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Reengineering Small-Scale Business Enterprises as Predictors of Youth Employment and Poverty Alleviation

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Abstract

The study examines the reengineering of small-scale business enterprises as predictors of youth employment and poverty alleviation. Four objectives and four research questions were posed. The population of the study was two hundred and sixty (260) registered businesses. The study was carried out using a survey research design. A research-created questionnaire titled "Reengineering of Small-Scale Business Enterprises as Predictors of Youth Employment and Poverty Alleviation" was used to collect data (RSCBEPYEPA scale). The instrument was validated by one test and measurement expert and two vocational education experts. A trial/pilot test was conducted on 40 registered businessmen and women in Akwa Ibom State who were not part of the main study population, and the study received an overall reliability coefficient of 0.92 using Cronbach's alpha data analysis. The survey was given to 260 registered businesses. The entire study population was used. To answer the research questions, the data was analyzed using means and standard deviation, and the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) statistic was used to test the hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that the government provided small-scale businesses in Cross River State with financial support, capacity-building programs, legislative support, and the provision of facilities for youth employment and poverty alleviation. It was recommended, among other things, that small-scale business entrepreneurs should take advantage of the financial support provided by the government to boost their businesses.

Keywords: Small-scale, business enterprises, youths' employment, and poverty alleviation

1. Introduction

Small and medium-sized businesses facilitate the creation and utilization of non-existent or unused products and materials. It also serves as the major source of aggregate demand in the economy, laying the foundation for the industrialization and wealth creation. The role of small scale enterprises in the development of the nation has been encapsulated in the Nigeria Third National Plan for Development of 1975-1980, which dwells on generating job opportunities, stimulating indigenous business owners, improving per capita income, balanced regional development, education, and citizen empowerment, write Biowale and Akinlo (2012).

Small-scale businesses have made significant contributions to the abolishing of poverty in Nigeria. Small-scale regarded as the economic engine room for the growth and the development of any nation. This same ability to hire at low capital costs is the sector's main advantage. SMEs have a significantly higher workforce intensity than large enterprises. Individuals' innovation and creativity are frequently helped propel by small and medium-sized businesses as a breeding ground for entrepreneurship. Nigeria's broad reach and possible impact on the economy as a whole facilitate it to serve as the engine of economic advancement, in addition to its future growth and critical role in industrial production and value chains. Small and medium enterprises are the paramount sources of innovation, employment generation, poverty alleviation, wealth generation, distribution of income, and wealth inequality decrease. Small businesses have contributed significantly to Nigeria's economy and well-being, which include raw material stimulation, work opportunities, rural-urban migration, skill building, rural resource enhancement, income generation and redistributive taxation, a higher standard of living, industrial progress, and fostering considerable quantity, according to Osuala in Akeke (2017). He goes on to say that with a N20 million initial capital investment, the Federal Ministry of Industries launched the small-scale industries credit scheme ease in the federation's twelve states (6,349 USD).

Small and medium-sized businesses have been deemed to be essential to Nigeria's growth, poverty alleviation, and unemployment since the 1986 economic reform. As a result, such enterprises must be promoted in developing economies like Nigeria because they lead to improved distribution of wealth and income growth and self, entrepreneurship development work opportunities, and a slew of other powerful economic boosting factors. In Nigeria, where the country's export portfolio's small scale industries sector is expanding, the growing activities of the sector significantly contribute to generating foreign currency and softening out the country's detrimental balance of payment circumstance.

Small-scale enterprises, according to Fayomi (2012), Imagbe (2019), and Aremu (2010), provide income, savings, and employment. They are regarded as veritable engines for the advancement of entrepreneurial skills and indigenous technology, both of which are expected to generate jobs in the country. Small and medium enterprises

are estimated to employ 22% of Nigeria's adult population. Because of their roles in the development and growth of various economies, SMEs have been labeled as "growth engines" and catalyst supports for any country's economic progress. Small businesses' various efforts have resulted in the redeployment of natural resource, thereby continuing to enhance the population's quality of life. By ability to absorb the ever-increasing supply, they have contributed significantly to the employment market. As a result, they have contributed significantly to Nigeria's rising rate of unemployment. Because unemployed youths and graduates can easily engage in skills on their own, small and medium-sized businesses help to create employment in a location. On ordinary, small and medium-sized enterprises generate more jobs than large industries (Ifamose 2018). Many people in this country make their living through self-employment. Many others, including relatives, are either directly or indirectly employed in these businesses.

Numerous graduates in Nigeria are unemployed and living on the streets. The government has the ability but is unwilling to employ them. Employment in Nigeria is typically based on how well-connected you are with individuals who hold powerful positions, rather than on merit. As a result, many highly qualified individuals are impoverished, as it would seem that no one cares about what they are competent of. These individuals are losing a lot of money that they would have made if they had worked. The economy is short of high-quality jobs, and many government resources are being misused. Unemployment-induced poverty tends to increase crime and violence in the country. The majority of unemployed young people are involved in criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, internet scams, as well as other forms of deceit. The reservation wage they receive from these activities is frequently insufficient to meet their basic needs. As a result, the study focused on small-scale business reengineering as predictors of youth employment and poverty alleviation.

2. Objective of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to examine the reengineering of small-scale business enterprises as predictors of youth employment and poverty alleviation. The study specifically sought to identify:

1. The financial support received by small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation
2. The capacity building programmes received by small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation
3. The legislation was made to support small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation
4. The facilities provided by the government to small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation

2.1 Research Question

The following research questions were raised to guide the study
1. To what extent do entrepreneur receive financial support for youth employment and poverty alleviation?
2. To what extent do entrepreneurs receive capacity-building program for youth employment and poverty alleviation?
3. To what extent have small-scale entrepreneurs received legislation made to support youth employment and poverty alleviation?
4. What is the extent of government provision of facilities to small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation?

2.2 Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were raised to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significant
1. There is no significant influence of financial support received by small scale entrepreneurs on youth employment and poverty alleviation.
2. There is no significant influence of capacity building programmes for youths employment and poverty alleviation
3. There is no significant influence of legislation made to support for youths employment and poverty alleviation
4. There is no significant influence of government provision of facilities to small scale entrepreneurs for youths employment and poverty alleviation

2.3 Research Methodology

The study was carried out using a survey research design. A research-created questionnaire titled "Reengineering of Small-Scale Business Enterprises as Predictors of Youth Employment and Poverty Alleviation" (RSCBEPYEPA) scale was used to collect data. The instrument was validated by one test and measurement expert and two vocational education experts from the University of Calabar in Nigeria. A pilot test was conducted on 40 registered businessmen and women in Akwa Ibom State who were not part of the main study population, and the study received an overall reliability index of 0.92 using Cronbach's alpha statistical analysis. In Cross River State, Nigeria, this same instrument was administered to 260 registered businessmen and women. The entire research population was used. To answer the research questions, the data was analyzed using means and standard deviation, and the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) statistic was used to test the hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance. The cutoff point for each decision was set at 2.50. Any item in the instrument with a Man score of 2.50 or higher was interpreted as supported or provided. Items with a mean

score of less than 2.5 are disqualified.

3. Results of the Finding

3.1 Research question one

To what extent does entrepreneur received financial support for youth employment and poverty alleviation

The table 1 below shown answer to the research question above

Table 1: Mean rating of respondents on financial support received for youth employment and poverty alleviation

S/No	FINANCIAL SUPPORT: How has your business been funded for productive activities	N	Mean	Std.	Remarks
1	My business have adequately been funded by the government	260	2.0962	1.37405	NS
2	Most times, I have received assistance from Africa's Young Entrepreneur (A.Y.E)	260	2.0577	1.13514	NS
3	The state government has only assisted us during the COVID19 period	260	2.8692	0.93733	S
4	Most of the assistance I have got were from the micro finance banks	260	1.0846	1.26145	NS
5	The banks do not give financial assistance as often as we expected	260	2.8808	1.32878	S
6	The cooperative societies that ill have given us assistance is not very buoyant as we anticipated	260	2.8885	0.88698	S
7	The highest financiers of our businesses are money lenders	260	2.7038	0.91364	S
8	We hardly receive loans from non-governmental organization	260	3.0192	1.26873	S
9	Most time, microfinance banks reduce interest rate to help us access loans to fun our businesses	260	3.1615	1.15115	S
10	I have only financed my loans from personal savings	260	2.8192	0.99517	S
	Grand Means		**2.558**	**1.1252**	**S**

Note: x = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; N = Supported NS = Not Supported

Table 1 presents the mean rating and standard deviation of respondents on the financial support received by small-scale business enterprises for youth employment and poverty alleviation. The table shows that seven (7) items out of ten (10) recorded mean ratings between 2.7038 and 3.1615, which were above the 2.50 cut-out point on the four-point scale. While the three (3) items recorded a mean rating between 1.0846 and 2.0962, which is below the cut-off point, however, the grand mean of the mean rating is 2.558, which shows that small-scale business enterprises are reengineering their businesses. The standard deviation ranged from 0.88698 to 1.37405, which revealed that respondents were not too far from the mean or each other in their responses. The result is further expressed in figure 1 using bar graph.
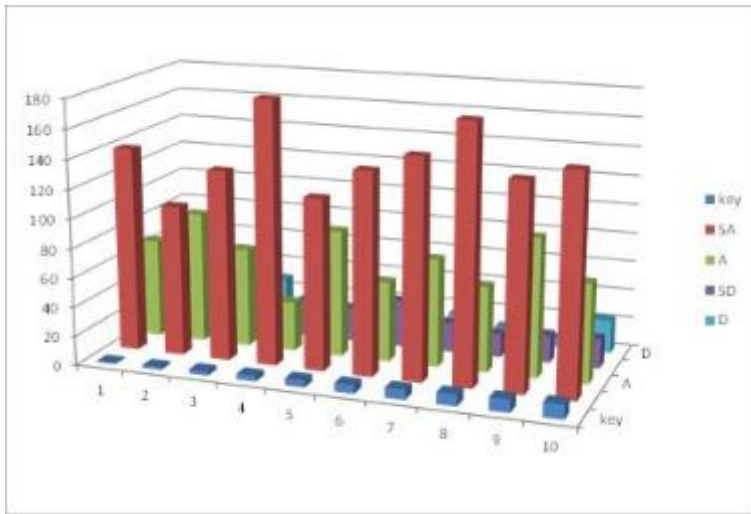
Figure 1. Showing the bar graph of respondents decision on financial support received by entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation

3.2 Research Question two

The capacity building programmes received by small scale entrepreneurs for youth's employment and poverty alleviation
    The table 2 below shown answer to the research question above

Table 2: Mean rating of respondents on capacity building programmes received by small scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation

S/No.	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES: How has your business been receiving training support for productive activities	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
11	Most times, SME entrepreneurs are left to what they know about the business	260	2.6231	1.20658	S
12	Non-governmental organizations have been wonderful in organizing seminars on how to manage our businesses	237	2.8397	1.21416	S
13	I have received trainings from cooperative societies on how to maintain a customer-seller representative	260	2.9038	1.19296	S
14	Most times, the government have helped us acquired the skills on how to source for financial assistance through seminars	260	2.6538	1.06696	S
15	I have never received training from any body	260	3.0962	0.99535	S
16	How I have managed this business growth is purely my initiatives	260	2.6885	1.09715	S
17	Most times, I just read on how to sustain a business	260	2.4692	1.11977	NS
18	I only attended a business seminar once since 6yrs in this business	260	2.6269	1.24089	S
19	I am not sure anybody is interested in training SME entrepreneurs other than their passion that has kept them growing in the business	260	2.8731	1.12331	S
20	I received credit management training from government	260	2.6769	1.10258	S
	Grand Mean		**2.74512**	**1.135971**	**S**

Note: x = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; N = Supported NS = Not Supported

Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviation of respondents' ratings of capacity building programs for youth employment and poverty alleviation received by small-scale business enterprises. According to the table, nine (9) items out of ten (10) received mean ratings between 2.6269 and 3.0962, which were greater than the 2.50 cut-off point on the four-point scale. While only one (1) item received a mean rating of 2.4692, it fell short of the cut-off point. The grand mean of the mean rating, on the other hand, is 2.74512, indicating that small-scale business enterprises received government capacity-building programs to help them reengineer their businesses. The standard deviation is 1.135971, indicating that respondents' responses were not too far apart from the mean or from one another. The result is further shown in figure 2. Using bar graph.
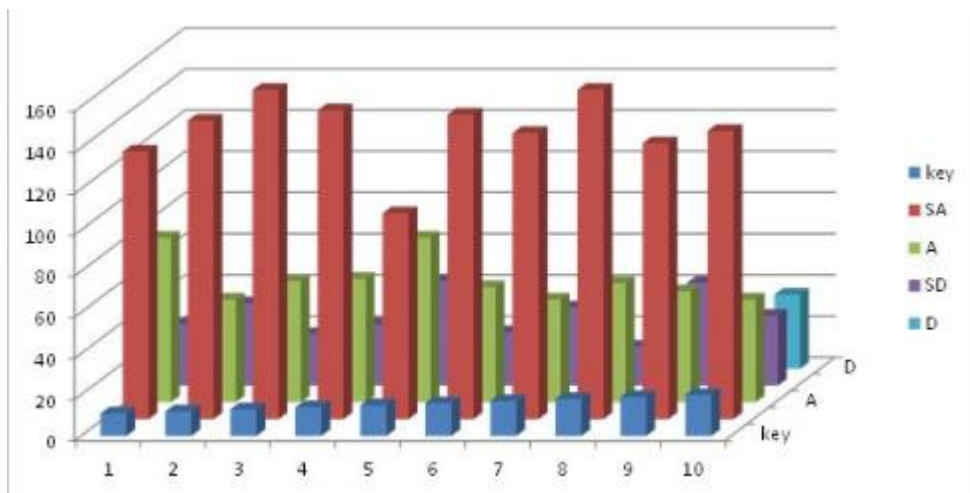

Figure 2: Bar graph showing respondents' decision on capacity building programme received by small scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation.

3.3 Research question three

The legislation made to support small scale entrepreneurs for youth's employment and poverty alleviation

The table below 3 shown answer to the research question above

Table 3: Mean rating of respondents on legislation support received by small scale entrepreneurs' for youth employment and poverty alleviation

S/No	LEGISLATION SUPPORT	N	Mean	SD	Decision
21	Government policies are stable to my business	260	2.1769	0.51263	NS
22	My business suffers because government unfavorable policies	260	3.3962	0.58355	S
23	Most business have closed because of government high taxes	259	3.6332	0.5433	S
24	Most of the demands by the government affects' business credit portfolio	260	3.3654	0.65844	S
25	The government does not support any SME activities in the state	259	3.2124	0.91355	S
26	The legislations of the government do not allow friendly environment for businesses to strive	260	3.5577	0.85228	S
27	I don't think government taxes has affected my business in anyways	260	3.4885	0.68904	S
28	The government through her monetary policies has allowed for low interest rate for enhanced borrowing	260	1.4346	0.69718	NS
29	Most times, poor legislative implementation is the reason for poor growth in businesses	260	3.2269	0.82811	S
30	Lack of trade regulations seems to be an issue of legislation that are affecting our businesses	260	3.4577	0.69896	S
	Grand Mean		**3.0949**	**0.6977**	**S**

Note: x = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; N = Supported NS = Not Supported

Table 3 presents the mean rating and standard deviation of respondents' ratings on legislation made to support small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation. The table shows that eight (8) items out of ten (10) recorded mean ratings between 1.4346 and 3.6332, which were above the 2.50 cut-out point on the four-point scale. While the mean for the two (2) items ranged from 1.4346 to 2.1769, which is below the cut-off point, the grand mean of the mean rating is 3.0949, indicating that small-scale business enterprises received government legislation support that assisted them in reengineering their businesses. The standard deviation is 0.6977, indicating that respondents' responses were not too far apart from the mean or from one another. The result is further shown in figure 3 in bar graph
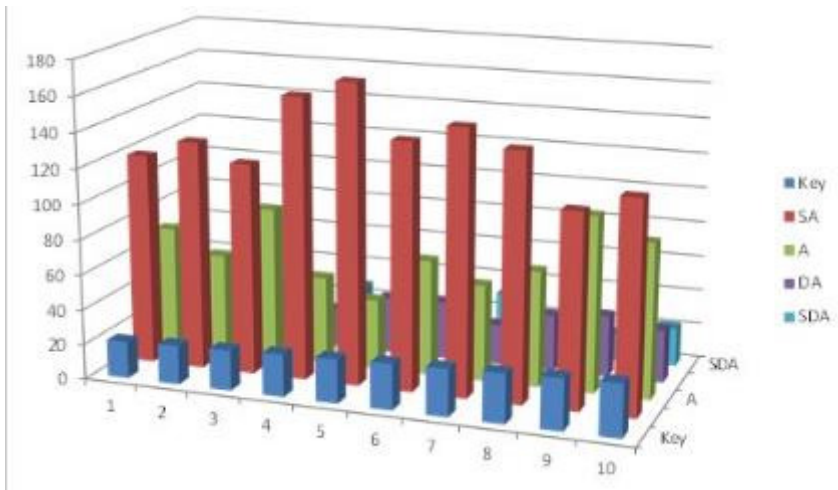
Figure 3: Bar graph showing the respondents' decision on the legislation received by small scale entrepreneur for youth employment and poverty alleviation

3.4 Research question four

The facilities provided by government to small scale entrepreneurs for youths' employment and poverty alleviation
    The table 4 below shown answer to the research question above

Table 4: Mean rating of responses on respondents on facilities provided by government to small scale entrepreneurs for youths employment and poverty alleviation

S/No	FACILITIES PROVIDED: How strongly will you agree or disagree to the provision of facilities in your area	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
31	Good markets structure	260	3.2538	0.754	P
32	Electricity in the markets	260	3.6115	0.85145	P
33	Stores for your good preservation	260	3.35	0.81764	P
34	Security operatives	260	3.1154	0.86667	P
35	Trucks for good conveyance	260	2.3962	0.77856	NP
36	Portable for use	260	3.5115	0.83126	P
37	Good roads network	260	3.2731	0.83738	P
38	Stand by generator in the markets	260	2.0846	0.74081	NP
39	Affordable government approve way house	260	1.6038	0.709	NP
40	Affordable government approve motor vehicle	260	2.308	1.07365	NP
	Grand Mean		**2.8507**	**0.82604**	**P**

 Note: x = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; P = Provided; NP = Not provided

Table 4 shows the mean rating and standard deviation of respondents' responses to the government's facilities for small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation. According to the table, six (6) items out of ten (10) received mean ratings

between 3.2538 and 3.6115, which were greater than the 2.50 cut-off point on a four-point scale. While the mean for the four (4) items ranged from 1.6038 to 2.0846, which is below the cut-off point, The grand mean of the mean rating, on the other hand, is 2.8507, indicating that the government provided assistance to small-scale entrepreneurs in order to increase youth employment and alleviate poverty. The standard deviation was 0.82604, indicating that survey participants were not too far from the mean or from one another in their answers. The result is further shown figure 4 using bar graph.
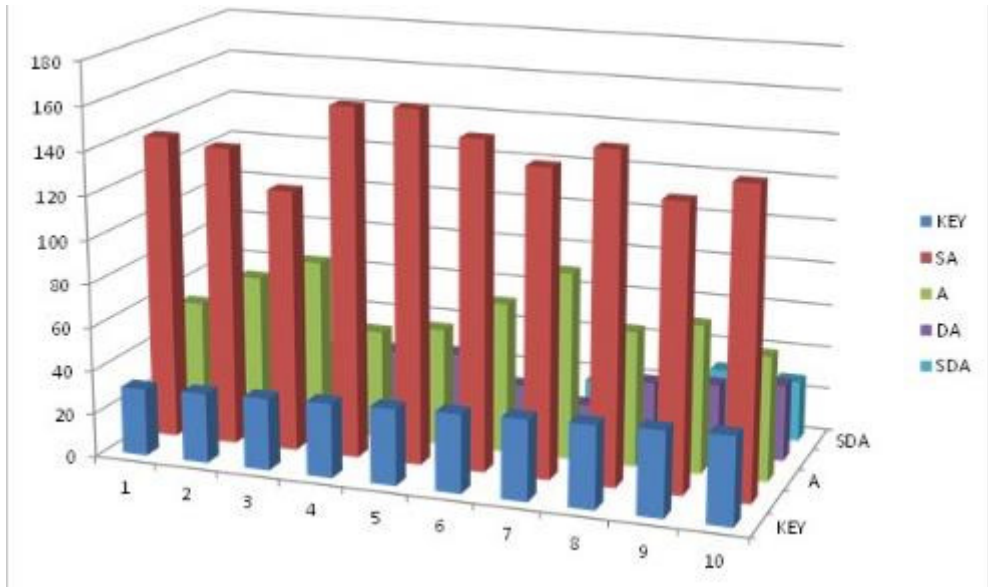

Figure 4: Bar graph showing the respondents' decision on facilities provided by government to enhance small scale business enterprises for employment and poverty alleviation

4. Results on Hypotheses Testing

4.1 Hypothesis One

There is no is no significant influence of financial support on youths' employment and poverty alleviation. the independent variable is financial support categorized as high, moderate and low financial support while the dependent variable youths' employment and poverty alleviation, measured continuously.

Table 5: Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) result on the influence of financial support on youth employment and poverty alleviation

Dependent variable	Financial constraint	Mean	Std. Dev	N		
Youths' employment	High	26.1557	6.93181	122		
	Moderate	25.6226	5.27048	53		
	Low	24.4118	2.54621	85		
	Total	25.8846	5.61181	260		
Poverty alleviation	High	25.7869	5.85250	122		
	Moderate	26.3396	5.11011	53		
	Low	25.0941	3.64373	85		
Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	Youths' employment	353.456[a]	2	176.728	5.821	.003
	Poverty alleviation	53.619[b]	2	26.809	1.041	.355
Intercept	Youths' employment	157450.442	1	157450.442	5185.741	.000
	Poverty alleviation	153570.038	1	153570.038	5964.027*	.000
Financial support	Youths' employment	353.456	2	176.728	5.821	.003
	Poverty alleviation	53.619	2	26.809	1.041	.355
Error	Youths' employment	7803.082	257	30.362		
	Poverty alleviation	6617.593	257	25.749		
Total	Youths' employment	182360.000	260			
	Poverty alleviation	178039.000	260			
Corrected Total	Youths' employment	8156.538	259			
	Poverty alleviation	6671.212	259			

0.05 level of significant

To test this hypothesis, Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was used and the result is presented in Table 5. The result showed that there is a significant influence of financial support on youths' employment (F=5.821, p< .05). Similarly, there is no significant influence of financial support on poverty alleviation (F=1.041, p>.05). Since p (.003) is less than p(.05), for financial support on youth employment , the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of financial support on youth employment is rejected. A post hoc analysis as carried and the result showed that those entrepreneurs who receives high financial supports (x=26.1557) are more prone to facilitating youth employment compared those who receives low financial support (x=24.4118). Similarly, those with moderate financial support (x=25.6226) also facilitate youths' employment more than those with low financial supports

4.2 Hypothesis two

There is no significant influence of capacity building programmes on youths' employment and poverty alleviation. The independent variable is capacity building programmes categorized as adequate, moderately adequate and not adequate capacity building programmes while the dependent variable youths' employment and poverty alleviation, measured continuously.

To test this hypothesis, Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was used and the result is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) result on the influence of capacity building programmes on youths' employment and poverty alleviation

Dependent variable	Capacity building (Binned)	Mean	Std. Deviation	N		
Youths employment	Not adequate	27.5283	5.76889	106		
	Moderately Adequate	27.1029	4.89026	68		
	Adequate	22.8953	4.73294	86		
	Total	25.8846	5.61181	260		
Poverty alleviation	Not adequate	26.3396	5.76506	106		
	Moderately Adequate	26.2059	4.86707	68		
	Adequate	24.4302	4.05126	86		
	Total	25.6731	5.07519	260		
Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	Youths employment	1155.786[a]	2	577.893	21.215	.000
	Poverty alleviation	199.239[b]	2	99.619	3.956	.020
Intercept	Youths employment	168038.867	1	168038.867	6168.764	.000
	Poverty alleviation	165659.397	1	165659.397	6578.283	.000
capacity	Youths' employment	1155.786	2	577.893	21.215*	.000
	Poverty alleviation	199.239	2	99.619	3.956*	.020
Error	Youths' employment	7000.753	257	27.240		
	Poverty alleviation	6471.973	257	25.183		
Total	Youths employment	182360.000	260			
	Poverty alleviation	178039.000	260			
Corrected Total	Youths employment	8156.538	259			
	Poverty alleviation	6671.212	259			

0.05 level of significant

The result in table 6 showed that there is a significant influence of capacity building programmes on youths' employment (F=21.215, p< .05). Similarly, there is no significant influence of capacity building programmes on poverty alleviation (F=3.956, p<.05). Since p (.003) is less than p (.05), for youth employment and poverty alleviation, the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of capacity building programmes on youth employment and poverty alleviation s rejected.

4.3 Hypothesis three

There is no significant influence of legislation practices   on youths' employment and poverty alleviation. The independent variable is legislation practices   categorized as adequate, moderately adequate and not adequate legislation practices while the dependent variable youths' employment and poverty alleviation, measured continuously.

To test this hypothesis, Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was used and the result is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) result on the influence of legislation practices on youths' employment and poverty alleviation

Dependent variable	Legislation (Binned)	Mean	Std. Deviation	N		
Youths employment	Not Adequate	28.1892	6.51504	111		
	Moderately Adequate	25.2286	3.84169	70		
	Adequate	23.2278	4.06974	79		
	Total	25.8846	5.61181	260		
Poverty alleviation	Not Adequate	26.4505	6.00718	111		
	Moderately Adequate	25.8857	3.96193	70		
	Adequate	24.3924	4.26500	79		
	Total	25.6731	5.07519	260		
Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	Youths employment	1177.270[a]	2	588.635	21.676	.000
	Poverty alleviation	199.813[b]	2	99.906	3.968	.020
Intercept	Youths employment	163395.470	1	163395.470	6016.767	.000
	Poverty alleviation	163749.379	1	163749.379	6503.013	.000
legislation	Youths employment	1177.270	2	588.635	21.676	.000
	Poverty alleviation	199.813	2	99.906	3.968	.020
Error	Youths employment	6979.269	257	27.157		
	Poverty alleviation	6471.399	257	25.181		
Total	Youths employment	182360.000	260			
	Poverty alleviation	178039.000	260			
Corrected Total	Youths employment	8156.538	259			
	Poverty alleviation	6671.212	259			
b. R Squared = .030 (Adjusted R Squared = .022)						

0.05 level of significant

The result showed that there is a significant influence of legislation practices on youths' employment (F=21.676, p< .05). Similarly, there is no significant influence of legislation practices on poverty alleviation (F=3.9678, p<.05). Since p (.000) is less than p (.05), for youth employment and poverty alleviation, the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of legislation practices on youth employment and poverty alleviation s rejected.

4.4 Hypothesis 4

There is no significant influence of provision of facilities on youths' employment and poverty alleviation. the independent variable is provision of facilities categorized as adequate, moderately adequate and not adequate legislation practices while the dependent variable youths' employment and poverty alleviation, measured continuously.

To test this hypothesis, Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was used and the result is presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) result on the influence of provision of facilities on youths' employment and poverty alleviation

Dependent variable	Provision of facilities	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	
Youths employment	Not Adequate	23.8796	4.08718	108	
	Moderately Adequate	25.8375	6.06389	80	
	Adequate	28.9444	5.76021	72	
	Total	25.8846	5.61181	260	
Poverty alleviation	Not Adequate	24.6389	3.99172	108	
	Moderately Adequate	25.6250	5.60148	80	
	Adequate	27.2778	5.54932	72	
	Total	25.6731	5.07519	260	
Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	Youths employment	1108.438[a]	2	554.219	20.209	.000
	Poverty alleviation	301.100[b]	2	150.550	6.074	.003
Intercept	Youths employment	173575.447	1	173575.447	6329.207	.000
	Poverty alleviation	168668.231	1	168668.231	6804.863	.000
facilities	Youths employment	1108.438	2	554.219	20.209	.000
	Poverty alleviation	301.100	2	150.550	6.074	.003
Error	Youths employment	7048.100	257	27.425		
	Poverty alleviation	6370.111	257	24.786		
Total	Youths employment	182360.000	260			
	Poverty alleviation	178039.000	260			
Corrected Total	Youths employment	8156.538	259			
	Poverty alleviation	6671.212	259			

0.05 level of significant

The result in table 8 showed that there is a significant influence of provision of facilities on youths' employment (F=20.209, p< .05). Similarly, there is no significant influence of provision of facilities on poverty alleviation (F=6.074, p<.05). Since p (.000) is less than p (.05), for youth employment and poverty alleviation, the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of provision of facilities on youth employment and poverty alleviation s rejected.

5. Discussion of the Findings

The study's findings indicate that financial assistance provided to small-scale entrepreneurs has the potential to create jobs and alleviate poverty. The finding implies that small and medium-sized enterprises are viewed as critical to Nigeria's growth, poverty alleviation, and unemployment. According to Akeke (2017), with a N20 million (6,349 USD) initial capital investment, the Federal Ministry of Industries launched the small-scale industry credit scheme ease in the federation's twelve states, which was matched by state governments in their annual budgets. According to Basil (2005), non-governmental enterprises provide credit to small and medium-sized businesses. Rural women's credit schemes, artisans' credit schemes, and community banks are just a few examples. The null hypothesis results in Table 5 revealed that financial assistance has no

significant influence on poverty alleviation (F = 1.041, p >.05). Because p (.003) is less than p (.05) for financial support on youth employment, the null hypothesis that financial support has no strong influence on youth employment is rejected. A post-hoc analysis revealed that entrepreneurs who receive high financial support (x = 26.1557) are more likely to facilitate youth employment than those who receive low financial support (x = 24.418). Similarly, moderate financial support (x = 25.6226) facilitates youth employment more than low financial support.

This study also found that capacity-building programs for small-scale entrepreneurs helped alleviate poverty among Nigerian youth and increase job creation. As a result, there is a need to promote such enterprises in developing economies such as Nigeria because they result in greater income and wealth distribution, economic self-sufficiency, entrepreneurial development employment, and a slew of other positive economic boosting factors. Table 6 shows that capacity building programs have a significant impact on youth employment (F = 21.215, p.05) when the null hypothesis is tested. Similarly, capacity-building programs have no effect on poverty alleviation (F = 3.956, p.05). Because p (.003) is less than p (.05), the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between youth employment and poverty alleviation is rejected.

The study's findings also revealed that the government's legislation and policies reengineered small-scale entrepreneurs for youth employment and poverty alleviation. Ajuluchukwu, Akeke, and Eleng (2021) disagree with this study, revealing that every business firm has a duty to adhere strictly to the policy framework as well as respond to changes in the environment. Nonetheless, despite the government's and other agencies' assistance to SSBs to improve their development, the sector's growth and development in Calabar and Nigeria in general have fallen short of expectations. Ajuluchukwu, Akeke, and Eleng (2021), whose research discovered, among other things, that economic conditions and economic policies have a significant impact on the development of small-scale businesses in Calabar. Table 7's null hypothesis result revealed that legislative practices have a significant influence on youth employment (F = 21.676, p.05). Similarly, legislative practices have no effect on poverty reduction (F = 3.9678, p.05). Because p (.000) is less than p (.05) for youth employment and poverty alleviation, the null hypothesis that legislative practices have no significant influence on youth employment and poverty alleviation is rejected.

The findings also revealed that the government provides small-scale entrepreneurs with facilities for youth employment and poverty alleviation in Cross River State and Nigeria in general. In agreement with Atah and Bessong (2018), facilities such as good markets, stores, security trucks, a good road network, and motor vehicles are imperative to enhancing small-scale businesses. They further stressed that if facilities are provided without an appropriate maintenance culture, it could enhance employment and alleviate poverty. The result of null hypothesis in table 8 shows that the provision of facilities has a significant influence on youth employment (F = 20.209, p.05). Similarly, the provision of facilities has no significant impact on poverty alleviation (F = 6.074,

p.05). Since p (.000) is less than p (.05), for youth employment and poverty alleviation, the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of the provision of facilities on youth employment and poverty alleviation is rejected.

6. Conclusion

According to the study's findings, all identified financial support, capacity-building programs, legislation policies, and provision of facilities to enhance enterprises for youth employment and poverty alleviation are reengineering programs that do not differ significantly.

7. Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:
1. Small-scale business entrepreneurs should take advantage of the financial support provided by the government to boost their businesses.
2. Small-scale businesses Entrepreneurs should make the best use of government capacity-building programs to grow their businesses.
3. Small-scale business entrepreneurs should ensure that facilities provided by the government to enhance their businesses are well protected and utilized effectively.

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