



Social Qualities as Predictors of Women's Enrolment for Entrepreneurial Development Training Programme of Ondo State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out on social qualities as predictors of women's enrolment for entrepreneurial development training programme of Ondo State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was One hundred and eighty (180) respondents, selected through a snowballing sampling technique. The respondents were selected across Ondo State, Nigeria. A self-developed research instrument by the researchers titled, "Rating scale on social qualities as predictors of women's empowerment for entrepreneurial development training programme of Ondo State, Nigeria". It was fashioned on four liker rating scale of strongly agree (SA) agreed (A), disagreed (D) and strongly disagreed (SD). It was complemented by Focus Group Discussions (FGDS), which was used to collect qualitative data. The research instruments were validated by an expert in test and measurement, while its reliability was determined through test-retest method. 0.64 coefficient reliability was obtained. Two research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study. Descriptive statistics (frequency counts, simple percentages and mean) was used to analyse the data collected. Based on the findings of the study, conclusions were made that women's enrolment for EDTP programme of Ondo State, Nigeria was determined by the desire for human dignity and social economic security. Based on the conclusion recommendations were therefore, made that; there should be aggressive drive and effort by Ondo State Government in Nigeria to sensitive women through media (print and electronics on the values and benefits of the programme (EDTP) to women's economic growth development. Also, EDTP should be more women's focus, and so on.

Keywords: *Social qualities, Predictors, Women, Enrolment, Entrepreneurial development, Training programme.*

Background to the study

Poverty has been described as global scourge. It has a ravaging effects without racial and sex prejudice. Extant studies have steadily indicated and revealed that the percentage of women that are languishing and deeply enmeshed in poverty is greater than men, especially in Africa, where patriarchy is circumventing women participation in economic activities Erinsakin (2012), asserted that women position culturally has negative impact on women's participation in all human endeavor, economic activities, inclusively.

In Nigeria, women constitute over 60% of the poorest people in Nigeria as put by the International Monetary Fund statistical report, Nigeria has over 37 million people in extreme poverty which translates to approximately 52 million women that are experiencing extreme poverty (Onwuka and Prisca Nwadinbu, 2019). According to Babalola (2008), "the poverty scourge In Nigeria is particularly severe among women especially, those in the upper countries, where up to 50 percent of the population constitutes and living below the poverty line and with limited access to social services and infrastructures". What this indicates is that men living condition comparatively is better than women in Nigeria. The manifestations of poverty among women are; malnutrition, low wages, poor state of health and poor living condition, and so on.

Anyanwu (2010), identifies low level of education, gender discrimination at work places among others, as factors responsible to a high level of poverty among women. Erinsakin (2014), noted that the consequential effects of poverty on people, specifically women includes; prostitution, depression, health challenges, crimes involvement and lack of social peace stability. Without gain saying the fact, poverty among women is one of the reasons why there is a high level of human trafficking among women is one of the reasons why there is a high level of human trafficking among women in Nigeria. Many women and ladies in Nigeria desperately want to live the country because economic hardship and with a wrong notion that travelling to other nations is the answer. The experience has been so bad for women who had fall as victims of human traffickers.

It will amount to disregards to say that, governments both military and civilian, alike have not risen up to alleviate poverty among women in Nigeria. Alese (2013) stated that Nigeria has embarked on many policies and programmed to reduce poverty and create job opportunities for her citizenry especially

among women. The myriads of poverty and empowerment programming that have been implemented by governments at different levels in Nigeria. women have not been included. Some of the programme are: Agricultural development programme (ADP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Poverty Evaluation Programme (NADEP), Family support programme (FSP), Small Scale Industries Credit Scheme (SICS), Better Life Programme (BLP) and so on.

It has become a lingering question in the minds of people that despite all the programmes to alleviate poverty especially among the women why are people still languishing and wallowing in an abject poverty. According to Erinsakin (2014),.

The poverty alleviation and policies to half poverty have been plagued and bedeviled by several militating factors which include; policy inconstituency, bad government, over-politization corruption and diversification of funds lack of logistics for proper monitoring and evaluation, lack of mechanism In various programmes to ensure its sustainability, poor funding and hosts.

As soon as Nigeria returned to a full blown civilian rule in 1999, several poverty alleviation programmes were implemented. To some people, they attributed the programmes implementation to commitment to eradicate poverty among the people, while to some the programme implementation are ways of fulfilling for promises made by the politicians during electioneering campaign. One of such programmes made is Entrepreneurial Development Training Programme (EDTP). States of Federation of Nigeria are not left behind in this endeavour. Ondo State Government puts in place a well-articulated entrepreneurial Development Training Programme (EDTP), Principally aimed at capacity building in Entrepreneurial (Agagu, 2007). The programme participants included: the artisans integrated civil servants retirees, jobless youths and graduates, widow and so on.

From the study conducted by Erinsakin (2014), on impact evaluation of Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurial Development Training Programmes In Ondo State, Nigeria, women contributed the highest number of participants of the programme and other related studies by scholars and researchers. It is against this background this study was conducted by the researchers on social qualities as predictors of women enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State, Government.

Statement of te Programme

The implementation of EDTP by Ondo State Government was an aggressive effort to reduce poverty status among the people of Ondo State, especially among the women. Mostly, when women's poverty status is far greater than men folk. The focus of this study therefore was to determine the social qualities that informed women.s enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State in Nigeria.

Research Questions

Two research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study

1. Is women's enrolment for EDTP determined by social and economic security in Ondo State, Nigeria?
2. Does achieving human dignity is a factor for women's enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria?

Purpose of the study

The broad purpose of the study was on social qualities as predictors of women's enrolment for Entrepreneurial development training programme of Ondo State, Nigeria while the specific purpose were to:

1. Determine whether women's enrolment for EDTP is determined by their social economic security and
2. Ascertain the impact of human disputing on women's enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The result of the study would be significant to stakeholders IN Entrepreneurial Development Training Programme (EDTP) of Ondo State Nigeria in the following ways:

Firstly, the findings of the study would enable the providers of (EDTP), especially government to implement poverty alleviation programmes that are of benefits to woman folk.

Besides the findings of the study would also give Ondo State Government insight on the prevailing socio-economic factors that make womens to enrol for EDTP in Ondo State, Nigeria. Lastly, the study would add to the existing literature within the confine of the study, these becomes a good source of references in future for researchers.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population comprised, women who were graduates of EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria. The sample size of the study was one hundred and eighty (180) respondents selected through a snowball sampling technique across Ondo State, Nigeria from each of three Senatorial Districts sixty (60) respondents were selected.

Data was collected through a self-developed research instrument, titled Rating scale on social qualities as predictions of human's enrolment for Entrepreneurial Development Training Programmes of Ondo State, Nigeria". It was fashioned on four likert rating scale: strongly agreed (SA), agreed (A), Disagreed (D), and strongly Disagreed (SD). It was complemented by qualitative research instruments (Focus Group Discussions (FGDS)).

The research instruments was validated by an expert in test and measurement, while its reliability was determined through test-retest method at 0.64 coefficient reliability. Data collected was analysed, using descriptive statistics (Frequency counts, simple percentages, and mean), while qualitatively.

LITERATURE REVIEW ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME OF ONDO STATE, NIGERIA,

Given the advantages of programme, in terms of it potentials to alleviate poverty, reduce the unemployment level, curb social vices, promote self-employment for self-reliance, economically, strengthening the economic virility of the state. Promoting industrial growth and development of the state and that of the nation at large, many states in Nigeria resorted to implement these programmes, Ondo State. inclusive.

Ondo State is endowed with abundant natural mineral resources like; timber, rivers, kaolin, bitumen, forest, glass sand and granite. With these resources the expectation is that they should have been tapped and used judiciously for the economic growth of the state, and enhancement of social and economic well-being of the people. However, it is disheartening and discouraging that poverty, industrial redundancy, pains, social-vices, instability and crippled economy predominate in Ondo State (Ihonbare, 2003). This situation invariably led Ondo State Government to conceive and implement skill acquisition and entrepreneurial development training programmes, soon after the country returned to civilian rule in 1999.

At inception, the programmes were being run, through the Agency of Non-Formal Education (ANFE) in collocation with National Directorate of Employment (Ondo State Government, 2005). However, under the present administration in Ondo State, it is being run through the newly created Department of Vocational Education of Ondo State Ministry of Adult, Technical and Vocational Education (Akinsuroju, 2012). The programmes have the following objectives, training of unemployed youths and interested adults in simple vocations to make them self employed for self-reliance, encourage productive entrepreneurial and small business skills; assist in the development of the down streaming industries, enhancement of social-peace and stability, poverty alleviation and reduction of employment. Akinsuroju (2012) avers that skill acquisition programme is very crucial to the economic transformation and virility of the State. Since, it is basically, geared towards self-employment for self-reliance and poverty eradications. The target participants for the programmes are young school leavers, employed graduates of Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Universities, retired civil servants and ex-service men, and vulnerable widows, the under-privileged and physically challenged. The programme offers skills in vocations like, food processing, soap, tie and dye, hair dressing, fish farming and net making, fashion designing catering service, cloth weaving, hat and bead making, block laying, concreting, wood work etc.

Akinsuroju (2012) states that the aim of the programmes is to bridge the gaps in industrial services, through the investigation of skill acquisition and establishment of different trades to create a pool of artisans, which will form the nucleus of the expected industrial revolution in Ondo State and promote self-employment for self-reliance. Towards achieving the objectives of these programmes, each of 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state has at least, a centre for skill acquisition training programme. The duration for the training ranges from six months to a year, depending on the vocation one is interested in acquiring skill on. According to Agagu (2017)

Ondo State Skill Acquisition Programme is a short-term programme, aimed at alleviating poverty, among the unemployed people. Government believes that, training re-orientation for the unemployed people will empower them with vocational skills for vibrant, productive entrepreneurship and skills in business development pg 45.

Also, along with the skills acquisition programme, Ondo State Government also, puts in a place, a well-articulated entrepreneurial development training programme, principally aimed at capacity building in entrepreneurship. Also, organization, implementation and management of business, inculcating the spirit of enterprise management, encouragement of self-employment as a conscious and deliberate choice for self-reliance, mobilization finance and other resources for doing business; identification of business opportunities and gaps in the market that can be tapped for economic advantages. The programmes is being run by the Ministry of Commerce and industry, through the Department of Investment Promotion and Management within a period of year.

After the completion of training on skill acquisition on vocations in the Ministry of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, the successful graduates will be sent to the entrepreneurial development training programmes for a short period of three months for acquisition of training on entrepreneurial skills in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Ondo State Government believes the programme is a catalyst for small enterprise creation and the resultant effects will be an increase in job creation, through self-employment (National Directorate of Employment, 2006). Ondo State Government also, makes a soft loan of N50, 000 available to each of the successful participants of the programmes, to assist them overcome the problem of initial base, through the Micro-Credit Loan Agency of the State.

In conclusion, EDTP of Ondo State Government to some extent have helped to reduce poverty and unemployment status of the people.

Presentation of Findings

Research Questions: Is women's enrolment for EDTP determined by social economic security in Ondo State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Showing frequency counts, simple percentages (%) and mean (x) on is women's enrolment for EDTP determined by social Economics Security in Ondo State, Nigeria.

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	MEAN	DECISION
1	Lack of financial resources made me to enroll for EDTP	9 5	7 3.88	12 6.66	152 84.44	3.70	Accepted
2	It was not financial challenge that made me to enroll for EDTP	148 82.22	16 8.88	10 5.55	6 3.33	1.3	Rejected
3	My enrolment for EDTP programme is to be economically self-reliant	9 5	4 2.22	23 12.77	144 80	3.67	Accepted
4	The desire to be economically, self-reliant	145 80.55	22 12.22	4 2.22	9 5	1.31	Rejected
5	I enrollment for EDTP to acquire skills to incomes generation and wealth creation	13 7.22	6 3.33	14 7.77	147 81.66	3.65	Accepted
6	My enrolment for EDTP in not to improve incomes generation and wealth creation	143 79.44	17 9.44	6 3.33	14 7.77	1.39	Rejected
7	My enrolment for EDTP is not to improve incomes generation and wealth creation	143 79.44	17 9.44	6 3.33	14 7.77	1.39	Rejected
	TOTAL	467 43.24	72 6.66	69 6.33	472 43.70	2.5	Accepted

Table 1, presents findings on research questions one. On items (1), 52 (84.44), 12 (6.66), 7 (3.88) and 9(5) were obtained as responses for strongly agreed, and disagreed and strongly disagreed. On item (2), (α3.33) obtained for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagree. On item (8), the following responses were got: 144(80), 23 (12.77) , 4 (2.22) and 9(5) for strongly agree, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. 4(2.22), 22 (12.22) and 145 (80.55) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed.

On items (5) responses obtained were; 147 (81.66), 14(7.77), 6 (3.33) and 13 (7.22) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. Finally, on item (6) responses obtained indicated the following; 14(7.77), 6 (3.33), 7 (9.44) and 143 (79.44) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Generally speaking the average of rations scale of four ($x=2.5$) is not greater than the mean of average rating scale of four ($x=2.5$), thus, indicates that socio-economic security informed women's enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Research Questions two: Does human dignity is a predictors factor for women;s enrolment for EDTP Ondo State, Nigeria.

Table 2: showing frequency counts, simple percentage on does human dignity is a deductive factor for women's enrolment for EDTP or Ondo State Nigeria.

S/N	ITEMS	SD	D	A	SA	MEAN	DECISION
7	Does your enrolment for EDTP gives you respect in the society	2 1.11	8 4.44	14 7.77	156 86.66	3.8	Accepted
8	Enrolment for EDTP does not add values to my respect in the society	144 80	24 13.33	3 1.66	9 5	1.31	Rejected
9	Does your enrolment for EDTP make you to be independent in providing for your basic	1 0.55	5 2.77	27 15	147 81.66	3.77	Accepted
10	Enrolment for EDTP does not make use to be dependent on others in feeling for my basic needs for survival	139 77.22	32 17.77	4 2.22	5 2.77	1.30	Rejected
11	EDTP adds economic values in my personality	5 2.77	6 3.33	35 19.44	134 74.44	3.65	Accepted
12	EDTP does not add economic values to my personality	147 81.66	18 10	9 5	6 3.33	1.3	Rejected
	TOTAL	438 40.55	93 8.61	92 8.51	457 42.31	2.52	Accepted

Table 2, presents findings on research questions two. On items (7), responses obtained were: 156(86.66), 14 (7.77), 8 (4.44) and 2 (1.11) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. On items 8, 9 (5), 3(1.66), 24 (13.33) and 144 (80) responses were got for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. On items (9), responses got indicate; 147 (81.66), 27(15), 5(2.77) and 1(0.55) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed.

On items (10), the following responses were obtained, 5(2.77), 4 (2.22), 32 (17.77) and 139 (77.22) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. On item (11), responses obtained were, 134 (74.44) 35 (19.44), 6 (3.33) and 5 (2.77) for strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed.

Finally, on items (12) the following responses were got; 6 (3.33), 9(5), 18 (10) and 147 (81.66) for strongly agreed, agree, disagreed and strongly disagreed. The finding generally indicates that the averages rating scale of four ($\bar{x}=2.5$) is lesser than the mean of average rating scale of four ($\bar{x}=2.52$). This indicates that human dignity is one of the major factors that made women to enroll for EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Discussion of Results

The result on research question one reveals the socio-economic security made women to enrol EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria. The result agrees with the submission of Erinsakin (2014) that many people including women, especially the widows participation in EDTP is to be able to tend for themselves in terms of the basic women needs and also living a good and standard of living. The findings was supported by some respondents during the FGDS.

A respondents responses stated that:

The EDTP has enable me to capable to provide for my needs and that of my family, through entrepreneurial skills that I had acquired during the programme.

FGDS: A female graduates of EDTP-Ondo West, LGA of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Also, another respondents had this to say that:

I have been living on skills acquired through EDTP. I have a small business cottage and that is only source of income through which I am feeding my children and taking of myself financially.

FGDS: A female graduates of EDTP-Okitipupa LGA of Ondo State, Nigeria.

Furthermore, the finding on research question tow which show that women's enrolment is due to human dignity. The results aligns with the opinion of some scholar that poverty brings degradation to human beings. Agagu (2007), however stated that there was no way a person who is wallowing in abject poverty could command respect, dignity and self dependent have economically. In other words, EDTP of Ondo State had empowered women financially, thus, improves their dignity in the society. The result was further corroborated by the responses of some respondents.

A respondents submitted that;

The programme had in nod doubt empowered me through the entrepreneurial skills that I had acquired. Unlike before I am now gainfully self-employed and that gives me pride of not been a burden to people around me.

FGDS: A female graduates of EDTP-Idanre L.G.A, Ondo State, Nigeria

In the same vein, another respondent claimed that;

A woman that has no mean of survival would depend on someone else, such was my case before. Today, I give thanks to Ondo State Government for the implementation of EDTP and for the opportunity given to women, especially the widow. That I have a small business does not only gives me joy but makes people around me to respect me, hence, I am no longer begging for anything turn anybody.

FGDS – A female graduates of EDTP-Akure North L.G.A, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, conclusion were made that desire to be respected and gain recognition informed women's enrolment for EDTP of Ondo State, Nigeria. Also, that women's participations in the programme as a result of their desire for them to be self-reliant, improve their incomes generations and wealth creation capability.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study the following recommendations were made;

1. Ondo State Government being the providers of EDTP should aggressively embark on move to prime the mindsets of women towards acquisition of entrepreneurial values through the mass media (print and electronics).
2. Their should be an enlightenment programme to sensitize women towards EDTP values and also its benefits on their socio-economic security.
3. Ondo State Government should assist women and other graduates of the EDTP to source for the capital to start business. This will enable women, especially to overcome the challenges of sourcing for the initial capital to embark on small business ventures.

4. Move centres of the EDTP should be created to make it more accessible by the women folk.
5. The entrepreneurial values offered through the programme should be women focused and so on.

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