



Assessment of Factors Affecting Performance of Women Entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA

Dr. Jacinta Chinyere Nwangwu

Department of Entrepreneurship Studies, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State Nigeria

Abstract: The study examined Assessment of Factors Affecting Performance of Women Entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA. The specific objectives of this study were; To determine the effect of Socio-cultural factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA; To determine the effect of economic factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.; To determine the effect of financial factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA. The study is anchored on Socio-cultural Theory. The study adopted survey method of research. Data were generated through primary and secondary sources. The method for data collection was questionnaire which was administered randomly among the women of Aguata LGA. The population of the study was 35,202, while sample sizes of 677 were determined using Borg & Gall formular. The hypotheses were tested using ANOVA at 0.05% level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that Socio-cultural factor has no significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA., F-test of 1.742 and probability value of .915 Economic factors has significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA, F-test of 9.233 and probability value of 0.000. Financial factors has Significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA., T-test of 7.807 and probability value of 0.008. The study recommends that Women need all the support they can get from the society as well as the family in order to excel in entrepreneurship. Government should boost and Support women entrepreneurship through every possible means. That the government of the day should endeavour to create an enabling economic environment that would be truly conducive for business organisations to thrive without engaging in any act of fraudulent practices. Respective governments, NGOs, and other sources of financiers are to encourage entrepreneurship by making funds available for start-up and for expansion purposes. They can also help these women overcome these challenges by creating awareness and providing adequate support services.

Key words: Women Entrepreneurship, Socio-cultural factors, economic factors, financial factors, ANOVA

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1. Background of the Study

The field of entrepreneurship is not limited to certain gender. The rising of women entrepreneurs all over the world has brought attention from both the academic and business sphere of life. Women entrepreneurship is very critical for any economy of the world. Women can contribute much more than men if they are provided with supports and equal resources Normaizatun, Nursafeda, Noraini, Hamidah, Norhanizah & Mohamad (2017),”.

Woman entrepreneur is a woman who initiates, organizes and operates a business enterprise. In line with this, most countries in which entrepreneurship has been conquered by men the entering of women into entrepreneurial ventures most especially through small scale enterprises have increased. Also, in addition to this the success stories of other women entrepreneurs have encouraged other women both employed and housewife to run their own small scale enterprises (Usman, 2021). Developing economies are empowering and transforming the society through the participation of entrepreneurs in the small scale enterprises, by involving women entrepreneurs in entrepreneurship. Hence, women entrepreneurship has not been enhancing small scale enterprises which will in turn have not been able to alienate poverty and grow the economy

In Nigeria, regardless of women's physical population, educational, economic and social status, women are not well represented in the policy making process, especially in issues of business and manpower development. Mordi, Simpson, Singh and Okafor (2010) observed that traditional roles occupied by Nigerian woman in the family are changing as a result of changes in the family configuration and setting which allow women to undertake more practical and functional roles within the society. Considering the multitasking nature of women as mothers, wives and sometimes bread winners, and their peculiar nature which inhibit their full involvement in business, there is a need to create conducive and enabling environment to encourage women to participate in economic development (Mansor, 2005). Promoting women entrepreneurship development demand that more attention be given to issues that restrict women entrepreneurship.

Women confront a variety of challenges in their participation in entrepreneurship and running a business (McKay, 2001) and many argue that significant barriers still remain for women establishing and growing businesses (Carter et al, 2003). World Bank, (2011) suggests that productivity could increase by as much as 25% in some countries if discriminatory barriers against women were removed. More so, emphasis from researchers (Mansor, 2005) has been drawn on the effect of socio-cultural and economic factors on women entrepreneurial development. Today, more women entrepreneurs are starting businesses and they now account for a quarter to a third of all businesses in the formal economy worldwide (ILO, 2012). Societal attitudes and social beliefs inhibit some women from even considering starting a business, while systemic barrier means that many women entrepreneurs stay confined to very small businesses often operating in the informal economy. Fostering entrepreneurship is one of the principal measures to accelerate economic and social development. To promote entrepreneurship we need to know the barriers that affect entrepreneurship to overcome the barriers and promote new

policies and measures to create new ventures (Still & Timms, 2000). Women have similar entrepreneurial potential as men to contribute to wealth creation and employment by starting and developing their own businesses. Unfortunately, their potential has not been fully realized and utilized because of the systemic challenges that women entrepreneurs face (Hanson, 2009). As countries become more democratic, gender inequalities lessen, thus, offering a more productive atmosphere for both sexes. Nevertheless, available literature does discuss a number of obstacles faced by many female entrepreneurs, which prevent or hinder the development and growth of female entrepreneurial development in Nigeria (O'Gorman, 2001). However, it is not only gender issues that can hinder the start-up and growth phases of the small firm, current literature emphasizes the financial aspects of venture start-up and management as without a doubt, the biggest obstacles for women (Brush, 2004)

1.2 .Statement of the Problem

The performance of women entrepreneurs in most world economies is well documented. In the Micro Scale Enterprises (MSE) sector worldwide, women make up one-quarter to one- third of the total business population and in manufacturing, they constitute one-quarter of the global labour force (UNIDO, 2001). In Africa, women constitute 70-80% of the total agricultural labour force and they account for over 80% of food production (Abasilim, 2015). Ndubisi (2004) and Mayoux (2001) in their study found that women who engage in Macro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSME) in Nigeria contributes more than 97% of all business enterprises, 60% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and 94% employment opportunities. Women in Nigeria play a complementary role in the fight against poverty by creating employment opportunities through their small scale businesses (Iyiola and Azhu, 2014). As such, women entrepreneurs are recently considered as important mechanism for socio-economic transformation among nations (Garba, 2011).

Despite the performance of women entrepreneurs to socio-economic development among nations, being an entrepreneur has been largely seen as a male-gendered enterprise (Achtenhagen and Welter, 2011). Women are largely constraint by traditions and cultures that brand women as subordinates to men despite their exposure, age and educational attainment, most times they are seen as house-helpers and expected to be at home to take care of the family (Edhote, 2015). In other cases, lack of skills, family support, gender discrimination and religious beliefs are obvious constraints as to why the number of women entrepreneurs in Nigeria keeps decreasing (Ewoh, 2014). Burch (2013) pointed out that lack of mentorship, securing financing and balancing work and family are the challenges militating against women participation as entrepreneurs inclusive of inconsistent government policies. It is against this background that this study seeks to assess the factors that affect women entrepreneurs in Aguata LGA.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is the assessment of factors affecting performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To determine the effect of Socio-cultural factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.
- ii. To determine the effect of economic factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.
- iii. To determine the effect of financial factors on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

Socio-cultural Theory

A socio-cultural perspective in social psychology gives a perspective based on the influence of culture, customs, values and norms within a social group. In the Columbine shooting, two white males were ostracized and marginalized through a pattern of teasing and bullying resulting in their retaliation and revenge in the form of violence. From the socio-cultural perspective, Kimmel and Mahler present the argument that the culture of masculinity marginalizes any male who does not fit into the gender role as defined by the dominant culture, specifically through homophobic teasing and bullying. The basis of the argument is that in examining thirty-seven shootings, twenty occurred in red republican states and the remaining seventeen occurred in rural areas of the blue states and people in both of these areas adhere to more rigid and traditional gender roles, furthermore in all instances they involved Caucasian boys who were teased and bullied with homophobic labels. In addition research on gender, supports that gender ambiguity (where individuals do not adhere to traditional gender roles and cross gender role lines more freely) is found among children of parents with higher education levels and more urban environments (Archer, 2002). Whereas gender ambiguity in a rural community that is high in conformity to traditional gender roles could be met with aggression as a means assert masculinity, remove the person or force them to conform to the traditional gender roles (Kimmel & Mahler, 2003).

Empirical Review

Usman (2021) examined the impact of women entrepreneurship on the growth of small and medium enterprises in Yobe State. Business orientation and opportunity recognition were adapted to measure profitability and business expansion of female owned businesses. Qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used, while cross-sectional and longitudinal survey research method was adopted to examine the impact of women entrepreneurs on performance of small and medium enterprises. The population used for this study was one thousand (1000) registered female fashion designers in Potiskum, Damaturu and Gashuwa respectively. 5 Points-Likert Scale Questionnaire and structured interview was adopted to collect data, the method of data analysis is multiple regression and thematic analysis to examine the interview data. Findings shows that business orientation have a weak significant relationship with profitability and business expansion, while business opportunity recognition have a strong significant relationship with profitability and business expansion of fashion designers, this is shown through their

probability value (0.007, 0.005, 0.052 and 0.032). The study recommended that women entrepreneurs need to aggressively seek and exploit market opportunities in the fashion industry. This can be achieved through exploring new styles, initiating new ideas, business opportunities, taking quick decisions. For female fashion designers to utilize business orientation to make profit, they need to organize and attend seminars/workshop organized by leaders in the fashion industry.

Brownson, (2021) examine the factors affecting women entrepreneurs in Akwalbom State, Nigeria which is a new context in this study. Using a purposive sampling method, 195 respondents were examined. Though extant literatures have severally posited that Economic and Socio-Cultural factors among other factors affect women entrepreneurs adversely, Findings from this study points in the opposite direction. Instead of Economic and Socio-Cultural factors being impediments for Women entrepreneurs in Akwalbom State, the results indicate that to large extent women entrepreneurs in Akwalbom State face positive Economic and Socio-Cultural factors implying that the Context of the study could be a major determining factor in a research of this nature. The study recommends that more support be given to women entrepreneurs to continue to strive in their businesses as research findings shows that women entrepreneurs

contribute greatly to the development of the world economy. This study thus contributes new

knowledge to the entrepreneurship literature by bringing new contextual knowledge to the entrepreneurship field

Agarwal, . Ramadani, . Dana, . Agrawal, .and Dixit, .(2022), "Assessment of the significance of factors affecting the growth of women entrepreneurs The ascent of Women Enterprising Community (WEC) in a couple of decades draws the attention of various government and non-government bodies. Literature has mentioned various studies that focus on the factors affecting the success or failure of women entrepreneurs (WEs), but understanding of the ranking of the factors depending on the experiences of different WEs is needed. This study aims to identify the significant factors essential for the growth of WEC. This study examines the factors through interview of 33 WEs having different entrepreneurial experiences (less than 1 year, more than 1 year but less than 10 years and more than 10 years of experiences) from different regions of Uttar Pradesh, India, and with the help of analytical hierarchical process, ranks the factors affecting the sustainable growth of Wes compelling methodologies. The growth of the WEC is significantly affected by gender orientation ways of thinking as driven by entrepreneurship models. This study gives a direction to policymakers by emphasizing on significant factors of various stages of enterprise development for the encouragement of WEs in the emerging economies.

Ingalagi, Nishad, Habeeb Hariharasudan, and Vanishree (2021) identify the factors that influence women's entrepreneurial orientation and firms' performance. The research study discusses the influencing factors and their effect on firms' performance and satisfaction in this regard. The proposed framework and hypotheses have been tested using data gathered from boutiques, beauty parlors, carpet manufacturers, and retail shops in Karnataka, India.

Data analysis was done using univariate, bivariate, and multivariate techniques. In Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), paths were created for evaluating the cause-and-effect relationship between different factors viz., social, psychological, financial, and resource factors and entrepreneurial performance and satisfaction. Seven relationships were significant, while two relationships were insignificant in this structural equation. The key finding of the paper is that all factors have a significant impact on the firm's performance. The implications of research results for researchers and practitioners are discussed, and suggestions have also been made.

Onu, and Abass, (2018) examined the impact of Women entrepreneurship in the development of Lagos state. Women entrepreneurs have attracted the attention of organizations, policy makers and researchers as they have been identified as an important unexploited source of economic growth and development. An empirical survey was conducted with a longitudinal data of women via secondary data from the National Bureau of Statistics and SMEDAN. Data were analyzed using Linear Regression with the aid of the Stata software. Findings revealed that women entrepreneurship positively and significantly influence development in Lagos state. The paper recommended that Lagos state government should encourage more women in entrepreneurial activities by providing infrastructural facilities such as trade centers, shops and credit facilities that will enhance their participation in business.

Wilson, (2013) assessed the factors affecting the performance of women entrepreneurs who are engaged in different types of Income Generating Activities (IGA) projects like poultry production, soap making, mushroom production, cassava farming, production of cassava flour, farming of vegetables and fruits, cooking of foodstuffs and processing of vegetables and fruits in Mkuranga district. The objective of doing any business is to increase income. Despite the implementation of IGA project in Mkuranga district over four years now, literature reveals that the performance of women entrepreneurs under IGA project support is still poor as the average show that they earn less than a dollar per day. This is the reason for studying factors affecting these women entrepreneurs in this area. The study applied cross-sectional qualitative method for data collection including open ended questionnaire, focus group interviews and face to face interviews. A sample of a total of 134 women entrepreneurs was involved in the study. The collected data from questionnaires were summarized and analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS). The study applied convenience and judgemental sampling.

In view of the samples' language familiarity, the questionnaires were prepared in both English and Kiswahili. From the findings it seems Lack of market and lack of capital are one of the major constraints affecting women entrepreneurs' performance. Many entrepreneurs in Mkuranga district have no potential customers for their products and most of them have no access to credit at low interest because you cannot access to credit unless you are a member of a certain group. The study recommends that, the government, in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations such as Income Generating Activities

(IGA) project should take reasonable steps to help these women entrepreneurs in Mkuranga district to do business for those products which have more economic advantage. Hence marketing skills training are still required as well as formal market in Mkuranga town is needed.

Hasan, and Almubarak, (2016) identified factors influencing women entrepreneurs' performance (EP) and the corresponding challenges in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The study also examines the opportunity recognition (OR) as a mediator between influencing factors and performance of women entrepreneurs. The study proposes a model that shows the effects of different internal and external factors on women entrepreneur's performance. The study demonstrates several challenges that are encountered by women entrepreneurs such as lack of access to financial resources, difficulty in finding qualified labors, work-home conflict and low profit. The results suggest that the most influencing factor is industry (SMEs) characteristics followed by entrepreneurial goals and motivations (EGM), and legal factors. Additionally, opportunity recognition is found to mediate between entrepreneurial goals and motivations, and industry characteristics. As the study is conducted in Bahrain, it may lack generalization. In future research, it is advisable to expand study factors, use interviews as a research tool and make comparison between women and men entrepreneurial performances. The paper can help increase women entrepreneur's performance and enable them to make use of the business environment in a more efficient and effective way. Although several papers already exist that discuss issues on women entrepreneurs, there has been little research focusing on factors influencing and challenges facing women entrepreneurs, particularly in the Middle East. The study explores important issues and calls for more research in this domain.

Okafor and Mordi, (2010) Women's involvement in economic development has been recognized as important especially, in the area of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship as the central force for economic change requires more women to be involved in its operations. Environmental factors have been identified for having the tendency of affecting entrepreneurial development. This study is aimed at examining the effect of environmental factors on Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED) in Lagos State, Nigeria. Primary and secondary sources were used for the data collection. The results revealed that government policy as an environmental factor has negative correlation with women entrepreneurship development and this affects other factors. To encourage women's participation in the economic development, the Government should make policies that will positively enhance the accessibility of women entrepreneurs to the required funds and other resources.

Ogundiwin, et al (2018) investigates the factors that influence women participation in entrepreneurial activities in Ilishan Remo, Ogun State. The study used descriptive survey research design and purposive (non-random) sampling method. 100 women entrepreneurs in Ilishan Remo were selected to participate in the study. The paper adopts quantitative method of data gathering and analysis. The statistical tool employed was the correlation analysis.

Findings of the study revealed that family background, socio-cultural, economic, and human capital, has significant influence on women participation in entrepreneurial

activities. The study recommended that women entrepreneurs should form micro-cooperative groups in order to aid lending among members, government should quickly provide enabling environments and human capital empowerments for women entrepreneurs. This study suggested that subsequent research should focus on a wider scope in order to make generalizability of findings possible.

Demssie, (2020) assessed the factors that affect women entrepreneurs in establishing their businesses. A sample of 325 women entrepreneurs in different sectors from five towns (Assayta, Logia, Mille, Awash and Chifra) were taken for the study using snowball and simple random sampling. In the process of answering the basic questions, a questionnaire that includes demographic profiles, characteristics of women entrepreneurs and their enterprises, factors that affect the women entrepreneurs in micro scale enterprises was designed in an open and closed-ended and Likert scales. Moreover, interviews were held with top officials of Micro Scale Enterprises (MSEs). The study also made use of simple statistical tools such as tables and percentages. Mean and standard deviation was also calculated for analyzing the collected data. The results of the study indicate inadequate access to training and low educational background and conflicting gender roles, social acceptability and, network with outsiders were the major social factors that affect women entrepreneurs.

Hafiz, Muhammad and Muhammad (2019) examined and highlighted those factors that have significant impact on the performance of women entrepreneurs and their characteristics in SMEs. Data is collected from 307 women entrepreneurs with response rate of approximately 83% using survey questionnaires. Data analysis is conducted through SPSS21.0 and AMOS 22. Results show that economic, social, and legal and administrative factors significantly affect the performance of women entrepreneurs. The present study will help women entrepreneurs to get knowledge about factors that may affect their performance. This study may help the government to increase the number of women entrepreneurs and encourage them to play their role in sustainable growth of economy by removing their economic, social and legal obstacles.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study used survey research design in this research. Survey Design as it is used in a pure research context refers to the total constructional plan or structure of the research framework. Research design therefore means the structure and planning of the entire approach to a problem for Research with respect to this research work. The researcher made use of primary and secondary sources of data. The area of this study is Aguata Local government area. The population for this research work is 35,202, women. It comprises of all the women in Aguata local government area (www.citypopulation.De). The sample sizes of (677) were determined by using the Borg & Gall formular of (1973). The primary sources of data include the questionnaire and the personal interview, while the secondary sources of data include the journals, magazines, textbooks and internet. The study employed structure questionnaire as a method of data collection. Meanwhile percentage table and analysis of variance will be used to analyses the collected data from the sample respondents.

4. PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 Introduction

The study sought to establish the assessment of factors affecting performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA. The data was collected using self-administered questionnaires. This chapter presents the findings of the study. It also discusses the results of the study. This section presents the questionnaires issued and the ones that were returned to the researcher for analysis. However the number of questionnaires distributed was six hundred and seventy-seven (677), whereas five hundred and seventy-seven (577) filled well and returned in good condition. The number of returned questionnaire will be used for the analysis of the study

Table 4.1: Respondents' Demographic Variables

4.1.1 Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	384	64.3	66.6	66.6
	Single	193	32.3	33.4	100.0
	Total	577	96.6	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2022

In the table above, out of the five hundred and seventy-seven (577) respondents, three hundred and eighty-four (384) of the respondents were married, while one hundred and ninety-three (193) respondents which represent 33.4 percent are single. It is therefore glaring that the majority of the respondents are married as at the time of this study. Thus marital status table help us to know the number of single, and married, and respondents that answered the distributed questionnaire.

4.1.2 Level of Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	WAEC/NECO	123	20.6	21.3	21.3
	BSC/HND	177	29.6	30.7	52.0
	MSC/MBA	198	33.2	34.3	86.3
	PHD	79	13.2	13.7	100.0
	Total	577	96.6	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2022

The table above indicates that one hundred and twenty-three (123) respondents which representing 21.3% percent maintain to acquired WAEC OR NECO while 30.7% percent of the respondents which represents one hundred and seventy-seven (177) have BSC/HND. However One hundred and ninety-eight (198) respondents which represent 34.3 percent

either have MSC or MBA. More so, seventy-nine (79) respondents which represents 13.7% have acquires Phd. This as the one of demographic item helps us to identify the education qualification of the respondents.

4.1.3 AGE

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-25	313	52.4	54.2	54.2
26-33	132	22.1	22.9	77.1
34-40	31	5.2	5.4	82.5
41-50	37	6.2	6.4	88.9
51-ABOVE	64	10.7	11.1	100.0
Total	577	96.6	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 4.3 above depicted the age bracket of the respondents. The distribution shows that 54.2% of the respondents are between the age brackets of 18 to 25 years while 22.9% respondents are within the age bracket of 26-33 years. On the same note, 5.4% of the respondents are within the age bracket of 34 - 40 years. On the same note, 6.4% of the respondents are within the age bracket of 41 - 50 years, while the remaining respondents representing 11.1% are within the age bracket of 51 years and above.

4.1.4 Years in service

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1-10	293	39.0	50.8	40.4
11-15	161	27.0	27.9	68.3
16-20	80	13.4	13.9	82.1
21-above	43	7.2	7.5	100.0
Total	577	96.6	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2022

The table above indicates that two hundred and ninety-three (293) respondents which representing 50.8% percent maintain that they have been in the services for 10yres or less while 27.9% percent of the respondents which represents one hundred and sixty-one (161) have work in the local government within 15yrs. However eighty (80) respondents which represent 13.9 percent either have work for 16-20 years. More so, forty-three (43) respondents which represents 7.5% have work between 21-above. This as the one of demographic item helps us to identify the number of years the respondent has work for.

4.3 Hypothesis Testing

The need to examine the relationship between the collected data and the stated hypothesis has called for this section. This result will be compared with the statistical criteria to see if the preconceived notion in this research work holds or not.

Ho₁: Socio-cultural factor has no significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3242.5981	3	1794.190	1.742	.915
Within Groups	6734.279	574	378.389		
Total	77436.800	577			

Source: SPSS Version 21, 2022

The test table reveal that wide significance value (F. sig<.05) indicate group differences. Since the F- value of 1.742 which has a significance of .915 is less than .05 (i.e .001<005), there exist group difference among the variables. Therefore, Socio-cultural factor has no significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.

Hypotheses Two

Ho₂: Economic factors has no effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	4838.324	3	2419.162	9.233	.009
Within Groups	6598.476	574	388.146		
Total	11436.800	577			

Source: SPSS Version 21 2022

We discover that in the F-statistics column the value for colleagues stress is 9.233, while its probability is 0.009 since its probability is less than 0.05% desired level of significance, we reject the null hypothesis and accept alternative hypothesis, which states that Economic factors has significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA

Hypotheses Three

Ho₃: Financial factors has no effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2839.200	1	1419.600	7.807	.088
Within Groups	8597.600	371	505.741		
Total	11436.800	371			

Source: SPSS, Version, 2022

From the regression result, we discover that in the F-statistics column the value for Management Stress is 7.807, while its probability is 0.88 since its probability is greater

than 0.05% desired level of significance, we reject the null hypothesis and accept alternative hypothesis, which states Financial factors has Significant effect on the performance of women entrepreneurship in Aguata LGA.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Entrepreneurship is important and considered as an engine of growth in an economy. Nigerians have engaged in different types of entrepreneurial activities over the years leading to increase in the number of female entrepreneurs. The study was carried out to identify the environmental challenges faced by female entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Though the research was carried out in Anambra State representing a limited sample size, the findings of the study provide a very good indication of issues and concerns of female entrepreneurs. The study identified gender neutral challenges such as poor infrastructural facilities, low access to finance, corruption, and government policy and regulation. Female entrepreneurs are also constrained by gender related socio-cultural norms that place unwarranted gender discrimination thereby making the female entrepreneur feel inferior to male entrepreneur. In spite of these challenges affecting start-up and growth, the number of females engaged in entrepreneurial activities continues to increase because they see it as a means of balancing family commitment and work as well as a means to overcome poverty. As the rate of economic growth continues to deteriorate in Nigeria, there would be a continuous increase in the number of female entrepreneurs in every sector especially in the services sector and commerce. With the dominance of trading in the economy, economic growth will continue to decline because no country can survive on commerce alone. The study recommends that women need all the support they can get from the society as well as the family in order to excel in entrepreneurship. Government should boost and Support women entrepreneurship through every possible means

That the government of the day should endeavour to create an enabling economic environment that would be truly conducive for business organisations to thrive without engaging in any act of fraudulent practices. Respective governments, NGOs, and other sources of financiers are to encourage entrepreneurship by making funds available for start-up and for expansion purposes. They can also help these women overcome these challenges by creating awareness and providing adequate support services.

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