

Entrepreneurship Development Programme: Intervention Mechanism in Agriculture for Youth Unemployment in Abia State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the entrepreneurship development programme as an intervention mechanism in Agriculture for youth unemployment in Abia state, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to describe the socio economic characteristics of respondents; assess the level of participation of youth in entrepreneurship development programme, determine factors that influence the youth entrepreneurship programme of youth. A random sample of 120 respondents was selected using a well structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done using both descriptive and inferential (probit) statistics. Findings indicated that male youths participated (56.7%) most in entrepreneurship development programmes. Youths in Abia state participated mostly (53.4%) in the entrepreneurship development programme known as "Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN). Access to loan after completion of their entrepreneurship development programme by the youth participants is limited (53.7%). The level of participation of the youths in entrepreneurship development programme is moderately high (58.7%). Level of education (4.060), youth's interest in entrepreneurial jobs (5.782), youths experience in technical skill (2.991), easy access to loans among the youths (5.252) youth awareness of job opening in their areas (5.948) lack of infrastructural facilities (3.793), rapid expansion of educational system (2.72) and awareness of entrepreneurship development programme (6.621) significantly influenced the involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme. It is therefore recommended that efforts be made to enrich the content of the entrepreneurship development programme with practical steps to start-up various agricultural enterprise as this will complement the experience of the youths and also increase food production, and access to loan after completion of their entrepreneurship development programme by the youth participants should be enhanced as this will help the youth to practise the skills they acquired from entrepreneurship development programme and be able to create their own jobs and even be able to employ others among others.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship, Intervention, Agriculture, Youth and Unemployment.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of 'youth' can be defined as all the people within a specific age group or as a state of being or even a state of mind. Youth are people between the ages 10 and 29. This covers a wide range of experience and transition that include early phase (between 10 and 14) a middle phase (between 15 and 20) and later phase (between 21 and 29) (The world's youth 2006). All United States statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrated by the annual year book of statistics publishers by the united system on demography, education, employment and health. For activities at the national level, for example when implementing a local community youth programme 'youth' may be understood in a more flexible manner as every persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years. According to statistics from manpower board and the Federal Bureau of statistic, Nigeria has a youth population of 80 million representing 60% of the total population of the country.

Tijuni- Alawiye (2009) defined entrepreneurship as the process of increasing the supply of entrepreneurs or adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many. Capable entrepreneurs, who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to growth and sustain them, with a view to achieving broad socio-economic development goals. One of these goals is sustaining employment. Furthermore,

Acs and Szerb (2007) noted that entrepreneurship revolves around the realisation of existence of opportunities in combination with decision to commercialise them by starting a new firm.

Entrepreneurship development is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture by combining information from the functional disciplines and from the external environment in the context of the extra ordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which faces a new business venture (Shepherd and Douglas, (1997). It then manifests itself in creative strategies, innovation tactics, uncanny perception of trends and market mood changes and courageous leadership.

Historically, the study of entrepreneurship reaches back to the work of Richard Cantillon and Adam Smith in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The process of entrepreneurship activity reducing unemployment situation in the economy is termed "Schumpeter effect (Garofoloi (1994) and Audretsch and Fritsch (1994) in their separate studies found that unemployment is negatively related to new firm start-ups, that is, as new business are established employability is stimulated and unemployment reduces substantially. In the same vein, Lucas (1978) note that high unemployment in a society is associated with low degree of entrepreneurial activities. A low rate of entrepreneurship culture and skills in any society may be a consequence of the low economic growth wherein reflect higher level of unemployment (Oladele, P.O. et al, 2011).



Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) has been conceived by successive government as a programme of activities to enhance the knowledge, skills, behaviour and attitudes of individual and groups to assume the role of entrepreneurs (Owunlahi, 1999). Entrepreneurial development refers to the process of enhancing entrepreneurial skill and knowledge through structured training and institution building programmes. EDP aim to enlarge the base of entrepreneur in order to hasten the pace at which new ventures are created. It concentrates more on growth potential and innovation. Essentially this means the acquisition of skills that will enable an entrepreneur to function appropriately and adequately in terms of maintaining and developing the organised capability which makes achievement possible and attaining present based on previous decision and planning for the future based on present circumstance.

Entrepreneur development programme takes place within a framework of forces that constitute the system environment, which are external or internal. A critical issue in the growth is firm's ability to adapt to its strategies to a rapidly changing environment to which the entrepreneurs are critical to the success of such firm (Amandasun, 2003). For entrepreneurial development programme to survive in these varying degree depends on strategic management of the environment (Garber, 2002).

Realizing the strategic importance of skills and entrepreneurial programmes in Nigeria, the Federal government, has adopted strategic management process under several policies and established institutions and agencies such as NDE, SMEDAN and DFI to encourage affective entrepreneurial development.

Unemployment has haunted Nigerian youth seriously. A terrible phenomena described as the conglomerate of youths with diverse background, willing and able to work but cannot find work (The worlds youth 2006). They cannot handle any family or societal responsibility which mopes at them every second. They are vulnerable and can be used by unscrupulous elements in the society to perpetuate all sort of crime. Unemployment and its associated social ills have been traced to poor entrepreneurship and skills development among students in tertiary institutions.

This is manifested in a number of deficiencies that those graduates exhibits in their work place such as: lack of analytical and ICT skills, lack of entrepreneurial and problems solving skills, inadequate technical skills and ignorance in the use of modern equipment now it has become imperative to embark on competency based entrepreneurship development programmes as a means through which the youths can be empowered and employed. In Abia State there have been some initiations by both state and federal government. The study is therefore to assess the entrepreneurship development

programme as an intervention mechanism to youth unemployment.

Objectives: The broad objective of the study was to assess Entrepreneurship development programme as an intervention mechanism to youth unemployment in Abia state, Nigeria.

The specific objectives were to describe some socio- economic characteristics of respondents; assess the level of participation of the youth in entrepreneurship development programme in Abia State, Nigeria and determine factors that influence the youth entrepreneurship programme of youth in Abia State, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses: There is no significant relationship between youth's involvement in entrepreneurship development programme and their socio-economic characteristics.

2. METHODOLOGY: STUDY AREA

The study was carried out in Abia State. The state was created on 27th August, 1991. Abia state lies within approximately latitude 4^o 40^o and 6^o 14' north and longitude 7^o 10^o and 8^o east. The state shares common boundaries to north Ebonyi state. It covers an area of about 5,243.7sq km which is approximately 5.8% of the total land area of Nigeria with its capital at Umuahia. It has seventeen local government areas. The state has a population of about 2.4 million people with the rural population accounting for about 65% with a population density of 60 people per square kilometre on the average. Abia state is made up of three agricultural zones namely, Umuahia agricultural zone, Ohafia agricultural zone and Aba agricultural zone. About 60-70% of the population are engaged in agriculture primarily of crop production and animal rearing. The climate of Abia State is typically equatorial as it is being influenced by the tropical equatorial and tropical maritime air masses. The average maximum and minimum temperature are between 32^oc and 25^oc respectively. The rain-forest is the main characteristics feature of the vegetation on the state.

Abia state is the oil producing states in Nigeria. Besides oil exploration, farming assumes the main occupation of the people. The state has a large number of youths with very few having what they do to earn a living. Majority of the youths (some are graduates and the other non-graduates) have no employment and we often used as miscreant by politicians. The relevance of the youths in the state necessitated the establishment of entrepreneurship programme to aid in youth employment.

Sampling Procedure: In order to select the respondents for the study, the state was considered based on two out of three zones existing in the state. The zones are Umuahia and Ohafia, multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the selection of the sample size. In the first stage, two local government areas were selected from each of the two selected zones in the state. In the



Umuhia zone, Umuhia North L.G.A and Ikwuano L.G.A were selected. In Ohafia zone, Isiukwuato L.G.A and Ohafia L.G.A were selected. In the second stage, one community was randomly selected from each of the local government area selected. This gave a total of 4 communities for the study. Finally, three villages will be randomly selected from each other of the communities to give a total of 12 villages for the study, from these villages; ten (10) respondents will be selected bringing the sample size to 120 respondents to be used for the study.

Data Collection: The study made use of primary data. Data were collected through the use of well structured questionnaires. Data that were collected using the questionnaire include those of the socio economic characteristic of the respondents, extent of awareness of the youth about entrepreneurship development programme, number of existing entrepreneurship development programme in the study area, level of participation of youth on the study in entrepreneurship development programme for youth employment in the study area and the constraints to participation in the study area. The structured questionnaire was validated by the project supervisor and other experts in the field. The corrections that were made by these experts were fully effected to ensure its appropriateness.

Analytical Technique and Model Specification: In realizing objective one (1), descriptive statistics such as tables, means and percentage were employed. Objective two (2) was achieved using the mean. A 10 point questions was designed to reflect the behaviour of the respondents towards participating in the entrepreneurship development programme for youth employment. The level of participation was summarised and categorised by dividing the 10 spaces into two classes (1-10) into two parts with a unit interval of 5.00, the level of participation was considered high, if the mean number were within 6.00 – 10.00 and low if the mean number was within (1-5.00). Objective three (3) and hypothesis was analysed with probit regression model. The model is specified in line with Echebiri , (2005) as

$$Y_i^* = B_1X_1 + \dots + B_nX_n + e$$

.....Equation 1

$$Y_i^* = 0 \text{ if } Y_i^* \leq 0$$

$$Y_i^* = 1 \text{ if } Y_i^* > 0$$

Thus

$$Y_i^* = B_1X_1 + B_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + B_4X_4 + B_5X_5 + B_6X_6 + B_7X_7 + B_8X_8 + e_i$$

Where

Y_i^* = An underlying latent variable that indexes the levels of involvement.

Y_i^* = Observable dummy variable that indexes the levels of involvement (low= 1-5, and high= 6-10)
 B_i = A vector of estimated parameter (I.e $B_1 \dots B_9$)
 X_i = Individual characteristics of the respondents,

Where

X_1 = Age of respondent in years
 X_2 = Gender of the respondent
 X_3 = Years spent in schooling
 X_4 = Interest in entrepreneurial jobs (interest = 1,0 otherwise)
 X_5 = Years of experience in technical skills
 X_6 = Cooperative experience (number of years)
 X_7 = Access to loans (access = 1,0=otherwise)
 X_8 = Awareness of job opening (aware = 1,)= not aware
 E = error term

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents.

The socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents in the study area are discussed below.

3.1.1 Gender of the Respondents

The gender distribution of the respondents sampled for the study area is shown in table 3.1

Table 3.1: Distribution of respondents based on gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	68	56.7
Female	52	43.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey data, 2013.

Table 3.1 showed that majority (56.7) percent of youth’s participants in entrepreneurship development programme in Abia state were male. This implies that youths who participate in entrepreneurship development programme were more of males, and thus, male youths in Abia state are more involved in entrepreneurship development programme than their female counterpart. This could be attributed to the unwavering understanding of the male youths as the immediate or future bread winner of their family and so would participate more in any entrepreneurship development programme that will enhance their daily earnings in other to take care of his family members and dependants.



3.1.2 Marital Status

Table 3.2 presents the result for the distribution of the respondents according to their marital status.

Table 3.2: Distribution of respondent based on marital status

Marital Status	Frequency
Single	108
Married	12
Total	120

Source: Field survey data, 2013.

Table 3.2 showed that majority (90.0) percent of the respondents (the youths) were single. This implies that unmarried youth dominated in participation in any entrepreneurship development programme. This could be attributed to the fact that unmarried youths may not have so much responsibility in terms of taking care of a family like the married ones and so would have ample time, opportunity and strength to participate in any entrepreneurship development programme that will better their future and get them employed. More so, the designing of most youth interventions programmes in the state that mainly focused on single youths may give further justification of their being more involved in any entrepreneurship development programme than their married youth's counterparts.

3.1.3 Age of respondents

Table 3.3 presents the distribution of the respondents based on age

Table 3.3: Distribution of the respondents based on age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-22	36	30.0
23-27	65	54.2
28-32	19	15.8
Total	120	100
Mean	24.37	

Source: Field survey data, 2013

Table 3.3 shows that majority (54.2%) of the youths were within the age bracket of 23-27 years. The mean age of the youths was 24.37 years. This implies that most of the youths were still in their active stage and can be effective in participating and acquiring entrepreneurial skills in order to reduce unemployment among the youths. The age bracket

should be able to cope with the stressed involved in participating in entrepreneurship development programme especially when such an individual is participating from a distance place to the location of the EDP training centres in the state. Echebiri (2005) noted that the innovative ability of people and the capacity to do manual work decreases with age. The respondents are by their fairly youthful ages therefore better positioned to go about their activities with much ease.

3.1.4 Household Size

The household size distribution of respondents is shown in the table 3.4

Table 3.4 Distribution of respondents based on household size

Household size	Frequency	Percentage
3-4	32	26.7
5-6	44	36.7
7-8	24	20.0
9-10	16	13.3
13-14	4	3.3
Total	120	100.0
Mean	6.12	

Source: Field survey data, 2003.

The result in table 3.4 showed that majority (36%) of the respondents had or belonged to a household of at least 5 persons per household. The mean of the household size of the respondents was 6.12. This implies that most of the respondents had relatively fairly large household which may give justification for the youths in such household to get involved in any entrepreneurship development programme that will position them to be self employed in other to assist in catering for his/her household expenses Household size is an important factor in most development studies as it is an important source of labour and determines the extent of expenditure that an average household size can incur as well as indicate what is required to keep up for such households. This finding is consistent with Mafimisebi *et al* (2008) who reported a mean household size of 6 in his study.

3.1.5 Entrepreneurship Development Programme Participated by Respondents

The distribution of the respondents based on selected entrepreneurship development programme they participated in is shown in table 3.5



Table 3.5: Distribution of respondents based on selected entrepreneurship development programme they participated

Programmes Participated	Frequency	Percentage
YOUWIN	56	53.9
NDE	20	9.2
SMEDAN	44	36.9
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey data, 2013.

Table 3.5: showed that majority (53.9 percent) of the youths used for this study participated mostly in the entrepreneurship development programme known as “Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN). This implies that “Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN) as an initiative of the World Bank and the Federal Government attracted the participation of so many youths in the state than any other initiated entrepreneurship development programme. This may be attributed to ease of participation of youths in the programme as well as the assurance of receiving financial support that will serve as a takeoff grant for the youths to start-up their own business as compared to what other entrepreneurship development programme showcases.

3.1.6 Amount of Loan Received by the Respondents

The distribution of the respondents by the amount of loan they borrowed is shown in table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Distribution of the respondents based on amount of loan borrowed

Amount borrowed(₦)	Frequency	Percentage
≤ 100000	10	8.3
100001 – 500000	34	28.4
500001 – 1000000	60	50.0
1000001 - 1500000	4	3.3
1500001 - 2000000	6	5.0
2000001 - 2500000	2	1.7
2500001 - 3000000	4	3.3
3000001 -	-	-
Total	120	100
Mean	453432.85	

Source: Field survey data, 2013.

Table 3.6 showed majority (50%) of the respondents received financial support in terms of loan after due to their participation in entrepreneurship development programme that worth at most ₦1,000,000. The mean amount of financial support received by the respondents was ₦ 453,432.85. This implies that the respondents had access to loan from each of the entrepreneurship development scheme the involved in but in a limited amount. In credit schemes with extensive rationing, a large number of beneficiaries are targeted but with each beneficiary receiving a small amount (Onyebinama, 2010). Access to credit is the motive for implementing extensive credit rationing. Increase in access to credit with limited availability of credit will culminate into small loan sizing (Nnamerenwa, 2012). The decrease in loan size on one hand may be an indication that the entrepreneurship development schemes wanted to reach more people and might not have enough financial bases. On the other hand, decrease in loan size may be an indication that most of the respondents demand for small amount of loans which they can repay willingly because of the subsistence nature of their business.

3.2 Level of Participation of Youth in Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Abia State

The result of the distribution of the respondents based on their level of participation in entrepreneurship programme is presented in Table 3.7

Table 3.7: Level of participation of youth in entrepreneurship development programme in Abia state

Level of Participation	Frequency	Percentage
Low level of participation	41	34.2
High level of participation	79	65.8
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey data, 2013.

Table 3.7 showed that majority (65.8%) of the youths recorded high level of participation in entrepreneurship development programme while only about (34.2%) of the respondents recorded low participation in entrepreneurship development programme in the state. Thus youths in the state identifies themselves with the various entrepreneurship development bodies in the state. This would impact positively on the entrepreneurial skills and innovativeness of the youths in Abia State. Apart from offering youths the ability to identify business opportunities and to harness the necessary resources to use the opportunities identified, the use of entrepreneurship development programmes as one of the alternatives to creating jobs for the youths in the state will attract the participation of



more youths if such political stability, rapid expansion of the educational system and location of entrepreneurship development programme centres in many areas in the state are ensured.

3.2 Factors Influencing the Involvement of Youths in Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The result of the probit model analysis determining the factors that influenced the level of involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme is presented in table 3.8

Table 3.8: Probit model estimates of factors influencing the level of involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error of Mean	t-ratio
Intercept	1.123	0.294	3.818***
Age of Respondents	0.002	0.007	0.304
Gender	-0.064	0.061	-1.043
Level of Education	0.182	0.045	4.060***
Youth's Interest in Entrepreneurial Jobs	0.525	0.091	5.782***
Youth's Experience in Technical Skill Membership of Cooperation	0.041	0.014	2.991***
Access to Loan	-0.079	0.067	-1.167
Youth's Awareness of Job Openings	0.493	0.094	5.252***
Lack of Infrastructural Facilities	0.588	0.094	5.948***
Population	0.281	0.074	3.793***
Possession of Employable Skills	0.086	0.054	1.584
Political Instability	0.019	0.028	0.667
Rapid Expansion of Educational System	-0.064	0.060	-1.065
Rural Migration	0.271	0.099	2.726***
Awareness of Entrepreneurship Prog.	0.106	0.088	1.209
Chi-square	0.501	0.076	6.621***
Df	1301.883***	95	

Source: field survey data, 2013.

***represent significant at 1% level.

The result in table 3.8 showed a chi- square value of 1301.883 which was significant at 1% level, showing goodness of fit of the model for the analysis. Level of education (4.060), youth's interest in entrepreneurial jobs (5.782), youths experience in

technical skill(2.991), easy access to loans among the youths (5.252), youth awareness of job opening in their areas 5.948), lack of infrastructural facilities(3.793), rapid expansion of educational system(2.726) and awareness of entrepreneurship development programme(6.621) were the significant factors that influenced the involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme.

Level of education had a positive relationship with the level of involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme and was statistically significant at 1% level. This implies that increased level of education increased the involvement of the respondents in entrepreneurship development programme. Education creates awareness and improves access to information (Onyebmama, 2010). Therefore, a high level of education will put the youths in a better position to understand the intricacies of involving in entrepreneurship development programme.

Youth's interests in entrepreneurial jobs had a positive relationship with the level of involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme and were statistically significant at 1% level. This implies that youth's having interest in entrepreneurial jobs increases their participation in entrepreneurship development programme. Interest creates determination and improves passion to take up entrepreneurial jobs. Therefore, a high level of interest will propel the youths to undergo entrepreneurial training and practice or establish the entrepreneurial idea generated through the training through self job creation.

Youths year of experience in technical skills had a positive relationship with the involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme and was statistical significant at 1% level. This implies that participation of youths in entrepreneurship development programme increases as youth's years of experience in technical skills increases and vice versa. Experience in technical skills creates confidence and could predispose youths to participate more in entrepreneurship development programme that will enhance the technical skills and create avenue for the youths to express their technical skills. This is probably why level of participation of youths in entrepreneurship development programmes increased as the youths experience in technical skills increased.

Easy access to loans had a positive relation with the participation of youths in entrepreneurship development programme and was statistically significant at 1% level. This implies that involvement of youths in entrepreneurship development programme increases as youths have access to loan and vice versa. Establishment of entrepreneurial business venture is credit dependent. The extent of access to credit a youth has will influence its decision of how much entrepreneurial business venture to establish and how much



training through entrepreneurship development programme he/she requires to participate in order to better his/her chances of surviving in the business. Also, easy access to credit will influence youth's rate of adoption of new and improved technical skills for entrepreneurial business and to finance the course of purchasing better inputs and equipment required by the venture.

Youth's awareness of job openings demanding the services of individuals with certain entrepreneurial or technical skill had a positive relationship with youth's participation in entrepreneurship development programme and was statistically significant at 1% level. This implies that youth's involvement in entrepreneurship development programme increase as youth's become awareness of job openings demanding individuals with entrepreneurial or technical skills. In Nigeria, with increasing rate of unemployment, awareness of job openings demanding people with entrepreneurial experience will drive most youths seeking for employment but possesses no entrepreneurial experience to participate in entrepreneurial development trainings in order to increase their chances of being employed. As such youth's involvement in entrepreneurship development programme and youths involvement in entrepreneurship development programme and youths awareness of job opening demand entrepreneurial experience are positive related.

Lack of infrastructural facilities like electricity, markets, shops etc was negatively related to youth's participation in entrepreneurship development programmes at 1% level of significance. This implies that participation of youth in entrepreneurship development programme decreases due to non-availability of infrastructural facilities. In Nigeria, lack of constant electricity has been a major problem for the advancement of entrepreneurial skills as well as small and medium scale business (Nnamerenwa, 2012). The cost of running a business in Nigeria through self provision of power is high and discourages most financially incapacitated youths from participating in entrepreneurial trainings that they know they cannot practice after acquiring such training. Lack of electricity may also constrain the diversification of the entrepreneurial business through forward integration while lack of health care facilities will adversely affect the health of the youths and consequently their labour force. The quality of the labour force may be poor and this may constrain participation in entrepreneurial training and thereafter the establishment of entrepreneurial business.

Rapid expansion of educational system had a positive relationship with youths participation in entrepreneurship development programme and is statistically significant at 1% level. This implies that youth's involvement in entrepreneurship development programme increases due to rapid expansion of the educational system. Rapid expansion of educational system will probably increase the availability of

graduates seeking for white colour jobs in the state. The demerit of rapid expansion of educational system is the production of graduates without significant or sufficient managerial and technical experience and as such makes most youths to remain unemployable. In such situations most reasonable youths whose wishes are to better their standard of living, help their family and contribute meaningfully to national building will see acquiring entrepreneurial training as the way forward. As a result, youth's participation in entrepreneurship development programme and rapid expansion of educational system are positively related.

Awareness of entrepreneurship development programme was positively related to youth's participation in entrepreneurship development programme and was statistically significant at 1% level. This connotes that youths participation in entrepreneurship development programme increases as the youths become aware of the existence of entrepreneurship development programme and vice versa. Awareness creates willingness to participate, and could predispose youths to participate more in entrepreneurship development programme and to be empowered to become self reliance in creating employments for oneself and for others to be empowered therein.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Entrepreneurship development programme is an intervention mechanism towards the reduction of youth's unemployment. These youths engaged in farming as their main occupation, but the graduate apprentice engaged in one field of endeavour or another as an alternative job they do for a living. Youths in Abia state participated mostly in the entrepreneurship development programme known as "Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN). To gain innovative skills, to be self dependent and self employed, to enhance or create new business and to get loan to start up own business were the main issues that motivated the youths in the state to participate in entrepreneurship development programme.

Recommendations

Since most of the youths that participate in entrepreneurship development programme are those without any other occupation than farming, efforts should be made to enrich the content of the entrepreneurship development programme with practical steps to start-up various agricultural enterprise as this will complement the experience of the youths and also increase ensure increase food production in the state.

Any efforts to increase the level of involvement of the youths in entrepreneurship development programme should consider such factors as level of education, youth's interest in entrepreneurial jobs, youths experience in technical skill, easy access to loans among the youths, youth awareness of job



opening in their areas and lack of infrastructural facilities, among other factors.

Since participation of youths in entrepreneurship programme have proven to be an effective intervention mechanism towards the reduction of youths unemployment in the state, efforts must be made to sustain this move. Government should ensure that schools in the state integrated entrepreneurial studies in their school curriculum starting from the primary school to the tertiary as this will empower the youths on graduation and make them not to be job seekers but rather job creators.

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