

Review Article**Employment generation through entrepreneurial development: Nigeria experience****Abstract**

Unemployment is a global problem with developing nations of the world having the lion shares of the unemployed. This has resulted in the migration of people from one region of the world to another in search of greener pastures. In the past three decades, Europe has seen people migrating from its Eastern to the Western parts. Africa has lost so many of her bright scholars and citizens while migrating to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea in search of greener pastures. This paper investigated the Nigerian government's intervention efforts with which it attempted to address the phenomenon and their effectiveness in encouraging entrepreneurship, with a view to facilitating job creation for the teeming Nigerians job seekers. The study relied heavily on existing literatures which revealed that several intervention programmes introduced by successive governments in the country failed to yield the expected results. Findings revealed a plethora of bottlenecks which are principally hinged on corruptions, bureaucracies, inconsistencies in government policies, political upheavals, and lack of entrepreneurial skill among majority of unemployed Nigerians. The authors recommended concerted efforts on the part of the government to the development of entrepreneurship by providing an enabling environment and infrastructures. The authors further recommend that educational programmes in all institutions of learning be tailored towards development of entrepreneurial skills while start up loans should be made available without interests.

Keywords: Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurship, Unemployment, Insurgents, Poverty

30 1.0 Introduction

31 In the world of over seven billion population, the governments and policy makers are finding it
 32 difficult to grapple with the enormous problems posed by unemployment. Unemployment is one
 33 of the developmental problems that face every developing economy (Patterson et al, 2006),
 34 and Nigeria is not exempted. Its impact has been felt more by the youths. Oviawe (2010)
 35 asserted that more than half of Nigerian populations are under the age of 30, therefore, Nigeria
 36 economy is a youth economy. However, the Nigerian youths are said to be confronted with
 37 poverty, unemployment, urbanization, lack of capacity and skills needed to move the economy
 38 forward (Emeh, Nwanguna, and Abaroh (2012). This is because the youth faces
 39 unemployment and lack of necessary productive skills to keep body and soul together and to
 40 move the nation economy forward. With youth unemployment, Nigeria and the world at large
 41 appears to be heading towards a dangerous abyss that will defy all economic theories and
 42 postulations. According to Ossai and Nwalado (2012), political instability and inconsistencies in
 43 the socio economic policies of successive governments in Nigeria led to the emergence of high
 44 level unemployment. Corruption becomes the bane of the developmental progress of the
 45 nation. Insecurity threatens the corporate existence of the nation via the terrorist (Boko Haram)
 46 activities, kidnapping and harm banditry which scare away prospective investors. Due to rapid
 47 annual population growth averaging about 3 percent (World Bank report 2014) Nigeria, needs
 48 to experience a strong reduction in the poverty rate in order to reduce the absolute number of
 49 the poor caused by unemployment. Arogundade (2011) emphasized that in the face of this
 50 situation, entrepreneurship which would have salvaged the situation was not encouraged. It
 51 has been observed that tertiary education has not properly included philosophy of self-reliance
 52 and entrepreneurial skill in their curriculum. The Nigeria Economic Report (NER) by World
 53 Bank (2014) indicated that the number of poor Nigerians did not decrease between 2010/2011
 54 and 2012/2013, remaining at 58 million. Oni and Daniya (2012) stressed that most of the poor
 55 and unemployed Nigerians in order to better their lots have resorted to the establishment of
 56 their own businesses. Consequently, entrepreneurship is fast becoming a household name in
 57 Nigeria. This is as a result of the fact that the so called white collar jobs that people clamour for
 58 are no longer there. Governments at all levels have persistently laid claimed to several jobs
 59 produced, yet the jobs are nowhere to be found by the massive youth. Declining economy
 60 resulting from corrupt practices (Otumba, 2013), lack of entrepreneurial skills (Alao, 2013), job
 61 creations, marketable and productive skills (Emeh, 2012) have all been identified as the root
 62 causes of youth unemployment. The crux of the matter is that apart from the youth

unemployment rate put at 23.9 percent in 2011, there is the problem of unemployable youth arising from gross incompetence, (Oni and Daniya, 2012). There is wide gap between employers' needs and employees' skills. The study investigated the Nigerian government's intervention efforts with which it attempted to address the phenomenon of unemployment and their effectiveness in encouraging entrepreneurship, with a view to facilitating job creation for the teaming Nigerians job seekers.

2.0 Literature review

2.1 Entrepreneur

An entrepreneur conceives a business opportunity, evaluates its techno-economic feasibility, and implements the project by combining different factors of production such as land, labour, and capital (Shacheendran and Mathew 2015). The person that combines all the factors of production for productive use aiming to benefit or profit from such act is called an entrepreneur. Baptiste (1816) cited in Shacheendran (2015) defined the concept of entrepreneurship as one who combines the land of one, the labour of another, and capital of yet another, and thus, produces a product. By selling the product in the market, pays interest on capital, rent on land and wages to labourers and what remains is his/her profit. Due to the fact that there is no market for opportunities, the entrepreneur must exploit them, meaning that he or she must develop his or her capabilities to obtain resources, as well as organize and exploit opportunities. The entrepreneur has been described by Collins et al. (1964) as a risk taker –a person who braves uncertainty, strikes out on his own through native wit, devotion to duty and singleness of purpose somehow creates an industry where none existed before. Kanothi, (2009) also defined entrepreneur as the instigator of entrepreneurial events for so long as they occur. In essence, the entrepreneur is the principal factor behind any entrepreneurship activities.

Agwu and Kadiri, (2014), stressed that an entrepreneurial culture is one where ambitious thinking and free expression are encouraged and valued. Environment that will not accommodate people's thought and freedom will make entrepreneurial activities not to strive. People must be given the time and security to develop ideas. Most people become self-employed because they are not given the opportunity to develop their ideas, or because their ideas are not valued by their organization (Beugelsdijk, & Noorderhaven, 2005; Pinchot & Pinchot, 1978). Any nation looking to become entrepreneurial, needs to ensure its culture supports its existing and potential entrepreneurs (Menzel, Aaltio & Ulijn, 2007). Successful

entrepreneurs are opportunists who through their creativity, drive and vision, create economic or social value, (Metaprofiling 2013).

2.2 Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship can be conceptualized as the discovery of opportunities and the subsequent creation of new economic activity, often via the creation of a new organization (Reynolds, 2005). Entrepreneurship is the pursuit of opportunity without regard to resources currently controlled (Stevenson, 1975). This implies that a specific skill would appear to be particularly important, that of making use of resources that is outside the entrepreneur's control (Stevenson, 1983; Jarillo, 1989). Since entrepreneurial behavior implies pursuing opportunities regardless of the resources under control, the management task of planning, sourcing and coordinating resources come into play. This is described as the ability to create something from practically nothing and the willingness to take a moderate risk. Also in the view of Agbionu (2008), entrepreneurship involves a process aimed at creating wealth for the purpose of growth, development of the environment and eradication of unemployment for national economy sustainability. Kuratka and Richard (2001) stated that entrepreneurship is the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth. This wealth is created by individuals who take the major risks in terms of equity, time and career commitment of providing value to some products or services. The product or service itself may or may not be new or unique but value must somehow be infused by the entrepreneur by securing and allocating the necessary skill and resources. Dickson et al (2008) opined that entrepreneurship is an important aspect of an organization and economies. It creates jobs, reduces poverty, and increases wealth of the individual and the nation. Tijani (2004) defines entrepreneurship as the process of increasing the supply of entrepreneurs or adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs, who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to growth and sustain them, with a view to achieving broad socio-economic developmental goals.

2.3 Factors Inhibiting Entrepreneurial Activities

In Nigeria, the problems of infrastructural development (good roads, electricity supply, water, and so forth) inhibit the development of entrepreneurial activities. Ovat (2013) emphasized lack of funds as bane for the development of entrepreneurship. Ayodele (2006) identified inadequate capital, irrelevant education that is not tailored towards entrepreneurial activities to be another factors hindering the development of entrepreneurship in the country. Okafor

(2011) pointed out that corruption has robbed the country of developing a vibrant economic base. Agwu and Kadiri, (2014) stressed that corruption has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria; hence the funds meant for developing projects that will aid entrepreneurial activities have been misappropriated, diverted, or embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks. Political instability and inconsistent in government policies have made so many would be entrepreneurs to take their funds outside the country to other nations where the political terrain is better. In his own contribution, Chibundu (2006) highlighted the following challenges confronting entrepreneurial activities in Nigeria. These are low entrepreneurial skills, poor management practices, overbearing regulatory and operational environment and poor implementation of policies. Others are restricted market access, lack of infrastructural facilities, financial indiscipline, and constrained access to funds and capital markets, among others. Nwagwu (2007) re-emphasized the important of entrepreneurial skill when he asserted that the failure of tertiary education to inculcate in their curriculum good entrepreneurship education has led to the wastages in both human and natural resources. This is because the youth and the graduates from tertiary institutions are not equipped with the skills with which to exploit the natural resources that abound in Nigeria. These overbearing problems need concerted efforts by all stake holders in the country for entrepreneurial activities to strive (Asikhia 2010; Agwu, Carter and Murray, 2014; Emeh, Nwanguma and Abaroh 2012).

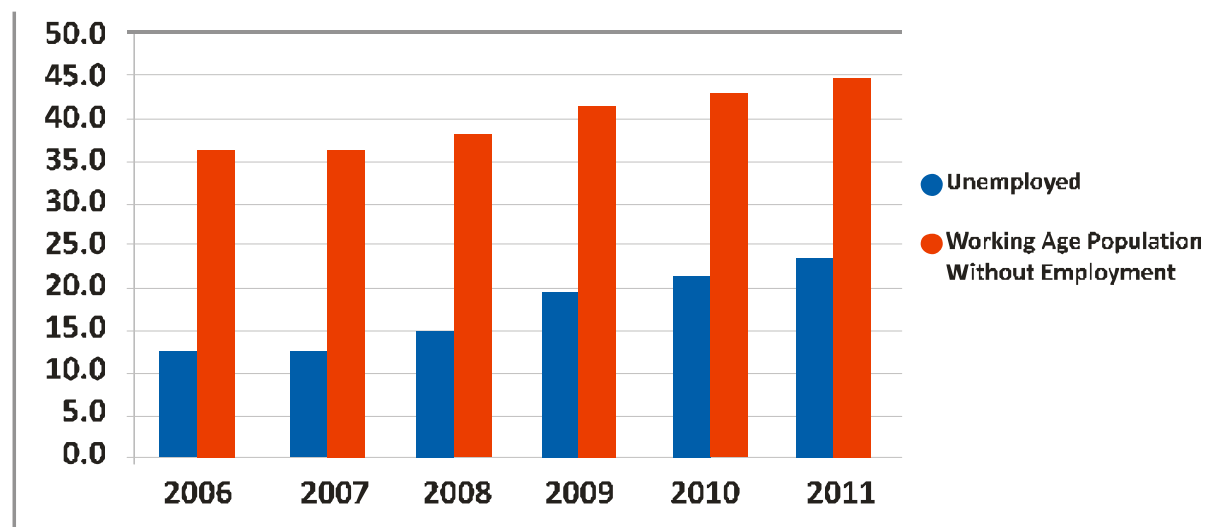
2.4 Unemployment

Unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment, (Fajana 2000). The official definition of unemployment by National Bureau of Statistic (NBS) includes all members of the work force who had not worked 40 hours during the previous week (World Bank Nigeria Economic Reports 2013). Unemployment is a global trend, but occurs mostly in developing countries of the world, with attendant social, economic, political, and psychological consequences. In their research, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) and Okafor (2011) have brought to the fore that youth unemployment across the world has reached a great height and is likely to climb further. Thus, massive youth unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problems (Okafor, 2011). Unemployment breeds poverty and this result to people been unable to cater for their daily needs. This can result also to banditry, armed robbery and terrorism as we are experiencing Boko Haram in the north Eastern part of Nigeria. However, Oyebade (2003) grouped Nigeria's unemployment into two categories: first, the older

unemployed who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy, or bankruptcy; and second, the younger unemployed, most of whom have never been employed. Other types of unemployment as pointed out by Fajana (2000) and Alao (2005) are seasonal unemployment, residual unemployment, frictional unemployment, and technological unemployment.

Figure 1: Unemployment in Nigeria 2006-2011

(Percentage of Working Age Population)



Source: World Bank's 2013 Nigeria Economic Report-page 10

World Bank (2014) emphasized that as in many other developing countries, most Nigerians cannot afford to be completely unemployed. Those without good productive employment therefore typically engage in various low productivity and low paying tasks for survival. The Bank further asserted that employment problem in Nigeria may be better understood as an underemployment problem corresponding to a scarcity of high productivity jobs, and in many cases of highly qualified candidates to fill those jobs.

As stated in figure 1, the rate of unemployment is increasing in Nigeria. The percentage increase is growing every year with the tertiary institutions pumping out graduates without readymade jobs and necessary skills and funds to start their own entrepreneurial activities. Almost 45% of the working age in Nigeria are either out of work or yet to experience employment at all.

Figure 2: Nigeria Employment Rate



Source: World Bank Nigeria Economy Report 2013

Over the years the rate of unemployment as indicated in figure 2 is increasing this is partly due to the massive turnout of higher institution graduates without the prerequisite skills to start their own business. This is likely to be on the increase because all the indices available, according to World Bank Nigeria Economy Report (2013), indicate that those factors inhibiting entrepreneurial activities are still very available. Hence job creation and employment generation still become a daunting task for Nigeria government.

Figure 3: Nigeria Poverty Rate and Percentage of Population.

	2013-2014	2009-2010
Per capita		
Poverty rate	64.2	62.6
Urban Poverty	52.2	51.2
Rural Poverty	73.4	69
Adult equivalence		
Poverty rate	48.3	46.1
Urban Poverty	36.8	34.3
Rural Poverty	57.4	52.9

Source: World Bank Nigeria Economy Report 2013

The number of Nigerians living in poverty is not decreasing. Due to rapid annual population growth averaging about 3 percent (World Bank NER 2013), Nigeria needs to experience a strong reduction in the poverty rate in order to reduce the absolute number of the poor. The new estimates presented in figure 3 above would imply that the number of poor Nigerians did not decrease between 2010/2011 and 2012/2013, remaining at 58 million. As stated in figure 3, the rates of poverty continue to increase from 62.6% in 2009/2010 to 64.2% in 2013/2014. The effect is more severe in the rural areas where basic amenities are limited or non-existing. In addition, the number of poor people living in the Northern part of Nigeria is increasing, because of the insurgency in this part of the country, while the number of poor in Southern Nigeria is decreasing. Ossai and Nwalado (2012), Chibundu (2006), and Shacheendran and Mathew (2015) reemphasized the important of entrepreneurial activities in a nation. Oluremi and Gbenga (2011) reiterated that studies have established that there is positive relationship between entrepreneurial activities with stimulation of economic growth; employment generation; and empowerment of the disadvantaged segment of the population, which include women and the poor. Active entrepreneurial activities will reduce poverty, increase standard of living and will reduce the insurgencies pervading the whole of the country, (Kayode-Adededeji and Agwu, 2015)

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2.5 Poverty

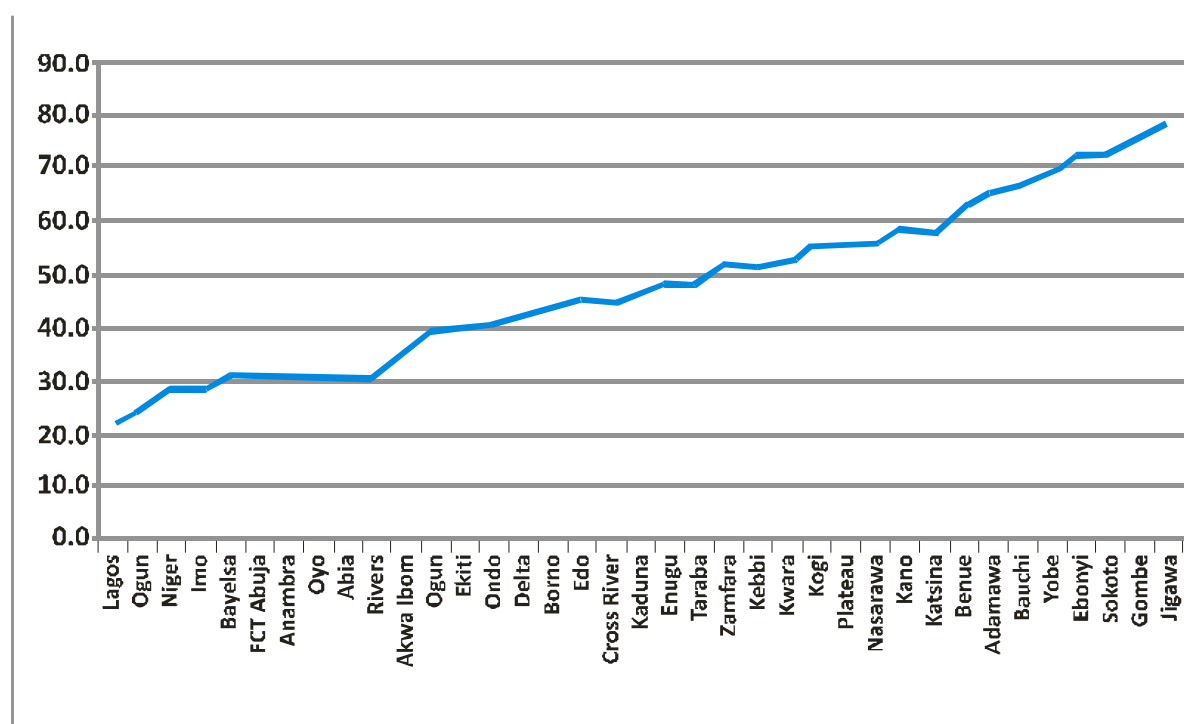
Aigbokhan (2008), defined poverty as a state of long-term deprivation of well-being, a situation considered inadequate for decent living. This is what majority of Nigerians have been going through. Kpakol (2008) defined poverty as the inability of a person to acquire the empowerment needed to substantively control the challenges of the environment. Stemming from this, Asikhia (2010) opined that people are poor when they lack the tools and capacity to subdue their environment or when they lack empowerment in tools and new techniques, innovations, management skills and ideas, and economic participation. Some of the things necessary for citizenry to empower themselves are beyond their reach, hence the government has role in providing all the infrastructures needed for entrepreneurship development which will lead to poverty reduction. Therefore, one becomes poor when his environment subdues him. When the human capital of the rural sector is gainfully employed then poverty is weakened. This human capital could be employed through government, corporate or individual self-employment.

2.6 Causes of poverty

Ajakaye and Adeyeye (2001) assert that there is no one cause or determinant of poverty. They emphasized that combination of several complex factors contribute to poverty. These include low or negative economic growth, inappropriate macroeconomic policies, deficiencies in the labour market resulting in limited job growth, low productivity and low wages in the informal sector, and a lag in human resource development. Other factors which have contributed to decline in living standards and are structural causes or determinants of poverty include increase in crime and violence, environmental degradation, retrenchment of workers, a fall in the real value of safety nets, and changes in family structures. Agwu and Kadiri, (2014) opined that poverty is multi-dimensional and it is difficult to separate the various dimensions of poverty from the various causes of poverty. In the case of Nigeria, it is evident that unemployment, corruption, the non-diversification of Nigeria's economy, inequality, laziness, and a poor education system are some of the key determinants of poverty, (Kayode-Adedeji and Agwu, 2015). These determinants are many times related to each other and also enforce each other. For example, unemployment, poor education and poverty can be seen as vicious cycle. Okoroafor and Nwaeze (2013) emphasized that lack of empowerment limits people choices in almost everything and their lack of security makes them vulnerable to diseases, violence and soon. Furthermore, they claimed that poverty can

also be the outcome of inefficient use of common resources. This may result from weak policy environment, inadequate infrastructure, and weak access to technology. As indicated in figure 4, the rate of poverty in the north is on the increase; while it is more severe in those states the insurgency of Boko Haram is more prominent. The World Bank reports of 2013 and 2014 pointed out that Nigeria economy is among the fastest growing economy, the measurable indices are more feasible in the south where the entrepreneurial activities are more viable due to relatively conducive environment.

Figure 4: Nigerian Poverty Rates By State: 2009-2010 (With Adult Equivalent Correction %)



Source: World Bank Nigeria Economy Report 2013

2.7 The menace of terrorists: The Boko Haram insurgents in Nigeria

Adesola (2010) defined Boko Haram as an Islamic sect that believes politics in northern Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims. It wants to wage a war against them, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria generally, to create a “pure” Islamic state ruled by sharia law. The group Jama’atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda’Awati Wal Jihad, known the world over as Boko Haram, is an extremist Islamic sect in Nigeria that has created havoc across the north of the country and in the capital, Abuja. Its violent attacks on government offices, the

United Nations, and churches threaten to destabilize the country. Eyieyien (2012) and Andrew (2012) confirmed that the group name dubbed Boko Haram means western education is forbidden. Government failure to provide security, good roads, water, health, reliable power and education caused frustration and drive many to join- self-help- ethnic, religious, civil or community groups some of which are hostile to the state. The negative impact of the activities of Boko Haram has reflected on unemployment and entrepreneurial activities in Nigeria especially in the North Eastern part of the country where its activities are more pronounced. Andrew (2012) emphasized that Boko Haram is both a serious challenge and manifestation of more profound threats to Nigeria's security. Unless the federal and state governments, and the region, develop and implement comprehensive plans to tackle not only insecurity but also the injustices that drive much of the troubles, Boko Haram, or groups like it, will continue to destabilize large parts of the country. International Crisis Group (2014) affirmed that In North Eastern Nigeria where Boko Haram insurgency and terrorist's activities are ravaging, the entire region is facing acute shortage of employment because entrepreneurial activities are in their lowest ebb.

2.8 Government Interventions in Development of Entrepreneurship

Several options have being employed by successive governments in Nigeria to ameliorate the sufferings of unemployed in the country. Attempting to present these chronologically, the governments at various times have evolved the following in development of entrepreneurship to curtail the menace of unemployment.

a) National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

This is the starting point of various schemes organized by the government to tackle the problems of unemployment. It was established in 1986 by CAP 250 of the law of Federal Republic of Nigeria (Military decree). Baba, Dickson, & Kromtit (2014) recalled the programme was to address four major areas to combat unemployment:

- Small Scale Enterprises programme: This is for the graduate and mature unemployed people.
- Vocational skills development programme: This is for National Open Apprenticeship, School on wheels, Waste to Wealth, Resettlement and disabled persons scheme and so forth.

- Rural Employment Promotion Programme: Graduate Agriculture Self-Employment Programme.
- Special public works programme.

NDE has trained more than two million unemployed and provided business training for not less than 400,000 Nigerians (Oyemoni, 2003)

b) Better Life Programme (BLP)

The BLP was set up in 1987, to enhance the quality of life of rural people mostly women, among other objectives. The Better Life Program tried to harness the potentials of rural people and thereby impact positively on their economic activities and incomes. The programme improved the quality of life of many women through the distribution of various inputs, granting of easy credits, and the establishment of various educational/enlightenment programs (Oyeranti and Olayiwola 2005).

c) National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND)

This was set up in 1989 with a view to catalyzing the growth of the SME Sector through medium and long term funding. The fund was initiated with a capital fund of N 300 million (USD1.9 million) jointly subscribed by the Ministry of Finance and the CBN. The Fund received further funding from the African Development Bank in 1992. In 2010, the Federal Government provided a further N 200 billion (USD1.29 million) stimulation package. The fund is managed by a NERFUND committee and the loans are disbursed both directly to SMEs as well as on-lent to financial institutions (Sanusi 2003).

d) People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN)

Oyeranti and Olayiwola (2005) pointed out that PBN was set-up by Decree No. 22 of 1990 with the mandate to provide basic credit requirements to the under privileged Nigerians who are involved in legitimate economic activities in both rural and urban areas and who cannot normally benefit from the services of orthodox banking systems due to their inability to provide collateral securities. The bank was actually complementing the function of FSP and FEAP.

e) Family Support Programme (FSP)

Family Support Program (FSP) was established in 1993 with greater emphasis on the health component of rural people. Makinde (2005) emphasized that the program was set up to

provide health care delivery, child welfare, youth development, and improved nutritional status to families in rural areas.

f) Family Economy Advancement Programme (FEAP)

The FEAP was established to stimulate economic activities by providing loans directly to Nigerians through cooperative societies and informal associations, Ajani (2013) further stressed that the programme was to provide credit facilities to cooperative societies to support the establishment of cottage industries in both rural and urban areas. The program was also designed to create employment opportunities at ward levels, encourage the design and manufacture of appropriate plants, machinery and equipment, and provide opportunities for the training of ward based business operators.

g) Small and Medium Industries Equity investment Scheme (SMEIS)

Sanusi, (2003) reemphasized the important of SMEIS in promoting entrepreneurship in Nigeria. This is a voluntary initiative of Bankers committee approved at its 246th meeting held on 21st December 1999. The initiative was in response to government concerns and policy measures for the promotion and development of small and medium industries (SMI) as vehicles for rapid industrialization, sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation and employment. The scheme requires all banks in Nigeria to set aside 10 (ten) percent of their profit before tax (PBT) for equity investment and promotion of small and medium industries.

h) National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

Due to insignificant success achieved by various programmes embarked upon to address poverty as result of lack of credit, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was launched in 2002 to address not only lack of access to credit by the poor but also bring about reduction in unemployment rate in Nigeria. With the programme in place, it is expected that lack of access to credit which has stifled growth in the small and medium scale enterprises sector of the economy would now be redressed. The programme involved all stakeholders in poverty eradication in Nigeria namely the federal, state and local governments, civil society organizations, research institutions, the organized private sector, women groups and concerned individuals (Okoye and Onyukwu, 2007).

i) Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)

This was established by the SMEDAN act of 2003 to promote the development of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) sector of the Nigerian economy. It is an association for small and medium business operators. It plays a vital role in the MSME's sectors by encouraging young graduates to become self-made entrepreneurs through processes of registering their business with government organisations. SMEDAN also encourages networking because it is not just enough to say you are a producer of products without good networking to get the goods sold (Oluseyi, Solomon, and Adekunle 2013).

J) The Rural Financial Institution Building Program (RUFIN)

According to Kolawole (2013), this was launched in 2009 and became operational in 2010. It is a seven year program with the aim of actualizing food security, employment and wealth creation in rural areas. Whilst RUFIN's aim is not directed solely at MSMEs, the fact that many MSMEs operate in rural areas means that RUFIN's initiatives will reach them. RUFIN is partly funded by the International Fund for Agriculture.

Why some of the schemes failed

i) Corrupt practices among decision makers

Endemic corruption has robbed the country of the chance of using more than \$500 billion dollars estimated revenue from the sale of oil in the last 50 years to develop a vibrant economy that would have created jobs for the youths in the various sectors of economy (Okafor, 2005). Massive corruption is perpetuated in every sector and has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria. Funds meant for development projects which could have generated employment have been misappropriated, diverted, or embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks.

ii) Bad management and implementation

Akande (2013) argued that management and administrative oversight of the programs has been weak and sometimes problematic, perhaps because of multiple authorities (federal, state and local government agencies) managing the programs. Some have been known to expend more money than is necessary or at least failed to justify the amount of public money devoted to such programs.

iii) Lack of Entrepreneurial Education

Absence of entrepreneurship education in our school curriculum has denied Nigerian youths the privilege of having the necessary skills of starting their own business. Ossai and Nwalado (2012), Oviawe, (2010), Dickson et al (2008) and Dike (2006) all agreed that Government should develop entrepreneur internship programme by matching students with locally successful entrepreneurs with clearly established education programmes.

iv) Policy discontinuity and lack of sustainability

Lack of continuity and sustainability in government policies towards entrepreneurship in Nigeria has been a great hindrance towards entrepreneurial activities. Incessant change in government often comes with changes in government policies and disruption or cessation of programmes run by previous government.

v) Insecurity

Achumba, Igbomereho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013) stated that insecurity will be a great impediment to growth of business in a nation. Insecurity discourages investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people. This is because it increases the cost of doing business either through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty. These costs could have a negative impact on business development and progress.

vi) Finance

In Nigeria, the level of finance for entrepreneurship is one of the lowest in the world. However, while the World Bank (2010) report indicates that Nigeria's financial system is highly capitalized and vibrant, her contribution to entrepreneurship and SMEs sector is only about 1.6% of the total loans and advances to the private sector as of 2009. Akinbadiya (2013) highlighted other reasons why various government programmes on development of entrepreneurial did not achieve the expected results. (1) Poor policy formulation and coordination. (2) Absence of policy framework, institutional framework and delivery machinery. (3) Absence of target setting for ministries, agencies and programmes. (4) Duplication of functions among institutions and agencies. (5) Lack of involvement of the traditional institutions and community groups in projects selection and implementation. (10) Lack of involvement or consultation with the poor in poverty policy formulation and implementation.

438

439 **Discussion and conclusion**

440 The study revealed that there is no continuity in successive government intervention
 441 schemes in developing entrepreneurial activities. A lot of laudable programmes have been
 442 established with lots of funds and energy but successive government will cancel them as
 443 soon as there is a change in government. It is also found out as supported by Oni & Daniya
 444 (2012) that the curriculums in our schools do not have adequate programmes for
 445 entrepreneurial development. Hence massive youths are coming out of schools without jobs
 446 waiting for them and no skill or funds to start their own entrepreneurial activities. The political
 447 and economic terrains in the country have not been conducive for the development of
 448 entrepreneurial activities. Obsolete or complete lack of infrastructural facilities in the country
 449 has been the bane of entrepreneurial activities. Lacks of electricity, goods roads and access
 450 to good water have been major challenges for entrepreneurship development in the country.
 451 This finding was supported by Agboli & Ukaegbu (2006). It is also revealed in this study and
 452 aligned with Achumba, Igbomereho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013) that religious and ethnic
 453 violence has deterred so many entrepreneurs from operating within the country especially in
 454 the North-Eastern part of the country where Boko Haram terrorists hold sway. Access to
 455 funds has remains a setback for so many graduate with entrepreneurial skills. Funds
 456 promised by government parastatals have either been politicked or not given to the real
 457 people that needed the funds for startup or improve their entrepreneurial activities.

458 The unavoidable conclusion from the above mentioned is that in spite of the various
 459 programmes implemented to date, the rate of unemployment and poverty is high because the
 460 problems of low entrepreneurial activities remains overwhelming. Without a proper and
 461 articulated plan to further enhance the development of entrepreneurial activities in the
 462 country, the task of providing jobs for our teaming unemployed populace will remain a
 463 mirage. Government programmes should not be sacrifice on the altar of political favouritism.
 464 The government should change the status quo whereby party members of government in
 465 power cornered all the goodies attached to any programme, leaving out the actual people
 466 that need them. As agreed by many researchers in this field, finance constitute a major role
 467 for entrepreneurial activities to strive, therefore, government should get the financial
 468 institutions committed to spreading their activities beyond the comfort zones in which they
 469 currently operate. The interest rate should be favourable, collateral requirements accessible,

and the application procedure should not be a deterrent. Many scholars and commentators have agreed about the importance of entrepreneurial development in creating employment and combating youth restiveness. As a prime mover of every developed economy, entrepreneurship programmes should be paramount for Nigerian government to provide employment and reduce poverty rate among the teeming unemployed population. Concerted efforts are urgently needed by all the stakeholders in the country to create a sustainable and effective entrepreneurial activity. These are the only panacea to detonate the timely bomb placed on the nation by the massive unemployed youths.

Recommendations

- Government should organized continuous training programmes in the area of entrepreneurship skills, feasibility study, book keeping, and simple managerial skills.
- The service of astute professional should be engaged in the formulation of policies that will stand the test of time.
- Removal of unnecessary obstacles to access to loan, as loans to entrepreneurs should not be tied to impossible collateral/loan guarantee which denied entrepreneurs with growth potentials access to such loan.
- Encouragement should be tailored towards the growth and development of entrepreneurs by given tax rebate, tax holiday and removing the case of multiple taxes and levies.
- More efforts should be geared towards infrastructural development (good roads, electricity, water supply etc.) to fast track the development of entrepreneurial activities.
- Empowerment of entrepreneurs through proper and adequate training and development programmes for would be and existing entrepreneurs.
- Educational programmes should include curriculum in entrepreneurial development in all our schools starting from secondary schools to all our tertiary institutions.
- There should be effective formulation of policies and programmes for the development and channeling of entrepreneurial talents towards the overall development of the nation.
- Government should establish a parastatal that ensures successive government programmes on entrepreneurship continue with a change of government.

- Creation of an environment conducive for entrepreneurial activities. An environment with political, religious and ethnic violence cannot bring about a striving entrepreneurial activity.

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