

Women Entrepreneurship and Poverty Reduction amongst Women Basket Weaving in Ihiala Local Government Area

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Abstract: *The study examined the women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. The objectives of the study were to: Evaluate the effect of skill acquisition on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. Determine the effect of creativity on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. Examine the effect of entrepreneurial culture on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. Examine the effect of innovativeness on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. The population of the study consists of one thousand three hundred and fifty-three (1353) active women basket weaver in Ihiala. Sample size of 287 was gotten through Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling formula. Method of analysis is through structure questionnaire. The researcher employed statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) as the method of data collection. Primary sources of data were used. The study found that Skill acquisition has significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area. Creativity has significant positive influence on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area is adopted. Entrepreneurial culture has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area. In taking decision we recommend that The study recommends that Governments should concentrate on creating good policy framework that will increase more women participation in entrepreneurship business at Ihiala to enable women to be self-employed. Governments should provide conducive business environment at Ihiala that will enable women entrepreneurs to trade their product.*

Keywords: *women basket weaving, Ihiala, creativity, poverty reduction, entrepreneurial culture, skill acquisition*

1.2 Introduction

The emerging field of entrepreneurship in 21st century has made women entrepreneurs to be creative and innovative globally. Studies in most advance countries and in some countries in Africa provided evidence that, women entrepreneurs are the driving force of economic growth and development. According to Brusha and Cooper (2012), women-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing entrepreneurial populations in the world. They make significant contributions to innovation, employment and wealth creation in all economic environments. It can be argued that women's entrepreneurship has increased over the past decade as the percentage of women in business has increased and this has led to economic growth and sustainable development in developed countries.

Abimbola (2011) observed that across the different Africa regions women have taken up important roles in the socio-economic development of their societies.

The contribution made by African women in the provision of both financial and social facilities is immeasurable. To support this statement, Alese (2013) confirmed that women entrepreneurship in Africa countries accounts for a substantial portion of economic production and trade. In the same vein, World Bank (2013) re-affirmed that women entrepreneurs in SMEs are the engine of growth; essential for a competitive and efficient market; critical for poverty reduction; and play a particularly important role in developing countries. In spite of various reports and evidence establishing the contribution made by the economic activities of women, the recognition of these contributions has been slow because the numbers of women entrepreneurs are still below than of the male entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Despite the laudable pro-grams and policies put in place by successive governments to bridge the gap, women entrepreneurs are still lagging behind their male counterparts when it comes to access to opportunities and asset ownership.

Women entrepreneurship are therefore becoming increasingly important in the socio-economic development of both developed and developing economies as they account for significant percent of the operators of small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) (Dickson, (2021). Women entrepreneurship makes a substantial contribution to national economies through their participation in start-ups and their growth in small and medium businesses (United Nations, 2016). Their interest and activities in the economic growth and development especially in the area of SMEs have received outstanding interest of researchers. Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (2022), entrepreneurship is a part of the economy where women are continuing to take an active role. It's important for educators, leaders and policymakers to understand the drivers of gender differences in this critical market activity. This notwithstanding, entrepreneurship is usually seen from the perspective of men driven economy (Gerlin, 2015) due to its complexity, particularly its gender issues, the role of female entrepreneurship has not been properly documented (Dickson, 2021).

In Nigeria, women entrepreneurs are considered as an integral part of economic growth. Their businesses contribute to jobs, productive and distributive activities required for wealth creation both for family and nations' economies (Okunade, 2017). Female activities in entrepreneurship and SMEs enable them to effectively combine their productive and reproductive roles because of the flexibility in hours of work which permit them to care for their children and also contribute substantially to economic growth. This has made females to be regarded as the central focus of the economic development and public policy concern (Bagby & Franke 2001).

Basket making is a major preoccupation of Ihiala women and they are seeking government's support to fund the trade to sustain and improve it. Ihiala is a semi-urban community in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State. It is a trade that gets its boost through the patronage of the indigenous traders who engage in trading activities in the north. Ihiala, a community in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State has a

lot of potentials. Aside from hosting the State University, the community is into palm oil processing which is a huge income generating business. But a major trade which has given the women of Ihiala a pride of place is basket making

Women gathered at various parts of the community, taking the weaving trade seriously. Their fingers weave with precision depicting mastery and passion. Even in their homes, it is like a household chore, where even the young ones who will pass the trade on to upcoming generation dutifully engage in the practice. From the proceeds of the trade, according to the women, they settle their bills which they said was the main reason for being so much involved.

The baskets are packed in their number waiting for dispatch to the north where it is used to pack tomatoes, okra and other food stuff. A basket is sold between one 300 Naira and 500 Naira which is a big income for them but they have challenges of poor road infrastructure and capital, which they said, if addressed, would help in business expansion.

The traditional ruler and clan of the community said the trade started booming 25 years ago when the people began to realize the benefits in it and women mostly took up the preoccupation.

In Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics (2015) women constitute more than 50% of the total population represent a substantial labour force. In spite of the fact that their involvement is in the agricultural, commercial and service sectors, there is a cultural belief in Ihiala that females are supporters to their husband and as such they continue to perform vital productive roles which have helped in the economic development of their homes and nation especially in the periods of economic recession. Despite their participation in economic development through entrepreneurship, females lack access to and control over financial and other forms of resources. There are problems of cultural issues, religion factors as well as illiteracy. Many authors both off shore and in Nigeria has studied women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction, with inconclusive result, such authors are: Dickson (2021) investigated the relationship between female entrepreneurship and economic vitality. The study showed that the variables have positive and substantial association. Agbalajobi, Olayemi, & Okonji, (2018) examined the effect of women entrepreneurship on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The study revealed the fact that women contribute enormously to poverty reduction, but other than that they contribute to employment creation, skills and economic development. Ogidi, & Okonkwo, (2021) examined the effect of entrepreneurship development on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The study found that entrepreneurial development among small scale businesses alleviates poverty in Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Ogidi, (2014) evaluate women entrepreneurship drive patterns towards poverty reduction among SMEs in Enugu-North L.G.As of Enugu State, Nigeria. Women entrepreneurs should be assisted, with business loans of little collateral assurance, because they are more likely to pay back such loans due to their accountable and credible nature Agbionu, Ikon, & Chinwe (2016) examined the relationship between government financial assistance and family moral support on the performance and commitment of women entrepreneurs in Awka metropolis.

The result of the significance shows that the results of the Probable Errors in the two hypotheses were both lower than the coefficients of correlations. Having looked at these reviews, it was observed that some of these studies focused on the women entrepreneurship on poverty reduction amongst the previous studies, none of them has lay emphasis on basket weaving amongst in Ihiala local government. This present study tends to fill the gap by studying women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government. It will further compliments the existing one by using Analysis of variance, regression analysis as well as percentage table to analyze the women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction of women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate the women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. Specific objectives of the study were as follow:

1. Evaluate the effect of skill acquisition on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area
2. Determine the effect of creativity on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area
3. Examine the effect of entrepreneurial culture on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area
4. Examine the effect of innovativeness on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area

1.3 Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated that guide the objectives of the study:

Ho₁ Skill acquisition has no significant effect on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area?

Ho₂ Creativity has no significant effect on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area?

Ho₃ Entrepreneurial culture has no significant effect on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area?

Ho₄ Innovativeness has no significant effect on poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area?

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Review Skill acquisition theory

The fundamental claim of Skill Acquisition Theory, as per Dekeyser (2007), theory accounts for how people progress in learning variety of skills, from initial learning to advanced proficiency. Skill Acquisition is not just theory of the development of language; rather it is a general theory of learning ranging from cognitive to psychomotor skill Mystkowska & Pawlak (2012). Skill Acquisition "is the learning of a wide variety of skills shows an exceptional similarity in development from introductory representation of knowledge through starting changes in conduct to eventual fluent, unconstrained, to a great extent, and profoundly gifted behaviour, and that this phenomena can be accounted for by a lot of essential principles regular to acquisition of skills". Overall, as referenced by Speelman (2005), skill acquisition can be considered as a particular type of learning, where learning has been characterized as "the representation of information in memory concerning some natural or psychological event". Thusly, as indicated by him, skill acquisition is a type of learning where "skilled behaviours can become reutilized and even programmed under certain conditions". What's more, as a general theory of learning, it guarantees that adult starts learning something through largely unequivocal procedures, and with subsequent adequate practice and exposure, move into verifiable procedures. Subsequently, the study is hinged on this theory.

2.2 Empirical Review

SN	Author and Date	Objective	Scope	Variables employed	Methodology	Findings
1	<u>Adegun & AKomolafe</u> (2013)	entrepreneurship education as a means to expose in-school students to skills and businesses	Nigeria		Literature review	Nigerian youths lack entrepreneurship training
2	<u>Olavinka, Olusegun & Babatunde</u> (2015),	effect of entrepreneurship training and education on poverty reduction	6 LGAS in Lagos, Nigeria	entrepreneurship training, youth empowerment; entrepreneurship ability and community welfare services	stratified sampling, simple linear regression model	entrepreneurship training has positive effect on youth empowerment
3	<u>Muogbo & John-Akamelu</u> (2018)	effect of entrepreneurial skill on youth unemployment reduction	160 respondents from ABC Transport Company in <u>Anambra State</u> , Nigeria	youth unemployment problem, training on savings mobilisation & business growth, and entrepreneurial development	frequency counts and chi-square tests	entrepreneurial skills have positive effect on youth employment
4	<u>Fadevi, Oke, Ajagbe, Isiaiwwe, & Adegbuyi</u> (2015)	role of youth entrepreneurs in nation building	40 entrepreneurial firms <u>Yaba LGA</u> , Lagos state, Nigeria		simple percentages, pie and bar charts	competition, growth has positive effect on development of entrepreneurial firms

5	<u>Ekong and Ekong (2016)</u>	Skills Acquisition on reduction of unemployment problem	<u>Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria</u>		frequency tables, charts and z-score test	positive link exist between Skills Acquisition by NDE and Unemployment reduction
6	<u>Ogunlela (2012)</u>	effect of National Directorate of Employment Programmes on graduate employment and unemployment	Kaduna State of Nigeria		descriptive analyses interview and questionnaire	NDE does not have positive impact on graduate employment
7	<u>Adetayo, Oke and Aderonmu (2015)</u>	effect of entrepreneurship education on employment generation	72 graduate entrepreneurs from 6 LGAs in Oyo State, Nigeria		percentage frequency, t-test and Pearson correlation	entrepreneurial education and training has positive effect on employment generation
8	<u>Afolabi (2015)</u>	effect of entrepreneurship education on economic growth and development	Nigeria	employment generation and encouragement of growth of MSMEs	simple percentages, graph and chart	entrepreneurship can enhance economic growth and development
9	<u>Afolabi, Kareem, Okubanjo, Ogunbanjo & Aninkan (2017)</u>	effect of entrepreneurship education on self-employment initiatives	100 students of Gateway Polytechnic, Ogun State, Nigeria		simple percentage, correlation and regression analysis techniques	entrepreneurship education has a positive effect on self-employment initiatives
10	<u>Moses, Ola-David,</u>	impact of Entrepreneurship	50 graduates of Covenant	entrepreneurship education: skills	percentage frequency and	entrepreneurship education has

	<u>Oluwatobi, Olumuyiwa & Mosunmola (2015)</u>	p Education in alleviating poverty	University of sets 2006 and 2013	and knowledge Poverty alleviation: employment, business opportunities, standard of living and social transformation.	regression	positive effect on poverty alleviation
11	<u>Ogbo & Agu (2012)</u>	contributions of entrepreneurship to economic development	100 SMEs in Nigeria		frequency, means, chi-square, ANOVA	SMEs has positive effect on growth of economies
12	<u>Abdul-kemi (2014)</u>	impact of SMEs financing on economic growth and development	Data for 22 years spanning 1992 to 2013 of commercial banks in Nigeria	SMEs financing, economic growth and development,	Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) model	SMEs financing has significantly improves entrepreneurship
13	<u>Asogwa & Anah (2017)</u>	Effect of entrepreneurial activities on job employment		entrepreneurial activities, job employment, standard of living, multiple taxation	chi-square (X2)	entrepreneurial activities create job opportunities vis-à-vis job employment and standard of living
14	<u>Olorundare & Kayode (2014)</u>	entrepreneurship education and its application for graduates	Nigeria	Entrepreneurship education, transformation, employment opportunities, GDP, standard of living and dependence white collar job.	historical research strategy	entrepreneurship education has a link with national transformation
15	<u>Ekere (n.d.)</u>	Effect of	Nigeria		discussion paper	entrepreneurship

		entrepreneurship education on youths skills and attitudes for self-reliance				education has a link with youth unemployment and national security
16	<u>Kesinro, Ogunlusi & Adu (2016)</u>	Entrepreneurial marketing and SMEs performance	Lagos State, Nigeria		chi square statistical method	Entrepreneurial marketing has effect on SME performance
17	<u>Nasra (2014)</u>	Effect of entrepreneurship on youth living condition	110 youth entrepreneurship Somalia		percentage frequency	entrepreneurship has positive effect on youth empowerment
18	<u>Yusuf (2017)</u>	Effect of youth business empowerment on entrepreneurship skills	294 in <u>Dogwa</u> LGA in Kano State Nigeria	youth business empowerment: entrepreneurship education and financial support entrepreneurship skills	descriptive statistics, Pearson linear correlation and regression analysis	Youth business empowerment has significant positive, effect on entrepreneurship skills
19	<u>Muhammad and Andow (2011)</u>	impact of entrepreneurial skills development programmes (ESDPs)	73 women entrepreneurs in Kaduna state Nigeria	ESDP, turnover, capital, number of employees, market availability and profit before tax to the development and performance of women entrepreneurs	<u>descriptive</u> statistics, t-test, Wilcoxon W-test, ANOVA technique and <u>Kruskal Wallis</u> .	ESDPs have some impact on the development and <u>performance</u>
20	<u>Ojo and Femi (2016)</u>	influence of SMEs on job creation	Nigeria	SMEs, Job creation: youth empowerment,	simple percentage and chi-square (X^2)	SMEs has significant contribution to job creation

				reduces poverty and standard of living		
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Source: Authors conception

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design that was used for this study is a descriptive study method. This enables the researcher to generate first hand data for the study and for the test of hypotheses. The area of the study is Ihiala in Anambra State. Anambra is a State in southeastern Nigeria. The sources of data for this research were mainly primary data and secondary data. The target population of this study was made of the women basket weavers in Ihiala local government area. The population of the study consists of one thousand three hundred and fifty-three (1353) active women basket weaver in Ihiala. Sample size of 287 was gotten through krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling formular. The major research instrument adopted for the study was structured questionnaire to elicit responses for the sample population. Statistics such as frequency count and percentages was put to use in the analysis of research questions while research hypotheses were tested using simple regression analysis and analysis of variance. The research hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Analysis was carried out with the aid of ANOVA (SPSS).

3.2 Model Specification.

Model specification is an approach to modify the model by specifying a multiple regression equation made up of as a function women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction

As a result, the model is specified below, $POR = f(SKA, CRT, ENC, INN)$

Where

POR = Poverty reduction

SKA = Skill acquisition

CRT= Creativity

ENC= Entrepreneurial culture

INN= Innovativeness

f=Functional Notation

The above equation can be put in an econometric form as;

$$POR = b_0 + b_1 SKA + b_2 CRT + b_3 ENC + b_4 INN + \mu$$

Where;

b_0 = Autonomous or intercept

b_1 = Coefficient of parameter SKA

b_2 = Coefficient of parameter CRT

b_3 = Coefficient of parameter ENC

b_4 = Coefficient of parameter INN

μ = Stochastic variable or error term

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis Responses to Questionnaire

A total of two hundred and eighty seven (287) questionnaires were distributed to respondents while only (270) two hundred and seventy were returned. The set of returned questionnaire represents the total distribution.

Table 4.1 Distribution and Return of Questionnaire

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Total distributed	287	100
Total number returned	270	94

The table shows that out of 100% of the distributed questionnaire was (287) two hundred and eighty seven and (270) two hundred and seventy were returned.

NB: All computations, interpretations and analysis were therefore based on the number of returned questionnaire i.e 270

Section A: Respondents Information

Question 1: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Table 4.1.2

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
30-41 years	70	27
40-51years	140	41
51-60years	50	24
61years and above	10	8
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

From the above table, 70 respondents representing 27% are between the ages of 30-41years, 140 respondents representing 41% were between the ages of 41-50 years, 50 respondents representing 24% of the respondents were between the ages of 51-60 years while 10 respondents representing 8% were 61 years and above.

Question 2: Marital Status**Table 4.1.3**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	93	21
Married	170	74
Others	7	5
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

From the above table, 100 respondent representing 21% were single, 93 respondents representing 74% are married, 170 while others are 7 respondents representing 5% of the population

Question 3: Educational Qualification**Table 4.1.4**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
FSLC	13	11
O' level	94	38
OND/NCE	150	40
B.Sc/HND	13	11
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

From the above, 13 respondents representing 11% are FSLC, 94 respondents representing 38% are O' level holders, and 150 respondents representing 40% are OND/NCE holders while 13 respondents representing 11% are B.Sc/HND holders.

Question 4: Numbers of Years in Craft Making

Table 4.1.5

Number of years	Frequency	Percentage
1-3 years	79	20
4-6 years	175	42
7-9 years	8	19
10 years and above	8	19
Total	270	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

From the above table, 79 respondents representing 20% has between 1-3 years run a business, 175 respondents representing 42% has between 4-6 years run a business, 8 respondents representing 19% has between 7-9 years run a business while 8 respondents representing 19.6% has between 10 years and above run a business.

4.2 Hypotheses Testing

To further justify the results, ANOVA test was conducted to examine Women entrepreneurship and poverty reduction amongst women basket weaving in Ihiala local government area. The results were shown in the ANOVA Table below;

Hypotheses one

H_{01} : Skill acquisition has no significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

H_1 : Skill acquisition has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Table 4.2.1: Evaluation on the effect of Skill acquisition on poverty reduction

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Among women	7.374	2	2.458	14.027	.000
Within society	16.473	268	.175		
Total	23.847	270			

Source: SPSS Version 25, 2023

The test table reveal that small significance value ($F, sig < .05$) indicate group differences. Since the F - value of 14.027 which has a significance of .000 is less than .05 (i.e $.001 < .05$), there exist significant difference among the variables. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and accept alternative hypotheses which states that. Skill acquisition has significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Hypotheses Two

H_{01} ; Creativity has no significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

H_1 ; Creativity has significant positive influence on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Table 4.2.2 Evaluation on the effect of Creativity on poverty reduction

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Among women	36.189	2	12.063	33.048	.000
Within society	34.311	268	.365		
Total	70.500	270			

Source: SPSS, Version, 25 2023

The small significance value ($F, sig < .05$) indicates that there is a group difference. Since the F -value of 33.048 which has a significance value of .000 is less great than .05 (i.e $.000 < .05$). Alternative hypotheses is accepted which states that Creativity has significant positive influence on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area is adopted.

Hypothesis Three

H_{01} : Entrepreneurial culture has no significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

H_1 : Entrepreneurial culture has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Table 4.2.3 Evaluation on the effect of Entrepreneurial culture on poverty reduction

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Among women	56.102	2	18.701	9.418	.000
Within society	186.643	268	1.986		
Total	242.745	270			

Source: SPSS, Version, 25 2023

The test conducted revealed that the large significance value ($F_{sig} < .002$) indicate no group differences. Since the F-value of 9.418 with a significance of .000 is less than .05 (i.e. $.002 < .05$), from the test conducted above it was discovered that alternative hypotheses is accepted which State that, Entrepreneurial culture has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Hypothesis Four

H_{01} : Innovativeness has no significant effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

H_1 : Innovativeness has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

Table 4.2.4 Evaluation on the effect of Innovativeness on poverty reduction

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Among women	56.102	5	10.701	34.035	.000
Within society	16.643	265	1.986		
Total	70.745	270			

Source: SPSS Version 25, 2023

The test table reveal that small significance value ($F_{sig} < .05$) indicate group differences. Since the F- value of 34.035 which has a significance of .008 is less than .05 (i.e. $.001 < .05$), there exist significant difference among the variables. It was discovered that alternative hypotheses is accepted which state that, Innovativeness has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

From the analysis and hypotheses tested, hypothesis one revealed that Skill acquisition has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area at 5% level of significance; hence, H_1 is accepted. This result is in line with Nimfa & Gajere (2017) on the impact of small scale enterprise innovation on youths' empowerment for local economic growth in Kanam L.G.A. The study adopted a survey research method with a population of 1600 and a Sample size of 310 determined through National Educational Association/Krejuie-Morgan formula. The questionnaire was primarily used as a research instrument for data collection. The data were analyzed using linear regression model, t-test and one way ANOVA. The result showed that there was significant relationship between Small Scale Enterprise Innovation and living standard of the youths' for local economic growth in Kanam L.G.A. Also there was high significant relationship between small scale enterprise innovation and youths training for local

economic growth in Ihiala L.G.A. and also Muhammad & Andow (2011) examined the impact of entrepreneurial skills development programmes (ESDPs) on turnover, capital, number of employees, market availability and profit before tax to the development and performance of women entrepreneurs in Kaduna State. The participants were 73 entrepreneurs drawn from women owners of private schools and poultry farms registered with Kaduna State Private Schools Management Board and Kaduna State Poultry Farmers Association, respectively. Data were generated from questionnaire administered and analysed using descriptive statistics, t-test, Wilcoxon W-test, ANOVA technique and Kruskal Wallis. The findings hypotheses testing showed that turnover level, number of employees, market availability and profit before tax have a significant difference in the pre and the post ESDP performance of women entrepreneurs in Kaduna State. The descriptive statistics indicated that post ESDP's period was better than the pre period in all the variables tested. However, capital, the difference between the pre and post ESDPs performance of the women entrepreneurs was insignificant. The study posits that ESDPs have some impact on the development and performance of women entrepreneurs in businesses.

Hypothesis two showed that Creativity has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area at 5% level of significance; hence, H_1 is accepted. This result is in agreement with Moses, Ola-David, Oluwatobi, Olumuyiwa & Mosunmola (2015) examined the impact of Entrepreneurship Education in alleviating poverty. Online questionnaires found reliable at Cronbach Alpha coefficient of 0.904 were received from 50 graduates of Covenant University of sets 2006 and 2013. The percentage frequency and regression were used for data analyses. The results showed that entrepreneurship education (measured by skills and knowledge) have a significant positive relationship with entrepreneurship actions of graduate; which in turn has positive effect on all the variables poverty alleviation (employment creation, business opportunities, increased standard of living and social transformation). The study thus concluded that entrepreneurship education is a veritable tool for poverty alleviation in Nigeria and Madanant & Rodrigues, (2018) focused on understanding the impact of women Self Help Group (SHG) towards entrepreneurial skill development. The entrepreneurship skills are measured considering the various social variables. The respondents were asked to rate the variables based on their achievements. The study also focuses on the various outputs and problems faced by the women SHG members while being associated with the SHG. The variables are grouped using factorization and through regression model. The effect of the factors on the entrepreneurship skills is measured, which is positive. The study also considers the employment- generation ability of the SHG and the constraints faced by them.

Hypothesis three showed that entrepreneurial culture has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area at 5% level of significance; hence, H_1 was accepted. The result is in line with Ogidi, & Okonkwo, (2021) examined the effect of entrepreneurship development on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship is a very important aspect of every economy both in developed countries and developing countries. Entrepreneurship adds to the growth of every economy hence the need to aid its development which in turn creates opportunities, jobs, poverty alleviation, and economic growth amongst many advantages. Data was obtained from selected business enterprises. 79 questionnaires were distributed to these enterprises and the data was

analyzed using Chi-Square. The study found that entrepreneurial development among small scale businesses alleviates poverty in Jos North LGA, Plateau State. However, government support towards promoting entrepreneurship has been poor and the economic conditions do not support entrepreneurship in Jos North LGA, Plateau State and Nigeria, at large. The findings suggest that government should support entrepreneurship through various forms of funding like soft loans and grants and also provide social amenities to facilitate the operation of small scale businesses.

Hypothesis Four showed that Innovativeness has significant positive effect on poverty reduction in Ihiala local government area at 5% level of significance; hence, H_1 was accepted. And this result is agreeing with Yusuf (2017) carried a study to investigate the relationship between youth business empowerment and entrepreneurship skills. Using a cross-sectional survey of 294 in Doguwa local government of Kano State Nigeria which was administered with a questionnaire for data collection. The analyses were done using frequency and percentage tables, mean and standard deviations; and Pearson linear correlation and regression analysis. It was found that youth business empowerment (entrepreneurship education and financial support) has a positive, strong and significant relationship with entrepreneurship skills.

Muhammad & Andow (2011) examined the impact of entrepreneurial skills development programmes (ESDPs) on turnover, capital, number of employees, market availability and profit before tax to the development and performance of women entrepreneurs in Kaduna State. The participants are 73 entrepreneurs drawn from women owners of private schools and poultry farms registered with Kaduna State Private Schools Management Board and Kaduna State Poultry Farmers Association, respectively. Data were generated from questionnaire administered and analysed using descriptive statistics, t-test, Wilcoxon W-test, ANOVA technique and Kruskal Wallis. The findings hypotheses testing showed that turnover level, number of employees, market availability and profit before tax have a significant difference in the pre and the post ESDP performance of women entrepreneurs in Kaduna State. The descriptive statistics indicated that post ESDP's period was better than the pre period in all the variables tested. However, capital, the difference between the pre and post ESDPs performance of the women entrepreneurs was insignificant. The study posits that ESDPs have some impact on the development and performance of women entrepreneurs in businesses.

Conclusions and Recommendations;

This study analyses the impact of women entrepreneurship on poverty reduction among women entrepreneurs in Ihiala local government area, Anambra State Nigeria. Therefore, the general conclusion of this study is that entrepreneurship has played an important role in development of Ihiala local government area by increasing self-employment opportunities, create wealth and enable them to produce goods and services for consumption within the local government area. Even though the women entrepreneurs, still live from hand to mouth; the impact is slow and steady just at a substantial level. The study recommend that Governments should concentrate on creating good policy framework that will increase more women participation in entrepreneurship business at Ihiala to enable women to be self-employed. Governments should provide conducive business environment at Ihiala that will enable women entrepreneurs to trade their

product. Governments should provide policies that encourage patronage of local product whereby creating a giant market for women entrepreneurs to sale their product after production. Governments should project favourable tax policies that will enhance entrepreneurial activities at Ihiala local government area.

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