

Impact of Funding Entrepreneurship Education on Insecurity in Southern Kaduna Senatorial District, Kaduna State, Nigeria

¹Najira, Agasa Nuhu, ²Fumen Dowchem Haruna, ³Mathew, James Muazu

^{1&2}Department of Economics

Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya,
P.M.B 1024, Kafanchan, Kaduna State, Nigeria.
nunaj02@gmail.com, fumesdowchem@gmail.com

²College of Education, Billiri, Gombe State
matthewmuazuj@gmail.com

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship education constitute a crucial factor in shaping the minds of the younger generation, that is why it is very paramount that careful attention is given in funding and promoting this type of education. The study employed survey research design to find out how relevant and timely entrepreneurship education is, in bringing out Southern Kaduna Senatorial Zone from the increased rise of insecurity/ criminal activities. Four research questions were set. Data were collected from 400 youths across Jaba, Jema'a, Kaura and Zongon Kataf Local Government Areas (LGAs) through purposive sampling techniques. An instrument titled 'Funding Entrepreneurship Education Solution to Insecurities Questionnaire (FEESIQ)' was developed and administered to the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using simple percentage, mean and standard deviation with the help of SPSS. A hypothesis was tested using two-tail t-test. The outcome of the study shows that funding entrepreneurship education is vital in reducing unemployment rates. The outcome also revealed that there is a strong correlation between funding entrepreneurship education and reduction in insecurity. It also shows that a well-funded entrepreneurship education will keep the youths meaningfully engage which will consequently curtail the rate of conflicts and bring about stability in Southern Senatorial zone. It also revealed that funding entrepreneurship education programs positively enhance wealth creation; reduce income inequalities and poverty levels in the region. Recommendations will be made to traditional leaders, stakeholders, Government and Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) to prioritize funding of entrepreneurship education because of the benefits that it will bring, towards becoming a secured community with minimal cases of insecurity.

Key words: Funding; Entrepreneurship education; Insecurity

Introduction

Education has been known and accepted as a life wire for national development. It serves as a conduit for individuals to be involved and contribute to economic growth and development, sustainability and be self-reliant. The participation of the individual in wealth creation and contributing to economic development is a gate way to the individual's economic security; (Etuk & Ekpo, 2008) stated that "when people are denied educational opportunities, they are excluded from the development process." The resultant effect of this exclusion is insecurity. Entrepreneurship can be likened to a catalyst for national development that drives economic growth via the creation of jobs, a pool of knowledge, a drive towards optimum production and the birthing of the state of the art ideas/innovations (Acs, 2006; Van Praag and Versloot, 2007).

It arms the individual with the appropriate tool that enhances creativity and skill acquisition which in turn drives self-employment. In terms of business, society and overall development, entrepreneurship performs numerous roles (Onyeneho and Ezeano, 2011). The factors of production such as labour, land and capital will all become redundant and ineffective without the encouragement and development of entrepreneurship (Wachukwu and Salomi, 2020). The rate of unemployment in Nigeria today is alarming and there is a strong correlation between unemployment and poverty. With the removal of fuel subsidy on Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS), many Nigerians were drifted into multi-dimensional poverty. The National Bureau of statistics (NBS), (2022) reported that 133 million Nigerians which constitute 63% are living in multi-dimensional poverty. The high level of unemployment and poverty can bring about social unrest and instability. Entrepreneurship helps in mitigating these risks by creating economic opportunities and reducing income inequality (Okoye & Eze, 2016). Majority of Nigerian youths are unemployed and this makes them susceptible any form of unrest and instability. Entrepreneurship programs and support can engage and empower the country's youths, thereby reducing their susceptibility to radicalization and involvement in criminal activities (Adeoye & Ojebiyi, 2017). Entrepreneurship fosters innovation, which brings about improvement in the nation's competitiveness and security. Innovative solutions can address critical challenges in areas such as agriculture, healthcare and security (Oladele, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is alarming and growing in an astronomical progression in Nigeria. This has degenerated into vices in our communities as the saying goes "an idle person is an instrument in the devil's workshop". This has become worrisome that most of our youths after leaving school and graduation have become tools in the hands of politicians thereby becoming thugs, hooligans and the like. Insecurity which impedes development is mostly carried out by the youths mostly age, 40 years and below. Expectedly all those who have gone through the process of schooling in the last decade either are supposed to have passed through entrepreneurship education which encourage skill acquisition that will make one self-reliant and productive. The absence of such skills make our youths to rely on white color jobs where such jobs are unavailable, they become vulnerable to violence and insecurity in order make ends meet. High levels of youth unemployment can be a factor contributing to insecurity in the society. Funding entrepreneurship education programs that targets young entrepreneurs can provide opportunities for self-

employment and potentially reduce the risk of social unrest (World Bank, 2013). It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to assess the impact of funding entrepreneurship education on insecurity in Southern Kaduna Senatorial District of Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives is to assess the impact of funding entrepreneurship education on insecurity in southern Kaduna senatorial zone of Kaduna state. Specifically, the objectives is to:

1. Investigate the effectiveness of funding entrepreneurship education programs towards reduction in unemployment rates.
2. Assess the impact of funding entrepreneurship education programs in promoting job creation resulting in curbing insecurities.

Hypothesis

H01: There is no significant relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity.

Literature Review

Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship education is a form of education which makes humans to be responsive to their personal, families and national needs and aspirations. Entrepreneurship competencies carry with it, the concept of skills and mental awareness which are needed to understand the functioning of an already existing business. Entrepreneurship education consists of different concepts aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and attitudes among individuals. Entrepreneurship education refers to the teaching and learning activities aimed at equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to recognize and exploit opportunities and to initiate and manage successful entrepreneurial values (Fayolle & Gailly, 2015). (Maritz et al, 2015) defines entrepreneurship education programs as any educational program or process of education for entrepreneurial manners and skills, which help in developing personal qualities. Matthew et al, 2020 posited that entrepreneurship education is one that transverse the length of business formation, management, diversification and growth, and ongoing process that equips entrepreneurs with entrepreneurial skills. Kuratko & Hodgetts, 2019 defines entrepreneurship as the process of equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and mindset needed to identify and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.

Funding Entrepreneurship Education

Entrepreneurship remains a critical driver of economic growth and development, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) accounting for a significant share of employment and output. Being the largest employer of labour in Nigeria, stakeholders are constantly looking for ways to stimulate and provide assistance to entrepreneurs to support growth. In the light of this, the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has received a grant, worth N10 million from Providus Bank Limited to boost the chamber's entrepreneurship training (Almona, 2023). About two decades back, Nigeria's ministry of education, in partnership with the National Universities Commission (NUC) introduced an entrepreneurship skills development curriculum in Nigerian universities making it compulsory course for University undergraduates. Funds were provided for the

establishment of entrepreneurship centres where students and lecturers could develop the capacity for entrepreneurial mindset (Bukola, 2022).

Entrepreneurship Development and National Security in Nigeria

Human security is an all-inclusive term, as it takes into account the protection of lives and property, a pre-condition for the improvement of people's wellbeing, protection of human rights and the provision of basic human needs where self-actualization is achieved. Entrepreneurship development plays a vital role in enhancing national security in Nigeria. By fostering economic growth, job creation and social stability, entrepreneurship contributes to more secure and resilient nation. Entrepreneurship aids in diversifying Nigerian's economy from a mono-cultured economy which heavily relied on oil revenue. A diversified economy is less vulnerable to fluctuations in the international oil markets and external shocks (Okafor, 2018). Venture capitalist can intervene by investing in young entrepreneurs with skills and ideas that may not have the desired capital to start their own venture and create employment. Startups and small businesses are also significant job creators. Adeyemi & Fagbemi, (2018) found that entrepreneurship contributes significantly to employment generation in Nigeria. The rate at which Nigerians are suffering from multi-dimensional poverty is alarming given the recent fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria. The Greek Philosopher, Aristotle (1634) opined that "poverty is the parent of crime and revolution", this implies that poverty will make a person rebel against the current system, the present state of their life and do something to remove themselves out of their situation. Entrepreneurship can help in reducing the poverty rates by providing opportunities for income generation and wealth accumulation among the population (Loraver, 2017). Studies from Okoro and Emeka (2021) emphasized the correlation between economic empowerment through entrepreneurship education and national security. The research found that countries that prioritize funding entrepreneurship education experience fewer security challenges because a larger portion of their population becomes economically engaged. In their survey of 250 participants across conflict-prone regions in Nigeria, they found that beneficiaries of government-funded entrepreneurship programs reported increased income levels and reduced inclination toward illegal activities.

Impact on Youth Empowerment and Crime Reduction

Adebola and Adenike (2020) analyzed the role of entrepreneurship education in addressing youth unemployment in Nigeria. Their findings revealed that well-funded entrepreneurship programs equip young people with skills for self-employment, reducing their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities such as armed robbery and kidnapping. They argued that insufficient funding for such programs undermines their effectiveness in addressing insecurity. Eze and Nwankwo (2019) highlighted that entrepreneurship education, when adequately funded, helps to channel the energy of vulnerable youth toward productive ventures. The study, conducted in southeastern Nigeria, showed a 30% decline in youth restiveness in communities where entrepreneurship training centers were established. Studies suggested that funding entrepreneurship education not only reduces unemployment but also addresses insecurity by creating pathways for youth engagement. Adebayo and Abubakar (2022) argued that policymakers must increase budgetary allocations for these programs and ensure transparency in fund utilization to achieve sustainable security outcomes.

Theoretical Framework

The Human capital theory and Social learning theories have been adopted for this study.

Human Capital Theory

This theory was propounded by Gary Becker, (1964) and it suggests that education and training enhance an individual's knowledge, leading to improved employability and reduced insecurities. Funding/ investing in entrepreneurship education can empower individuals with the skills needed to start a business venture and be self- reliant thereby reducing the chances of involvement in insecurities.

Methodology

Research design

The research design adopted for this study is descriptive survey design.

Population

The population of the study comprises of graduates and none graduates from Southern Kaduna Senatorial Zone, who graduated in the last 10 years both those who are employed, in business or unemployed.

Sample and sampling technique

The sample size consists of 400 graduates from Jaba, Jema'a, Kaura and Zangon Kataf LGAs and Heads of Higher institutions in the sampled LGAs of the state. The heads of higher institutions were interviewed in respect to having entrepreneurship Centres and their functionalities. The non-judgmental purposive sampling will be employed for the study.

Administration of the Instrument

A self-designed instrument tagged 'Funding Entrepreneurship Education Solution to Insecurities Questionnaire (FEESIQ) containing 21 structured items using 4 Point likert scale of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed, and Strongly Disagreed. 400 structured questionnaires were administered to respondents with the help of research assistants, as well as structured interviews for the Heads of Higher Institutions.

Method of data analysis

Data collected were analyzed with percentage, mean and standard deviation using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The two-tail t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance.

Presentation of Results

Research Question One:

To what extent does funding allocated to entrepreneurship education programs contribute to reducing unemployment rates?

Table 1

S/N0	Statement	SA	A	S D	D	Mean	STD	Decision
1	Funding entrepreneurship education is an effective strategy for reducing unemployment.	231	151	0	18	3.49	.722	Accepted
2	Entrepreneurship education program contribute to new job opportunities.	213	160	22	5	3.45	.659	Accepted
3	Government supports for entrepreneurship education initiatives is a worthwhile investment in addressing unemployment.	171	209	10	10	3.35	.655	Accepted
4	Entrepreneurship education programs have significant impact in reducing overall unemployment.	191	158	33	18	3.31	.805	Accepted
5	Funding entrepreneurship education programs help in lowering unemployment rates.	192	167	23	18	3.33	.780	Accepted

Criterion Mean = 2.50

Source: Field study (2024)

The results of analysis on the extent funding allocated to entrepreneurship education programs contributes to reducing unemployment rates, table 1 shows that mean scores of items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 is above the criterion mean of 2.50 indicating that the respondents agreed that sufficient funding of the programs contribute to reducing unemployment rates and therefore were all accepted.

Research Question Two

To what extent do funding entrepreneurship education programs help in promoting job creation, thereby curbing insecurities?

Table 2

S/N0	Statement	Slightl y	Moderatel y	Significantl y	Extremel y	Mean	STD	Decision
1	How has ICT proficiency training impacted your ability to create job opportunities?	7	175	183	35	2.62	0.669	Accepted
2	How has business forecasting training impacted your ability to create job opportunities?	16	135	189	60	2.73	0.760	Accepted
3	How has fishery training impacted your ability to create job opportunities?	17	147	194	42	2.65	0.723	Accepted
4	How has animal husbandry impacted your ability to create job opportunities?	19	188	154	39	2.53	0.735	Accepted
5	Generally, how effective do you believe entrepreneurship education programs is in promoting job creation?	46	62	255	37	2.71	0.790	Accepted

Criterion Mean = 2.50

Source: Field study (2024)

The results of analysis on to what extent do funding entrepreneurship education programs help in promoting job creation, thereby curbing insecurities? Table 2 above shows that the mean scores for item 1,2,3,4 and 5 are above the criterion mean of 2.50 which denotes that the respondents agree with the statements and therefore, they are all accepted.

Hypothesis Testing

H0: There is no significant relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity.

Table 3

Summary of t-test results on the relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity

t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances

	<i>RQ1-1</i>	<i>RQ1-5</i>
Mean	3.2725	3.085
Variance	0.64485589	0.940125313
Observations	400	400
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
Df	771	
t Stat	2.978648178	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.002986054	
t Critical two-tail	1.963045614	

Table 3 shows the result of t-test analysis on relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity. The result yielded t-statistic Critical = 2.978648178, P(T<=t) two-tail: 0.002986054 (extremely small) and t two-tail: 1.963045614. Since the P-value 0.002986054 < t-statistic 2.978648178 and t-value 1.963045614, it indicate that the observed difference is statistically significant, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis and conclude that there is significant relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity.

Results and Discussion

From Research question 1, table 1; five items were raised to investigate the effectiveness of funding entrepreneurship education programs towards reduction in unemployment. All the items raised were accepted by the respondents denoting that funding entrepreneurship education programs is effective for reducing unemployment rates. This implies that as more entrepreneurship programs are funded, it brings about increase in employment generation which consequently reduces unemployment rates. This tally with the findings of Nwosu and Ohia (2020) who found that adequately funded Entrepreneurship education programs in Nigeria led to a 35% increase in youth self-employment rates, thereby reducing their susceptibility to involvement in criminal activities. This aligns with findings from Adesola et al. (2019), who argued that Entrepreneurship education helps individuals acquire the skills necessary to create sustainable businesses, reducing unemployment—a major driver of insecurity in many developing countries.

From research question 2, table 2; five items were raised to assess the impact of funding entrepreneurship education programs in promoting job creation resulting in curbing insecurities. Most of the respondents here have received some form of formal entrepreneurship training in a formal setting. They responded to have undergone either ICT proficiency, Business forecasting, Fishery or Animal husbandry. All the items raised were accepted which implies that well-funded entrepreneurship education programs promotes job creation and consequently leads to reduction

in insecurity and crime rates in the society. This agrees with studies conducted by Akpan et al. (2021), they discovered that regions with well-funded entrepreneurial skill development programs experienced a 20% decline in youth-related violence and crime. The authors attributed this to the fact that Entrepreneurship education programs not only empower young people with practical skills but also provide avenues for meaningful engagement, thereby dissuading them from joining criminal groups. Their findings also aligns with studies done by Bello and Yusuf (2020), communities with access to well-funded Entrepreneurship education initiatives reported higher levels of social cohesion and lower instances of conflict. They argued that entrepreneurship promotes values like innovation, resilience, and community engagement, which are critical for fostering a stable society.

Table 3 also shows results of analysis on the relationship between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity, findings shows that there's a strong correlation between funding entrepreneurship education and insecurity. This implies that as government and non-governmental organization fund entrepreneurship education, idleness will be greatly minimize and insecurity, crime rates, and other forms of vices in the society will be curtailed as the demography who mostly engaged in such will have something meaningful doing. This is in line with findings from Adebola and Adenike (2020) who pointed out that well-funded entrepreneurship programs equips young people with skills for self-employment, reducing their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities such as armed robbery and kidnapping. They argued that insufficient funding for such programs undermines their effectiveness in addressing insecurity.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that funding entrepreneurship education is effective in reducing unemployment rates in southern Senatorial zone of the state. A well-funded entrepreneurship education program will keep the youths meaningfully engage which will consequently curtail the rate of conflicts and bring about stability in southern senatorial zone of Kaduna state.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. Governments at all levels should put hands on deck to ensure that funding gaps that have undermined the effectiveness of entrepreneurship education programs in our Institutions are addressed.
2. Traditional leaders, stakeholders, Government and Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) to prioritize funding of entrepreneurship education because of the benefits that it bring towards becoming a secured community with minimal cases of insecurity.
3. Agencies such as National Universities Commission, National Commission for Colleges of Education and National Board for Technical Education should ensure that they monitor the functionality of entrepreneurship centers in our Institutions annually.
4. Entrepreneurship education programs should be made compulsory in our secondary schools in order to encourage skill acquisition.

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