**INTRODUCTION**

Poverty is the main obstacles and problem of the people are facing particularly in the world As of 2013, there were about 2.47 billion people in the world living in poverty with an income of USD 2 or less a day most of them from developing or under developing countries located in African and Asian continent The population living under poverty only declined from 2.59 billion to 2.47 billion between 1981 and 2013. Hence the declines principally are seated mostly in developed countries. Poverty means the lack of income or shortage of assets; the lack of competence, confidence, dis empowerment, etc.; has also deprivation of national currency; it is also common to speak of a poor understanding, or culture, or spirit. Poverty may arise from low productivity of the households and they face financial constraints and lack of other incentives of entrepreneurship. Alan E. Singer in 2006 said that the best cure for poverty alleviation in any region of the world lies in encouraging more on business activity and startup the new ventures through entrepreneurship development. Moreover, entrepreneurship provides a basis for economic change through new knowledge creation and application. On the other hand, development and growth require shifts from low to high productivity, the creation and adoption of new goods and services, new skills and new knowledge. These shifts are made possible by entrepreneurs who are the architects of “capacity creation‟ for productivity and growth. Mobilizing the specific factors of capital, labor and technology which are generally imperfectly marketed, may not otherwise be allocated to activities supplied where productivity could be the greatest. The creation of successful new ventures locally also helps to generate indigenous growth and reduce the reliance on the mercurial character of foreign direct investment. However, entrepreneurship consistent source of income earnings not only to the entrepreneur and labor but also other factor inputs and given the long-term focuses and the growth potential of entrepreneurial activities . The entrepreneur and labor with all income earners become more economically independent and confident to confront the challenges of life and it can, therefore, be stated that entrepreneurship promotes income empowerment in an economy and in the modern world; entrepreneurship provides a new approach for fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth in developing countries. Entrepreneurship development contributes to poverty reduction when it creates employment through the startup of new entrepreneurship or the expansion of existing ones and they increases social wealth by creating new markets, new industries, new technology, new institutional forms, new jobs and net increases in real productivity, increases income which culminates in higher standards of living for the population then it is logically to state that if the number of entrepreneurs of any given country increase the poverty indicators will decrease . In 2013, Bruton, G. D., D. J. Ketchen Jr, et al. examined the extant knowledge about entrepreneurship and where the future research on this important topic should move to enhance the knowledge about entrepreneurship as a pathway to reducing poverty .Individuals are living in poverty is a critical issue which is focuses on how entrepreneurship will help to solve the poverty, on the other hand, those who living under poverty create their own business, ultimately, entrepreneurship is a process which is creating long lasting solutions to alleviate poverty . One line of thinking about poverty reduction has developed around the idea of entrepreneurial activities in the form of new venture formation, innovation and high-growth firms. Entrepreneurship is viewed today as a key driver of economic growth. This is because small rapidly growing firms started by entrepreneurially minded individuals, create wealth and a significant number of jobs in particular economies, thereby impacting greatly on social and economic development. The main objective of this paper is justifying the linkage between entrepreneurship development and poverty alleviation. This paper is divided into five sections. Section one is the introductory part of the paper. It provides a concise overview on the paper. Section two describes the backgrounds of the study in order to provide insight into the concepts of alleviating poverty through entrepreneurship development. Section three highlights the methods and materials used for the research with justification for its adoption. Section four, presents the empirical findings and outcomes of the study with a table. Section five concludes for effective utilization of entrepreneurship development as tools for poverty reduction, stimulating employment as well as fast-tracking realization of universal primary education and promoting gender equality.

**BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Poverty alleviation on its own is a process aimed at reducing the incidence of poverty in any environment. He continued that most developed and developing countries of the world have at one time or another felt the impact of poverty. To be poor means a condition of lack of fundamental freedom of action and choice that the better-off take for granted. Nwobi added that poverty is reflected in lack of adequate food, shelter, education and health, deprivation that keeps them from leaving the kind of life everyone values. According to World Bank report in 2001, people living in abject poverty face extreme vulnerability of illhealth of different types and degrees, economic dislocation and other forms of natural disaster. Studies by Mayonx and Ndubuisi indicate that most of the women who are involved in micro small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) contributed more than 97% of all enterprises (10% of nations GDP and 94% of the total share of the employment [[6](https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/women-entrepreneurship-and-poverty-alleviation-in-awka-metropolis-2169-026X-1000158.php?aid=67943#6),[7](https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/women-entrepreneurship-and-poverty-alleviation-in-awka-metropolis-2169-026X-1000158.php?aid=67943#7)]. These are practical ways women have involved themselves in poverty alleviation. This confirms what Todaro stated that no nation can claim of eradicating poverty if it cannot show practical indication of increase in GDP, GNP and employment

Many women in many countries of the world have been forced by one circumstance or another to engage in alternative avenues of generating an income with a greater number of women setting up businesses to balance work and family commitments [[8](https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/women-entrepreneurship-and-poverty-alleviation-in-awka-metropolis-2169-026X-1000158.php?aid=67943#8)]. This is seen in a study by Walker where he argued that “women in businesses are a growing force in the economy and in transition environments. He added that the contribution of these women extend from the economic scheme to include the wider process of social transformation. Supporting the above view, UNIDO Report on Africa also acknowledges this trend as women were reported to be in charge of majority of [business](https://www.omicsonline.org/searchresult.php?keyword=Business) and economic activities in Africa [[9](https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/women-entrepreneurship-and-poverty-alleviation-in-awka-metropolis-2169-026X-1000158.php?aid=67943#9)-[11](https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/women-entrepreneurship-and-poverty-alleviation-in-awka-metropolis-2169-026X-1000158.php?aid=67943#11)].

The above findings reached a consensus that women own and operate around one-third of all businesses in the formal sector, and represent the majority of businesses in the informal sector.

The contribution of women in the growth and development of economies around the world calls for attention from government at all levels, family members and other stake holders to assist women to realize these goals, but it has not been so in some parts of the world especially in the developing world where Nigeria belongs. Women in Nigeria especially in the Awka Metropolis complain that they have not been receiving enough assistance and support from government as well as family members. Their claim is that in Nigeria, women are considered as second hand citizens and therefore are left without much help and assistance especially in the areas of their enterprising ventures. The researcher has been bordered and burdened by this development and wants to practically investigate these claims to see how authentic they are.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Poverty** is the scarcity or the lack of a certain (variant) amount of material possessions or money. Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty, extreme poverty, or *destitution* refers to the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

The threshold at which *absolute poverty* is defined is considered to be about the same, independent of the person's permanent location or era. On the other hand, *relative poverty* occurs when a person who lives in a given country does not enjoy a certain minimum level of "living standards" as compared to the rest of the population of that country. Therefore, the threshold at which *relative poverty* is defined varies from country to another, or from one society to another.

**Entrepreneurship** is the process of designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business. The people who create these businesses are called entrepreneurs.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship#cite_note-1)*need quotation to verify*

Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make a profit".[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship#cite_note-businessdictionary.com-3) While definitions of entrepreneurship typically focus on the launching and running of businesses, due to the high risks involved in launching a start-up, a significant proportion of start-up businesses have to close due to "lack of funding, bad business decisions, an economic crisis, lack of market demand—or a combination of all of these.

A broader definition of the term is sometimes used, especially in the field of economics. In this usage, an Entrepreneur is an entity which has the ability to find and act upon opportunities to translate inventions or technology into new products: "The entrepreneur is able to recognize the commercial potential of the invention and organize the capital, talent, and other resources that turn an invention into a commercially viable innovation." In this sense, the term "Entrepreneurship" also captures innovative activities on the part of established firms, in addition to similar activities on the part of new businesses.

**ALLEVIATION**

The action or process of making suffering, deficiency, or a problem less severe. ‘peace, security, and the alleviation of poverty were high on the agenda’

**Concept of Poverty**

One of the major challenges facing developing and underdeveloped countries of the world is poverty. It has been so common problem for all is that the high rate of unemployment and that has become the major obstacle of the developing and underdeveloped countries of the world. Although the level and extent of poverty and unemployment has been observed to be different within and across the nations and it is still remains the major obstacle to the optimum utilization of human resources for both social and economic development of the nations. The World Bank indicates that poverty is categorized as both absolute and relative. When poverty is said to be absolute, it describes as a lack of resources to meet the physical needs for survival, a lack of basic security, the absence of one or more factors that enable individuals and families to assume basic responsibilities and to enjoy fundamental rights. On the other hand, relative poverty can be categorized in relation to particular groups or areas in relation to the economic status of other members of the society which is interpreted as a lack of resources to achieve a standard of living that allows people to play roles, participate in relationships, and live a life that is deemed normative of the society to which they belong. Poverty results from and even consists of a lack of basic securities, which not only include financial resources, but also education, employment, housing, health care and other related aspects leading to deprivation . The World Bank also believes that political instability, lack of improvement in infrastructure, inadequacy of national policy and structural adjustment, lack of investment are among the main causes of poverty .Poverty is widely understood as the condition of living on an income below a certain minimum threshold. The World Bank defines those living on under US$2 a day as living in poverty, and those living on under US$1.25 as living in extreme poverty internationally. Individual countries generally have their own poverty lines, based on a basket of „essential‟ goods, including the cost in that country of obtaining 2100 calories, a minimum for healthy functioning. Poverty also relates, however, to other deprivations such as poor health, lack of education, vulnerability, exposure to risk and powerlessness .On the other hand, the four broad categories of assets have been identified by Rogerson in 1999 for measuring poverty in the context of South African perspective these are;

1. human capital, such as labor, education, health,
2. Social and institutional assets, such as household relations, trust, access to decision-making,
3. Natural resources, such as land, water, common property, and,
4. Human made assets, such as housing, productive infrastructure, social infrastructure. The individuals, households and communities have or secure access to and those who are these assets managed, they are less vulnerable, on the other hand, those who are the greater the losses of their assets have more insecurity and they have associated poverty. However, poverty is a state of absolute economic deprivation in which the individual cannot independently have access to the basic human life-sustaining essentials such as food, clothing, protection, and shelter. The Western societies have become less tolerant against poverty over time, on the other hand, Asian societies tolerate high economic inequality or poverty.

**Concept of Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is defined as the identification of a new business opportunities and the mobilization of economic resources to initiate a new business or regenerate an existing business, under the conditions of risks and uncertainties, for the purpose of making profits under private ownership. In simple, entrepreneurship is a process which may develop a single entrepreneur or enterprise with the main objective is to making profit by using of scarce resources most likely under private ownership. On the other hand, entrepreneurship is concerned with creating long-term value and creates regular cash flow streams on an individual or the group of individuals for the future through the process of imagination, initiative and innovation for the purpose of maximizing profits and minimizing risk with the view of long term expansion. Moreover, entrepreneurship is the key to the growth and development of local industries through the processing of local raw materials into finished and semi-finished goods for the domestic and foreign markets. It also promotes the utilization of improved and cost-effective technology in small and medium-scale enterprises which enhances higher factor productivity at the local level especially in low-income countries where the traditional rural economy is predominant. According to Kuratko and Hodgetts “entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of vision, change and creation”. M. Coulter in 2001 tries to find out the definition of entrepreneurship "entrepreneurship is the process whereby an individual or a group of individuals use organized efforts and means to pursue opportunities to create value and grow by fulfilling wants and needs through innovation and uniqueness, no matter what resources are currently controlled”. So, entrepreneurship has been considered as self-employment. While, there is a consensus among entrepreneurship scholars on that entrepreneurship is not just running a small business that already exists. Rather, it is change management, creative thinking, opportunity seeking, and innovativeness.

Alleviating Poverty through Women Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is today considered to be a relevant vehicle for economic development and women contribute to it significantly worldwide: indeed, in 2010, 187 million women were involved in creating and operating enterprises, meaning that almost 42% of entrepreneurs in the world were women. On the other hand, however, women have a number of parental duties and inflexible household obligations which they try to effectively combine to maintain a balance between running a business and running a home [. Moreover, women to date represents an important engine of economic growth for developing countries as it has a leading role in generating productive work, achieving gender equality and reducing poverty . Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) in 2004 showed that women perform 66% of work globally and produce more than 50% of food globally and these women turn locally available raw materials into processed and finished goods for sale, therefore making them innovators in business. Women entrepreneurship is relatively new area of research which originated in the mid-1980s. Three stages can be illustrious in the research into women entrepreneurship. The first stage, before the 1970s, was a move from the gender-neutral position to the male-specific position. The second stage, from the 1970s to the beginning of the 1990s, was conventional in nature, indicating how women are perceived in relation to men. Finally, the third, postmodernist, stage began to study the otherness of women entrepreneurship. The postmodernist context makes it possible to ask questions about how women perceive being entrepreneurs and business owners. Female entrepreneurship can be divided into two categories: the traditional generation of entrepreneurial women, concentrated around businesses involving household services, which require reduced skills and experience; on the other hand, the modern generation, more actively involved in businesses more oriented towards profit and creating new markets. Women entrepreneurship is becoming gradually popular across the globe. The participation of women is progressively being observed as one of the major contributors in economic growth. Regardless of their involvement in small or medium scale enterprises or in the informal or formal sectors, their contribution to output and value addition is considerable. Women entrepreneurship is not only necessary for their economic survival but also for strengthening the social system

**CONCLUSION**

From the review we found that entrepreneurial processes were important in the successful

Entrepreneurs‟ development from an extremely unpromising and constrained environment.

Motivation and skills is the important driver of the entrepreneurial behavior and the entrepreneur needs certain skill to sustain. The impact of culture is considerable matter for entrepreneurship development. On the other hand, the level of innovation was related to the educational level of the entrepreneur; moreover, the firm size and involvement were positively related to innovation. The entrepreneurs have introduced innovations in a range of products, services, production processes, work practices, and marketing which have brought benefits to their firm. Entrepreneurship and human resource management were shown to be the most significant drivers of innovation and customer value. Interaction of entrepreneurship and integrated market orientation as well as human resource practices has significant impact on customer value and innovation respectively. We also found that the direct correlation between the small and medium entrepreneur with the economic growth and poverty. Government policies have no significant effect on the development of entrepreneurial activities in the country and mostly the beneficiaries do not derived maximum satisfaction from government programs and policies. The training in entrepreneurship and provision of other facilities could give poor owners of micro and small enterprises opportunities to grow their businesses and get themselves and other out of poverty. Again, students in entrepreneurship and small business would have KAI scores higher than those of the general population and the control group. About 87% students were started ventures, either independently or under the supports of a corporation. However, student’s business knowledge was insufficient and they were not enough prepared for taken the risk to realized their dreams. On the other hand, social interactions played a significant role in students‟ entrepreneurial leadership learning, students had the opportunity to learn from direct observation, and the students has been learned entrepreneurial leadership competencies through individual and collective reflection. Most importantly, entrepreneurship development is a key tool for poverty reduction; stimulating employment as well as fast-tracking realization of universal primary education and women entrepreneurs played a major role in poverty reduction in the Globe. Finally, we found that innovation, family background, government support program, social entrepreneurship, women participation, entrepreneurship training & education, individual entrepreneurial characteristics, participation of micro, small & medium enterprises, youth empowerment, collaboration of government-university-industry is the key tool for entrepreneurship development which is stimulating employment are eventually alleviating poverty.

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