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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the Corner Stone, Jesus Christ, my Comforter, the Giver of wisdom and strength, my All in All for His guidance and protection over my life before, during and after the completion of this research. May all glory, honor and adoration be to His Holy name.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

ILO	International and Labour Organization
NDE	National Directorate of Employment
OFN	Operation Feed the Nation
NBCI	Nigerians Bank for Commerce Industries
DFRRI	Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructural
SCICS	Small Scale Industries Credit Scheme
GR	Green Revolution
FEAP	Family Economic Advancement Programme
CAPPA	Community Action Programme for Poverty Alleviation
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
IDCS	Industrial Development Centre
SSIGEP	Small Scale Industrial and Graduate Employment Programme
NERFUND	National Economic Reconstruction Fund
NAC	Nigeria Agriculture Cooperative
RDB	Rural Development Bank
UN	United Nation
NUC	Nigeria Union Commission
EE	Entrepreneurship Education
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
SEET	Shapero Entrepreneurial Event Theory
SCT	Social Cognitive Theory

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to investigate the university student's propensity in starting a business through the means of entrepreneurship education. Education is very important in the training and development of entrepreneurship in any country through the impartation of appropriate skills, capacities, values, knowledge and attitudes which can be used in the transformation of individuals, communities, nations and the world at large. Entrepreneurship education can be used for wealth creation, poverty reduction, ensuring social-economic empowerment, sustained self and national development. It also, examined the influence of entrepreneurship education on student's awareness and interest in entrepreneurship development.

The study used primary data to obtain necessary information from the students. The population size includes 12 institutions comprising both federal and states universities in Southwestern Nigeria. A simple random technique was used to select six institutions from the population. Questionnaires were purposively administered to the final year undergraduates from the departments of Accounting and Computer science in the institutions. The purpose for selecting final year undergraduates for the study is that, these students will soon graduate from their various institutions and most of them having been exposed to entrepreneurship education, may wish to start their own businesses. Accounting students were purposively selected due to their exposure to business courses in their field of study and Computer Science students are selected, in order to measure business intentions which are important for new technology- based business start-up. Convenience sampling techniques was used in selecting the respondents from the population using 10 percent of final year students in the six universities. Data on variables such as entrepreneurial characteristics, entrepreneurial factors, entrepreneurship education and



entrepreneurial intentions will be sourced from the respondents with the questionnaire. Data gathered will be analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics.

The study therefore showed that entrepreneurial factors influences students propensity in starting a business in which the majority of the respondents strongly agree and agree that age , level of study, family background, experience gathered, peers and social communication influences and increases their propensity in business start- up. Moreso, majority of the respondents strongly agree and agree that entrepreneurial characteristic is very important and needed to start- up a business. The ANOVA result showed that there is significant relationship ($F_{6, 207} = 9.83, P < 0.05$) between entrepreneur educations and youths' entrepreneurial propensity with Adjusted R square 0.2; ($F_{6, 207} =, P < 0.05$).

The study concluded that entrepreneurship is one of the feasible and viable strategy for reducing unemployment through the means of entrepreneurship education that sharpen student interest in business start- up. Also, the study concluded that entrepreneurship education and other factors of entrepreneurship strongly influence the interest of the student in Nigeria

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Nigeria has numerous business and investment potentials due to the abundant, vibrant and dynamic human and natural resources it possesses. Tapping these resources require the ability to identify potentially useful and economically viable fields such as science, technology, academics, business and entertainment, (Agbeze, 2012). Despite her rich human and natural resources, Nigeria is still one of the poorest countries in the world and has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in sub-Saharan Africa (Chukwubuikem, 2008). For instance, it is estimated that seven out of every ten Nigerians have been experiencing deeper and deeper level of poverty. The National Bureau of Statistics (2012) also explained that 112.519 million Nigerians live in relative poverty conditions.

As a general matter, youth unemployment is one of the major challenges facing most nations irrespective of the level of development. Youth development and empowerment are vital stages in life for building the human capital that allows young people to avoid poverty and lead better, and possibly have a more fulfilling life. The human capital formed in youth is an important determinant of long term growth that a nation can invest on. Hence, making sure that youths are well prepared for their future is enormously important to the course of poverty and unemployment reduction.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2007), the increase in the number of youths in secondary and tertiary education is a positive development; however, labourmarkets in many countries, specially Nigeria, are presently unable to accommodate the expanding pool of the skilled young graduates. It is estimated that about 400 million new jobs would be needed to absorb today's youths. (ILO, 2007).

Some, efforts have been made by various Nigerian governments to reduce the high level of unemployment, one of the steps taken was the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in 1986 with the sole objective of fighting unemployment through designing and implementation of innovative programmes. Other programmes include; the Nigerians Banks for Commerce and industries (NBCI), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1976, Green Revolution (GR) in 1979, the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) in 1985, People's Bank in 1989, Small Scale Industries Credit Scheme (SCICS), Community Banks in 1990, Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP) in 1993, the Family Support Program (FSP) in 1994, Community Action Programme for Poverty Alleviation (CAPPA) in 1996, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in 2004, Nigerian indigenization and enterprises Decree, the establishment of the Industrial Development Center (IDCS), Small Scale Industries and Graduate Employment Programme (SSIGEP), World Bank SMEII Loan Scheme, National Economic Reconstruction fund (NERFUND), Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative (NAC), Rural Development Bank (RDB), Seven Point Agenda and Vision 20:20:20 (2006).

Despite this retinue of developmental agenda Nigeria is still lacking behind in development and the youth unemployment keeps rising every day. This is due to the long period

of instability in the socio-economic and political dimensions, lack of infrastructural facilities, power supply failure, rapid population growth, and religious crises, out dated school curriculum, lack of employable skills and rapid expansion of the educational system, (Awogbele and Iwuamadi ,2010).

Within the framework of potential efforts and strategies to boost employment and job creation for young people, entrepreneurship is increasingly being accepted as an important means and a valuable additional strategy to create jobs and improve livelihoods and economic independence of young people. It is an innovative approach to integrating youth into today's changing labour markets. The impact of entrepreneurship development is long overdue and thus, has been given a global acknowledgement in various countries across the globe. It is widely recognized as an engine that drives the economy of most nations (Pretorius and Shaw, 2004). It has been an engine that sustained economic expansion in both developed and emerging economics (Le and Nguyen, 2009).

Entrepreneurship is regarded as one of the best economic development strategies to develop a country's economic growth and sustain the country's competitiveness in facing the increasing trends of globalisation (Schaper and Volery 2004; Venkatachalam and Waqif 2005). The popularity of entrepreneurship is largely due to the positive effects it has on many countries as a catalyst that creates wealth and the generation of job opportunities (Postigo and Tamborini 2002; Othman, Ghazali , 2005; Gurol and Atsan , 2006). Many other countries have been able to energize and transform the entrepreneurship sub-sector to such a vibrant one that they have been able to reduce to the barest minimum their unemployment and poverty level because of the immense contribution of the sub-sector to their economic growth and development, but such cannot be said of Nigeria (Onugu, 2005). At the same time, most studies

have shown that there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth in terms of job creation, firm survival and technological change (Gorman and Hanlon et al. 1997; Lena and Wong 2003; Karanassios and Pazarskis et al. 2006).

The total youth population in the world today is estimated to be about 1,500 million and is projected to grow to 2 billion by the year 2050 (Seiders, 1985). It was estimated that the population of Nigeria was above 150 million in 2008 (National Planning Commission (NPC), 2008). Following official figures from the Bureau of statistics that puts the figure at about 20 per cent (about 30 million), which still did not include about 40 million other Nigerian youths captured in World Bank statistics in 2009. By implication, it means that out of the 150 million Nigerians, 50 per cent are unemployed, or worse still, at least 71 per cent of Nigerian youths are unemployed.

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