ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT: AN ANTIDOTE TO INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This paper examined the effect of entrepreneurship development on the level of insecurity in Nigeria. Self-administered structured questionnaire was used to collect data from one hundred and twenty five participants through purposive sampling method. Inferential statistics was used to analyze the data, specifically ordinary least squares linear regression method was used with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) in order to determine the effect of independent variable (entrepreneurship development) on dependent variable (insecurity). The result showed that entrepreneurship development has significant effect on the level of insecurity in Nigeria. The study also revealed that entrepreneurship development programmes as well as providing a model on how entrepreneurial opportunities could be effectively and efficiently utilized jointly predict better national security which accounted for 60% variance of insecurity reduction. It was therefore, recommended that citizens should be exposed and motivated to develop interest in the skill-based activities towards self employment which can encourage them to identify entrepreneurial opportunities in order to reduce the rate of criminal activities.

Key Words: Entrepreneurship, Insecurity, Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurship Development

Introduction
The alarming level of unemployment remains one of the fundamental impediments of modern economies across the globe, in which Nigeria is inclusive. This ugly situation is traceable to the poor entrepreneurial culture in Nigeria which has become the most major force that is promoting poverty and its resultant social vices as well as insecurity. Nigerians resort to crimes and other social vices because they are not gainfully engaged. Interestingly, they are unemployed; unemployed, not because they lack the prerequisite qualifications but because the system has been crippled politically, economically, socio-culturally and even religiously. People especially youth and graduates become displaced economically (Kuratko, 2009 and Aliyu, 2014).

In the tornado of a globalized world with its complex characteristics, three words remain very constant in its discourse: entrepreneurship, unemployment and insecurity. Unemployment is one of the causes of a long and enduring problem in respect to national security. Unemployment, perceived in some discourse as the major, if not the main, threat to national security need to be checkmated via entrepreneurship development. Considering the ever rising number of unemployed youth in the country, there should be a rethinking strategy to find a solution to the
challenge. In this line, many scholars of varying positions have contributed immensely towards entrepreneurship development and its drive to provide job opportunity, hence underscoring the importance and relevance of entrepreneurship in the development of any given economy (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi, 2010; Salami, 2011 and Aliyu, 2014).

However, Nigeria is naturally endowed with entrepreneurship opportunities but the realization of the full potential of these opportunities has been dampened by the adoption of inappropriate industrialization policies at different times. Alternatively, several policy interventions that were aimed at stimulating entrepreneurship development through small and medium scale enterprises promotion, based on technology transfer strategy, have failed to achieve the desired goals as it painfully led to the most indigenous entrepreneurs becoming distribution agents of imported products as opposed to building in-country entrepreneurial capacity for manufacturing, mechanized agriculture and expert services (Ebiringa, 2012).

Having realized how Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources but poorly harnessed and with an attempt to reverse this decline, Duru (2011) opines that the present government policy of private sector led growth for job and wealth creation which is anchored on entrepreneurship development is being pursued with vigor. It is, therefore intended that youth and graduate unemployment can be reduced if they are empowered to be job creators or value adding employees in order to provide lasting solution to poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. The present situation seems to give the impression of economic insecurity as a result of failure to properly engage people in meaningful economic activities. Consequently, this paper attempts to examine the influence of entrepreneurship development on insecurity in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Concept of Entrepreneurship

There exists evidence that entrepreneurial propensity, opportunities and ability are key concepts of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial traits, creativity, innovation, business planning and growth management have been identified as necessary drivers of entrepreneurship (Aruwa, 2004). Entrepreneurship is basically the exploitation of a business idea through owning a private business. Cole (1942) defined entrepreneurship as the purposive activity of an individual or a group of associated individuals, undertaken to initiate, maintain or organize a profit-oriented business unit for the production or distribution of economic goods or services. Thus, an entrepreneur has become the focal point in economic activities. He is viewed as an initiator of action, a stimulant of socio-economic change and development. Entrepreneurship can be seen as the discovery, evaluation and exploitation of opportunities. Entrepreneur may be defined as an individual who intends to add value to the economy by creating a new business venture through the able utilization of his/her skills, knowledge, passion, dreams and desires (Ree, 2001). The connecting words in defining entrepreneurship from the above authors are willingness and enthusiasm. Therefore, entrepreneurship can be defined as the enthusiasm and capability of a person to look for investment prospect, create, start and run any enterprise productively (Muhammad and Andow, 2010).
According to Gibb (1993), entrepreneurship is the process of seeking investment opportunities without regards to the resources at one’s disposal. Ige (2007) sees entrepreneurship as a pre-disposition towards the establishment and operation of business venture by any individual, either alone or along with others, including government for the sake of making profit or social surplus in other to accumulate wealth. Given the extent of literature and various definitions, this paper adopts the definition of entrepreneurship as the ability and willingness of an individual to identify business opportunities and gather all the necessary resources to pursue them, with a view to providing benefits for one and others.

**Entrepreneurship Development**

The concept of entrepreneurship development is increasingly recognized as an important driver of economic growth, generating employment, fostering innovation and poverty reduction through the empowerment of people. Poor entrepreneurship development has also been identified as an immediate reason why businesses in developing countries fail to start or progress (Aliyu, 2014). The researcher argued that entrepreneurship in Nigeria involved two approaches. According to him, one of the approaches is concerned with provision of generous credit facility for small scale industrialists while the second approach is concern with training. These two elements, (training and funding) are the twin components of Nigerian entrepreneurship development initiatives.

**Understanding Government Entrepreneurship Development Efforts**

Government and entrepreneurs are attributed to the role of economic growth which is not mutually exclusive but complementary. Like some developed and developing economies, Nigerian government helps to encourage entrepreneurship development by providing security to life and property, maintaining law and order and the freedom to do business (Ebiringa, 2012). According to Ebiringa (2012), the role of government in entrepreneurship development in Nigeria became significant after (1967-70) civil war. Since the mid 1980s, the researcher argued that there has been an increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development by establishing the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NAOS) and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN) among others.

Having realized the shortcomings of the above approaches to entrepreneurship development, in the early 2000s, entrepreneurship studies were introduced into the Nigerian educational system especially in higher institutions as a mandatory course. One among the major links is the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED,) which has the objective of teaching and encouraging students of higher institutions (especially in science, engineering and technology) to acquire entrepreneurial, innovative and management skills, was established (Ebiringa, 2012 and Aliyu, 2014). The major goal of the centre according to the above studies is to develop the graduates with entrepreneurial skills to be self-employed, create job opportunities for others and to generate wealth in order to reduce crimes and other social vices among citizens so as to achieve economic development in Nigeria.
**Concept of Insecurity**

To understand the concept of insecurity, there would be a need to examine the concept of security. Akin (2008) sees security as the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. Some researchers in defining security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country (Qche, 2001; Igbuzor, 2011 and Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). A consensus is established in the contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. It is therefore apparent that national security is a sine qua non for economic growth and development of any country (Oladeji and Folorunso, 2007).

The concept of insecurity, on the other hand, means different things such as absence of safety: danger, hazard, uncertainty and lack of protection (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Beland (2005) argues that insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection while Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) define insecurity from two perspectives; firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where the danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity, according to them is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.

**The Relationship between Entrepreneurship Development and National Security in Nigeria**

It is the concept of human security that encompasses the protection of lives and property, a pre-condition for the improvement of people’s wellbeing, protection of human rights and the provision of basic human needs where self-actualization is achieved. However, the increasing complexity of competition in the Nigerian work environment in regards of lack of job opportunities calls for constant youth restiveness in the country. For over two decades now researches have shown that unemployment problem has become order of the day across the country (Okala, 2003 and Ubulom and Enyoghasim, 2012). Therefore, the youth are expected to be exposed to various entrepreneurial development programmes that abound in order to function independently and effectively as entrepreneurs in their various roles.

Unemployment is a symptom of a long and enduring problem in respect to national security. Unemployment, according to Osakwe (2013) is perceived in some discourse as the major, if not the main, threat to national security need to be re-evaluated. There is the need to look elsewhere, to harness entrepreneurial opportunities in the relationship between unemployment and the threat of national security. If anything, citizens that have no engaging jobs can perpetrate or be used to perpetrate violence and thus threaten national security. Thus, entrepreneurship development has been regarded as the channel for employment generation and the essence of entrepreneurship is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture (Aliyu, 2014)). He went further by contending that promoting entrepreneurship culture on the ground that youth in all societies need to engage themselves by participating in entrepreneurial activities because the concept of entrepreneurship development is been recognized as driver of economic growth by
generating employment for people so that they can become economically empowered (Anho, 2011 and Aliyu, 2014). In the research carried out by Ubulom and Enyoghasim (2012), on developing entrepreneurial skills through business education programme to curb youth restiveness for sustainable Niger Delta development, it was found that equipping youth with entrepreneurial skills through business education programmes as well as harnessing entrepreneurial opportunities for their use is capable of curbing the problem of youth restiveness and other crimes.

Research Hypothesis
In accordance with the previously stated conceptual framework and consistent with related literature, this study tested the hypothesis below;

\[ H_0: \text{Entrepreneurship development does not have any significant effect on national security.} \]

Model Specification
Mathematically, the model is expressed as follows;

Model: \[ \text{NS} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \text{X}_1 + \epsilon \]

Where; \(\text{NS}\) = National Security, \(\text{X}_1\) = Entrepreneurship Development, \(\alpha_0\) = Intercept, \(\alpha_1\) = Regression Coefficient, \(\epsilon\) = Stochastic error term.

Methodology
Survey research design was adopted in this study. This design was chosen because the sampled elements and the variables that are being studied are simply being observed as they are without making any attempt to control or manipulate them. Data were collected from a sample of small scale business owners to examine the effect of entrepreneurship development on the national security. The independent variable is entrepreneurship development while the only dependent variable is national security. However, the study was restricted to Ibadan, Oyo State. The choice of Ibadan stems from the fact that the concentration and predominance of small scale businesses in Ibadan is easily identifiable and accessible. Self administered questionnaire has served as operational instrument to collect a purposive sampling primary data of 125 small business owners that constitute the sample size. Study also used secondary source like standard records provided by the association of small scale businesses in Nigeria, Oyo State chapter to get insight into the address of each member. Linear regression was used with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for data analysis.

Measurement

Entrepreneurship Development Questionnaire:- This scale was used to measure entrepreneurship development and the responses were rated on the Likert-scale format, with answers ranging from 1-5 (1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree). The psychometric properties of the instrument were evaluated in terms of reliability. Cronbach’s alpha values
were calculated for all multi-item variables. The entire instrument as well as the individual variables exceeded the minimum alpha of 0.70 and achieved high levels of reliability ranging from 0.86 to 0.90

**National Security Questionnaire:** This scale was used to assess respondents’ perceived levels of national security (Crime Rate). The scale was developed and validated by William and Anderson (1991). The response format was in likert form with indicants ranging from *strongly agree (5)* to *strongly disagree (1)*. It consisted of 6 items and the scoring procedure indicates that high scores represent low perceived crime rate and low scores imply high perceived small crime rate. The study reported Cronbach reliability alpha of .91, while when correlated with crime level; the relationship was moderately high having being .77. The instrument was subjected to further revalidation in order to determine its soundness. Therefore, the reliability alpha coefficient obtained for the six items in the current study was .78

**Data Analysis**

**Table 1: Model Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.651a</td>
<td>.605</td>
<td>.604</td>
<td>7.275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- a. Predictor: (Constant), Entrepreneurship Development
- b. Dependent Variable: National Security

Table 1 above shows the value of coefficient of determination ($R^2$) = 0.605, which implies that 60% of the variation in national security could be explained by the economic empowerment enjoyed by the citizens through different entrepreneurship development.

**Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Square</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>789.225</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>789.225</td>
<td>1167.788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>83.127</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
<td>.676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>872.352</td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- a. Predictor: (Constant), Entrepreneurial Development
- b. Dependent Variable: National Security
From the above ANOVA table 2 and F-Statistic which reveals the value of F (1167.788) significant at 0.05 confidence level. This result therefore indicates that the independent variable (entrepreneurial opportunities) immensely contributes to the variation in the national security.

Table 3: Regression Analysis Showing the Effect of Entrepreneurship Development on the National Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardised Coefficient</th>
<th>Standardised Coefficient</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
<td>Beta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>22.015</td>
<td>2.753</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.010</td>
<td>.030</td>
<td>.951</td>
<td>34.173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entre. Development

a. Dependent Variable: National Security

From the table 3 above, since the t-value for the regression coefficients are significant at 95% confidence level (t= 7.996, P= 0.05), it implies that the predictor variable (entrepreneurship development) makes a significant contribution to the level of national security. Moreover, the unstandardized linear regression model is F= 22.015+1.010β while the standardized beta coefficient indicates that a unit change in the opportunities for entrepreneurial process causes a 60.5% decrease in crime rate leading to better security in the country.

Summary of Findings

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show that entrepreneurship development as a process of getting people empowered economically, contributes 60.5% to the level of national security with (R²= .605, F(1,123) =1167.788, P<0.05). This implies that entrepreneurial development influences national security at 5% level. The result conforms to Duru (2011); Adebakin and Raimi (2012); Ubulom and Enyoghasim (2012); Ekanem and Emanghe (2014) and Aliyu (2014) that entrepreneurship is essential for rapid economic growth and better national security as it creates the required manpower and skills necessary for accelerated growth, reduce unemployment and poverty which are factors responsible for high level of crime and insecurity in the country.
Entrepreneurship development is a predictor of national security with (β= 1.010, t=34.173, P<0.05). This indicates that entrepreneurial development has a significant influence on the level of national security at 5% level. This result is also in line with Ubulom and Enyoghasim (2012) and Osakwe (2013) that entrepreneurship development tapping into business opportunities has a positive significant influence on the rate of crime and level of national security attained.

Conclusion and Recommendations
Based on the empirical result of this study examining the effect of entrepreneurship development on national security, the Nigerian economy is such that uncoordinated effort is made by government to encourage investment that can help to create employment opportunities for the youth and other job-seekers by providing enabling business environment where corporations, enterprises and businesses can thrive. Since this is the case, there is problem of serious unemployment in Nigeria which resulted to youth restiveness and high rate of crime. In order to curb this problem of insecurity and crimes, there is the need for the youth and other job-seekers to be assisted to acquire the necessary entrepreneurship skills in identifying entrepreneurial opportunities for self-employment.

From the regression analysis, the coefficient of determination ($R^2$) of 0.605 indicated that 60% of the variation in the level of national security could be explained by entrepreneurship development among the citizens. Furthermore, the analysis of variance (ANOVA) gave an F-value of 1167.788 significant at 5% confidence level, which implies that there is a strong relationship between entrepreneurship development and national security. It can, therefore be concluded that with awareness creation on the crucial role of entrepreneurial opportunities and training in fostering employment generation among the teeming youth, economic growth, wealth creation and relatively better national security would be achieved.

In the light of the above conclusion, it is therefore, recommended that citizens should be exposed and motivated to develop interest in the skill-based activities towards self employment which can encourage them to identify entrepreneurial opportunities in order to reduce the rate of criminal activities. Government should create conducive business environment that will promote entrepreneurship drive by ensuring stable power supply, also to organize workshop and exhibition so as to expose the youth and other job-seekers to reality of entrepreneurial opportunities and development. Emphasis in our educational programmes curriculum at all levels of education should be placed on identifying entrepreneurial opportunities and the development of entrepreneurship skills.

References
Akin Ibidapo-Obe (2008). The Utility of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Intelligence


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Stanford Technology Ventures Programme


Entrepreneurship in Nigeria started when the goods produced by her citizens exceeded their needs. They exchanged surplus items for what they needed. For instance, a farmer started selling out his farm produce in exchange for meat from a hunter. Eventually, after independence, Nigerians became aware of the menace the colonial educational system has caused on entrepreneurship and economic growth. And this was a turning point in the history of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Then, they started making efforts to reverse it. The solution was to make education a tool for national development. See Also: Characteristics of the entrepreneur for business success. Entrepreneurial organisations. Corporate Social Responsibility and Entrepreneurship (CSRE): antidotes to poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment in Nigeria. Lukman Raimi (Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Nigeria). Innocent Akhuemonkhan (Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Nigeria). The quantitative method entail a systematic extraction of reliable data on corporate social responsibility (CSR), insecurity, poverty and development from the publications of Office of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, CLEEN Foundation, National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Nigeria, respectively. For missing years, the authors improvised using projections as well as proxies.