3.11	0.594	Accepted
6	Engagement of youths in fast food business increases make them to be self-reliance.	98	2.89	0.461	Accepted
7	Engagement of youths in Hair dressing business helps them to be independent	98	3.50	0.613	Accepted
8	Decoration and painting have reduced unemployment	98	2.77	0.506	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 above shows the entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent times as survival strategies. The table revealed that all the eight (8) items were accepted indicating with the mean scores were above the cut off of

2.50 which indicated that all the respondents believed that there are entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent time as survival strategies to create employment for the youths.

Table 8: Mean responses and standard deviation that shows the solutions to poverty and insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele local Government Area of Oyo state, Nigeria.

S/N	Item Statement	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
1.	Creation of employment through start-up of new entrepreneurship	98	2.79	0.674	Accepted
2.	Development of rural area will stop the migration of people	98	3.20	0.512	Accepted
3.	Rapid industrialization should be created	98	3.85	0.599	Accepted
4.	Initiation of quarterly skill acquisition programs in villages and the L.G.A levels	98	2.73	0.601	Accepted
5.	Inclusion of entrepreneurial activities in academic curricula	98	3.11	0.594	Accepted
6	Government should encourage skills acquisition in rural area	98	2.89	0.461	Accepted
7	Financial empowerments of youth	98	3.50	0.613	Accepted
8	Small and medium enterprises in rural areas	98	2.77	0.506	Accepted
9	Regular seminars and teachings on entrepreneurship	98	3.88	0.401	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 8 above shows the possible solutions to poverty and insecurity among the youth in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya area of Oyo state. The table revealed that all the nine (9) items were accepted indicating with the mean scores were above the cut off of 2.50 which shows that all the respondents accepted that the items listed in the table are solutions to poverty and insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya.

Discussion

Robert (1991) reported in his study that human capital theory advocates education as a tool for improving human capital, stimulating labour productivity and boosting the levels of technology across the globe. This study examines the effect of entrepreneurship

education on poverty alleviation and insecurity in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya.

The causes of insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya area of Oyo State Nigeria

The findings from table 4 on the causes of insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele local Government, Moniya area of Oyo state revealed that all the factors mentioned in the study are factors that promote incidences of crime and insecurity in the study area as suggested by the mean scores that were above the cut off points of 2.5 which indicated that all the respondents believed and agreed that those factors responsible for the prevalence of insecurity in the study area. Ranking the outcome from the table it was revealed that unemployment and extreme poverty leading the causes of insecurity



among others. This result corroborates the submission of Nwagbosa (2012) that past governments have failed to put in place actions that will reduce unemployment and poverty rates, which have been the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

The Causes of Poverty amongst Youths in Akinyele Local Government Moniya, Oyo State

Findings from table 5 on the causes of poverty amongst youths in Akinyele Local Government, Moniya area of Oyo State disclosed that all the factors mentioned in the study are factors that advance frequency of poverty in the study area. The mean scores that were above the cut off points of 2.5 which indicated that all the respondents believed and agreed that those factors are responsible for extreme poverty in the study area. The standard deviation of 0.502 to 0.637 all indicated that the respondents were close in their responses.

Entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent times as survival strategies.

Table 6 demonstrates the reports on some entrepreneurial activities and skills available in recent times as means of survival. The findings depict that all the skills outlined were strongly agreed by the respondents' as skills that are available in recent times as means of survival. The mean scores that were above the cut off points of 2.5 indicated that all the respondents believed and agreed that those factors are key entrepreneurial activities that are available as a survival strategy. This submission is in tandem with the report of Adejumo (2000) 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 implies that entrepreneurial activities should be bucked up for the improvement of lives and economy.

Solution to poverty and insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele local Government Area of Oyo state, Nigeria.

Table 8 revealed the reports on solutions to poverty and insecurity amongst youths in Akinyele local Government Area of Oyo state, Nigeria. The result established that the majority of the respondents' agreed and accepted that all the solutions outlined were key areas to be focused on the solutions to poverty and insecurity among the youth in Akinyele L.G.A. The findings show that poverty and insecurity

in Akinyele 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. The findings of this study echoed the report of Duru (2011) who recommended entrepreneurial skills as indispensable for rapid economic growth and development.

It was equally established by the respondents' that provision of financial empowerment to youths will help in solving poverty and insecurity.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was established that entrepreneurship has an effect on poverty and insecurity among youths in Akinyele L.G.A. of Oyo State. The study further discovered that poverty and insecurity are social menace in Akinyele Local Government and constitutes a threat to political, social, and economic development, nevertheless, the integration of entrepreneurship education can help to bring employment opportunities and reduces both poverty and insecurity. In spite of all the benefits embedded in entrepreneurship development in Akinyele L.G.A., there are a lot of challenges facing entrepreneurship among which are 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 an essential panacea that should be promoted by the government of Oyo State and embraced by youths to reduce poverty as well as insecurity in Akinyele Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the study therefore recommended among others that

- i. Government at all levels should embrace entrepreneurship training, skill acquisition job creation and innovation to poverty reduction by providing the enabling environment for the youths to be gainfully empowered.
- ii. Entrepreneurship education should be integrated into the curricula of primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions as this will prepare the youth to be job creators and not job seekers.



- iii. In promoting youth entrepreneurship, government should concentrate on the rural areas to discourage rural urban migration among youths.
- iv. The Oyo State government should look into and embrace how the ICT industries can provide new jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth in Akinyele Local Government.

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