



# Effect of Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment on Economic Development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State Nigeria

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**Abstract:** *The need for youth empowerment through effective entrepreneurship education has posed great ailment on the nation's development. It is a common experience that many graduates from the Nigerian universities find it difficult to get employment every year. This study examined the effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State Nigeria. This study used a survey research design. Primary data was collected with aid of self-developed structured questionnaire via face-to-face interview. The population considered for this study includes youth entrepreneurs that were beneficiaries of the youth empowerment program in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area of Borno State, Nigeria. This study employed multi-stage sampling technique to randomly and proportionately select youth entrepreneurs engaged in manufacturing, food & beverages making, agriculture (fattening, poultry) and trading (produce marketing) in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area A total sample size of 500 youth entrepreneurs that have benefited from the Borno State Government empowerment programme were randomly and proportionately selected from each of the seven (7) wards of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area and used for the study. The one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) would be used to analyze the data: The findings from the study indicates that Entrepreneurship has contributed significantly to Nigeria's economy development, because it has created more employment for job seekers.*

**Key words:** *Entrepreneurship, Youth Empowerment, Economic Development*

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## 1.0 Introduction

Youth empowerment is an unconditional posture for nation building as the strength of future development of a nation depends upon it. The future of any country is always predicated on its present youth productive force. A society with an inefficient and irreparable damage (Arigu, 2018). Empowerment refers to the ability of an individual to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcome. If a person or group is empowered, they possess the capacity to make effective choices, that is, to translate their choices into desired actions and outcomes. Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people including youths and adults.

Youths are significantly valid target population for development programs as this large percentage of over 1.8 billion worldwide (Global, 2019), and over thirty-three million (33,652,424) in Nigeria have strong potential to effect change in communities worldwide. This is because youth comprise forty percent of the global population (Global, 2019), and they present a prime target for community development programs as there is great opportunity to change the pattern of a community by breaking the cycle of poverty at its roots.

Nigeria, country with an estimated population of 200 million people (Bloomberg, 2019) is well endowed with abundant human and natural resources and a favorable geographical location in the world map. The current global financial crisis has impacted negatively on the macro and micro levels of the economy of Nigeria. As at present, the situation has posed serious threats and challenges to both government and well-meaning citizens, especially the youths (Arigu, 2018). Nigeria like most developing nations of the world is faced with myriad of problems which include youth and graduate unemployment, high rate of poverty, conflict, disease, insecurity, and over-dependence on foreign goods, low economic growth and development, lack of capacity and skills needed to move the economy forward and urbanization. Unemployment has become a major problem bedeviling the lives of Nigerian youth causing frustration, dejection and dependence on family members and friends. The high rate of unemployment among the youths in Nigeria has contributed to the high rate of poverty and insecurity in the country (Ajufo, 2013). About half of the Nigerian population is under the age of 35 according to the National Population Commission (2013). Awogbenle and Iwuamad (2010) observed from the excerpt of statistics obtained from the National Manpower Board and Federal Bureau of Statistics that Nigeria has a youth population of eighty (80) million representing 60 percent of the total population of the country. About Sixty-four (64) million of them are unemployed while one million six hundred thousand (1.6 million) are underemployed.

According to Ossal and Nwalado (2012) the need for entrepreneurship empowerment started emerging in the mid-1980s when there were political instability and inconsistencies in the socio-economic policies of successive government, high level of unemployment, large-scale lay-off of workers and early retirements as a result of structural adjusted policies and bad economic trends. In the face of these challenges, there was no encouragement from the Federal Government for public and private investors to embark on youth entrepreneurial activities. These situations pose great challenge to the very existence of individuals and the national development. To salvage

these situations, there is need for the training of education men and youth who can function effectively in their society in which they live in terms of self-employment and self-reliant which only entrepreneurship education can provide.

Nigeria faces a number of challenges that can only be met if she has innovative, well-educated and entrepreneurial citizens who, whatever their walks of life, have the spirit and inquisitiveness to think in new ways, and the courage to meet and adapt to the challenges facing them. At the same time given the current socio-economic and political stance of the country, a thriving economy would require a greater number of young people who are willing and able to become entrepreneurs; who can launch and successfully develop their own commercial or social ventures and who will become innovators in the wider organisations in which they work (Arigu, 2018), However, the need for youth empowerment through effective entrepreneurship education has posed great ailment on the nation's development. It is a common experience that many graduates from the Nigerian universities find it difficult to get employment every year; this is partly due to the curricula of the Universities and other tertiary institutions which laid emphasis on training for white-collar jobs (Osibanjo, 2016). The socio-economic situation in Nigeria possess serious threats and challenges to both government and well-being of citizens of the nation as a whole. The unemployment problems further call for different strategies and actions for it to be ameliorated. Entrepreneurship has been embraced by almost all the developed countries and its capabilities and efficacy in springing up economic is not in doubt.

Entrepreneurial empowerment is essential not only to shape the mindsets of young people but also to provide the skills and knowledge that are central to developing an entrepreneurial culture. Entrepreneurship provides students motivation, knowledge and skills essential for launching a successful venture company (Cho, 2018). Developing mindsets, generic attributes and skills that are the foundations of entrepreneurship can be achieved through indoctrination from an early age, that is, if it is incorporated into the national system with the seriousness it deserves (Osibanjo, 2016). This issue cannot be under-looked as the realistic face of national development can only be achieved through venturing into youth empowerment. It is in line with the above background that this study would therefore examine the effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri metropolitan Area Borno State, Nigeria.

## **1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The economic system of Nigeria is devoid of the element crucial in averting the surging rate of unemployment in the country; these issues include lack of finance, poor entrepreneurial education, and poor economic system among others. Corroborating this view, Araba (2012) noted that entrepreneurial development through the youths in Nigeria has been considered the limitation to economic development. Araba further noted that, if necessary actions are implemented, it is believed, will reduce the present level of unemployment that is plaguing the Nigeria nation thus reducing the rate of violence, poverty and segregation amongst citizens. The reason deduced for this is due to the fact that the nation's economy system has failed to empower the young graduates leaving the system thus making them unemployed instead of employers of labour. Earlier studies by Afolabi (2015), Ajao & Busari (2019), Aun, Abdul, Oladipo & Omotayo (2018), Gbede, Ajunwa & Ibeawuchi (2021), Kalagbor & Harry (2019), Mohamud & Ndede (2019),

Chauhan & Aggarwal (2017) among others examine effect of entrepreneurship Development on Youth Employment in Nigeria and elsewhere. But no existing study on effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State, Nigeria to the knowledge of the researcher. There is therefore dearth of information on effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State, Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that this study is conceptualized to examine the effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in the study area to bridge the gap in existing literature on effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State, Nigeria.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of youth entrepreneurship empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area Borno State Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- I. Examine the effect of youth entrepreneurship development and empowerment on economic development in Maiduguri Metropolitan Area.
- II. Assess the challenges that hinders youth entrepreneurship development and empowerment;
- III. Examine the contribution of youth entrepreneurs to economic development of Maiduguri Metropolitan Area.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Concept of Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship has been recognized as an important and sustaining aspect of any economy (Dickson, Solomon & Weaver, 2008). It contributes in immeasurable ways towards creating new jobs, wealth creation, poverty reduction and income generation for both government and individuals. Entrepreneurship is very significant to the growth and development of economies (Keister, 2005). Entrepreneurship is referred to as a source of employment generation. This is because entrepreneurial activities have been found to be capable of making positive impact on the economy of a nation and on the quality of life of the people Adejumo (2001). Entrepreneurship is more than simply starting a business. It is a process through which individuals identify opportunities, allocate resources and create value through the identification of unmet needs or opportunities for change. It is the act of being an entrepreneur which is seen as one who undertakes innovations and transforms them into economic goods and services (Ayandike, Emeh & Ukah, 2012).

Entrepreneurship is an enterprising human activity in pursuit of the generation of value through the creation or expansion of economic activity, by identifying and exploiting new products, process or markets (OECD Entrepreneurship Programme 2009). Oviawe (2010) noted that entrepreneurship is the acquisition of skills and ideas for creating employment for oneself and others. It is the act of starting a company, arranging business ideas and taking risk in order to

make a profit (Omolayo, 2006). According to Nwangwu (2007) entrepreneurship is the process of bringing together the factors of production, namely: land, labour and capital to provide goods and services for public consumption.

Entrepreneurship can be described as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities and take advantage of scarce resources to exploit the opportunities profitably (Aina & Salako, 2008). They further see it as the process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and efforts, assuming risks and at the end receiving resulting reward. According to Ezegbe, Eskay & Anyanwu (2013) entrepreneurship is both the art and process of planning, organizing and coordinating human and material resources skillfully towards the achievement of a business goal. Tijani (2004) defined 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. This is done by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to growth and sustain them to achieve socio-economic goals.

Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies seeking to improve youth livelihood could best pursue their empowerment objectives by tapping into the dynamism of young people and build on their strong spirit of risk taking through entrepreneurship (Adejumo, 2001). Entrepreneurship development has led to job creation, employment generation, growth of the economy and sustainable development.

Entrepreneurship leverages the human capital that the nation's universities are endowed with and empowers more youth to participate in opening up the potentials of the nation. Having understood the vital role of entrepreneurship in economic development, it becomes apparent that careful attention is needed to invest and promote entrepreneurship. Education has been seen as a precondition for entrepreneurship development. It is said to be an important determinant of selection into entrepreneurship, formation of new venture and entrepreneurial success (Dickson, Solomon & Weaver, 2008). For any country to foster genuine economic growth and development, its educational system must be considered as basic and essential ingredient. Education is undisputedly considered as the bedrock of any meaningful development Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) (2004), be it economic, social or political.

The National policy on education made it clear on the need for functional education; education to be relevant, practical and based on the acquisition of appropriate skills and development of competencies, as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society (Aladekomo, 2004). Operationally, entrepreneurship is a state where an individual gainfully employs his or her skills, attitude and cognitive abilities to earn a living as well as helping others around him to earn same.

## **2.2 Concept of Youth Entrepreneurship**

An entrepreneur is an individual who creates and grows businesses and a youth or male entrepreneur is a youth who has initiated a business, is actively involved in managing it, owns 50% of the firm and has been in operation for one year or longer (Buttner & Moore, 2007). Youth entrepreneurship are defined as those youths who use their knowledge and resources to develop

or create new business opportunities, who are actively involved in managing their business and own at least 50% of the business and have been in operation or longer than a year (Moore & Buttner, 2007).

The youth entrepreneurs are the youth head of a business who takes the initiative of launching a new venture, accepting the associated risks, the financial administrative and social responsibilities and effectively in charge of the day-to-day activities of the business (Lavoie, 1985 cited in Witbooi & Ukpere, 2011). A new venture that is launched and managed by the youth entrepreneurship is known as youth entrepreneurship. Also McClelland, Swait, Bell & Ibbotson (2005) define youth Entrepreneurship has been recognized as an important and sustaining aspect of any economy (Dickson, Solomon & Weaver, 2008). It contributes in immeasurable ways towards creating new jobs, wealth creation, poverty reduction and income generation for both government and individuals. Entrepreneurship is very significant to the growth and development of economies (Keister, 2005). Entrepreneurship is referred to as a source of employment generation. This is because entrepreneurial activities have been found to be capable of making positive impact on the economy of a nation and on the quality of life of the people Adejumo (2001). Entrepreneurship is more than simply starting a business. It is a process through which individuals identify opportunities, allocate resources and create value through the identification of unmet needs or opportunities for change. It is the act of being an entrepreneur which is seen as one who undertakes innovations and transforms them into economic goods and services (Ayandike, Emeh & Ukah, 2012).

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- a) **Opportunity** – Based Entrepreneurship: This occurs when an entrepreneur perceives a business opportunity and chooses to pursue it. Such entrepreneurs see economic slowdown as the perfect time to pursue new market opportunities. In addition, recession tend to favour the naturally innovative temperament of entrepreneurs;
- b) **Necessity** – Based Entrepreneurship: This occurs when an entrepreneur is left with no other viable option to earn a living. It is borne not as a choice but compulsion which makes him or her choose entrepreneurship as a career.

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The National policy on education made it clear on the need for functional education; education to be relevant, practical and based on the acquisition of appropriate skills and development of competencies, as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society (Aladekomo, 2004). Operationally, entrepreneurship is a state where an individual gainfully employs his or her skills, attitude and cognitive abilities to earn a living as well as helping others around him to earn same as a youth owned business, one that is at least 51% owned by one or more youth or in the case of any public-owned business, at least 51% of the stock of which is owned by one or more youth.

Kamal Singh who is a youth entrepreneur from Rajasthan has defined youth entrepreneur as a confident, innovative and creative youth capable of achieving self-economic, independence individually or in collaboration, generates employment opportunities for others through initiating, establishing and running the enterprise by keeping pace with her personal, family and social life.

Accordingly, the Government of India (GOI, 2006) has defined youth entrepreneur as an enterprise owned and controlled by a youth having minimum financial interest of 51 per cent of the capital and giving at least 51 percent of the employment generated in the enterprise to youth. However, this definition is subject to criticism mainly on the condition of employing more than 50 percent youth workers in the enterprises owned and run by the youth.

### Concept of Empowerment

The term empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. Empowerment as action refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence and to recognise and use their resources to do work with power (Roberts, 2008).

The term empowerment originates from American community psychology and is associated with the social scientist, Rappaport (2011). However, the roots of empowerment theory extends further into history and are linked to Marxist sociological theory. These sociological ideas have continued to be developed and refined through Neo-Marxists Theory (also known as Critical Theory (Burtton & Kagan, 2006).

Robert points to the limitations of any single definition of empowerment and the danger that academic or specialist definitions might take away the word and the connected practices from the very people they are supposed to belong to (Roberts, 2008). Still, he offers a minimal definition of the term empowerment – the capacity of individuals, groups and/or communities to take control of their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals and the process by which individually and collectively, they are able to help themselves and others to maximize the quality of their lives (Roberts, 2008).

The conceptualization of empowerment varies widely. Consequently, Mehra (2007) cautions that effort must be made to ensure the definition of empowerment is quantified according to specific contexts. Literature shows that many scholars accentuate 'agency' as an essential element of empowerment although, they use different terms (Kabeer, 2001; Abu-Lughdod, 2009; Schuler & Rottach, 2010; Njoh & Akiwumi, 2012). Efforts to define empowerment are often faced with many challenges as there are often contradicting general set of indicators. Consequently, Santillan, Schuler Anh, Minh, Trang & Due (2004) observed that although general 'domains' or 'dimensions' developed in one setting may be transferable to another, specific indicators will need to be developed in any given setting, taking into account the purpose for which they are to be used.

Deriving from the growing focus on youth's empowerment, there has been a corresponding rising body of literature attempting to define the concept. Definition of empowerment in broad terms is often situated within two concepts – process and agency. With respect to youth empowerment, empowerment as a process is seen as the development of policies and programmes that will enable youth to challenge current norms and change conditions. Mehra (2007) also notes that the definition of empowerment should include the expansion of choices for youth and an increase in youth's ability to exercise choice.

Kabeer (2001) defines empowerment as the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. The position of Malhotra,



Venneman & Kishor (1995) concurs with the definition by emphasizing that the definition highlights a transition from relative powerlessness to a greater equity in the exercise of power and as such differentiate “empowerment” from the general concept of “power” as espoused by dominant individuals or groups. They argue further that to be considered empowered, youth themselves must be significant actors in the process of change. That is, youth must engage in agency. For example health and development strategies may support or enable youth’s empowerment but they cannot provide empowerment as if they were health services or commodities themselves.

Some criticisms have been made on how empowerment approaches are being promoted in recent times. Prominent among these criticisms is that advanced by Batliwala (2007) who posits that empowerment has been abused as he mainstream approach taken by recent scholars end up taking the ‘power’ in empowerment out, thereby making the whole essence defeated. She described this as the distortion of good ideas and innovative practices as they are lifted out of the political and historical context in which they evolved and rendered into formulas that are mainstreamed. This usually involves diverting the idea of its cultural specificity, its political content and generalizing it into a series of rituals and steps that stimulate its original elements, but lacking the transformative power of the real thing thus, good ideas – evolved to address specific development challenges – are altered into universally applicable panaceas. Transferring the correct rhetoric buzzwords and catch phrases emptied of their original meaning – is a vital part of this legerdemain (Batliwalsa, 2007).

#### **2.4 Youth Entrepreneurship Development and Empowerment in Nigeria**

Youth talents are shifting to entrepreneurial activities and leaving organisations. Some of the reasons for this shift are limited upward mobility for youth within corporations and unequal rates of pay. Also, it is a fact that youths are able to manage independent-care responsibilities more effectively with a greater flexibility in a private business (Catalyst, 1998). Thus, they are not leaving companies to stay at home and take care of children but they are leaving companies to work in private sector or to pursue their own entrepreneurial goals. New and small businesses are increasingly being appreciated and recognized for their importance in the economy worldwide. The fact that entrepreneurs and new businesses being established by youth can be a significant driver of improvements in the welfare of society is gaining acknowledgement among economists, academics and policy makers. According to ILO (2008), where youth entrepreneurs have been identified as a target group for specific policy ensures, youth-owned firms are increasingly becoming important source for economic growth and employment. Nevertheless, according to the findings of Kelley et al. (2011), youth’s participation in entrepreneurial activity varies widely around the globe. Although, many economic opportunities are opening for youth in the marketplace and in the area of entrepreneurial activities they are still facing many challenges. In our opinion only when youth achieve equality of access and opportunity they will realize their contributing potential to economic and social well-being. When youth have more voice, they can drive institutional investments in way that favours child. Thus, when youth have more rights in the political arena, the nature of public investment itself also changes (World Bank, 2011).

Kabeer (2009) defines youth's empowerment as youth's ability to make strategic choices where this ability had been previously denied. Youth are still economically and socially disadvantaged in many countries, so the promotion of empowerment of youth is one of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. The World Bank (2011) also presents the necessity to seek status equality in order to enhance productivity and improve development outcomes, highlighting differences in employment, access to land and credit, and access to networks and its impacts towards entrepreneurship. A fundamental reform of policies both on a national and global level is necessary for addressing remaining economic and social inequities. Youth-owned businesses are shifting from economically insignificant to a major contributor to the economy, so it is time they were perceived accordingly. Youth business owners need to increase their access to markets and grow their firms throughout the value chain. They can grow and expand their firms both domestically and internationally with more information, an empowering environment and private sector partnerships. Economic growth can be more effectively realized through the true empowerment of youth' entrepreneurship and access to markets.

Youth are the third world's powerhouse. They produce a staggering 60 percent of all food and run 50 percent of small-scale businesses and make up a third of the official labour force – in addition to caring for families and homes. Yet, their status rarely reflects this enormous and vital contribution. By any measure, income, education, health, land ownership, legal rights or political power – youth get a raw deal. The poorest of the poor are usually youth because age discrimination cuts off their escape routes from poverty, education, health services, equal pay employment, access, to land and finance. It is becoming increasingly clear, however that there will only be sustainable development in the third world when youth play an equal part in decision-making. No developing country can afford to ignore youth's existing and potential economic contribution, or their pivotal role in determining the health and welfare of a nation's children. All the evidence points to one conclusion: economic growth and improvement in the quality of life for everyone is faster in areas where youth's status is higher (Motik, 2000). Augmenting rates of enterprise births in local areas and the facilitation of the development of new youth-owned firms can have positive impacts on job creations, productivity, growth and revenues, the availability of goods and services and the provision of positive role models. Entrepreneurship among youth is important for local development and for macrosocio-economic more broadly (OECD, 2003).

## **2.5 The Impact of Youth Entrepreneurship on Economic Development**

The entrepreneurial potential of youth has been acknowledged as governments' effort to accelerate economic growth and to attract more youth towards new venturing (Singh & Belwal, 2008; Butler, 2003 cited by Cooper, 2011 in Mauchi, Mutengezanwa & Damiyano, 2014). According to Brush and Cooper (2012) youth businesses are one of the fastest growing entrepreneurial populations in the world. They make significant contributions to innovation, employment and wealth creation in all economies (Andresche, 1990; Head, 2000; Reynolds, 2000; Brush & Cooper, 2012 cited in Mauchi, Mutengezanwa & Damiyano, 2014). Youth have been consistently launching new enterprises at twice the rate of men and their growth rate of employment and revenue has outpaced the economy (Heilman & Chen, 2003 in Mauchi, Mutengezanwa & Damiyano, 2014). Youth often venture into entrepreneurship with little resources available to them and the result is that they are more likely to go into industries such

as retail or personality services where the cost of entry is low so is the growth potential in Zimbabwe, there has been the realization that youth contribute significantly towards GDP and employment since the economic woes of 2007 and 2008. Youth played a critical role and ensured the survival of families through the cross border trade.

A second distinguishing factor for youth entrepreneurship from the general entrepreneurial phenomenal is the former's amplified positive social impact. From a strictly financial vantage point, youth entrepreneurial leads to increased income and earnings of individuals who would otherwise not work and thus contribute to family level conditions and therefore to macroeconomic improvement.

Due to various psychological and sociological factors, youth entrepreneurship has socio-economically constructive effects beyond the purely financial quantifiable, ones. In general, youth define success in broader and more diverse; ones that include giving back to the community and the well-being of their families, as well as making profit. Not surprisingly, therefore youth entrepreneurs make important contributions to the world economy, particularly in low and middle-income countries (GEM Youth Report, 2007). Their nuanced reasons for becoming business owners and the intensified benefits bring about play a particularly critical role in the context of development.

First, at face value, youth's enterprises contribute to household income and thereby assist in raising families' purchasing power and standard of living which is critical in developing nations. Additionally, youth entrepreneurship assists in poverty alleviation in indirect ways. When youth are economically mobilized through ownership of an independent business, they tend to change the consumption patterns of the household in a more health ways compared to the old.

Youth tend to hire other youth, which helps ease the cycle of chronic youth unemployment in developing nations (Aidis, 2005). They tend to pass on their professional know-how and skill thereby constituting the much-needed role models for future generations and re able to build and maintain long-standing relationships and networks to communicate effectively, to organize efficiently, to be fiscally conservative, to be aware of the needs of their environment and to promote sensitivity to cultural differences (Jalbert, 2000). Moreover, starting and heading successful independent businesses helps raise youth's sense of self-worth, making them even more eager to be productive members of the society (Seymour, 2004). Because of these augmented positive benefits, youth entrepreneurship has been a top policy priority for international regional and domestic development organizations.

Many policies and programs including the ILO Youth Entrepreneurship development (WFD) and the IFC's Youth in Business promote it as a catalyst of economic growth. These programs try to address the various underlying causes of lower rates of youth entrepreneurship seeking to change social perceptions, provide access to capital and run training and educational programs to prepare youth before and support them after they open their businesses

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study Area**

The study area is Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area of Borno State, Nigeria. It lies between Latitude  $11^{\circ} 83'$  and Longitude  $13^{\circ}15'E$  and Latitude  $11^{\circ}49'$  N Longitude  $13^{\circ} 08'E$ , with a total mass of about 50,778 square kilometers (Ministry of Land Survey Maiduguri, 2017). It shares boundaries with Konduga to South and Jere local government area to the Northeast. Maiduguri Metropolis has a population of 543, 016 people (National Population Commission (NPC), 2006), which was projected to be 822,000 for 2022 based on an annual growth rate of 2.37 per cent. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that as of 2019, Nigeria's population was at 200 million, out of which youth constitute more than 50 percent of the population. According to economic experts, about 40 percent of the registered entrepreneurial businesses in Nigeria are owned by youth.

The study area is characterized by dry and rainy seasons. It has a short rainfall period of about three months that lasts from July to September with an average of 647 mm per annum. The temperature ranges between 35 OC and 44 OC for the greater part of the year (Nigeria Metrological Agency, 2018). The vegetation of the study area comprises of trees, shrubs and grasses. The major food crop cultivated are maize, millet, sorghum, rice, wheat, cowpea and groundnut as well as vegetables such as onion, tomato, cabbage, lettuce, spinach and watermelon. Livestock commonly produced are cattle, sheep, goat, poultry and fish farming. Aquaculture is becoming a major farming activity in Maiduguri Metropolis of Borno State.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study would use a survey research design. According to Check & Schutt (2012), survey research is "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions". This type of research design allows for a variety of methods to recruit participants, collect data, and utilize various methods of instrumentation.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

A population refers to all the individuals or objects that meet certain requirements for membership in the overall group. Those who qualify are then referred to as the population elements (Churchill & Brown 2007). According to Cooper & Schindler (2003), a population is the total collection of elements about which we wish to make inferences. The population that would be considered for this study includes youth entrepreneurs that were beneficiary of the youth empowerment program in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area of Borno State, Nigeria.

#### **3.4 Sampling Techniques**

This study would employ multi-stage sampling technique to randomly and proportionately select youth entrepreneurs engaged in manufacturing, food & beverages making, agriculture (fattening, poultry) and trading (produce marketing) in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area, Borno State, Nigeria. Seven (7) wards would be randomly selected out of the existing fifteen wards (15) in the study area. These wards includes Lamisula Jabbamari, Maisandari, Gwange I, Bolori I, Bolori II, Shehuri North and Shehuri South. These wards are selected due to large concentration youth

entrepreneurs in the study area. The youth entrepreneurs would be stratified into the various empowerment programmes package executed by Borno State Government within Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area. Simple random technique would be used to randomly select a total sample size of 500 youth entrepreneurs that have benefited in the youth empowerment programme of Borno State Government.

### 3.4.1 Sample for the Study

A total sample size of 500 youth entrepreneurs that have benefited from the Borno State Government empowerment programme would be randomly and proportionately selected from each of the seven (7) wards of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area and used for the study. According to Krejcie & Morgan (1970) and Yamane (1967), a total sample size of (500) is adequate for a study of this nature. The formula for determination of the sample size is therefore expressed as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Population size (sample frame)

e = Level of significance = 5%

1 = constant

The estimated sample size selected based on wards in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area for the study are presented in 3.1 table:

**Table 4.2 Estimated Sample Size Distribution of Youth Entrepreneurs based on Wards in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area**

S/N	Wards Selected in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area	Sample Size for the Study
1.	Lamisula Jabbamari	90
2.	Maisandari	100
3.	Gwange I	80
4.	Bolori II	70
5.	Bolori I	50
6.	Shehuri North	60
7.	Shehuri South	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

### 3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

Data for the study were collected from both primary and secondary information sources. The primary data would be collected using self-developed structured questionnaire that would be

designed and administered to 500 youth entrepreneurs that have benefited from the Borno State Government empowerment programme. The secondary sources of information included journal, bulletins, textbooks, internet, conference papers, past projects, dissertation etc.

### **3.6 Validation of the Instrument**

The self-developed structured questionnaire instrument designed by the research was subjected to content validation by the supervisor and other research experts who would examine it thoroughly and effect corrections where necessary.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

Primary data was collected with aid of self-developed structured questionnaire via face-to-face interview. The questionnaire would be administered by the research alongside trained enumerators in the selected wards of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council Area. A pre-test would be conducted on the questionnaire to ascertain its quality, suitability and usability; use the findings of the pre-test to fine-tune the questionnaire; and cross-check the adequacy of field arrangements and logistics

## **4.0 DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS FOR THE STUDY**

Below are the summary of the findings based on the interview conducted during the study.

The respondents revealed the following

### **a) What Role Does Entrepreneurship Development Play in the Economic Development of Nigeria?**

- i. Entrepreneurship development has contributed significantly to Nigeria's economy development, because it has created more employment for job seekers;
- ii. The unfavorable economic condition has not allowed entrepreneurship development to promote Nigeria's economic development.
- iii. Corruption and nepotism has made government efforts to promote entrepreneurship to below expectation; hence no significant contribution has been made.
- iv. The large-scale unemployment that bedevils the economy shows that no significant improvement has been made in the area of entrepreneurship development.
- v. The contribution of entrepreneurship to Nigeria's economic development is marginal due to the lack of access to capital.

### **b) Is Nigeria's Economy Driven by Entrepreneurs?**

Over 80% of the respondents believe that there are no enough entrepreneurs that can power the economy. This implies that although there are numerous micro, small and medium scale



enterprises across the nation, their size and capacities are largely negligible compared to the Nigerian economy as whole.

**c) Are government policies and business environment that prevail in Nigeria are essential to the survival and expansion of entrepreneurship.**

i. Current government programmes, such as the SURE P project has supported the survival and growth of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. International Journal of Development and Economic Sustainability

ii. The epileptic nature of power has hampered the growth and survival of several micro, small and medium scale entrepreneurs in the country.

iii. Policy inconsistencies and political instability adversely affects the growth and survival of the small businesses in the country.

iv. Insecurity and spate of conflicts among Nigerian societies and communities has greatly hampered small businesses and discourage potential entrepreneurs.

v. The inability of government agencies and microfinance institution to provide adequate capital to assist Nigerian entrepreneurs and power the real sector of the economy.

**d) Does entrepreneurship create opportunities for employment and wealth creation?**

i) Entrepreneurship has fostered wealth creation and created employment in Nigeria extensively.

ii) It is true that entrepreneurship is a veritable tool for wealth creation and creation of employment opportunities.

iii) It will require a transformation and a revolution for entrepreneurship development to significant promote wealth creation and solve Nigeria's unemployment problem

**5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation**

Entrepreneurship development can foster economic growth and development primarily by generating employment and foster the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria.

The study recommends that policy makers should recognize the essence of entrepreneurship development to Economic development. Entrepreneurship deserves equal emphasis as is being placed on Science and technology; it is the entrepreneur that translates the innovation in science and technology into wealth.

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