Women Entrepreneurs and Survival of Small-Scale Enterprises in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurs participate in total entrepreneurial activities. The objective of this paper is to assess the women entrepreneurs and survival of small scale enterprises (SSEs) in Nigeria. One Hundred and Twenty Eight (128) questionnaires were retrieved for analysis. Data collected were analyzed using multiple regressions. The results revealed that women entrepreneurs experience and women entrepreneurs' level of education have significant effect on the survival of SSEs in Nigeria. The study therefore, concluded that an increase in training or improvement in the activities of women entrepreneurship will lead to a significant increase in the maintenance and sustainability of SSEs in Nigeria. Finding indicate that since, - women entrepreneurs experience and level of education lead to the survival of SSEs in Nigeria. Therefore, the Nigerian government should provide an avenue for adequate training on entrepreneurship, provision of infrastructural facilities and enabling environment in order to enhance the women entrepreneurial activities as this would translate to increase in an income generation, provision of employment and reduction of poverty in Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Women Entrepreneurs, Small Scale Enterprises, Women Entrepreneurship and Survival

JEL codes: M12, M20.

1 INTRODUCTION

SSEs have been the means through which accelerated economic growth and rapid industrialization have been achieved (Olabisi, Andrew & Adewole 2011). SSEs play a very important role in the economic growth and development of a nation because they encourage and sustain self – reliance. Ayanda and Laraba (2011) described small businesses as “mighty minor” that functionalize market economies and remove or minimize imperfection factors that impede adaptation to change. This implied that SSEs are generally believed to be most appropriate scale of business for developing economies like Nigeria.

The importance of small business enterprises as providers of employment, instrument of poverty alleviation and as key component in National economic development has been known in Nigeria (Ogundele, 2007). Ogundele (2007) had further noted that the encouragement and development of entrepreneurial activities would help the dispersal and diversification of economic activities and encourage even development in a country.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The Entrepreneurship is the heart of the modern business – a force behind innovative businesses that characterize the modern economy (Olutunla, 2001). It is the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth by individuals who assume the major risks in terms of equity, time and or career commitment of providing value for some product or service (Kuratko, & Hudgetts, 1998). It is defined as an individual who organizes a business undertaking, assuming the risk for the sake of the profit. Holt (2006) opined that the entrepreneurship is the process of starting a small business from scratch. Entrepreneurship is the discovery of opportunities and subsequent creation of new economic activity, often via the creation of organization (Reynolds, 2005). Entrepreneurship is the ownership and operation of a small business (Jalbert, 2000).

Women entrepreneur is a female who played a captivating part by repeatedly interacting and keenly adjusting herself with financial, socio-economic, and support sphere in society Pareek (1992). Women entrepreneurs around the world are major contributors to the economy, as they are making a difference in the socio-economic arena. They contribute numerous ideas and a great deal of energy and capital resources to their communities, <https://doi.org/10.30585/jrems.v1i1.314>

and generate jobs as well as create additional work for suppliers and other spin-off business linkages (Afza, *et al*, 2010).

In Nigeria SSEs can be defined as any enterprises that have an asset base of between Fifty Thousand Naira to Four Hundred Million Naira (50,000 – 400,000,000) excluding cost of land and working capital (Uchenwamgbe, 2013). SSEs in Nigeria also, operate in different sectors of the economy: the SSEs consist mainly of those engaged in the distributive trade which constituted about fifty percent (50%) of the SSEs, ten percent (10%) are in manufacturing, Thirty percent (30%) in agriculture and Ten percent (10%) in services (Olutunla & Obamuyi, 2008).

3 METHODS

This study used a survey research design which is cross sectional in nature. The population of the study consisted One Hundred and Eighty Seven (187) SSEs owners' managers in Kebbi State and Sokoto State respectively that have registered with different cooperative Association under Kebbi and Sokoto State Ministry of Commerce.

3.1 Sampling and Sampling Technique

The respondents were selected on simple random sampling and the respondents are the registered women entrepreneurs in Kebbi state and Sokoto state of Nigeria. The sample size of the study was determined using Yamane formula cited by Israel (2013) as follows:

$$n = N/(1+N)(e)^2$$

where n = sample size, N = population, e = error of the sampling or level of significant, Thus, N = 187, e = 0.05. Therefore the sample size of the study was **127**. The 10% (13) out of the above sample size was added in order to take care of the unreturned questionnaires which make the total questionnaires distributed to the respondents to be One Hundred and Forty (140) (Israel, 2013). One Hundred and Forty (140) questionnaires were distributed to respondents with registered SSEs in Kebbi state and Sokoto State respectively at one particular period of time.

One Hundred and Thirty Five (135) questionnaires were returned, out of which One Hundred and Twenty Eight (128) were valid and fully completed, thereby resulting to a response rate of Ninety One percent (91%). The data were analysed using multiple regression analysis with statistical package for social science (SPSS) to test the hypothesis on women entrepreneurs and survival of SSEs in Nigeria. The analysis was based on 128 filled and returned questionnaires which resulted to 91% from the One Hundred and Forty (140) questionnaires distributed.

4 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Table 1: Summary of regression Result

Variable	Coefficient	t-value	Sig.	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Durbin-Watson
Constant	4.345	8.232	0.000	0.167	.152	1.689
Experience	.391	2.741	0.007			
Level of education	.267	2.048	0.043			
F. Statistic	11.419					
Sig. of F- stat.	.002					
Dependent variable: Maintenance of SMEs						

Source: SPSS output, 2018

The hypothesis Ho₁: Women entrepreneurs experience has not significantly affect the survival of small scale enterprises in Nigeria was tested at significant level of 5% which indicates that women entrepreneurs experience has significantly affected the survival of SSEs in Nigeria because women entrepreneurs with vast experience on SSEs maintained and sustained their businesses than those who engages into entrepreneurial activities without any experience. The hypothesis which states that Women entrepreneurs experience has not significantly affect the survival of small scale enterprises in Nigeria; the hypothesis has to be rejected.

The hypothesis Ho₂: Women entrepreneurs level of education has not significantly affect the survival of small scale enterprises in Nigeria was tested at significant level of 5% which indicates that women entrepreneurs level of education has significantly affected the survival of SSEs in Nigeria because women entrepreneurs with high level of education on SSEs maintains and sustains their businesses properly than those with lower level of

education. The hypothesis which stated that Women entrepreneur's level of education has no significantly affect the survival of small scale enterprises in Nigeria; the hypothesis has to be rejected.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The finding reveals that R^2 which is the coefficient of determination of the variables stood at 0.167. This indicates that about 17% of the total variation in dependent variable survival of SSEs which was proxy by maintenance is explains by variation in the independent variables women entrepreneurs experience & women entrepreneurs level of education; whereas the remaining 83% of changes in dependent variable was causes by other variable not captures by the study. The F-statistic which measures the overall significance of the model stood at 11.419 showing the adequacy and fitness of the model uses in the study and is significant at 1%. This shows that the model of the study is adequate and fit and the independent variable was appropriate. Also, the Durbin Watson tests of the first order serial-correlation which have a value of 1.689 indicated the absence of harmful serial-correlation in the model of the study.

Furthermore, the Finding reveals that women entrepreneurs experience has a beta coefficient of 0.391 and a t-value of 2.741 with a significant value of 0.007. This implied that woman entrepreneurs experience has significantly affects the survival of SSEs in Nigeria. The Finding also reveals that women entrepreneurs' level of education has a beta coefficient of 0.267 and a t-value of 2.048 with a significant value of 0.043. This implies that entrepreneur's level of education has significantly affects the survival of SSEs in Nigeria.

This study set out to empirically examine the women entrepreneurs and survival of SSEs in Nigeria. The study establishes women entrepreneurs experience and women entrepreneurs' level of education have a positive and significant effect on the survival of SSEs in Nigeria. Therefore it can be concludes that an experience and high level of education in the activities of women owned enterprises will lead to a significant increase in the maintenance and sustainability of SSEs in Nigeria.

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