

## **Assessment How Entrepreneurship Education Enhance the Undergraduate Students in Acquisition of Skills Towards Career Development among Undergraduates in Imo State University, Owerri**

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### **Abstract**

The study deals with assessment how entrepreneurship education enhance the undergraduate students in acquisition of skills towards career development among undergraduates in Imo State University, Owerri. The descriptive survey design was used for the study on a target population of 7684 people. The sample size for the study was 384 determined through Nishat method of determining sample size. Multistage sampling technique was used to draw the sample for the study. Findings of the study include: both males and females of different age groups aged that all the stated facts in table 1 are ways entrepreneurship education can enhance skill acquisition for undergraduate career development Recommendations were proffered as follows: entrepreneurship courses should be made more practical for better understanding and increased impact, government should provide soft loans to young graduates with viable skills to encourage them take off in their studied career and so on.

**Keywords:** *entrepreneurship, education, undergraduate students, acquisition of skills, career development*

### **Introduction**

According to the World Bank<sup>1</sup>, the requirement for a country to have a good and advanced economy is that at least 4% of its citizens are entrepreneurs. Nigeria views education of her citizens as a means for the realization of her desires of having a strong and self-reliant nation. Moreover, the government sees the education of her citizens as a means of acquiring appropriate skills, abilities, competencies and the right type of values for their survival and the survival of the Nigerian society.

Entrepreneur (starting a business) calls for a strong commitment. People must have an intention to become entrepreneurs in order to be inspired to gain the necessary skills. This will increase awareness of entrepreneurship. One of the factors that determines whether a nation will become developed is the number of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial intents are ideas that motivate people to start their own firms. The foundation of raising a nation's civilizational level and standard of living is education. This is so that people who are prepared to compete on a national and international scale can be humanized as well as educated and skilled in their respective fields of

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study. This is partially caused by the increased dependence on graduates with advanced degrees. This is partly due to the great dependence of high education graduates on the job availability in which its population growth is very small compared to the college graduates rate per year. College graduates prefer to work as employees in the company or become government employees.<sup>2</sup> Only a few of them think of creating entrepreneurship or becoming entrepreneurs because of a lack of trust in skills and capital.<sup>3</sup> Ganefri & Hidayat are of the opinion that entrepreneurship education; self-efficacy also plays an important role in fostering student's entrepreneurial intention. One's self-efficacy is the choice of the ability to take action hence Self-efficacy is considered to be a reliable predictor of behavior that leads to a specific goal.<sup>4</sup>

## Methodology

### Study Design

Prospective cohort study design was adopted for the study.

### Study Area

This study was carried out in Imo state University, located in the heart of the cosmopolitan city of Owerri, Imo State-the Eastern Heartland.

### Population of Study

The population for this study consists of undergraduate students participating in entrepreneurship studies from the year 2018 to 2021 academic years at Imo state university. The university total admission for those years is 27,040. Two faculties were randomly selected for the study, the number of admitted students for the two faculties from 2018-2021 are 8136, of this number 2534 were males, while 5602 were females in Health and Social Sciences faculties.

### Sample Size Determination

The method stated by Nishat (2021) when the population is known.

Sample Size (n) =

$$\frac{\frac{Z^2 \times P(1-P)}{e^2}}{1 + \frac{Z^2 \times P(1-P)}{e^2 N}}$$

Where

N = Population  
 n = Sample Size  
 Z = Z – score  
 e = Marginal error  
 P = Standard deviation

$$n = 1 + \frac{\frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{0.05^2}}{\frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{(0.5^2)(8136)}}$$

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$$= \frac{3.8416 \times 0.25}{0.0025} + \frac{3.816 \times 0.25}{2034}$$

$$= \frac{0.9604}{0.0025} + \frac{0.0004690}{1}$$

$$= \frac{384.16}{1.0004690} = 384$$

Therefore **n = 384**

### Sampling Procedure

The sampling was done in stages. The first stage of the sampling involved simple random selection of two faculties out of eleven total faculties. The second stage involved the use of stratified sampling technique whereby the target population was split into two strata of undergraduates of faculty of Health sciences and that of social sciences. It also employed proportionate sample method to arrive at the sample size of each departments using simple random sampling of random number tables for both departments. The students were selected from 2018 to 2021 from each faculty to reflect the sample of 384 students of entrepreneurship education undergraduate.

### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

**Inclusion criteria:** Physical handpicking of students that are willing to participate, physically stable and alert at the time of the study and offers entrepreneurship in either of the two faculties.

**Exclusion criteria:** Exclusion of the students that are not offering entrepreneurship study, and are not physically stable and willing to participate in the study was done.

### Data collection Instrument

These are devices that were used to collect data systematically and in an objective manner while carrying out research. They include questionnaires. A multi sectioned questionnaire was used to collect data and the questionnaire was divided into five (5) sections which was include: Section A; made up of demographic data, section B was on the extent to which entrepreneurship education helped in the acquisition of skills relevant to student career development in the study area, section C is on the attitude of student towards entrepreneurship education, section D to ascertain the students view, on entrepreneurship education as regards to career development section E determine the students' performance level in entrepreneurship education in the study are and section E to determine the factors that affected entrepreneurship education to undergraduate

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students in the study area. In this study structured questionnaires were used to collect data from the respondents.

### Data Collection procedures

The researcher began to seek authority to conduct the research at Imo State University. The researcher sampled the respondents for actual data collection and distribute the questionnaires herself with the help of research assistants after due instructions to them on the objectives and procedures of the survey. This method allowed the students to clarify doubts and ask questions on spot and also provide an opportunity for the researcher to first explain the research topic and objectives and thus motivate the respondents to participate in the survey.

### Data Analysis

This is the process whereby the researcher interprets the data collected systematically in order to draw meaningful conclusion from it. Statistical package for social science (SPSS) was used. It showed measures of central tendency of the responses received.

Figures, charts, tables, frequencies and correlation were used to present the data. Correlation analysis was established to check the linear relationship between independent and dependent variables. Regression analysis was used to show whether the independent variable predicts the dependent variable.

### Ethical consideration

A letter of introduction was obtained from the Department of Nursing Sciences, Imo State University, Owerri and ethical approval from Imo State research ethical committee. Permission was gotten from the head of department of each of the departments. The expected time, purpose and nature of the study were explained for each of the participants. The collected data were entered into the computer without names, rather code numbers were used which was accessible to the researchers only for confidential purpose.

### Results

**Table 1: Mean responses on how entrepreneurship education enhances the students in skill acquisition for career development**

Acquisition for career development														
		Gender						Age						
		Male			Female			16-24			25 – above			
S/N	ITEMS	N	X	SD	N	X	SD	N	X	SD	N	X	SD	
1	Entrepreneurship education helps in the acquisition of necessary skills for self employment	176	2.7	.568	212	2.6	.626	176	2.7	.558	208	2.6	.638	
2.	In my institution, there are enough facilities for entrepreneurship education	172	2.6	.636	212	2.6	.628	176	2.6	.582	2.8	2.6	.669	
3.	In my institution, there are enough resources persons to teach entrepreneurial courses		2.6	.586		2.7	.594		2.6	.596		2.7	.585	

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4.	We take our courses in an entrepreneurial learning environment	2.6	.624	2.7	.682	2.6	.645	2.6	.668
5.	I am actually getting knowledge in my entrepreneurship course of study, which will help my career growth	2.5	.586	2.6	.632	2.6	.607	2.6	.618
6.	I have adequate training in my entrepreneurship course	2.6	.597	2.6	.595	2.6	.593	2.5	.606
7.	The content in the entrepreneurship education course is just okay for my chosen course	2.6	.676	2.6	.627	2.6	.681	2.7	.619
Cluster mean		2.6	.348	2.7	3.50	2.6	.351	2.7	.349

Table 1 shows the mean analysis on how entrepreneurship education can enhance the acquisition of skills towards career development by undergraduate students of Imo State University Owerri. Results shows that the mean scores for all the item statements in the table are all above the reference mean of 2.50 which implies agreement. This therefore means that both male and female students of different ages agreed that all the facts stated in table 1 above are ways entrepreneurship education can enhance skill acquisition for undergraduate career development, items 1,3,4 and 7 playing the major role. The average cluster men of 2.6 and 2.7 for gender responses and 2.6 and 2.7 for age is good indication of the above finding.

### Discussion

On how entrepreneurship education could enhance the undergraduates students' acquisition of skills towards career development due to age and gender, the findings reveal that both male and female students of different age groups agreed that all the stated facts in the table are possible ways entrepreneurship education could enhance skill acquisition for undergraduates' career development in the study area. Such ways according to the researchers instrument as stated and agreed upon by respondents include: entrepreneurship education helps in the acquisition of necessary skills for self-employment; there are enough facilities for entrepreneurship education as well as enough resource persons to teach entrepreneurial courses which eventually leads to adequate training in their entrepreneurship course of study, that the above made their entrepreneurship education course okay for the chosen career. The cluster mean of the table 1 confirms the above findings. However, the findings is similar to the study conducted by Idogho *et al*<sup>5</sup> on the extent to which entrepreneurship education introduced in tertiary institutions in Nigeria has impacted in students the entrepreneurship skills and intentions needed to set up a new business in Auchi Polytechnic and found out that there is a positive correlation between the variables and students who received instructions in e entrepreneurship education showed greater desire to set up small scale business after graduation. Nevertheless, the two studies differed in their study areas and sample sizes used.

### Conclusion

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The study has carefully surveyed the perception and determinants factors of entrepreneurship education on undergraduates career development in Imo State University, Owerri. In line with the findings and discussion made so far, the research has made some invaluable insight into some of the variables related to the perceptions and determinant factors of entrepreneurship education for career development on undergraduates of Imo State University, Owerri.

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