

# APPRAISING EFFECTS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMMES PROLIFERATION ON ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTH WEST, NIGERIA

BY

MRS. ODEWALE, TEMITAYO RACHAEL

*Department of Adult Education,  
Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria*

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ERINSKIN, MARTINS OJO Ph.D

*Department of Continuing Education/Adult and Non-Formal Education,  
Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria.*

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MRS. AGUN, PAULINAH OLUSOLA

*Department of Continuing Education/Adult and Non-Formal Education,  
Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria*

## Abstract

*Unemployment and poverty are two major twin challenges to sustainable economic development in Nigeria. The myriad of economic policies and programmes adopted to address the unsavory trend had failed, thus, resulted into implementation of Entrepreneurship training programme in Nigeria. This study was therefore carried out on the attenuating effects of entrepreneurship training programme on economic sustainability in South-West, Nigeria. descriptive survey research design was used. The study population comprised, facilitators and clientele of Entrepreneurship training programme across the six states that made up South-West, Nigeria, (Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Ekiti and Osun). The sample size of the study was One hundred and ninety (190) subjects, selected through a stratified proportional sampling technique. The research instrument that was used to collect data was self-developed by the researchers, entitled "Questionnaire on Effects of Entrepreneurship Training on Economic Sustainability in South West Nigeria QAEETES" fashioned on four likert rating scale. The instrument was validated by two experts in Test and Measurement at Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, while its reliability was done, through test-retest method at two weeks interval and 0.70 coefficient reliability, obtained. The research questions were analysed, using descriptive statistics (frequency counts, simple percentages and means), while research hypothesis was done, through inferential statistics (Pearson Product Moment Correlation PPMC). Based on the results, conclusion were made that the proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programmes could sustain the economy of South-West, Nigeria. Based on the conclusion, recommendations were made that more of*

*entrepreneurship training centres should be created, the training should be adequately funded and all logistics for its sustainability, provided etc.*

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurship, Training, Economic sustainability, Poverty reduction*

## Background to the Study

At present, the nation (Nigeria) economy is ricketing, orchestrated by diverse factors, such as, poor economic policies, bad governance, security challenge, corruption, poor leadership, among others. Erinsakin (2014), stated that the nation is abundantly blessed with natural mineral resources which ought to have made the nation stands tallest among the comity of nations, economically (A WORLD FACTBOOK 2019), reported that Nigeria economy relies on oil as its main source of foreign earnings. Also, that the nation economy is driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunication, mining among others. However, this diversification has not yielded any economic growth over 62% out of over 180 million Nigerians are still languishing in an extreme poverty.

Despite its strong fundamental in oil rich, the nation has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack of legislature reforms, restrictive trade policies, an inconsistently regulatory environment, a slow and ineffective judicial system, unreliable dispute, resolution mechanisms, insecurity and pervasive corruption. Regulatory constraints and security risks have limited new investment in oil and natural gas and Nigeria's oil production had been contradicting, every year, since 2012, until a slight rebound in 2017 (CIA WORLD FACTBOOK, 2019).

Among the several socio-economic challenges besieging Nigeria's economy, unemployment and poverty are the most prevailing problems. Report from the World Bank reported that job creation does not kept pace with population growth. Meaning that the able-bodied who want to work are finding it difficult to get job for survival. Unemployment in Nigeria is mostly experiencing by the youths. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010), reported the statistics from Manpower Board and the Federal Bureau Statistics in the year 2010, stated that the numerical strength of the youths in Nigeria constitutes 80% of the nation's population. Further, it was stated that 64% of the youths' population have no job, while 16% were underemployed. Unemployment experience is not only felt by the youths but the stark reality is that the majority of jobless people are the youths' National Population Commission (2004), reported that more than half of the Nigerian population are under the age of 30years. This indicates that, Nigeria's economy is predominantly a youthful one. This reality makes them to be living lives without any meaningful means of a sustainable livelihood.

The condition of the people is fast deteriorating. In Nigeria much have not been achieved in terms of developmental efforts to promote sustainable economic development and poverty situations depicted above poses serious threats and challenges to the existence of individuals and the nation.

Also, the socio-vices that are very rampant in the country today, partly have been attributed to the twin challenge (poverty and unemployment). Highways and streets in Nigeria are flooded with people that are begging for alms for living. Thonbare (2008), noted that millions of Nigerians are living in destitution. 419 scams and "yahoo plus" become common games in Nigeria. Many youths and old people alike have resulted into kidnaping business human rituals and other criminal activities are thriving very well.

Towards achieving economic revolution particularly in the areas of unemployment reduction and poverty eradication, several economic policies and programmes had been adopted. These included; River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), the Rural Banking Programme (RBP).

Besides, there are other policies, observable, most of the policies and programmes that had been adopted them had failed to effectively address unemployment and poverty situation in Nigeria.

Government at different levels in order to enhance the employability of Nigerians initiated Entrepreneurship training programme and also restructured Nigerian curriculum to accommodate Entrepreneurship training or education in Nigerian schools ranging from primary to tertiary level. The intention is to prime the mindsets of people towards entrepreneurial activities. Hence, virtually in all the states of federation of Nigeria, Entrepreneurship training programmes centres are created. In some states efforts have been collaborated with some Non-governmental organizations, International Organizations for effective implementation of the programme.

It is against this background this study has carried out on appraising effects of entrepreneurship training programmes proliferation on economy sustainability in South-West, Nigeria.

## Statement of the Problem

Unemployment and poverty are major twin socio-economic challenges which Nigerians, especially the youths are experiencing. The unsavory experience constitute as barriers to individuals' and the nation's economic sustainability. To reverse this pathetic situation, government had implemented a lot of policies and programmes, yet the situations are still persisting. In recent times this informed the implementation of Entrepreneurship training programmes in the "nooks and corners", Nigeria. It is against this backdrop, this study was carried out on effects of entrepreneurship training programmes proliferation on economic sustainability in South-West, Nigeria.

## Literature Review

### Entrepreneurship Training

The conceptualizing of training has attracted many definitions. A lay-man definition of training is a process of given skills, attitudes and knowledge to people to perform particular tasks or activities. Erinsakin (2014), stated that in any organization training is very vital, because it would enable workers or employees to be updated and upgraded with the recent trends, innovations and technologies that are needed to survive in the competitive job environment. Training is a consciously planned and deliberate programme aimed at giving people or increase people technical skills, knowledge, efficiency and value creation to perform any assigned job.

Entrepreneurship training programmes are meant to enhance people's skills on entrepreneurial activities. Training is an investment on human capital which in return results into a high performance of workers (Becker, 1993, 1994 and 1996). Training raises workers future incomes by increasing their life time earnings. This means that a positive link exists between training occupational productivity and high wages. It can therefore be deciphered that Entrepreneurship training programme is meant to provide people with knowledge, skills, attitudes, and motivation that would result into entrepreneurship success.

Akinola (2012), stated that entrepreneurship training is a process by which individuals acquired technical skills, competency which will enable them to exploit investment opportunities, establish and manage business enterprises. Share and Venkatara (2000), reported that the lofty goal of entrepreneurship training programme ventails among other things, identifying the sources of opportunities, the process of discovery, evaluation and exploitation of opportunities for business activities. It is a process of equipping individuals with a vibrant entrepreneurial skills which would enable them to recognize commercial opportunities and it knowledge, skills and attitude to act on them.

Daodu (2007), also stated that entrepreneurship training programme is a strategy to channel or prime people energies or mind-sets from paid employment to self-employment. The programme becomes very necessary in the present reality of acute shortage of job opportunities and poverty state or status of the people in the country. Agagu (2007), noted that Entrepreneurship training programme is a mechanism address unemployment situation in the country. Erinsakin (2014), stated to the benefits of Entrepreneurship training programme as follows; creating employment opportunities, bringing the marginalized unemployed people to the world of job, mainstreaming or providing the mind-sets of jobless people, especially the youths into entrepreneurial activities; equipping people with the vibrant entrepreneurial skills for living a meaningful life and addressing some of the socio-psychological problems being experiencing by the people and the nation, attenuated by unemployment and poverty.

Further, this was corroborated by Aladekomo (2004) and Akpomi (2009) that the proliferation of entrepreneurship training would help in ameliorating some socio-economic problems, especially poverty and unemployment and other forms of socio-vices in the Nigeria. it is in this contention that the Federal Government of Nigeria and other levels of government are prioritizing the programme.

### Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to appraise the attenuating effects of proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme on economy in South-West., Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives were to:

- i. ascertain the effects of proliferation of entrepreneurship training programmes on people's accessibility to entrepreneurial in South West, Nigeria; and
- ii. determine the effects of proliferation of entrepreneurship training programmes towards priming the mind-sets of people towards small scale business in south-west, Nigeria.

## Research Questions

This research questions were raised to guide the study.

- i. What effect does proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme has on accessibility of entrepreneurship skills by the people for wealth generation in South-West, Nigeria?
- ii. Can the proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme prime the mindsets of people towards small scale business in South-West, Nigeria?.

## Research Hypothesis

One research hypothesis was raised.

**H01:** There will be no significant relationship between proliferation of entrepreneurship training and accessibility of people to entrepreneurship skills in South-West, Nigeria.

## Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are significant to the following stakeholders in entrepreneurship training programme in Nigeria, especially in the South West

- i. The results of the study will enable the government at the various levels to know whether proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme has attenuating effects or not on socio-economic challenges in South-West, Nigeria.
- ii. The findings of the study will enable the public to know the importance of Entrepreneurship training programme to their wellness or well-beings in South-West, Nigeria and Nigeria as a country.
- iii. The results of the findings will either give justification or not to Entrepreneurial training programme proliferation in South-West, Nigeria
- iv. the study will add to the existing literature on entrepreneurship training programme thus, become a good source of reference for the researchers in future etc.

## Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Hence, data generated on the sample size was generalized on the entire study population. The study population comprised the personnels and facilitators of Entrepreneurship training programmes in South West, Nigeria. The sample size for the study was one hundred and ninety (190) subjects, selected through a stratified proportion sampling technique. From the six states that made up South-West, Nigeria; Ondo (30), Oyo (25), Ogun (30) Osun (30), Lagos (40) and Ekiti State (25). The numbers of the respondents were selected.

The instrument used to collect data was self-developed questionnaire by the researchers entitled "Questionnaire on Effects of Entrepreneurship Training Programme Proliferation on Economic Sustainability in South-West, Nigeria; QAEETPES" developed on Four Likert Rating Scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD).

The instrument was validated by two experts in Test and Measurement from Adeyemi College of Education to ensure the instrument has both face and content validity. The reliability of the research instrument was done through test-retest method at two weeks interval. 0.70 coefficient reliability was obtained. Descriptive statistics (frequency counts, simple percentages and mean) was used to analysed data collected on the research questions, while inferential statistics (Pearson Product Moment Correlation PPMC) was used to analysed data collected on the research hypothesis.

## Presentation of Results and Discussion of Findings

**Research Question One:** What effects does proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme has on accessibility of people to entrepreneurial skills in South-West, Nigeria?



**Table I: Showing frequency counts, simple percentages, means on what effect does proliferation of entrepreneurship training has on accessibility of people to entrepreneurial skills in South-West, Nigeria.**

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Remarks
1.	Accessibility to entrepreneurship training has enable me to acquire entrepreneurial skills for wealth generation	10 5.2%	20 10.5%	50 55.3%	110 58%	3.3	<b>Accepted</b>
2.	My lack of entrepreneurship skills is due to lack of accessibility to entrepreneurship training for wealth generation	10 5.2%	30 16%	39 20.5%	121 64%	3.5	<b>Accepted</b>
3.	The proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme has makes me not to acquire vibrant skills on entrepreneurship that improves may incomes earning	140 74%	20 10.5%	27 14.2%	13 7%	1.6	<b>Rejected</b>
4.	The proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme in South-West, Nigeria results into interest I have in the training which improved my living condition	14 7.3%	16 8.4%	29 15.2%	131 69%	3.4	<b>Accepted</b>
5.	The proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme has given room for many people to participate in the training which improves their poverty status.	15 8%	27 14.2%	50 55.5%	98 51.5%	3.2	<b>Accepted</b>
6.	I was not aware of input of entrepreneurship training to wealth creation, due to its non-availability in my community	100 53%	50 55.5%	23 12.1%	17 9%	1.8	<b>Rejected</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>206 18%</b>	<b>136 12%</b>	<b>245 21.1%</b>	<b>573 49.5%</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>Accepted</b>

Table I presents the result on what effects doe proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme has on accessibility of people to entrepreneurship skills in south-west, Nigeria. on item (1), 110 (58%) among the respondents responded, 58% for strongly agreed, 50 (55.5%) agreed, 20 (10.5%) disagreed, while 10 (5.2%) strongly disagreed.

On item (2), 121 (64%) strongly agreed, 39 (20.5%) agreed, 30 (16%) disagreed, while 10 (5.2%), strongly disagreed. On item (3), 13 (7%) disagreed, 27 (14.2%) agreed, 20 (10.5%) disagreed while 140 (74%) strongly disagreed. On item (4), 131 (69%) among the respondents strongly agreed, 29 (15.2%) agreed, 16 (8.4%) disagreed while 14 (7.3%) strongly disagreed. On item (5), 98 (51.5%) strongly agreed, 50 (55.5%) agreed, 27 (14.2%) disagreed while 15 (8%) strongly disagreed.

Finally, on item (6), 17 (9%) strongly agreed, 23 (55.5%) agreed, 50 (55.5%) disagreed, while 100 (53%) strongly disagreed.

From the results, it is very clear that the proliferation of entrepreneurship training in South-west, Nigeria could make people to have access to the training since, the average mean of rating scale is ( $X = 2.5$ ), lower than the average mean of rating scale of four which is ( $X = 2.8$ ). what this indicates is that through the proliferation of entrepreneurship training people do acquire vibrant and technical skills on entrepreneurship skills to job creation, wealth generation and improved standard of loving. This results corroborates with the submission of Akponu (2004) and Erinsakin (2014), that through entrepreneurship training people would be exposed to technical skills in entrepreneurship for an improved income generation, effective managing of business ventures.

**Research Question Two:** Can proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme prime the mindsets of people towards a small scale business in South-west, Nigeria?

**Table 2: Showing frequency counts, simple percentages and means on can proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme prime the mindsets of people towards a small scale business in south-west, Nigeria.**

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Remarks
1.	I am motivated in participated in a small scale business because of its availability in my community	08 4.2%	12 6.3%	26 14%	144 76%	3.6	<b>Accepted</b>
2.	The availability of entrepreneurship training has nothing to do with my interest in small scale business training	139 73.1%	11 6%	24 13%	16 8.4%	1.6	<b>Rejected</b>
3.	Since, the creation of the training in my community, I have developed interest in entrepreneurial activities	14 7.4%	16 8.4%	40 21%	120 63.1%	3.4	<b>Accepted</b>
4.	I have interest in business creation because of location entrepreneurship training in my locality	10 5.2%	30 15.7%	70 37%	80 42.1%	3.1	<b>Accepted</b>
5.	The presence of entrepreneurship training in my locality is not the reason behind my interest in business activities	130 68.4%	40 21%	12 6.3%	08 4.2%	1.4	<b>Rejected</b>
6.	My knowledge of business is acquire through the entrepreneurship training in my community	20 10.5%	40 21%	40 21%	90 47%	3.0	<b>Accepted</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>321 28%</b>	<b>149 13.0%</b>	<b>212 18.5%</b>	<b>458 40.1%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>Accepted</b>

Table 2 presents the results on can proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme prime the mind-sets of people towards venturing into a small scale business in South-West, Nigeria? On item (1), which states that I am motivated to participate in a small scale business, because of its availability in my community. 144 (76%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 26 (14%) agreed, 12 (6.3%) disagreed, while 08 (4.2%), strongly disagreed.

On item (2), 16 (8.4%) strongly agreed, 24 (13%) agreed, 11 (6%) disagreed, while 139 (73.1%) strongly disagreed. On item (3), 120 (63.1%) strongly agreed, 40 (21%) agreed, 16 (8.4%) disagreed, while 14 (7.4%) strongly disagreed. On item (4), 80 (42.1%) strongly agreed, 70 (37%) agreed, 30 (15.7%) disagreed, while 10 (5.2%) strongly disagreed. On item (5), 08 (4.2%) strongly disagreed, 12 (6.3%) agreed, 40 (21%) disagreed, while 130 (68.4%) strongly disagreed.

Finally, on item (6), 90 (47.3%) strongly agreed, 40 (21%) agreed, 40 (21%) disagreed and 20 (10.5%) strongly disagreed. Based on the results above, the proliferation of Entrepreneurship training programme could prime the mind-sets of the people since, the average mean of rating scale is ( $X = 2.5$ ) lesser than the average means of rating scale of four ( $X = 2.7$ ). This result was in consonance with the opinion of Daodu (2007), that by participating in Entrepreneurship skills training programme the energies of people especially the youths would be directed or channeled or channel towards a small scale business. \_\_\_\_

**Research Hypothesis:** There will be no significant relationship between proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme and accessibility to entrepreneurship training programmes to wealth generation in South-West Nigeria

**Table 3:** Showing Pearson Product Moment Correlation between proliferation of entrepreneurship training and accessibility of the people to Entrepreneurship training programme for wealth generation in South-West, Nigeria.

Variables	Means	Std. Dev.	N	R	P	Remarks
Proliferation of entrepreneurship training	14.5157	1.4846	190	0.21*	.000	Sig.
Accessibility of the people to entrepreneurship skills for wealth generation in South-West, Nigeria	12.3240	1.3214	190	0.20*	.000	

\*Significant at .05 level

Table 3 above shows that there is a positive significant relationship between proliferation of entrepreneurship training and accessibility of the people to entrepreneurship skills to wealth generation in South-West, Nigeria. Since ( $r = 0.21^*$ ,  $N = 190$ ,  $P < .05$ ) for proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme, while ( $r = 0.20^*$ ,  $N = 190$ ,  $P < .05$ ) for accessibility of the people to entrepreneurship training programme for wealth generation in South-West, Nigeria. Null hypothesis, therefore, rejected. Thus, indicates that the proliferation of entrepreneurship training programme could result into accessibility of the people to entrepreneurship skills for wealth generation in South-West Nigeria. The results agrees with the submission of United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (2012), that Entrepreneurship training programme or development could result into wealth creation in and generation by individuals and the nation.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, conclusion were made that the proliferation of entrepreneurship skills training programme has resulted in mass enrolment of people for the programme which in return into an improved economy in South-West, Nigeria. The programme has also resulted into wealth generation and also has attenuating effects on unemployment and poverty status of the people among others in the South West, Nigeria.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations were made due to the conclusion of the study;

1. Entrepreneurship training programme centre should be proliferated in South-West, Nigeria
2. People should be made to know the benefits of the programme to their economy rejuvenation and that of the South-West and Nigeria.
3. Public should be made to award that, through their participation, they could acquire vibrant and technical skills in entrepreneurship that will enable them to run a small scale business successfully.
4. Government and other stakeholders in the provision of Entrepreneurship training programme should commit more fund and all logistics that could sustain the training programme.

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