

**GOVERNMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES AND
EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AMONG YOUTHS IN OSUN STATE NIGERIA**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND
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THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE
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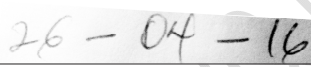
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this thesis was carried out by Aderonke Precious ADEPOJU under my supervision in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree in Business Administration of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile- Ife, Nigeria.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i	
Authorization to Copy		ii
Certification		iii
Acknowledgment	iv	
Table of Contents		vi
List of Tables		x
List of Figures	xi	
Abstract	xii	
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION		1
1.1 Background to the Study	1	
1.2 Statement of the Problem		5
1.3 Research Questions		7
1.4 Research Objectives		7
1.5 Hypotheses of the Study	8	
1.6 Justification of the Study	8	
1.7 Scope of the Study	9	
1.8 Operational Definition of Terms		9

CHAPTER TWO:LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Conceptual Review	11
2.1.1	Concept of Entrepreneurship	11
2.1.1.2	Nature and Development of Entrepreneurship	12
2.1.1.3	Entrepreneurial Process	15
2.1.1.4	Entrepreneurship and Economic Development	18
2.1.1.5	Entrepreneurship Development in Nigeria	21
2.1.1.6	Role of Entrepreneurship in Employment Generation	23
2.1.1.7	Challenges of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria	26
2.1.2	The Concept of Micro Scale Business and Artisans	31
2.1.3	Youth Unemployment in Nigeria	34
2.1.4	Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programme	36
2.1.4.1	Financial Intervention Programmes	37
2.1.4.2	Vocational and Skills Acquisition Intervention Programmes	40
2.1.4.3	Services Intervention Programmes	42
2.1.4.4	Entrepreneurship Knowledge Intervention Programmes	44
2.2	Empirical Review	46
2.2.1	Contribution of Entrepreneurship on Employment Generation	46
2.2.2	Role of Entrepreneurship Development Programme	49
2.2.3	Youth Unemployment	51
2.3	Theoretical Review	53

2.3.1	Knight Theory	54	
2.3.2	Hayek Theory	55	
2.3.3	Kirzner's Theory of Alertness	55	
2.3.4	Shackle's Theory of Response		56
2.3.5	Lachmann's Theory of Equilibrium	56	
2.3.6	Keynesian Theory	57	
2.3.7	Schumpeter Innovation Theory	57	
2.4	Conceptual Framework	59	
 CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY			
3.1	Area of Study		62
3.2	Research Design		63
3.3	Population, Sample Size and Sampling Technique		64
3.4	Sources and Collection of Data		66
3.5	Validation of Research Instrument and Testing	66	
3.6	Measurement of Variables	67	
3.7	Data Analysis Techniques	68	

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

- 4.1 Socio- Demographic/ Economic Characteristics of Respondents70
- 4.2 Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes in Osun State76
- 4.4Challenges that Inhibits the Accessibility of Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes.79
- 4.5Extent of Intervention Programmes on Employment Generation83
- 4.6Extent of Intervention Programmes on Employment Generation (Venture Survival) 91

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Summary97
- 5.2 Conclusions98
- 5.3 Recommendations99

BIBLIOGRAPHY 101

APPENDICES 107

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Pages
3.1 Distribution and Selection of Respondents	74
4.1 Socio- Economic Characteristic of Respondents	74
4.2 Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes	78
4.3 Extent of Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes	78
4.4 Challenges that inhibits the Accessibility of Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes	82
4.5 Extent of Intervention Programmes on Venture Creation	87
4.6 Regression of Government Entrepreneurship Intervention Programmes and Venture Creation	95

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Pages
2.0 Processes of entrepreneurship	16
2.1 Framework for Analysis	57

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the various government entrepreneurship intervention programmes to generate employment among youths in Osun State. It also ascertained the challenges that inhibit the accessibility of these intervention programmes and analysed the relationship between government entrepreneurship intervention programmes and employment generation among the youths. These were with the view to providing information on the existence and effectiveness of the various government entrepreneurship intervention programmes put in place in generating employment among youths in Osun State

The study used both primary data and secondary data. Primary data were collected through the administration of questionnaire. The population for the study comprised all 187 microscale entrepreneurs who are artisans and have benefited from government entrepreneurship intervention programmes at the inception of business enterprise in all the thirty LGAs in the state. Questionnaire was used to collect information from the respondents of the study and the data collected were analysed using mean score, percentage and ordinary least square method.

The results showed that majority (95.1%) of the respondents were aware and have benefited from the entrepreneurship intervention programmes. The results further indicated that among the intervention programmes, vocational and skill intervention contributed highly (mean score = 4.210) to venture creation, while knowledge and financial intervention programmes (mean score = 4.150) (mean score = 3.450) also contributed, to venture creation. The results also showed that inadequate relevant information was the major (95.2%) challenge encountered by these micro scale entrepreneurs in accessing the intervention programmes while disloyalty to the incumbent political party was seen as the least (33.2%) challenge that can deter people from

accessing the intervention programmes. Also, the results further revealed that venture survival had no significant relationship with financial intervention programme ($r = 0.024$, $p > 0.05$); vocation and skill intervention ($r = 0.124$, $p > 0.05$); and services intervention programmes ($r = 0.067$, $p > 0.05$). However, only knowledge intervention programme had significant relationship ($r = 0.218$, $p < 0.05$) with venture survival. Moreover, all the government entrepreneurship intervention programmes had significant relationship ($F = 9.999$, $p < 0.05$) with venture creation. .

In conclusion, government entrepreneurship intervention programmes had significant relationship with employment generation among youths in Osun State particularly venture creation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Entrepreneurship is one of the means of reducing unemployment in developing countries like Nigeria and it forms the bedrock of economic development in every nation. Entrepreneurship has helped to develop the nation's economy in so many ways. According to Hisrich, Peters and Shepherd (2007), entrepreneurship is the process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, assuming the accompanying financial, psychic and social risks and receiving the resulting reward of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence. Entrepreneurship is also considered to be an important mechanism for reducing poverty through employment generation, and innovation. As evidenced by many different definitions, the term entrepreneurship means different things to different people and can be viewed from different conceptual perspectives. In spite of the differences, there are some common aspects: risk taking, creativity, and reward. These commonalities will continue to be the driving force behind the notion of entrepreneurship in the future (Hisrich *et al* 2007).

The term entrepreneurship is as old as human being. Entrepreneurship in Nigeria started when people in the villages and farming communities produced more products than they needed, as such; they had to exchange these surpluses with those who needed them within their immediate and neighboring communities. The exchange of goods for goods or services was based on trade by barter initially, until commodity money was developed and used. Exchange encouraged specialization among producers, and the communities came to realize that they can concentrate on the areas of production they are best fitted. Consequent on the above, the culture

of entrepreneurship started in Nigeria (Nicks, 2008; Raimi and Towobola, 2011). In past decades, people have drive and zeal to turn theory into practice. According to Ogundele (2007), the development process of any country is determined by the way the production forces in and around the economy is organized. He also stressed that the development of industry for most countries had depended a great deal on the role of private sector. This development has been fostered by entrepreneurship orientation. The author is of the opinion that the promotion and development of entrepreneurial activities would aid the dispersal and diversification of economic activities and induce even development in a country. According to Harper (2003) entrepreneurship is the main mechanism that creates wealth, explains economic growth and development often ignore (or fail to acknowledge explicitly) the entrepreneurial forces of change and adaptation that underlie economic performance. Entrepreneurship is something we ignore at our peril.

An entrepreneur is an individual who has drive, ambition, foresight and imagination to breakthrough traditional barriers and to overcome social criteria and turn theories into practice (Gill 1963). An entrepreneur can also be defined as a person who has the ability to look at the opportunity offered by the environment, marshal the available resources and initiate appropriate action in order that production can take place and ensure success through creative and persistent effort (Dionco -Adetayo, 1998). This study looked at micro scale entrepreneurs like the artisans and these are people who are found in the informal sector and are skilled in specific trades. According to Cannon (2009), an artisan is a craftsperson skilled in making something and could also be someone who works with the hands, head and heart. Artisans were the predominant producer of goods in the era before the late 18th century Industrial Revolution and were the

predecessors of the “craftsman.” Artisans were revered in their knowledge and abilities to build, create, or construct their products with high degrees of excellence (Williamson, 2007).

In the world of work, emerging trends in employment relations and organizational restructuring have accentuated the need for skillful persons than ever (Okai, Musa, and Obeng 2010). McShane and Glinow (2000), have intimated that emergent employment relations like the concepts of “employability” and “contingent work” and telecommuting require that people seeking employment in the globalized world should necessarily acquire new skills and competencies to remain competitive in the world of work. The artisan’s products are handmade and individually unique, with their design closely tied to their production.

Entrepreneurship has high potential for creating new jobs considering the vast resources abundant in Nigeria. According to Ibrahim (2010), there has been a consistent drive towards self-reliance but, the continued dominance of government in the economy made Nigerians youths to look up to government as the sole provider of labour and employment opportunities. This stance of government did not allow most Nigerian youths to think of entrepreneurship as an alternative to government employment.

The need for entrepreneurship development in the country today is necessitated by the fact that supply of paid employment is below the demand level while at the same time poverty and unemployment are to be kept low. Entrepreneurship development has now been seen as a major factor in economic growth and development and also the permanent cure for extreme hunger and poverty necessitated by unemployment (Ibrahim, 2010). Developing entrepreneurial skills is a vital tool to generate employment opportunities, create income and reduce poverty. Entrepreneurship is also a catalyst for individual welfare and helps to push people above the poverty line. If individuals should intensify efforts in exploring opportunities around them, their

standard of living will improve ceteris- paribus. According to Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010), youth development and empowerment are vital stages in life for building the human capital that

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