

EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS ACQUISITION IN CURBING YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN DELTA STATE

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Abstract

The study examined the effectiveness of entrepreneurial skills acquisition in curbing youth restiveness in Delta State. Three research questions guided the study. The population of the study consists of the entire 1,220 participants in the two Skills Acquisition Centers in Delta State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 122 respondents out of 1,220 participants of the skill acquisition centres. The researchers designed a 4-point scale questionnaire with responses ranging from Very High Extent = VHE, High Extent = HE, Low Extent = LE and Very Low Extent = VLE. One hundred and twenty-two copies of the instrument were distributed. Out of one hundred and twenty-two copies. One hundred and twenty copies were retrieved from the respondents and was used for data analysis. Mean and standard deviation scores were computed on each item addressing each of the stated research questions. The findings revealed that the respondents to a high extent, agreed that the innovative skills can help curb youth restiveness in Delta State, analysis also revealed that to a very high extent, financial management skills could help curb youth restiveness and the study also revealed that to a very high extent marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness. Based on these findings, it was recommended that youths should be trained to imbibe innovative ideal for opportunities that guarantee self-reliance, trained to develop financial management skills that is needed for successful management of business enterprise and should also be trained to owners of SMEs and market their goods and services globally.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Entrepreneurial, Skills Acquisition, Curbing and Youth Restiveness

Introduction

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa and the second-largest economy in the continent, gifted with both human and material resources but years of mismanagement and uncontrolled corruption, and sheer waste has reduced economic growth in the country (Gbagolo and Eze, 2014). According to Anyadike et al (2012) these human and natural resources notwithstanding, Nigeria still remains one of the poor countries in the world. The inability or failure of Nigerian state to make available job or employment opportunities or to prepare, equip, or train youths with self-sustaining capacities predispose the youth to restiveness (Chiapaka, 2012).

Elegbeleye in Agbaji et al (2018) defined restiveness as a sustained protest embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youth. It is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities anywhere it occurs. Nomuoja and Johnson (2015) opined that youth restiveness is a disgraceful act being perpetrated by a significant proportion of youths, it is a combination of any action, conduct or act that

constitutes unpleasant socially and intolerable activities engaged in by youths in a nation. They further stated that youth restiveness is an occurrence which in practice has led to a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to distraction of production activities, obvious increase in crime rate, intra – ethnic conflict, harassment of potential developers and other various criminal tendencies.

In the view of Igho and Ikpa in Agbaji, et al (2018) youth restiveness involves the combination of actions, conducts and behavior which constitutes unwholesome, socially unacceptable behaviour exhibited by youths in the society. Similar, the study carried out by Ajayi (2016) stated that youth restiveness could be as a result of intra and inter community strife; protracted property disputes e.g. farm land, dissatisfaction with government policies etc.

The activities of restive youths have manifested to increase in violence, arson and lawlessness epitomized by high incidence of kidnapping of oil workers, occupation of oil sites and seizure of facilities, vandalization of oil installations, bearing of arms against the state and the emergence of militia groups (Edeh and Udoikah, (2018). With acquisition of entrepreneurship skills and knowledge, the youth will now be able to initiate ideas on how to utilize their local talents or native acts to make ends meet, thereby reducing youth restiveness (Ombugus & Umaru, (2017).

Entrepreneurship is one of the core skills which young graduates need in order to exploit the opportunities emerging from science and technology, culture and communications and prevent them from being restive. Entrepreneurship has played significant roles in the development of most national economies especially in the developed world (Mamman, Ugwoke & Ezhim (2021). Anyaegbunam in Ikechukwu-Ilomuanya, et al (2018) argued that entrepreneurial skills can mean those specific skills that individuals must acquire to start up a particular business such as farming skills (both crops and animals), catering and home management skills, fashion and businesses to contribute their quota in the family and community development. Entrepreneurial skills according to Okolie and Ogbaekirigwe (2014) include innovative skills, marketing skills, administrative skills, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills and secretarial skills.

According to Efe-Imafidon, et al, (2017) entrepreneurial skill acquisition can be defined as not just about acquiring skill but acquiring knowledge and driving towards enterprise in skills that enhance personal livelihood through enduring business startups, enhancing employment opportunities, and promoting economic development and growth.

According to Turner and Gianiodis in Qiang et al, (2022), lucrative and lasting business creation is possible only via entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial skill acquisition is when an individual acquires or discovers a particular skill or kind of behavior required for business through training or education to identify and exploit entrepreneurial opportunities for self-employment (Button et al, 2020). To this end, this study is however focused on entrepreneurial skills acquisition in curbing youth restiveness in Delta State.

The findings of the study will be of immense help to the youths to look beyond government job but to be creative and look out for opportunities to be self-reliant. Also, the findings of the study will be of immense importance to the government to create entrepreneurial centres where these youths trained to be self-employed.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has 670 tertiary institutions that turn-out graduates yearly in addition to youths without formal education and school drop outs which is released into the labour market yearly. There are no commensurate industries, corporations or government parastatals to absolve these youths (Gbagolo and Eze, 2014). Similarly, According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the youth-unemployment rate in Nigeria was 34.9% in 2020, an increase from 29.7% in 2018 (Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, 2021).

As a result of unemployment, many youths are left with no job after many years of graduation apart from privileged individuals. And as such, the unemployed graduates out of frustrations and wrong orientations joined or formed groups. Some became oil theft syndicates, armed robbers, kidnappers, militants and insurgents while most of the females end up as prostitutes in order to make ends meet thereby causing problems in the society. According to Uddin and Uddin (2013), an increase in unemployment leads to a reduction in the quality of life, which manifests in different levels of financial and physical insecurity, tension and conflict, inadequate access to shelter, poor education, and health care as well as nutrition.

According to Osita et al (2022), a fundamental solution to eradicating the youth unemployment is equipping the graduates and non-graduates with entrepreneurial skills which has the capability of making them economically independent people and equally employers of labour, hence this study seeks to find how entrepreneurial skills like financial management skills, innovative skills and marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness in Delta State. Studies like that of Osita et al (2022) and other author addresses skills acquisition education, skills acquisition development and skills acquisition education strategy. None of these studies focused on effectiveness of entrepreneurial skills acquisition in curbing youth restiveness in Delta State.

Objectives of Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the effectiveness of entrepreneurial skills acquisition in curbing youth restiveness in Delta State. Specifically, the objective of this study is to:

1. examine the extent innovative skills could help curb youth restiveness.
2. examine the extent financial management skills could help curb youth restiveness.
3. examine the extent marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. to what extent does innovative skills help to curb youth restiveness?
2. to what extent does financial management skills help to curb youth restiveness?
3. to what extent does marketing skills help to curb youth restiveness?

Methodology

The descriptive research methodology was used for this study. According to Borg and Gall (as cited in Guanah, 2017), descriptive studies are aimed at finding out “what is” so observational, and survey methods are frequently used to collect descriptive data. Description emerges from creative exploration, and serves to organise the findings to fit the explanations, and then test or validate those explanations (Krathwohl, as cited in Guanah, 2017). Robson (as cited in Guanah, 2017) notes that a survey is typically used as a research methodology to collect information from an exact population, or a sample from that population; an interview or a questionnaire could be used as the survey instrument.

Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of the entire participants in the two Skill Acquisition Centers in Delta State which gave a population of the participants of 1,220. The study was carried out in the skills acquisition centers in Delta State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Simple random sampling technique was used to select 122 respondents out 1,220 in the skill acquisition centres.

Research Instrument

The researcher designed a 4-point scale questionnaire with responses ranging from Very High Extent= VHE, High Extent = HE, t Low Extent = LE and Very Low Extent = VLE. The questionnaire is made up of 18 items designed to elicit responses on the assessment of how entrepreneurial skills acquisition could curb youth restiveness in Delta State. The instrument was tagged "Assessment Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition could curb Youth Restiveness in Delta State Questionnaire (AESAQ)

The questionnaire has three parts. Part I comprised 5 items (1-5) that innovation skills could help curb youth restiveness. Part II consisted of 5 items (6-10) that elicited responses on financial management skills could help curb youth restiveness. Part III consisted of 5 items (11-15) that sought marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness. The questionnaire is preferred because it is suitable for collecting data from large sample size, it elicits clear, specific and honest responses and gives room to the respondents to express themselves freely and its flexibility in method of administration as it is adaptable to the respondents' tight schedules and engagements.

Validity of the Instrument

To establish the validity of the instrument, draft copies of the questionnaire was subjected to the scrutiny of three experts; one in the field of Measurement and Evaluation and the others in Agricultural Education department, Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba who evaluated the relevance of each item in the instrument to the specific purposes and the research questions that guided the study. The experts rated each item on a scale and made their observations/corrections which were used to finally modify the items and the format of the tools that had the ability to solicit the expected data. Their expertise inputs helped in modifying and improving the items for face and content validity.

Reliability of the Instrument

To establish the internal consistency of items within the instrument, the researcher administered the questionnaire to 25 skill acquisition personnel in Anambra State, which are not part of the population but with similar demographic characteristics such as sex and departments to the intended population of the study. Their responses were subjected to Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient reliability for determining internal consistency using computer programme of SPSS and reported a correlation index of 0.71 on the basis which the instrument was adjudged to possess a satisfactory level of internal consistency of items and which indicated that the questionnaire was very reliable.

Method of Data Collection

Structured questionnaire was used to collect data for this study and 122 copies of the questionnaires were administered through personal contact by the researcher to the respondents in the skill acquisition centres, with the help of three research assistants who were trained by the researcher for the exercise. Out of the 122 that were distributed, 120 were retrieved from the respondents, which were used for data analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

Mean and standard deviation scores were computed on each item addressing each of the stated research questions. However, the 4-points on the scale were assigned numerical values or weights as follows: VHE = 4; HE = 3; LE = 2 and VLE = 1. These are presented in tables. Based on the weighted values of the option a mean value of 2.5 and above was accepted and agreed while any value less than 2.5 was treated as disagreed or rejected. In the same vain any S.D value of 0.60 and above was accepted as agreed while any value less than 0.60 was treated as disagreed. Similarly, the grand mean and standard deviation scores were obtained on

each table to enable the researchers to determine the aggregate opinion of the respondents leading to each of the reported key findings of the study.

Presentation of Results

The results of data analysis were presented according to the research questions. Research question: To what extent does an innovative skills help to curb youth restiveness in Delta State?

Table 1: Showing the mean rating of respondents on the extent innovative skills help to curb youth restiveness

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
1	Ability to identify available business opportunities guarantee self-reliance	30	34	31	25	2.57	1.14	High Extent
2	Ability to introduce new goods or services that meet people needs ensures job creation	38	28	18	36	2.56	1.11	High Extent
3	Ability to implement new marketing strategies ensures employment generation	48	34	15	23	2.89	1.10	High Extent
4	Ability to improve production and delivery methods guarantee employment generation.	40	41	23	16	2.87	0.99	High Extent
5	Ability to identify and exploit new technological trends ensures employment generation.	30	34	31	25	2.57	1.05	High Extent
Grand Mean						2.72	1.08	High Extent

VHE = Very High Extent, HE = High Extent, LE = Low Extent, VLE = Very Low Extent. \bar{x} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation

Analysis in Table 1 revealed the respondent's rating on the extent innovative skills help to curb youth restiveness in Delta State. It was revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.56-2.89 which is above 2.50, indicating that the respondents to a high extent agreed that the innovative skills can help curb youth restiveness in Delta State. The grand mean of 2.72 further confirms that innovative skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness. The low value of standard deviation which ranges from 0.91 – 1.12 reveals that the respondents were homogenous in their responses.

Research question 2: To what extent does financial management skills help to curb youth restiveness in Delta State?

Table 2: Showing the mean rating of respondents on the extent financial management skills could help to curb youth restiveness

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
6	Effective fund allocation among competing units of the firm.	58	29	25	8	3.14	1.02	High Extent
7	Evaluating business operational plans and performance.	55	28	13	24	2.95	0.98	High Extent
8	Sourcing for capital to start business.	62	35	15	8	3.26	1.06	High Extent
9	Effective fund allocation among competing units of the firm.	56	41	15	8	3.21	1.03	High Extent
10	Understanding lending policy of banks and other lending institutions	55	28	13	24	2.95	0.98	High Extent
Grand Mean						3.14	1.01	High Extent

VHE = Very High Extent, HE = High Extent, LE = Low Extent, VLE = Very Low Extent. \bar{x} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation

Analysis in Table 2 revealed the respondent’s rating on the extent financial management skills could help to curb youth restiveness in Delta State. It was revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.95-3.21 which is above 2.50, indicating that to a very high extent financial management skills could help curb youth restiveness. The grand mean of 3.14 further confirms that financial management skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness. The low value of standard deviation which ranges from 0.98 – 1.06 reveals that the respondents were homogenous in their responses.

Research question 3: To what extent does marketing skills help to and youth restiveness in Delta State?

Table 3: Showing the mean rating of respondents on the extent marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
11	Ability to increase effective researching and negotiating with suppliers	48	29	29	14	2.93	1.06	High Extent
12	Ability for owners of SMEs to educate consumers about their products and services	47	28	17	28	2.78	1.12	High Extent
13	embark on sensitizing campaign to owners of small and medium scale enterprises	54	35	19	12	3.09	0.98	High Extent
14	Ability for owners of SMEs to market their goods and services globally	52	41	15	12	3.11	0.91	High Extent
15	Ability for effective researching and negotiating with suppliers	47	28	17	28	2.78	1.06	High Extent
Grand Mean						2.98	1.03	High Extent

VHE = Very High Extent, HE = High Extent, LE = Low Extent, VLE = Very Low Extent. \bar{x} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation

Analysis in Table 3 revealed the respondent’s rating on the extent marketing skills could help to curb youth restiveness in Delta State. It was revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.78-3.11 which is above 2.50, indicating that to a very high extent marketing skills could

help curb youth restiveness. The grand mean of 2.98 further confirms that marketing skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness. Also, the low value of standard deviation which ranges from 0.91 – 1.12 reveals that the respondents were homogenous in their responses.

Discussion of the findings

Analysis in Table 1 revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.56-2.89-2.89 which is above 2.50, indicating that the respondents to a high extent agreed that the innovative skills could help curb youth restiveness in Delta State. This is also in agreement with Daluba and Odiba (2013) who revealed that entrepreneurship skill like communication, creativity, innovativeness and many more are needed for self-reliance. Eze and Agbili (2016) also found conceptual, organizing and strategic competencies, which are synonymous to innovative thinking, to be highly needed. The present findings agreed more directly with the findings of Olaniyi (2016), whose subjects rated innovative thinking skills as highly needed entrepreneurs for entrepreneurial success. This finding strongly underscores the place of innovative thinking skills in effective and successful entrepreneurship. Of course, an entrepreneur who lacks innovative thinking skills will not be able to establish, manage and sustain his business.

Analysis in Table 2 revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.95-3.21 which is above 2.50, indicating that to a very high extent financial management skills could help curb youth restiveness. The result agreed with the study of Okolie and Ogbaekirigwe (2014) who list the entrepreneurial skills as innovative skills, self-motivation skills, marketing skills, administrative skills, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills and secretarial skills. Financial management skills include budget drafting, understanding of financial concepts and statements, financial reporting, knowledge of simple business law and so on. The findings are also in line with the findings of Ikeanyionwu and Ekwue (2013) who found that financial management skills are highly needed for effective management of enterprises. Financial management skills are indispensable for successful entrepreneurship (Ezenwafor, 2014). similar studies, (Eze & Agbili 2016; Okeke-Okonkwo, 2017) whose subjects rated financial management skills as highly needed in entrepreneurship calls for improvement in the delivery of entrepreneurship education to ensure proper utilization of financial management skills.

As revealed in Table 3 revealed that all the items had a mean score ranging from 2.78-3.11 which is above 2.50, indicating that to a very high extent marketing skills could help curb youth restiveness. The findings is inconsonance to the findings of Oyerinde and Falana (2016) who found marketing skills as requisite skills that involve thinking about how to reach the targeted audience for products and services produced by an entrepreneur. He said marketing is an essential skill on which depends the success or failure of businesses. Similarly, the findings are in line with the finding of Gidado and Akaeze (2014) who found that the failures of many entrepreneurs are attributed to lack of the following marketing skills; marketing information skills, marketing research skills, data collection skills, methods and data interpretation skills, segmentation skills, strategic and planning skills, pricing mathematics skills, product development skills, advertising skills, personal selling skills and sales promotion skills

Conclusion

The study examines the effectiveness of entrepreneurial skills acquisition in curbing youth restiveness in Delta State. Entrepreneurial skills are necessary tools for controlling and averting youth restiveness in Delta State. The study concluded that entrepreneurship skills inculcated in the youth help them in generating businesses and stimulates in self creativity and managerial competences for productivity and fulfillment in life without waiting for government provided jobs, such entrepreneurship skills include: innovative skills, self-motivation skills, marketing skills.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made that:

1. since innovative skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness youths should be trained to imbibe innovative ideal for opportunities that guarantee self-reliance.
2. financial management skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness youth should be trained to develop financial management skills that is needed for successful management of business enterprise.
3. marketing skills to a very high extent could help to curb youth restiveness youth should be trained to owners of SMEs and market their goods and services globally.

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