**IMPACT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTREPRISE DEVELOPMENT ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**SUBMITTED TO**

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**OCTOBER, 2024**

# DECLARATION

I, **Oniovosa Gloria Dayo** hereby declare that this project is the result of my research work, and that except for references to other related works which had been properly acknowledged, the work has neither in part nor in whole been presented elsewhere for the award of another certificate.

……………………… …………………………

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# APPROVAL

This project has been approved as meeting the requirement of the Department of Management Science, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) for the award of Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration

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# DEDICATION

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# ABSTRACT

Youth unemployment is one of the most cancerous problems inhibiting sustained economic growth and development in Nigeria. Youth unemployment has led to a lot of social vices. Prominent among them include internet and other frauds, kidnapping, armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, terrorism, political thuggery, among others. Bearing this in mind, this study, therefore, examines the roles of small and medium scale enterprises on youths’ empowerment in Nigeria. The specific objective is to examine the relationship between employment and empowerment among youths. Quantitative research design was adopted and the population of the study is 8000 while sample size is 381. This study used Taro Yamane’s formula to determine the sample size from the population, while a questionnaire was used to obtain data. The statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS version 25) was employed for data analysis. There is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria. Also, results reveal that the majority of respondents agreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises suggesting a very important role the government plays in promoting entrepreneurial development. Based on the findings, SMEDAN should ensure adequate publicity of the SMEs policy framework and programmes that complement entrepreneurship development and the transformation of the entire informal sector of the economy. In conclusion, although the study acknowledged the Nigerian Government’s commitment to youth empowerment and the development of the small business sector of the economy through the establishment of SMEDAN and the revised MSME policy, joblessness continues to bedevil the youth and unemployment continues to soar in society. Therefore, there is a need for the government of Nigeria to continue to make policies that would empower and have great impact on youths.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, development, empowerment, youth, enterprise development.

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# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Youth unemployment is one of the most cancerous problems inhibiting sustained economic growth and development in Nigeria. Youth unemployment has led to a lot of social vices. Prominent among them include internet and other frauds, kidnapping, armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, terrorism, political thuggery, among others ([Okoye et al., 2014](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)). It is a matter of fact that there are a lot of things in which large companies are experts while the small firms can better do some things also. If both, small and large firms do their business in which they get advantage, the welfare of the economy can be maximized and the state of specialization can be attained. Economists were of the view that it is a large firm, which participates actively in the economy and also shares a large amount of foreign exchange earnings. But their point of view changed when the countries like Taiwan, Japan and Korea developed their small and medium based business. It is crystal clear that these economies developed through the grass root level as small and medium enterprises belong to grass roots. Those who believe that the large firms are only responsible for economic growth should keep in mind that the small vendors and small suppliers contribute heavily in the production of large firms. The reality on ground is that small firms are held responsible for making large firms attain their targets.

Every country’s growth and development depends on the level of the resourcefulness of its citizens, majorly the youths ([Olajide & Akojenu, 2017](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)). This corresponds to the quality of the training levels and planned entrepreneurships’ development in the country in question. Growth and development could also be encouraged when youths in the society are gainfully employed and a rise in per capita income of the economy is seen. Job creation and also self-reliance of youths could be enhanced through deliberate government policies geared toward a functional entrepreneurial program. It is no gain saying that entrepreneurship is the antidote to unemployment problems in developing countries ([Olajide & Akojenu, 2017](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)).

However, empowering and preparing Nigerian youths to thrive well in the unstructured and uncertain nature of today’s entrepreneurship environment is not an easy task. Nigeria youths face a lot of challenges that can only be met if they are innovative, well-educated, and entrepreneurial citizens who have the spirit and inquisitiveness to think in new ways and the courage to meet and adapt to the challenges facing them in all facets of life ([Aja & Adali, 2013](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)).

Nigerian youths have recently been targeted and a lot of resources committed to their training and empowerment in various entrepreneurships by the Nigerian government through its various agencies, World Bank, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and even private sector philanthropists ([Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], 2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)).

Government through the CBN initiated and supported Entrepreneurship Development Centers (EDCs), launched the Microfinance Policy, Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Nigeria, introduced between 2006 and 2008 the NYSC sensitization, Venture Prize Competition, and NYSC Entrepreneurship Training Programmes, among others, to help empower the youths and diversify the economy ([CBN, 2012](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996)). It has also indulged in some programs such as Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWIN!), Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria (YISA), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P), Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Africa Youth Empowerment Nigeria (AYEN), Youth Entrepreneur Support Program (YES-P), and N-Power Empowerment Program.

Irrespective of all the above-mentioned policies and programs aimed at increasing youth employment and entrepreneurship development, hence leading to economic diversification, economic growth, and development, Nigeria still faces a lot of challenges toward creating sufficient job opportunities for her unemployed youths. The motivation for this study is to add to the growing literature on youth empowerment and entrepreneurship with the aim of examining whether empowering the youths has significantly contributed to entrepreneurship growth and hence lead to economic diversification in Nigeria through the application of Nigeria Enterprise Survey Data (2014) and multinomial logistic regression model. However, the study tends to examine the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Many scholars have written widely on entrepreneurship and its potency to generate employment, thus, underscoring the quintessence, significance and relevance of this sub-sector in the development of any given economy. The experiences of developed economies in relation to the roles played by entrepreneurship buttresses the fact that the importance of entrepreneurship cannot be overemphasized especially among the Developing Countries. In order to highlight its significance in relation to the growth and development of a given economy, entrepreneurship has been variously referred to as a “source of employment generation”. This is because Entrepreneurial activities have been found to be capable of making positive impacts on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people (Adejumo, 2010). Studies have established its positive relationship with stimulation of economic growth; employment generation; and empowerment of the disadvantaged segment of the population, which include women and the poor (Oluremi and Gbenga, 2011; Thomas and Mueller, 2000; Reynolds, 1987).

Given the importance of entrepreneurship in this regard, it is somewhat surprising that in recent times few researches are carried out about practical approaches in developing entrepreneurship in Nigeria in spite of the fact that entrepreneurship is the engine that remains the main engine that will push Nigeria's economy to its destination.

However, the challenge confronting entrepreneurship in the field of entrepreneurship is that of finding an appropriate and effective entrepreneurial approach that could produce and assist in the nurturing and achieving a call for change in the current approach in addressing the problems of entrepreneurial development in Nigeria.

In addition to the comparative lack of attention given to entrepreneurship in emerging economies, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is also a relative lack of diversity. In theoretical and practical approach to African entrepreneurship previous research that has explored the variation in entrepreneurial activities in Nigeria has focused on the standard economic and infrastructural factor as Gross Domestic Product and Direct Fund Investment  and education. These are meaningful variables and provide scholars with a baseline knowledge about entrepreneurship. However, these factors fail to adequately take non-economic factors into consideration. Hence, the need to study practical approaches that would help in addressing challenges of unemployment and economic development among the youth in Nigeria.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria.

Specific objectives include;

1. To examine the roles of youths empowerment on small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria
2. To examine the prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.
3. To examine the relationship between employment and empowerment in the government and entrepreneurs.

## 1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the roles of youth empowerment in small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria?
2. What are the prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria?
3. What is the relationship between employment and empowerment in the government and entrepreneurs?

## 1.5 Research Hypotheses

**H0**: There is no significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria

**H1**: There is no significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria

**H2**: There is no relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneur

## 1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will be beneficial to entrepreneurship development- the youth,- can utilize the findings of the research as a basis for policy formulation regarding entrepreneurship development.

It is also worthy to note that the study can be used as a basis for further research, as the research can be used as a springboard for further research as well as a good reference material to students undertaking similar research.

## 1.7 Scope of the Study

This study is on the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria.

The study is carried out in the Lagos metropolis only.

The study will make use of both primary and secondary data. Questionnaires will be distributed and used to find out the correlation between small and medium scale enterprises development and youth empowerment.

## 1.8 Definition of Terms

**Small and Medium Scale Enterprise:** Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries

**Youth Empowerment:** a process where people gain the ability and authority to make informed decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people. It is a means of encouraging youths to do great things for themselves and also to make great impact in their society

## 1.8. Organization of the study

The study comprises five chapters which are chapter one; background to the study, the statement of the problem, the research questions, research objectives, research hypotheses, significance of the study, the scope and the organization of the study. Chapter two comprises the literature review, conceptual clarification, theoretical review and empirical review. Chapter three is on the methodology and chapter four is on presentation and analysis the final chapter is the summary, conclusion and recommendation

# CHAPTER TWO

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents research findings related to the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria. This study will help in the critical appraisal which may contribute with regard to design appropriate methodology. Keeping in mind these objectives, the researcher reviewed literature in order to obtain information and the status of work being done in this area. Therefore, literature from various sources was extensively reviewed in the light of the present investigation.

## 2.2 Conceptual Framework

The general overview of the concepts and related concepts are justifiably explained in this section. Literatures of reliable authors are duly reviewed to satisfy this objective.

**2.2.1 Concept of Small and Medium Scale Enterprise/Entrepreneurship**

The word entrepreneur is derived from the French word “entreprendre” meaning “to undertake”. The definition of an entrepreneur has evolved over time as the world’s economic structure has changed and become more complex. Since its beginning in the middle ages, when it was used in relation to specific occupations, the notion of the entrepreneur has been refined and broadened to include concepts that are related to the person rather than the occupation. Jean-Baptiste, an aristocratic industrialist, with his unpleasant practical experiences developed the concept of entrepreneur a little further which survived for almost two centuries. According to him, an entrepreneur is one who combines the land of one, the labor of another, and capital of yet another, and thus, produces a product. By selling the product in the market, he pays interest on capital, rent on land and wages to laborers and what remains is his/her profit.

The entrepreneur has been described by Collins OF,. Moore DG, Unwalla DB (2014) as a “risk taker” – a person who braves uncertainty, strikes out on his own through native wit, devotion to duty and singleness of purpose somehow creates an industry where none existed before. Essentially, an entrepreneur fills in the people, financing production and marketing gaps by acquiring and assembling the necessary resources into newly created form (Baun, 1975). But foremost, the entrepreneur is able to recognize the potentially profitable opportunities, to conceptualize the venture strategy and to become the key force in success, fully moving the idea from the mind to the marketplace (Frankford, 1975).

Entrepreneurship is the process of giving birth to a new enterprise. Entrepreneurship is what entrepreneurs do. The term “entrepreneur” was first used by the early 18th century French economist Richard Cantillon who defined the entrepreneur as the “agent who buys means of production at certain prices in order to combine them” into a new product (Schumpeter; 1951; Burnett, 2010). Schumpeter (1950) added to Cantillon‟s definition by including the idea that entrepreneurs had to be leaders claiming that an entrepreneur is one who brings other people together in order to build a single productive organism.

Drucker (1970), entrepreneurship is about taking risks. The behavior of the entrepreneur reflects a kind of person willing to put his or her career and financial security on the line and take a risk in the name of an idea, spending much time as well as capital on an uncertain venture. Badi et al. (2006) defined entrepreneur as a person with vision, original idea, decision-making and daring to try. The entrepreneur is also an investor who brings in new ideas, new commodities, and new processes and encourages his team in the new activities. For Scarborough and Zimmerer (2010), an entrepreneur is “a person who creates a new business in the face of risk and uncertainty for the purpose of achieving profit and growth by identifying opportunities and assembling the necessary resources to capitalize on them”. “Entrepreneurship is the creation of a new business venture and a new organization for that venture” (Stoner, 2010). Gana (2011) defines entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities in an environment, and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunities. Though Gana’s definition was based on the managerial perspective, it is important to mention that the entrepreneur has certain personality traits which influence his behavior (psychologists view). He also lives in a society (sociologist view) and he is obviously affected by the economic opportunities and government incentives (economist view). Gana therefore cautioned that any attempt to describe the entrepreneur against only one dimension will be inadequate and would not give a holistic view of who the entrepreneur is.

According to Burnett (2010), throughout the theoretical history of entrepreneurship, scholars from multiple disciplines in the social sciences have grappled with a diverse set of interpretations and definitions to conceptualize this abstract idea.

Over time, “some writers have identified entrepreneurship with the function of uncertainty bearing, others with the coordination of productive resources, others with the introduction of innovation, and still others with the provision of capital” (Hoselitz, 1952). Burnett then concluded that even though certain themes continually resurface throughout the history of entrepreneurship theory, presently there is no single definition of entrepreneurship that is accepted by all or that is applicable in every economy. Mbaegbu reported that Inegbenebor and Osaze (2019) have differentiated various grades of entrepreneurs on a continuum from craftsman entrepreneurs to opportunistic entrepreneurs. According to Inegbenebor, the craftsman entrepreneur generally establishes his own self-employed business which could be a micro enterprise or a small/ medium enterprise. The number of outside people he employs depends on the size of the enterprise. The opportunistic entrepreneur on the other hand has the potential of establishing a business and growing it into a large scale bureaucratic corporation employing hundreds of people. Thus, our most appropriate and adopted definition is a combination of three different definitions, wherein, entrepreneurship can be defined as a force that mobilizes other resources to meet unmet market demand (Jones, 1983); the ability to create and build something from practically nothing (Timmons, 1989); that is the process of creating value by pulling together a unique package of resources to exploit an opportunity (Stevenson and Gumpert, 2015). Mbaegbu (2018) submitted that there is, therefore, no “one-best” definition for the entrepreneur: He however stated, “anyone who creates a business, establishes it, and nurses it to growth and profitability or takes over an existing business because the founder is dead or has sold it, or who inherited it and continues to build and innovate on it, or a man who runs a franchise, qualifies as an entrepreneur in our usage” (Nwachukwu, 1990). The bottom line is a career in self-employment and profiting from self-employment.

## 2.2.3 Types of Entrepreneurs

Clarence Dangof made the classification of entrepreneurs as follows on the basis of his study.

**1. Innovating Entrepreneurs:-** He introduces new goods, inaugurates new methods of production and discovers new markets.

**2. Imitative Entrepreneurs: -** these are characterized as very great Caution and skepticism in experimenting any change in their enterprises.

**3. Fabian Entrepreneurs: -** they take very great caution and skepticism in experimenting any change in their enterprises.

**4. Drone Entrepreneurs: -** they are characterized by a refusal to adopt even at the cost of several reduced returns relative to other producers.

Other types of entrepreneurs include Solo Operators, Active partners, inventors, challengers, buyers and life timers etc. Nwachukwu (1990) stated that an average Nigerian thinks of owning business of his own but never fulfills the desire. Only very few actually begin a going enterprise or actualize their dreams.

## 2.2.4 Characteristics of Entrepreneurship Business

**Creativity:** this is the spark that drives the development of new products or services or ways to do business. It is the push for innovation and improvement. It is continuous learning, questioning, and thinking outside of prescribed formulas.

**Dedication:** this is what motivates the entrepreneur to work hard, 12 hours a day or more, even seven days a week, especially in the beginning, to get the endeavor off the ground. Planning and ideas must be joined by hard work to succeed. Dedication makes it happen.

**Determination:** is the extremely strong desire to achieve success. It includes persistence and the ability to bounce back after rough times. It persuades the entrepreneur to put extra effort. For the true entrepreneur, money is not the motivation. Success is the motivator, money is the reward.

**Flexibility:** is the ability to move quickly in response to changing market needs. It is being true to a dream while also being mindful of market realities.

**Leadership**: is the ability to create rules and set goals. It is the capacity to follow through to see that rules are followed and goals are accomplished.

**Passion**: is what gets entrepreneurs started and keeps them there. It gives entrepreneurs the ability to convince others to believe in their vision. It can’t substitute for planning, but it will help them focus and get others to look at their plans.

**Self-confidence:** this comes from through planning, which reduces uncertainty and the level of risk. It also comes from expertise. Self-confidence gives the entrepreneur the ability to listen without being easily swayed or intimidated.

**Smartness:** consist of common sense joined with knowledge or experience in a related business or endeavor. The former gives a person good instincts, the latter, expertise.

## 2.2.5 Roles of Entrepreneurs in the Nigerian Economy

The role of entrepreneurs in economic development involves increasing per capita output and income Initiating and constituting change in the structure of business and society; this change is accompanied by Growth and increased output. Entrepreneurship facilitates the use of local raw materials and other Resources. Being relatively labour intensive, enterprise creates substantial employment opportunities at low capital cost and being resilient, flexible, can better adapt to unexpected changes in the economic and financial environments. In agreeing with this, Okonkwo (1993) contended that the industrial future of Nigeria depends critically on the twin pillars of a stable macroeconomic environment based on a foundation of proactive partnership between government and the public sector. Paying more taxes which enable the government to provide basic amenities, mobilize savings and investments, dispersal of industries, competition globally and earning foreign exchange for the economy (Onuoha, 2015).

Stimulation of indigenous entrepreneurship in developing countries like Nigeria is made possible. Private individuals or groups are afforded the opportunity to manage the businesses with minimal resources requirement. Chuta (2014) mentions that investment in small businesses help to transform the traditional sector. It modernizes the people’s perception of life and introduces the use of machines instead of manual labour. Again, the skills of men are modernized and synchronized with development in the new industrial sector. Another function of entrepreneurs in Nigeria’s economy is creation of employment. In Nigeria of today, the government cannot provide 100% employment for the citizens entrepreneurship has helped many to be gainfully employed. It helps to reduce the unemployment problem in the country i.e., the root of all socio-economic problems. It leads to wealth creation.

Furthermore, utilization of resources is being accomplished. Resources that might end up to be idle in the hands of people are effectively mobilized (capital, skills etc.) and employed productively. More so, it also induces backward and forward linkages which stimulate the process of economic development in the country. It helps to link up various sectors of the economy. It constitutes the market for Agriculture extractive and industrial outputs. Also, it helps in diversifying economic activities but also in saving foreign exchange for their mother country. It helps reduce the concentration of economic power, stimulates economic equitable redistribution of wealth, income and even political power in the interest of the country. It contributes to regional activity and cooperation. It promotes Nigeria’s export trade, and a reasonable quantity of products or services from Nigeria are sold in other countries. Trade among member states of ECOWAS is expanding. Good trades Relationship (import and export) are being fostered due to the factor of comparative cost advantage.

According to Baumback (2012), he states that some of the economic contributions of entrepreneurs include

1. ***Interdependence of business: -***No business is an entity on its own which does not interact. It must buy from other firms and sell either to different firms or customers in competition.
2. ***Maintenance of competition:-***in a dynamic environment or an age of rapid change, a globalized world, competition can be the vehicle of change, through innovation or through improvement. Competition is needed to preserve a system of free and independent enterprise. Competitive capitalism ensures freedom of enterprise which provides for individual creativity as well as a livelihood for a large segment of the population. Innovation is, new idea generation, inventions, improvement are needed to remain in a global world. There is a Japanese proverb which says “Fall seven times.” It means innovation is required to remain competitive which are all needed to develop the economy.
3. ***Rural-Urban migration:-***by providing employment for rural areas will reduce the incidence of urban migration.
4. ***Better Standard of living:-***increase in demand in supply of large quantities of goods and services as a result of numerous economic activities will in turn result in a better standard of living for the people (Osuala, 1993).

Entrepreneurship as a distinct factor of production contributes to the economic development of an economy in many significant ways as mentioned above. The overall role of entrepreneurship in economic development of an economy is put as “an economy is the effect for which entrepreneurship is the cause.”

## 2.2.6 Challenges of Entrepreneurship.

According to John and Mary (2016), entrepreneurship has a lot of challenges. Nigeria entrepreneurship is faced with several constraints which limit its development. Among these constraints is financial or capital shortage, infrastructure problems, technology, organizational constraints, inadequate or lack of skilled manpower, competition from imported goods and poor administration of government assisted programmes, inadequate information as to business opportunities, inadequate capital, substandard goods, anxiousness for profit etc. These problems have great potentials of affecting business operations.

**Inadequate capital**: Inadequate capital is one of the problems encountered by entrepreneurs. As a result of insufficient capital, entrepreneurs are not able to carry out all the beautiful projects /ideas that they may have formulated. Borrowing from banks and other institutions has not been very easy as very stringent conditions are required for the entrepreneurs. This has greatly affected business development.

**Lack of awareness of business opportunities:** Most often, entrepreneurs are not aware of business opportunities available to them. This is because most entrepreneurs do not know how to seek business opportunities. Rather than seek information from the Chambers of Commerce, Ministry of Trade and Industry, foreign and technical partners etc, most entrepreneurs depend on their intuition and what is obtained within their immediate environment, which may not be enough.

**Production of substandard goods:** As a matter of fact, most entrepreneurs are in the habit of producing substandard goods. This is because they may not have the technical know-how or the resources to make better products. The implication is that market is saturated with poorly produced goods and the consumers are left at the mercy of the entrepreneurs for profit;

**Quest for high profit:** The quest for high profit can be said to be responsible for the nonchalant attitude of most entrepreneurs. Because they seek high profits, most entrepreneurs resort to reducing standards and quality of their products. The effect of this is that, the average consumers would prefer imported products not minding the high cost compared to the locally produced ones.

**Management control:** The employment of incompetent and low quality staff can affect the features of a business. When a worker is incompetent, his output would surely be poor. Most entrepreneurs have no effective control over their workers due to the fact that most of the employees are well known to them. It must be stated that there is no sentiment in business. An entrepreneur should be very firm in the running of his business as the success or failure of the business depends largely on his abilities.

**Government policies:** Most times, the government came up with certain policies that may not be in the interest of the entrepreneurs. This could either be in the form of restriction on certain key raw materials or outright ban, withdrawal of subsidies; increase in taxes etc. These policies can affect business operations.

**Falling economic trends:**The prevailing economic trends in any given country have the potential of affecting business activities. These include inflation, price change, market demand etc. An increase or decrease in each of these variables can affect business operations as well as the fortunes of entrepreneurs.

According to Henry-Phillip (2011), other problems or challenges faced by citizen’s participation in entrepreneurial development in Nigeria are as follows:-

1. Lack of proper planning

2. Lack of finance

3. Poor management

These are the obvious ones but the non-obvious ones are:-

1. Improper assessment of self, local operations

2. Political and religious crisis

3. Use of obsolete equipment

4. Misapplication of business finance to other areas

5. Too much family interference (cultural barriers)

6. Lack of infrastructural facilities such as good road link

7. Lack of incentives and protection

8. Multiple taxation and other economic levies, at all tiers of government (Federal, State, local level)

9. Lack of inadequate collateral security Research has shown that entrepreneur’s coordinate other factors of production (Land, Capital, Labour); therefore, he must to a large extent believe in his desires.

## 2.2.7 Recent Development of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

The role of government in entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant only after the Nigeria civil war (1967-70). Since the mid-1980s there has been an increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development especially after the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 2016. Added to this is the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN) (Thaddeus, 2012). Fundamentally the Nigerian government promotes entrepreneurial culture through initiatives that build business confidence, positive attitude, pride in success, support and encouragement of new ideas, social responsibility, providing technological supports, encouraging inter-firm linkages and promotion of research and development.

In the early 2010s, entrepreneurship studies were introduced into the Nigerian educational system especially in higher institutions as a mandatory course. The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), which has the objective of teaching and encouraging students of higher institutions (especially in science, engineering and technological (SET)) to acquire entrepreneurial, innovative, and management skills, was established. The Centre’s goal is to make the graduates self-employed, create job opportunities for others and to generate wealth (Thaddeus, 2012). He continued that entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant only after the Nigerian civil war. At the end of the war the 2nd National Development Plan focused on the development of the 3Rs objectives of Reconstruction, Re-development and Reconciliation. The activities in the plan challenged/tasked the ingenuity and inventive skill of the individuals. This early period witnessed an economic development ideology of industrialization as the ultimate source of economic growth, and industrialization itself as the product of technical progress and investment. Technical progress or capital growth on the other hand is seen to be a function of, and the result of, entrepreneurial effort. In particular, evidence from the developed world indicates that economic growth is entirely due to the quality and efficiency of the entrepreneur.

Thus, after independence in 1960 there was the need by the government of Nigeria to promote indigenous entrepreneurs. The Government never loses sight of the tripartite relationship between entrepreneurship, industrialization and economic growth. Entrepreneurship is often carried out by micro and small scale businesses and therefore SMEDAN’s focus is on the development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) where it coordinates and integrates MSME activities in order to develop their full potential and competitiveness (Thaddeus, 2012). In the past forty years or so, the government had established various support institutions specially structured to provide succor and to assist SMEs to contend with some of the hurdles.

## 2.2.8 Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

In the study of unemployment in Nigeria, Adebayo (2019), Alanana (2013), Echebiri (2015), Morphy (2018 and Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) have identified the main causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The first is the rapidly growing urban labour force arising from rural urban migration. Rural-urban migration is usually explained in terms of push-pull factors. The push factors include the pressure resulting from man-land ratio in the rural areas and the existence of serious underemployment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate. The factors are further exacerbated in Nigeria by the lack of infrastructural facilities, which makes rural life unattractive. Youths move to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries. In addition to this, there is the concentration of social amenities in the urban centers. This means that the rural areas are neglected in the allocation of social and economic opportunities.

The second is the rapid population growth. Going by the 2006 census in Nigeria, the nation’s population was put at 140,431,790 and projections for the future indicate that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020, given the annual growth rate of 3.2 percent (National Population Commission and ICF Macro, 2019). With this population, Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa. It is argued that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force, which is far outstripping the supply of jobs. The accelerated growth of population on Nigeria’s unemployment problem is multifaceted. It affects the supply side through a high and rapid increase in the labour force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy.

The third is the outdated school curricula and lack of employable skills. Some scholars and commentators have argued that as far as the formal sector is concerned, the average Nigeria graduate is not employable and, therefore, does not possess the skills needed by the employers of labor for formal employment. After all, employers do not need people to pay or spend their money on but people that will help their organization grow and make more profit as the primary goal of every enterprise is to make profit. Often, this is attributed to Nigeria's education system, with its liberal bias. The course contents of most tertiary education in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial contents that would have enabled graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Ordinarily, this should not have been a problem, but the reality is that the Nigerian economy is too weak to absorb this large number of graduates (Utomi, 2011). Further, there is no vibrant manufacturing sector which has the capacity to absorb unemployed youths in Nigeria, as there are over 800 collapsed industries in Nigeria and over 37 factories have closed shops in 2019. About half of the remaining operating firms have been classified as “ailing,” a situation that poses a great threat to the survival of manufacturing in the country in the next few years.

## 2.2.9. Relevant Skills Acquisition Programme in Nigeria

Various programs have been initiated in the past by both military and civilian administration and corporate bodies in the country aimed at skill acquisition, self-reliance, job creation, poverty eradication, food adequacy, wealth creation, youth empowerment and reduction of crime in the\ social society. The success rate of these programmes could be better imagined than discussed.

The relevance of skill acquisition cannot be relegated in any nation. There is a great need to develop skilled personnel to update relevant skills to meet the requirements in the world of work. Looking at skill acquisition from industrial development, there is a need for training programmes for persons of all working ages to help meet demands for new skills and adaptation to changes in industrial structure. The graduates in different fields are roaming the streets of Nigeria as a result of lack of entrepreneur, technical and vocational skills necessary for employment as skilled personnel. An important issue of skill development in Nigeria is to ensure that human resources are developed to such an extent that the achievement of desired rates of technological change will not be impeded through lack of personnel with suitable and functional skills for the world of work. Okorie (2010) made it clear that the country’s strive for industrial development also means that more well trained managers and technicians are needed to adequately manage the problems which are likely to arise mainly because of shortage of personnel with long industries.

## 2.2.10 Employment Creation

Nigeria is currently witnessing some of the worst scenarios of joblessness especially of her productivity populace who come out of former educational training without any sustainable hope of gaining credible and well paying jobs. for millions of Nigeria youth , finding good and satisfying jobs is as difficult as finding white falcons thereby exposing a lot of these young person’s to varying degrees of crimes even as those of them that are decent enough to turn down tempting offers from crime lords have decided to emigrate to God knows where in search of greener pastures. Successful federal and state administrations have all but failed to take concrete and credible measures to create a sustainable environment for the millions of youth to become employers of labor rather than jobless youth in search of the elusive white collar jobs.

With increase rate of insecurity and high crime rate all across the country coupled with the systemic failure of both the federal and state administrators in the country to fix the largely dilapidated and grossly non-functional infrastructure so as to create the enabling environment for willing entrepreneurs with capital to set up cottage industries that would create job opportunities to the jobless youth, the need to search for better ways of creating credible employment opportunities for the teeming army of unemployed Nigerians has become the number one national security interest.

Knowledgeable sources have over the years found out that the population of every economy is divided into two categories, the economically active and the economically inactive. The economically active population (labor force) or working population according to economists, refers to the population that is willing and able to work, including those actively engaged in the production of goods and services (employed) and those who are unemployed.

Whereas, unemployed persons in the considered view of economic experts, refers to people who are willing and capable of work but unable to find suitable paid employment and those who have voluntarily left work (Word bank, 2018).

The next category, the economically inactive population refers to people who are neither working nor looking for jobs. Examples include housewives, full time students, and invalids, those below the age of legal work, old and retired persons. The unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons available for employment at any time (Briggs, 1973).

Unemployment is a problem that each society faces, especially Nigeria as a nation, and each society must find a way to beat it. The question that however begs for an acceptable and scientifically accurate answer is whether the Nigeria Government is committed to find a solution to this hydra headed monster of unemployment? How far has the Federal Government gone towards creating credible job opportunities for the millions of jobless youth in Nigeria?

How have the 36 states of the federation and the federal capital territory searched for a sustainable panacea to the vicious cycle of youth unemployment in their domains? Has the Federal ministry of youth done enough to create job opportunities and/ or even effectively coordinated efforts aimed at creating the enabling environment for youth employment in both the private and the public sector? Only recently when the Federal House of Representatives committees on labor and productivity visited the Federal Ministry of labor it was discovered that the necessary financial releases meant for job creation have not been effectively released and utilized. It is also a notorious fact that the presidential offices of Millennium Development Goals and the so-called National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) have all but failed to galvanize national effort towards creation of credible job opportunities for the millions of unemployed Nigerian youth.

How to create credible jobs in Nigeria has therefore become imperative and this is precisely what we have set out to hazard a guess hoping that the federal and state administration in Nigeria would pay attention and provide these job opportunities so that Nigeria would once more become peaceful and productive because any nation that neglects her youth sector is doomed. Government can do a lot. The only problem is that in our country Nigeria we always wait for things to happen before action is taken. Experts through their scholarly findings have severely suggested and we agree that the Government can create credible jobs through the value chain in mineral exploitation, small and medium enterprises, by creating local demand and empowering local producers. The leading economies of the word today laid the economic foundation in small and medium enterprises. In fact, the strength of the American economy is in small and medium enterprises. This conclusion by scholars of repute is indisputable because even the British Government understands the strength of small and medium scale enterprises making it possible for the United kingdom’s economy to withstand the ongoing global economic downturn which has adversely affected some European economies like Italy, Spain and Greece.

We have also discovered that Nigerians will gain a lot if they are empowered to acquire modern skills of information technology and since Nigeria is arguably the largest market in the black world; the youth can look for ways of developing their innate skills and talents to become writers or copywriters for others. From our extensive research we found out that for people that can write and enjoy doing so, rendering services as writers on the internet is one sure way to create a credible job in Nigeria. As they say, contests are the “king of the internet”. There is no business that can survive on the internet without providing contests for its potential customers. A copy writer is an expert in writing advertisement texts that woo people to buy products and services.

We have also found out that education is the key to sustainable job creation all across the country. Government must rebuild the moribund educational facilities, engage quality and skillful teachers, equip the schools in the rural and urban areas with comprehensive sporting facilities to catch talented sports persons in their prime because sports have become big business and a big employer of labour internationally. Nigeria must leverage on the enormous talents that abound among our youth, develop these sporting talents. In this direction, the education sector has a strategic role to play in creating the necessary skills that would enable the youth to become creators of jobs and not just job seekers. (Emanuel O. & Nneka O, 2012).

## 2.3 Theoretical Framework

### Schumpeter’s Theory

According to Meir and Baldwin (1986), this approach was developed by David Alois Schumpeter in 1934. The theory identified innovation as a function specific to all entrepreneurs, suggesting that the entrepreneur undertakes new combinations of the existing factors of production in any of the following ways:

1. The introduction of a new good

2. The use of a new method of production

3. The opening of a new market

4. The exploitation of a new source of raw material supply

5. The reorganization of any industry. In the Schumpeterian general theory, economic development occurs through a dynamic process of boom and depression (Business cycle) and therefore, economic development in the Schumpeterian model is an uneven and disharmonious process that ebbs and flows like the waves at the seaside. The determinants of entrepreneurship in the model according to Higgins (1978) can be symbolically summarized as follows:

E = E (Rx)……………………………… (1)

X = x(R/w)…………………………… (2)

Where, E = supply of entrepreneurship R = profit (return on investment) x = social climate w = wage level R/w = Ratio of profit to wages Therefore the supply of entrepreneurship by this equation is a function of the rate of profit and the “social climate”. Which means a vibrant profitable economy encourages entrepreneurship while a depressed economy discou-rages entrepreneurship. Mbagbu (2018) explained that the social climate includes the educational system, the social values, the class structure, the nature and extent of prestige and other rewards that accompany business success, and the attitude of society towards business success (Higgins, 1978). By this theory a pragmatic philosophy of education that is qualitative and purposeful, that encourages skills acquisition; self-reliance and self-employment will increase the pool of entrepreneurship.

## 2.4.2 Druker’s Creative Imitation Theory

According to Druker (2015), entrepreneurs in LDCs are not truly innovators in the traditional Schumpeterian sense. They rarely produce brand new products rather they imitate the products and production processes that have been invented mostly by the developed countries. To Druker, therefore, entrepreneurship in LDCs is “Creative Imitation”. This takes place when the imitators better understand how an innovation can be applied, used or sold in their particular market niches, to wit, their own countries and neighbors. Mbaegbu (2018) opined that in Nigeria this brand of entrepreneurship abound in the South East among the Ibos as revealed by Nafziger (1967) and Harris (1967). These brands of entrepreneurs imitate and adapt products of innovation. To Druker, what underscores entrepreneurship is change “The entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it and exploits it as an opportunity” (Druker, 1986).

## 2.4.3 The economic survival theory

This theory posits that entrepreneurship is prevalent among people affected by political upheavals or people victimized by discrimination or oppressed by marginalization. Thus it is possible for people who have lost their jobs to corporate downsizing to become entrepreneurs. They do this not by choice but by sheer will to survive. Mbaegbu (2018) argued that having lost their means of livelihood, these people now channel their creative energies to entrepreneurship, usually after the initial period of inertia and despondency. A phenomenon that Gilder (1981) refers to as the movement from poverty to wealth.

## 2.4.4 Inkele’s and Smith’s need to improve theory

Mbaegbu (2018) also reported that Inkeles and Smith (1975) have identified a disposition to accept new ideas and try new methods, a time sense that makes a person more interested in the present and future than in the past as attitudes which directly or indirectly affect entrepreneurship development. Meir (1976) collaborated on this theory by arguing that entrepreneurs show more exploratory behavior than other persons. They are continually researching the environment on how to move forward. In Nigeria the Ibo race is cited as correlating these attributes with greater success in economic activity as the Igbos’ travel to any part of the world for material success (Meir, 1976). Harbison and Myers (2014) had reported a correlation as high as 0.82 between the level of entrepreneurial activity and education. With regard to the effect of family structure; Onwuejeogwu (1987) has demonstrated how the influence of the extended family system in apprenticeship training among the Igbo has impacted positively on entrepreneurship development among the people: A successful business man picks up a nephew or a young cousin and puts him under internship for some years in his own line of business until he is able to freelance on his own with seed (Mbaegbu, 2018).

## 2.4.5 Kirzner’s theory of “entrepreneurship alertness”

Kirzner (2014) focuses on “entrepreneurial alertness” to available, but as yet unnoticed opportunities. The essence of alertness theory is that someone is endowed with the trait to recognize something others have failed to recognize; that there is an opportunity waiting to be exploited. Kirzner believes that this alertness is a trait successful entrepreneurs have. The use of entrepreneurial development to generate employment, economically empower the people, reduce poverty and propel economic growth was postulated by Friedman (1953) based on an earlier General Theory of Employment by Keynes in 1938. The economic policy direction encapsulated in the Nigeria Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) I & II has entrepreneurship development as its focal point. Entrepreneurship development aims at equipping the youth and school leavers especially the graduates of tertiary institutions with skills to create jobs for them-selves and other people instead of hunting for non-existing jobs from the public sector.

Iguisi (2018) posits that large firms have been down-sizing employment in order to maintain competitiveness. By contrast, it has been small businesses that have created more jobs worldwide. Iguisi (2018) went on to submit that small businesses have become important economic factors in the struggle against poverty and Under-development in most parts of Africa. This development, he added, is taking place in response to the continuing economic crisis and ensuing political and economic reforms of the 21st century. He then concluded that a great number of the local population are now eking out a living from their own entrepreneurial efforts in what can be called small scale business activities with greater intensity to combat the growing economic crisis and deterioration in their standard of living. In his view, Kelechi (2012) stated that the prevalence of unemployment, underemployment, high competition in the labour market and the frustration of job seekers cannot be overemphasized. This, therefore, has created the need for re-orientation of undergraduates from being job seekers to job-creators.

## 2.4 Empirical Review

[Ukpong and George (2012)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996) looked at the relationship that exists between socioeconomic development and youth empowerment in Akwa Ibom State. Utilizing survey data generated from 5000 “socioeconomic development and job creation questionnaire” and applying the Pearson product-moment correlation, it was found that foreign investments and industrialization have failed to provide meaningful jobs to majority of youths in Akwa Ibom State and credit facilities create jobs for the unemployed youths in Akwa Ibom State. It was recommended among others that youth empowerment programs should be carried out by government and NGOs while seminars on entrepreneurial development need to be conducted often for them.

[Aja and Adali (2013)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996) tried to study how youth empowerment could be achieved through entrepreneurial education in Nigerian universities using empirical literature review method and no data. It was found by the study that there is no educational degree requirement to become an entrepreneur but they have a great diversity of personal traits and are willing to take risks for profit. It was recommended by the study that entrepreneurial education be addressed in tertiary levels and incorporated at all levels of education to enhance the achievement of the desired goal of self-reliance among Nigerian youths.

[Okoli and Okoli (2013)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996) examined how Nigerian youths can be empowered by developing them in entrepreneurships using no data and empirical literature review method. It was found by the study that youths cannot be prepared for every situation; however, giving them skills and support to help them deal with challenges they encounter means that they have been given something of great value. The study hence recommended among others that youths should be dissuaded from the get-rich-quick syndrome through value reorientation.

[Ayoade and Agwu (2016)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244020982996) examined how employment generation could be achieved through entrepreneurial development using Nigerian experience. The study utilized annual time-series data and descriptive statistics to find that many government intervention programs failed to produce the expected results because of some bottlenecks such as corruptions, bureaucratic bottleneck relating to inconsistencies in government policies, political instability, and lack of entrepreneurial skill by many unemployed citizens. It was, however, recommended by the study that there should be a combined effort of governments at all levels in developing entrepreneurship through the provision of enabling environment and infrastructures, introduction of relevant entrepreneurial educational programs in all institutions of learning, development of entrepreneurial skills, and making available reasonable start-up loans without interest to youths.

# CHAPTER THREE

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers the description and discussion on the various techniques and procedures used in the study to collect and analyze the data as it is deemed appropriate

## 3.2 Research Design

For this study, the survey research design was adopted. The choice of the design was informed by the objectives of the study as outlined in chapter one. This research design provides a quickly efficient and accurate means of assessing information about a population of interest. It intends to study the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria. The study will be conducted in the Abuja municipal area council(AMAC).

## 3.3 Population of the Study

The population for this study were residents in Abuja municipal area council(AMAC), FCT, Nigeria. A total of 381 respondents were selected from the population figure, out of which the sample size was determined. The reason for choosing Abuja metropolis is because of its proximity to the researcher. According to a report released by the FCTAgov April 22, 2021, Eight thousand (8000) population of youths in AMAC have been empowered through SMEs

## 3.4 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The researcher used Taro Yamane’s formula to determine the sample size from the population.

Taro Yamane’s formula is given as;

n = N

1+N (e)2

Where N = Population of study (8000)

n = Sample size (?)

e = Level of significance at 5% (0.05)

1 = Constant

**.:** n **=** 8000 = 8000 = 8000

1 + 8000 (0.05)2  1+8000(0.0025) 1+20

n = 8000 = 381

21

The sample size therefore is 381 respondents.

## 3.5 Research Instrument and Instrumentation

Data for this study was collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data collected was mainly the use of a structured questionnaire which was designed to elicit information on the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria. The secondary source of data collections were textbooks, journals and scholarly materials.

## 3.6 Validity of Instrument

The instrument of this study was subjected to face validation. Face validation tests the appropriateness of the questionnaire items. This is because face validation is often used to indicate whether an instrument on the face of it appears to measure what it contains. Face validations therefore aim at determining the extent to which the questionnaire is relevant to the objectives of the study.

In subjecting the instrument for face validation, copies of the initial draft of the questionnaire will be validated by the supervisor. The supervisor is expected to critically examine the items of the instrument with specific objectives of the study and make useful suggestions to improve the quality of the instrument. Based on his recommendations the instrument will be adjusted and unadjusted before being administered for the study.

## 3.7 Reliability of Instrument

The coefficient of 0.81 was considered a reliability coefficient because according to Etuk (1990), a test-retest coefficient of 0.5 will be enough to justify the use of a research instrument.

## 3.8 Method of Data Collection

This study is based on the two possible sources of data which are the primary and secondary source.

1. **Primary Source of Data:** The primary data for this study consist of raw data generated from responses to questionnaires and interviews by the respondents.
2. **Secondary Source of Data:** The secondary data includes information obtained through the review of literature that is journals, monographs, textbooks and other periodicals.

## 3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected will be analyzed using frequency table, percentage and mean score analysis while the nonparametric statistical test (Chi- square) was used to test the formulated hypothesis using SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). Haven gathered the data through the administration of questionnaire, the collected data will be coded, tabulated and analyzed using SPSS statistical software according to the research question and hypothesis. In order to effectively analyze the data collected for easy management and accuracy, the chi square method will be used for a test of independence. Chi square is given as

X2 = ∑ (o-e)2

e

Where X2 = chi square

o = observed frequency

e = expected frequency

Level of confidence / degree of freedom

When employing the chi – square test, a certain level of confidence or margin of error has to be assumed. More also, the degree of freedom in the table has to be determined in simple variable, row and column distribution, degree of freedom is: df = (r-1) (c-1)

Where; df = degree of freedom

r = number of rows

c = number of columns.

In determining the critical chi \_ square value, the value of confidence is assumed to be at 95% or 0.95. a margin of 5% or 0.05 is allowed for judgment error.

# CHAPTER FOUR

# DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the results obtained from questionnaires. The data gathered were presented according to the order in which they were arranged in the research questions and simple percentages were used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents while the chi square test was adopted to test the research hypothesis.

## 4.2 Analysis of Demographic Data of Respondents

**Table 1: Gender of Respondents**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Male | 235 | 61.6 | 61.6 |
| Female | 146 | 38.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 381 respondents, 235 respondents which represent 61.6 percent of the population are male. 146 which represent 38.0 percent of the population are female.

**Table 2: Age range of Respondents**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | 20-30years | 98 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| 31-40years | 127 | 30.0 | 55.0 |
| 41-50years | 67 | 15.0 | 70.0 |
| 51-60years | 49 | 20.0 | 90.0 |
| above 60 years | 40 | 10.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 2 above shows the age grade of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 381 respondents, 98 respondents which represent 25.0 percent of the population are between 20-30years. 127 respondents which represent 30.0 percent of the population are between 31-40years. 67 respondents which represent 15.0 percent of the population are between 41-50years. 49 respondents which represent 20.0 percent of the population are between 51-60years. 40 respondents which represent 10.0 percent of the population are above 60years.

**Table 3: Educational Background of Respondents**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | FSLC | 79 | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| WASSCE/GCE/NECO | 102 | 25.0 | 45.0 |
| OND/HND/BSC | 135 | 35.0 | 80.0 |
| MSC/PGD/PHD | 45 | 15.0 | 95.0 |
| OTHERS | 20 | 5.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 3 above shows the educational background of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 381 respondents, 79 respondents which represent 20.0 percent of the population are FSLC holders. 102 which represent 25.0 percent of the population are SSCE/GCE/WASSCE holders. 135 which represent 35.0 percent of the population are OND/HND/BSC holders. 45 which represent 15.0percent of the population are MSC/PGD/PHD holders. 20 which represent 5.0 percent of the population had other types of educational qualifications.

**Table 4: Marital Status**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Single | 141 | 30.0 | 30.0 |
| Married | 76 | 15.0 | 45.0 |
| Divorced | 88 | 20.0 | 65.0 |
| Widowed | 76 | 15.0 | 80.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 4 above shows the marital status of the respondents used for this study. 141 which represent 30.0 percent of the population are single. 76 which represent 15.0 percent of the population are married. 88 which represent 20.0 percent of the population are divorced. 76 which represent 15.0 percent of the population are widowed.

**Table 5: Category of Respondents**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Civil servant | 35 | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| Self-employed | 156 | 41.0 | 50.0 |
| Students  Unemployed | 87  103 | 23.0  27.0 | 73.0  100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 5 shows the category of respondents used for the study. 35 respondents representing 9.0 percent of the population under study are civil servants. 156 respondents representing 41.0 percent of the population under study are self-employed. 87 respondents representing 23.0 percent of the population under study are students while 103 respondents representing 327.0 percent of the population under study are unemployed.

## 4.3 Analysis of Psychographic Data

**Table 6: There is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 90 | 30.0 | 30.0 |
| Agree | 172 | 42.0 | 72.0 |
| Undecided | 38 | 10.0 | 82.0 |
| Disagree | 38 | 10.0 | 92.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 43 | 8.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 6 shows the responses of respondents if there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 90 respondents representing 30.0percent strongly agreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 172 respondents representing 42.0percent agreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 38 respondents representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 38 respondents representing 10.0percent disagreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 43 respondents representing 8.0percent strongly disagreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises.

**Table 7: There is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 40 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Agree | 43 | 15.0 | 25.0 |
| Undecided | 20 | 5.0 | 30.0 |
| Disagree | 148 | 40.0 | 70.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 130 | 30.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 7 shows the responses of respondents if there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 40 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly agree that there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 43 of the respondents representing 15.0percent agree that there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 20 of them representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 148 of the respondents representing 40.0 percent disagree that there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. 130 of the respondents representing 30.0 percent strongly disagree that there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises.

**Table 8: Youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 160 | 60.0 | 60.0 |
| Agree | 145 | 25.0 | 85.0 |
| Undecided | 46 | 10.0 | 95.0 |
| Disagree | 30 | 5.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 8 shows the responses of respondents if youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior. 160 of the respondents representing 60.0 percent strongly agree that youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior. 145 of the respondents representing 25.0 percent agree that youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior. 46 of them representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 30 of the respondents representing 5.0 percent disagree that youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior.

**Table 9: Academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 101 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Agree | 132 | 32.0 | 57.0 |
| Undecided | 46 | 13.0 | 70.0 |
| Disagree | 51 | 15.0 | 85.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 51 | 15.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 9 shows the responses of respondents if academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment. 101 of the respondents representing 25.0 percent strongly agree that academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment. 132 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent agree that academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment. 46 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent were undecided. 51 of the respondents representing 15.0percent disagree that academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment. 51 of the respondents representing 15.0 percent strongly disagree that academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment.

**Table 10: Youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 120 | 32.0 | 32.0 |
| Agree | 138 | 36.0 | 68.0 |
| Disagree | 71 | 19.0 | 87.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 52 | 13.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 10 show the responses of respondents if youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level. 120 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent strongly agree that youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level. 138 of the respondents representing 36.0 percent agree that youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level. 71 of the respondents representing 19.0 percent disagree that youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level. 52 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent strongly disagree that youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level.

**Table 11: One of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 158 | 41.0 | 41.0 |
| Agree | 131 | 34.5 | 75.5 |
| Undecided | 20 | 5.0 | 80.5 |
| Disagree | 20 | 5.0 | 85.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 52 | 14.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 11 shows the responses of respondents if one of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development. 158 respondents representing 41.0 percent strongly agreed that one of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development. 131 respondents representing 34.5 percent agreed that one of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development. 20 respondents representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 20 respondents representing 5.0 percent disagreed that one of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development. 52 respondents representing 14.0 percent strongly disagreed that one of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development.

**Table 12: There are prospects of youth empowerment**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 40 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Agree | 43 | 15.0 | 25.0 |
| Undecided | 20 | 5.0 | 30.0 |
| Disagree | 148 | 40.0 | 70.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 130 | 30.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 12 show the responses of respondents if there are prospects of youth empowerment. 40 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly agree that there are prospects of youth empowerment. 43 of the respondents representing 15.0 percent agree that there are prospects of youth empowerment. 20 of them representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 148 of the respondents representing 40.0 percent disagree that there are prospects of youth empowerment. 130 of the respondents representing 30.0 percent strongly disagree that there are prospects of youth empowerment.

**Table 13: There is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 120 | 32.0 | 32.0 |
| Agree | 138 | 36.0 | 68.0 |
| Undecided | 71 | 19.0 | 87.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 52 | 13.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 13 shows the responses of respondents if there is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise. 120 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent strongly agree that there is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise. 138 of the respondents representing 36.0 percent agree that there is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise. 71 of them representing 19.0 percent were undecided. 52 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent disagree that there is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise.

**Table 14: There is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneur**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 101 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Agree | 132 | 32.0 | 57.0 |
| Undecided | 46 | 13.0 | 70.0 |
| Disagree | 51 | 15.0 | 85.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 51 | 15.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 14 shows the responses of respondents if there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurs. 101 of the respondents representing 25.0 percent strongly agree that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurship. 132 of the respondents representing 32.0percent agree that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurship. 46 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent were undecided.

51 of the respondents representing 15.0percent disagree that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurs. 51 of the respondents representing 15.0percent strongly disagree that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurs.

**Table 15: Empowerment demonstrates management's trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Valid | Strongly agree | 120 | 32.0 | 32.0 |
| Agree | 138 | 36.0 | 68.0 |
| Disagree | 71 | 19.0 | 87.0 |
| Strongly disagree | 52 | 13.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 381 | 100.0 |  |

*Source: Field Survey 2024*

Table 15 show the responses of respondents if empowerment demonstrates management’s trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish. 120 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent strongly agree that empowerment demonstrates management’s trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish. 138 of the respondents representing 36.0 percent agree that empowerment demonstrates management’s trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish. 71 of the respondents representing 19.0 percent disagree that empowerment demonstrates management’s trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish. 52 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent strongly disagree that empowerment demonstrates management’s trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish.

## 4.4 Test of Hypothesis

### Hypothesis I

**H0**: There is no significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria.

**Hi**: There is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria.

**Level of significance**: 0.05

**Decision rule**: reject the null hypothesis H0 if the p value is less than the level of significance. Accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

| ***Table 16: Test Statistics*** | |
| --- | --- |
|  | There is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria |
| Chi-Square | 105.520a |
| Df | 3 |
| **Asymp. Sig.** | **.000** |
| a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0. | |

Conclusions based on decision rule:

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria.

### Hypothesis II

**H0**: There are no significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.

**Hi**: There are significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.

**Level of significance**: 0.05

**Decision rule**: reject the null hypothesis H0 if the p value is less than the level of significance. Accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

| ***Table 17: Test Statistics*** | |
| --- | --- |
|  | There are significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria |
| Chi-Square | 700.347a |
| Df | 2 |
| **Asymp. Sig.** | **.000** |
| a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0. | |

Conclusions based on decision rule:

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there are significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.

### Hypothesis III

**H0**: There is no relationship between employment and empowerment in government work and entrepreneurship.

**Hi**: There is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government and entrepreneurs.

| ***Table 18: Test Statistics*** | |
| --- | --- |
|  | There is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneur |
| Chi-Square | 95.347a |
| Df | 1 |
| **Asymp. Sig.** | **.000** |
| a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0. | |

Conclusions based on decision rule:

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in government workers and entrepreneurs.

## 4.5 Discussion of results

The study revealed that there is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria, there are significant prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria and that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in government workers and entrepreneurs.

The study showed that the majority of respondents agreed that there is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises suggesting a very important role the government plays in promoting entrepreneurial development. Therefore, the roles and responsibilities to develop and transform the SME sector as mandated by SMEDAN’s founding legislation have not been optimally exercised by the agency. SMEDAN appears to have a weakened or non-existent monitoring and evaluation (M & E) system and structure that is result-oriented. This is evident by the fact that the agency has no reliable database of how well it has done with regard to youth empowerment or indeed of its impact in small business development. The agency would need to embrace a well-designed M&E framework if it is to consistently achieve the objectives for which it was established. This research identified some level of incompetency within the agency’s internal arrangements and workforce. This observed incompetency is probably the result of the absence of an integrated performance management system that is linked to the M&E framework. The other major challenge that would need to be addressed is the indifference of government, policy makers and key stakeholders in supporting the mandate of the agency. This looks warm towards the agency but has a concomitant effect on the agency’s ability to confidently access and deploy needed resources for youth empowerment and SME development. This handicap is all the more glaring because it is further observed that there is an overlap between the mandate of the agency and that of the Bank of Industry (BOI) in so far as it pertains to small business funding. A clear protocol will need to be developed that streamline or synergizes the roles of these two important institutions in the small business development sector. This action will eliminate the uncertainty that some current potential major SME funders such as the Dangote Foundation and others are presently experiencing as to the appropriate vehicle to deploy their funds.

Also, regarding the relationship between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises, this study showed that the majority of the respondents disagreed that there is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises. This could be due to the demography of the study participants as well as the study location. This is not unreasonable as many in the capital city of Nigeria complain of not being aware of youth empowerment programs despite being in the country’s capital.

The study also showed that the majority of the study participants were of the opinion that youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior. Study also showed that the majority of the respondents agree that academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can all be increased through youth empowerment. A relatively higher percentage of respondents also agree that youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty. This is very reasonable as youth empowerment is at the heart of poverty alleviation as seen in Nigeria over the years. The study also highlights one of the ways to empower the youths to be through skill development.

In addition, the study also showed that there is a significant relationship between employment and youth empowerment as the majority of respondents were of the opinion that there is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurship..

# CHAPTER FIVE

# SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.1 Summary 0f Findings

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria. Three hypotheses were formulated (generated) to guide the researcher. The first was meant to find out if there is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria. The research also sought to uncover whether there is a significant prospect of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria. The third hypothesis sought to find out whether there is a significant prospect of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.

To attain these goals, a test questionnaire was randomly administered to members of the general public and the top management staff of small and medium enterprises. During data analysis, the student t-test analysis was employed.

The objectives of the study were to;

1. To examine the roles of youths empowerment on small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria
2. To examine the prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria.
3. To examine the relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneurs.

Findings from the study revealed that majority of the respondents were of the opinion that

1. There is a significant impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the development of youth empowerment in Nigeria. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis.
2. There is a significant prospect of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis.
3. There is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government and entrepreneurs. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis.

## 5.2 Conclusion

The primary purpose of this study is to know the impact of small and medium scale enterprise development on youth empowerment in Nigeria. Other secondary objectives guided the collection of primary data. A review of existing literature on the subject of small and medium scale enterprises and youth empowerment were presented in chapter two. Beside the secondary data, primary data was gathered through the use of questionnaires from the sampled population selected for this study.

Evidence from literature and first-hand information gathered from respondents provided an enriching insight into SME development and growth in Nigeria. Although the study acknowledged the Nigerian Government’s commitment to youth empowerment and the development of the small business sector of the economy through the establishment of SMEDAN and the revised MSME policy, joblessness continues to bedevil the youth and unemployment continues to soar in society.

## 5.3 Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

1. Any future SME policy initiatives and decisions should involve internal and external stakeholders especially the youth and emerging entrepreneurs.
2. SMEDAN should ensure adequate publicity of the SME policy framework and programmes that complement entrepreneurship development and the transformation of the entire informal and small business sector of the economy.
3. The Federal Government of Nigeria should ensure that resources and funds for SMEdevelopment is available and allocated as at when due for relevant institutions to finance the SME sector without bottlenecks and any forms of undue bureaucracy.
4. Corruption amongst government and SMEDAN officials has been highlighted as a fundamental concern that hinders growth and development of the small business sector; hence the government should put mechanisms in place that will checkmate corrupt officials with appropriate sanctions. This will serve as a deterrent to officials with a corrupt mind-set.
5. SMEDAN should be an independent institution without interference from politicians and other influential individuals. This will enhance efficiency, effectiveness and due process in the selection of beneficiaries from amongst the youth.
6. SMEDAN, as an institution, should be directly funded by the government as at when due so as to carry out their tasks and responsibilities in a manner that enables them to fulfill their mandate. Furthermore, financial institutions like the Bank of Industry and Central Bank of Nigeria should partner with SMEDAN to support the informal sector financially with limited hindrances or bottlenecks so that young school leavers and graduates with little or no fund can access SMEs funds domiciled in these institutions to start-up their ventures.
7. A SMEDAN monitoring and evaluation system should be so structured that it ensures effectiveness and efficiency and success of its programmes and projects. This would necessitate well trained and skilled employees in monitoring and evaluation processes.
8. Tax rates should also be looked at by government to avoid multiple taxes as it was found by the study that it retards entrepreneurship growth, especially that of micro enterprise. Subsidy should also be granted to young entrepreneurs to help them in global competitiveness. This will increase entrepreneurship growth and development, encourage economic diversification, and bring about economic growth and development.

## 5.4 Limitations of the Study

The demanding schedule of respondents at work made it very difficult getting the respondents to participate in the survey. As a result, retrieving copies of the questionnaire in a timely fashion was very challenging. Also, the researcher is a student and therefore has limited time as well as resources in covering extensive literature available in conducting this research. Information provided by the researcher may not hold true for all businesses or organizations but is restricted to the selected organization used as a study in this research especially in the locality where this study is being conducted. Finally, the researcher is restricted only to the evidence provided by the participants in the research and therefore cannot determine the reliability and accuracy of the information provided.

**Financial constraint:** Insufficient funds tends to impede the efficiency of the researcher in sourcing for the relevant materials, literature or information and in the process of data collection (internet, questionnaire and interview).

**Time constraint**: The researcher will simultaneously engage in this study with other academic work. This consequently will cut down on the time devoted for the research work.

## 5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

Sequel to the problem encountered on the course of this research study, the following could serve as a guide for further research on the subject of this study; If the research is to be conducted solely for the purpose of academic exercise, the time required for completion and submission should be considered in approving the topic to enable a more work to be carried out by the researcher. Considering the reluctance of respondents in releasing data for the research study, management of organizations should assist in appealing to the respondents to cooperate in releasing information for studies. More research could be carried out on empowerment of public organizations to allow for comparison.

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# APPENDIX I

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**INSTRUCTION:** Please endeavor to complete the questionnaire by ticking the correct answer (s) from the options or supply the information where necessary.

**SECTION A**

1. Gender
2. Male
3. Female
4. Age range
5. 20-30
6. 31-40
7. 41-50
8. 51-60
9. Above 60
10. Educational qualification
11. FSLC
12. WASSCE/GCE/NECO
13. OND/HND/BSC
14. MSC/PGD/MBA/PHD
15. Others
16. Marital Status
17. Single
18. Married
19. Divorced
20. Widowed
21. Category of Respondent
22. Civil Servant
23. Self Employed
24. Students
25. Unemployed

**SECTION B**

**QUESTIONS ON KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS VITILIGO AMONG NURSING STUDENTS OF KAAF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.**

**SA – Strongly Disagreed**

**A – Agreed**

**UD – Undecided**

**DA – Disagreed**

**SD – Strongly Disagreed**

**Objective One:** To examine the roles of Youths empowerment on small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **QUESTIONS** | **SA** | **A** | **UD** | **DA** | **SD** |
| **6.** | There is a large extent to which youth empowerment affects the growth of small and medium scale enterprises |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7.** | There is a correlation between youth empowerment and the growth of small and medium scale enterprises |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8.** | Youth empowerment programs improve social skills and behavior |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9.** | Academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy can be increased via youth empowerment |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10.** | Youth empowerment can curb the rate of poverty to a large level |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11.** | One of the keys to empowering the youth is with skill development |  |  |  |  |  |

**Objective Two:** To examine the prospects of youth empowerment and its relationship with small and medium scale enterprise development in Nigeria

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **QUESTIONS** | **SA** | **A** | **UD** | **DA** | **SD** |
| **12.** | There are prospects of youth empowerment |  |  |  |  |  |
| **13.** | There is a correlation between the prospects of youth empowerment and the development of small and medium scale enterprise |  |  |  |  |  |

**Objective Three:** To examine the relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneur

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **QUESTIONS** | **SA** | **A** | **UD** | **DA** | **SD** |
| **14.** | There is a relationship between employment and empowerment in the government works and entrepreneur |  |  |  |  |  |
| **15.** | Empowerment demonstrates management's trust in employee capabilities and increases employee confidence in what they can accomplish |  |  |  |  |  |