

Entrepreneurship Initiative for Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

The study examined entrepreneurship initiative for socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of the study, the study developed two (3) objectives of the study, research questions and hypotheses that guided the conduct of the study. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The area of the study was in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State. The population of the study was made up of 350 male and female adults with disabilities from the association of persons with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State Nigeria. This comprises of two hundred and fifty (250) male and one hundred (100) female, making a total of three hundred and fifty (350). The sample size of this study is one hundred and eighty six (186) consisting of one hundred and twenty (120) male and sixty six (66) female adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State Nigeria. The instrument used for the study was a structured questionnaire titled: “Entrepreneurship Initiative for Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities Questionnaire (EISEWADQ)”. The instrument was face and content validated by two experts in Measurement and Evaluation, and tested for reliability using Cronbach Alpha statistics which yielded reliability indexes of 0.81, 0.85 and 0.83 was obtained showing the instrument was reliable. The research questions were analysed using mean and standard deviation statistics while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the analysis, the study revealed that entrepreneurship awareness, vocational rehabilitation and startup fund as entrepreneurship initiative for socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria is to a high extent. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the government and private organizations should organize periodic entrepreneurship seminars, workshops and conferences to increase entrepreneurship awareness for persons with disabilities, among others. However, it was also concluded that entrepreneurship initiative for adult with disabilities, can boost their earnings, socio-economic wellbeing and increase the country’s GDPs as well as their social status which facilitates more growth/production and further boost the economy of the Nation. It was also concluded that entrepreneurship awareness, vocational rehabilitation and startup fund as entrepreneurship initiative can enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities to a high extent.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship Initiative, Socio-Economic, Wellbeing, Adults, Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship has become a household name in societies. This is because of the tireless effort invested into entrepreneurial practice. The practice of entrepreneurship is said to be one of the life-wire of growth and development in a nation. According to Taylor (2017) the concept of entrepreneurship is not new, it is not the product of the 21st century, it has been there ever since the 19th century referring to the status where one is willing to launch a certain project and they are aware of the uncertain consequences that may appear. He further stated that entrepreneurship is the level of being able to plan for new projects and ideas, organize it, deal with it creatively and be aware of the risk that may involve them in the future (Taylor, 2017). Entrepreneurship can be seen as the ability and readiness to develop, organize and run a business enterprise,

along with any of its uncertainties in order to make profit. Entrepreneurship is the process in which individuals, alone or in groups, identify opportunities to innovate and work by transforming ideas of practice activities into a social, cultural or economic context. Similarly, Baron and Henry (2010) sees entrepreneurship as referring to the individual who utilizes his qualities, including risk taking, innovation, creativity, and ability to manage and plan activities to implement an ideas with the aim of fulfilling a certain objective. In 2004, the government of Nigeria through its Federal Ministry of Education introduced 'Entrepreneurship Development' as a course to be integrated into undergraduate programmes and undertaken by every student in the country's higher institutions (Akudolu, 2010). While others like Akinboade, (2014) and Agbonlahor, (2016) are of the opinion that Entrepreneurship was introduced into institutions of higher learning in Nigeria in 2006.

However, for over ten years of this policy implementation, Nigerian graduates still wallow in the vortex of unemployment and unrestrained job seeking as opposed to job creation (Fems, Poazi& Opigo, 2017). It is imperative to note that entrepreneurs play an important role in the socio-economic development of Nigeria, both rural and urban areas without excluding adult with disabilities. Weinberger (2015) has recorded positive results in his training programme in India in this direction. Education improves self- image, one's awareness of his environment, foresight and perceptiveness, and therefore the ability to take decisions about the costs and benefits of actions. However, there are not enough research studies on analyzing how PWDs perceive themselves concerning entrepreneurship or precisely identified what attributed competencies are needed to carry out an initiative of this type.

Disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). Disability is a relatively recent and contentious term. The nomenclature used to refer to those debilitated or diseased has evolved from handicapped or disabled people to people with disabilities (Rocco & Delgado, 2011). Adults with disabilities often encounter discrimination and exclusion on a daily basis. This means, in particular, pervasive exclusion from development programmes and funds, as well as all areas of economic, political, social, civil and cultural life, including employment, education and healthcare. Persons with disabilities were not referenced in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and as a result were excluded from many important development initiatives and funding streams around the world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes persons with disabilities and has thus opened doors for their participation and recognition as active contributing members of society: who must not face any discrimination or be left out or behind (UN General Assembly, 2015).

Entrepreneurship initiative is improving the lives of adult with disabilities socially and economically, this entails all-round uplifting of adults with disabilities and knowing there is ability in disability. Adult with disabilities will do well through entrepreneurship initiative from the private and public sector. Adults with disabilities have needs to proffer solution, and if a business initiative is organized by the government/private sector, there's no doubt in their capacity in making the society proud. Disability is a thing of the mind and anybody who wants to be distinguished as an adult with disability will also do so, many adults with disabilities are well to do and have earned valuable reputation as well as representation and most of this have been through entrepreneurship initiative and it has gone a large way to add value to the community of persons with disabilities. An average adult with disability wants to learn, unlearn and re-learn through initiatives provided so such an adult with disability can stand on his/her own and assist his/her family and the society at large. The exclusion of persons with disabilities from employment opportunities can also result in dramatic consequences. Working age persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than persons without disabilities, be lower paid, have fewer promotion prospects and less job security. It means that national economies face additional costs in having to support unemployed persons with disabilities. (Olaz, 2011). This study will delve in details some key entrepreneurship initiatives that can enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities, such as entrepreneurship awareness, vocational rehabilitation and start-up-funds.

Entrepreneurship awareness according to Mitrovic and Bytheway (2019) is the level of SMEs/entrepreneurs' knowledge about the existence and importance of opportunities for entrepreneurial activities and their successes. While Mayo, Helms, Becherer, and Finch (2022), viewed entrepreneurial awareness as the propensity to which

firms are able to notice and to be sensitive to information about entrepreneurial objects, incidents, and patterns of entrepreneurial behaviour in the external environment, with particular sensitivity to the maker and user problems, unmet needs and interests, and novel combinations of resources. According to Mayo et al. (2022), entrepreneurial awareness is necessary to gather information and make linkages between an individual's interests and expertise and issues within the environment. Entrepreneurship awareness aims at informing, orienting and accelerating businesses for socio-economic development. PWD often poses low self esteem, face discrimination, thus, awareness means the knowledge and understanding of a particular concept. Entrepreneurial awareness tells about adult with disabilities' awareness or perception towards entrepreneurship, and it is the key factor for starting and running their own business.

Vocational rehabilitation is a process whereby those disadvantaged by illness or disability can be enabled to access, maintain or return to employment, or other useful occupation. This applies to those with temporary and permanent impairments. According to Wale (2015) vocational rehabilitation, also abbreviated VR or voc rehab is a process which enables persons with functional, psychological, developmental, cognitive, and emotional disabilities, impairments or health disabilities to overcome barriers to accessing, maintaining, or returning to employment or other useful occupations. This implies that an individual with disability changes from one development to another to achieve a meaningful life, whereby his/her status can be recognized in any society he belongs. According to Bitter in Amwe (2019), vocational rehabilitation deals with the restoration of persons with disabilities to the fullest physical, mental, vocational and economic usefulness of which they are capable. Similarly, Rossler (2018) postulated that what the people with disabilities need is vocational training tailored to meet their employment needs in the present day economy. To achieve this, he maintains that vocational rehabilitation preparation of the disabled persons should involve teaching clients, how to complete job application forms, how to respond in job interviews, and learning how to meet the interpersonal and task performances which is an essential and noble venture aimed at restoring the handicapped to be self-employed and at the same time government employees. With this they can be socially and vocationally useful. Bitter (2019) add further that "vocational rehabilitation of a disabled persons refers to series of activity directed towards providing him with skills and knowledge that will enable him to work and become as self-sufficient as possible." This part of rehabilitation is so vital because it involves large volume of vocational services to enable the disabled persons to secure and retain jobs. By this, their lives will be comfortable.

Startup fund is the money a business uses to start or support a new business. There are many different types of funding. Startups use these funds to cover marketing, growth, and operating expenses to launch the business. The number and types of funding options can be overwhelming for a new startup. It can be in form of loan or grant, a grant is a financial award for a business from a government, corporate, or nonprofit entity (Bitter, 2019). Grants are gifts, so they don't need to be repaid. These mission-driven investments are often quite competitive. For many grants, to qualify for funding your startup goals and values need to align with those of the organization you're applying to. Considering the different types of startup funding that is available, that of PWD should be given preference, should come in angel investors are individuals and businesses that are interested in helping small businesses survive and grow. According to ILO (2017) their objective may be more than just focusing on economic returns, federal, state and local government need to often have financial assistance in the form of grants or tax credits for start-up or expanding businesses. Securing funding for a start-up in its early stages is from internal sources. The funder provides the initial capital, along with funds from family and friends, and the firm also relies on bootstrapping & business alliances. As the firm grows and needs additional capital, it will require external sources of funding: business loan from a bank, government sponsored programs/grants, professional investors (angel investors, venture capitalists, and corporate investors), initial public offering (IPO) and the equity markets. (Olaz, 2011).

Statement of the Problem

Entrepreneurship in Nigeria is being the center of attention, given that it has proved its ability to create, operate businesses, increase the performance and insure an income to the economy and working opportunities for individuals in the country without excluding adult with disabilities. Many factors may have a role in either increasing or decreasing the awareness and productivity of entrepreneurship initiatives within the Nation.

Disability affects a wide range of socio-economic outcomes, including labour market participation. Adults with disabilities experience lower labour market participation rates than the non-disabled throughout Nigeria, although activity rates and the disabled/non-disabled participation rate differential varies cross-nationally.

Adults with disabilities tend to be concentrated in lower-skilled, lower-paid occupations. Low participation rates are costly for the individuals concerned in terms of socio-economic and psychological well-being, for governments in terms of lost output and tax revenues, and increased welfare payments, and for society in terms of the impact of social exclusion and discrimination on civic participation and public life, factors that can shape participation, including entrepreneurship awareness/education, skill trainings, start-up-funds, information and transport. The question now is will entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria? Providing answer to this question poses the problem of the study. Hence, the study examined entrepreneurship initiative for socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine entrepreneurship initiative for socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. examine the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.
2. ascertain the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.
3. determine the extent start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Research Question

The following research question guided the study

1. To what extent does entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?
2. To what extent does vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?
3. To what extent does start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study

1. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

3. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design with a population of three hundred and fifty (350) male and female adults with disabilities from the association of persons with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State Nigeria. This comprises of two hundred and fifty (250) male and one hundred (100) female, making a total of three hundred and fifty (350). The sample size of this study is one hundred and eighty six (186) consisting of one hundred and twenty (120) male and sixty six (66) female adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State Nigeria which was derived using simple random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection in this study will be a self-developed questionnaire titled “Entrepreneurship Initiative for Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities Questionnaire (EISEWADQ)” which was structured on a four point Likert rating Scale of Very High Extent (VHE), High Extent (HE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE) with 4, 3, 2 and 1 point respectively. The instrument was face and content validated by two experts in Measurement and Evaluation, and tested for reliability using Cronbach Alpha statistics which yielded reliability indexes of 0.81, 0.85 and 0.83. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions with a criterion mean of 2.50. Items above 2.50 signified high extent as items below denoted low extent. The null hypotheses were tested using z-test at 0.05 level of significance. Analyzed data with z-calculated above z-critical was rejected and below was accepted.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: To what extent does entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Entrepreneurship Awareness as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

S/N	Item	Male AWD N=120			Female AWD N=66		
		$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK	$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK
1.	Entrepreneurial awareness is necessary to gather information and make linkages between an individual's interests and expertise and issues within the environment	2.41	1.06	HE	2.67	1.08	HE
2.	Entrepreneurship awareness aims at informing, orienting and accelerating businesses for socio-economic development	2.78	.91	HE	3.12	.79	HE
3.	Adults with disabilities should be properly informed of entrepreneurial trend for their socio-economic wellbeing	3.06	.86	HE	2.21	1.12	HE
4.	entrepreneurship awareness creates broader access to increased economic impact	3.11	.79	HE	3.18	.86	HE
5.	Entrepreneurship awareness influence entrepreneurial intentions among adults with disabilities	2.91	.80	HE	3.10	1.02	HE
	Grand mean	2.85		HE	2.83		HE

The analyzed data on Table 1 above for research question 1, revealed that all the items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had mean scores 2.41, 2.78, 3.06, 3.11 and 2.91 with standard deviation 1.06, .91, .86, .79 and .80 for male adults with disabilities and 2.67, 3.12, 2.21, 3.18 and 3.10 with standard deviation 1.08, .79, 1.12, .86 and 1.02 for female adults with disabilities and revealed the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. However, with grand mean scores of 2.85 and 2.83 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively, the answer to research question one reveals that entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent.

Research Question 2: To what extent does vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Vocational Rehabilitation as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

S/ N	Item	Male AWD N=120			Female AWD N=66		
		$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK	$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK
1.	Vocational rehabilitation program can significantly improve quality of life of adult with disabilities (AWD)	2.75	.82	HE	3.09	.89	HE
2.	ICT Training in basic computer skills, web design, graphic design, digital marketing, software development will enhance wellbeing of AWD	3.07	.95	HE	2.47	.83	HE
3.	Technical Skills Training in Carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, welding and automotive repair will enhance wellbeing of AWD	2.81	.80	HE	3.01	1.12	HE
4.	Creative Skills Training in Tailoring, fashion design, jewelry making, art and crafts will enhance wellbeing of AWD	3.11	.88	HE	2.90	.86	HE
5.	Business Skills Training in business management, accounting, marketing, and entrepreneurship will enhance wellbeing of AWD	2.68	.81	HE	3.18	1.10	HE
	Grand mean	2.88		HE	2.93		HE

The analyzed data on Table 2 above for research question 1, revealed that all the items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had mean scores 2.75, 3.07, 2.81, 3.11 and 2.68 with standard deviation .82, .95, .80, .88 and .81 for male adults with disabilities and 3.09, 2.47, 3.01, 2.90 and 3.18 with standard deviation .89, .83, 1.12, .86 and 1.10 for female adults with disabilities and revealed the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. However, with grand mean scores of 2.88 and 2.93 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively, the answer to research question one reveals that vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent.

Research Question 3: To what extent does start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Start-up-funds as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

S/N	Item	Male AWD N=120			Female AWD N=66		
		$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK	$\bar{X}$	SD	RMK
1.	Special resources or strategies will be helpful in securing initial funding for adult with disabilities	3.09	.81	HE	2.32	.86	HE
2.	AWD should be given preference in startup fund provision for their socio-economic wellbeing	2.71	.78	HE	3.15	.99	HE
3.	The establishment of a special micro finance bank for AWD will encourage entrepreneurial spirit in AWD	2.85	.93	HE	3.24	1.20	HE
4.	Funding support from friends and family of AWD will enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of AWD	2.49	.88	HE	3.19	.76	HE
5.	Government provision of entrepreneurship grant for AWD will enhance their start up and socio-economic wellbeing	3.10	.80	HE	2.98	1.15	HE
	Grand mean	2.85		HE	2.98		HE

The analyzed data on Table 3 above for research question 1, revealed that all the items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had mean scores 3.09, 2.71, 2.85, 2.49 and 3.10 with standard deviation .81, .78, .93, .88 and .80 for male adults with disabilities and 2.32, 3.15, 3.24, 3.19 and 2.98 with standard deviation .86, .99, 1.20, .76 and 1.15 for female adults with disabilities and revealed the extent start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. However, with grand mean scores of 2.85 and 2.98 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively, the answer to research question one reveals that start-up-funds as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent.

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Table 4: z-test Analysis of Difference in the Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Entrepreneurship Awareness as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Respondents	N	$\bar{X}$	S.D	DF	LS	z-cal	z-critical	Decision
Male AWD	120	2.85	0.88	184	0.05	0.14	±1.96	Failed to Reject
Female AWD	66	2.83	0.97					

Data on Table 4 above revealed z-test analysis of difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. At 0.05 level of significance and 184 degree of freedom, the z-calculated value was 0.14 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 , therefore the null hypothesis was accepted; which states that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Ho₂: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Table 5: z-test Analysis of Difference in the Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Vocational Rehabilitation as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Respondents	N	$\bar{X}$	S.D	DF	LS	z-cal	z-critical	Decision
Male AWD	120	2.88	0.85	184	0.05	-0.36	± 1.96	Failed to Reject
Female AWD	66	2.93	0.96					

Data on Table 5 above revealed z-test analysis of difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. At 0.05 level of significance and 184 degree of freedom, the z-calculated value was -0.36 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 , therefore the null hypothesis was accepted; which states that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Ho₃: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent start-up fund as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Table 6: z-test Analysis of Difference in the Mean Ratings of Male and Female Adults with Disabilities on the Extent Start-up Fund as an Entrepreneurship Initiative enhance Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Adults with Disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Respondents	N	$\bar{X}$	S.D	DF	LS	z-cal	z-critical	Decision
Male AWD	120	2.85	0.84	184	0.05	-0.93	± 1.96	Failed to Reject
Female AWD	66	2.98	0.99					

Data on Table 6 above revealed z-test analysis of difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent start-up fund as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. At 0.05 level of significance and 184 degree of freedom, the z-calculated value was -0.93 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 , therefore the null hypothesis was accepted; which states that there is no significant difference between the mean

ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent start-up fund as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study on research question one clearly revealed that entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent with grand mean value of 2.85 and 2.83 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively. The corresponding hypothesis one on table 4 showed no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent to which entrepreneurship awareness as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State with z-calculated value of 0.14 which was less than the z-critical value ± 1.96 . This finding is in consonance with the findings of Mitrovic et al (2019) opined the level of SMEs/entrepreneurs' knowledge about the existence and importance of opportunities for entrepreneurial activities and their successes. Also, according to Mayo et al (2020) said entrepreneurial awareness is necessary to gather information and make linkages between an individual's interests and expertise and issues within the environment.

The findings of the study on research question two clearly revealed that vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent with grand mean value of 2.88 and 2.93 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively. The corresponding hypothesis one on table 5 showed no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent to which vocational rehabilitation as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State with z-calculated value of -0.36 which was less than the z-critical value ± 1.96 . This finding is in agreement with the findings of Bitter in Amwe (2019), vocational rehabilitation deals with the restoration of persons with disabilities to the fullest physical, mental, vocational and economic usefulness of which they are capable. Similarly, Rossler (2018) postulated that what the people with disabilities need is vocational training tailored to meet their employment needs in the present day economy.

The findings of the study on research question three clearly revealed that startup fund as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria to a high extent with grand mean value of 2.85 and 2.98 for male and female adults with disabilities respectively. The corresponding hypothesis three on table 6 showed no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female adults with disabilities on the extent to which startup fund as an entrepreneurship initiative enhance socio-economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State with z-calculated value of -0.93 which was less than the z-critical value ± 1.96 . This finding is in agreement with the findings of Bitter (2019) asserted that It can be in form of loan or grant, a grant is a financial award for a business from a government, corporate, or nonprofit entity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study, it is evidential that most people with disabilities are involved in low income spot with little or no advancement in position, which makes less social and less productive as time goes on, there's hardly any morale boost as socialization with them tend to diminish in such working condition and with no available pathway to entrepreneurship program they tend to have no other option except deciding between idleness and sticking to their current situation, but with entrepreneurship initiative for adult with disabilities, can boost their earnings, socio-economic wellbeing and increase the country's GDPs as well as their social status which facilitates more growth/production and further boost the economy of the Nation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The government and private organizations should organize periodic entrepreneurship seminars, workshops and conferences to increase entrepreneurship awareness for persons with disabilities.
2. The government, private organizations and philanthropist should consider establishing and hosting vocational rehabilitation programs to enable person with disabilities acquire new skills for self reliant and employability.
3. The government, private organizations, philanthropist, family and friends should trust the abilities in persons with disabilities, and provide startup fund for them, especially after entrepreneurship awareness, vocational rehabilitation programs.

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