

Assessment of Entrepreneurship in Librarianship for Poverty Reduction and Unemployment Among Librarians in Colleges of Education in North Central, Nigeria

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Abstract: This study was designed to assess entrepreneurship in librarianship for poverty reduction and unemployment among librarians of College of Education in North central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It is obvious that entrepreneurship reduces unemployment, promotes self-reliance, alleviates poverty and provides the opportunity for individuals to contribute to the economic development of a nation through innovative ideas. In order to achieve the objectives of this study, five research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 levels of significance. A survey method was adapted for the study. Professional librarians, forty-eight (48) of them, selected in the Colleges of Education in the North-central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, represented the population of the study. A structured questionnaire titled entrepreneurship in librarianship for poverty reduction and unemployment (ELPRU) was administered to the respondents in the selected Colleges of Education. Out of the 48 copies of the questionnaire distributed to the respondents, a total of 45 (93.7%) copies were returned and duly completed and found usable for the study. The data collected for the study were presented and analyzed using inferential statistics. T-test was used to test the significant difference between variables in hypothesis 1 and 2, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the significant relationship among the variables in 3, 4 and 5 at 0.05 levels of significance. However, the finding of the study reveals that there is significant difference among librarians in the types of entrepreneurial skills they acquired. In this study, it is recommended that librarians, as well as other information professional, need to diversify their interests and passion for entrepreneurial opportunities within and outside library and information and also work for self-reliance without being depend on white collar jobs and/ or government. Also, government at all levels and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should provide funds for librarians in any chosen entrepreneurial opportunity available or specialization after graduation from library and information science schools.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Librarians, Librarianship, Poverty Reduction, Unemployment

I. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship originated from the French 'entreprendre' meaning to undertake. Entrepreneurship is the creation and running of one's own business. It involves using initiatives and bringing together the factors of production

which include land, labour and capital so as to provide a product or service for public consumptions (Nwagu, 2008). Entrepreneurship is the art and science of systematic application of ingenious methods, processes, strategies, and approaches to initiate, nurture, manage, administer and sustain a system, an enterprise, an endeavor, or vocation, especially through initialisation of the sense and power of thought, curiosity, cleverness, goal orientation, innovation, initiation, adoption, imagination, change, transformation, diversification, creativeness, skillfulness, tactfulness, modification, paradigm-shift, venture, risk taking and persuasion (Mohammed, 2011).

The entrepreneurship is pervasive. It presupposes that all human endeavours require entrepreneurial skills and attributes if such endeavours needed to survive, succeed and advance. It is right to say that one is entrepreneurial they effectively applied creative ability and other competencies in solving problems around his community or work place. Many of the entrepreneurial skills needed to be successful in business and work places can be learnt through study and training. Entrepreneurship is taught in the universities in order to prepare graduates for self-reliance. Entrepreneurial skills encompass managerial skills, accounting and financial skills, marketing skills, general business skills and information literacy skills which, if well exploited by librarians, will help them to become successful entrepreneurs in their workplace and business enterprises. This, on the other hand, reduces poverty and unemployment among them.

Poverty reduction is the channel or measure enacted to relieve people from suffering from lack of basic needs. With the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Nigeria Governments put in place National Economic Empowerment Developments Strategy (NEEDS), N-Power Programme, Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) and a lot more. The motive of creating NEEDS was to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. One of the cardinal points of NEEDS was acquisition of skills for self-employment and self-reliance. Skills are expertness, practical ability, diversity and tack. The skills are to produce librarians who are well prepared to take their place in global society.

From the foregoing, entrepreneurs can come from or could be found in all professions as long as they possess any of the entrepreneurial characteristics that could be exhibited by librarians, archivists, information scientists, information officers, information managers, doctors, artists, lawyers, politicians, social workers, educationists, to mention but a few. Expectedly, the entrepreneurship education impacted to librarians in the Nigeria library and information science schools is to produce entrepreneurs in various areas of specialisation in library and information science programmes such as an indexer, cataloguer, classifier, archivist, documentalist, system librarian, subject librarian, university librarian, information broker and publishers among others.

II. LITERATURE REVIEWED

Entrepreneurship education pointed not only to a growth of entrepreneurship programmes in the content of business curricula but also its applicability in interdisciplinary context across various academic departments (Kuratko, 2005) including librarianship. Attman (2006) provided an insightful conceptualization of entrepreneurship in this regard as a “way of managing that which involves the creation of opportunity without regard to the resources currently controlled”. However, various studies (Lawal 2009, Mohammed 2003 & Ochogwu 2007) had clearly highlighted lack of entrepreneurship content in Nigerian Library and Information Science curricula. For this reason, many librarians turn to other professional literature for models of entrepreneurship that can be applied to librarianship. By promoting the social responsible role of librarianship, it is generally agreed that the more common business and financial considerations should not apply; but in essence entrepreneurship is not only about this. It is in view of this that Drucker (1995) defined entrepreneurship as an innovation. The Kauffman Foundation (2006) considered entrepreneurship to be an exercise in social responsibility – an idea that libraries and the field of librarianship conceptually embraced.

Entrepreneurship in librarianship therefore concerns itself with initiative or provision of information services and products to meet users’ needs creatively. Collaboration is an essential ingredient in this new concept of entrepreneurial innovation. In this way, librarianship training that is able to stimulate an entrepreneurial spirit with a view to creating innovation or original thinking in terms of information resource use and development, Mohammed (2011), Shola (2011), Anyawsu and Onah- Ossai (2011), Eba and Richard (2007), and Egwu (2011) remarked that these initiatives were essentially designed to promote entrepreneurial culture that build business confidence, positive attitude, pride in success, support and encouragement of new ideas, social responsibility, provision of technological support and encouragement of inter-firm linkages and promotion of research and development. Nigerian government never loses sight of the tripartite relationship between entrepreneurship, industrialization and economic growth.

Besides, entrepreneurship in librarianship provides a means, and not only integrates business skills, particularly financial marketing and fund raising, but also to apply them towards a variety of goals from commercial enterprise to social or non-profit initiatives (Chung, 2010). Entrepreneurship in librarianship involves fostering entrepreneurial thinking which is aimed at developing the social, cognitive, career and management skills. Drucker’s (1995) definition of a successful entrepreneur is also based on behavior, not innate personality. He adds that “successful innovators used both the right and left sides of their brains. They look at figures, to satisfy an opportunity, and then they go out and look at potential users to study their expectations, their values and needs”. However, Nnodin (2012) identified some useful entrepreneurial skills needed by new entrepreneurs. They include taking calculated risks, making shred decision, being optimistic and visionary, being passionate, demonstration of confidence, resilience, interpersonal skills, communication and listening skills and ability to understand one’s business. The entrepreneurial skills required in an electronic environment include professional skills managerial and generic skills.

Igwesi and Orji (2011) stated that many library and information centres operate enterprises that charge fees for information services, newspapers chipping, compilation of directories, creation of archives and software developed, vocabularies, moving bar coding, index, manuals, books and documents, organizing conferences and preparing alert services, publishing books and newsletter, retrieving document, searching online, writing abstracts and computer instruction manuals. All these efforts are geared towards access to information. Hence, Librarians play key roles in the dissemination of business information. This is due to the fact that they provide valuable information needed for success in entrepreneurship and in other disciplines.

Ugwu and Ezeani (2011) stated that there is a corresponding expansion in the market for information professionals following the development of manpower in entrepreneurship innovation in librarianship. It is obviously clear that entrepreneurship education is receiving serious attention and librarians are placing premium on it. This point to the fact that entrepreneurship in librarianship will continue to shape the future careers of librarians and, in long run, save them from the trauma associated with unemployment, dependency syndromes, prostitution, and armed robbery among other social problems. If the requisite ICT facilities, learning apparatus, qualified staff and congenial learning environment are provided in school library, there is no doubt that the prospects of entrepreneurship in librarianship would be bright and more graduates of library and information technology will be self-reliant.

Statement of the Problem

The Nigeria economy is predominantly driven by white collar jobs, not by self-employment. Yet, some of the fastest

growing and most popular enterprises in Nigeria are small and medium enterprises. There is no gainsaying the fact that for quite some time now, Nigerian has been facing the worse situation of unemployment. The worrisome aspect of the phenomenon is that it is not only common among illiterates and people with poor background. It is common among university graduates. Unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges confronting parents, guardians and indeed governments at all level.

Apart from unemployment, poverty is another challenging factor which Nigerians encounter. It rises when the income of an individual or family is insufficient to provide the basic needs required for the physical sustenance. The lack of basic services such as, education, health care and clean water including lack of assets such as, land, tools, credit, supportive networks of friends and family, lack of food, shelter, and clothing increase poverty. Poverty makes one feel offensive and aggressive. The question is that how can poverty level and unemployment of librarians be reduced? Although, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declaration intends that the world be made better by the year 2015 and beyond in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, being the first objectives of the programme, this goal has not been achieved in Nigeria.

However, as rightly pointed out earlier, there have been various initiatives by successive governments and present government at all levels. Some of the entrepreneurship initiatives in Nigeria includes the introduction of Green Revolution by the Shagari’s administration, National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOADS), Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), You Win by formal president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, N-power, Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) an initiative of president Mohammed Buhari among others were instituted to reduce unemployment among Nigeria Youths and the populace.

Objective(s) of the Study

The general objective of the study was to assess entrepreneurship in librarianship for poverty reduction and unemployment among librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. However, the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Explicate the types of entrepreneurial skills librarians acquired.
2. State the type(s) of entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians.
3. Examine the extent librarians utilized the entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred.
4. Highlight the extent entrepreneurship in librarianship have assist librarians in reducing poverty and unemployment.
5. Explain whether entrepreneurship in librarianship has helped librarians to be self-reliance.

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 levels of significance:

Ho1. There is no significant difference among librarians of Colleges of Education in North- central Nigeria in the types of entrepreneurial skills they have acquired.

Ho2. There is no significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria.

Ho3. There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.

Ho4. There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.

Ho5. There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.

III. METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted for the study. It is a systematic method for gathering information from (a sample of) individuals for the purposes of describing the attitudes of the larger population of which the individuals are members (Enaronia, 2005). This methodology was found appropriate because of the nature of the population, cultural background, attitudes, etc of the respondents. The researchers employed purposive sampling technique; this is a sampling procedure in which a researcher purposely selected certain groups as sample because of their relevance to the investigation. However, one College of Education was selected from each state of the six (6) states that make up the North-central Nigeria and all the professional librarians in the Colleges of Education involved were used for the sample of the study.

Table 1: Distribution of Sampled size of the Population

S/No	Names of Libraries of Colleges of Education Involved	Population of Professional Librarians	Sample
1	College of Education, Oju, Benue State	8	8
2	Federal College of Education, Okene, Kogi State	10	10
3	Kwara State College of Education, Ilorin	9	9
4	College of Education, Akwanga, Nassarawa State	6	6
5	College of Education, Minna, Niger State	5	5
6	Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State	10	10
Total:		48	48

The instrument used for collection of data was questionnaire. Questionnaire was used due to its convenience and capacity to cover the information gaps likely to create in searching for the relevant information/data for the study. A pilot study was carried out at Colleges of Education in the Southwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The subjects that participated in

the pilot study were 20 respondents. The reliability of the questionnaire was found to be 0.89, which means that the instrument is reliable. T-test was used to test the significant difference between the variables in hypotheses 1 and 2 at 0.05 level of significance, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the significant relationship among the variables in hypotheses 3, 4, and 5 at the 0.05 level of significance with the aid of statistical package for social management science (SPSS) 2.0 version.

IV. RESULTS

Hypothesis 1

The null hypothesis stated that “there is no significant difference among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria in the types of entrepreneurial skills they have acquired”. This hypothesis is used to pinpoint the types of entrepreneurial skills acquired by librarians of Colleges of Education under study. In order to test the hypothesis, One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used. The result is presented in Table 2

Table 2: Analysis of the Variance Statistics on the types of entrepreneurial skills acquired by librarians of Colleges of Education in the North-central Nigeria

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	67.958	5	13.592	1.047	.404	Rejected
Within Groups	506.354	39	12.983			
Total	574.311	44				

*Significant at the 0.05 level (2-tails)

Table 2 above shows the calculated mean score of the groups of respondents as 13.592 for the different entrepreneurial skills acquired by librarians of Colleges of Education studied. The 12.893 mean score represented each colleges of education library. The table reveals that there is significant difference among librarians in the type of entrepreneurial skills they have acquired because the calculated F value of 1.047 is greater than the significant value of .404. This means that the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference among librarians of colleges of education in the types of entrepreneurial skills they have acquired is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference among librarians in the types of entrepreneurial skills they acquired.

Hypothesis 2

The null hypothesis stated that “there is no significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria”. The hypothesis is meant to establish the significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria. In order to test the hypothesis, One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used. The result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance Statistics on the entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	128.072	5	25.614	1.016	.422	Rejected
Within Groups	983.573	39	25.220			
Total	1111.644	44				

*Significant at the 0.05 level (2-tails)

Table 3 above revealed that the calculated mean score of the groups of respondents was 25.614 for the different of entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria. The 25.220 mean score represented each of the groups of the Colleges of Education library. The table reveals that there is significant difference in the types of entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria, because the calculated F value of 1.016 is greater than the significant value of .422. This means that the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and prefer by librarians in Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria.

Hypothesis 3

The null hypothesis states that “there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria”. The hypothesis is phrased to establish the significant relationship that exist between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria. In order to test the hypothesis, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used. The analysis is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Correlation between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig. value	Remark
Entrepreneurial Opportunities Available & Preferred	45	3.445	5.331	0.622	.043	Rejected
Librarians	45	3.233	5.043			

*Significant at the 0.05 level (2-tails)

Table 4 has shown that there is significant positive correlation between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria. The reason for this result is that calculated probability value of .043 is less than the 0.05 (p<0.05) at alpha level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between

entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred in Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria is rejected. Therefore, it is appropriate to state that there is significant relationship between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria.

Hypothesis 4

The null hypothesis states that “there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria”. The hypothesis aims at pinpointing the relationship that exists between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria. In order to test the hypothesis, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was adopted. The analysis is presented in Table 5

Table 5: Correlation between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of colleges of education in north central, Nigeria

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r - value	Sig. value	Remark
Entrepreneurship in Librarianship & Unemployment	45	3.423	5.322	0.589	.034	Rejected
Librarians	45	3.316	5.113			

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tails)

Table 5 reveals that there is significant positive correlation between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria. The outcome of the result displays that calculated probability value of .034 is less than the 0.05 (p<0.05) at alpha level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in the North-central Nigeria is rejected. However, it is ideal to state that there is significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria.

Hypothesis four (4) states that there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria. This hypothesis is set to explicate the significant relationship existing between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in the North-central of Nigeria. In order to test the hypothesis, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used. The analysis is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Correlation between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r - value	Sig. value	Remark
Entrepreneurship in Librarianship for Poverty Reduction	45	3.023	5.365	.045	-.300	Rejected
Librarians	45	3.118	5.144			

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tails)

Table 6 has shows that there is significant positive correlation between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central of Nigeria. The result reveals that calculated probability value of -.300 is less than the 0.05 (p<0.05) at alpha level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central Nigeria is rejected. However, it is appropriate to state that there is significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and poverty reduction among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.

V. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

1. There is significant difference among librarians in the types of entrepreneurial skills they acquired.
2. There is a significant difference between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.
3. There is significant relationship between entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.
4. There is significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.
5. There is significant relationship between entrepreneurship in librarianship and unemployment among librarians of Colleges of Education in North-central, Nigeria.

VI. CONCLUSION

It is obviously, from the findings of this study, that entrepreneurship, in librarianship, is a key to poverty reduction, employment generation, wealth creation, service provision and effective management of public and private institutions. It is expected that librarians will make the best use of the entrepreneurial skills they have acquired as well as entrepreneurial opportunities available and preferred by them to establish small and medium enterprises so as to reduce overdependence on government at all levels for employment generation, poverty reduction, social services provision and

socioeconomic development of Nigeria. It is time librarians rose to the occasion by playing a pivotal role in the effective management of library and information centres geared towards bringing the desired innovations and changes needed in order to enhance effective and efficient service delivery in their respective organisations and the society at large.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government at all levels should improve on the level of awareness of the benefit of entrepreneurship to individual households as it relates to poverty alleviation, reduction of unemployment and self-reliance. Individual should also note that government cannot provide job for everybody; therefore, we need to equip our minds with the notion of engaging ourselves in micro-businesses and/or entrepreneurship in wherever we find ourselves.
2. Government should encourage various institutions training library and information professionals to redesign their curriculum in order to capture practical entrepreneurial and skills acquisition for self-reliance and job creation within and outside the library walls.
3. Librarians, as well as other information professionals, need to diversify their interests and passion for entrepreneurial opportunities within and outside library and information work for self-reliance.
4. It is high time library and information science professional bodies (e.g Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN), Nigeria Library Association of Nigeria (NLA), as well as National Association of Library and Information Science Educators) began periodic seminars, workshops and conferences for librarians and other information professionals in order to keep them abreast of current trends in entrepreneurship in librarianship.
5. Government at all levels and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should provide funds for librarians in any chosen entrepreneurial opportunity available or specialisation after graduation from library and information science schools. This would go a long way to actualise self-reliance, poverty reduction as well as reducing unemployment levels among librarians in all ramifications.

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