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ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS AND UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION AMONG YOUTH IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
This study examines the role of entrepreneurial skills in reduction of unemployment among Nigerian youth. Convenience sampling technique was adopted to select (217) graduates in Ondo State. Two research questions were formulated to guide the study which metamorphosed into research hypotheses. The hypotheses formulated were tested using Chi-square (χ^2) analysis. A chi-square coefficient (χ^2) showed a positive relationship between entrepreneurial development programme on youth unemployment with the value of (x^2 =130.291, df=09, p<05).This suggest that an increase in entrepreneurial development programme will reduce unemployment, also significant coefficient of (x^2 =131.839, df=09, p<05) suggest that there is strong positive significant relationship between entrepreneurial skills and unemployment reduction. Based on the findings, the study concluded that creativity and skills acquisition are veritable tools for unemployment reduction in Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommends that curriculums should be reviewed to captured skills acquisitions right from the secondary school, also talent development through creativity should be given priority so that talent can now become a source of employment for self-reliance and sustainability.

KEYWORD: *Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurial Education, Reduction, Role and Unemployment*

1.0 INTRODUCTION
Unemployment was rare phenomenon in Nigeria before the advent of the colonial government. This was because people were highly entrepreneurial and productivity engaged. In pre and post independent in Nigeria, the Igbo ethnic groups were recognized internationally for its culture of entrepreneurship and enterprise development (Dana, 2022). The Yoruba's and Hausas were not left out too. Nigeria, like most developing nations of the world is faced with myriad of problems and realities which include poverty, unemployment, conflicts and diseases. These situations pose great challenges to the very existence of individual in most developing nations; thereby, calling for the training of educated youths, men and women who can function effectively in the society in which they live in. However, successive administrations in Nigeria introduced formal education which enabled people to have the opportunity of being employed in the civil service after graduation. As such, the system destroyed self-reliance, self-employment and entrepreneurial skills of Nigerians as they became permanently dependent on the colonial masters (Raimi, 2020). This led to massive unemployment and Craze in the contemporary times for all-ready-made jobs. It is on this premise that this study seeks for the development of entrepreneurship in order to sustain an economy of high level unemployment reduction, Nigeria is a blessed country with numerous business and investment potentials due to the abundant, vibrant and dynamic human and natural resources it possesses. Nigerian shave made remarkable achievements in diverse fields such as science, technology, academics, business and entertainment. Thus, entrepreneurship activities and innovative gentry in Nigeria have developed enterprises in following areas; Agriculture/agro-allied activities where there are food stuffs, restaurants, fast food vendingete. In the area of solid minerals, there are quart Tying. per stone Cutting/Polishing and Gushing engineering, In power and transport, there are power generations, haulages business (cargo and passengers), in the area of information and telecom business, there are manufacturing an repairs of GSM accessories, inhospitality and tourism business, there are hotels, accommodation, resort centres, cinemas, film and

home video production; in oil and gas business, there are construction and maintenance of pipelines, drilling, refining by products, etc.). In spite of the fact that entrepreneurship development has been regarded as the bedrock for employment generation and technological development in Nigeria, the sector never the less has had its own fair share of neglect with concomitant unpleasant impacts on the economy.

Statement of the Problem

Unemployment has become a global phenomenon of the 21"century: the problem is becoming more complex each passing year in Nigeria. Unemployment, underemployment and rural urban migration have enveloped the Nigerian labour market. This has been compounded by frightening number of youth from Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Mono-Technics that cave school each year. This has increased the rate of social vices like robbery, kidnapping, prostitution, human trafficking, child abuse and unfair labour practices experienced in Nigeria by the unemployed youths. National Manpower Board, (2019) opined that Nigerian labour market could barely absorb 10% of the over 3.9 million persons turned doubt by the Nigeria educational system annually. The problem of this study revolved around the high rate of unemployment and low productivity among the citizens of Nigeria. The present situation seems to give an impression of economic insecurity as are salt of failure to properly engage people in the production process. This study therefore became necessary to fill the gap by examining the entrepreneurial skills and unemployment reduction among youth in Nigeria with government strategies/programme that can stop unemployment as an output towards economic security. The following objectives are connected with this work; extent to which entrepreneurial development programme have reduced unemployment and investigate the level of awareness of poverty reduction initiatives programme among youth in Ondo State Nigeria with research questions of, extent has entrepreneurial development programmes reduce unemployment in Ondo State, Nigeria? And any awareness of poverty reduction initiative programme among youth in Ondo State Nigeria?

The hypotheses are;

H_{01}: There is no significant effect of entrepreneurial development programme on youth unemployment in Ondo State Nigeria.

H_{02}: Poverty reduction initiative programme have no significant effect on the youth in Ondo State Nigeria.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneur has been seen as an actor, innovator or a developer of technology. However, the summary of what entrepreneurship means will reflect the individual definer's point of view. Akanwa and Akpanabia (2022), entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities, establish and run an enterprise successfully. Esomomu (2018) defined entrepreneurship as the effective manipulation of human intelligence, as demonstrated in a creative and innovative performance. Onycbuck e and Ochnongo (2022) sees entrepreneurship as an art which involves recognizing a business opportunity, mobilizing resources and persisting to exploit that opportunity. Tijani-Alawiye (2024), defines entrepreneurship as the process of adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to grow and sustain them, with a view to achieving board socio-economic development goals. It is also the process of bringing together creative and innovative ideas and copying them with management and organizational skill in order to combine people, money and resources to meet an identified need and thereby creating wealth. Akanwa and Akpanabia, (2022) Observe that entrepreneurship development is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture by combining information from the functional disciplines and from the external environment in the context of the extraordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which faces a new business venture. Entrepreneurial development has been found to be capable of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people (Adejumo, 2020).

However, the substance which revolves around productive and profitable coordination of factors of production for the benefits of the larger society remains the same and that is the projection of economic growth and development. It is important to note that entrepreneurial activities are universal and can therefore be promoted even in societies that manifest low entrepreneurship activities. As a phenomenon, entrepreneurship is very difficult and exclusive to define largely because it affects many aspects of human endeavour including, anthropology, social science (Shane, 2009), economics (Block, Thurik and Zhou, 2012), management (Casson, 2023), and psychology and sociology (Reynolds, 2023).

The word entrepreneur is a French word which means "one who undertakes innovations, finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations in economic goods". Shane (2009) described entrepreneurship as the act of being an entrepreneur. He continued that the result of entrepreneurship may be a new organization or a part of revitalizing mature organization in response to a perceived opportunity. The most obvious form of entrepreneurship to him is that of starting a new business. According to Adeboye and Olubela (2019), entrepreneurship is the process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, assuming the accompanying financial, physic and social and receiving the resulting rewards of monetary, personal satisfaction and independence. Similarly, Nwafor (2017) described entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek investment opportunities in an environment, and be able to establish and run as enterprise successfully based on identified opportunities.

Entrepreneurship development is arguably a necessity for the emergence of third world economies into emerging and fully developed economies. Many scholars around the world have long identified the role of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship in the economic development of nations (Reynolds, 2015).
Similarly, entrepreneurship development has been established to be positively correlated to stimulation of economic growth, employment generation and empowerment of the disadvantaged segment of the population. Abimbola and Agboola, (2021); Thomas and Mueller, (2020).

Entrepreneurship development begins with policy development. The extent to which any predetermined policy would achieve its objectives depends largely on two factors namely: policy development and policy implementation. If a good entrepreneurship policy is well implemented, the effects would be positive and significant in addressing unemployment problems in the society while the impact on socio- economic development would also be positive and significant. However, if the policy is good but poorly implemented, the effects on employment generation and socio-economic development could be positive but it would certainly be insignificant. In fact, poorly developed entrepreneurship policy could complicate unemployment problems among the youths.

Unemployment
Unemployment and poverty were strange to the country before the 1980's. It was therefore not a headache to the nation as to how to solve these problems. But after the 1980's, the need for entrepreneurship education started to rear its head because of political instability and also because of the inconsistencies in the social-economic policies of successive governments which in patriot the un-abating unemployment situation in the country today. In the mid 80's the Nigerian economy collapsed while youth and graduate unemployment in Nigeria hit the roof.

Workers were laid off and early retirement was the in-thing as a result of Structural Adjustment Programme and bad economic trends in the country. It was then observed that the philosopher of self-reliance such as creating a new cultural and productive environment that will promote pride in primitive work and self-discipline was lacking in tertiary institutions. Nwagwu (2017) opined that the failure of tertiary education to inculcate the above philosophy in students has led to the wastages in both human and natural resources. This is because the youth and the graduates from tertiary institutions are not equipped with the skills with which to exploit the natural resources that abound in Nigeria. Nigeria like any other country is plagued with various problems ranging from economic, social, security and political amongst others, however one of the major problems in Nigeria is the high and increasing youth unemployment (Innocent, 2024). Unemployment according to Fajana (2020), Alao (2023), is a macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare.

Many countries including advanced capitalist economies and developing countries have experienced very high rates of unemployment since the Great Recession of December 2007. The American economy faced unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent in June 2011, and South Africa had a rate of unemployment of 25.5per cent in 2015.The Greek economy faced a rate of unemployment of 24.62 per cent in 2015. This problem is very costly economically and politically. Economically, unemployment represents a loss in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Politically, the world witnessed the Arab revolt in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Bahrain, to mention a few, a revolt that was caused by unemployment, poverty, inequality, and dictatorship. Unemployment rate among the youths in Nigeria especially the graduates, is put between 32.8 per cent and 56.1 per cent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2016) The International

Labour Organization (2015), defines unemployment as a situation where persons above a specified age are available to work but cannot fit into the labour market. When measured for a short reference period, it relates to all persons not in employment who would have accepted a suitable job or started an enterprise during the reference period if the opportunity arose, and who had actively looked for ways to obtain a job or start an enterprise in the near past. Anyaele (2023) defines unemployment in a manner that is not too different from International Labour Organization (2015), as a situation where some people who fall within the ages of working population, capable and willing to work are unable to obtain befitting work. In a nutshell, unemployment refers to a situation where people willing to work to earn a living cannot find a job.

Unemployment is also defined as the percentage of the labour that is without job. (Index Mundi, 2023). It is the percentage of people who want to work but the work is not available. Several graduates from tertiary institutions are turned out every year to join the ever increasing labour market. It is unfortunate to see such people roaming the street in search of employment. Some earlier studies (Fajana, 2021) identify different categories of unemployment. These include: Frictional unemployment, which Uddin and Uddin (2023) described as a situation where job vacancies exist but there are no qualified people in the midst of several unemployed people to fill the vacancies. It also occurs when there is a mismatch between the workers and jobs. The mismatch can be related to skills, payment, work time, location, seasonal industries, attitude, taste, mechanical defect in the working plants and other factors. Similar to frictional unemployment is residual unemployment which according to Uddin and Uddin (2023) and Adesina (2023) occurs where existing jobs vacancies could not be occupied because people that could do the job are too old, have health challenges or inadequately trained to fill the vacancies.

On the other hand, technological unemployment arises from unexpected changes in production processes especially where manual or mechanical production processes are automated, that is formerly labour intensive production processes changed to automated processes that require few or no human intervention (Uddin and Uddin, 2023). Another type of unemployment is cyclical unemployment (also known as Keynesian unemployment or the demand deficient unemployment). According to Adesina (2023), cyclical unemployment occurs during economic recession which causes the demand for labour to decrease in direct response to decrease in demand for goods and services. In other words, this type of unemployment occurs when there is not enough aggregate demand in the economy to provide jobs for everyone who wants to work. In such economy, demand for most goods falls, less production is needed, and less workers are needed. Invariably, the number of unemployed workers become greater than the number of job vacancies. Seasonal unemployment occurs according to Asaju, Arome and Anyio (2024) and Adesina (2023) due to changes in seasonal economic activities, climate and behaviour of people that have significant effects on demand for a particular set of goods and services, people are out of work and looking for a job during the off-season. This often occurs in agriculture, hotels, and construction business. Structural unemployment focuses on the structural problems within an economy and inefficiencies in labour markets. According to Fajana, (2020), Alao, (2023) structural unemployment occurs when the skills, experience, and education of workers do not match job openings. This typically happens when there are mismatches between the skills employers want and the skills workers have. Major advances in technology, as well as finding lower costs of labour overseas, lead to this type of unemployment and the advancement in technology has reduced manual workers and the total numbers of employees. The usage of modern machines has thrown the people who use manual equipment out of job. When there is structural unemployment, workers may seek to learn different skills so that they can apply for new types of jobs.

Unemployment has posed some socio-economic challenges to the society. In fact, Shadare and Elegbede (2022) argued that unemployment is the greatest challenge confronting every economy regardless of the level of development or civilization. In their study of unemployment and Nigerian economic growth, Njoku and Ihugba (2021) considered unemployment as one of the greatest challenges confronting the nation. Some of the social challenges of unemployment in Nigeria include increased crime, trading and usage of illicit drugs, prevalence of health challenges, political instability and falling standard of living (Yarima, 2024). Other problems arising from unemployment include political thuggery, militancy, youth restlessness, prostitution, scamming and robbery amongst others (Igbokwe-Ibeto and Umeifekem, 2015). Poverty, frustration, hostility, depression and unnecessary suspicion of people are unmeasured effects of unemployment (Okonkwo, 2015) in any society where the government does not have effective programmes to support the unemployed.

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Entrepreneurship Education as a tool for Job Creation

Quality Entrepreneurship Education plays a role in the social, political and economic development of any Nation. This is possible when jobs are rated for the citizenry by establishing a lot of businesses that will accommodate the unemployed youth in Nigeria. A qualified graduate of entrepreneurship education would have acquired enough skills relevant to manage small business centre.

Challenges of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria

Quality Entrepreneurship Education could played a vital role in equipping individual with necessary intellectual capacity, skills and right type of work habit and attitude to be able to create jobs for the growth of the Nigeria economy. However, what is quite essential is the extent to which the entrepreneurship Education programme can be implemented to realize these goals. The programme is confronted with a lot of challenges which brought a setback in the attainment of its objectives. These challenges have not enable Nigerian to enjoy the benefits of this programme as expected. This limits the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs) in Nigeria. Some of the challenges have been pointed out by eminent scholars such as Osuala (2020) and they include:

i. Poor funding by government and Non-governmental organizations.
ii. Poor or ineffective planning, supervision information and evaluation of the programme across the board.
iii. Inadequate teaching materials, equipment and infrastructural facilities.
iv. The challenges posed on globalization, information and communication technology (ICT) have effect on curriculum, methodology, facilities, staff and equipment.
v. Inadequate qualified teachers and instructors as well as supporting staff at all level.
vi. Inadequate motivation for available teaching and non-teaching staff which affects staff efficiency, retention, creativity and initiative.
vii. Emphasis on theoretical Knowledge rather than practical knowledge due to lack of entrepreneurship education centre.
viii. High level of corruption and very poor maintenance culture in the system.
ix. Poor enabling business environment, access to credit/ loan, infrastructural decay, mass poverty, inflation, technological infraction, political instability and insecurity of lives and properties which hamper economic and business activities.

Problems and Prospects of Entrepreneurship

There a lot of impediments that hinders the success, growth and survival of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. Obeleagu Nzebulo (2020) are all of the opinion that# inadequate capital, incompetent management, lack of technological and infrastructural facilities are the common problems, among others. Ndubuisi (2024) cited in Diyoke (2024), from another perspective, include the following: Arbitrary challenges in the administration of law by the government which spreads the element of uncertainty among the entrepreneurs, Low status of business in the eyes of the public, Lack of insufficient infrastructure and high cost of production, High risk involved in new enterprises, Restrictive effects of customs and Market imperfections, which deny potential entrepreneurs the resources, they need for organizing new entrepreneurs. Other challenges identified by Anietie and Akpan (2022) include irregular power supply and other infrastructural inadequacies (water, roads, etc.), unfavourable fiscal policies, multiple taxes, levies and rates, fuel crises or shortages, policy inconsistencies, reversals and shocks, uneasy access to funding, poor policy implementation, restricted market access, raw materials sourcing problems, competition with cheaper imported products, problems of inter sectorial linkages given that most large scale firms source some of their raw material outside instead of sub-contracting to SMEs, insecurity of people and property. fragile ownership base, lack of requisite skill and experiences, thin management, unfavourable monetary policies, lack of preservation, processing and storage technology and facilities, lack of entrepreneurial spirit, poor capital structuring as well as poor management of financial, human and other resources.

The following are the challenges of Nigeria entrepreneurs:

Inconsistent government policies: Government inconsistency is really a challenge an entrepreneur will have to tackle if he must success in Nigeria. Governance is something entrepreneur have to control Over, all entrepreneurs can do is to influence government policy with respect to enacting favourable business law. The entrepreneur must have political clout and massive resources to be able to influence government's law and he should keep a keen eye on government laws and swiftly adjust your business to align with the policies.

Multiple Taxations: One of other challenge encountered by Nigerian entrepreneurs is multiple taxations. Although entrepreneurs in a country have a responsibility of funding the government through paying taxes most of the taxes charged on entrepreneurs are not lawful and have effect on increasing cost of doing business.

Lack of credit facilities: Potential entrepreneurs go through many hardships when trying to access credit for their business. Through there is wide range of financial institutions that offer business loans, they usually charge high interest rates deterring aspiring entrepreneurs.

Poor state infrastructure: The Nigeria's infrastructure can be deemed to be a nightmare to both entrepreneurs and the rest of the country's population, with the existing tremendously gone up cost of doing business due to the deteriorating infrastructures. Law standard of Education: There is no gain saying the fact that education is the key to knowledge and that it plays a strong role in farming the burgeoning entrepreneur. Based on today's world, the entrepreneur require education that will empower him to meet the require quality.

Poor product or service: The entrepreneur must understand the needs of his customers and seek ways to meet these needs via the product and services which he or she offer to the market for efficiency. Constant political turmoil in the country greatly limits foreign investors who would be willing to provide resources for entrepreneurship in the country, which is very rich in natural resources.

Entrepreneurial Effects in the Growth and Development of Economy

The contributions of entrepreneurship to economic growth and development. Care and Thurik (2022) have provided five strands of empirical evidence to show their involvement. First evidence mainly deals with the turbulence effect of entrepreneurship on economic development. Turbulence can be viewed as the total entries and exists in region or industries and can easily be interpreted as one of the powerful indicators of entrepreneurial activities.

The effect of and changes in size distributions in regions represents the second strand of evidence as identified by the two researchers (Lioyd-Ellis and Bernhardt, 2020). It is believed that the change identified by distribution and its ultimate effects can have a significant impact on Thirdly the number of market participants in any country will finally have an important impact on economic development and this is recognized as another strand of evidence of the role of entrepreneurship in economy expansion (Chell and Ozkan, 2020).

Entrepreneurship Administration

Administration is generic, it portends several meanings and usage. It is a social science concept which applies to all organized activities and arises whenever organization occurs. The nature of organizational settings require quality administration to attain the objectives for which the organization is established. According to Nooraie, (2012), administration is inevitable in any given situation where a piece of work has to be done, and where this piece of work requires the effort of more than one person. In other words, administration connotes planning, organizing, controlling and coordinating resources, especially people, to accomplish predetermined goals. The word administration is traceable to Latin's "ad" and "ministorage" which means to administer to the needs of a group of people or society. Lunenburg (2010), described administration as a economic development (Carre et al., 2022).

Cooperative human effort that has a high degree of rationality, an activity or process mainly concerned with the means for carrying out prescribed ends. In fact, it is a universal concept and possesses universal importance. It is the process of getting a task achieved for the good of the society and according to Longenecker, Neubert and Fink (2017), it involves cooperation of all the stakeholders.

Entrepreneurship Policy and Economic Development

The quantity and quality of entrepreneurship development in any nation rest heavily on factors Such as the environment and more importantly the policies instituted and implemented by the government. According to Lundstrom and Stevenson (2022), given the strong association between entrepreneurship and economic growth, policy makers worldwide have grown increasingly attentive to developing and implementing strategies that nurture and sustain entrepreneurial activity. It is the outcome of a political process that is intended to impact positively on the well fare of the societies. Entrepreneurship policy is primarily concerned with creating an environment and support system

that would enable and encourage the emergence of new entrepreneurs and new businesses as well as propel existing ones to thrive.

Entrepreneurship is not a citizen of any country rather it is desired and courted by countries that appreciate its importance and contributions to economic growth and development. Global Entrepreneur Monitor (GEM) (2012), once argued that variation in the rates of entrepreneurship may account for as much as one-third of the variation in economic growth. This suggests that if there are three factors that drive economic growth in any nation, entrepreneurship is one of them. In other words, entrepreneurship accounts for at least 33.33 per cent of the economic growth of an average nation. In what may not be too different from GEM position, Grilo and Thurik (2018), argued that entrepreneurship even when they are not more than small businesses, play a very significant role in the overall economy. Storey (2008) in his studies of entrepreneurship and SME policy in OECD (2012), countries (a group of developed countries) noted that entrepreneurship is the ingredient to wealth creation in those countries and government plays very significant roles to stimulate the entrepreneurs. In the same vein, Van- Praag and Versloot (2017) identify four economic benefits of entrepreneurship as job generation, innovation, productivity and growth, and the potential for entrepreneurship to increase the utility of individuals by increasing their satisfaction and income, Earlier, Grilo and Thurik (2018), in a study to determine the level of state governments' involvement in entrepreneurship development in the USA revealed that 34 out of the 37 states sampled for the study made entrepreneurship part of their state economic development strategy. Grilo and Thurik, (2018) concluded that State commitment to entrepreneurship in USA was a mixed one. While funding for entrepreneurship development remains largely a challenge across the nation, many states have created or adopted programmes and policies that have now impacted positive on entrepreneurship. The Ireland government commissioned Forfas (2017) to draw up a policy on entrepreneurship development for the country. Forfas in its submission titled "Towards developing an entrepreneurship policy for Ireland" observed that entrepreneurship is one of the cornerstones of a modern, fully developed economy. It is also seen as the lifeblood of thriving local communities. It further argued that a successful entrepreneurial culture can generate a range of strategic, economic, spatial, social and personal benefits for the economy. The policy document identifies the need to develop a higher level of conducive environment for entrepreneurship in spite of the existing business environment which has generally been regarded as conducive to encourage entrepreneurship. The policy also recognizes the need to harness culture and education to support entrepreneurship by promoting entrepreneurship culture among the people and by also reinforcing the concept in the education system. Lastly, the policy advocates that women and immigrants should be encouraged to become self-employed.

Empirical Review

Baba (2020) carried out research work on the challenges of Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria and the way forward. He is of the view that in this era of shrinking economic activities, the government should endeavour to provide the necessary infrastructures required for skills acquisition among its citizenry because, without technological skills, the entrepreneurial spirit which drives economic development through job creation will be lacking. He concluded that entrepreneurship is essential for rapid and sustained economic growth but there is an urgent need to change the mind-set of the average Nigerian especially the youths towards embracing self-employment and de-emphasizing the search for non-existent white-collar jobs.

Ndofirepi, (2020) examined the relationship between entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial goal intentions. The purpose of this study was to test if selected psychological traits (need for achievement, risk-taking propensity, and internal locus of control) mediated the predictive relationship between the perceived effects of entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intentions. A cross-sectional survey of a sample of 308 vocational education students in Zimbabwe was used for this purpose. The results show that the effects of entrepreneurship education variable had a positive and statistically significant relationship with need for achievement, risk-taking propensity, internal locus of control, and entrepreneurial goal intentions. Moreover, the need for achievement, risk-taking propensity, and internal locus of control accounted for a statistically significant amount of variance in entrepreneurial intentions. However, of the three psychological traits, only the need for achievement partially mediated the relationship between the effects of entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial goal intentions. The outcome has implications for the design and focus of entrepreneurship education programs.

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Okolocha, John-Akamelu and Muogbo (2020) examined the effect of skill acquisition programs on youth employability in Nigeria. In the study, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate individuals of Anambra State were used. The main instrument used was the structured questionnaire. 100 respondents were randomly selected from different local governments in Anambra State. Findings revealed that much emphasis on academic excellence, lack of quality skilled trainers, acute shortage of facilities, inconsistent follow up by the government and poor funding are problems facing skills acquisition employment in Nigeria. Based on the premises of the findings it was recommended that teachers require professional skills development abilities, competence, years of experience through an understanding of the subject matter, and effective involvement of the student in the instructional delivery.

Oladeji (2019) assessed the level of impact this program has on Youth empowerment and development in the Ondo State. Youths are said to be the future leaders of any country in the world, Nigeria inclusive. It is also a general belief that governments all over the world try to invest strategically in their youth for them to be able to assume the position of leadership when the time comes. Despite this, it appears that the training, the investment of the Nigerian governments as well as the socialization of youth in Nigeria and Ondo State, in particular, seem to be inadequate because many of them instead of contributing meaningfully to the development of the society, they are doing otherwise. 27 copies of the questionnaire were administered on the trainers at the skill acquisition centers, while 557 copies were given to the beneficiaries of the skills acquisition programme in Ondo State. Thirteen members of the coordinating departments were chosen for an in-depth interview. Findings revealed that the skills acquisition program has been able to provide employment opportunities for youth beneficiaries, reduce their involvement in social vices, improved their standard of living

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The design of the research methodology of an empirical study has a great impact on the nature and quality of the research output because it impacts on both the validity of the results and the degree to which the results are generalized to other settings. This study employed the survey research design. This was done by gathering data through a close-ended questionnaire. Most of the data were numerical in nature.

Population of the Study

The population of this study covered academic, non-academic and students of Government Technical College Owo, Ondo State Nigeria. There are Fifty-Nine (59) academic staff, Twelve (12) non-academic and four Hundred and Four (404) students in the College, making a total of Four Hundred and Seventy-Five (475) from which the sample size was drawn.

Table 1: Distribution of Population of Government Technical College, Owo.

S/N	Group	Population
1.	Academic Staff	59
2.	Non-academic staff	12
2.	Student	404
	Total	**475**

Sources: 2022/2023 Academic Enrolment Register and Staff Records

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sample is the proportion of the total population to be studied sampling technique was the method used for selecting a sample. The number of elements in a sample is known as sample size. Since the population of this study was finite, the application of statistical formula becomes essential in order to determine the sample size. The sample size for this study was arrived at using the Taro
Yamane formula. This is as expressed below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)?}$$

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Where:

n =Sample size

N =Population of the study

e =Tolerable level of error (5%)

$$n = \frac{475}{1+475\,(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{475}{1+475\,(0.0025)^2}$$

$$= \frac{475}{1+1.1875}$$

$$= \frac{475}{2.1875} = 217$$

Method of Data Analysis

Data for this study were primary data generated from questionnaires distributed to two hundred and seventeen respondents randomly selected from the federal ministry of labour and productivity and some ownership of small scale businesses in Ondo State. The data generated were then subjected to a statistical test using Chi-square (χ^2) statistics. The respondents were asked whether entrepreneurship education has an effect on unemployment eradication in Nigeria. The table 1 below shows the response to the question**.** The statistical analysis employed included the frequency counts, cross tabulation and chi-square. The chi-square was used to test the hypotheses set for the study in order to determine the relationship which existed between entrepreneurial skills and youth unemployment in Ondo State Nigeria.

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table 2: Gender of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	**Male**	168	77.4	77.4	77.4
	Female	49	22.6	22.6	100.0
	Total	**217**	**100.0**	**100.0**	

Sources: Author Compilation, 2024

Out of 217 unemployed youth captured among youth on entrepreneurial skills, 168 respondents representing (77.4%) were males, while 49, (22.6%) were female. This indicates that most of unemployed youth are male fossil, because of rate of challenges face mail fossil in the society.

H_{01}: There is no significant effect of entrepreneurial development programme on youth unemployment in Ondo State Nigeria.

Table 3: Chi-Square Tests for Hypothesis One

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	130.291[a]	9	.027
Likelihood Ratio	11.680	9	.032
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.898	1	.168
N of Valid Cases	**217**		

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Source: Field Survey, (2024).

As shown in Table 3 a chi-square of independence was performed to examine the significant of effect of entrepreneurial development programme on youth unemployment in Ondo State. The table shown that the relationship between i entrepreneurial development programme and youth unemployment in Ondo state was significant since calculated x^2 (130.291) was greater than the critical x^2 (16.92) at the 0.05 level of significance (x^2 =130.291, df=09, p<05). This implies that there was significant effect of entrepreneurial development programme on youth unemployment in Ondo State. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is accepted and we conclude that, there is significant relationship between entrepreneurial development programme and unemployment, hence the null hypothesis (H_{01}) was rejected.

Research Hypothesis Two

H_{02}: Poverty reduction initiative programme have no significant effect on the youth in Ondo State Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi-Square Tests for Hypothesis Two

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	131.839[a]	9	.223
Likelihood Ratio	13.400	9	.145
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.085	1	.298
N of Valid Cases	217		

Source: Field Survey, (2024)

As shown in table 4 a chi-square (χ^2) of independence was performed to examine the significant of poverty reduction initiative programme on youth. The table shown that the relationship between Poverty reduction initiative programme on youth in Ondo state was significant since calculated χ^2 (131.839) was greater than the critical x^2 (16.92) at the 0.05 level of significance (x^2 =131.839, df=09, p<05). This implies that there was significant impact of poverty reduction initiative programme on youth in curbing unemployment in Ondo state through entrepreneurial skills increase there tends to be reduction in unemployment, hence the null hypothesis (H_{02}) was rejected.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Unemployment among Nigerian graduates has weakened the national economy as individuals are unable to contribute to the economy. Nigeria has a history of economic stagnation that has led to decline in white collar jobs. The inclusion of creativity in all disciplines will to a great extent, assist in solving this problems of high unemployment and underemployment. Creation of jobs for self-employment, stimulation of rural, economic and industrial development, provision of job opportunities to rural dwellers and development of indigenous entrepreneurs are benefits of entrepreneurial education to Nigerian graduates.

Lack of entrepreneurial skill was found to be one of the major factors contributing to the high of rate of unemployment among Nigerian graduates. Entrepreneurial basic training in this research has been recognized as a catalyst to speed up the employment opportunities as this will exposed and encouraged graduates to start-up businesses and improve business potentials among graduates. An effective strategy to develop the indigenous private sector and reduce unemployment among Nigerian graduates is through entrepreneurial education. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

i. More efforts from both the federal and state government and also stakeholders, banks, agencies should be channelled towards investing in the development of skill acquisition centers like vocational schools.
ii. Our educational curriculums should be reviewed to capture more skills acquisitions right from the secondary school rather than the theory alone.
iii. Also talent development through creativity should give a priority so that their talent can now become the sources of employment for self-reliance and sustainability.

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