

## **IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA: AN EXPERIENCE FROM THE LAGOS CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

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### **Abstract**

Entrepreneurship refers an economic development's vehicle that impacts on economic growth by way of employment generation, institution of new innovations and productivity enhancements. This is consequent to the fact that it offers people with required training that facilitates creativity and skill acquisition, capable of resulting in self-employment. Hence, the study examined the impact of entrepreneurial development on the economic growth in Nigeria with a focus on the Lagos Central Senatorial District (LCSD). This was with the specific objectives: to establish the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the employment generation in Nigeria; and to ascertain the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the standard of living in Nigeria. Therefore, the sample size of the study stood at 250, while a well-thought-out questionnaire was utilized as means of collection data. Percentages and tables were adopted as descriptive statistics, and regression analysis was employed to test the hypotheses of the study. Findings of the study showed a positive significant impact of: (i) small and medium scale enterprises on the employment generation ;(ii) small and medium scale enterprises on the people's standard of living in LCSD. It was concluded that there was positive significant impact of entrepreneurial development on the economic growth in Nigeria. The study, then recommended additional innovative improvement - educating centers in LCSD. This is with a view to involve a large number of youths who are yet to get jobs in the district as the implication of this is that the region's wealth could easily be accelerated by its economic dynamics.

**Keywords:** Public policy, Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship, Asia

## **Introduction**

The 21st century has been dubbed the "entrepreneurial age" (Akko, 2015). This is for the reason that entrepreneurship is regarded as a fundamental means of boosting economic growth and development through the creation of more job opportunities, development of a local technology base, and the preservation of national governments' foreign exchange earnings. As a result of the search for work prospects, many Nigerians have taken the initiative to seek alternate means of subsistence, as most people have discovered that awaiting gainful employment which are frequently not arriving is no longer fashionable (Matthew, 2018).

Here in Nigeria, as it is peculiar to other yet to advance nations, there is growing worry about the slow rate of job creation and the attendant challenges. The threat of joblessness and penury in the country cannot be overstated. The double challenge has afflicted the nation, particularly since the middle of 1980s. In Nigeria, the unemployment rate rose to 7.50 percent in the first quarter of 2015, up from 6.40 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014 (Emeaghalu & Okoroji, 2020).

However, joblessness has turned out to a critical challenge that has to be tackled with seriousness so as to make young Nigerians to be engaged productively and keeping them out of menace as country is placed on a time explosive, and while the explosives are bursting in droves via horrific insurrections. As a result, initiatives for reducing the country's high unemployment rate become critical since the ability of a country to produce a consistent business that has prospects is merely possible once the citizens engage in entrepreneurial activity (Emeaghalu & Okoroji, 2020). This is consequent to the fact that it is extremely worthy of praise and extensively acknowledged that entrepreneurial activities have gone a long way in helping a lot to sustain livelihoods and promote economic growth in Nigeria, especially in the area of employment provision (Onwo & Ohazuilike, 2021; Ibitomi et al., 2022; Enyoghasim et al., 2023).

In an attempt to proffer solutions, jobless youths and out of job people had undergone training in a variety of programs, including vocational skill acquisition, entrepreneurship or business development, labor-based work, rural employment promotion, and job placement guidance and counseling. Yet, youths' unemployment is high in the country, with the rate rising year after year. Consequently, juvenile delinquency and societal evils including drug trafficking, political thuggery, banditry, abduction, human trafficking, and militancy are strongly linked to increased young unemployment in Nigeria.

Nonetheless, both Federal and State governments' initiatives to promote entrepreneurship have benefited Lagos State. For instance, the state has benefited from the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), and Youth with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWIN) (Okeke et al., 2020; Fauziyya,

2022). Similar to this, the state used small and medium-sized businesses to implement its own entrepreneurship development programs through technology transfer strategies. This was done in an effort to lower the unemployment rate among young people. Nevertheless, despite these initiatives, the state's unemployment rate remains high since the programmes failed to accomplish their intended outcomes, which resulted in the majority of indigenous entrepreneurs migrating to foreign product distributors (Gwani, Hani & Bello, 2020).

Currently, the crave for white-collar jobs in the state has outpaced the available job prospects, resulting in unexpected unemployment. Entrepreneurship is the most powerful solution to the global unemployment problem, but might it also assist to create work for the teeming unemployed youths in Lagos State? Will entrepreneurial development provide the necessary foundation for employment creation in the state, particularly in local government areas? Citizens, particularly adolescents, in the state are reported to face poverty and unemployment as a result of a lack of capacity and vital productive skills for both creative employments in existing organizations and self-employment (Gwani et al., 2020). In contrast, a large number of people lack employment due to their inability to obtain the kind of skills that are usually required in the workplace. Some are unemployed due to lack of skills or because technology has made their abilities outdated, while others are unemployed due to improper business contacts and insufficient funding (Gwani et al., 2020). Some were denied opportunities as a result of bad infrastructure, unfavorable government policies, and insecurity, which affected the whole Lagos Central Senatorial District, which turned out to be the main emphasis of this study.

Due to the paralyzing effects of the insecurity that have badly damaged the socio-economic development of the Lagos Central Senatorial District, businesses have closed and investors have relocated to more secure states within the federation. High unemployment and an increase in other social vices are the ensuing effects (Ogunleye, Alabi & Afolabi, 2015). As a result of this reality, the state's youths are without a sustainable source of income, and poverty and unemployment have come to be the ugly twin been faced by the state. These issues have had a negative influence on entrepreneurship and long-term employment development among youths in Lagos State, necessitating an investigation into the determinants to find feasible remedies. The Lagos State administration has to address this issue by implementing a number of friendly policies to reduce unemployment. This will be accomplished by creating a variety of entrepreneurial programmes to get the state's jobless youths involved in worthwhile business ventures that will create long-term jobs and significantly reduce the number of young people engaging in social vices.

In light of the aforementioned, the study examined the effect of entrepreneurial development on economic growth in Lagos Central Senatorial District. This was to assist in identifying those entrepreneurial aspects that contribute to sustained employment creation for even development. Although several scholars conducted similar studies (such as Matthew, 2018; Gwani et al., 2020; Okeke et al., 2020; Wachukwu, & Salomi, 2021, etc.), but their studies

focused only on entrepreneurship development and unemployment reduction in Nigeria with a focus on selected local government areas (sections) in the country. Their studies failed to look into the influence of entrepreneurial improvement on employment generation in the Lagos Central Senatorial District, which was what this research focused on, hence, this research.

### ***The Study's Objectives***

The general objective of the study was to examine the role of entrepreneurial development as the catalyst to or driver of employment generation in Nigeria, while the specific objectives were to:

- i. establish the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the employment generation in Nigeria.
- ii. ascertain the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the standard of living in Nigeria.

## **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS**

### ***Concept of Entrepreneur / Entrepreneurship***

The word "entrepreneur" coins out of the French verb "entrender" from the thirteenth century, which means to perform or embark upon. By the sixteenth century, the term "entrepreneur" had come into use to describe someone who started a business. Richard Cantillon used the term for the first time in academia in 1730 (Akko, 2015). An entrepreneur, according to Drucker (1985), is a person who launches a new company, achieves great success, and is endowed by nature with traits like idealism, independence of thought and action, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of purpose. The entrepreneur combines resources in novel ways, resulting in the creation of something new. An entrepreneur is someone who does things in a creative way. Entrepreneurs make decisions based on intuition rather than prior models. The entrepreneur is someone who wishes to establish a private kingdom. He possesses a conquering will, the delight of producing, getting things done, or simply using one's energy and ingenuity (Barret, 1999).

Since the middle ages, several authors have characterized entrepreneurship. For example, Aun, et al. (2018) defined entrepreneurship as the process through which people seek opportunities independently of the resources, they currently control, either on their own or inside companies. Additionally, Ossai (2018) defined entrepreneurship as the process of establishing new or distinct values by investing the required time, taking on the corresponding social, psychological, and financial risks, and reaping the benefits of the highest degree of personal fulfillment. Entrepreneurship is the process of combining people, money, and resources to meet a need and create prosperity. It involves putting together

creative and new ideas and coping them with management and organization skills. There is more to entrepreneurship than just "starting a business." It is a method by which people find opportunities, distribute resources, and add value. The discovery of unmet needs or potential for change is frequently the first step in creating value. According to Akko (2015), an entrepreneur is a person who "undertakes innovations with finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods." As a result, entrepreneurs view opportunities rather than problems and act to solve problems for clients who are willing to pay to have them solved.

### ***Employment Generation***

However, to precisely define employment generation is very tough. There are both active and inactive populations in any economy. The term "employed population" refers to the populations that are engaged in economic activity. Those who are actively involved in the production of goods and services are among them. In general, employment refers to a situation in which a person works for pay. Self-employment is another situation in which employment may occur. Employment creation, according to Imran (2000), is the process of creating new jobs, particularly for unemployed individuals. Similar to this, government initiatives aimed at helping residents find work are known as job creation plans or projects. The American Job Creation Act of 2004 was crafted with the intention of facilitating employment opportunities for domestic manufacturers, global enterprises, and the agriculture and energy sectors. Additionally, Sajo (2013) defined the term "job creation" as government initiatives meant to lower unemployment, which are carried out through a variety of means, including the government issuing contracts, lowering taxes, and reducing regulations to lower the cost of employing.

### ***Concept of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises***

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), in its 22 of 1988 circular defined a small-scale firm (SME) as an organization with an annual turnover of little more than five hundred thousand naira in its monetary policy circular little. (Ali 2003). According to the National Council of Industries, small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) in Onugu (2005) are classified as business enterprises with total costs not exceeding two hundred million naira (N200,000,000.00), excluding land. According to Akinruwa, Awolusi, and Ibojo (2013), the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2005) also classified businesses with larger operating capacities, those with fewer than 50 full-time employees, and those with an annual sale of no more than RM10 million as SMEs in the manufacturing sector. In the same vein, Jasra et al. (2011) defined SMEs as those enterprises that employ no more than 250 employees and work on a small scale. He further explained that the technical definition varies from country to country, but is usually based on employment, assets, or a combination of the two.

### ***Concept of Unemployment***

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), unemployment is the proportion of a region's economically active population that is looking for work but is not employed. These consist of persons who have quit their occupations voluntarily and those who have lost their positions (Anyadike, Emeh & Ukah, 2012). Fajana (2000) defines unemployment as the state in which individuals who are able and eager to work but are unable to locate appropriate paid job are considered unemployed. It is among the macroeconomic concerns that any responsible administration should monitor and manage. The degree of poverty and related welfare issues would rise in an economy with a higher unemployment rate. According to Fajana (2000) and Alao (2005), there are three types of unemployment: structural unemployment, frictional unemployment, and seasonal unemployment. Cycle unemployment, also known as Keynesian unemployment or demand deficient unemployment; residual unemployment; and technical unemployment are all examples of cyclical unemployment.

### ***Economic Growth***

First and foremost, economics is the study of making wise decisions in the face of scarcity, since economic growth is the primary indicator of how well scarce resources are allocated. While firms watch their earnings and market share, people keep an eye on their income and the value of their assets. Meanwhile, nations track a range of indicators to measure economic growth, including national income and productivity. As to Mladen (2015), economic growth is defined as a continuous rise in a nation's production volume or an increase in the gross domestic product, which serves as the primary quantitative measure of production during a one-year period. That is, a significant increase in the total amount of products and services generated in an economy over time. It is related to either an increase in per capita income or the gross national income. Changes in material output during a relatively short time span—typically one year—are included in economic growth. According to economic theory, the term "economic growth" refers to the yearly rise in material production expressed in terms of the GDP or national income. Growth is possible even though it doesn't follow the economy's natural path of development.

### ***Theoretical Framework***

The achievement of high employment is one of the key goods of the economy. The achievement of this goal has remained a topic of discussion in developing nations, notably in Africa, where poverty levels are high and unemployment rates are rising (Goshit & Landi, 2012). As a result, various hypotheses that had been pushed and developed by particular scholars emerged. The classical theory of employment, the Keynesian theory of employment,

and Joseph Schumpeter's theory were among the theories. Nevertheless, this study was based on Joseph Schumpeter's theory of entrepreneurship since it emphasized free enterprises as a serious and key factor in economic growth and development, as well as a permanent cure for the extreme hunger and poverty caused by unemployment.

### ***Joseph Schumpeter's Theory of Entrepreneurship***

In 1934, a well-known academic known as Joseph Schumpeter presented his idea of entrepreneurship. The notion presented the entrepreneur from a neoclassical angle, seeing them as capitalists motivated by profit, risk-takers, and inventive problem solvers. According to Schumpeter, innovation happens when an entrepreneur exists within any given institutional framework. He contends that when these breakthroughs take place, global economies grow and, because the entrepreneur is a socially unique individual, the entrepreneur emerges to alter the institutional order. Thus, the so-called "Schumpeter effect" alludes to the act of engaging in entrepreneurial activity lowering the unemployment condition in the economy (Emeaghalu & Okoroji, 2020).

In their respective research, Garofoli (1994); Audretsch and Fritsch (2001) find a negative correlation between unemployment and the establishment of new firms. Put another way, when new businesses are founded, employability is increased and unemployment declines significantly. There has been confusion over the relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurship. As a result, it is widely acknowledged that there is a causal relationship that runs both ways between changes in the degree of entrepreneurship and unemployment, with the "Schumpeter Effect" contributing to the decline in unemployment during company operations. It is claimed that low economic growth, which also reflects higher unemployment rates, may be the cause of low rates of entrepreneurial culture and talents in any country. In addition to being a component of the push effect of unemployment, entrepreneurial prospects also demonstrated a pull effect. According to Ogwumike (2013), entrepreneurship is therefore a key component of economic growth and development as well as a long-term solution to the severe hunger and poverty brought on by unemployment.

### ***Empirical Review and Hypotheses Development***

Ochepa et al. (2015) carried out a study on the effect of entrepreneurship on employment generation which focused on how to improve the standard of living in Niger State, Nigeria. This was with the population of 1,694 and sample size of 324 using Taro Yamane's method of sampling method determination, while descriptive statistics and t-test were adopted for the data analysis and hypotheses testing. The results established that entrepreneurship engendered significant employment and as well had significant effect on the standard of living in the Niger state. Conversely, in a study undertaken by Bassey, Effiong and Obot

(2018) on the impact of entrepreneurial development on employment creation in Cross River State with a focus on the national directorate of employment, a set of structured questionnaire was used. The result demonstrated that although the NDE has developed and implemented many programs for entrepreneurial growth with the goal of guaranteeing the creation of jobs throughout time in Calabar Municipal, yet these programmes had no significant or positive impact on the lives of the people. Neither did the programmes elevate the life conditions of the citizens in the area. These previous studies were conducted the Northern and Southern part of Nigeria respectively, while this study was carried out in Lagos, which is one of the states in the Western part of the country. Thus, the first hypothesis of this study was formulated as:

*H0<sub>1</sub>: SMEs have no meaningful effect on the job provision in Nigeria.*

Matthew (2018) in his study examined the effect of entrepreneurial development on the job making in the selected local government areas (LGAs) of Kogi East senatorial district from 2000 to 2015. The study combined the employment of primary data coupled with the secondary data source for the data collection, while Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to ensure effective analysis of the gathered data. Therefore, findings made known that there were significant and positive impact of entrepreneurial development on the creation of employment for the jobless youths in the study area. In the same manner, Okeke et al. (2020) conducted a research on entrepreneurship and employment generation in selected manufacturing organizations in South East Nigeria where the study's population stood at 2820 and the sample size was 350. The study utilized Chi-square to analyze data its data. The findings specified that entrepreneurial development had resulted in the employment generation for the unemployed youths, thus made the engagement in the economic activities of the people in the area to boost production of goods and services tremendously. These past studies were undertaken in the North – Central Nigeria and Eastern part of the country, but this present study was conducted in the Western part of country. Hence, the second hypothesis of this study was expressed as:

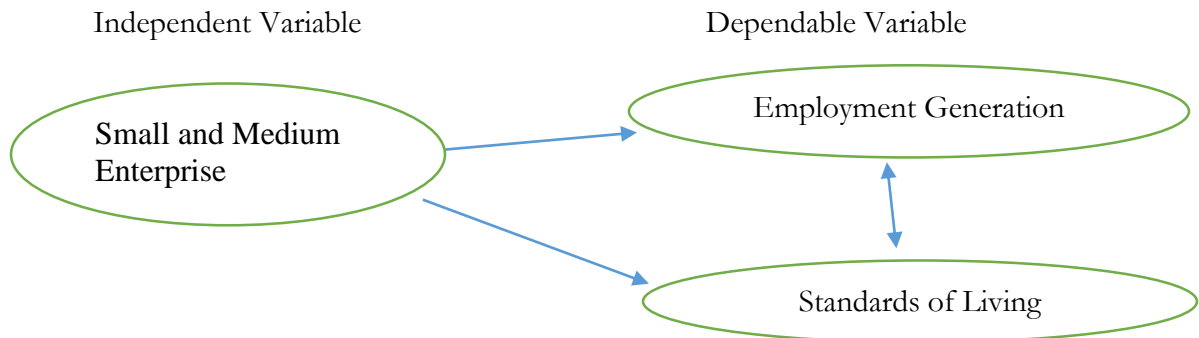
*H0<sub>2</sub>: SMEs have no meaningful effect on the condition of life in Nigeria.*

### ***Gaps in Earlier Research***

Upon reviewing earlier researches, it became apparent that the majority of them focused solely on the issue of unemployment and job creation, with little regard for the activities and initiatives aimed at creating jobs within the Lagos Central Senatorial District and the State as a whole. Consequent to this, this study is exceptional in this sense.

### **Conceptual Framework**





*Source: Researchers' Formulation, 2024*

Figure1. Relationship between the Entrepreneurial Development and Economic Growth

## **METHODOLOGY**

### ***Research Design***

This survey-style study was designed to investigate how entrepreneurial development impacts on the Nigeria's economic growth with a focus on the Lagos State. The study measured the impact of the programmes and activities as specified in its structure for encouraging employment generation and enablement of the unemployed, predominantly the youths in the Lagos Central Senatorial District. The design of the research depended solely on primary data. The primary data involved the creation and circulation of the questionnaire to the participants.

### ***Population, Sample Size and Sampling Technique of the Study***

The population used for the study comprised of small-scale business operators in Lagos Central Senatorial District, cutting across five (5) Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Lagos State. These LGAs included Apapa; Eti-Osa, Lagos Island; Lagos Mainland; and Surulere. The total population of the study was unknown due to non-availability of data on the entrepreneurs in the areas. Therefore, since the population was unknown, this had made the study to adopt a hypothetical sample in line with the view of Bradford and Cullen (2012), and Attewell and Rule (1991) which state that hypothetical sample may be used for an unknown population.

However, a sample of 250 was drawn to represent the population. This was in accordance with views of Hill, Brierley and McDougall (2003) who reported that a sample size of 100 and above is sufficient to generate good research findings. Therefore, a total of 218 copies of a set of questionnaire was administered to the small scale enterprises owners, their

managers or representatives. Due to the fact that the population size was unknown, a non-probability sampling technique, the ease sampling method where subjects were carefully chosen on the basis on their easy approachability and closeness to the researcher was adopted. However, within 250 sets of questionnaires distributed, 218 were usefully filled and returned, representing 87 % response rate.

**Table 1: Showing the Number of Distributed and Returned Questionnaire in the LGAs and their Percentages**

S/N	Name of Local Government (LGA)	No. of Distributed Questionnaire	No. of Well filled and Returned Questionnaire	Response Rate by Percent
1	Apapa	50	46	92 %
2	Eti-Osa	50	40	80 %
3	Lagos Island	50	43	86 %
4	Lagos Mainland	50	45	90 %
5	Surulere	50	44	88 %
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>87 %</b>

Source: Authors' Formulation, 2024

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

The primary source was used to acquire data for the study. The primary source was a questionnaire that was used for data gathering from the respondents. Except where respondents requested additional time, the questionnaire was administered directly to them and their replies were collected promptly. To characterize the responses, appropriate descriptive approaches such as frequency, percentage, and Likert scale distribution were utilized. The questionnaire was divided into three pieces. Section I collected respondents' demographic and educational information. Section II was aimed to collect data on small and medium-sized firms and job creation, while Section III elicited respondents' perspectives on how small and medium-sized enterprises affected their standard of living.

An expert in the subject of study with extensive experience in questionnaire design examined and validated the questionnaire, which was developed from existing literature. The questionnaire used in the study used a five-point Likert-scale rating system to collect data from participants as the researcher could ask respondents on a five-point Likert-Scale rating scale (e.g., 5 - Strongly Agree, 4 - Agree, 3- Undecided, 2 - disagree, and 1 - strongly disagree) what degree of agreement or disagreement they have with a statement or series of statements. This was done in order to measure the growth of the economy by capturing the concept of entrepreneurial development. This was to capture the construct for entrepreneurial development, a measure of the economic growth.

### **Validity and Reliability of the Used Instrument**

The expert who has extensive expertise creating questionnaires in the subject of study analyzed and verified the questionnaire, which was adapted from existing literature. However, draft versions of the questionnaire were sent to the supposed persons three times to guarantee the validity of the tool being utilized. This was done to see if their latter comments and their earlier ones were consistent. For the investigation, a dependable test of more than 70% (0.70) was attained. This resulted in a study having a very significant score.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Descriptive and inferential analyses were both used in the quantitative approach. Quantitative data was presented in tables using descriptive analysis, such as frequencies and percentages. After the data from the questionnaire were coded and entered into the computer using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), regression analysis was utilized to assess the study's hypotheses.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

218 copies of questionnaire were useably filled and given back for usage out of the total number of 250 copies administered on the respondents in the Lagos Central Senatorial District. Hence, the analysis was done based on 218.

Results in Table 2, it could be shown that the age bracket 21-30 of the respondents had the highest percent (39.0%) of the entrepreneurs in the study area. This suggested that most individuals with the entrepreneurial activities were youths who had vigor to vend for themselves and ensure economic growth in the area. The table 2 equally presented marital status distribution of the respondents with 1.9 % being singles, while 83.9 % were married, 5.0 % were divorced, while 9.2% were Widow/Widowers. It could therefore be deduced that majority of the entrepreneurs in the study areas were married fellows who had no choice order than to engage in one economic activity or the other so as to provide for themselves and their family members in other to survive.

Also, table 2 presented gender distribution and showed that 60.7% of the participants were males, while 39.3% were females. This suggested that most of the entrepreneurs in Lagos Central Senatorial District were men who were believed to be the head of their respective home and who would have dependants to cater for. As regards the educational level, 7.5% of the participants had Basic education, 36.8% had Secondary School Certificate (SSCE), 41.8% had Tertiary education, while 13.9% had formal education. This implied that majority

of the respondents were educated enough to supply objective opinions that were capable of making this study to achieve its objectives.

**Table 2: Socio-demographic Features of the Respondents**

Respondents' Features	n	%
<b>Age Range</b>		
21-30	85	39.0
31-40	44	20.0
41-50	67	30.9
51 & Above	22	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	4	1.9
Married	183	83.9
Divorced	11	5.0
Widow/Widowers	20	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	132	60.7
Female	86	39.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Level</b>		
Basic Education	16	7.5
Senior Secondary	80	36.8
Tertiary	91	41.8
None	30	13.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2024

### Hypotheses Testing in the Study

$H_{01}$ : small and medium scale enterprises have no significant impact on the employment generation in Nigeria.

**Table 3: Summary of Regression Analyses of the Impact of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises on Employment Generation. (N=218)**

Variable	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P
(Constant)	.986	.187		5.267	.000
Micro investment	.116	.023	.196	5.125	.000
Minute income	.673	.039	.659	17.199	.000
R	.734				
R <sup>2</sup>	.539				
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	.536				
F	196.261*				

\* $p < .05$ . Dependent Variable: Job creation

Predictors: (Constant), Micro investments, minute income

Table 3 showed the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on employment generation in the selected small-scale ventures in Lagos Central Senatorial District. It was shown that the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on job creation yielded a coefficient of a multiple correlation (R) and square (R<sup>2</sup>) of .734 and .539 respectively. These values were statistically significant at 0.05 probability level. Indication was shown from this result that small and medium scale enterprises could account for 53.9% of the observed variance in the employment generation in the selected small-scale ventures in Lagos Central Senatorial District. Therefore, considering the individual impact of the two variables, minute income had the highest impact ( $\beta = .66$ ), while micro investment ( $\beta = .20$ ) had the least impact. The stated null hypothesis was thus rejected, which implied that small and medium scale enterprises had a significant impact on the employment generation in the selected small-scale ventures in Lagos Central Senatorial District.

*H0<sub>2</sub>: small and medium scale enterprises have no significant impact on the standard of living in Nigeria.*

Table 4 indicated the impact of small and medium enterprises on people’s standard of living in the selected medium- scale enterprises in Lagos Central Senatorial District. It was established that the impact of small and medium enterprises variables on standard of living produced a coefficient of a multiple correlation (R) and square (R<sup>2</sup>) of .974 and .949 respectively. These values were statistically significant at 0.05 probability level. Indication was presented from this result that small and medium enterprise variables could account for 94.9% of the observed variance in standard of living in the selected medium- scale enterprises in Lagos Central Senatorial District. Therefore, considering the individual impact of the two variables, medium networking had the highest impact ( $\beta = .95$ ), while mid-scale innovation ( $\beta = .21$ ) had the least impact. Hence, the stated null hypothesis was rejected, meaning that small and medium enterprises had a significant impact on standard of living in the selected medium- scale enterprises in Lagos Central Senatorial District.

Table 4: Summary of Regression Analyses of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Have No Significant Impact on the Standard of Living (N=218)

Variable	B	SE	B	t	P
(Constant)	0.241	.024		2.741	.03
Mid-scale innovation	0.210	.044	.211	2.221	.025
Medium networking	0.920	.027	.945	33.886	.000
R	0.974				
R <sup>2</sup>	0.949				
Adj.R <sup>2</sup>	0.948				
F	1572.640*				

\* $p < .05$ . Dependent Variable: employment origination

Predictors: (Constant), mid-scale innovation, medium networking

### **Findings of the Study**

Even though unemployment has spread throughout the world in the twenty-first century, the issue in Nigeria is getting worse every year. The Nigerian labor market has become known for its high rates of underemployment, unemployment, and unrelenting rural-urban migration. This has been made worse by the alarmingly high number of new students enrolling as universities, polytechnics, and schools produce a geometric number of dropouts. The entrepreneurial development programs were created as a preventative approach to offer a remedy for the unemployment issue and promote young empowerment.

The results of our study, which focused on the Lagos Central Senatorial District, indicated that initiatives to foster entrepreneurship are gradually producing job prospects for the empowerment of young people. In other words, via fostering entrepreneurial skill development in Lagos State, entrepreneurial development initiatives have improved the lives of the unemployed while also significantly contributing to the creation of jobs in the Lagos Central Senatorial District. Additionally, it was found that, to a very great and high extent, youngsters in Lagos' Central Senatorial District who were previously jobless now had work, raising their level of living.

In this sense, many of these young people have started their own businesses or engaged in entrepreneurial pursuits such as cash trading, fashion design, furniture construction, and the purification of water industries. Furthermore, the analysis showed that the operations of the entrepreneurial hubs located throughout the Lagos Central Senatorial District had been managed well.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### ***Conclusion***

This study examined the impact of entrepreneurial development on the economic growth in Nigeria, with a particular emphasis on the Lagos Central Senatorial District. As a result, the study's findings revealed evidence of the impact of entrepreneurial development in the study area. This means that, despite some challenges, Nigeria's economic growth was impacted by entrepreneurial development, despite the sizeable proportion of young people without jobs in the nation.

#### ***Recommendations***

The government should work to increase the number of entrepreneurial development-based training centers in Lagos Central Senatorial District (LCSD) in order to capture a reasonable number of unemployed youths, among other recommendations, given the large number of

unemployed youths in the state and the fact that entrepreneurial development initiatives play a significant role in job creation. Huge sums of money would undoubtedly be needed, so the research makes the case for a regulatory framework that would cooperate with microfinance institutions to fund programs, training, and initiatives for the development of entrepreneurship. Additionally, by working with the state government to create entrepreneurial training institutes, microfinance banks may be promoted. This cooperation should guarantee official support of training recipients.

The study found that the impreciseness of the unemployment statistics in LCSD is one of the problems preventing entrepreneurial development; this has hampered plans and initiatives meant to create jobs through entrepreneurial development in the State. Therefore, in order to support the creation of a consistent program for entrepreneurial growth to meet the requirements of the unemployed, particularly the youth in LCSD, it is advised that precise unemployment figures be ascertained. This will make it clear that, as opposed to just awarding diplomas lacking the job skills required to enter the workforce, there is an urgent need to concentrate on and provide sufficient attention to creative and skill-based learning that produces entrepreneurial talents.

The study discovered that one of the issues impeding entrepreneurial development in the LCSD is the impreciseness of the unemployment figures; this has complicated plans and initiatives intended to generate jobs in the State through entrepreneurial development. Therefore, it is recommended that exact unemployment data be determined in order to promote the development of a consistent program for entrepreneurial growth to satisfy the needs of the unemployed, especially the youth in LCSD. This will demonstrate that there is an urgent need to focus on and give adequate attention to creative and skill-based learning that generates entrepreneurial talents, rather than just providing diplomas missing the job skills required to enter the workforce.

#### ***Implication and Limitations of the Study***

Nevertheless, the Nigerian federal government, the state government of Lagos, and other pertinent development partners would gain a great deal from this study. Institutions, consultants, and other researchers stand to gain a great deal from this study, and its findings will provide a fascinating foundation for future research on the evolution of entrepreneurship and its relationship to economic growth.

One of the main drawbacks noted was that certain job creation agencies and selected youth entrepreneurs in the state were reluctant to supply the necessary data as stated in the study's objectives. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, care was taken to ensure that the thorough and high-quality analysis of this study was ensured.

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