

Influence of Entrepreneurship Education on Reducing Insecurity in Bwari-Area-Council, FCT-Abuja

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Abstract

The study investigated the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. Two research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. A descriptive survey research strategy was used for the study's methodology. The sample was made up of 300 respondents who were chosen from two insecure parts of the Council. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents (entrepreneurs). The sampling technique was adopted because of the sensitivity of the study. A 15-item four-point rating scale instrument titled "Influence of Entrepreneurship Education on Reducing Insecurity Questionnaire" (IEERIQ) was used by the researcher. One expert in Tests and Measurement, one expert in Guidance and Counselling and one expert in Business Education in the Faculty of Education, Veritas University Abuja modified and updated the instrument to assure its validity. Test re-test reliability was done to ensure the consistency of the instrument using Cronbach's Alpha, which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.76 which was high enough to the instrument's reliability. The collected data were analyzed using mean to answer the research questions while t-test was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The results indicated entrepreneurship education had a positive influence on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. It was recommended that Entrepreneurship Educators should embark on entrepreneurship awareness and training in order to promote self-reliance among residents which would invariably lead to embodiment of peace and tranquility.

Key Words: *Entrepreneurship education, influence, reducing insecurity.*

Introduction

Insecurity has been a major challenge for the Nigerian government for over a decade now. Since 2009, the militant Islamist group (Boko Haram) that started their insurgency activities in north-eastern Nigeria, has today not just spread all over Nigeria, but has destabilized the entire country. Many lives and properties have been lost and millions of Nigerian citizens rendered homeless due to insecurity problems.

The Niger Delta which is the oil-producing region of Nigeria has for decades suffered from not only oil pollution but also from the kidnappings and destructive activities of the Niger

Delta Militants on Oil Pipelines which has led to the loss of livelihoods and sources of food for many people in the area.

The Middle Belt region of Nigeria has also faced prolonged violent clashes between the predominantly Christian farmers and the mostly Muslim Herdsmen which have now extended to the Southern part of the country. These clashes are not necessarily new, but since 2015, the disputes over access and rights to grazing land and water resources and rapid desertification which has changed the grazing patterns of cattle, have become more frequent and violent (Njoku, 2019).

The major systemic drivers of insecurity – climate change, militarization, economic inequality, Islamization agenda and the increasing scarcity of resources, have continued largely unabated, as the number of people affected by violent conflict seems to have increased. Among those affected by these violent armed conflicts are students in schools, traders and other businessmen.

Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) described security as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighbourhood and by people around. Beland (2015) defined insecurity as "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection." It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity, which is the most visible form of insecurity in Nigeria nowadays, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security.

Security is a prerequisite for sustainability of economic/business growth and development. The world today is becoming less secure for most of its people, as more people across the world are faced with growing insecurity. Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity and has been ranked as one of the least peaceful places on earth, according to Global Peace Index (GPI, 2023) report. The 13th edition of the GPI ranked 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness and Nigeria is ranked 148 out of 163 countries in the world. Nigeria for a decade now has experienced a worsened state of insecurity in the country as there is an increased rate of armed herdsmen kidnappings of school teachers, reverend fathers and students and payments of ransoms, which have led to experiences of mental health problems, sadness, stress and worry not just among students, but entire populations in the country.

In any given economic system, peace and tranquility remain an antidote for a successful business. However, hundreds of Nigerians are not only being kidnapped but are caught up in armed conflicts zones that have resulted in insecurity of their residence, lives and properties and businesses. The problem is that the increased spate of insecurity on schools in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), especially Bwari Area Council, has brought on devastating mental health problems on most teachers and students. Most Students are not adequately mentally balanced again to assimilate the lessons being impacted on them by their teachers, nor are the teachers mentally balanced enough to impart the expected knowledge from them to the students. The security of teachers and students in any given school is a prerequisite for a peaceable, conducive, and collective learning environment existence in which both teachers and students have the best opportunities to live and learn in a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. Unfortunately, this is not the case in most parts of Bwari Area Council of FCT today. Perhaps, the Council shares boundary with Niger and Kaduna States respectively. Insecurity on school environments, as well as other suburbs of the Council, poses a very serious and massive problem not only on the students, teachers but entire residents of the Council. Insecurity at the end of the day, comes down to armed violence and its negative

effect affects residents directly and indirectly, which can put a nation's economic goals and prospects in jeopardy.

Entrepreneurship is having or owning one's business. A programme of instruction that is designed for carrying this activity is called business or entrepreneurship education. Thus, Entrepreneurship Education (EE) is a programme that promotes entrepreneurship awareness for career purposes and provides skill training for business initiative, creation and development.

Entrepreneurship Education is the process of receiving creative ideas on starting a business. It is an intervention tool for influencing adult attitudes towards entrepreneurship. According to Mainoma and Aruwa (2018), entrepreneurship education can be defined as programmes that promote entrepreneurship awareness for career purposes and provide skill training for business creation and development. It helps in the development of entrepreneurial characteristics and skills. The contents of entrepreneurship education include Marketing, Data Processing, Keyboarding, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Catering; among others (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2014). Entrepreneurial skills, therefore, include visionary leadership, self-knowledge, effective communication and bargaining, effective time management and financial practice, effective planning and strategy formulation (Amoor, 2022).

Situations of inadequate security makes it difficult to carry out adequate economic activities aimed at national development. Therefore, the root cause(s) of insecurity should be reduced through entrepreneurship education. Therefore, the researcher investigated the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Statement of the Problem

It seemed that various innovative strategies towards reducing insecurity in Nigeria have not yielded any notable result till date, considering the fact that violence and kidnapping have persistently been on the increase. This might be due to factors such as inadequate institutional security capacity resulting in government failure, ethnic-religious conflicts, pervasive material inequalities, poverty, and unfairness. The influence of any act of insecurity is often despicable and far-reaching. It could lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, resurgence of infectious diseases which can, in some cases be sufficiently severe to undermine economies and threaten social stability.

Consequent upon the persistent trends of insecurity in Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria has recently introduced a policy of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria and at all levels of education. Therefore, this study would investigate influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. Other specific objectives were to:

1. Find out the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity among entrepreneurs in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.
2. Determine the ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Research Questions

The study was guided by three research questions as follows:

1. What is the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity among entrepreneurs in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja?
2. What are the ways by which insecurity can be eliminated through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja?

Hypothesis

A null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: Entrepreneurship Education does not have a significant influence on reducing insecurity among entrepreneurs in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Methodology

A descriptive survey research strategy was used for the study's methodology. This approach was chosen because it aids in the description, inspection, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of the study's variables. The sample was made up of 300 respondents who were chosen from two insecure parts of the Council. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents (entrepreneurs). The sampling technique was adopted because of the sensitivity of the study. A 15-item four-point Likert scale instrument titled "Influence of Entrepreneurship Education on Reducing Insecurity Questionnaire" (IEERIQ) was used by the researcher. One expert in Tests and Measurement, one expert in Guidance and Counselling and one expert in Business Education in the Faculty of Education, Veritas University Abuja modified and updated the instrument to assure its validity. Test re-test reliability was done to ensure the consistency of the instrument using Cronbach's Alpha, which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.76 which was high enough to the instrument's reliability. Two research assistants helped in the administration of the instrument. The collected data were analyzed using mean to answer the research questions and t-test to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. A criterion mean of 2.50 and above was considered as agreed while a mean below 2.50 was considered as disagreed. For the test of hypothesis, the null hypothesis was rejected if the t-calculated value was equal to or greater than the t-tabulated value whereas the null hypothesis was retained if the t-calculated value was less than the t-tabulated value. Also, the null hypothesis was rejected if the calculated p-value was equal to or less than the set p-value whereas the null hypothesis was retained if the calculated p-value was greater than the set p-value.

Results

The two research questions earlier raised in the study were answered descriptively using mean.

Research Question 1: What is the influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja?

Table 2: Mean analysis showing influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja

S/N	Influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity	Level of Agreement				\bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
1	Entrepreneurship Education enables me to have a change of attitude from being a job-seeker to a job-provider	123	89	54	34	3.00	Agreed
2	It provides me with understanding of business environment	99	130	47	24	3.01	Agreed
3	It exposes me to stability and continuity of livelihood which reduces insecurity	111	82	51	56	2.83	Agreed
4	It exposes me to risk management in business	94	112	59	35	2.88	Agreed
5	It makes me to have my personal business	88	112	49	51	2.79	Agreed
Sectional Mean						2.90	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=300

Table 1 showed mean analysis of influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 3.00, 3.01, 2.83, 2.88 and 2.79 were in agreement with items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. The sectional mean of 2.90 was greater than the scale mean of 2.50 which indicated that all the respondents agreed that entrepreneurship education enables them to have a change of attitude from being a job-seeker to a job-provider, provides them with understanding of business environment, exposes them to stability and continuity of livelihood which reduces insecurity, exposes them to risk management in business and makes them to have their personal business. Therefore, entrepreneurship education recorded high influence on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Research Question 2: What are the ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja?

Table 2: Mean analysis showing ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja

S/N	Ways of reducing insecurity through entrepreneurship education	Level of Agreement				\bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
6	Creating awareness about setting up personal business reduces insecurity	103	76	48	73	2.70	Agreed
7	Organizing entrepreneurship training reduces insecurity	98	124	51	27	2.98	Agreed
8	Giving of quick credit or short-term loan to entrepreneurs as well as youths reduces insecurity	112	87	43	58	2.84	Agreed
9	Engaging in fashion design reduces insecurity	98	102	56	44	2.85	Agreed
10	Engaging in gas refilling business reduces insecurity	91	86	52	71	2.66	Agreed
Sectional Mean						2.78	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=300

Table 2 showed mean analysis of ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 2.70, 2.98, 2.84, 2.85 and 2.66 were in agreement with items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively. The sectional mean of 2.78 was greater than the scale mean of 2.50 which indicated that all the respondents agreed that creating awareness about setting up personal business, organizing entrepreneurship training, giving of quick credit or short term loan to entrepreneurs as well as youths, engaging in fashion design and engaging in gas refilling business reduces insecurity were the ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Test of Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance using t-test.

H₀₁: Entrepreneurship Education does not have a significant influence on reducing insecurity among entrepreneurs in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Table 3: T-test analysis showing influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja

Variable	N	Mean	Std. deviation	df	t-cal	t-tab	Sig (P-cal)	Decision
Entrepreneurship education	300	40.73	4.358	598	9.647	1.655	0.000	Reject H ₀₁
Insecurity	300	28.79	5.143					

Significant at degrees of freedom (df) = 598; $P < 0.05$, $t_{\text{calculated}} > t_{\text{tabulated}}$

Table 3 showed t-test analysis of influence of entrepreneurship education on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. The $t_{\text{calculated}}$ value of 9.647 was found to be greater than the $t_{\text{tabulated}}$ value of 1.655 given 598 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. The $t_{\text{calculated}}$ value was significant since it was greater than $t_{\text{tabulated}}$ value, the null hypothesis was rejected. Also, the $P_{\text{calculated}}$ value of 0.000 was less than P_{set} value of 0.05. It implied that entrepreneurship education had a significant influence on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Discussion

In research question one, the research revealed that entrepreneurship education enables them to have a change of attitude from being a job-seeker to a job-provider, provides them with understanding of business environment, exposes them to stability and continuity of livelihood which reduces insecurity, exposes them to risk management in business and makes them to have their personal business. Also, in hypothesis one, the $t_{\text{calculated}}$ value of 9.647 was found to be greater than the $t_{\text{tabulated}}$ value of 1.655 given 598 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. The $t_{\text{calculated}}$ value was significant since it was greater than $t_{\text{tabulated}}$ value, the null hypothesis was rejected. It implied that entrepreneurship education had a significant influence on reducing insecurity in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. This corroborated the finding of Wachukwu & Salomi (2021) who investigated the impact of entrepreneurship on employment and insecurity amongst youth in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers state and reported that insecurity could lead to closure of business activities. This was also supported by Taiwo, Oluwole & Ayooluwa (2022) who opined that entrepreneurship education is a viable antidote for reducing poverty and unemployment among youths.

In research question two, the finding revealed that creating awareness about setting up personal business, organizing entrepreneurship training, giving of quick credit or short-term loan to entrepreneurs as well as youths, engaging in fashion design and engaging in gas refilling business reduces insecurity were the ways by which insecurity can be reduced through entrepreneurship education in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. This finding negated Eze, Sanjo & Worimegbe (2020) who opined that entrepreneurship education led to exposure to uncertainty and anxiety in Nigeria. However, the finding was in support of Alabi (2019) who examined entrepreneurship education and insecurity reduction in South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria and purported that entrepreneurial education emphasizes three basic elements-risk-taking propensity, opportunity recognition capability and entrepreneurs' emotional intelligence were capable of curbing insecurity challenges.

Conclusion

It has been established that insecurity had a negative influence on entrepreneurial activities in Bwari Area Council, FCT-Abuja. The foregoing notwithstanding, the study

concluded that majority of the residents were seen roaming about the streets doing nothing. Thus, this posed a serious challenge to the residents especially in terms of insecurity.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Banks as well as cooperative societies should make loans accessible to entrepreneurs in the Area Council in order to cushion the negative influence of insecurity on their businesses.
2. Entrepreneurship Educators should embark on entrepreneurship awareness and training in order to promote self-reliance among entrepreneurs as well as residents which would invariably lead to embodiment of peace and tranquility.

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