

Influence of Entrepreneurship Education Programmes on Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined influence of Entrepreneurship Education Programmes on youth participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population for the study was 654 which comprised 600 members and 54 leaders of registered community-based youth organisations in both Port Harcourt City and Obio/Akpor Local Government Areas in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. The sample size for the study was 354 which include 300 (50%) of members and all the 54 leaders of community-based organizations used for the study. Proportionate sampling technique was adopted in selecting the members because the numbers of registered members in the community-based youth organisations were not equal, while the entire leaders were taken through census approach hence, they were in manageable sizes. The instrument used for data collection was a closed-ended structured questionnaire titled, "Influence of Entrepreneurship Education Programmes on Youth Participation in Community Development Questionnaire. The validity of the instruments was determined by two other experts in the field of entrepreneurship and community development. The reliability of the instrument was determined through a pilot study, while Cronbach Alpha Statistic Method was used to establish the reliability coefficient (r) value of 0.826. The responses from the three research questions were analyzed with Mean and Standard Deviation Statistic, while t-test statistic method was used to analyse the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings from the study revealed among others that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme, scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme, and vocational entrepreneurship education programmes have positive influence on youths' participation in community development. The study recommended among others that entrepreneurship education programmes should be given adequate attention and utilizes in empowering youths hence business knowledge and skills associated in it, improves individuals' livelihood and the community.

Keywords: *Influence, Entrepreneurship education, Programme, Youth, Participation, Community Development,*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, the acquisition and development of skill helps people to find new ways of thinking and solving problems, recognize the impact of their actions and teaches them to take responsibility for what they do, build confidence for collaboration and cooperation. The acquisition of skills opens opportunities in the life of every individual particularly when such skill is self-reliant oriented. self-reliant skill implies the ability to do things and make decision by oneself, without needing help from other people [1].

By implication, it is only community inhabitants that are economically viable that can make financial contributions for funding of community development projects or programmes.

Entrepreneurship process entails looking at things in such a way that possible solution to problems and perceived needs might evolve in venturing and that the managerial function in entrepreneurship combines skills development and capital in a cost-effective way and uncovers new opportunities to earn profit. The problem of high rate of unemployment among youths has for a long time been a cause for concern to the inhabitants in Rivers State.

Entrepreneurship knowledge includes the ability to effectively communicate, sell, focus, learn and strategize on how to make use of opportunities available within the environment to become economically responsible. Observed that entrepreneurship skill development help to build the capacity of individuals to be economically viable [2]. Also, Entrepreneurship education and training cover the key aspect of entrepreneurial activity and promote good practical exchange of activities such as the initiation, creations, and sales of unique products to meet consumer need [3]. This means engaging youths with entrepreneurship development programme, will enable them to possess the relevant skills and knowledge required to run any form of business successfully, as it develops the core skills and competences that entrepreneurs need to be successful and independently make quality decisions and contributions to community development projects.

Community development on the other hand, can be described as development activity in the community whereby community members are sometimes supported by government or non-governmental agencies in identifying and taking a collective decision on matters that are of great concern to them. Therefore, community development involves collective effort of people including the youths to enhance developmental needs of communities. community development is fundamental based on values of human rights, social justice, equality, and respect for diversity. It is an activity that empowers community members and creates strong and more connected communities [4]

In the view of the authors [5], community development constitutes deliberate efforts to raise the level of awareness and living conditions of the people living in various environments. From the above assertions, it implies that community development activity is democratic in nature and the process allows equal participation of community members in implementation of development projects/programmes. This underscores the significance of entrepreneurship education programme in equipping youthful members of communities with skills and knowledge required to make collective decisions and actively participate in the process of promoting community development. The entrepreneurship education programmes for self-reliant skills and knowledge among youths includes skills in small scale businesses, scalable start-ups, large companies, social entrepreneurs, innovative entrepreneurship, hustler entrepreneurship, imitator entrepreneurship, research entrepreneurship, and buyer entrepreneurship among others [6]

However, the contribution of entrepreneurship training and education on poverty reduction through youth empowerment and social welfare service improvement will be much significant if entrepreneurship is encouraged at all the level in the state especially at the community level [7]. It has become obvious that there is a relationship between entrepreneurship skill development and community development, therefore, to promote community development, there is a need to explore the relevant forms of entrepreneurship education programmes to educate and equip youthful members of the community with the necessary skills and knowledge required of them to contribute to socio-economic and community development in their communities. However, some of the entrepreneurship education programme for youth empowerment towards community development include small scale businesses, scalable start-ups, and vocational entrepreneurship. But could the exposure of youthful members of communities to the above stated entrepreneurship education programmes' influence their participation on community development in the study area? to answer this question, therefore, was the problem of this study. It is based on this background that this study was designed to examine influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:

1. find out the extent to which small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State
2. examine the extent to which scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State
3. ascertain the extent to which vocational entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

Rivers.

2.0 Literature Review

There are several related studies that investigate the influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on community development. Some of the studies investigate the influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State [7]. The purpose of the study was to examine the influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis in Rivers State. It was found that entrepreneurship education programmes like computer networking, fashion design and innovative entrepreneurship have positive and significant influence on community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended that Government or multinational companies should create more entrepreneurship education programmes in the area. Government or multinational companies should economically empower the youths by establishing more computer training centres in the community. Similar studies were done on the influence of entrepreneurship training programmes on socio-economic development of youths in Port-Harcourt Metropolis [8]. The findings of this study showed that entrepreneurship training programmes influence the socio-economic development of youths in Port Harcourt Metropolis to a high extent. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that governments and NGOs that organize entrepreneurship training programmes should properly fund the programme to realize the objective which is to influence socio-economic development of the youths. Also, entrepreneurship skills acquired and the Entrepreneurial Intention of Secondary School Students in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State were studied [9]. The findings of this study revealed that creativity skill and risk taking, opportunity identification, entrepreneurial skills and actions have positive and significant relationship on secondary school students' entrepreneurial intention. The Influence of Entrepreneurship Education on Students' Business Venturing in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria was also investigated [10]. Findings from this study disclosed that Entrepreneurship education has been found to have a significant positive influence on students' intention to venture into business. Thus, that effective entrepreneurship education which is student oriented, and which give room for students to practice and start little businesses while in school, has the capacity to arouse and increase students' career considerations into entrepreneurship after graduation. However, among the studies reviewed so far none investigate the influence of entrepreneurship education programmes on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State, Nigeria.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Port Harcourt Metropolis comprising Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt City Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study because it involves the collection of data through questionnaire for the appraisal of the opinion of the respondents. The target population for the study was 654 which comprised 600 members and 54 leaders of registered community-based youth organisations in both Port Harcourt City and Obio/Akpor Local Government Areas in Port

Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State [8]. The sample size for the study was 354 which include 300 (50%) of members and all the 54 leaders of community-based organisations used for the study. Proportionate sampling technique was adopted in selecting the members because the numbers of registered members in the community-based youth organizations were not equal. However, the entire leaders were taken through census approach hence they were in manageable sizes. The instrument for data collection was a close-ended structured questionnaire titled “Influence of Entrepreneurship Education Programmes on Youth Participation in Community Development Questionnaire.”. Responses to items in the questionnaire were rated on a 4-point summated rating scale of Very High Extent = 4, High Extent (HE) = 3, Low Extent (LE) = 2 and Very Low Extent (VLE) = 1. The reliability of the validated instrument was determined through a pilot study, while Cronbach Alpha Statistic Method was used to establish the overall reliability coefficient (r) value of 0.76.. However out of 354 copies of questionnaire administered, 15 copies from members were not retrieved, only 285 copies were retrieved from members, while all the 54 copies from leaders were retrieved. From the retrieved copies, 5 copies from members were wrongly filled and 280 copies were correctly filled. For the leaders, all the 54 copies were correctly filled making a total of 334 correctly filled copies used for analysis. The data collected from the research questions were analyzed with descriptive statistics such as Mean (\bar{x}) and Standard Deviation. Since the items were rated on a modified four (4) point scale, the average mean for answering the research questions were arrived at finding the average of the 4 points scale hence: $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10/4 = 2.50$. Therefore, items whose Mean (\bar{x}) scores were less than 2.50 were seen as low extent responses while those with Mean (\bar{x}) score of 2.50 and above were accepted as high Extent responses. The null hypotheses were accepted because the p-values were less than the critical table value.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Research Question 1: To what extent does small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.?

Table 1: Mean Response of Members and Leaders on the Extent that Small Scale Businesses Entrepreneurship Education Programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers.

S/N	Statement	Items	CYOs members n=280		Decision	CYOs Leaders n=54		Decision
			Mean	Std.		Mean	Std.	
1	The knowledge gained from small scale business education programme has made me to know how to run a local grocery store		2.43	0.87	HE	2.81	0.84	HE

2	Participation in small scale business education programme has prepared me with knowledge and skills to own a hair dressing business	2.75	0.85	HE	2.83	0.85	HE
3	Knowledge gained from small scale business entrepreneurship programme has enabled youths to utilize available resources to open a recharge card business	2.57	0.87	HE	2.56	1.11	HE
4	Participation of youths in small scale businesses exposed youths to knowledge and skill of identifying clear product that have clear offers or solve a specific problem	2.71	0.80	HE	2.80	0.85	HE
5	Improve business techniques to reduce poverty among youths in the community	2.80	0.76	HE	2.39	1.04	LE
Grand Total		2.65	0.83	HE	2.68	0.94	HE

Source: Research's Field Result, 2023

Table 1 shows the mean response of members and leaders on the extent that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers. Item 1 has mean scores of 2.43 and 2.81, standard deviation of 0.87 and 0.84. Item 2 has mean scores of 2.75 and 2.83, standard deviation of 0.85 and 0.85. Item 3 has mean scores of 2.57 and 2.56, standard deviation of 0.87 and 1.11. Item 4 has mean scores of 2.71 and 2.80, standard deviation of 0.80 and 0.85. Item 5 has mean scores of 2.80 and 2.39, standard deviation of 0.76 and 1.04. The average mean of 2.65 and 2.68 recorded, indicated that both the members and the leaders shared strong opinion that to a high extent, small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme have positive influence on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Research Question 2: To what extent does scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers.?

Table 2: Mean Responses of Members and Leaders on the Extent that Scalable Start-Ups Entrepreneurship Education Programme Influence Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

S/N	Statement Items	CBOs Members n=280		Decision	CBOs Leaders n=54		Decision
		Mean	Std.		Mean	Std.	
6	Participation in scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme has exposed youths on business ideas through the use of twitter	2.57	0.89	HE	2.83	0.93	HE
7	scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education promote the computer skills and knowledge of marketing products through face book among youths	2.73	0.93	HE	2.78	0.89	HE
8	Equip youths with the knowledge and skill of website designs for online businesses	2.84	0.67	HE	2.75	1.00	HE
9	Equip youths with the knowledge and skill of marketing their product online	2.82	0.86	HE	2.64	1.01	HE
10	Promote the knowledge and use of instagram to advertise goods or products for sale	2.60	0.63	HE	2.68	0.96	HE
Average Mean		2.71	0.74	HE	2.74	0.96	HE

Source: Research's Field Result, 2023

Table 2 above for research question two shows the mean response of members and leaders of community based youth organisations on the extent that scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers. Item 6 has mean scores of 2.57 and 2.83, standard deviation of 0.89 and 0.83. Item 7 has mean scores of 2.73 and 2.78, standard deviation of 0.93 and 0.89. Item 8 has mean scores of 2.84 and 2.75, standard deviation of 0.67 and 1.00. Item 9 has mean scores of 2.82 and 2.64, standard deviation of 0.86 and 1.01. Item 10 has mean scores of 2.60 and 2.68, standard deviation of 0.83 and 0.96. The grand mean is 2.71 and 2.74 recorded, indicates that both the members and leaders of the youth organisations agreed that to a high extent, scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influenced youth participation in community development in the study area.

Research Question 3: To what extent does vocational entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers.?

Table 3: Mean Responses of Members and Leaders on the Extent that Vocational Entrepreneurship Education Programme Influence Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of River State .

S/N	Statement Items	CBYOs Members n=280			CBYOs Leaders n=54		
		Mean	Std	Decision	Mean	Std	Decision
11	Involvement in vocational entrepreneurship education programme enhances youths skills and knowledge on hair dressing and barbing saloon business	2.77	1.18	HE	2.61	1.23	HE
12	Participation in vocational entrepreneurship education programme equip youths with computer networking skills to make money to contribute to community development	2.61	1.18	HE	2.58	1.22	HE
13	Promote the skills and knowledge of photography business among youths	2.62	1.20	HE	2.59	1.22	HE
14	Promote the skills of fashion designing and makeup artistry among youths	2.62	1.21	HE	2.64	1.21	HE
15	Equip youths with the skill of event planning and home cleaning business	2.67	1.20	HE	2.57	1.22	HE
16	vocational entrepreneurship education programme enhance youths knowledge and skills on automobile servicing, and welding/fabrication businesses	2.70	1.16	HE	2.64	1.22	HE
17	Promote skills and knowledge of electrical repairs business among youths,	2.71	1.16	HE	2.74	1.19	HE
18	Enable youths acquire skills of catering and Interior design business	2.70	1.19	HE	2.70	1.07	HE
19	Promote the skills and knowledge of youths on how to start beauty salon/makeup business	2.62	1.20	HE	2.56	1.24	HE
	Grand Mean	2.68	1.18	HE	2.63	1.21	HE

Source: Researcher’s Field Result, 2023.

The item-by-item analysis from items 11 to 19 reveals that respondents agreed to all items raised, with values higher than 2.50 which is the criterion mean. The overall grand mean of 2.68 and 2.63 for both groups are also higher than the decision mean, hence it is concluded that members and leaders of community based youth organisations accepted that vocational entrepreneurship education programme to a high extent, have positive influence on vocational entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. The standard deviation values associated with each item is very low, implying that the responses are homogeneous and therefore common opinion.

Testing of Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of members and leaders of community based organisations on the extent that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Table 4: t-test Statistic on the Difference in the Mean Ratings of Members and Leaders of Community Based Organisations on the Extent that Small Scale Businesses Entrepreneurship Education Programme Influence Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	p-value	s/level	Decision
Members CBOs	280	2.65	0.83	332	0.790	0.474	0.05	Accepted
Leaders CBOs	54	2.68	0.94					

Table 4 above, shows that t–calculated value of 0.790 with a p-value (0.474) is greater than 0.05 level of significance, at degree of freedom of 332 indicating that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of members and leaders of community based organisations on the extent that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.. This therefore means that the null hypothesis is accepted.

2. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of members and leaders of community based organizations on the extent that scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

Table 5: t-test Statistic on the Difference in the Mean Ratings of Members and Leaders of Community Based Organisations on the Extent that Scalable Start-Ups Entrepreneurship Education Programme Influence Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	p-value	s/level	Decision
Members CBOs	280	2.71	0.74	332	-2.484	0.068	0.05	Accepted
Leaders CBOs	54	2.74	0.96					

Table 5 above, shows that t-calculated value of -2.484 with a p-value (0.068) is greater than 0.05 level of significance, at a degree of freedom of 332, indicating that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of members and leaders of community-based organisations on the extent that scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme influences youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted.

3. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of leaders and members of community-based organisations on the extent that vocational entrepreneurship education programme influences youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

Table 6: t-test Statistic on the Difference in the Mean Ratings of Members and Leaders of Community Based Organisations on the Extent that Vocational Entrepreneurship Education Programme Influence Youth Participation in Community Development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	p-value	s/level	Decision
Members CBOs	280	2.68	1.18	332	-1.34	0.251	0.05	Accepted
Leaders CBOs	54	2.63	1.21					

Table 6 above, shows that t-calculated value of -1.34 with a p-value (0.251) is greater than 0.05 level of significance, at a degree of **332** indicating that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of members and leaders of community based organisations on the extent that vocational entrepreneurship education programme influence youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This therefore means that the null hypothesis is accepted.

Discussion of Findings

The findings from the study in Table 1 revealed that both the members and the leaders shared strong opinion that to a high extent, small scale businesses entrepreneurship education

programme have positive influence on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This is evidenced in the high grand mean of 2.65 and 2.68 higher than the criterion mean of 2.50, which indicated that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme makes youths to know how to run a local grocery store, acquire knowledge and skills to own a hair dressing business, utilize available resources to open a recharge card business, identify clear product that have clear offers, and business techniques to reduce poverty among youths in the communities. This finding was affirmed by the result of hypothesis 1 which indicated that there was no significant difference in the mean rating of leaders and members of youth organisations on the influence of small-scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State.

The finding in this research question 1, is in line with the findings of other authors [10] that small scale businesses entrepreneurship education, equip youths with required basic skills and knowledge required to adapt to modern business environment, as a means of generating money through their skills and business creativity, utilize available resources to initiate business of their choice and best interest. This finding also agrees with the position regarding that engaging youths through small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme, help to empower youths with fund and capacity to contribute to the development of their rural communities as they are empowered to engage in small scale business activities to make money, and earn a better living [10]. Also, on the impact of small and medium scale enterprises in the generation of employment among youths, and find that youths engaged in running local grocery stores, hair dressing business and barbing businesses, among others actually make money while contributing to socio-economic development within the environment they operate [11]

The findings in research question 2, shows that the respondents agreed that that scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme exposed youths on business ideas through the use of twitter, face book, website designs, computer skills and knowledge, and use of instagram to advertise goods online. This is evidenced in the high mean recorded in items 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 with a grand mean of 2.71 and 2.74 respectively. This finding was further confirmed by the result of hypothesis 2, which revealed that there was no significant difference in the mean rating of leaders and members of youth organisations on the influence of scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This finding is in agreement with the discovery of talented youths through scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme now dominate modern businesses through technology ICT gadgets, that youths control businesses online through their basic skills and knowledge of ICT, computer, web designs among other soft ware's that facilitate modern businesses[12]. It also relate to the finding which asserted that Scalable start-up entrepreneurs work closely with technological innovation in order to improve people's welfare and provide solutions to current issues, and that Scalable start-up entrepreneurs attract local and foreign investment and regenerate income, positively

contributing to GDP per capita, play role in job creation, helping governments to reduce poverty and increase the welfare of their citizens, create efficiency through e-commerce, helping local products to become more competitive in both local and global markets[13]. By collaborating with governments, foster technological developments and become strategic partners of larger corporations.

Findings in research question 3, indicated that vocational entrepreneurship education programme enhances youths skills and knowledge on hair dressing and barbing saloon, computer networking skills, skills and knowledge of photography, skills of fashion designing and makeup artistry, skill of event planning and home cleaning, skills on automobile servicing, and welding/fabrication,, skills and knowledge of electrical repairs, skills of catering and interior, and skills and knowledge of youths on how to start beauty salon/makeup businesses. This finding was confirmed by the result of hypotheses 3 which shows that there was no significant difference in the mean rating of leaders and members of youth organisations on the influence of vocational entrepreneurship education programme on youth participation in community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. This find corroborate with the finding which opined that entrepreneurship education programme is very key in community expansion and development in Nigeria [14]. This finding is supported by the discovery in a study carried which revealed that vocational education programmes promote skills and knowledge among individual participants to become functional and self reliant to participate or contribute to development of their communities.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that entrepreneurship education programmes such as small-scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme, scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme, and vocational entrepreneurship education programme have positive influence on youth participation in community development as they help to improve the welfare and participation of youths towards community development in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State. From the findings of the study, , the following recommendations were made.

1. That Government, multinational companies, NGOs, and other development agencies should fund and intensify effort in promoting small scale businesses entrepreneurship education programme as a means of empowering more youthful members of communities to see alternative means of livelihood as to promote community development.
2. Government at all levels, multinational organisations, NGOs should promote scalable start-ups entrepreneurship education programme by establishing more efficient and functional computer training centers to equip more youths with skills and knowledge required for modern business as to become self-reliant and resourcefulness to the community.
3. Vocational entrepreneurship education programme should be well planned and funded by government and other development agencies to cover and empower the teaming

- unemployed youths and women to bring about sustainable community development.
4. Entrepreneurship education programmes should be given adequate attention and utilize in empowering youths hence business knowledge and skills associated in it, improves individuals livelihood and the community.

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