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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)

HACKMAN AND OLDHAM JOB CHARACTERISTICS MODEL AND ACADEMIC STAFF PERFORMANCE IN UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

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Abstract:

The Hackman and Oldham Job Characteristics Model (JCM) has been used severally to determine the dimensions by which certain core features of jobs provoke some psychological reactions in workers. The seemingly paucity of research on the validity of this model in the African setting has been the drive behind the interest for this study. The study investigated the validity of skill variety (an element) of the model with regards to the performance of academic staff of the University of Lagos (Unilag), Akoka-Yaba, Lagos State and reveals that the academic jobs in Nigeria embrace a significant relationship between the psychological welfare of academic staff and their internally generated (motivation-driven) performance. The study thereby concluded that as the model is valid in the European labour world, it is as well valid in that of the Africa. The recommendation that follows emphasised the acknowledgement of individuals' psychological differences towards adopting careful job design that creates a wider zone for exercising the variety of skills possessed by academic staff in achieving job meaningfulness towards high performance in the Nigerian academic system.

Keywords: Job characteristics, Skill variety, Perceived meaningfulness, Performance.

Introduction

This section of the paper introduces the preliminary information that formed the basis and background to the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

Ricky & Jay, (2008) has intrigued management and inspired much research and interest by asking this question: "What motivates an individual to perform at his or her best?" The essence of this study is to find out how skill variety, an element of Hackman and Oldham Job Characteristics model affects the performance of academic Staff in University of Lagos, Akoka-Yaba, Lagos State.

Performance, according to Encarta (2009) is the manner in which something or somebody functions, operates or behaves (high or low). The dictionary as well defined it as a way in which somebody does a job, judged by its effectiveness. Performance level of an individual emanates from the amount of motivation derived from the beneficiaries of the individual's efforts (Redmond, 2017). This motivation is a feeling of enthusiasm, interest, or commitment that makes such person want to do something, or something that causes such a feeling; it is the act giving somebody a reason or incentive to do something; also it is the reason for doing something or behaving in a particular way; psychologically, it is the biological, emotional, cognitive or social forces that activates and directs behaviour (Encarta, 2009).

Of all the resources of an organisation, human resource the most vital because he combines other resources to achieve the objectives of the organisation (Obalade & Akele, 2020; Ayandele & Nnamseh, 2014; Sriviboon & Jermstittiparsert, 2019), but to retain competent and satisfied employee and extract the best performance level from them, management must consider a variety of appropriate strategies in their motivational strategies (Falola, Ibadunni & Olokundun 2014; Olajuwon, 2017). Meanwhile, of the many techniques of motivation that have been suggested by various studies, internally derived work motivation that relies on effective job design has been widely acclaimed as the best motivational option (Pink, 2009).

The importance of achieving high staff performance standards from the human resource of business organisations cannot be overemphasised, while Sriviboon & Jermstittiparsert, (2019) emphasised the importance of human asset by positing that "behind any successful organization, human resource plays an important role as a backbone." As human asset has been pronounced severally as one most vital asset within the control and management of any organisation (Hafiza, 2011; Sriviboon & Jermstittiparsert, 2019), for any organisation to perform optimally, a full understanding of the motivation dilemmas of its employees towards maximising their efficiency and effectiveness is necessary.

Studies into the Nigerian University education system has revealed significant relationships between academic staff performance and students' academic performance (Akinfolarin & Ehinola, 2014; Adediwura & Tayo, 2007). If the Management of Nigerian public institutions is set to encourage academic staff towards achieving governments' purpose for public education, the design of academic jobs in such a way that sets academic staff satisfaction as a priority is expedient. Luenendonk (2017) states: "there are many aspects of personnel management techniques that are important to employees' motivation, and one most important of these aspects is job design or work design that focuses on specifying the aspect of jobs 'job characteristics'

that will satisfy the requirements of the organisation and that of the employee performing the job.” Ensuring staff performance is the means of getting better results by understanding and managing employee performance within an agreed framework of planned goals, standards and competency requirements. However, a desired goal and target may only be achieved if the workforce gets a sense of mutual gain of the organisational achievement with the achievement of a defined performance target. It's against this background that an organisation must strategically design the best way to get its employees internal work motivation activated.

As Hackman and Oldham Job Characteristics Model relies on effective job design that satisfies some psychological states of an individual, this study is poised to establish the connection between skill variety and academic job performance in Unilag.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Hackman and Oldham Job Characteristics Model (JCM) theory has been noted as a theory of universal applicability (Ayandele & Nnamseh, 2014; Obalade & Akeke, 2020; Geoffrey, 2010; Abejirinde, 2009; Ricky & Jay, 2008; Nelson & Quick, 2003; Hackman & Oldham, 1980). As purpose achievement is vital to any organisation, it is as well the bedrock of employees' internally driven performance (Olajuwon, 2017; Tracy, 2003), and since academic success is predicated on students' learning success (Akinfolarin & Ehinola, 2014; Muhammed, 2010), which way back, is a reflection of how the academic jobs are designed (Obalade & Akeke, 2020; Ayandele & Nnamseh, 2014). JCM predicts that the design of a job should stimulate certain psychological states in workers which will in turn influence their personal work outcomes. This can be used to predict whether positive work and personal work outcome can be achieved from a job as it exists or with redesign.

Meanwhile, despite the motivational strength of job design/redesign on academic staff performance in higher institutions in the Western world (Luenendonk, 2017; Muhammed, 2010), Sub-Saharan Africa (Geoffrey, 2010, Filak, 2003) and Nigeria (Obalade & Akeke, 2020; Ayandele & Nnamseh, 2014; Abejirinde, 2009), testing the JCM for validity in Nigeria has proved a daunting task as there is paucity of research on its validity in the African setting, as well as the tendency for many researchers to bye-pass the mediation of critical psychological states while attempting to validate the model (Ayandele & Nnamseh, 2014). This study, as a result of these paucity and oversight, is poised to understudy the extent to which the postulations of the model are valid in the Nigerian academia.

1.3 Objectives of the Study:

The broad objective of this study is to examine the validity of Hackman and Oldham skill variety of JCM among Academic Staff of Unilag, while the specific objectives are to:

- i) identify the presence and strength of the skill variety in the jobs of academic

staff in Unilag.

- ii) ascertain if experienced meaningfulness is created by skill variety of academic staff in Unilag.
- iii) examine if experienced meaningfulness created by skill variety of academic job has significant effect on performance of academic staff in Unilag.

1.4 Research Questions:

Base on the statement of problem, this study shall address the underlisted questions.

- i) To what extent, if any, is skill variety present in the jobs of academic staff in Unilag?
- ii) Is experienced meaningfulness created by the skill variety academic job in Unilag?
- iii) Do experienced meaningfulness created by academic job has any significant effect on academic staff performance in Unilag?

1.5 Research Hypotheses:

The underlisted hypotheses have been postulated to guide the study, and they are stated in their null forms as follows.

- i) Skill variety is not present in the jobs of academic staff in Unilag.
- ii) Experienced meaningfulness is not significantly created by skill variety of academic job in Unilag.
- iii) Experienced meaningfulness, if created by academic job, exhibits no significance with academic staff performance in Unilag.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Some of the existing literature that relates to this subject of discussion were reviewed in order to establish a proper foundation upon which the entire discussion of the study, findings and conclusions shall be rested.

2.1 Conceptual Literature Review

Job Characteristics Model (JCM) of Hackman and Oldham (1975, 1976 & 1980) identifies five core characteristics (skill variety, task identity, task significance, task autonomy and feedback) that managers should keep in mind when they are designing jobs for their employees. Job characteristics results in three psychological states for employees: meaningfulness of the work performed; responsibility for work outcomes; and knowledge of the results of work performed; these three psychological states bring about positive work outcomes as a result of positive internal work motivation within the employees.

Skill variety is described according to Hackman & Oldham (1975) as the “degree to which the activities in a job requires a variety of different skills to carry them out, thereby involving different skills and talents of the employee involved in performing the activities”. As a core job characteristic, skill variety assumes that doing the same thing day-in-day-out makes the job tedious, and the solution is to design jobs demanding variety of skills to stimulate ongoing interest, growth, and satisfaction. The variety of

skills necessary to perform a job is one of the three factors, along with task identity and task significance, that describe personal responsibility for work outcomes through the mediating psychological state of experienced meaningfulness of work (Batchelor et al 2014).

In view of the above, the extent to which a job requires several different activities for successful completion indicates its skill variety. For instance, a low skill variety exists when a worker performs overtime, the same two tasks repetitively. The more skills involved in a job, the more meaningful the work. The enhancement of skill variety can occur in many ways; job rotation, or job enlargement for instance can break the monotony of an otherwise routine job with little scope by shifting a person between different jobs.

2.2 Theoretical Literature Review

The job design and enrichment movement according to Hackman and Oldham (1980) was initiated as a response to Taylor's (1911) 'Scientific Management' approach to effective organisation management. Taylor's theory relied on the assumptions that jobs should be simplified, specialised and standardised before high performance could be derived from employees. According to Rain, Lane and Steiner (1991), Taylor's mindset towards simplifying jobs was that a simplified job would result in increased employees' efficiency by reducing skills requirement and increasing managerial control, both of which will result in increased organisational performance.

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

Since its development, the Job Characteristics Model of Hackman and Oldham has been severally researched into. A study by Batchelor, et al (2014) shows that job characteristics model is of course relevant in the field of entrepreneurship, especially for the self-employed, nevertheless, it was originally designed for the jobs of those employed by others.

Parker et al (2001) concluded that "the developments in work design theory have not kept pace with the changes occurring in the organisational landscape, therefore, a theoretical framework with five categories of work design variables that span individual, group and organisational levels analysis were specified; these include systematic consideration of antecedents of work characteristics; expansion of the traditional range of work characteristics to include aspects salient to the modern context; extension of the range of variables beyond the existing narrow focus on affective reactions; analysis of the mechanisms, or processes, that explain why work characteristics lead to particular outcomes; and consideration of contingencies that moderate the effects of work characteristics.

The findings of the first test conducted by Schjoedt in 2009 to check whether previous findings on job characteristics of managers could be generalized to entrepreneurs revealed slight significant difference between managers' and entrepreneurs' job

characteristics, but they still were significant predictors of workers' motivation and job satisfaction for both (Schjoedt, 2019).

While testing the efficacy of JCM on deviant behaviour among university employees in Nigeria, Obalade & Akeke (2020) established that JCM factors has a reducing effect on deviant behaviour of tested academic staff in selected private and public universities in Ondo and Ekiti State. To this end, this study intends to examine the how perceived meaningfulness derived from skill variety of academic job affects staff performance in Unilag.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The section of this paper presents the research design, population, sample size, measuring instruments, data gathering and data analysis techniques.

3.1 Sample Design

Adopted for this study is the cross sectional survey design focusing on the academic staff of University of Lagos, Lagos State.

3.2 Sample Instrument

A well-structured questionnaire was used as the basic instrument of data collection, nevertheless other secondary sources such as textbooks, journals and websites were perused.

3.3 Sample Population

The population sampled from was 813 staff from the currently existing twelve faculties (communication@unilag.edu.ng), which are faculty of arts, basic medical sciences, business administration, clinical sciences, dental sciences, education, engineering, environmental sciences, law, pharmacy, science and social sciences.

3.4 Sample Size Determination

The sample size was determined using Taro Yameni's formula which was given as

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample size
 N = Population
 e = Confidence level (95%)
 l = Constant

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, Sample size (n)} &= \frac{813}{1+813(0.0025)^2} \\ &= \frac{810}{1+2.0025} \\ &= 267.77, \text{ which is approximately 268 respondents} \end{aligned}$$

3.5 Sampling Technique and Instrument Administration

The simple random sampling technique was adopted in the selection. The copies of the 268 questionnaire were distributed and 241 copies were retrieved.

4. Method of Data Analysis

Data were analysed using regression analysis of the SPSS and the result is as shown below:

4.1 Regression Analysis

R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of Est.	P values
0.7139	0.6629	0.55528	0.050

The regression had a correlation coefficient (R^2) of 0.7139 and an adjusted R^2 of 0.66. This means that perceived meaningfulness contributes 66 percent of the variations in academic staff performance in Unilag. The P-value of 0.050 indicates that staff performance is significant at 5 percent level of significance, P values of less than 0.05 (predetermined significance level) implies that the results are statistically significant (Kumar,2005).

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study confirmed earlier findings that skill variety (an aspect of Job characteristics model) elicits certain psychological drive (perceived meaningfulness) in staff towards high job performance. Thus it is hereby concluded that as the JCM of Hackman and Oldham is valid in the European labour world, it is as well valid in the African setting.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hereby recommended that while designing job for academic staff in Nigeria, emphasis should be laid on the acknowledgement of individuals' psychological differences, which will make it possible for job designers to adopt careful job designs that creates a wider zone for exercising the variety of skills possessed by academic staff in achieving job meaningfulness, so as to perform optimally.

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ATTITUDE TO AND USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES BY DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

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Abstract:

Library is an indispensable requirement for intellectual development. Academic libraries often contain resources for research, teaching and learning. The study investigated the attitude of distance learning degree students to library and its resources as sources of information at the University of Ibadan. Descriptive survey research method was adopted. The total population being studied is 1,584 students; and the sample size is made up of 130 respondents randomly selected from two (2) faculties out of five (5) faculties running the distance learning programme. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Responses were analysed using descriptive statistical methods using frequencies, percentages, presented in tables. The findings revealed that library service to distance learners need be improved. Less than half of the respondents used the university's main library frequently. Majority (83.7%) of the respondents had access to textbooks while only 14.6% had journals available to them. Some respondents indicated that they used the departmental, faculty and other libraries outside the campus mainly to read their personal books. The students rarely used reference materials; and, electronic resources were poorly used. Also, majority of the students were not in attendance during the library orientation exercise. Distant residence from library, obsolete and non-availability of needed materials, few functional ICT facilities and poor attitude to library use ranked high among other constraints to effective use of library and its resources for intellectual and self development of the distance learning students. The study recommends a critical review of distance learning library support services and information literacy skills for prompt attitudinal change.

Keywords: *Attitude, Library use, Library resources, Distance learning students, University of Ibadan.*

Introduction

Information professionals have long sought to comprehend what factors are relevant in encouraging a person to seek out information. A focus of inquiry has been on those factors that play a role in deciding to use the library and its resources as a place to seek information (whether physically or virtually) as opposed to just surfing the Internet. These inquiries assume an even greater importance because more people are using the Internet to find information they need, information that is unmediated by the library (Kibirge and DePalo, 2000).

Academic libraries, as the cornerstone of higher education, have long supported the instructional endeavors on college and university campuses across the nation. Academic libraries carry a philosophical mission to provide access to educational resources and services, as well as instruction on locating, accessing, evaluating, and using resources successfully to all its users. "Libraries exist because they add value to teaching, learning, and the production and dissemination of knowledge" (Munde and Marks, 2009, p. 111).

Provision of library and information services is an essential support service that should be rendered effectively so that distance learners obtain quality education (Owusu-Ansah & Bubuama, 2015). Quality Education is achievable in universities if the students and their lecturers have access to enough textbooks, quality journals and other library resources useful for supporting teaching and learning, and research (Owusu-Ansah and Bubuama, 2015; Coonin, Williams and Steiner, 2011; Wolpert, 1998). Libraries according to Saleh (2014), are required catalysts for provision of quality distance education.

Timely information access is the main concern of the users and that is one of the goals of a library, thereby satisfying the user's needs. Yi (2016) opined that Information Technologies (IT) change rapidly and information products and services are in a multiplicity of formats in libraries. He also stressed that for libraries and information services to stay visible, it is important that they adopt strategies to help meet the mission of its objective and user's need met. Certainly, the open and distance learners in Nigeria have information needs that ought to be met by the libraries of their parent institutions.

Taking a clue, from the submission of Ugochukwu and Mabawonku (2017). Accessing library services by learners in the developing climes of the world has been challenging. Most part time and distance education students never use their own or any other university library during their study. Sometimes the problem arises from the fact that the opening hours of their university libraries are not tailored to their needs. And at other times because there is a strong competition for materials as part- and full-time students receive the same reading lists. And short loan collections of their own university libraries are often not utilized owing to their short' time return policies.

Statement of the problem

Some previous studies have reported that distance learning students' experience a narrow learning which fails to encourage the expected research-led enquiry as well as the development and challenging knowledge due to an approach that neglects the role of libraries. Research on attitude to and use of library and information resources by distance learning part-time students in Nigeria has not been thoroughly examined. This has been more obviated by the increase in number of universities running part time programmes either as sandwich or through distance learning. With so many distance education institutions, there is need to provide guidelines and minimum standards. All of these are best derived from assessment of the existing structures. Thus, it is envisaged that the findings of this study would be useful for future planning especially on expectation or confidence with distance learners' library use.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study was to investigate attitude to and use of library resources as sources of information by the part-time external degree students at the University of Ibadan. Specifically, the study aims to arrive at the following objectives:

- i. to investigate what kinds of library resources are available to distance learning students of the University of Ibadan;
- ii. to investigate distance learning students' attitude to library use;
- iii. to determine the level of usage of library resources by distance learning students;
- iv. to identify what constraint presently exist in library resources utilization for distance learning students.

Research questions

- i. What kinds of library resources are available for use to distance learning students of the University of Ibadan.
- ii. What is the attitude of the distance learning students to use of the library?
- iii. What is the level of library usage by the distance learning students?
- iv. What are the constraints to utilization of library resources by the distance learning students?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Importance of Distance Learning

Mayende and Obura (2013) posits that there is increasing demand for continuing education by learners of different ages across the world led to the introduction of distance education. Education plays an important role in the advancement of any

nation (Owusu-Ansah and Bubuama, 2015) and empowerment of her citizens. Mabawonku (2003) defined distance learning as the education received from the learner's home or place of work without necessarily having direct or physical contact with the teacher. Adetimirin and Omogbhe (2011), described distance learning as a formal learning that the student and the teacher are on different locations outside the mother learning institution with minimum physical contact.

In affirmation, Mayende and Obura (2013) added that distant learning is a kind of schooling that involves part-time study where the learners are far from their study main institutions and involving short face-to-face period due to family and employment commitments (Mayende and Obura, 2013). Ogunleye (2013) emphasized that open and distance education should be regarded as a self-paced learning process which makes it possible for all categories of students to plan their study according to the time at their disposal.

Library Use in Distance Education

According to Molefi (2008), library support services in distance learning are systems or procedures that are purposefully created and effectively utilised by a higher learning institution to support and or facilitate teaching and learning at a distance. Mirtz (2010) views student support as more overreaching involving the 'entire setting in which learning takes place...the disciplines that provide the knowledge learning support, the learners and the arrangements made for them, the teaching and learning process, and the assessment of learning, institution and programs'

Distance learning Students' attitudes to library use

Barsun (2002) opines that it is the natural tendency of distance education students to expect their local public library to meet their academic needs. She also stressed on the fact that distance learners access public library because of its easy accessibility, adequate parking facility, fast web access, and inter-library loan services. She also notes that they are frequently frustrated by their unrealistic expectations of the local library's resources and services.

Kavulya (2004) in his study of distance education in four universities in Kenya opined that some of the students have little or no exposure to library use and this affects their access to library resources. Ugochukwu and Mabawonku (2017) findings reveal that distance learning students' frequency of use of the library/media resources is very poor. Their reason for using the library is limited to reading books, newspapers and use of reference materials. Students' frequency of use of library materials is low and students' attitudes towards the continued use of the library in distance learning are poor. There is a significant positive relationship between students' use of library resources and their attitude towards use of library.

Collaborative role of the academic librarian

As course management systems have become a popular support to distance learning on campuses, integration of library presence into the courseware “has had a challenging agenda”, citing Campbell's phrase (2006) to academic libraries. This challenge applies especially to those with related position titles, such as distance learning librarian. It has been recognized that academic librarians “must seek to integrate their resources into online courses delivered via course management systems, in order to ensure that libraries remain vital to higher education”. Fang & Korts (2005), reiterates that collaborations are crucial to successful integration of the library into the course management system.

Edward (2000) in his article librarians and online education presented various roles librarians can play and need to be actively involved, including building information literacy skills into the teaching material at the design stage. The ACRL guidelines for instruction programmes in academic libraries (2000) identified various modes of instruction: These may include but are not limited to: advising individuals at reference desk, in depth research consultations, individualized instruction electronic or print instruction aids, or group instruction traditional or electronic classroom settings, the mode(s) selected should be consistent with the content and goals of instruction where appropriate, more than one(1) mode of instruction should be used in recognition of the wide variety (styles of individuals).

Basaza and Milman (2010), Mayende and Obura (2013), Abdelrahman (2011), Donaldson (2004), Saleh (2014) and Wachira and Onyancha (2016) highlighted some essential information services that librarians and libraries should offer to distant learners. These services include:

- i. Conducting information literacy trainings;
- ii. Development of online tutorials on how to access library resources remotely to improve remote users' information literacy skills;
- iii. Photocopying and scanning services for the print collections of requested pages by remote library users;
- iv. Acquiring more relevant electronic resources and creating access points to them through library websites;
- v. Providing interlibrary loan services so that remote users can get information resources from other libraries;
- vi. Collaboration with faculty and coordinators of distance education in universities so that the library participates in the students' orientation programme. Time should be created for librarians to interact with remote students during orientation

Constraints for Libraries and distant learners

Effective and appropriate services to distance learning communities may differ

from but must be equivalent to those services offered on a traditional campus ACRL (1998). Dority (2000) conducted a study of the same issue with respect to distance students from the Open University of Tanzania to examine the use of public library. This study revealed that inadequate library resources, insufficient reading space, fee to utilise the library, lack of professional staff and distance between the place of their residence and the library acted as limited factors. These negative factors prompted the author to raise her concern regarding lack of coordination and commitment of the staff to meet the needs of distance learners. She argued that resources must be mobilised, and awareness must be created among the staff to address the shortcomings in the administration of the programme.

In a study on library use and services by distance learners in three Nigeria universities by Mabawonku (2004), it was found that many of the students attributed their low use of the library to their tight schedules which were fully occupied with lectures and interactions with lecturers. Buruga and Osamai (2019) examined operational challenges of providing library services to distance education learners in a higher education system in Uganda, reported that the library staff observed the following as the challenges in the provision of library services to distant learners:

- i. Poor attitudes towards the library mostly by students;
- ii. Some of the library users are not computer illiterate. i.e. they cannot retrieve information from the internet;
- iii. Limited access to computers by distant learners;
- iv. Poor attitude towards electronic resources (e-journals and e-books). Many prefer reading their subject modules and class notes;
- v. Poor Internet Connectivity and inaccessibility;
- vi. Some library users provide wrong email addresses during library registration while others do not read their emails for communication circulated by the library;
- vii. Distance learners have limited time at campus yet the available physical resources (e.g. Textbooks) are not enough for all of them to borrow and take home.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive survey method. The random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the study population. This is to ensure equal representation of samples at the faculty and departmental level. Data for the study were gathered using structured questionnaire, comprising five sections. Out of the one hundred and thirty copies of questionnaire distributed, 123 responses were received two (2) were invalid while five were not returned. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as tables, frequency counts, simple percentages.

Population of the study

The population for the study was made up of 1,584 out of which 123 distance learners were selected as sample size at all levels of the B.Sc. and B.Ed. programme in view (200-500) in the Faculty of Agriculture and Education. This is because they are all supposed to use the library during their studies. These two faculties were chosen because they were the earliest to offer distance learning courses and so have full stream of students from first year to final year as at the time of this study.

Table 1: Population and sample size

Faculty	Department	Population	Sample size
Agriculture	Agriculture	77	15
Education	Adult Education	392	24
	Education Management	262	9
	Guidance and counseling	131	13
	Kinetics and Health Education	236	15
	Library, Archival & Information Studies	280	28
	Special Education	63	4
	Teacher Education	143	15
	Total	1,584	123

Source: Planning and Establishment unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research question 1: What kinds of library resources are available for use to distance learning students of the University of Ibadan.

Table 2: Library resource availability

Resources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Journals	18	14.6
Textbooks	103	83.7
Newspapers/ magazines	30	24.4
Reference materials	37	30.1
CD-ROM	8	6.5
Internet resources	20	16.3
Audio visual materials	13	10.6

The findings reported in table 2 revealed that 83.7% had access to textbooks. Meaning it is the most available library resource. Respondents that had reference materials, newspapers and magazines available to them account for 30%. Internet resources availability ranked fourth with 18 (14.6%). Very few had access to journals, CD-ROM and audiovisual materials.

Research Question 2: What is the attitude of the distance learning students to use of the library?

Table 3: Awareness of information resources in the library

Item	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Through frequent visit	78	63.4
Special effort of library staff	15	12.2
Encouraged by lectures	15	12.2
Library orientation	25	20.3

The findings in Table 3 reveal that Majority of the students, 78 (63.4%) got to know the information resources in libraries on campus through frequent visit to libraries. Twenty-five (25) of the respondents, constituting 20.3% became aware of useful information resources for their courses through library orientation. while 12.2% were both encouraged by lecturers and through the effort of library staff.

Table 4: Reasons for using the library

Reason	Frequently		Occasionally		Never	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To read my books	65	52.8	38	30.9	20	16.3
To wait in-between lectures	11	8.9	34	27.6	78	63.4
To borrow books and other materials	36	29.3	42	34.1	45	36.6
To consult journals	7	5.7	39	31.7	77	62.6
To access the internet	16	13.0	28	22.8	79	64.3
To search CD-ROM	10	8.3	21	17.1	92	74.6
To access pre-packaged lecture materials	7	5.7	19	15.4	97	78.9
To read newspapers and magazine	34	27.6	39	31.7	50	40.6
To hold discussion with my classmates	15	12.2	21	17.1	87	70.8
To search catalogue of a library	15	12.2	37	30.1	71	57.7
To use the reference materials	44	35.8	44	35.8	35	28.4

Table 4 reveals the type of activities that students went to perform in libraries. About 35.8% went to use reference materials, which were mostly dictionary and encyclopedia. Most of the students, 83.7% indicated that they went with their personal books and read their books and read their books in the libraries. This correlates with Pelzer et al, (1998) that: The main reason for visiting the library was to study course materials. Seventy-nine (79) students, constituting 64.3% and 62.6% respectively had never used the internet and consulted journals. Likewise, CD-ROM was poorly used. This situation agrees with the outcome of Buruga and Osamai(2019) that respondents missed accessing reliable internet connection and negates what obtains at the University of South Africa as reported by Oladokun (2002). In Mabawonku (2004).

Research question 3: What is the level of library usage by the distance learning students?

Table 5: Frequency of library use

Item	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Everyday	20	16.3
Once or twice a week	36	29.3
Once or twice a month	4	3.3
Occasionally	24	19.5
Only during exam	23	18.6
Never	16	13.0
Total	123	100.0

The findings as revealed in Table 5 shows that 20 of the respondents, 16.3% used the libraries every day. In all, 36 used libraries once or twice a week while 19.5% used libraries as occasion warranted. About 19% indicated using libraries only during examination while 16 of the respondents, 13% of the sampled population had never used library.

Table 6: Types of libraries used by respondents

Types of Libraries	2-4 times a week		2-4 times a month		Seldom		Never	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1. University of Ibadan main library	54	43.9	15	12.2	21	17.1	33	26.8
2. Another university library	7	5.7	5	4.1	16	13.0	95	77.3
3. Departmental library	31	25.2	14	11.4	16	13.0	62	49.4
4. State/public library	9	7.3	9	7.3	11	8.9	94	75.4

5. A Special library	5	4.1	6	4.9	15	12.2	97	78.8
6. Research library in student's location	10	831	6	4.9	12	9.8	95	77.2
7. A School library	21	17.1	7	5.7	16	13.0	79	64.3
8. A Polytechnic library	5	4.1	2	1.6	5	4.1	111	90.2
9. College of Education library	13	10.6	6	4.9	8	6.5	96	78.1
10. Personal library	31	25.2	9	7.3	7	5.7	76	61.8

The findings presented in Table 6 shows that most of the respondents (77.3%) had never used another university library while 75.4% had never used a public library before. Most of those who indicated using departmental libraries were those who studied or had studied before in departments that had libraries and about 49.6% of the respondents fell within this category. Fifty-four (43.9%) indicated that they used the University of Ibadan main library 2-4 times a week while 33 (26.3%) indicated that they had never used the university of Ibadan main library before.

Of all the respondents, 21.2% and 22.8% had used special libraries and research libraries in their location respectively. In rare cases, like the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Education, which had its library as a Learning Resource Centre the students, had access to the library and the resources. Faculty and departmental libraries existed as reading rooms for students. They could also easily obtain useful core materials from the libraries.

Research question 4: What are the constraints to utilization of library resources by the distance learning students?

Table 7: Factors that hinder effective use of library by the students

Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
The library opening hour is not appropriate	11	8.9
My residence is too far from the library	38	30.9
The library does not always have what I need	21	17.1
Limited availability of requisite materials	19	15.4
Denial of loaning right	14	11.4
Inadequate reading space and comfortable seats	16	13.0
Difficulties in retrieving required information	23	18.7
Lack of information technologies	33	26.8
Poor lighting system/frequent power outage	23	18.7

Table 7 reveals factors that hinder respondents from effectively using the libraries and the resources in the libraries. About 40 (31 %) of the respondents indicated that distance was their barrier. while 11.4% indicated that denial of loaning right that is borrowing out of library materials hindered them. Non-availability of needed materials constrained 40 respondents, representing 32.5%. Inadequate reading space comfortable seats, owing to outstretching by academic and research staff and the full time barred 13.0% of the respondents.

A total of 18.7% had difficulties in retrieving required information due to shelf disorganization and intentional act of some students who concealed information-materials for selfish interest. Some 23(26.8%) of the respondents, who were technologically literate found very few functional ICT resources in the libraries. Poor lighting system/frequent power outage constituted hindrance to 23 of the respondents representing 18.7% of the sampled population. Only 8.9% were not pleased with the libraries opening hours.

5. Conclusion

The study revealed that less than half of the respondents used the university's main library frequently while some used the departmental, faculty and other libraries outside the campus mainly to read their personal books. Textbooks were mostly used and very few had journals available to them. The students rarely used reference materials and electronic resources. They were more interested in learning through their lecture notes and pre-packaged course materials provided by the centre. Also, majority of the students were not in attendance during the library orientation exercise. Therefore, a student could graduate without having used libraries.

Distant residence from library, obsolete and non-availability of needed materials, few functional ICT facilities and poor attitude to library use ranked high among other constraints to effective use of library and its resources for intellectual and self development of the distance learning students. The study recommends a critical review of distance learning library support services and information literacy skills for prompt attitudinal change.

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LANGUAGES AS SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS: A STYLO-SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF LANGUAGE IN ACHEBE'S THINGS FALL APART AND WRIGHT'S BLACK BOY

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Abstract:

The English language is spoken by about 600 million people in the world, though only half of that number speaks it as their mother-tongue, (Stevens (1991); Bailey and Gorlach (1982)). Language, generally are dynamic and elastic depending on the speech community. This underscores the nexus between language and the society. The primary concern of sociolinguistic scholarship is to study the correlations between language use and social structure, [Coulmas (1998)]. Stated in very general terms, this study investigates, through the prisms of sociolinguistic and text linguistic stylistics, how social structure influences writers of two different geographical milieu in their literary works. The overall aim is to establish that certain perspectives are indispensable for a full understanding of language as a social phenomenon prevalent and reflective in the writings of the authors. The study concludes that many questions can be investigated with equal justification within micro or macro- sociolinguistics, (Coulmas (1998)); that language is not merely a means of communicating information, rather, it is an important means of establishing and maintaining social relationships with other members of the speech community, (Ansari and Babaii (2009)).

Keywords: *Languages, Social-constructs, Stylo-Sociolinguistic, Achebe, Things Fall Apart, and Wright's Black Boy.*

Introduction

Language is defined as “human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, feelings and desires by means of a system of sound symbols” (The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English, second edition, (2005:546-572). But it has been rightly argued that “language is not merely a means of communicating information, rather it is an important means of establishing and maintaining social relationships with other members of the speech community, Ansari and Babaii (2009:177). In this context, one looks at language as being deeply rooted in the culture of a people (who share it). This is why Aremu (2008) argues that “language is always chameleonic and elastic both in form and usage, depending on the speech community”.

Our focus in this paper is the use of the English language across two cultures: pre-independent Igbo society in Nigeria and the American racial society of the 1920s. The English language has become the most important language in the world today, and its position has been compared with that of Latin in Medieval times, Banjo (1996). A substantial number of persons around the world speak the English language as a second language, and the fate of the language in such situations has also been the subject of study during the last quarter of a century. Banjo (1996: 1)

According to Strevens (1981), English language is spoken by about 600 million people in the world, though only half of that number speaks it as their mother tongue. Thirty five years after that assertion, the number of speakers might have increased tremendously.

From the foregoing, it becomes intuitively evident that language is an integral aspect of a people’s culture. Lewis Nkosi (1981:3), underscoring the centrality of language and national cultures, especially in Africa societies writes:

“The relationship between language and national cultures cannot be too strongly emphasised. Like other peoples, black Africans possess a rich and living heritage in philosophy, ethics, religion and artistic creation, the deepest roots of which are embedded in the rich soil of African language. To repossess that tradition means not only involving the caskets of syntax, disentangling metaphysics from poetry and proverbs; it also means extracting social philosophy and habits of moral thought from the rhythm, imagery, repetitiousness sometimes from the very circumlocution of native African speech”

The very sociology of language especially its use in literature, establishes the nexus between literature and the writer’s socio-political, historical and geographical milieus.

Although this view of culture held by critics has recently been criticized by sociologists—the one that holds that every culture and the language which embodies it are viewed in a water-tight compartment and completely distinct from other cultures, Drummond (1987), cited in Banjo (1996:125), the submissions of Soyinka and Achebe seem to have calmed frayed nerves on this. Achebe (1965), quoted in Banjo (1996:125) says:

“I feel that the English language will be able to carry the weight of my African experience. But it will have to be new English, still in full communion with its ancestral home but altered to suit its new African surrounding”.

Banjo (1996:126) has noted the similarities in this line of thought when Soyinka, (1988), quoted in Banjo (1996:126), says:

“And when we borrow an alien language to sculpt or paint in, we must begin by co-opting the entire properties in our matrix of thought and expression. We must stress such a language, stretch it, impact and compact it with no apology, as required to bear the burden of experiencing and of experiences, be such experiences formulated or not in the conceptual idioms of the language”.

This common credo accentuates both Achebe and Wright in their stylistic presentation of their literary works, notwithstanding the fact that the latter wrote in a society which has the English language as a mother tongue.

Definition of Style

According to Leech and Short (2006:9), the word “style” has fairly uncontroversial meaning: “it refers to the way in which language is used in a given situation, by a given person for a given purpose and so on”. The authors raised a caveat that in practice, writers on style have differed a great deal in their understanding of the subject and one source of disagreement has been the question, to what or whom do we attribute style? They hold that in the broadest sense, style can be applied to both spoken and written, both literary and everyday varieties. They further submit that “by tradition, it is particularly associated with written literary texts”

Here, we take 'style' as “relational term—examining the characteristics of language use and correlating them with extra linguistic features.

Also, Crystal and Davy (1969:17) have posited that both foreign students of English and the native speaker need to develop an awareness of differing varieties of the

language and the national processes of habit-formation in this respect may be reinforced, supplemented and speeded up by a more rational aspect.

Stylistics is the study and interpretation of texts in regard to their linguistic and tonal style. As a discipline, it links literary criticism to linguistics. It does not function as an autonomous domain on its own and can be applied to an understanding of literature and journalism as well as linguistics. Sources of study in stylistics may range from canonical works of advertising copy to news non-fiction, and popular culture, as well as to political and religious discourse. Indeed, as a recent work in critical stylistic, multi modal stylistics and mediated stylistics has made clear; non-literary texts may be as much interest to stylisticians as literary ones. Literariness, in other words, is here concerned as a point on a cline rather than an absolute.

Stylistics as a conceptual discipline may attempt to establish principles capable of explaining particular choices made by individuals and social groups in their use of language, such as in the literary production and reception of genre, the study of folk art, in the study of spoken dialects and registers, and can be applied to areas such as discourse analysis as well as literary criticism.

Common features of style include the use of dialogue, including regional accents and individual dialects (idiolect) the use of grammar, such as the observation of active voice and passive voice, the distribution of sentence lengths, the use of particular language registers and so on. In addition, stylistics is a distinctive term that may be used to determine the connections between the form and effects within a particular variety of language. Therefore, stylistics looks at what is 'going on' within the language; what the linguistic associations are that the style of language reveals.

([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/stylistics\(literature\)](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/stylistics(literature))).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is Michael Halliday 1971's study.

Specifically, our searchlight will beam on the following:

- i. Dialogue
- ii. Accents
- iii. Dialects/Idiolects
- iv. Use of Grammar
- v. Active Voice/Passive Voice
- vi. The Distribution of Sentence Lengths
- vii. Use of Particular Registers
- viii. Semantic Extensions
- ix. Semantic Transfer
- x. Simile/Metaphor

- xi. Italicization
- xii. Deviant Words
- xiii. Compounding
- xiv. Anaphora
- xv. Parentheses.

Synopsis of the Texts

Richard Wright's Black Boy

Black Boy is a memoir of Richard Wright's childhood and young adulthood. It is split into two main sections, "Southern Night" (concerning his childhood in the South) and "The Horror and the Glory" (concerning his early adulthood in Chicago). The book begins with a mischievous four-year old Wright setting fire to his family's residence and continues in that vein. Wright is a curious child living in a household of strict religious women and violent irresponsible men. He quickly chafes against his surroundings, reading instead of playing with other children and rejecting the church in favour of atheism at a rather young age. He feels even more out of place as he grows older and comes in contact with the rampant racism of the 1920's.

As he ventures into the white world to find jobs, he encounters extreme racism and brutal violence, which stays with him for the rest of his life. Richard and his aunt go to Chicago but he has to resort to stealing and lying for survival. He finds the North less racist than the south and begins to form concrete ideas about the American race relations. He becomes immersed in the communist party after witnessing the trial of black communists for counter-revolutionary activities. He ends his book by resolving to use his writing to search for a way to start a revolution.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/black_boy.)

Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart

Things Fall Apart, a novel set in pre-colonial Nigeria in the 1890's, highlights the fight between colonialism and traditional societies. The protagonist, Okonkwo is famous in the surrounding villages for being a wrestling champion. He is strong, hardworking and strives to show no weaknesses. Okonkwo wants to dispel his father Unoka's tainted legacy of being effeminate and cowardly. Okonkwo works to build his wealth entirely on his own, as Unoka died a shameful death and left many unpaid debts. He is also obsessed with his masculinity and any slight compromise on this masculinity is swiftly destroyed. As a result, he is brusque with his three wives, children and neighbours. He is wealthy, courageous and powerful among the people in his village. He is a leader of his village and he has attained a position in his society for which he has strived all his life.

Okonkwo is selected by the elders to be the guardian of Ikemefuna, a boy taken by the

village as a peace settlement between Umofia and another village, after Ikemefuna's father killed an Umofia woman. When the oracle of Umofia eventually pronounces that the boy must be killed, Ezeudu the oldest man in the village warns Okonkwo that he should not have anything to do with the murder because it would be like killing his own child. But to avoid seeming weak and feminine to the other men of the village, Okonkwo participates actively in the murder of the boy.

Shortly after Ikemefuna's death, things begin to go wrong for Okonkwo. During a gun salute at Ezeudu's funeral, Okonkwo's gun explodes and kills Ezeudu's son, forcing him into exile for seven years.

His killing of one of the court's messengers and eventual suicide, to prevent being tried in the law court, has ruined his reputation and status. Committing suicide is a taboo among the Igbo.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/things_fall_apart).

Data Presentation and Analysis

Dialogue: Both authors employ dialogue as a stylistic tool to achieve their sole aim (of passing across a message). In *Black Boy*, Wright begins by engaging the Wright brothers in a dialogue to intimate the readership of the “cold” war between them, (P.1) much of the dialogue centres on the disagreements of the worldview, religion, and racial supremacy between the authors on the one hand and other dramatis personae in the novel. For example, the dialogue between him and Griggs – his classmates exposes the pettiness of the other blacks who “have resigned to fate”, accepting, without questioning, white supremacy.

Dialogue is a potent literary device to inform, educate or entertain. In *Things Fall Apart*, Achebe also uses dialogue to keep the readers well posted in burning issues. For example, the importance attached to virginity come to fore in the dialogue between Uchendu's eldest daughter, Njide and the bride. (P. 105).

Accents: Though this is essentially related to speech, the writers have craftily presented to the readers the manner of speaking among some of the characters. This is more poignantly projected in Wright's *Black Boy*. Frequent use of 'naw' instead of the standard 'no' (Pp. 3, 69, etc) permeates the entire work). The word 'sah' is also used frequently among the blacks instead of the standard 'sir'.

With the contact with the white people, Achebe introduced such words as cotma as the corrupt version of court men”, (P. 140), used among the Umuofians.

Use of Grammar

The beauty of an artistic work lies so much on its grammar. As noted earlier in this work, Achebe's use of the English Language to “suit” the Nigerian environment is highly commendable. The narration is somewhat simplistic, devoid of “technicalities”

of Standard English:

As the day wore on, his in-laws arrived from three surrounding villages, and each party brought with them a huge pot of palm wine. And there was eating and drinking till night, when Okonkwo's in-laws began to leave for their homes, (P. 31).

Further to this, in almost all the pages, that narration becomes simplified as one journeys into the minds of the characters as they dialogue and reveal their inner most desires and intents:

In Richard Wright Bight's Black Boy, the use of language is also very simple and orderly – as a historical account of day-to-day happenings to an innocent Black Boy in American South bedevilled by racism and economic depravity:

My mother became too ill to work and I began to do chores in the neighbourhood, my first job was carrying lunches to the men who worked in the round horse, for which I received twenty five cents a week. When the men did not finish their lunches, I would salvage what few crumbs remained... (p. 72).

Use of Registers and Semantic Transfer

The use of Registers is a mirrorial reflection of the writer's geographical milieu. What is more, this is further accentuated by elements of semantic transfer. Put succinctly, this carves special or unique identity on the literary work. In Achebe's Things Fall Apart, mention is made of Igbo names; Okonkwo, Unoka, Okoye, Obierika and places, Umuofia, Mbaino, Mbanta, etc.

Apart from these Achebe copiously makes references to Igbo concepts:

Ogene (Musical instruments)

Chi (Personal god)

Agadi-Nwayi (Old women)

Ndichie (Decision maker)

Ogbanje (A child born to die soon and probably return to die again)

Obi (Aman's personal hut)

Egwugwu (Masquerade).

Also worthy of note is the art of story-telling and the use of flash backs to reinvigorate the present situation. Consider the story of tortoise the greedy, (Pp. 77-78), the narration on Igbo process of adjudication, (p. 73).

Richard Wright's Black Boy also features elements of Americanisms. This is evident in the mention of names, states in the United States of America and other historical events that shaped Wright's childhood and adolescent life.

English/Expressions and Names

There is the use of the word “negro” all through the text and the use of “nigger” to depict racial discrimination. Mention is also made of 'Union Army', “dollars”, “nickel”, “sonofabitch”, etc.

Also worthy of note are expressions like:

“It ain't my brother, but it's me oh, Lord.

standing in need of prayer.

“As summer reared...” p. 136.

“All these white folks dressed so fine their assholes smell just like more”. p.162

More importantly, the writer employs combative words to describe his situation (and that of fellow blacks) in the south:

“True, I had manners, manners that had been drilled into me at home, at school, manners that had been kicked into me on the jobs; but anybody could have manners... (p. 187). [Emphasis ours].

And his use of rhetorical questions adds some potency to his literary prowess:

“Was he acting?” I could not believe in him. We were toying with the idea of death for no reason that stemmed from or non lives but because the men who ruled us had thrust the idea into our morals (p. 209).

For self-assessment

I trembled as I went back to the theatre. Anything might happen, but I was used to that, had I not felt the same sensation when I lay on the ground and the white men towered above me, telling that I was a lucky nigger? Had I not felt it when I walked home from the optical company that morning with my job gone? (p. 179)

Narration/Authorial Comments

The success or otherwise of any prose is dependent on the author's ability to effectively present his narration. This more often than not, is laced with authorial comments, which explicates certain motives and justifies certain occurrences. In *Things Fall Apart*, Achebe demonstrates excellent artistic prowess as he attempts to create a unique identity and place for Africans in the growing corpus of world literature. Seen essentially as a rejoinder to the “denigration of Africa in colonial novels such as Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (1894) and Joyce Cary's *Mister Johnson* (1939), Achebe masterly narration gives overt legitimacy and fresh insight to African perspectives. In what Msiska (2008) dubs “the revelatory technique of the stream of consciousness, Achebe presents a vivid account of the collision of African and European cultures”, in the lives of his people. Consider the following:

Ekwefi believed deep inside her that Ezinma had come to stay. She believed because it was that fate alone that gave her own life any kind of meaning. And this fate has been strengthened when in year or so ago a medicine

man had dug up Ezinma's iyi-uwa. Everyone knew that she would live because her bond with the world of ogbanje had been broken... p. 64

And, in get another narration, he intimates the readership with the concept of fate among the Ibo:

His life had been ruled by a great passion to become one of the lords of the clan. That had been his life spring, and he had all but achieved it. Then everything had been broken, he had been cast out of his clan like a fish into a dry, sandy beach, panting clearly his personal god or chi was not made for great things. A man could not rise beyond the destiny of his chi; the saying of the elders was not true that if a man said yea his chi also affirmed. Here was a man whose chi said nay despite his own affirmation... (p. 104).

In *Black Boy*, Wright dexterously crafts a web of artistic potency flavoured by powerful narration. He burrows into the mind of everyone around him. He questions the rationale behind the actions and reactions of people around him, including, of course, his own relatives. When confronted with the "harsh" religiosity of his household, he retorts:

Perhaps if I had caught my first sense of life from the church I would have been moved to complete acceptance, but the hymns and sermons of God come into my heart only long after my personality had been shaped or formed by uncharted conditions of life. I felt that I had in me a sense of living as deep as that which the church was trying to give me, and in the end I remained basically unaffected... p. 97.

Wright possesses great power of oratory, of conviction in his narration. Even when he had to steal to survive, the readership is convinced that the act of stealing (and, of course, lying) was the only option available to him. He becomes desperate in his submission:

Our presence awoke in them no sense of shame whatsoever, for we blacks were not considered human anyway, p. 177.

Conclusion

This study has investigated influence of a writer's society on his use of language in literary works. Using the prisms of sociolinguistic and text-linguistic stylistics, the paper analysed both Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Richard Wright's *Black Boy*. The inferences from the study are that the concept of mimesis or representation is aptly demonstrated or reflected in the writers' deployment of language, as deeply rooted in their cultural milieus; that the cultural elements and speech habits prevalent in a given society, give vent and shape to the literary work; that the linguistic processes of semantic extension, semantic shift and semantic transfer and coinages feature

prominently in the two novels under review; and that the stylistic elements, in all, add flavour and potency to the creative works.

A cursory look at our data may suggest an imbalance in the deployment of language in the two novels as one, essentially, deals with an autobiographical account of childhood and early adulthood life, while the other, purely, a creative work. However, what is clear is that even in the autobiography, Wright's greatest arsenal lies in the "style" of presentation, sometimes dramatizing his viewpoints. Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, purely a creative work enjoys robust deployment of stylistic elements that pride the novel as "one of the best" to come from Africa.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING, SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT AND EMOTIONAL SELF-EFFICACY AS PREDICTORS OF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG UNDERGRADUATES OF UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, NIGERIA****Author****AJUEYITSI, Ekhorugue Helen**

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Abstract:

Antisocial behaviour has become a serious concern among the undergraduates in Nigeria. Recent report has indicated that the incidence of antisocial behaviour is on the increase. Previous studies on psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy have shown that they are both connected with antisocial behaviours. However, the effect of psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy on antisocial behaviours has received less attention. Against this background, this study investigates the extent to which psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy predict the rate of antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin, Edo State, Nigeria. An Ex-post Factor survey design was adopted in this study. Using a multistage sampling technique, 239 undergraduates (142 males; 97 females) participated in the study. Age of the participants ranged from 17 to 40 years ($M = 36.45$ $SD = 10.70$). They responded to psychological wellbeing ($\alpha = .76$), social adjustment ($\alpha = .68$), emotional self-efficacy ($\alpha = .74$) and antisocial behaviours ($\alpha = .81$). The two hypotheses formulated were tested using a Multiple Regression and t-independent test Analysis. Results indicated that psychological wellbeing ($\beta = .42$ $p < .01$), social adjustment ($\beta = .39$, $p < .01$) and emotional self-efficacy ($\beta = .35$ $p < .01$) significantly predicted antisocial behaviour. This implies that undergraduates who experience high level psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy were less likely to engage in antisocial behaviour. The results on the joint influence further indicated that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy have jointly independent significant on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates ($F = 9.29$; $p < .01$). The study concluded that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy significantly predicted antisocial behaviours among undergraduates of University of Benin, Edo State. It is therefore recommended that psychological wellbeing should be enhanced among undergraduates in High Institutions in order to adequately reduce or manages antisocial behaviour at the face of social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy.

Keywords: *Psychological wellbeing, social adjustment emotional self-efficacy, antisocial behaviours, and undergraduates*

Introduction

The school environment is organized to shape a student's learning behaviour. However, one of the problems associated with schooling is antisocial behaviour which is a source of concern to the parents and the school authority. Antisocial behaviour refers to a broad category of act that is defined by lack of adherence to the social norms and standards that allow members of a society to co-exist peacefully (Kayne, 2012). Antisocial behaviour is also defined as an action that harms others, violate societal norms, and/or infringe on the personal or property rights of others (Burt & Donnellan, 2009). The conceptual definition proposed in this study can be referred to as an inability to conform to the social norms that ordinarily govern many aspect of a person's behaviour. Antisocial behaviour is a major problem in high institution in Nigeria and could progress to entrenched criminal behaviour in adulthood (Adebule, 2012). Over the years, antisocial behaviour seems to have assumed gargantuan dimensions (Ugwu, 2011). Most familiar examples of non-conformity are negative cases of rule breaking (such as stealing from a convenience store, or lying), physical aggression (such as getting into physical fights or bullying) and social aggression (such as yelling at others or spreading rumour) (Burt & Donnellan, 2009).

The researcher observed that incidences of petty stealing, indecent dressing, examination malpractices, cultism, gambling, internet fraud, bullying, drug abuse, aggressiveness, assaulting others, rape, reckless driving, drug and alcohol abuse have tremendously increased in the universities in recent years (Tobias et al., 2013; Okorodudu, 2010). There are many university students in Nigeria that are kept in custody for stealing of mobile phones, internet fraud, robberies and other petty crimes (Saleem, 2011; Siegel & Welsh, 2014). Antisocial behaviour is a threat to the educational, economic, political and social security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment in the country (Ngosi, 2012); university students who engage in antisocial behaviour are being distracted from their academic work which leads to poor academic performance considerably reducing their educational opportunities because not being able to concentrate on their studies has increased the rate of examination malpractice thereby killing the confidence of many Nigeria university students from competing with students from other countries (Ngosi, 2012) and also reducing employment opportunities, due to the lack of concentration, half-baked graduates are being produced into the labour market in Nigeria thereby producing unemployable graduates (Ngosi, 2012; Abosede, 2012).

Antisocial behaviour disrupt and reduces the quality of life of individuals and can damage the ability of the country to promote development (Sawyer, Borduin, & Dopp, 2015) because if many of the youths of today (particularly university students) that are expected to be the leaders of tomorrow are indulging and are so much engrossed in antisocial behaviour, they can never be good leaders that will bring development into this great country. Also victims of anti-social behaviour can become frightened of leaving their homes to school and even feel unsafe when in their homes (Braet, Meerschaert, Merlevede, Bosmans, Leeuwen, De-Mey, 2009). Furthermore, individuals who exhibit antisocial behaviour are more prone to alcoholism, smoking and drug addiction which could damage some organs in their body leading to an

untimely death (Charu, Meenakshi, Sanjay, & Bipin 2010; Chikere & Mayowa, 2011).

Psychological wellbeing is of the variables that could predict antisocial behaviour among undergraduates. Psychological wellbeing represents the state of individuals whose lives are going well (Kim, Kendall, & Webb, 2015). It also represents a combination of feeling good and functioning effectively (Schmitt, Branscombe, Postmes, & Garcia, 2014). Psychological wellbeing is compromised by extreme or enduring negative emotions which interfere with everyday functioning (Huppert, 2009). Psychological wellbeing is a combination of having positive emotions, actively engaging in aspects of life, having good social relationships, finding meaning in life and a sense of accomplishment (Seligman 2011); it appears to have a strong correlation with a relatively new term that is currently emerging in literature. PWB includes esteem, positive affect, daily activities, satisfaction, absence of suicidal ideas, personal control, social support, absence of tension, and general efficiency (Bhogle & Prakash, 2015).

Another variable that could influence antisocial behaviour among undergraduates is social adjustment. The term adjustment is used when a person is involved in a considerable and continuous process to express his/her talents and in reacting to the environment and at the same time in effectively changing it (c). On the other hand, the term refers to a state of complete equilibrium between organism and environment (Pham, 2016). This is a process that enables individuals to understand and predict the other individuals' behaviour, to control their behaviour, and to regulate their social interactions (Przybylski, 2016, Yang, 2018). In this regard, Dehghanpour and Masihie (2018) have shown that the amount of using virtual networks has a positive and significant relationship with social adjustment and affection control.

Emotional self-efficacy is another variable that could influence an undergraduate level of antisocial behaviour. Although the concept of self-efficacy is not new, a specific aspect of self-efficacy, emotional self-efficacy (ESE), has emerged in explaining why some individuals are better able to cope with aversive life events. ESE is defined as the ability to avoid negative emotions or the ability to re-establish ones usual emotional state. ESE is hypothesized to be a precursor of emotion regulation, or the capacity to engage in appropriate behaviours in response to specific environmental situations. Common applications of ESE include a person's belief in their abilities to avoid negative emotional states and to restore normal emotional states (eg, self-talk to regain a positive attitude, calming yourself once scared or anxious). As such, recent research suggests that adolescents with increased ESE are less likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour, suicide ideation, and substance use, and are more likely to engage in health promoting behaviours such as physical activity. Noteworthy from these studies were the significant observed differences by race and sex, suggesting that ESE may be situation-specific to girls and boys and race dependent on the behaviour. Due to the lack of emotional responsiveness and love from their caretakers, children raised by uninvolved parents may have difficulty forming attachments later in life (Barati, 2017; Khodayari & Ghobari, 200;

Koohsali, 2008).

The complete lack of boundaries in the home makes it difficult to learn appropriate behaviours and limits in school and other social situations, which could make it more likely for children with uninvolved parents to behave antisocially (Hoeve, Dubas, Gerris, Van der Laan, & Smeenk, 2011). Emotional disposition of antisocial behaviours show how they feel and perceive their environment. A student who is sad emotionally due to deprivation and rejection would easily vent his anger on peers at the slightest provocation. It would also be difficult for him to concentrate on his studies during the teaching and learning process. Students who are not emotionally stable are not courageous enough to express themselves among their peers. Osarenren (2005) observed that the emotional disposition of an individual plays a significant role in his relationship.

Gender plays a significant role in the rate of antisocial behaviour as boys and girls are involved as some of the students do not see the need for regular school attendance. In the United States of America the male students are considered less likely to graduate than the females and the gap is 14% between male and females among African American students (Monrad, 2007). However, Gesinde (2004) stated that boys at any level of education exhibit antisocial behaviour more than the girls. In their submission, Nwankwo and Onyali's (2011) survey on antisocial behaviour and dropping out of school revealed that in Nigeria, both gender exhibit similarities on antisocial behaviour rate. It is therefore obvious that male and female students engage in antisocial behaviour in that they share common interest.

Students are involved in antisocial behaviour because they are lacking Psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy. The same students avoid the demands of schooling and stay away from school to engage in antisocial activities. The need for supervising violent prone peers by adult authority in structured school activities to avoid delinquent life style for students becomes imperative. Robinson and Rogstad (2012) stated that girls and boys engage in antisocial behaviour in the first two years of secondary school. Animashaun (2009) however, argued that boys are more aggressive than girls if caught fighting or bullying. Unfortunately, some of the girls become victims of rape, prostitution and unwanted pregnancy due to the lack of psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy. Antisocial behaviours is a major factor among undergraduates thus, must be addressed to improve the standard of living and security of lives. In practise, this study will improve the understanding and ways of preventing antisocial behaviour tendencies among undergraduates in Nigeria. Such information will aid in understanding of the relationship between antisocial behaviour, parents parenting style and children personalities which will help in developing prevention and interventions aimed at modifying psychological wellbeing, social adjustment, emotional self-efficacy and reducing antisocial behaviour among students.

Statement of the Problem

Antisocial behaviour has been one of the top problems confronting the nation today especially among the undergraduates. Antisocial behaviour affect 5%-10% of university students in western countries and are linked to future adult crime, drug abuse, alcohol misuse, unemployment, poor physical health and mental disorders. Also several literatures on antisocial behaviour have indicated the need for empirical study to be conducted in a variety of population (Ugwu, 2011). Therefore, this study will attempt to shed more light and to bridge the gap by investigating the influencing roles of psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy in a bid to provide insight into antisocial behaviour. However, antisocial behaviours could be better reduced through the use of social learning and cognitive behaviour therapies. The main purpose of this study is to examine how psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy will have significant independent and joint influence on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin.

Literature Review

Psychological wellbeing, social adjustment, emotional self-efficacy and antisocial behaviour

Mavundla, Toth & Mphelane, (2018), determined the rate at which psychological wellbeing of the individual person influence their antisocial behaviour in their immediately environment and the result of their findings indicated that that an individual who reported increased levels of psychological wellbeing, tent to engaged in less antisocial behaviour. However, the findings further indicated that psychological wellbeing was associated with a significantly reduced likelihood of antisocial behaviour-s. Similarly, Okafor, Madu, and Olisemetua, (2014) also, affirmed that with their studies that social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy significantly predict antisocial behaviour. Their results indicated that, good social adjustment was significantly related with higher low level of antisocial behaviours. However, those who reported high levels of emotional self-efficacy were significantly less likely to report any form of antisocial behaviours. Meanwhile, undergraduates who scored significantly high score on the measure of self-concept clarity scored significantly lower on the measure of relapse. Thus, indicating an inverse relationship. Okafor and his colleagues explained that individuals with significantly increased levels of emotional self-efficacy tend to engage in behaviours that help them in understanding and managing their environmental situation.

Gesinde (2004) examined the significant gender difference on antisocial behaviour among adults African society. The result of his studies indicated that the boys at any

level of education exhibit antisocial behaviour more than the girls. In their submission, Nwankwo and Onyali's (2011) survey on antisocial behaviour and dropping out of school revealed that in Nigeria, both gender exhibit similarities on antisocial behaviour rate. The findings concluded that those male and female students engage in antisocial behaviour in that they share common interest. The present study builds on the social learning theory (Bandura, 1971), which proposes that new behaviours can be acquired by observing and imitating others. It stated further that learning is a cognitive process that takes place in a social context and can occur purely through observation or direct instruction, even in the absence of direct reinforcement. In addition to the observation of behaviour, learning also occurs through the observation of rewards and punishments. When a particular behaviour is rewarded regularly, it will most likely persist; conversely, if a particular behaviour is constantly punished, it will most likely desist. Social Learning Theory also suggests that individuals rely on others for information about themselves, their world, and the way in which they should behave. Individuals observe the behaviours of others as well as the outcomes of their actions and expect to obtain similar results if they imitate them. However, people are more likely to attend to and imitate these behaviours if the person modelling them has an admired status. Based on the trend of literature, it was hypothesized that:

- i. Psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy will have significant independent and joint influence on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin.
- ii. Male undergraduate will report significantly higher tendency to exhibited antisocial behaviour than female among undergraduates of University of Benin.

Methods

Design and Participants

An Ex-post Factor survey design was used for the study. The reason is that, undergraduates who engaged in antisocial behaviours across different levels constituted the participants in the study. The dependent variable is antisocial behaviours while the predictor variables are psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy. A multistage of sampling technique was used in selecting the sample a total of two hundred and twenty nine (239) undergraduates for the study. The sampling method is a combination of purposive, proportionate and accidental sampling techniques was used to select the two hundred while 65 (27.2%) were and twenty nine (239) undergraduates of University of Benin, Edo State who participated in this study. The participants comprised of 142 (59.4%) males and 97 (40.6%) females. The participants age ranged from 17-40 (Mean=36.45, SD=10.70). Finally, the religion also varies; 159 (66.5%) were Christiane Islam and others 15

(6.3%) respectively.

Instruments

Psychological Wellbeing Scale (PWS): Psychological Well-being was measure using a Psychological well-being scale developed by Berkman (1971), the scale was designed to measure how happy individual are. It has 18 items rated on 7-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strong agree (7). The sample items includes; "I like most parts of my personality", "the demands of everyday life often get me down" and "I am good at managing the responsibility of daily life" Berkman, (1971) provided the original psychometrics for American sample while Durojaiye, (1991) provided the properties for Nigerian samples. Berkman, (1971) obtained a Reliability co-efficient alpha of .73 for a sample of 1,275 health workers while the Berkman, (1971) also obtained construct validity co-efficient of .64. High score indicate high levels of psychological wellbeing while low score on the scale is an indication of low level of psychological wellbeing.

California Compatibility Questionnaire (CCP): Social adjustment level of undergraduates was measured using California Compatibility Questionnaire developed by Thorpe, Clark and Tiegs, (1953). The measure contained 31-items with ranging from "strongly disagree to strongly agree. It has two poles of personal adjustment and social adjustment. "Social adjustment" was used in this study to measures the following aspects which includes: social frameworks, social skills, antisocial interests, school relationships, family relationships, and social relationships. Content and construct validity were confirmed by Khodayari-Fard (2002) and reliability was obtained 0.85 for social frameworks, 0.80 for social skills, 0.78 for antisocial interests, and 0.74 for school relationships, 0.80 for family relationships, 0.83 for social relationships and 0.89 for the total.

Emotional Self-Efficacy Scale (ESES): Emotional self-efficacy of undergraduates who participated in the study was measure using (ESES) developed by Muris (2001). The measured contained 7-items with responses on a 5-Point Likert-type scale with the following response options: (1) not at all, (2) a little bit, (3) pretty well, (4) well, (5) very well. The sample items includes; "How well do you succeed at cheering yourself up when an unpleasant event has happened;" "How well do you succeed in becoming calm again when you are very scared;" "How well can you prevent becoming nervous;" "How well can you control your feelings;" "How well can you give yourself a pep-talk when you feel low;" "How well do you succeed in suppressing unpleasant thoughts;" and "How well do you succeed in not worrying about things that might happen?".

Valois, Zullig and Kammermann (2013) demonstrated the validity and the reliability of the scale with adolescents in the United States. Internal consistency estimates for the scale in this investigation were acceptable at 0.85.

Antisocial Behaviour Questionnaire (STAB): antisocial behaviour of undergraduates was measure using antisocial behaviour questionnaire developed by Burt et al., (2009). The measure contained 32-items of subtypes with responses rate ranging from 5-Point Likert Scale (1=never, 2=rarely, 3=sometimes, 4=regularly and 5=nearly all the time), which measures rule breaking (11 items, sample item include "I shoplifted things"), physical aggression (10 items; sample item include "I felt like hitting people"), and social aggression (11 items; sample item include "I tried to hurt someone's feelings"). The test-retest coefficient of reliability of physical aggression dimension is .83 to .91; social aggression dimension is .84 to 90 and for rule breaking is .78 to 87. Items were scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating more frequent antisocial behaviour and lower scores indicating less frequent antisocial behaviour.

Administration of Instruments

Permission to conduct the study was obtained from relevant school management after a clear explanation of the purpose of the study had been made. The instrument was administered on the participants following the approval granted by relevant authorities. The participants were assured of the confidentiality of their responses. They were also told not to write their names in order to further protect their responses. A total number of two hundred and thirty nine (239) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved from a total of two hundred fifty (250) copies that were distributed to the participants. A response of 96% was gotten from the participants.

Data Analysis

In order to determine the extent and direction of associations among the study variables, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis was conducted. A multiple regression analysis was used to test the formulated hypothesis 1 and independent t-test analysis was used to test the formulated hypothesis 2. The analysis was carried out using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version. 20).

Results

Table 4.1:

Correlation Matrix Showing the Relationship Mean, Standard Deviation and the Relationship among the Study Variables

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Age	1						
2. Gender	.13	1					
3. Religion	.19**	.36**					
4. Psychological Wellbeing	.33**	.54**	.54**	1			
5. Social Adjustment	-.26**	-.31**	-.26**	-.26**	1		
6. Emotional Self-Efficacy	-.15*	-.00	-.12	-.03	-.03	1	
7. Antisocial Behaviour	-.19*	-.24**	.31**	-.47**	.36**	.43**	1
Mean	36.45	-	-	-	171.46	141.77	114.24
SD	10.70	-	-	-	35.88	25.10	30.54

** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$, $N=232$;

Results in Table 4.1 indicated that prison age had a significant negatively relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=-.19, p<.05$], this implying that the age of an undergraduates had an impact on their level of antisocial behaviour. Gender had a relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=-.24, p<.01$], this implying that the gender difference (male and female) had an impact on their level of antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin. Similarly religion also had a significant negative relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=.31, p<.01$], this implying that undergraduates religion level had significant impact on their antisocial behaviour. Also, psychological wellbeing had significant relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=.47, p<.01$], this implying that psychological wellbeing of an undergraduate had a significant positive impact on their level of antisocial behaviour. Social adjustment had a significant positive relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=.36, p<.01$], this implying that social adjustment of an undergraduates had a significant positive impact on their level of antisocial behaviour. Finally, emotional self-efficacy had a significant positive relationship with antisocial behaviour [$r=.37, p<.01$], this implying that emotional self-efficacy of an undergraduates significantly contributed to their level of antisocial behaviour respectively.

Table 4.2:

Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis Showing the Influence of Psychological Wellbeing, Social Adjustment and Emotional Self-Efficacy on Antisocial Behaviour

Variables	β	t	R	R ²	df	F
1. Psychological Wellbeing	.42	5.17				
2. Social Adjustment	.39	4.23	.72	.44	3,239	65.29**
3. Emotional Self-Efficacy	.35	4.11				

** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$, $N = 236$

The result in Table 4.2 indicated that psychological wellbeing significantly predicted antisocial behaviour among undergraduates ($\beta = .42$ $p < .01$). This implies that undergraduates who experience high level of psychological wellbeing have the tendency to exhibit lower level of antisocial behaviour. Social adjustment significantly predicted antisocial behaviour among undergraduates ($\beta = .39$ $p < .01$). This signified that undergraduates who score high on social adjustment have the lower tendency on antisocial behaviour. Similarly, Emotional self-efficacy significantly predicted antisocial behaviour among undergraduates ($\beta = .35$ $p < .01$). This signified that the higher the emotional self-efficacy of undergraduates the lower their level of antisocial behaviour tents to be. Lastly, psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy jointly and independently significantly predicted antisocial behaviour among undergraduates ($F = 65.29$; $p < .01$). The three variables (psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy) accounted for 44% ($R^2 = .44$) variance in antisocial behaviour. With these results, hypothesis 4 which stated that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy will have significant independent joint contribution on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin in Edo State, Ondo State was confirmed and therefor accepted.

Table: 3:

Summary of Independent T-test showing the difference of gender on Antisocial Behaviours

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	t	p
Antisocial Behaviours	Male	142	101.40	29.49	.38	1.13	<0.05
	Female	97	95.87	26.67			

** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$, $N = 238$

Results in the table 3 showed that gender had no significant difference on undergraduates antisocial behaviours [$t(238) = 1.13, p < 0.05$], such that male undergraduates of University of Benin ($M = 95.87; SD = 29.49$) do not have the same level of antisocial behaviours as female undergraduates of University of Benin ($M = 101.40; SD = 26.67$). This implies that male and female undergraduates of University of Benin have different level of antisocial behaviour, that is discretionary, and directly recognized by the formal behaviour and it will have effect on their functioning mental ability. Therefore, hypothesis 2 which stated that male undergraduates of University of Benin will report significantly higher tendency to antisocial behaviours than female undergraduates of University of Benin was confirmed and therefor accepted.

Discussion

The overall result shows that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy have significant joint contribution on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin in Edo State, therefore the hypothesis which stated that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy will have significant joint contribution on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates. The result was affirmed by the findings of (Mavundla, Toth & Mphelane, 2018; Okafor, Madu, and Olisemetua, 2014), the studies revealed that majority of undergraduates who reported increased levels of psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy exhibit less reduction tendency to antisocial behaviours. However, the findings further indicated that psychological wellbeing was associated with a significantly reduced likelihood of antisocial behaviours. Furthermore, good social adjustment was significantly related with higher low level of antisocial behaviours. However, those who reported high levels of emotional self-efficacy were significantly less likely to report any form of antisocial behaviours. Meanwhile, undergraduates who scored significantly high score on the measure of self-concept clarity scored significantly lower on the measure of relapse. Thus, indicating an inverse relationship. Okafor and his colleagues, explained that individuals with significantly increased levels of emotional self-efficacy tend to engage in behaviours that help them in understanding and managing their environmental situation, however, scientific literature have not suggested a direct causality, but there seems to be an increasing number of research scholars who think that there is definitely a link between different form of antisocial behaviour.

On the final note, hypotheses two which state stated that there is significant gender difference on antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin. This is in line with the finding of studies of Gesinde (2004) the studies indicated that boys at any level of education exhibit antisocial behaviour more than the girls. In their submission, Nwankwo and Onyali's (2011) survey on antisocial behaviour and dropping out of school revealed that in Nigeria, both gender exhibit similarities on antisocial behaviour rate. It is therefore obvious that male and female students engage in antisocial behaviour in that they share common interest.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that psychological wellbeing, social adjustment and emotional self-efficacy jointly and independently significantly predicted antisocial behaviour among undergraduates of University of Benin, Edo State, which signified that undergraduates of University of Benin who are score on psychological wellbeing, have good definition and social adjustment and who have a good traits on emotional self-efficacy will exhibit low level of antisocial behaviour.

Recommendations

In the light of the serious consequences of all form of abuse especially when carried out in the education system, the following recommendations are presented to assist educators and other professionals in the field to be competent and effective helpers in dealing with undergraduates' antisocial behaviours. Counsellors should therefore commence the development of diagnostic tools and therapeutic strategies of emotional maltreatment at home with a view to protect the self-concept of the adolescents. Further research is also needed to better understand the causal direction of the associations between emotional maltreatment and self-concept of adolescents out of school. The Nigeria government through the Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts in Nigeria Institutions should provide a favourable and conducive learning environment in order to reduce the rate of antisocial behaviour among male and female undergraduates partner. Further reaserches are to be carried out on other factors that can correlate or reduced all forms of antisocial behaviour among undergraduates. In spite of the huge contribution of this study to the body of literature and social settings/institution, there are some limitations that give way for further studies in the area of antisocial behaviours among undergraduates in Higher Institutions.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING INTENSITY AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ORIENTATION AMONG SMES IN OYO AND OSUN STATE

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Abstract:

The Nigerian business environment has bedeviled with myriads of problems which accompanied with a lot of opportunities and threats. Consequently, the study examined the relationship between environmental scanning intensity and entrepreneurial orientation among SMSs in Oyo and Osun State. Data were gathered from distribution of questionnaire to SMEs owners in both states to elicit information relevant to the study. The study employed the use descriptive and inferential statistics. The result of the finding showed that there is positive and strong correlation between environmental scanning intensity and entrepreneurial orientation in both Oyo and Osun States. More so, it was also deduced that environmental scanning intensity also had a positive and significant impact on entrepreneurial orientation in both states under review. The study recommends that there should be prioritization of environmental scanning intensity in entrepreneurial orientation in both states.

Keywords: *Environmental Scanning Intensity, Entrepreneurial Orientation, SMEs, Non Parametetic Statistics.*

Introduction

The Nigerian business environment is characterized by turbulence, rapidity of change, complexity and hostility which carry along with it a lot of opportunities and threats. The fact that the concept of environmental scanning does not have a universal definition, it goes without saying that various researchers recognize environmental scanning as an important strategic tool for achieving organizational

performance and survival. The various definitions also emphasize the need for organizations to be conscious of the trends, opportunities and threats in their business environments and develop appropriate strategies to be able to harness existing or emerging opportunities in their environment.

Over the years SMEs have been one of the major drivers of Nigerian economy contributing between 50 to 60 percent to the GDP of the country within the last two decades on the average (CBN,2019).However, in recent times it appears the glory days of the SMEs are over in Nigeria considering the dwindling nature of the growth of the sector. According to CBN,(2018) the contributions of the SMEs in Nigeria to the GDP fell from to 59.1%in 2017 to 57.8% in2018.This figure fell further in 2019 to 48%. All these data are indications that things are not going on well with the sector which supposed to be the engine room of grassroots development in Nigeria.

Studies have identified some myriads of problems that are responsible for the slow growth of the SMEs in Nigeria especially in Osun and Oyo State. Some of the critical issues which have since received researchers' attention are issues of- i. poor access to finance, ii. lack of focus, iii. poor infrastructure, iv. technological problem, v. social problem, vi. insecurity - Banditry, Kidnapping, Boko Haram Insurgence Armed Robbery and a host of others, vii. competition, viii. foreign exchange problem, ix. inflation, x. high bank rate, xi. multiple taxation, xii. inconsistency in government policies, xiii. poor managerial skills, xiv. inadequate research and xv. development, among others (Onugu,2005; Ihua 2009; Obiwuru, Oluwalaiye & Okwu,2011; Ogundele,Akingbade, Elegunde & Olugbenga, 2012; Azeez,2013; Ijir & Gbegi,2015).Unfortunately,COVID-19 reared its ugly head in the world since year 2020 and this has badly affected the business environment worldwide and Nigeria is badly hit. This has made so many businesses to fold up and eventually loss of jobs to a whole lot of people.

Generally, there is a dearth of empirical studies on environmental scanning intensity and entrepreneurial orientation of SMEs in Nigeria. Most scholars merely focus their attention on challenges such as poor access to finance, poor infrastructure, technological problem, foreign exchange problem, competition, lack of focus, poor managerial skills among other factors militating against the performance of SMEs in Nigeria (Ihua, 2006; Obiwuru, Oluwalaiye & Okwu,2011; Azeez,2013; Ijir &

Gbegi,2015). Little or no attention has been focused on environmental scanning intensity as one of the internal business processes that promote entrepreneurial orientation of SMEs.

Objective: Consequently, this study seeks to examine the influence of environmental scanning intensity on entrepreneurial orientation among small scale enterprises in Osun and Oyo states in Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Literature

The Resource Dependence Theory (RDT)

The resource dependence theory (RDT) is a theory of organization which seeks to explain organization and inter organizational behavior in terms of those critical resources which an organization must possess in order to survive and function (Johnson,1995). Explaining the theory further, he discloses that the resource dependence argument suggests that a given organization will respond to and become dependent on organizations or entities in its environments that control resources which are critical to its operation and over which it has limited control. Hillman, Withers & Collins (2009) affirm that the resource dependency theory has been used across the research arena to explain how organizations reduce environmental dependency and uncertainty. The Resource Dependency theory is primarily concerned with the way in which the external resources of organizations affect the behavior of the organizations. The proponents of the theory are Pfeffer & Salancik (1978). This theory has many assumptions. One of the assumptions is that in an organization, the manager attempts to ensure the organizational survival. According to Pfeffer & Salancik (1978), organizational ability to acquire and maintain resources is the survival of an organization as propounded by RDT. Other assumptions are organization depends on resources and the resources are ultimately derived from an organization's environment and the environment to a large extent as other organizations.

2.2 Empirical literature on environmental scanning

Bayode, Babatunde and Adebisi (2012) conducted a research on the impact of strategic environmental scanning on organization performance in a competitive

environment by studying Nestle Nigeria Plc. and Cadbury Nigeria Plc. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data which were analyzed and interpreted with regression and coefficient of correlation method of analysis. The findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between strategic environmental scanning and organization performance; the coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.297 showing that 30 percent of the variation or change in organization performance was caused by variation in strategic environmental scanning. The findings also showed that the external environmental forces have positive impact on organizational performance. The coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.30 implying that 30 percent of the variation or change in organization productivity was caused by variation in external environmental factors.

Onodugo and Ewurum (2013) carried out a research on environmental scanning. The paper assessed the place of environmental scanning as a means of business survival and competitiveness in Nigeria. The findings generally revealed that environmental scanning is critical to business survival not only in Nigeria but in other parts of the world. Nigeria's specific data reveal that educational level of managers significantly impact on their tendency to scan the business environment. The findings also revealed that informal sources are more used to gather data from the environment than formal sources and those customers and competitors are the most unpredictable and yet, the most attended factors of the environment.

Ojo (2008) in his study, sought to establish whether the knowledge of an organization's environment and its scanning has any relationship with corporate performance. The findings showed that environmental scanning firms outperform non-scanning firms. The findings also showed that information derived from environmental scanning was increasingly being used to drive the strategic management process. The third finding showed that managers have significant knowledge of their environment. Finally, the finding revealed that the fold up of some banks in the Nigerian banking industry was due to their inefficiencies in scanning its environment for threats and opportunities and that the scanning intensity in each sector was based on the level of perceived strategic uncertainty in each of these sectors.

Gathenya (2012) investigated the relationship between environmental scanning intensity and performance of Women-led SMEs in Kenya. The result of the

investigation, however, revealed that environmental scanning had no significant effect on the performance of Women-led SMEs in Kenya. A study was also conducted in North eastern Ohio in the United States of America by Kroeger (2007) examining the relationship between environmental scanning and performance of small businesses in Ohio. The result of the study, however, revealed a negative relationship between environmental scanning intensity and firm performance.

Alese and Alimi (2014) investigated the extent to which small and medium businesses in Nigeria make use of strategic management tools for their development. The result of the investigation showed that most SMEs were not using all strategic management tools while some only adopted limited strategic management tools. The finding also showed that the majority of the SMEs did not have flexible strategic mechanism in place thus making it difficult for them to be able to respond effectively to environmental changes.

Kroeger (2007) on small businesses in Northeastern Ohio examined the relationship among a firm's environmental scanning intensity, locus of planning; planning flexibility and entrepreneurial orientation and firm performance with external environment as a moderating variable also has similar result to that of Gathenya (2012). This, in effect, implies that by the two studies, environmental scanning intensity is not a predictor of firm performance. This further implies that organization does not need to engage in environmental scanning intensity before achieving firm's performance.

In the same vein, Barringer and Bluedorn (1999); Entrialgo et al., (2000) and the latter findings of Boru (2014); Kuye (2008); Li et al., (2006); Li et al., (2008); Murimbika, (2012), Murimbika and Urban, (2013) and 2014) whose results showed positive relationship between the three strategic management sub-variables and corporate entrepreneurship/entrepreneurial orientation. Environmental uncertainty was shown to have an effect on the relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and performance.

Kemelgor (2002), in a study on comparative analysis of corporate entrepreneurial orientation between selected firms in the Netherlands and the USA, examined how a firm's strategic management practices influence the entrepreneurial behavior when

compared to international competitors. The findings of the study show significant differences between Netherlands firms and the USA competitors in entrepreneurial orientation. The outcome also supports these comparative differences along three key dimensions of strategic management as they relate to corporate entrepreneurship. The final set of data shows a relationship between corporate entrepreneurship and three measures of firms' performance. The results also reveal the key role that culture may play in facilitating corporate entrepreneurship and adaptable organizational practices.

Ejdys (2016) carried out a study on entrepreneurial orientation vs. innovativeness of small and medium-size enterprises in the Podlaske Region. The research results showed that pro-activeness has a significant positive total effect on improving innovativeness. The findings suggest, in contrast to the strategic orientation literature, that risk taking deters enterprises from organizational innovation. The results confirmed the significantly higher impact of the risk taking as an intermediate variable on the innovation through the mediator of proactivity. This work examined the relations between entrepreneurial orientation and innovativeness, thus contributes to the strategic orientation literature.

3.0 Methodology

Research Design

This research is based on survey of SMEs in the south west using both Osun and Oyo States as a case study. The data are collected with the use of questionnaire and they are analyzed using quantitative methods. Population of the Study

The target population for this study consists of all SMEs in Osun and Oyo States of Nigeria. The choice of Osun and Oyo States was influenced by the strategic importance of SMEs to their economies and the need to revitalize the sub-sector for better performance and enhanced contribution to the GDP of both states. In both states there are 2273 for Osun State and 1,864,954 SMEs for Oyo State that are registered with SMEDAN. The implication is that a total number of 1867227 SMEs form the population for this study and they are the focus of this research. However, since it is not possible to cover all the SMEs, samples are selected from the population for the purpose of this survey.

Sample and sampling techniques

Kotler (2012) defines sample frame as a list of individuals in the population from which a sample is selected. The sample frame for this study comprises the SMEs in the 30 local governments including the area office at Modakeke-lfe in Osun State and the 33 local government in Oyo State of Nigeria. Two approaches - namely multistage and simple random sampling techniques were adopted for the study.

Sample size determination using multistage sampling technique

The study employed multi-stage sampling technique. At the first stage, Osun State was stratified into six (6) while Oyo State was stratified into five (5) based on the state administrative zones, while each of the zone formed a stratum. In each stratum (zone), all the SMEs were numbered. These numbers were written on separate slips of paper of equal size. The slips were folded and put in a plastic bowl. After thorough reshuffling, the researcher picked the slips of paper one after the other. Those numbered slips picked correspond with the list of the participating SMEs in this study.

Sample size determination using random sampling technique

Proportional random sampling technique was used in determining the number of SMEs that were represented in all the strata. This is calculated as follows:

In Osun state, the total population of SMEs as at 2019 was Two thousand, two hundred and seventy three (2,273)(National MSME Survey Report, 2019),while the total population of SMEs in Oyo State is One million, eight hundred and sixty four thousand nine hundred and fifty four(1,864,954).

Simple random sampling technique using the Taro Yamane method was adopted to select the sample size for the numbers of SMEs the study covered in the survey. The calculation is done through the following

Where n is the sample size, N is the population. According to Smith (2013) and Oribhabor & Anyawu (2019), e is the error margin usually 0.05 is used.

After the calculation a total of 340 SMEs were chosen as sample from Osun State while a total of 400 SMEs were chosen as sample for Oyo State. The questionnaires

were randomly distributed as explained above using the stratified approach of sampling technique with reference to the population of SMEs in various zones of the states discussed above.

Methods of Data Collection

This study adopts primary source of data based on the design of this study. After assessing various research questions and hypotheses, a well-structured questionnaire (research instrument) is developed to obtain data from SMEs owner managers in Osun and Oyo States on the strategic management practices and entrepreneurial orientation in their operations.

Data Collection Instrument

A well-structured questionnaire validated with psychometric properties was used for data collection in this study. The questionnaire as developed on strategic management practices and corporate entrepreneurship by Barringer and Bluedorn (1999) is adapted for this study.

The questionnaire is divided into three sections. Section A contains questions on socio-demographic characteristics about the respondents. These include gender, age, years of operation, number of employees and highest qualification. Section B contains questions on strategic management practices of environmental scanning intensity, strategic planning flexibility, locus of planning, planning horizon and performance control attributes. Section C contains questions on innovativeness, pro-activeness and risk-taking which are the dimensions of entrepreneurial orientation. Research Instrument Scoring Apart from Section A, other sections have close ended questions on variable by variable using a five- point Likert rating scale ranging from Very high extent (5), High extent (4), Moderate extent (3), Low extent (2) and Very low extent (1). Each respondent was asked to indicate his or her level of agreement with the statements relating to the variables. Likert rating scale has been widely used by researchers analyzing issues on strategic management and entrepreneurship (Barringer & Bluedorn, 1999; Murimbika, 2012). The questions are adapted from a similar study carried out by Barringer and Bluedorn (1999).

Validity of the Research Instrument

Bryman and Bell (2011) defined validity as the fact that “a measure of a concept really

measures concept". Validity attests to whether an instrument measures what it is supposed to and justified by the evidence. Essentially, it entails the extent to which an instrument actually measures the aspects that it was intended to measure.

To determine the content and construct validity, the questionnaire was subjected to factor analysis. Particularly the principal component method (PPC) was adopted to select the representative questions that are used for the analysis. Apart from the factor analysis the validity test of Kaiser-Meyer Olkin (KMO) value of 70 percent and Bartlett test of Sphericity with p-value less than 0 was applied. This further ensured good quality of the questionnaire.

Reliability of the Research Instrument

Reliability is the consistency of a measure of a concept (Bryman & Bell, 2011). It is linked to the stability of the data. Asika (1991) explains that reliability of research instrument concerns the extent to which the instrument yields the same results on repeated trials. The reliability index for the Strategic Management Practices and Entrepreneurial Orientation of Small and Medium Enterprises Questionnaire are calculated using the Chronbarch alpha test and any question with less than 0.7 reliability index are reconstructed or replaced.

Method of data analysis

This aspect of the thesis discussed the techniques of analysis adopted in the study. However, the models to be estimated are first discussed.

Model Specifications From the literature, it is clear that Entrepreneurial Orientation is the dependent variable while Environmental Scanning Intensity is the independent variable. However, leveraging on the theoretical and empirical literatures, innovativeness, pro-activeness and risk-taking are proxies for entrepreneurial orientation. Based on the work of (Johnson 2010), EO index is computed from the three variables and the models estimated is explicitly stated in equation 3.1 $EO_i = f(ESI_i); \dots \dots \dots$

(3.1) Where EO is entrepreneurial orientation and ESI is Environmental Scanning Intensity while i represents Oyo and Osun States.

In Linear format the model is expressed as follows:

.(3.2)

Where EO is entrepreneurial orientation, ESI is Environmental Scanning Intensity, i represents Osun and Oyo States and μ_i is the error term for the model α_i (where i is from 0 to 5) are the parameter estimates of the model.

Estimating techniques and data analysis

Data analysis tools for this study are broadly divided into two categories namely descriptive and inferential statistics.

Descriptive statistics

The descriptive statistics includes the usage of the summary of statistics for the variables which involves computations of the mean and standard deviation as well as their respective maximum and minimum limits for each variable. Percentages and ratios tables were used while bar charts, histogram and pie charts were presented where relevant during the analysis.

Inferential statistics

Inferential statistics such as; multiple linear regression, Pearson Product-moment correlation analysis and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were applied with the aid of statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 24.0. The use of Pearson Product-moment correlation analysis is necessitated because it helps to determine the degree or level of relationship or association which exists between variables. Also, it allowed the researcher to examine and explain the association between the independent and dependent variables (Johnson, 2010). Multiple linear regression was also used because it also provided a useful link between variables for further investigation and there is no provision for manipulation of behavior. Also, the ANOVA was used because it helps to examine and know which variable accounts for the most significant change in the dependent variable (Molliegeorgious, 2015). All the hypotheses were tested at 5 percent level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results and Discussions

This aspect of the research presents, interprets and explains the empirical results obtained on the influence of environmental scanning intensity on entrepreneurial orientation among the SMEs in Osun and Oyo States in Nigeria. The analysis starts

with the bio data results and this will be done according to the two states which are the case studies for this research.

Characteristics of the respondents in Oyo and Osun State

A sample of 400 and 340 SMEs was covered in Oyo and Osun State respectively for this research work and the demographic analysis is as follows.

Table 1: Demographics Characteristics of Respondents in Oyo and Osun State

	Oyo State				Osun State			
	Sex	Freq	Percent	Valid Percent	Sex	Freq	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Female	160	40.0	40.0	Female	145	42.6	42.6
	Male	240	60.0	60.0	Male	195	57.4	57.4
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	Total	340	100.0	100.0
	Marital Status	Freq	Percent	Valid	Marital Status	Freq	Percent	Valid
Valid	Single	40	10.0	10.0	Single	97	28.5	28.5
	Married	360	90.0	90.0	Married	243	71.5	71.5
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	Total	340	100.0	100.0
	Year of Operation	Freq	Percent	Valid	Year of Operation	Freq	Percent	Valid
Valid	0-5 years	160	40.0	40.0	0-5 years	97	28.5	28.5
	6-10 years	120	30.0	30.0	6-10 years	194	57.1	57.1
	11 years and-above	120	30.0	30.0	11 years and-above	49	14.4	14.4
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	Total	340	100.0	100.0
	Staff Strength	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Staff Strength	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent

Valid	0-5	280	70.0	70.0	0-5	96	28.2	28.2
	6-10	40	10.0	10.0	10 and above	244	71.8	71.8

	11 and above	80	20.0	20.0	11 and above	0	0	0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	Total	340	100.0	100.0
	Qualification	Freq	Percent	Valid Percent	Qualification	Freq	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	OND/HND/B SC/DIP	160	40.0	40.0	OND/HND/B SC/DIP	194	57.1	57.1
	MSc/MBA/P GD	120	30.0	30.0	MSc/MBA/P GD	97	28.5	28.5
	PhD	120	30.0	30.0	PhD	49	14.4	14.4
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	Total	340	100.0	100.0

The target respondents are the owners of these SMEs and the analysis from Table 4.1 is an indication that 60% of the SMEs amounting to 240 SMEs are owned by males in Oyo State whereas, 57.4% of SMEs amounting to 195 are owned by males in Osun State while the remains 40% and 42.6% which is about 160 and 145 SMEs belong to female entrepreneurs in Oyo and Osun State respectively.

Furthermore, from the table above, it indicates that majority of the SMEs owners are married in both states, i.e. 90% and 72% of them are married while 10% and 28% are not married in Oyo and Osun respectively. This is an indication that some degree of responsibilities is incumbent on them which portends expectation of good and fair responses from them.

More so, it is obvious from the analysis in Oyo State that most of the SMEs are relatively young. In other words they are mostly at the early years of their operation. 160 of the SMEs which is 40% of the total SMEs covered in the survey are still within one to five years of existence. This is where their entrepreneurial orientation counts a lot because the sustainability of the business at this strategic time is crucial. But in case of Osun State it is crystal clear that SMEs are relatively old. About 72% of them are between five years and ten years old. Out of this, 15% are above ten years old in business. This is an indication that many of them are experienced SMEs owners that will be able to provide answers to issues relating to their orientation as well as management of the business over the years. Although in Oyo state, about 120 of them which is about 30% of the entire SMEs covered are relatively old as well. The analysis further shows that less than 29% of the SMEs are relatively young between the age zero and five years in Osun State. This will also enable exploration of how they have applied environmental scanning intensity in their operations over the years. Also, the distribution in table above shows that many of the SMEs in Oyo State are very small in size. About 280 of them which represent 70% of the entire population of the SMEs covered in the state have less than six employees whereas, in Osun State, majority of SMEs are relatively big having employees from ten and above. Precisely about 72% of the SMEs amounting to 244 out of 340 SMEs have ten employees and above. Again, 30% of SMEs are also big having above 10 employees in their workforce in Oyo State. About 28% have employees below five in Osun State. The distribution shows that they fall into category of SMEs regarding the definition of the SMEs by SMEDAN. This implies that these SMEs still fall within the definition of establishments that describes SMEs in Nigeria. Finally, cursory look at the table above shows the distribution of the SMEs owners according to their highest qualification. Majority of SMEs in Oyo and Osun State are with first degree and post-secondary scho01 certificate. This population is about 40% and 57% of the entire SMEs used in the survey in both Oyo and Osun State respectively. In addition, 60% and 28% of them have post graduate qualification which is an indication that the respondents will have the knowledge of the questions that are asked and able to provide appropriate answers to them since their levels of education indicate that they can read and communicate very well in English Language.

Analysis of the influence of Environmental Scanning Intensity on entrepreneurial orientation in Oyo State. This section focuses on the effect of environmental scanning intensity on entrepreneurial orientation in Oyo Sate.

Normality test for Oyo State

The normality test is necessary to determine which of the different types of regression analysis is suitable for the data. After conducting this test, if the data are found to be normally distributed then linear regression and other parametric techniques will be used, otherwise ordinal regression and other non-parametric techniques will be applied

Table 2: Test for Normality on Oyo State

	Kolmogorov-Smirnova			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	Df	Sig.
Environmental scanning	.306	400	.000	.833	400	.000
Entrepreneurial Orientation	.205	400	.000	.850	400	.000

Table 2 presents the normality test on Oyo State data collected on the SMEs. The results show that both Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk for all the variables are statistically significant at 5%. However, since the data set in this study are more than 100, we stick with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics. Since all the variables are statistically significant, we conclude that they are not normally distributed, hence non parametric approach of estimating techniques will be more suitable for the data analysis. These results have paved the way for the application of both spearman ranks correlation and ordinal regression techniques in this study. Notwithstanding some pre-estimation techniques are also necessary for the application of ordinal regression but in order to explore the nature of the data, the spear man rank correlation coefficients among the variables is first computed and interpreted.

Correlation analysis for Oyo State SMEs

As stated above the establishment of non-normality status of all the data has shown that spearman rank correlation approach is suitable for computation of correlation coefficients among the variables. The results are presented in Table 3

Table 3 Spearman rank correlation for Oyo State

			ESI	EO
Spearman's rho	ESI	Correlation	1.000	.756**
		Coefficient		
		Sig.(2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	400	400
	EO	Correlation	.756*	1.000
		Coefficient		
		Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	400	400
**.Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).				

Results on Table 4.13 show the relationship between environmental scanning intensity and entrepreneurial orientation. From the table environmental scanning intensity ESI shows that it has a very strong relationship with entrepreneurial orientation in the model. The correlation coefficient of entrepreneurial orientation is all positive and significant. This result underscores the importance of environmental scanning in entrepreneurial orientation.

Ordinal Regression analysis for Oyo State SMEs

To be able to perform ordinal regression analysis, the pre-estimation test on normality has been fulfilled and the next step is to go to the estimation. The equations to be estimated was stated in equation 3.1.EO is the dependent variable.

Table 4:Entrepreneurial Orientation Model Fitting Information on Oyo State

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	1134.787			
Final	.000	1134.787	5	.000
Link function:Logit.				

The
EO

model fitting information shows the extent to which the model fits the data. The null hypothesis is that the model does not fit the data. From the results on the table, the chi square statistics of 490.391 is statistically significant at 5%. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis cannot be rejected and hence the model fits the data very well.

Table 5: Entrepreneurial Orientation Goodness of fit test for Oyo State

	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Pearson	9.664	31	.067
Deviance	1.540	31	.088
Link function:Logit.			

The EO model generated both the Pearson and the deviance statistics which are used to access the goodness of fit of the model. It analyses the extent to which the data explained the model and vice versa. The null hypothesis here is that the data fits the model. The significant values are all greater than 5% for both pearson and deviance. The implication is that the model showed a good fit. Hence it is suitable for estimation.

The next step is the presentation of the pseudo R square result. It explains the percentage of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variables. The result is presented in table 4.31

Table 6 Entrepreneurial Orientation Pseudo R Square for Oyo State

Cox and Snell	.941
Nagelkerke	.982
McFadden	.932
Link function:Logit.	

The EO Nagelkerke value is the point of reference here and the value is 0.982. The implication of the result is that about 98% percent systemic variation in EO is explained by environmental scanning intensity. This result further attests to the fact that there is a strong relationship between EO and ESI.

Table 7: Entrepreneurial Orientation ordinal regression estimates for Oyo State

		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	Df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[EO=3.00]	81.789	6.670	150.365	1	.000	68.716	94.862
	[EO=3.33]	83.572	6.775	152.160	1	.000	70.293	96.851
	[EO=4.00]	85.706	6.904	154.110	1	.000	72.175	99.238
	[EO=4.67]	99.539	8.020	154.045	1	.000	83.820	115.257
Location	ESI	16.589	1.329	155.922	1	.000	13.985	19.193
Link function:Logit.								

The EO is the dependent variable in the estimated model on table and environmental scanning intensity is the independent variable, from above table. However, ESI maintained its positive and significant impact on EO just the way it does on each of the three components of EO namely innovation, pro-activeness and risk taking. The coefficient of ESI in the EO model is 16.589 and it is statistically significant at 5%. The implication is that a unit increase in ESI will lead to about 16.589 improvements in EO of the SMEs owners. This underscores the importance of ESI in EO.

Table 8: Entrepreneurial Orientation tests of parallel lines for Oyo State

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Null	78.275			
Hypothesis				
General	16.962a	56.313b	15	.032

The null hypothesis is that the odd for explanatory variable is consistent and same across different threshold of the dependent variable. The null hypothesis needs to be rejected before the estimates of the ordinal regression can be valid otherwise the multinomial logistic regression will be used. In this case, the significant value is 0.032. This is an indication that the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the odds for the explanatory variable is not consistent and same across different threshold of the dependent variable.

However, analysis of effect of environmental scanning intensity on entrepreneurial orientation in

Osun state was also carried out. This will start with normality test as it was done in Oyo state above.

Table 9: Test for Normality on Osun State

	Kolmogorov-Smirnova			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Environmental scanning	.209	340	.000	.886	340	.000

Table 9 presents the normality test on Osun State data collected on the SMEs. The results show that both Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk for all the variables are statistically significant at 5%. However, since the data set in this study are more than 100 we stick with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics. Since all the variables have statistics that are significant, we conclude that they are not normally distributed, hence non parametric approach of estimating techniques will be more suitable for the data analysis. In the same vein as we noticed under Oyo State analysis, these results have paved the way for the application of both spearman ranks correlation and ordinal regression techniques in this study.

Correlation analysis for Osun State SMEs

Exploring further the time series properties of the data on Osun State necessitates the estimation of the spearman ranks correlation coefficient. The results are presented in Table 10

Table 10 Spearman rank correlation for Osun State

			ESI	EO
Spearma	ESI	Correlation	1.000	.601*
n's rho		Coefficient		
		Sig.(2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	340	340
	EO	Correlation	.601	1.000
		Coefficient		
		Sig.(2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	340	340
**.Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				

The correlation coefficients in the table shows the degree of association between ESI and EO. The results from the table show that ESI has positive and significant correlation with all the variables of EO. This is an indication that ESI has a very strong association with EO.

Entrepreneurial Orientation EO ordinal regression for Osun State

EO is computed from the three proxies namely innovation, pro-activeness and risk taking analysis, the next effort is to investigate the impact of ESI on EO. This is for the purpose of the hypothesis testing.

Table 11:Entrepreneurial Orientation Model Fitting Information on Osun State

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	1815.682			
Final	1425.302	390.379	5	.000
Link function:Logit.				

The EO model fitting information shows the extent to which the model fits the data. The null hypothesis is that the model does not fit the data. From the results on the table, the chi square statistics of 390.379 is statistically significant at 5%. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the model fits the data very well.

Table 12 Entrepreneurial Orientation Goodness of fit test for Osun State

	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Pearson	375.413	219	.067
Deviance	145.302	21	.078
Link function:Logit.			

The EO model generated both the pearson and the deviance statistics which are used to access the goodness of fit of the model. It analyses the extent to which the data explained the model and vice versa.The null hypothesis here is that the data fits the model. The significant values are all greater than 5% for both pearson and deviance. The implication is that the model showed a good fit. Hence it is suitable for estimation.

The next step is the presentation of the pseudo R square result. It explains the percentage of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable. The result is presented in Table 13

Table 13 Entrepreneurial Orientation Pseudo R-Square for Osun State

Cox and Snell	.683
Nagelkerke	.686
McFadden	.215
Link function:Logit.	

The EO Nagelkerke value is the point of reference here and the value is 0.686. The implication of the result is that about 98% percent systemic variation in EO is explained by ESI. This result further attests to the fact that there is a relatively strong relationship between EO and ESI among the SMEs in Osun State

Table 14 Entrepreneurial Orientation ordinal regression estimates for Osun State

Parameter Estimates								
		Estimate	Std.Error	Wald	Df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[EO=2.87]	13.129	1.059	153.707	1	.000	11.054	15.205
	[EO=2.98]	14.588	1.088	179.749	1	.000	12.455	16.721
	[EO=3.02]	15.522	1.121	191.572	1	.000	13.324	17.720
	[EO=3.33]	16.182	1.146	199.359	1	.000	13.935	18.428
	[EO=3.42]	17.104	1.180	210.121	1	.000	14.791	19.416
	[EO=3.48]	17.531	1.194	215.400	1	.000	15.190	19.872
	[EO=3.68]	18.022	1.211	221.576	1	.000	15.649	20.395
	[EO=3.81]	18.577	1.229	228.482	1	.000	16.168	20.986
	[EO=3.82]	19.627	1.269	239.383	1	.000	17.140	22.113
	[EO=3.94]	20.115	1.289	243.445	1	.000	17.588	22.642
	[EO=3.98]	20.588	1.310	246.997	1	.000	18.021	23.156
	[EO=4.01]	21.088	1.331	251.009	1	.000	18.479	23.696
	[EO=4.04]	21.897	1.360	259.400	1	.000	19.232	24.562
	[EO=4.21]	23.117	1.391	276.291	1	.000	20.392	25.843
Location	ESI	3.242	.548	34.932	1	.000	4.316	6.167
Link function:Logit.								

Cursory look at table 14 above, shows that EO is the dependent variable in the estimated model and ESI is the independent variable. From the table is clear that the independent variable (ESI) has significant impacts on EO.

The coefficient of ESI in the Osun State model is 3.242 and the value is statistically significant at 5%. This means that ESI maintained its positive and significant impact on EO just the way it does on each of the three components of EO-namely innovation, pro-activeness and risk taking. The implication is that a unit increase in ESI will lead to about 3.242 improvement in EO of the SMEs owners. This underscores the importance of ESI in EO.

Table 15 Entrepreneurial Orientation tests of parallel lines for Osun State

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Null Hypothesis	1425.302			
General	e000	1425.302	65	000

The null hypothesis is that the odds for each explanatory variable is consistent and same across different threshold of the dependent variable. The null hypothesis needs to be rejected before the estimates of the ordinal regression can be valid otherwise the multinomial logistic regression will be used. In this case, the significant value is 0.000. This is an indication that the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that the odds for each explanatory variable are not consistent and same across different threshold of the dependent variable.

Discussion of findings

The results from the analysis of the impacts of environmental scanning intensity on entrepreneurial orientation in Osun and Oyo State has yielded some interesting results worthy of discussion in order to bring out some inferences that are based on empirical analysis. It will berecalled that despite having a very close number of local government area of 30 in Osun State compared to that of 33 in Oyo State the gaps between the numbers of registered SMEs between the two states is enormous.

The total population of SMEs in Osun State as at 2019 was 2,273 while that of Oyo

State is one 1,864,954 (National MSME Survey Report,2019). It is obvious that the discrepancies in the numbers of SMEs do not correlate with the numbers of local government and geographical distribution of both states. The wide gap between the numbers of SMEs in Oyo and Osun state might not be unconnected with factors which are broadly divided under external and internal factors. The internal factors are controllable factors within the manipulation of the SMEs while the external factors are outside the control of these SMEs. Entrepreneurial orientation and environmental scanning intensity are some of the internal factors that cause this wide gap between the numbers of SMEs in Oyo and Osun states and this is the focus of this study.

Firstly, in the area of demographic distribution of the SMEs that are sampled in this study, there are two clear differences between the completed questionnaires by the SMEs across the two states during the survey. The result of the demographic analysis shows that Oyo State comprised of more young SMEs that are relatively at their early stages of development than in Osun State. Again it was noticed as expected that the staff strength of most of the SMEs in Oyo State are smaller compare to that of Osun Sate. This is obvious since it was discovered earlier that most of the SMEs in Oyo State are in the early stages of their existence. These results ordinarily speak volume of why we have larger numbers of SMEs in Oyo State than that of Osun State. Many businesses spring up in Oyo Sate more easily than Osun State and this might be the reason why our sample comprises of more young SMEs in Oyo State than in Osun State. It will be interesting to see how this affects the relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and environmental scanning intensity in both states. It is obvious that Oyo State has much more younger entrepreneurs than Osun State and has earlier stated the reason for this might either be in internal or external causative factors based.

Secondly, considering the results on the relationships between entrepreneurial orientation and environmental scanning intensity in states, some findings are noticed in the empirical results which support the results seen under the demographic features.The analysis had shown that in both states, environmental scanning had positive and significant impacts on entrepreneurial orientation. Consequently, it was not a surprise when it also shows positive and significant impact on entrepreneurial orientation as a variable. The implication of the result is that scanning of the environment is an important factor that can enhance the orientation of an entrepreneur. The result is similar to the study of Abiodun & Kida (2016) who also concluded from their studies that adequate understanding of the environment where a business is operating is very important for the orientation of an entrepreneur. The

findings from the study underscores the importance of environmental scanning in orientation of entrepreneur and it is an indication that for an entrepreneur to succeed in any business, such entrepreneur must prioritize environmental scanning as this will boost the entrepreneur orientation and pave way for good performance of the business.

Conclusions

Following the findings from this study as discussed under the previous chapter it is obvious that some important conclusions can be made of the relationships between entrepreneurial orientation and environmental scanning intensity among the SMEs in Osun and Oyo States. However, the study has shown that Oyo State has more young SMEs Oyo State than Osun states. These SMEs have relatively lower staff strength compared to that of Osun State. This finding might have implications on the huge gaps between the numbers of registered SMEs in Oyo State and Osun State. It can be inferred from this finding that the rate of procreation of the SMEs in Oyo State is relatively higher than that of Osun State. Also, the study has shown that there is strong correlations between entrepreneurial orientation and environmental scanning intensity in the two states. Consequently it is concluded from the study that environmental scanning intensity has strong association with entrepreneurial orientation in the two states. More so, environmental scanning intensity is an important and positive driver of entrepreneurial orientation in Oyo State and Osun State. This implies that improved environmental scanning intensity will all contribute positively to the enhancement of entrepreneurial orientation in the states.

Consequently, it is therefore recommended that an improvement in scanning of the business environment where a SMEs is situated in order to understand the possible treat, the dynamism and the possible competitions from any entity around his environment that can affect the performance of the business should be taken into cognizance.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**PARTICIPATION IN SKILL ACQUISITION AND
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NORTH-EAST, NIGERIA****Authors****¹Adelaiye, Mary O.; ²Olajuwon, Kamil A.**

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Abstract:

The objective of this study was to examine the level of participation in entrepreneurial skill acquisition and youths' self-employment in North-East, Nigeria. It is a fact well known that youth enterprises could lead to job creation and the economic growth of a country; however, researches have reported that youths from North-East, Nigeria who participate in entrepreneurial skill acquisition do not establish enterprises after completing the training. The findings from previous studies revealed high level of attendance in entrepreneurial training sessions by youths who however, failed to adequately engage with other team members during training sessions and also did not establish enterprises after the training. The study recommended that parents, government, religious as well as community leaders should draft and implement appropriate strategies for counseling, modelling, and mentoring the youths so as to encourage and engender greater participation in entrepreneurial skill acquisition. It was also recommended that business people, philanthropists, politicians, and other private individuals should provide supporting finance for training, for establishing and or expanding existing businesses with skills acquired by the youths. These will go a long way in assuring youth participation in skill acquisition and in going into self-employment thereby reducing unemployment in the North-East in particular and Nigeria in general.

Keywords: Participation, Skill Acquisition, Youth Empowerment, North-East, Nigeria.

Introduction

Many global economies are bedevilled by constrained labour demand and high rates of unemployment irrespective of their levels of development. Tyagi, Vishwakarma, Yadav and Stanislavovich (2021) argued that the problem is

more profound in developing countries where a large number of youths are not only faced with the problems of unemployment but with other precarious employment. In Nigeria, youths face higher unemployment rates than other age groups and the number of young people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force keeps rising in Nigeria.

According to Olufemi, (2020), youths constitute 17% of Nigerian population and 67% of these young Nigerians between 18 and 35 years are unemployed. Azubuike, Muirhead, Hayes and McNally (2018) put Nigeria population aged between 10 and 24 years at 32% and the figure is growing. Furthermore, of the world's unemployed population, 4% who are technically unemployed, excluding those underemployed or engaged in other forms of precarious employment situations are Nigerians (Iduseri, Abbas & Izunobi, 2022)). The effects of the increasing rates of unemployment on the Nigerian economy and especially on the wellbeing of her teeming youth population has left much to be desired. Consequently, many youths in Nigeria have been used as vulnerable tools for unabated crises of insurgencies, banditry, terrorism, kidnapping for ransom and all sorts of unexplained attacks. These experiences have been blamed on insufficiently engaged and unproductive youths who otherwise could serve as the foundations of a healthy and growing economy.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals believes that economic growth and poverty eradication can be achieved by all poor, rich and middle-income countries through the engagement of a range of strategies that are focused on job creating opportunities and addressing social needs. To this effect, many nations have adopted measures aimed at minimizing the negative impact of unemployment by creating and promoting decent employment opportunities for the young as a top priority through entrepreneurship development. These entrepreneurial opportunities are expected to maximize the human capital potential for individual and societal economic wellbeing. Howbeit, these measures seem to have produced more job seekers rather than self-reliant job creators.

Oyefesobi, Adetunji and Ayedun (2018) opine that entrepreneurial skill encompasses the perception of economic opportunity, technical and organizational innovations, gaining commands over scarce resources, taking responsibilities for internal management and external advancement of the firm in all aspects of enterprise. Mbah and Okeke (2020) view skill acquisition as the manifestation of idea and knowledge through training which is geared towards instilling in individuals, the spirit of entrepreneurship needed for meaningful development. Button, Seifert, Chow, Davids and Araujo (2020) describe skill acquisition as a specific form of learning, which is the

representation of information in memory concerning some environmental or cognitive event. Whereas skills shortage remains a serious constraint in Nigeria (Oladokun & Olaleye, (2018), many Nigerian youths have skills but are deficient in opportunities identification and capability of deploying the skills for establishing business enterprises successfully (Aladejebi, 2018). Okolie, Igwe, Nwosu, Eneje and Mlanga (2020) found that out of over 40 million unemployed youths in Nigeria, 23 million lack necessary skills for employment. Therefore, encouraging youth employment through skills acquisition is one approach that may promote empowerment of youths making them to seek self-employment. Youth entrepreneurship is expected to contribute to job creation for both the self-employed and other young people hired by newly formed enterprises as well as boosts innovation for the economy\ as a whole by introducing new models and ideas in the market. The experience gained in skills acquisition programs helps young people to develop skills and knowledge and accumulate human capital for setting up and running businesses profitably.

Different skills acquisition programmes were established by the Federal and State governments in Nigeria to develop the culture of creativity and entrepreneurship thereby promoting the survival of the youths through self-reliance. Two among the skill acquisition programmes are the National open apprenticeship scheme for unemployed youths under the National Directorate of Employment and the skill upgrading and vocational training centers under the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment located in all six geopolitical zone headquarters in Nigeria.

According to Ezenwakwelu, Egbosionu and Okwo (2019) argued that appropriate government strategies that encourage and engender greater participation of the youth in entrepreneurial skill acquisition was crucial to youth's self-employment in Malaysia. In Nigeria, Nnaji and Ahmed (2018) identified poor entrepreneurial culture as one of the challenges facing youth empowerment for job creation. Poor culture may hamper participation in skill acquisition activities and limit its impact for employment creation. This means that positive and pleasant experiences with skill acquisition program should increase the desire to develop entrepreneurial orientation and enable the trainee pursue economic freedom through job and wealth creation.

The concern is that in as much as efforts of government towards skill development have caught the attention of youths in Nigeria and attracted some level of acceptance and participation observed in other zones, it is not clear whether skill acquisition programs have received equal acceptance and participation by youths in the Northeast zone. The extent to which skills acquisition have influenced youth empowerment in the North East, Nigeria is yet in doubt. This study is an investigation into the relationship between skill acquisition participation and youths' empowerment in North-East,

Nigeria.

The study would provide answer to the following question:

- i. What is the relationship between participation in skill acquisition and youth empowerment in North East, Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

Skill Acquisition Theory

The fundamental claim of Skill Acquisition Theory, according to Dekeyser (2007), is that 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. Accordingly, Speelman (2005:26) explained that skill acquisition can be considered as a specific form of learning, where learning has been defined as "the representation of information in memory concerning some environmental or cognitive event. Overall, as opined by Button, Seifert, Chow, Davids and Araujo (2020), 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. Thus, skill acquisition is a type of learning where "skilled behaviours can become routinized and even programmed under certain conditions". 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.

Concept of Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment according to Romero-Blanco, Rodríguez-Almagro, Onieva-Zafra, Parra-Fernández, Prado-Laguna and Hernández-Martínez (2020) involves different ways the youth can be facilitated to cause changes in their life style. He maintained that youth empowerment means a way of inculcating into the youths the spirit of transformation of ideas into creativeness. Youth empowerment can also be seen as a means of exposing the youths to skills or training that makes them productive. It encompasses different ways youth can be exposed into different trades that may help them to engage in sustainable paid and self-employment.

The purpose of skill acquisition programme as a means of youth empowerment according to livari, Sharma and Ventä-Olkkonen (2020) is to prepare and equip the

youths with appropriate skills that can be beneficial to them in future. He maintained that ideal skill acquisition is capable of ensuring value re-orientation among the youths and transforming them into creators of wealth and employment instead of job seekers. Basically, the creation of wealth and employment will lead to poverty reduction and increase of welfare status of individuals in the country.

In line with the above view, Jasiacki (2018) stated that wealth creation acquired through youth empowerment is expected to reverse the structural weakness and imbalances in the economy by providing strategic focus and direction and inculcating in the youths the right ethics, discipline, values, hard work, honesty, respect and humility among others. To meet up with these challenges facing the youths, different skill acquisition programmes were initiated and put in place by the Federal and State governments throughout the country to instill in them the habit of acting through repetition and practice.

The skill acquisition programmes instituted in Nigeria over the years according to Ikon and Itua (2019) include the green revolution programme in 1976, the school-to-land programme and skill acquisition programme in 1978, the youth employment and vocational skill development scheme of (NDE) in 1986, the small-scale industrial and graduate farmers programme of NDE in 1988 and the national open apprenticeship scheme of 1988 among others.

Prominent among the reasons for the growth and expansion of skills acquisition programmes in Nigeria was the need for the survival of the youths through self-reliance programmes. Initially, the efforts of the government towards youth empowerment was in agricultural production but as time went by, the idea was diversified into agricultural, industrial and handcrafts production that can yield income and make the youths viable. In recent years, in order to achieve the desired goal, different training programmes were instituted by the Federal and State government to imbibe in the youths the culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.

Concept of Skill Acquisition

Skill acquisition is a process whereby a person acquires or learns a particular skill or type of behavior needed for business through training or education (Peng, Chang, Zhang, Abbeel & Levine, 2019)) in order to identify and exploit entrepreneurial opportunity for self-employment (Anosike, 2019). It also helps entrepreneurs to acquire self-confidence, self-esteem and participate in decision-making at household and community levels (Kapoor, 2019). Skill training and tertiary education could lead to business opportunities and impact on entrepreneurship (Sousa, 2018). Exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunity also depends on the entrepreneur's level of education, skills or knowledge acquired through training, work experience and social network

(Arafat, Saleem, Dwivedi & Khan, 2020). Training and/or education produce prior experience which leads to preparedness for entrepreneurial activity (Muñoz, Kimmitt, Kibler & Farny, 2019).

The awareness of the need for skill training and supports in order to stimulate entrepreneurial activity and reduce business failure have been increased among stakeholders in the industry, business and government of many countries because entrepreneurs could be born or made (Bărbulescu, Tecău, Munteanu & Constantin, 2021). It is also a vital source of developing human capital (Khan, Ali, Dong & Li, 2021). Though Abbasi, Ali and Bibi, (2018) found that entrepreneurship graduates could not get employment because they possessed low skills and low self-confidence required by industries since there was no industrial exposures while in school, however; numerous studies asserted that skill training and tertiary education could lead to entrepreneurial activity or self-employment (Abdu-Raheem, 2021).

Skill acquisition training was found to have positive effect on entrepreneurial activity in Nigeria (Enimola, Orugun & Nafiu, 2019). Skill acquisition training was found to have positive effect on entrepreneurial activity in France (Hahn, Minola, Bosio & Cassia, 2020). Skill acquisition training had positive impact on entrepreneurial opportunity in Germany (Baluku, Leonsio, Bantu & Otto, 2018). Skill acquisition training was also found to have positive effect on entrepreneurial activity in Malaysia (Khalid, 2020).

Skills Acquisition Training is an adult education program which is intended to give different skills on the participants, and address immediate issues, for example, employments, independence and control restiveness among young people (Agba, Okpa & Ogar, 2020). Shaturaev (2022) declares that skill acquisition is the capacity to be prepared on a specific task or capacity. Likewise, Malik, De Silva, Budhwar and Srikanth (2021) posit that skill acquisition requires the gathering of various abilities that enhance task execution through the coordination of both theoretical and practical form of knowledge. He specified the rules for the sustenance of expertise acquirement program to include the followings;

- i. Provision of training that gives the trainees the chances to obtain skills that are appropriate for readiness in a field of trade for beneficial business.
- ii. Provision of distinct skills that relate to each trade that makes one an expert in one field rather than the others.

Skill Acquisition and Youth Empowerment

In Omeje, Jideofor and Ugwu's (2020) study aimed at building capacity of Makangarawe youth for self-employment creation, different participatory methods including focus group discussion, interviews, questionnaire survey, direct observation and documentary review were used to collect data related to problems facing youth

and potential employment creation opportunities. Findings revealed an existence of several problems including unemployment, lack of capital, globalization issues, lack of entrepreneurial culture and skills, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, lack markets and market information and lack of empowerment programmes. However, through Pair-wise Model, lack of entrepreneurship skills and culture was identified as the most critical problem. In this regard, it was decided that provision of entrepreneurship skills training would be the best alternative in solving such problem and it was concluded that skills training promote youth employability hence the Government and all stake holders should create conducive environment for youth to access necessary skills and support services needed to make them employable or create employment.

Entrepreneurship education plays a major role in the reduction of unemployment in Nigeria. However, while most Nigerian universities have initiated entrepreneurship courses in their curricular; little research is available to assess its impact and to know whether there is a relationship between entrepreneurial skills acquisition and employment status. Previous study found that exposure to entrepreneurship education and/or training influences learner's intentions of becoming self-employed and improve their employability status. It was however discovered that most trainees were not very confident about their intentions due to fear of capital, failure, and lack of experience in business management. The study concludes that despite knowledge of entrepreneurship education as a contributing factor in the reduction of unemployment, Nigerian youth requires additional supports to overcome the foreseen challenges.

Kumi-Arhin (2021) examined the links between unemployment situation and youth enterprise in the Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam District (AEED) in the Central Region, one of the four poorest administrative regions of Ghana. It found that majority of the youth had at most secondary education, and were unemployed, under-employed or self-employed in informal micro-enterprises. Though entrepreneurial opportunities existed in the District, the youth were adequately involved in the requisite entrepreneurship training programmes that would enable them to take advantage of the existing opportunities in order to reduce youth unemployment or under-employment. It concludes that though the youth have entrepreneurial potentials, their low educational attainment has been a challenge to training. It has therefore been suggested that the District Assembly encourages training and educational institutions that incorporate entrepreneurship in their curriculum in order to provide trainees with the needed knowledge, skills and competencies for employment.

Mbah and Okeke (2020) opined that skill acquisition as a means of youth empowerment has caught government's attention in Nigeria for over two decades.

This is so because it is believed that exposing youth in skill acquisition programmes will reduce youth unemployment and enhance their self-sustenance. In view of this therefore, the paper examined different skill acquisition programmes and youth empowerment strategies that could imbibe in the youths the spirit of self-reliance and self-dependence. The study recommended the establishment of skill acquisition centers in every nook and cranny of the country to make the programme accessible to the youths, the recruitment of competent and experienced craftsmen and women as instructors to make these programmes more viable and the streamline of the skill acquisition programmes to make them effective for the benefits of the unemployed youths in the country among others.

Yan (2020) posits that human resources is a blessing to any nation because of diverse opinions/views that will be shared on issues affecting such nation but when the able bodied youths, educated who are to take over the leadership or governance are unemployed after years of graduation looks frustrating and thus posed as security challenges to such nation. Skills acquisition and entrepreneurship training for the youths will serve as succor to ameliorate the high rate of unemployment rather than allowing the youths to roam the street and thereby engage in unwholesome practices to earn a living. The study advocated that the insecurity in Nigeria as a sectarian violence is rather majorly caused by unemployment.

Ekpe, Razak, Ismail and Abdullah (2015) examined the moderating effect of self-motivation on the relationship between entrepreneurial skill acquisition and self-employment practice among graduates from Malaysian public universities. It is a known fact that youth enterprises could generate employment opportunities and lead to economic growth of a country; however, researches have reported that most of entrepreneurship graduates from Malaysian universities do not go into entrepreneurship practice five years after graduation. To test this relationship, a conceptual model was developed based on Ajzen (1991) theory. The study recommended that Malaysian government and community leaders should draft appropriate strategies (for example counseling in school), that will encourage and engender greater participation of the youths in self-employment practice.

In a related study, Ekpe and Razak (2016) also investigated whether moderating factors such as

self-motivation and social influence could hinder skill acquisition from resulting to enterprise creation among Malaysian university graduates. A survey, and proportionate stratified random sampling method, was adopted to collect data from a sample of 240 youths in Malaysia peninsula. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and hierarchical regression methods. One of the results revealed that self-motivation moderated between skill acquisition and enterprise creation among the

youths. The study recommended that more counseling from parents, universities, governments and other stakeholders be given to youths to engender greater interest in enterprise creation (Ekpe & Razak, 2016; Ezenwakwelu, Egbosionu & Okwo, 2019).

Akele (2021) assessed the entrepreneurial skills needed for self-employment by business education graduates in Delta State in response to the need to equip business education graduates with skills for entrepreneurship. Three research questions guided the study and three null hypotheses were tested. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The entire population of 377 was studied without sampling as the size was manageable. A 5-point rating scale questionnaire containing 30 items in three clusters was used for data collection while the z-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study found that business education graduates in Delta State highly need accounting and office technology and management skills but moderately need marketing skills for self-employment. However, gender did not significantly affect the respondents mean ratings. It was recommended among others that business educators should use innovative instructional strategies to adequately equip their learners with skills for entrepreneurial success.

Kola, Abdulrahman and Azeez (2019) argued in favor of the concept of entrepreneurial skill acquisition as a panacea for unemployment among youths in Nigeria. Based on a conceptual analysis, the study examined strategic industries in which youths should focus efforts in developing innovative skills that can stimulate self-employment, create jobs and enhance economic growth and development. The implication of the research to Nigerian youth showed that there are presently strategic industrial sector in Nigeria that contribute to the GDP besides the Oil Sector. The researcher recommended among other things that facilitators of entrepreneurial skill training and workshop program, must ensure that skill being taught to the youth match the requirements of the strategic industries in Nigeria.

Dawaki, Sabo and Joshua (2021) examined the effect of entrepreneurship education on self-employment initiatives among science and technology students of Gateway Polytechnic, Saapade Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria. Data obtained were obtained through self-administered questionnaires while simple percentage, ranking correlation and regression analysis techniques were used to analyse the data. The result obtained indicates that entrepreneurship education is a good policy and it has positive effect on self-employment initiatives. This study recommended collaboration with existing entrepreneurs and business organizations in providing entrepreneurship training to the students.

Oyefesobi, Adetunji and Ayedun (2018) investigated effectiveness of

entrepreneurial skills acquisition as a tool for employment generation among polytechnic graduates in Nigeria. A descriptive design was adopted with a multi-stage sampling technique in selecting a sample size of 647 from Batch B, stream2 Corp members from Southwest, Nigeria. A multiple regression inferential statistics was applied in data analysis. The findings established that entrepreneurial skills acquisition increases job orientation, job creation and self-employment. It is therefore obvious that entrepreneurial skills" acquisition can lead to self-employment if strategically positioned.

Aun, Abdul, Oladipo and Omotayo (2018) examined the effect of entrepreneurship skills development on youth employment in Kwara State, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised of 195 students enrolled in International Vocational, Technical & Entrepreneurship College (IVTEC), of which a sample of 131 respondents was selected. Primary data were gathered through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using both Pearson correlation and simple regression analysis. The results of the study revealed that a positive relationship exists between entrepreneurship skills development and youth employment generation, which is significant at p-value of 0.000 ($R = 0.714$, $R^2 = 0.510$, $(0.000) < 0.05$). The study concluded that entrepreneurship skills development has effect on youth employment and recommended that private sectors and government should invest in schemes that focus on entrepreneurship development programmes.

Enimola, Orugun and Nafiu (2019) investigated the effects of entrepreneurial skills on youth employment in Kogi State, using N-Power as a case study. The survey research design adopted snowball sampling technique to select N-Power beneficiaries with a self-designed questionnaire as instrument for data collection from beneficiaries in N-Teach, N-Health, N-Tax and N-Agro. Data collected were analysed using Multiple Regression and Ordered Probit Regression Model. Finding showed that interpersonal relation skill, technology adoption skill, decision-making skill and risk-taking skill have significant and positive relationship with youth self-employment in Kogi State. The study concluded that the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills is a vital approach towards self-employment. The study recommended that the government and policy-makers should give special focus for interpersonal relation skill, decision-making skill, technology adoption skill and risk-taking skill of N-Power beneficiaries; with less attention to financial literacy and creative thinking skills.

Deebom and Daerego (2020) examined the influence of National Youth Service Corps Entrepreneurship Skill Acquisition programmes on youth empowerment in Rivers State. Three research questions were raised with two null hypotheses that were formulated and tested at 0.05 significance level using z-test statistics. Two hundred and forty one (241) Batch B Corps Members were purposively sampled using the snowball sampling technique while simple random was used to

select 28 NYSC Officials in Rivers State. The instrument for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire. The study found that skills listed were available in NYSC-SAED programme for youth empowerment but the exercise is faced with challenges. Based on the findings, it was recommended that more skills should be added to provide wider choice for corps members and that continued awareness on the relevance of participating in NYSC-SAED programme be given to corps members. The development of effective follow-up model for monitoring and supervision of beneficiaries of the grants/loans was also recommended.

The arguments have led to the following hypothesis:

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between participation in skill acquisition and youth empowerment in North East, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the cross-sectional survey method in the generation of data. The target population of the study is the entire youth participants at the skills upgrading and vocational training center in Bauchi, Bauchi State. Participants were drawn from the six states of the North east.

Table 1: Population of the Study

S/No	States	Number of Participants
1	Adamawa	39
2	Bauchi	91
3	Borno	21
4	Gombe	51
5	Taraba	24
6	Yobe	11
Total		237

Source: NDE 2021 Annual Report

A total of two hundred and thirty seven (237), youths obtained from the annual reports of the NDE represents the sample frame. The sample size was obtained using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for determining minimum returned sample size for a given population. For the study population, the table placed the sample size at one

hundred and forty two. The sample size therefore is 142 and will be used for the study. Descriptive statistics and Spearman's rank correlation were used for data analysis and hypothesis testing with the aid of the SPSS Package version 23.

Results and Discussions

The data analysis was carried out using the Spearman rank order correlation tool at a 95% confidence interval. Specifically, the tests cover the hypothesis H_0 , which was bivariate and stated in the null form. The researcher relied on the Spearman Rank (ρ) statistic to undertake the analysis. The 0.05 significance level is adopted as criterion for the probability of either accepting the null hypotheses at ($p>0.05$) or rejecting the null hypotheses at ($p<0.05$).

	Youth Empowerment	Participation in Skill Acquisition
Spearman's rho Youth Empowerment	1.000	.882**
Correlation Coefficient		
Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
N	293	293
Participation in Skill Acquisition	.882**	1.000
Correlation Coefficient		
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
N	293	293

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source : *Research Data, 2022 (SPSS output, version 23.0)*

The table above illustrates the test for the three previously postulated bivariate hypothetical statements.

H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between participation in skill acquisition and youth empowerment in North East, Nigeria.

The correlation coefficient coefficient 0.882 shows that there is a strong and positive relationship between participation in skill acquisition and youth empowerment. The p value $0.000<0.05$ indicates that the relationship is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected and the alternate upheld. Thus, there is a significant relationship between participation in skill acquisition and youth empowerment in North

East, Nigeria.

Discussion of findings

Youths in the North East believe that skill acquisition promote and engender self-employment. They avail themselves for skill acquisition programmes and show willingness to learn. However, there are many youth participants at the skill upgrading and vocational training center from states in Nigeria other than the six core states of the North East Zone including Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states that are the supposed beneficiaries of skill acquisition training obtainable at the center.

During training sessions, the some youth from the zone that attended the program failed to engage actively with other team members.

Conclusions and Recommendation

The study concludes that for the teaming youths to be empowered and thus employable, participation in skill acquisition plays a fundamental role. The study recommended that:

- i. Parents, government, religious as well as community leaders should draft and implement appropriate strategies to encourage effective youth participation in skill acquisition for self-employment in the North East.
- ii. Government should engage instructors that are proficient in both English and indigenous language for instructional purposes and they should also make available training materials written both in English and the language of the host zone.
- iii. Other stakeholders (Parents, religious and community leaders, business owners, philanthropists, politicians, and other private individuals) should provide opportunities for counselling, modeling and mentoring for the youth to encourage greater participation in skill acquisition. They can do this by providing financial assistance or startup funds to support the training and for establishing and or expanding existing business with skills acquired from the center respectively.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**EFFECT OF LENDING RATE ON THE PERFORMANCE
OF NIGERIAN DEPOSIT MONEY BANK****Author****Owolabi, Adesegun***Department of Banking and Finance,**The Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria**E – mail: owoseg@yahoo.com;**Phone Number: 08035376556***Abstract:**

The paper examined the effect of lending rate on the performance of Nigerian Deposit Money Bank. The paper made use of secondary data which were sourced from Central Bank of Nigerian Statistical Bulletin of various years. The data was analysed with the use of multiple regressions technique of Ordinary Least Square (OLS). The study revealed that positive relationship exists between lending rate and the profit after tax of Nigerian banks. The study recommended that Nigerian banks should review down ward the lending rate to enhance more patronage of the loan facilities by the public.

Keywords: Profit After Tax, Bank Performance, Lending Rate, Economic Growth.

Introduction

Commercial Banks are custodians of depositor's funds and operate by receiving cash deposits from the general public and loaning them out to the needy at statutorily allowed interest rates (Ngure, 2014). In Nigeria the financial sector is dominated by commercial banks, therefore any failure in the sector has a grave consequence on the economic growth and development of the country. This is due to the fact that any bankruptcy that could happen in the sector has a contagion effect that can lead to bank runs, crises and bring overall financial crisis and economic tribulations (IMF, 2001). Banks play a major role in the economy through their economic function of financial intermediation that performs both a brokerage and a risk transformation function (Hara, 1983).

Commercial Banks as financial intermediaries perform financial intermediation function of mobilization and allocation of funds from the economic surplus (lenders) to the economic deficit unit (borrowers). This function is directly linked with banks profitability which encourages economic growth. According to Wainaina (2013), profitability of banks has relationships with growth and development of the economy. Deposit money banks are the most important savings and mobilization of financial resources and allocating them to productive investment and in return promote their performance (Victor 2013). Interest rate however plays a vital role in how a bank makes money (Haye, 2013). Hualan (1992) found that interest rate

is one of the most important factors that affect the bank financial performance. Interest rates are the reward paid by a borrower (debtor) to a lender (creditor) for the use of money for a period and they are expressed in a percentage, per annum (pa) to make them comparable. Interest rates are also quite often referred to as the price of money. Corb (2012) described interest rate as an economic tool used by the Central Bank to control inflation and boost economic development. Therefore poor decisions on an interest rate regime could spell doom for the financial system and the economy as a whole.

The Central Bank of Nigeria uses the interest rate as a monetary policy tool to adjust the lending rates of banks and other financial institutions in Nigeria. Giovanni (2006) argued that high interest rate set by the Central Bank means that the other financial institution will have to charge high because they are all profit oriented. In Nigeria, since the inception of interest rates deregulation in 1986, the government has pursued a market-determined interest rate regime, which does not permit a direct state intervention in the general direction of the economy (Adebiyi and Babatope, 2016). Rasheed (2010) states that the Nigerian economy saw different interest rates for different sectors in 1970's through the mid 1980 (regulated Regime). Preferential interest rates were therefore applied to encourage priority sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. However, deposit money banks decisions to lend out loans are influenced by a lot of factors such as the prevailing interest rate, the volume of deposits, the level of their domestic and foreign investment, banks liquidity ratio, prestige and public recognition to mention just but a few. Lending practices in the world could be traced to the period of industrial revolution which increase the pace of commercial and production activities thereby bringing about the need for large capital outlays for projects.

Many captains of industry at this period were unable to meet up with the sudden upturn in the financial requirements and therefore turn to the banks for assistance (Ezirim, 2005). However, the emergence of banks in Nigeria in 1872 with the establishment of the African Banks Corporation (ABC) and later appearance of other banks in the scene during the colonial era witnessed the beginning of banks' lending practice in Nigeria. Though, the lending practices of the then colonial banks were biased and discriminatory and could not be said to be a good lending practice as only the expatriates were given loans and advances. This among other reasons led to the establishment of indigenous banks in Nigeria. Prior to the advent of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the country in 1986, the lending practices of banks were strictly regulated under the close surveillance of the bank's supervisory bodies. The SAP period brought about some relaxation of the stringent rules guiding banking practices. The Bank and Other Financial Act Amendment (BOFIA) 1998, requires banks to report large borrowing to the CBN. The CBN also require that their total value of a loan credit facility or any other liability in respect of a borrower, at any time, should not exceed 20% of the shareholders' funds unimpaired by losses in the case of commercial banks (Felicia, 2011).

Statement of the problem

Commercial banks in Nigeria are predominant in the banking industry. Their deposit and credits form a major portion of the total credit to all economy sector. However, they still face major challenges with regards to government regulations, institutional difficulties and other similar challenges. This study therefore intends to identify the effect of the interest rate on the performance of Nigeria deposit money bank. This would be of great assistance to the regulators in forming a favorable interest rate that would meet the macro economic objectives in Nigeria.

Many researchers have work on this study "effect of interest rate on performance of Nigerian deposit money bank " using many interest rate variable to proxy the interest rate but no researchers have use deposit interest rate to measure the relationship between the variables. So this study includes the deposit interest rate as one of the variable in the model.

Research Questions

The paper is guided with the following research questions;

- i. Does lending interest rate have significant relationship with the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank?
- ii. Does deposit interest rate significantly influence the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank?
- iii. Does monetary policy rate significantly influenced the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank?

Objectives of the Study

This paper examined the effect of the lending rate on the performance of Nigeria Deposit Money Bank. While, the specific objective are to;

- i. Examine lending interest rate relationship with the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank.
- ii. Examine deposit interest rate relationship with the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank.
- iii. Examine monetary policy rate relationship with the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank

Hypotheses of the Study

The following hypotheses are relevant for this study:

H₀: Lending interest rate has no significant relationship with the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank.

H₀₂: Deposit interest rate has no significant influence on the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank.

H₀₃: Monetary policy rate has no significant influence on the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank

Scope of the Study

The research study on lending rate and the performance of Nigeria deposit money bank covered the period of 2007-2017. This period was chosen because of the researcher felt that it would be better to use a period of steady democratic dispensation in Nigeria. This study will be limited to lending rate, inflation rate and its effect on the performance of Nigeria deposit bank. Other relevant variable could have been studied but due to time and other resource.

Significance of the Study

The study will help us understand the impact of an effective lending rate on the performance of the Nigeria deposit money Banks. It would aid the regulators to carefully plan and forecast the effects of its policies to meet its objectives of economic growth and full employment. To bankers, it would expose the relationship existing between our relevant variables, which will be of interest to them in their respective banks. This would also benefit the academic community which would avail them the opportunity of conducting further research in the topic of similar areas.

II Literature review

Conceptual Review

Interest Rate

Gilchris, (2013) states that although it is difficult to determine the direction of the relationship between lending rate and profitability, studies confirm that lending rate instability affects Nigeria deposit money bank performance while other studies give contradictory findings. The Central banks also lend Commercial Banks funds. Money borrowed from the Central Bank is to be repaid at a particular interest rate (Monetary Policy Rate). This makes interest rate (lending rate) a powerful government regulatory tool for determining other interest rates in the banking industry. Hualan (1992) stated that interest rate is one of the most important factors that affect the bank financial performance. Corb (2012) argued that interest rate is an economic tool used by the Central Bank to control inflation and to boost economic development. Ngugi (2004) explained that low interest rates and small spread promote economic growth in big ways hence encouraged.

Ngure (2014) defined interest rates as the price a borrower pays for the use of money they borrow from a lender (financial institution) or fee paid on borrowed assets. Sayedi (2013) expressed interest rate as the percentage rate over a period of one year. Karl et al., (2009) posits that interest rates are derived from macroeconomic factors which agree with Irungu (2013) that interest rates are major economic factors

that influence the economic growth in an economy. Inflation and inflationary expectations can press interest rate upward which affects lending rates resulting to reduce credit demand and lending ability of Commercial Banks (Keynes, 2006). Irungu (2013) states that interest rate is the price of money. Interest rates can either be nominal or real. Nominal interest rate can be measured in naira terms, not in terms of goods. The nominal interest rate measures the yield in naira per year, per naira invested while the real interest rate is corrected for inflation and is calculated as the nominal interest rate minus the rate of inflation (Pandey, 1999).

Bank Profitability and Financial Performance

The profitability of a bank is determined by interior and exterior determinants which agrees with (Ongore, 2013; Al-Tamini et al., 2010). The interior determinants are called micro or bank specific determinants of profitability because they are initiated from bank accounts like balance sheet or profit and loss account. While on the other hand, the exterior determinants are the variables which are not in the control of banks' management such as monetary policy interest rates. Chenn (2011) explained that these macroeconomic factors are significant in explaining firm performance (profitability) and subsequent returns to investment. Gilchris, (2013) agrees that the financial performance is commonly measured by ratios such as Return on Equity, Return on Assets.

There are many different mathematical measures to evaluate how well a company is using its resources to make profit (Irungu, 2013). Financial performance can be measured using the following techniques; operating income, earning before interest and taxes, net asset value (Gilchris, 2013). Irungu (2013) described financial performance analysis as the process of identifying the financial strengths and weakness of the firm by properly establishing the relationship between the items of the balance sheet and profit and loss account. It's the process of identifying the relationship between the component parts of financial statements to ascertain an organization position, performance and prospects. Financial performance analysis can be undertaken by management, owners, creditors, investors (Chenn, 2011)

The performance of banks gives direction to shareholders in their decision making (Panayiotis et al., 2006). Wainaina, (2013) says the effect of macroeconomic factors in other sectors of the economy will always affect the banking sector and what goes on in the banking sector will affect the other sectors of the economy. Chen et al., (1986) maintains that these macro-economic factors are significant in explaining firm performance (profitability) and subsequent returns to investors. Gilchris (2013) agrees that financial performance is commonly measured by ratios such as return on equity, return on assets, return on capital, return on sales and operating margin. A firm

has several objectives but profit maximization is said to be paramount among these (Damilola, 2007; KPMG, 2005; Raheman and Nasr, 2007). Profit is a tool for efficient resources allocation because it is the most appropriate measure of corporate performance under competitive market conditions (Pandey, 2005).

Conceptually profit connotes the excess of revenue generated by a firm over its associated costs for an accounting period. Operationally the term profit is imprecise, as many variants exist. The term profit could refer to profit before tax, profit after tax, gross profit, net profit, profit per share, return on assets, among other variants (Damilola, 2007; Pandey, 2005)

Performance of Nigeria Deposit Money Bank

The financial system of most developing nations has come under stress as a result of the economic shocks of the 1980s. The economic shocks largely manifested through indiscriminate distortions of financial prices which includes interest rates, has tended to reduce the real rate of growth and the real size of the financial system relative to financial magnitude. In other words, banks do grant loans and advances to individuals, business organizations as well as government in order to enable them embark on investment and development activities as a means of aiding their growth in particular or contributing towards the economic development of a country in general. Deposit money banks are the most important savings, mobilization and financial resource allocation institutions. Consequently, these roles make them an important phenomenon in economic growth and development. Therefore, no matter the sources of the generation of income or the economic policies of the country deposit money banks would be interested in giving out loans and advances to their numerous customers bearing in mind, the three principles guiding their operations which are profitability, liquidity and solvency (Ajayi, 2008). This study becomes imperative because deposit money banks in Nigeria need to understand how to manage these huge assets in terms of their loans and advances. For the banks to balance their main objectives of liquidity, profitability and solvency, lending must be handled effectively and the banks must behave in a way that their potential customers are attracted and retained. Agene (2001) argued that the effects of an increase in interest rate, other things being equal, will lead to a decline in aggregate demand partly because these will encourage savings to earn higher returns. On the other hand, Adam (2001) added that in a situation where the interest payments form a significant portion of product costs, increased interest rates could result in reduced capital spending, investment, output and employment.

Theoretical Review

The Theoretical framework is guided by the work of Bekaert (1998) which tries

to analyze the influence of lending rate on performance on Nigeria deposit money bank. This section considers theories such as loan Pricing theory, banks lending rate, firm characteristic theory, theory of multiple lending, the signaling approach, credit market theory, classical theory of interest etc.

Loan pricing Theory

Banks cannot always set high interest rates. Banks should consider adverse selection and moral hazard because it is difficult to determine the borrower type at the start of the banking relationship (Stiglitz and Weiss, 1981). If interest rates are too high, it might cause adverse selection problems because only high risk borrowers are willing to borrow. Once they receive the loans they may develop moral hazard behavior since they are likely to take highly risky projects (Chodecai, 2004)

Loanable Funds Theory

This theory synthesizes both the monetary and non monetary impact of the problem (saving and investment process) (Wensheng, et al., 2002). It assumes that interest rates are determined by supply of loanable funds and demand for credit. It recognizes that money can play a disturbing role in the saving and investment processes and thereby causes variations in the level of income. The theory suggests that interest rates equate the demand and supply of loanable funds. Loanable funds are the sum of money supplied and demanded at any time in the money market. Loanable funds theory has implications on banks savers and borrowers and each side is well compensated at equilibrium, Interest rate should be structured in a way every party feel comfortable (Emmanuelle, 2013)

Classical Theory of Interest

According to Keynes, the classical theory of interest is the savings-investment theory. It states that on the general equilibrium theory, the rate of interest is determined by the intersection of demand for and supply of capital which agreed with Caplan (2000). Fredman (1991) explains that the saving and investment are the two real factors determining the rate of interest.

Rational expectations Theory of Interest Rates

This is based on the idea that people formulate expectations based on all the information that is available in the market. It holds that the best estimation for future interest rates is the current spot rate and that changes in interest rates are primary due to unexpected information or changes in economic factors. The limiting factors of rational expectation theory are mostly related to the difficulty in gathering information and understanding how the public uses its information to form its expectation (Caplan,

2000). If interest rate rise will avoid borrowing, this in turn will affect bank performance and vice versa (Bekaert, 1998)

Credit Market Theory

It states that the term of the credit clears the market. If collateral and other restrictions remain constant, interest rate is the only price mechanism. If there is an increasing demand for credit and the supply remains constant, the interest rate rises and vice versa. Ewert (2000) suggest that the higher the failure risk of the borrower, the higher the interest premium.

Bank's Lending Rate

By far the most visible and obvious power of many modern central banks is to influence market interest rates; contrary to popular belief they rarely "set" rates to a fixed number although the mechanism differs from country to country/ most use a similar mechanism based on a central bank's ability to create as much fiat money as required. The mechanism to move the market towards a "target rate" (which specific rate is used) is generally to lend money or borrow money in theoretically unlimited quantities until the targeted market rate is sufficiently close to the target (Adam, 2001). Central banks may do so to by lending money to and borrowing money from a limited number of qualified banks. For example, the Bank of Canada Sets a target overnight rate, and a band of plus or minus 0.25%. Qualified banks borrow from each other within this band, but never above or below, because the Central bank will always lend to them at the top of the band and take deposits at the bottom and lend at the extremes of the band are unlimited. This mechanism also implies to the Central Bank of Nigeria

Multiple Lending Theory

The theory posits that banks should be less inclined to share lending (loan syndication) when the equity markets are well developed. Mergers, acquisition and outside equity increase banks' lending capacity and reduces the need for greater diversification and monitoring (Carletti, 2006; Ongene and Smith, 2000; Karceski, 2004; Degryse, 2004).

Empirical Review

Adofu and Audu (2010) used ordinary least square method to ascertain the assessment of the effects of interest rate deregulation in enhancing agricultural productivity in Nigeria. The study found out that interest rate play a significant role in enhancing economic activities and as such, monetary authorities should ensure appropriate determination of interest rate level that will break the double - edge effect of interest rate on savers and local investors.

Rasheed (2010) used error correction model (ECM) to investigate interest rates determination in Nigeria. The study found out that as the Nigerian financial sector integrates more with global markets, returns on foreign assets will play a significant role in the determination of domestic interest rates.

Newman (2012) used regression and collection methods to examined the relationship between interest rate and the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank. In this study he analysis published audited account of twenty banks from 1980-2009 from the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin. He found out that the interest rate policies have not improved the performance of the banks significantly and also have contributed marginally to the growth of the economy for sustainable development.

Owini and Ajaude (2013) used multiple regression in his study to examined the influence of lending rate on the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank, and twenty four 24 active deposit money banks in Nigeria are used to formulate the population of the study. Data are extracted from the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin from 1986-2012. Finding show that there is significant relationship between lending rate and other variable with the money deposit bank in Nigeria.

Okoye and Eze (2013) used econometrics data in a regression method to investigate the effect of bank lending rate on the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank between the year 2000-2010, data were collected from the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin and others relevant journals and the findings show that lending rate and monetary policy rate has significant and positive effects on the performance of Nigerian deposit money bank

Irungu(2013), used ordinary least square method to analysis the variable on effect of monetary policy rates on the profitability of the Nigeria banks, data were collected from the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin and others relevant journals and the findings show that lending rate and monetary policy rate has significant. The concluded that government should use a favorable monetary policy rate to have a healthy economy growth.

Ngure (2014) used ordinary least square method to ascertain the assessment of the effects of interest rate deregulation in controlling the Nigeria economy. The study found out that interest rate play a significant role in enhancing economic activities and as such, monetary authorities should ensure appropriate determination of interest rate level that will break the double - edge effect of interest rate on savers and local investors.

Enyioko (2015) used regression and collection methods to examined the relationship between monetary and the profitability of Nigerian deposit money bank. In this study he analysis published audited financial account of 15 banks from 1980-2009 and the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin. He found out that the

monetary policies rate have no significant on the performance of the banks and also have contributed to the growth of the economy.

Adeosun and Habeeb(2015) used multiple regression in his study to examined the impact of lending rate on the economic growth. Data are extracted from the central bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin from 1980-2014. Finding show that there is significant relationship between lending rate and the Nigerian economy the monetary authority should apply a favorable rate that will improve the economic activities.

III. Research methodology

Research Design

The research design employed Descriptive and Ex-post facto Research Design. Descriptive research design method helps in gathering information about the existing status of the phenomena in order to describe what exists in respect to variables.

Model Specification

The theoretical foundation is based on the study of Okoye and Eze (2013) and Udeh (2015), who used Pearson Product moment correlation technique to analyze the data collected

Model Estimation

This is expressed functionally as;

$$ROE = f(LIR, DIR, MPR) \dots \dots \dots 1$$

The linear regression equation for the model are

$$ROE = b_0 + b_1LIR + b_2 DIR + b_3MPR + \mu t \dots \dots \dots 2$$

Where

ROE = Dependent Variable (Y t)

LR = Lending interest Rate (X t)

DIR = Deposit interest rate (X t).

MPR= Monetary policy rate

B0= Intercept

B1-b3= co efficient of the independent variables

t = Time series (Annual)

μt = Error or disturbance term.

Source of Data

The data required for the study was obtained from secondary sources that were used to investigate the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The study used secondary data sources to gather information relevant to the research

objectives. The study covered data for interest rate and Nigeria deposit bank within 2007-2017 ,which was collected from the Central Bank of Nigeria; website and statistical bulletin, annual reports and the internet.

IV. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

DATA PRESENTATION

See appendix i

DATA ANALYSIS

Interpretation of Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 4.1: OLS Regression Results

Dependent Variable: ROE

Method: Least Squares

Date: 06/24/17 Time: 13:11

Sample: 2007 2017

Included observations: 11

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	103.3616	169.9801	0.608080	0.5623
LIR	-12.85291	9.318188	-1.379335	0.2102
DIR	24.89479	8.310319	2.995648	0.0201
MPR	6.807494	3.444906	1.976105	0.0887
R-squared	0.802427	Mean dependent var	33.06909	
Adjusted R-squared	0.717752	S.D. dependent var	44.91613	
S.E. of regression	23.86258	Akaike info criterion	9.457788	
Sum squared resid	3985.959	Schwarz criterion	9.602477	
Log likelihood	-48.01783	Hannan-Quinn criter.	9.366582	
F-statistic	9.476632	Durbin-Watson stat	2.825184	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.007341			

Source: Author's computation 2017.

Looking at the above regression output, the Durbin-Watson Statistics of 2.83 showed that there was no presence of positive serial correlation which could render the estimated model result biased. Thus, the results were reliable and meaningful economic and standard inference could be made. Hence, from the multiple linear regression results on table 4.1, the regression equation predicting the relationship between the Return on equity of banks in Nigeria (ROE) and Lending interest rate (LIR), Deposit interest rate (DIR) and Monetary policy rate(MPR) can be stated as:

$$ROE = 10.3987 - 0.1097LIR + 0.2321DIR - 0.0019MPR \dots \dots \dots \text{equ. (4.1)}$$

From the equation of best fit estimated above, it could be deduced that while Deposit interest rate (DIR) and monetary policy rate (MPR) maintained positive relationship with the Banks performance (ROE), Lending interest rate (LIR) maintained negative relationship. Due to the negative relationship exhibited by LIR, 1% increase in LIR was associated with negative impact of reducing the average mean value of ROE by about 1200% and vice versa. Furthermore, since DIR maintained a direct relationship with ROE, it followed that 1% increase or decrease in Deposit interest rate would culminate in about 2400% increase or decrease in the average mean value of Banks performance in Nigeria. Similarly, Monetary policy rate (MPR) had positive relationship with Banks performance such that 1% increase in MPR would resort to about 600% increase in Banks performance and vice versa. Lending interest rate showed the expected negative relationship because it was expected that increase in lending interest rate by the deposit money banks should discourage lending from the investing public and this would eventually lead to loss of interest income on the part of the banks. In case of deposit interest rate it also did not meet expected relationship because increase in the interest payable on deposit by the banks would reduce the available revenue and profitability level of the banks as more part of the interest earned is used to pay interest on deposit to the customers. However, increase in deposit interest rate may encourage more deposit from the customers, increase in deposit will lead to increase in loanable and lending capacity of banks and increase in lending would generate more interest incomes to the bank. he multiple correlation co-efficient (R) of 0.89 indicated a strong linear relationship between the dependent variable which was the Return on equity of banks in Nigeria (ROE) and the interest rate (LIR, DIR and MPR)) since the value was close to 1. Also, the coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.80 indicated that about 80% of the variation in the performance of banks (ROE) could be accounted for by the variations in the independent variables (LIR, DIR and MPR) while the remaining 20% was accounted for by other extraneous variables not captured in the model. Furthermore, the standard error of the model which was 23.86 was considered to be moderately high against expectation. The R² adjusted for the number of parameter (n-k) was 0.71 which was significant.

Durbin Watson Statistic of 2.82 was higher than the R^2 value of 0.8 and more than the benchmark value of 2 which freed the model variables from autocorrelation complicity. T-ratios measured how large the coefficients of the parameters will vary if carried out on repeated sampling of the observations. Thus, DIR has highest t-ratio of 12.99, it thus means that DIR would have very little variation in repeated sampling than MPR and LIR which has lower t-ratios. Moreover, looking at the significance of each of the coefficients of the predictors, only DIR was statistically significant to the specified model judging from their p-values. However, the f-stat of the model which was 9.47 significant and indicated that the proportion of variation in the banks performance accounted for by the interest rate was not due to chance or error.

Test of Hypotheses

The decision rule for testing hypothesis is that Null Hypothesis (H_0) should be rejected and Alternate Hypothesis (H_1) accepted if P-value is less than 0.05 threshold and vice versa.

(1) H_{0_1} : Lending interest rate does not impact significantly on banks performance in Nigeria;

H_{1_1} : Lending interest rate impacts significantly on banks performance in Nigeria in Nigeria.

From table 4.1, since P-value of LIR which is 0.2102 was more than the critical value of 0.05, H_{0_1} was accepted and H_{1_1} rejected. This meant that Lending interest rate has no significant on Nigerian banks performance in Nigeria. This might be a pointer to high interest rate that is predominant in the economy which keeps discouraging customers from approaching banks for credit. It also meant that interest rate during the period under study did not determine the profit level of banks in Nigeria in a significant manner..

(2) H_{0_2} : Deposit interest rate has no significant impact on the Nigerian banks performance.

H_{1_2} : Deposit interest rate has significant impact on the Nigerian banks performance. Also, since P-value of 0.02 was less than the critical value of 0.05, there was no enough reason to accept the H_{0_2} ; it thus meant that deposit interest rate has significant impact on Nigerian banks performance. Although DIR relationship contradicted the apriori expectation that high deposit interest rate should reduce the profit earned by the banks, nevertheless, the increase in deposit level which might associate with increase in deposit interest can promote banks performance in terms of return on equity and profitability in Nigeria. Thus, the deposit interest of the money deposit banks over the period this study has translated to positive growth in the profitability level of Nigerian banks.

(3) H_{0_3} : Monetary policy rate has no significant impact on the Nigerian banks

performance.

H₁₃: Monetary policy rate has significant impact on the Nigerian banks performance in Nigeria

On the contrary, MPR has P-value of 0.08 which was greater than critical value of 0.05, there was no enough reason to reject the H₀₃; this translated that Monetary policy rate has no significant impact on banks performance in Nigeria. The forgoing contradicted the expected outcome that increase in the rate at which BN lend to deposit money banks should discourage borrowing by the public and reduce banks performance in terms of profit significantly.

V. Conclusion Nigerian deposit money banks remain dominant in the banking system in terms of their shares of total assets and deposit liabilities. Their interest rate policy, a major component of total credits on the increase in spite of the major constraints posted by the government regulations, institutional constraints and other macro economic factors. I concludes that, both government and deposit money banks should be mindful of the facts that interest rate in which they operate in, for the bank performance. Where the interest is conducive and supportive, performance of banks will be effective and efficient and increase the profitability of the bank. But where the interest rate are hash the Deposit money banks should note that they need to do a lot in order to ensure good lending behavior even where a good measure of macroeconomic stability is achieved. This is because of the positive and significant relationship found between bank interest rate and bank performance in both short and long run.

Recommendations Based on the findings in this study, the following suggestions are recommended:

1. Having seen that there exists a long run and short run relationship between return on equity and explanatory variables (LIR,DIR, and MPR) through the use of multiple regression model, government should adopt policies that will help Nigerian deposit money banks to improve on their performance.
2. There is need to strengthened bank lending rate policy through effective and efficient regulation and supervisory framework.
3. Banks should try as much as possible to strike a balance in their loan pricing decisions. This will help them to be able to cover cost associated with lending and at the same time, maintain good banking relationship with their borrowers.

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A p p e n d i x

Data presentation

YEAR	ROE	LIR	DIR	MPR
2007	36.83	16.94	3.55	9.50
2008	34.11	15.14	2.84	9.75
2009	-64.72	18.99	2.68	6.00
2010	16	17.59	2.21	6.25
2011	-0.28	16.02	1.41	12.00
2012	22.2	16.79	1.70	12.00
2013	23.21	16.72	2.17	12.00
2014	44.84	16.55	3.38	13.00
2015	56.78	16.85	3.58	11.00
2016	96.56	16.87	3.75	14.00
2017	98.23	17.78	5.16	14.00

SOURCE: Daniel and John, 2016 and CBN Statistical bulletin 2017

FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**FIRMS' ATTRIBUTES AND STOCK PRICE OF LISTED
CONSUMER GOODS COMPANIES ON THE
NIGERIA EXCHANGE GROUP****Author****ADEBOWALE, Olajide Julius**

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Abstract:

The study examines the effect of a firms' specific attributes on the stock price of consumer goods companies on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX). Secondary source of information were employed to extract useful information from the financial reports of the eight (8) consumer goods companies sampled for the investigation for the periods 2007-2021. The measures of firms' specific attributes proxied by return on assets (ROA), firm's size (FSIZE), firm's age (FAG), financial leverage (FLR), liquidity (LQ), the tangibility of assets (ATANG) with stock market price, being explained variable measured by market value (MV). Pooled Ordinary Least Square model was used to analyse the data gathered for the study. The results of the analysis showed that profitability, firm size, and liquidity have positive effect on the MV ($\beta = 0.03521$, $p\text{-value} = 0.003$, $\beta = 0.1282$, $p\text{-value} = 0.040$, $\beta = 0.09523$, $p\text{-value} = 0.030$) and assets tangibility has a negative effect on MV ($\beta = -0.4936$, $p\text{-value} = 0.020$) while age of the business has negative but not significant effect on MV ($\beta = -0.0073$, $p\text{-value} = 0.467$). The findings also show that financial leverage has positive but no significant effect on the MV of the sampled companies ($p\text{-value} = 0.501$, $\beta = 0.1292$). The study, therefore, recommends among others that profitability, firm size, liquidity, and asset tangibility are critical firms' specific attributes to consider when the management of publicly quoted consumer goods companies in Nigeria plan to change their stock prices

Keywords: Rational Expectation Theory, Return on assets, financial leverage, and market value

Introduction

Changes in stock prices are a result of several causes and can have either a positive or negative influence, stock returns from investments in equities are susceptible to change. These elements could be internal, firm-specific, or global. Company size, firms' age, financial leverage, liquidity, tangibility of asset, are among the internal determinants. Other factors include the profitability of the company,

premium growth, loss ratio, interest coverage, dividend yield, and business riskiness. However, a highly efficient attribute has the potential to drive up stock markets, which would then contribute to a rise in the overall worth of the company (Kartika et al., 2012).

a highly efficient attribute has the potential to drive up stock markets, which would then contribute to a rise in the overall worth of the company (Kartika et al., 2012). There are characteristics of a company that pertains to its finances; we refer to these characteristics as performance characteristics. They vary throughout time and make it possible to determine how well an organization is doing (Naser et al., 2002). A high-performance characteristic may thus contribute to a rise in the price of a company's shares, which can ultimately result in an increase in the value of the company (Kartika et al., 2012)

Stock prices are a measure of the worth of a company as well as the highest or lowest buying or selling prices (cost + margin) of units of a company's stock, financial asset, or derivatives. Stock prices may go up or down (Lo & MacKinlay, 1988). Because of the consistent flow of information, management decisions are often communicated to the most important stakeholders. These choices have an immediate and substantial impact on their performance, most notably their market worth. As a result of this, it is very necessary to examine the amount to which the characteristics of businesses, which are usually changed by the actions made by management, affect the fluctuations in the market share price.

One may make the case that aspects of a company like its rate of asset growth have some bearing on its market value. This is due to the fact that a greater proportion of a company's equity capital is often invested in growing the business. Because of this, the company's productivity will increase, and as a result, its return on investment will increase as well. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the share price of the company. It is difficult to say if the impact of asset expansion in the first year on the market performance of the business in the future years in the same sector without divestiture will be substantial. Firms that are not adequately monitored present a risk not only to themselves but also to others, and they can also put the stock market at risk. This is due to the fact that if actions are taken that have a negative effect on share prices generally, then the total share price index will suffer as a result in the international market.

Since money is one of the most significant factors in a company's continued existence, it is essential to have a solid grasp on how its most key players are doing (especially listed financial intermediaries). In the financial systems of growing nations, financial intermediaries play a preeminent role. They are responsible for the distribution of excess money to deficit units, and as a result, they act as stimulants for economic development (King & Levine, 1993). The stock market is a regulated market

where financial securities such as bonds, promissory notes, and stocks are traded for a specific and regulated price base on the level of demand and supply Stock exchanges, which are businesses or cooperative groups that specialize in connecting buyers and sellers of stocks and securities, list and trade the securities (Nwude, 2016).

Many scholars have harnessed their thoughtful on the relationship between share value and manufacturing performance. According to another research, micro and macroeconomic factors may influence stock prices (Christopher, Rufus & Jimoh, 2015). Among these criteria are the company's book value, dividend yield, operating profit, and dividend protection (Gompers, Ishii & Metrick, 2013).

In most countries, the stock market has grown into a related mechanism for the creation of money and the expansion of the economy. The stock market is more than simply a place to trade equities; it acts as a channel for money to move from savers to investors, as well as distributing risk and promoting wealth transfer. Stock markets are crucial to economic growth because they ensure that resources are allocated to the most viable investment opportunities (Udegbumam & Eriki, 2011). Priority should be given to increasing the value or price of the company's shares. Return on assets, return on equity, return on capital utilized, net profit margin, net profit after tax, retained profits, dividend per share, and earnings per share are only a few of the metrics used to evaluate a company's success.

Moreover, most of the existing literatures in Nigeria focused on just a few areas of the economy (such as manufacturing, commerce, and financial services), disregarding a key part of the Nigerian economy: the manufacturing sector, which accounts for 7.42 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (NBS). This absence means that there is still insufficient reliable evidence on the topic. Consequently, the purpose of this research was to look into the impact of several firm-specific characteristics on the stock market price of Nigerian Exchange Group-listed consumer goods companies..

The primary objective of this study is to examine the effect of firm's attribute on stock market price of listed consumer goods companies on the Nigeria Exchange Group.

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

Stock price

The stock price is the cost of purchasing or selling a group of shares or ordinary shares. During the trading day, the price of equity, also known as share price, varies, especially during moments of high trading volume. Porterba and Summer (2000) Random Walk hypothesis are used to calculate stock prices. Every contemporary economy has a stock market, which is considered as providing vital capital allocation

activities that, among other things, encourage economic development and drive industrial sector expansion. Because capital markets and the economy are so inextricably intertwined, the stock exchange is seen as a critical indicator of economic development in many industrialized nations. According to Okoye, Nwisienyi, and Eze, the capital market is the utmost vital basis of reserves for firms in emerging nations like Nigeria (2013). They believe it is vital to emphasize that huge quantities of money are necessary to produce or import technical know-how for industrial growth.

Firms' Attributes

Firms' attributes are aspects that identify the business as an entity, are unique to each firm, and may be financial or non-financial in nature, internal or external to the firm in the location, or any combination of these factors. Hassan & Ahmed (2012). In spite of the fact that academics such as Reber and Fong (2006) and Okpara (2010) have acknowledged the connection between the characteristics of a company and the overall success of the organization in meeting its goals, this topic receives much less attention in both the real world and in academic research. This is in part attributable to the growth in concerns over corporate governance, which were prominently shown in the examples of companies such as Enron, WorldCom, and Adelphia, amongst others. However, concerns about corporate governance are solely concerned with management and ownership characteristics. On the other hand, firm's qualities are more general in scope and should include not just corporate governance but also other aspects of financial success.

There are various distinct features of businesses that might impact stock price in the stock exchange market; the most essential assessment of a firm's attributes can be done by using the following: (i) Profitability, (ii) Liquidity, (iii) Growth Rate, (iv) Firm Size, (v) Financial Leverage, (vi) Business Risk, (vii) Asset Tangibility Al-Najjar & Kilincaslan, 2017; Uwuigbe, 2013).

Theoretical Review

This study was grounded on rational expectation theory and efficient market hypothesis theory. Rational expectation theory (RET) is a concept and modelling technique that is used widely in macroeconomics, and it was put forward by John, F.Muth in the 1960s. The theory posits that individuals base their decisions on three primary factors; human rationality, information available to them, and past experiences. The theory suggests that people's current expectations of the economy are themselves able to influence what the future state of the economy will become. The price of a stock or bond relies in part on what potential buyers and sellers expect it will be in the future. The 'random walk' or 'efficient markets' theory of securities prices relies heavily on the rational expectation theory as a foundational pillar. It is claimed

that a series of observations on the daily stock price follows a random walk if the present value provides the most accurate forecast, it is feasible to make of future values. The concept of rational expectations is utilized by the Efficient Markets theory of stock prices in order to arrive at the conclusion that investors' purchase stocks that they anticipate will have a return that is greater than the average and sell stocks that they anticipate will have returns that are lower than the average. When investors do this, the prices of stocks that are anticipated to have returns that are greater than average are bought up, while the prices of companies that are anticipated to have returns that are lower than average are driven down. The prices of the stocks will continue to change until the predicted returns, after taking into account the risk, are comparable across all of the stocks. The term "equalization of anticipated returns" refers to the process through which the expectations of investors are incorporated into, or represented by, the prices of stocks. To be more specific, it implies that stock prices adjust in such a way that, after taking into account information such as dividends, bonuses, the value of money over time, and differential risks, they are equivalent to the market's best estimate of what the price of the stock will be in the future. Therefore, the only things that have the potential to affect the price of a stock are random factors, which cannot be predicted in advance (Sergeant and Wallace, 1975).

According to the Efficient Market Hypothesis, a change in the basic aspects of a company has the greatest potential to immediately impact the stock price of that company. According to them, one should anticipate an increase in the share price if the firm's sales and profits are continually expanding. This is because investors will compete to purchase into the growing fortunes of the company. On the other hand, if the profit remains the same or goes down with no sign of improvement in sight, investors will start selling the shares, which would cause the price to go down. The hypothesis, on the other hand, contends that changes in the fundamental business have a direct bearing on the price of a company's shares. Investors who are astute enough to notice tiny shifts in the market before they become price-movers and react appropriately do so. Another aspect that the theory found is something that is referred to as sector changes. According to the theory, changes in the sector of the company may have either positive or negative impacts on the price of the stock. It is reasonable to anticipate that the stock price will be impacted by the cyclical nature of certain businesses or sectors (Mukherjee and Naka, 1995; Maysami and Koh, 2000)..

Empirical Evidence

Alaeto (2020) looked at the factors that influence dividend distributions in Nigerian non-financial firms that are publicly traded. As a proxy for dividend determination, dividend intensity and market value were used. Explanatory variables were return on

assets (ROA), business size (FSIZE), debt ratio (DR), growth potential (GR), liquidity ratio (LR), and asset tangibility (ATANG). From 2013 to 2017, data was collected from 74 publicly listed non-financial firms' annual reports. In this analysis, dividend distributions were shown to be favorably associated to ROA, GR, and LR, but adversely related to FSIZE, DR, and ATANG.

Bello and Lasisi (2020) investigated the factors that determine the market value of publicly traded consumer products companies in Nigeria. An ex-post facto research technique was utilized on a sample of nine (9) Nigerian firms from 2015 to 2019. The Ordinary Pool Regression approach was used to analyse the panel secondary data obtained from chosen listed businesses' financial reports. According to the findings, business risk and life cycle are positively and substantially related to the dividend choices of the selected publicly listed enterprises. Furthermore, the study discovered that asset tangibility had a significant negative effect on the dividend choices of the organizations analyzed.

Akinlo (2010) used the panel co-integration approach to study the long-term connection and causality concerns between business size and profitability in 66 Nigerian enterprises. The empirical findings revealed that company size and profitability have a long-term steady state connection. Size and profitability have a bidirectional link, according to the short-run causal relationship. This meant that profitability Granger dictates firm size and firm size Granger causes profitability.

Obehioye and Osahon (2013) used Nigeria as a case study to look at the factors that influence company profitability in emerging countries. The research employed panel data from 40 firms chosen at random over a five-year period (2006-2010). They utilized return on assets to assess profitability and sales turnover to measure size in their research. To investigate the association between size and business profitability, the ordinary least square regression approach was used. According to the findings, the two factors have a favorable association.

Deni-Mihajlov (2014) for example, used fixed effect regression analysis to investigate the effects of company structure factors such as firm size, liquidity, leverage, asset turnover, and institutional ownership on business profitability during the recession from 2008 to 2011. Profitability was measured using the operating profit margin and return on total assets, while size was determined by sales growth. The findings indicated that the size and profitability of Serbian publicly traded enterprises had a positive and substantial link.

Doan (2013) looked at the impact of business size on profitability in a similar vein. Using the multiple regression and correlation approach, data from 200 businesses on the Istanbul Stock Exchange was gathered between 2008 and 2011. Dogan came to the conclusion that there is a link between size and profitability towards the end of his research. That is, when the size of companies listed on the

Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) grows (total assets, total revenues, and number of workers), their earnings in terms of return on assets grow.

Anila et al. (2011) examined the factors of profitability of Pakistani enterprises using the ordinary least square regression approach, with size being a prominent predictor. Between 2006 and 2012, they gathered data from 50 businesses and utilized it to study the factors of profitability of Pakistani enterprises, with size being a prominent predictor. Sales turnover was used as a proxy for measuring corporate profitability in the study, while return on equity and investments were used as proxies. The study revealed that firm size has a positive, if little, impact on profitability.

Vlachvei et al. (2008) carried out a study in Greece on the value of firm and growth of their operation, secondary data were used with a sampling of 178 manufacturing companies which covered the year of 1995-2000 and ordinary least square dummy variable as the technique for analyzing the data. Financial data from 178 industrial and commercial enterprises registered on the Greek Stock Exchange were utilized in the study. The rate of growth was calculated using the number of employees and sales. When assessing growth rates, the study takes into consideration a number of characteristics that identify the sample enterprises. The results indicated that firm growth, size, and age have a significant impact on the profitability of the companies

Methodology

The study used an ex post facto quantitative research approach, which was found suitable for this research. This research included eighteen consumer products businesses that were listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) from 2007 to 2021, only eight of the listed consumer goods companies were chosen using a random selection method: Dangote Plc, Chi Limited, Yale Foods Limited, Flour Mill Limited, Sona Agro Allied Foods Limited, Vital Products Foods, Dansa Food Limited, and La Casera Company Plc.

Table 1: Description of proxies for variables of the study

S/N	VARIABLES	SYMBOL	MEASUREMENT
Dependent Variable			
1	Market Value	MV	Stock market price
Independent Variables			
1	Return on Assets	ROA	Net Profit after Tax/ Total Assets
2	Firm Size	FSIZE	Natural log of Total Assets
3	Firm Age	FAG	Year of Financial Report - Year of founding the firm
4	Leverage	FLV	Total debts/ Total Assets
5	Liquidity	LQ	Current Assets/ Current Liabilities
6	Asset Tangibility	ATANG	Fixed Assets/ Total Assets

Source: Author's compilation 2022

The study adopted a similar regression model from the study of Muhammad & Muhammad (2016) which was modified to capture the relevant variables supported with empirical evidence. This model aided in the testing of the study's stated hypothesis as well as the achievement of the stated objective. The model's functional specification is written as follows:

$$MV = f(ROA + FSIZE + FAG + FLV + LQ + ATANG)$$

The econometric specification is as follows:

$$(MV)_{it} = b_0 + b_1(ROA)_{it} + b_2(FSIZE)_{it} + b_3(FAG)_{it} + b_4(FLR)_{it} + b_5(LQ)_{it} + b_6(ATANG)_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Where:

MV = Market Value, (proxy for stock price), ROA = Return on Asset, FS = Firm's Size, FAG = Firm's Age, FLR = Financial Leverage, LQ = Liquidity, ATANG = Tangibility of Assets

b_0 = Intercept for X variable of company

$b_1 - b_9$ = Coefficients for firms' explanatory variables, indicating the nature of their relationship with the dependent variable (or parameters),

e = Error term

i = cross sectional variable

t = Time series variable

The research employed both descriptive and inferential statistics to examine data from 2006 through 2020. In this study, correlation and regression analysis were utilized as inferential statistics. The hypothesis was evaluated using the panel data

regression technique to analyze the link between explanatory factors and market value, and the degree of association between the variables under inquiry was quantified using Pearson correlation.

Findings and Discussions

Descriptive Statistics

The analysis covered listed consumer goods firms in Nigeria selected based on the availability of data. Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables used in this study.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics for the selected listed consumer goods firms

Variables	No of Observations	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Market Value	80	0.5362	0.4771	0.0002	1.9800
Return on Assets	80	0.0367	0.2041	-0.7300	1.7300
Firm's Size	80	7.8567	0.6326	6.0800	9.0800
Firm's Age	80	41.6400	12.6668	12.0000	69.0000
Financial Leverage	80	0.8401	0.3821	0.1000	2.4800
Assets Tangibility	80	0.4598	0.3553	0.0700	0.9000
Valid N (Listwise)	80				

Source: Author's Compilation 2022

Table 2 shows that the average market value of publicly traded consumer goods companies in Nigeria is 42.51 percent, with a minimum of 0.02 percent and a maximum of 198.00 percent, and a standard deviation of 47.71 percent, indicating that the market value of publicly traded consumer goods companies in Nigeria deviates significantly from the mean on both sides by 47.71 percent.

The mean values of return on asset (ROA), firm size, firm age, financial leverage, liquidity ratio, and assets tangibility (ATANG) range from 3.67 percent to 45.98 percent, respectively, with standard deviations of 0.2041, 0.6326, 12.6668, 0.3821, and 0.3553. This reveals a broad range of metrics of a firm's distinctive features among the consumer goods companies studied.

Analysis of Correlation

The correlation matrix for the variables is shown in Table 3, and it was used to look into the relationship between nine explanatory factors and the market value (dependent variable), as well as between explanatory variables.

Table 3: Correlation Matrix of all variables (2006-2020)

	MV	ROA	FSIZ	FAG	FLV	LQ	ATA
			E				NG
MV	1.000						
	0						
ROA	0.087	1.0000					
	8						
FSIZE	0.106	-0.0634	1.000				
	4		0				
FAG	0.397	0.1304	0.482	1.0000			
	9		9				
FLV	0.109	-.2861	0.018	0.0112	1.000		
	6		5		0		
LQ	0.086	0.0815	-	-.0710	-	1.000	
	1		.1079		.0466	0	
ATANG	-	-.1517	0.181	-.2011	0.082	-	1.000
	.2066		0		5	.1060	0

Source: Author's Compilation 2022

The correlation coefficients of the explanatory variables vary from -29.13 percent to 48.29 percent, demonstrating how strong the linear relationship between them is. According to Gujarati (2004), multicollinearity is only an issue when the pair-wise correlation coefficient between regressors exceeds 0.80. Table 3 demonstrates that the bulk of cross-correlation terms for the explanatory variables are small, indicating that multicollinearity among the explanatory factors is not a big problem.

Multicollinearity Test

One of the implicit assumptions when using the panel least square estimate technique is that the exogenous variables are not absolutely or nearly perfectly correlated with each other. If there is no link between the explanatory variables, they are said to be orthogonal. The link between the independent variables is shown in Table 4 using the variance inflation factor (VIF). Each variable has a VIF of less than 10, suggesting that multicollinearity is not an issue. VIF is also less than ten on average.

Table 4: Variance Inflation Factor

Variable	VIF	I/VIF
ROA	1.18	0.8510
FSIZE	1.45	0.6932
FAG	1.83	0.5535
FLV	1.44	0.6974
LQ	1.30	0.7713
ATANG	1.18	0.8531
Mean VIF	1.32	

Source: Author's Computations 2022.

Heteroscedasticity Tests

The Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test for heteroscedasticity was used to test for violation of the assumption of homoscedasticity (constant variance) of disturbances, and the chi result of 1.13 with a p-value of 0.2949 verified the constant variance of the data set.

Analysis of Regression

Running the pooled ordinary least square (OLS) model, fixed effect (FE) model, and random effect (RE) model, and then deciding which of these models is appropriate for this research, is the typical approach for regression analysis. Whether to employ the random effects (RE) or fixed effects (FE) model for this study was determined by whether the individual effects were fixed or random. The Hausman test was used to assess which model was best matched between fixed effects and random effects. The Hausman test indicates that the fixed-effects model is appropriate, as indicated by prob (0.0055) less than 5% significance level.

The findings of the pool OLS, fixed-effects, and random-effects models for the influence of firm-specific features on the market value of the sampled listed consumer goods businesses in Nigeria are shown in Table 5. The sample regression line has an R2 value of 0.2552 (26%) indicating that it was around 26 percent fit. In addition, the explanatory factors (ROA, FSIZE, FAG, FLR, LQ, and ATANG) combined account for nearly 26% of the overall variance in the market value of the consumer goods businesses studied. At the 0.05 level of significance, the F-statistic = 1.76 and P-value 0.0334 indicate considerable statistical significance, demonstrating that the model is trustworthy and valid. The explanation of each explanatory variable in relation to the explained variable is given below (MV).

According to the Hausman test, the impact of return on assets on market value is positive (0.0352) and statistically significant (P-value of 0.005 at 5% level of significance). This indicates that the market value of the chosen enterprises will benefit from the return on assets. According to the findings, a 1% improvement in

profitability as assessed by return on assets would result in a 3.52 percent rise in the market value of the selected companies. Profitable enterprises, on the other hand, are better positioned to fulfill trade credit and lender demands, as well as investment expenditures, while still having the resources to pay bigger dividends. Pandy (2001), Amidu & Abor (2006), Uwuigbe (2013), Sanyaolu, Onifade & Ajulo (2017), and Alaeto (2020) all found a positive association between profitability and market value.

According to the OLS model, company size has a positive and significant influence on market value of the chosen businesses, with a marginal impact coefficient (0.1282) and p-value (0.039) at the 5% level of significance. This suggests that the market value of the chosen companies will increase by 12.82 percent for every 1% increase in their size.

As demonstrated by the marginal effect coefficient (0.0953) and p value (0.025) at the 5% level of significance, liquidity has a positive and significant influence on the market value of the chosen enterprises. This indicates that the chosen businesses' liquidity situation has a positive influence on their market value, with a 1% increase in liquidity resulting in a 9.53 percent increase in the dividend payout ratio of the selected firms. The result backs with the theory that companies with strong liquidity positions have greater market value than those with poor liquidity situations. In a similar vein, the research confirms Jensen's findings (1986). This study's results are consistent with those of Manos (2003) and Alaeto (2020), who both found a statistically significant relationship between a firm's short-term debt-paying capability and market value behavior.

Table 4.4 shows that asset tangibility has a negative but statistically significant relationship with market value of the chosen enterprises, as shown by the marginal impact coefficient (-0.4936) and p-value (0.020) at the 5% level of significance. According to the findings, a high level of tangible asset investment would have a negative influence on the market value of the chosen enterprises. This suggests that a 1% increase in asset tangibility reduces the dividend payout ratio of the selected corporations by 49.36%.

The results back with the theory that having a greater percentage of long-term tangible assets limits the amount of short-term assets that may be used as collateral for short-term loans, limiting the borrowing capacity of enterprises that rely on short-term bank loans as their principal source of debt. This will need the use of more internally produced cash, lowering their market value capabilities. Financial leverage had a positive (0.1922) but statistically insignificant impact on the market value of the consumer goods businesses studied (P-values of, 0.501 at the 5 percent level of significance). Despite the fact that company age and financial leverage are excellent for describing the behavior of selected businesses' market value, the results of this research imply that they are not key criteria to consider when making choices to maximize the market value of the listed consumer goods firms analyzed.

Table 5: Regression Result for Effect of Firm's Specific Attributes on Market value of Listed Consumer goods Firms in Nigeria.

Variable	Pooled OLS	Fixed Effect Model	Random Model	Effect
Constant	-0.2188 (0.754)	1.5997 (0.031)	-0.2188 (0.864)	
ROA	0.2001 (0.487)	0.0352 (0.005)*	0.1119 (0.495)	
FSIZE	0.0329 (0.819)	0.1282 (0.039)*	0.0329 (0.818)	
FAG	0.0236 (0.003)*	-0.0059 (0.570)	0.0236 (0.012)*	
GRATE	0.1517 (0.083)	0.0935 (0.248)	0.1518 (0.071)	
FLV	0.2792 (0.187)	0.1292 (0.501)	0.2792 (0.185)	
LQ	0.0811 (0.112)	0.0953 (0.025)*	0.0811 (0.109)	
FCF	0.0153 (0.302)	0.0027 (0.789)	0.0053 (0.291)	
BR	0.0159 (0.399)	0.0047 (0.577)	0.0059 (0.397)	
ATANG	-0.2188 (0.225)	-0.4936 (0.020)*	-0.2332 (0.222)	
F-statistic	3.78 (0.0016)*	1.76 (0.0334)*		
R-square		0.2552		
Wald X²			33.03 (0.0002)*	
Hausman Test		24.84 (0.0055)*		

*denotes 5% level of significance.

() denotes Prob., while the denotes coefficients of the variables.

Source: Author's Computations 2022.

Conclusion and Recommendations

As a result, the research concludes that the unique characteristics of a business have a significant statistical link with the market value of publicly traded consumer products

firms in Nigeria. Inference statistics were used to confirm the presence of a significant effect with a p-value less than the 5% threshold of significance. Profitability, firm size, liquidity, and asset tangibility are all significant factors to consider when the management of listed consumer products businesses in Nigeria chooses to implement new pricing strategies, according to the research.

In view of the findings, the study recommends that firms in this sector should work on increasing the value of market share and liquidity position, and decrease leverage and operating expenses which will subsequently lead to an improvement in capital management.

Future studies may investigate the firms' other specific attributes and stock price of other sector apart from the consumer goods companies listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group by comparing non- financial firms and financial firms to see if the same variables determine their market value. Also, future studies can employ a mix of macroeconomic variables.

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THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES BETWEEN AGRIBUSINESS FIRMS AND SMALL-SCALE SOYBEAN FARMERS IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MAKARFI LGA, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract:

The study was conducted to examine the role of institutional linkages between agribusiness firms and small-scale soybean farmers in poverty alleviation in Makarfi LGA of Kaduna State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 72 small-scale soybean farmers in Makarfi LGA. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and t-statistic. The results of the analysis showed that 72% for both non-participants and participants fell within the active age of 31-50 years, 88% of non-participants and 52% participant are literate having acquired one form of education or another, 61% of non-participants and 58% of participants family size is within the range of 1-10, majority (91%) of non-participants had between 1-10 years farming experience, while 75% of participants had 11-20 years farming experience. The t-test value -2.15 revealed that the average income for participants is N82,311.11 and N48,187.50 for non-participants. This implies that participation has significant impact on participant's farm income at 5% level of significance. However, inadequate capital, high cost of fertilizer and late commencement of pre-season training are constraints faced by the contract famers. It was recommended that government should encourage the production of organic fertilizer, restructure and recapitalize the entire credit system to enhance small scale farmers' access to credit, ensures the security of lives and property as well as provision of social amenities to rural famers.

Keywords: Agribusiness, contract farming, institutional linkages, poverty alleviation.

Introduction

The role of agriculture in reforming both the social and economic framework of an economy cannot be over-emphasized. It is a source of food and raw materials for the industrial sector. Agriculture can help reduce poverty, raise incomes and

improve food security for 80 percent of the world's poor, who live in rural areas and work mainly in farming (World Bank Group [WBG], 2020). According to World Bank (2014) policy note, the incidence of agriculture is higher in the rural areas with 78 percent participation rate compared with urban areas which have a 26 percent participation rate. The vital role of agriculture in the overall development of the Nigerian economy is beyond dispute. Agriculture is anticipated to provide abundant, cheap but high-quality food to the teeming population (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development [FMARD], 2010). In addition, it is expected that the sector would be a veritable source of employment and income generation to a significant proportion of the population and therefore a major tool for combating poverty.

One of the major problems confronting Nigerians today is how to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and reduce the level of poverty, as most of the poor are based in the rural areas where agriculture is the major occupation of the people. Poverty is a condition of having little or no money and not being able to get the necessities of life (Imodu, 1999). According to Olomola, (2010), some of the dimensions of rural poverty in Nigeria are: lack of access to productive resources; subsistent production/low productivity; low level of farm income; traditional production technology, inadequate infrastructure facilities and inefficient production system. He described a poor farmer as one that has a modest piece of land which may not belong to him; uses mostly family labour for farm operations; consumes most of what he produces; lack funds to purchase inputs; uses low level technology that is based on high risk and traditional practices, resulting in low productivity and poor output. Thus, in achieving the broad objectives of poverty alleviation among small scale farmers, Olomola emphasized that institutional linkages between agribusiness firms and small-scale farmers through contract farming need to be encouraged and sustained to ensure income growth for the farmers.

Olomola (2010) described the Nigerian economy as becoming increasingly market-oriented and private-sector led. He noted that the unfolding scenario is such that small-scale farmers face considerable market constraints including poor market information, restricted access to credit and modern inputs and high transaction costs arising from weak market integration. Therefore, the farmers are finding it tough to compete and are becoming more vulnerable to economic exclusion and poverty.

Contract farming arrangements has emerged as a means to alleviate these constraints and thus enhance the productive capacity of small-scale farmers. Theoretically, contract farming arrangements allows farmer to have access to an array of agricultural services which they would otherwise not have access to. By reducing risk, uncertainty and transaction costs, they have the potential to link farmers to markets and stimulate agricultural production in the face of globalization. The World Bank has officially promoted contract farming as a tool for poverty reduction in Africa

(World Bank, 2007). Contract farming is a contract between a farmer and a purchaser established in advance of the growing season for a specific quantity, quality and date of delivery of an agricultural output at a price or price formula fixed in advance (Setboonsarg, 2008). Marketing of agricultural products by the government has declined drastically in recent times, leaving it in the hands of private agribusiness firms who are more active in the trading, storage, processing and export of agricultural products. The creation of such markets allows for the expansion of contract farming, such that agro-enterprises contract farmers before planting season to supply specific agricultural products. This is done under technical assistance, provision of inputs on credit as well as assured markets by the firm.

With the inefficiency of government extension services and the limited government and donor resources available, private sector generation of small-scale farmers' growth may be key to large scale poverty reduction (Daniel & Hanson, 2013). The United State Agency for International Development – Maximizing Agricultural Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted States II (USAID MARKETS II) contract farming scheme introduced by USAID in 2008 is one scheme involved in enhancing linkages between agribusiness firms and small-scale farmers in selected local government areas of Kaduna State. This is to promote agricultural development through increased private sector participation and investment in the sector, raising income, increasing employment and reducing poverty among small scale rural farmers (United State Department of Agriculture [USDA], 2013).

The agribusiness sector in Nigeria is faced with multitudes of market constraints (Olumba, Olumba, & Alimba, 2021). The high production and transaction costs in agribusiness operations in Nigeria is having negative effect on profitability and competitiveness in the agricultural sector. (Food and Agricultural Organization [FAO], 2017). The linkage between agribusiness firms and small-scale farmers at the local level is one of the institutional mechanisms that are suitable as remedy, if properly planned and operated effectively. These linkages which manifest in the form of contract farming arrangements allow agribusiness firms struggling with prohibitive cost of importing raw materials into the country to contract farmers to grow produce on their behalf (Kumar, 2006). An effort to complement literatures and create opportunities for linkages among small scale soybean farmers in Makarfi local government area of Kaduna State becomes imperative. Hence, this study was undertaken to examine the role of institutional linkages between agribusiness firms and small-scale soybean farmers in alleviating poverty through contract farming. The specific objectives of the study were to

- i) describe the socio-economic characteristics of small-scale soybean contract farmers in the study area;
- ii) examine the nature of linkages between agribusiness firms and small-scale soybean contract farmers;

- iii) analyze the impact of participation in contract farming on farm income for soybean contract farmers.
- iv) identify the constraints being faced by small-scale soybean farmers under contract farming.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The study was conducted in Makarfi Local Government Area of Kaduna State. Makarfi Local Government Area covers a total land area of 541.0 km², and it is located in the plain of the northern part of Kaduna state. It lies between latitudes 11^o15N and 11^o30N and longitude 7^o5^oE and 80^o5E. The local government is situated in the northern Guinea savanna. It has a population of about 197,900 inhabitants (2016) with 3.0% annual population change (2006-2016). The inhabitants are predominantly farmers from the two major tribes – Hausa and Fulani. Agriculture is the major source of livelihood in the area. However, the level of production of soybean is determined mainly by land suitability, agro-climatic conditions and farmer's experience over the years on the economies of the crop.

A multistage sampling technique was used to select respondents for this study. The first stage involved a purposive selection of Makarfi local government area based on prevalence of the selected crop as well as proximity to other institutions who are partners in the MARKET II project. Secondly, 3 out of 10 villages were selected. Thirdly, 15% of the total sample frame (480) of both contract and non-contract farmers was selected randomly from the villages making a sample size of 72 small-scale soybean contract and non-contract farmers. The data used in this study was derived from household survey through structured questionnaire, which was used to capture information on the following aspects: demographic characteristics of household members, crop production, produce marketing, financial services (credit and savings), farm income from farm devoted to soybean farming, off-farm income, poverty status and contract farming.

Descriptive statistics was used to achieve objectives (i), (ii) and (iv), These include frequency distribution, mean and percentages. T-statistic was used to achieve objective (iii).

$$t = \frac{(\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2)}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2 + S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2}}}$$

Where:

t = Calculated Z value

\bar{X}_1 = Mean value of selected crop income of contract farmers.

\bar{X}_2 = Mean value of selected crop income of non-contract farmers.

S_1 = Standard deviation of selected crop income of contract farmers.

S_2 = Standard deviation of selected crop income of non-contract farmers.

n_1 = Sample size of selected crop contract farmers.

n_2 = Sample size of selected crop non-contract farmers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of participants and non-participants in soybean contract farming.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their socio-economic variables.

Variables	Non-Participants		Participants		
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Age:	20 – 30	5	13.9	5	13.9
	31 – 40	10	27.8	8	22.2
	41 – 50	16	44.4	18	50.0
	> 50	5	13.9	5	13.9
	Total	36	100	36	100
	Mean	42		42	
Education:	No formal education	4	11.1	17	47.2
	Primary education	13	36.1	6	16.7
	Secondary education	10	27.8	6	16.7
	Tertiary education	9	25.0	7	19.4
Family size:	0 – 10	22	61.1	21	58.3
	11 – 20	14	38.9	12	33.3
	>20	0	0	3	8.4
Experience:	1 – 10	8	22.2	33	91.7
	11 – 20	27	75.0	3	8.3
	21 – 30	1	2.8	0	0
	> 31	0	0	0	0

Source: Field work 2019.

According to the result in table 1, the average age of non-participants and participants is 42 years. 72% of non-participants and participants are within the range of 31-50 years. This implies that most of the farmers are in their productive age and therefore

can participate actively in various agricultural productions. The result also showed that 88% of non-participants and 52% of participants are literate, having acquired one form of education or the other. Literacy among the non-participants is high; hence the attainment of education qualification is expected to positively influence farming activities. It could be seen in table 1 that there is no significant difference in family size composition between the two groups. About 61% of the non-participants and 58% of participants have a family size range of 1-10. The result further revealed that 91% of participants in soybean contract farming have farming experience of between 1-10 years, as compared to non-participants, with 75% having soybean farming experience between 11-20 years. This implies that the non-participants are more experience than the participants. There is significance difference in these variables, as non-participants are more educated and have more years of farming experience. However, age and family size are found not to be significant.

Nature of linkages between participants in soybean contract farming and agribusiness firms.

Table 2.: Linkages between participants and agribusiness firms.

Linkages	Frequency	%	Ranking
Linkage to improved seed	36	50.0	1 st
Linkage to market	26	36.1	2 nd
Linkage to loan/credit facilities	3	4.1	3 rd
Total	72	100	

** Multiple responses were allowed.

The linkages provided by USAID MARKETS II to participants in soybean contract farming in the study area were ranked according to their magnitude. The result presented in table 2, revealed that linkage to source of improved seeds ranked 1st with 50% of respondents attesting to this fact that they were linked to source of improved seeds varieties, which is Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. 36.1% of the respondents attest to the fact that they were linked to a better market, which is Karma Milk Industry (KMI), Ibadan. However, most participants sold their grains in the open market because KMI were late for buyback during the period under review. Only 4.1% of the respondents attest to the fact that they were linked to source of credit/loan.

The impact of participation on farm income of participants in soybean contract farming.
Table 3: The result of t-test showing significant difference between income of participants and non-participants in soybean contract farming.

Variable	Non-contract farmers' income	Contract farmers' income
Mean	48187.5	82311.11
Standard deviation	31596.81	93606.92
Observations	36	36
Pearson Correlation	0.113056265	
Hypothesized mean difference	0	
Df	67	
t stat	-2.15	
P(T<=t) one tail	0.02	
t Critical one tail	1.69	
P(T<=t) one tail	0.04	
t Critical one tail	2.03	**

** $P \leq 0.05$

The result in table 3, revealed that the average income for non-participants was N48,187.50, while the average income for participants was N82,311.11. The calculated t-value was -2.15. The result of the analysis indicates that there is a significant impact on participation in contract farming on participants' farm income. Constraints being faced by participants in soybean contract farming in USAID MARKETS II programme.

Although numerous studies confirmed that participants gain from participation in contract farming schemes, the studies also revealed challenges in these schemes. In fact, there is a relatively high rate of failure for contract farming schemes in developing countries. This is particularly evident in Kenya, which has a history of contract farming going back to the colonial period (Minot, 2010). One of the most common challenges in the soybean contract farming programme in the study area as outlined by the agribusiness firms and the facilitators of the programme is side-selling. However, specific challenges are discussed below.

Table 4: Constraints being faced by participants in soybean contract farming

Constraints	Freq.	%	Ranking
High cost of fertilizer	28	38.9	1 st
Lack/Inadequate capital	28	38.9	1 st
Late commencement of pre-season training	5	6.9	3 rd
High cost of labour	4	5.6	4 th
Others (high cost of transportation, pest and diseases)	4	5.6	4 th
Security	3	4.2	6 th
Total	72		

** Multiple responses were allowed.

The constraints being faced by participants in soybean contract farming were ranked according to their magnitude as presented in table 4. The result revealed that 38.9% of the respondents indicated inadequate capital to finance agricultural activities. The farmers complained that even when they desire to allocate more land to soybean production, they are cash trapped, and hence their savings from off farm activities cannot meet their needs during the farming season. High cost of fertilizer also ranked first with 38.9% of the respondents indicating it as one of their major constraints. According to the respondents, fertilizer is not made available to farmers in good time or production period, until far into planting. 6.9% of the respondents indicate late commencement of pre-season training by USAID as a constraint. This is because some of them are far into planting before such training begins. Other constraints as indicated include high cost of labour 5.6%, high cost of transportation (to KMI warehouse in Kaduna) pest and diseases 5.6%, and security with 4.2%.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The soybean type of contract farming adopted by USAID MARKETS II is described as market specification. The market specification type of contract farming describes the terms of sales transaction with regard to price, quantity, timing and product attributes. This implies that the farmers do not need assistance from agribusiness firms in obtaining inputs, and the buyer is not concerned about production methods, other than the product quality that can be measured at harvest. This has the potential of reducing poverty as small-scale farmers are mobilized, motivated and networked into cooperative groups and trained in best agronomic practices by USAID MARKETS II officials and partners to improve their farm income through increase production and benefit from a readily available market.

Based on the findings of this study, it could be concluded that participation in USAID MARKETS II contract farming programme has broaden the knowledge base of the participants through training, market linkage, linkage to source of improved seeds and technical assistance by the various actors and facilitators. This has increased their outputs, thereby improving their farm income, as well as standard of living more than their non-participants in the study areas. There was significant impact of participation in USAID MARKETS II contract farming on farm income of participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i. To sustain contract farming programme, governments both at the federal and state level should encourage the production of organic fertilizer through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements. This can be achieved by way of providing incentives

or intervention fund by the government to small scale companies to invest in organic production through the transforming of wastes materials generated in industrial towns into manure to meet the domestic needs of rural farmers.

ii. There is a need to overhaul the entire agricultural credit system to ensure that small scale farmers have increased access to loan/credit facilities for agricultural production. The Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) should be central to information dissemination about credit facilities available to rural farmers as well as funding arrangements.

iii. Development partners should intensify effort on early commencement of pre-season training to farmers to ensure early commencement of agricultural activities as well as farmers' education on the need to form cooperative groups in order to enjoy donor agencies assistance.

iv. Government both at the federal and state level should ensure that lives and properties of rural farmers are adequate protected through the provision of security outpost in most rural villages to check incessant clashes between farmers and herdsmen. Also, social amenities should be provided to rural farmers to keep them healthy and strong for agricultural production.

v. Contract farmers can jointly make contributions to their Cooperative Group from their off-farm income so that they can encourage individual lending to members in a lower interest rate.

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**EFFECTS OF COVID -19 PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN ON
THE LIVELIHOOD OF SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN
EKITI STATE**

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Abstract:

C OVID-19 upshot on farming household's income is critical. This study assess the effect of Covid-19 on the livelihood of the small scale farmers in Ekiti State during the lockdown. Specifically, the research: describe the socio-economic characteristics of farming households in Ekiti; identified the challenges faced by the respondents during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown; and determine the effects of Covid-19 on the agricultural productivity of the respondents. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select 75 small scale farmers for the study. The data collected was analyzed with descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, and percentages. Also, Chi-square was used to analyze the hypothesis. The mean age of the respondents was 40 years. 70.67% of the respondent attained secondary education. 68.00 percent of the respondents have 6 household members and bellow. Majority (84.00%) of the respondents' average annual income was ₦500,000 and below. low productivities, lack of transportation, destruction of perishable crops and wastage of farm activities respectively are the various challenges facing the respondents during the pandemic. Meanwhile, low productivities, wastage of farm produce, lack of farm labour, inaccessibility to farm and poor marketing, hunger and malnutrition, food insecurity, high cost of food items, poverty and weakness are the various effect of covid-19 lockdown. The hypothesis result shows significant relationship between the effects of Covid-19 lockdown on the agricultural productivity of respondents and their socioeconomic characteristics. The study therefore recommends that the government should establish processing centers in the farm and also provide farm gate market to help reduce the wastage of the agricultural produce in case of any future occurrence.

Keywords: Covid'19, lockdown, effects, livelihoods, productivity, small scale farmers

Introduction

Coronavirus Disease 2019 also known as (COVID – 19) is a virus disease that emerges from Wuhan city of China in the month of December 2019. The rapid transmission of the disease attracts attention of the world Doctors, Academicians, and other Researchers with the view to find out the root cause of the disease, transmission, medication, and other means of controlling its spread.

World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) has indicated that (COVID-19) is an emerging respiratory infection caused by a novel corona virus called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). WHO signify that this virus is a member of the coronavirus family that are zoonotic pathogens (the viruses cause and transmit illnesses between human and several animals' species such as cattle, camels, cats, and bats) (WHO,2020).

WHO reports that the COVID-19 disease was detected initially in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, and spread worldwide 2 months later. Over 200 countries across the entire world have reported different numbers of cases; however, the disease has drastically expanded in the United States, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, China, Iran, the United Kingdom, and Turkey. It was revealed that COVID-19 had caused more than 3.7 million confirmed cases and killed at least 260,000 worldwide up to the 17th of April 2020 (WHO,2020).

Evidenced has shown that the COVID-19 pandemic is a health and Economic issues that have threatened the economy and food security of millions of people around the world (UNSDG,2020). Hundreds of millions of people were already suffering from economics disaster and hunger before the COVID 19 particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). (UNSDG,2020). The coming of COVID-19 has deepened economics catastrophe and poverty among millions of people around the world (World Bank,2020). The global spread of COVID-19 and the rising number of confirmed cases in Africa have raised concerns about the weak health care systems and agricultural development in the region. (World Bank,2020) Evidence has shown that the lockdowns in these periods have added to economies woes substantially affecting millions of jobs and enterprise particularly agriculture and agricultural enterprise where majority derived their livelihood (World Bank,2020).

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the world, it is indispensable to examine its existing and potential effects on the agriculture particularly in the rural areas where majority of the household's derived livelihood from agriculture and agricultural related enterprise for sustenance (FAO, 2020). Evidence abounds that agriculture provides livelihoods to more than one billion people worldwide and

remains the backbone of many low-income countries, accounting for 60.4 per cent of employment and contributing up to two-thirds of gross domestic product in some of those countries (ILO, 2020, FAO ,2020). The sector is particularly important in Africa and Asia, where its employment share is 49 and 30.5 per cent, respectively. It is a major source of livelihood particularly the rural farmers who depends solely on farming. (EABC,2020). Consequently, the persistence and even deepening of a type of small farming that is getting smaller all the time and that demonstrates an even greater orientation toward low level income than was the case 20 or 30 years ago should be of great concern and as COVID-19 ravages on.

From the foregoing, it is therefore justified to examining the effects of the COVID-19 on the economy, agriculture, and agricultural related enterprise.

COVID-19 presents a very high risk for African Food Security and increasing poverty levels (WHO, 2020). Therefore, examining the relationship between COVID-19 pandemic and Agricultural activities of farming households, will go a long way to put in place proper strategies that could allays fears of economic depressions, food insecurity among others. Moreover, results from the research will help in gaining a greater understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect African Food Systems and help to prepare for any similar occurrences that might likely present itself in the distance future. Consequently, this research is of immense importance in the sense that if immediate and coordinated actions not taken, a global food emergency will emerge particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It is against this background that the study seek to describe the socio-economic characteristics of farming households in Ekiti; identified the challenges faced by the respondents during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown; and determine the effects of Covid-19 on the agricultural productivity of the respondents.

MATERIALAND METHODS

A multi-stage sampling method was employed to select farming households. At the first stage, five (5) Local Government Areas (LGA) were randomly selected, three (3) communities were selected randomly from each LGA. The final stage involved a random selection of five (5) farmers from each community. In all, a total of 75 respondents was selected for the study. The data was obtained through primary data collection instrument of questionnaire which was administered to farming households in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentages, means and standard deviations, and Chi-square was used to analyze the relationship between the effects of covid-19 on agricultural productivity and welfare, and the socioeconomic characteristic.

Chi-square

Chi-square was used to analyze the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of women rice processors and adoption of improved rice processing technologies.

The Chi-Square formula is stated bellow:

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where; O = the observed Effects of Covid-19 Lockdown

E = the expected Effects of Covid-19 Lockdown

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION The result on Table1 below shows the socioeconomic characteristics of small scale farmers in the study area. From the results, the mean age of the respondents was 40 years. These findings revealed that majority of the respondents were within their active age. This is expected to improve the productivity of the respondents. Meanwhile, 54.67 percent of the respondents were female while 45.33 percent of them were male. However, 62.67 percent of the respondents were Christian while 25.33 percent of them practice Islamic religion and only 14.67 percent of the respondents practiced traditional religion. This finding shows that the three main religion in Nigeria are practiced in the study area.

Furthermore, 70.67 per cent of the respondent attained secondary education, while 13.33 percent of them only attained primary education but 8.00 percent of the respondents attained vocational education and tertiary education respectively. Moreover, 53.33 percent of the respondents are married, 45.33 percent of them were single and only 1.33 percent were divorced. On the form of family, 60.00 percent of the respondents practiced monogamous while 40 percent of them practiced polygamous family with 68.00 percent of the respondents having 6 household members and bellow and 32.00 percent have more than 6 member of household. The mean household member was 6 people.

Furthermore, 55.33 percent of the respondents' secondary occupation is farming, while (32.00%), (8.00%) and 6.67%) of the respondents were traders, tailors and teachers respectively. From the results, it was also revealed that majority (84.00%) of the respondents' annual average income was ₦500,000 and below, while only 16.00 percent of the respondents' annual income was more than ₦500,000. The mean annual income of the respondents was ₦412,392. This shows that majority of the respondent operates on small scale as their level of income was low. This finding agree with the finding of Oyetoro, Abdulraheem, and Adefare (2020) that the covid-19 pandemic has however resulted in a reduction of livestock production.

Moreover, Majority (93.33%) of the respondents have experienced one or more natural disaster before, while only few (6.67%) of the respondents had not been

affected by any natural disaster before. However, 93.33 percent of the respondents received assistance from both government and non-governmental organization. Furthermore, 77.33 percent of the respondents indicated that the Covid -19 pandemic lockdown affected their income by reducing their income, while 16.00 percent indicated that their income were not affected but 6.67 percent of the respondents indicated that their income increased during the covid-19 lockdown.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Freq.	%	Mean
Age (years)			
= 30	23	30.67	40 years
31-60	46	61.33	
? 60	6	8.00	
Sex			
Male	34	45.33	
Female	41	54.67	
Religion			
Christianity	47	62.67	
Islam	19	25.33	
Traditional religion	11	14.67	
Education status			
Primary education	10	13.33	
Vocational education	6	8.00	
Secondary education	53	70.67	
Tertiary education	6	8.00	
Marital status			
Single	34	45.33	
Married	40	53.33	
Divorcee	1	1.33	
Forms of family			
Monogamy	45	60.00	
Polygamy	30	40.00	
Household size (people)			
= 6	51	68.00	6 people
? 6	24	32.00	
Secondary occupation			
Farming	40	55.33	
Tailoring	6	8.00	
Teaching	5	6.67	
Trading	24	32.00	
Average annual income			
=? 500,000	63	84.00	? 412,392
? ? 500,000	12	16.00	
Exposure to natural disasters			
Yes	70	93.33	
No	5	6.67	

The results on Table 2 below shows the challenges facing the respondents during the Covid -19 pandemic. From the results, majority (89.33%) of the respondents indicated that one of the challenges they faced was the restriction of movement. Those whose farm stations are far away from their community were unable to rich their farm. This finding is in line with the findings of Funmilayo, et al., (2020) that the non-availability of social safety net to cater for stable food supply to the members of the Nigerian population heightened the inadequate food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic which invariably affected their productivity and means of livelihood. Also, 93.33 percent of the respondents revealed that a crucial challenge they faced during the pandemic was the restriction from marked. This actually compounded the problem as their secondary means of livelihood was affected. More so, (69.33%), (62.67%), (77.33%), (84.00%) and (68.00%) of the respondents indicated that low productivities, lack of transportation, destruction of perishable crops and wastage of farm activities respectively are the various challenges they are facing during the pandemic. Meanwhile, 45.33 percent of the respondents indicated that lack of labour really affected them during the pandemic.

Table 2: Challenges or problems faced by the respondents during Covid-19 pandemic

S/N	Challenges	Freq.	%
1	Restricted movement	67	89.33
2	Low productivity	52	69.33
3	Low sales of farm input	57	62.67
4	Lack of transportation	58	77.33
5	Lack of labour for farm activities	34	45.33
6	Destruction of perishable crops	63	84.00
7	Wastage of farm activities	51	68.00
8	Restriction from market	70	93.33

Source: Field survey, 2022

The results on Table 3 below shows the perceived effects of Covid-19 on the agricultural productivity and welfare of the small scale farmers in the study area. From the findings, 69.33 percent of the respondents indicated that the pandemic caused low productivity in their farm produce. This finding agree with the finding of Oyetoro, Abdulraheem, and Adefare (2020) that covid-19 pandemic caused reduction in production as they could no longer reach the populace with their produce. Meanwhile, 77.33 percent indicated that their farm produce were wasted as a result of covid-19 pandemic. This was caused by the lockdown which restricted people's movement. Furthermore, 77.33 percent of farmer revealed that the pandemic caused Poor marketing/ sales of their farm produce, this is in line with the findings of FAO, (2021) that themarkets for perishable food items were unfavorably affected by workplace

closure at the processing and packaging departments of food companies. Furthermore, 85.33 percent of the respondents revealed that they could not access their farm as a result of the pandemic.

More so, majority (92.00%) of the respondents indicated that the lockdown affected their welfare as it causes food insecurity, and hunger and malnutrition respectively. This findings corroborates the findings of Oyetoro, Abdurraheem, and Adefare (2020) that nutrient-rich foods including vegetables were not accessible, and thus could not be utilized for body growth and development. Meanwhile, 85.33 percent of the respondents indicated that the pandemic led to high cost of food items. To buttress this, 76.00 percent of the respondent indicated they experienced low income which affect their wellbeing. Moreover, 68.00 percent of the respondents confirmed that the lockdown during the pandemic led to poverty of the small scale famers while 53.33 percent of them revealed that the pandemic caused body weakness and ill-health. Table 3: Perceived effects of Covid-19 on the Agricultural productivity and welfare of the respondents

S/N	EFFECTS	FREQ	%
EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY			
1	Low farm productivity	52	69.33
2	Wastage of farm produce	58	77.33
3	Lack of farm labour	34	45.33
4	Inaccessibility of farms	64	85.33
5	Poor marketing/ sales of farm produce	58	77.33
6	Poverty	51	68.00
7	Diminishing/Low income	57	76.00
8	Food insecurity	69	92.00
9	High cost of food items	64	85.33
10	Hunger and malnutrition	69	92.00
11	Weakness and ill health of farmers	43	57.33

Source: Field survey, 2022

Hypothesis

H_0 1 : There is no significant relationship between the effects of Covid-19 lockdown on the agricultural productivity and welfare of respondents and their socioeconomic characteristics.

There is no significant relationship between the effects of Covid-19 lockdown on the agricultural productivity and the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents.

The table 4 below shows the relationship between the effects of covid-19 lockdown on the agricultural productivity and welfare of the respondents and their socioeconomics

characteristics. From the results, Age (p-value < 0.05), sex (p-value < 0.05), educational status (p-value < 0.05), marital status (p-value < 0.05), forms of family (p-value < 0.05), household size (p-value < 0.05), and annual income (p-value < 0.05), of the respondents have a significant relationship with the effects of covid-19 lockdown on the agricultural productivities of the respondents. This findings implies that age, gender, educational status, marital status, forms of family, household size and income of the respondents influence their productivities during the lock down. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 4: Relationship between the Effects of Covid-19 Lockdown on the Agricultural Productivity of Respondents and their Socioeconomic Characteristics

Variables	χ^2	Df	p-value	Decision
Age	49.627*	12	0.000	Significant
Sex	58.280*	3	0.000	Significant
Religion	0.653	1	0.416	Not Significant
Educational status	83.987*	3	0.000	Significant
Marital status	21.680*	2	0.000	Significant
Forms of family	34.625*	1	0.000	Significant
Household size	21.333*	4	0.000	Significant
Annual income	26.141*	10	0.004	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2022. * represent .05 level of significant

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this research, the study concluded that majority of the respondents were within their active productive age which is expected to enhance their productivity. The respondent operates on small scale farming and their level of income was low and the productivity of the farmers were badly affected by the effect of lockdown as a results of the Covid'19 pandemic. The study therefore recommends that the government should establish processing centers in the farm and also provide farm gate market to help reduce the wastage of the agricultural produce in case of any future occurrence.

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PROVISION OF INNOVATIVE SERVICES USING BLOCK CHAIN TECHNOLOGY IN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

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Abstract:

This study investigates how block chain technology can be used to provide innovative services in library and information centers. Preferred reporting item for systematic review and meta-analysis (PRISMA) recommendations for systematic literature review method was used. 150 papers were retrieved out of which 25 papers were deemed relevant. 5 were also removed because they were written in other languages. 20 papers were used for the analysis. The result shows the features of block chain technology, the reason why block chain is important in library and information centers and the innovative services that can be provided through the use of block chain technology. Similarly, the study also revealed the publication by countries and publication distribution by year. The paper contributed o knowledge by providing additional publication on the subject matter in Nigeria at in the world at large. The study also recommend the areas in which the Nigeria libraries can apply block chain technology to provide innovative services. The paper recommends further study both in Nigeria and in the world at large.

Keywords:Block Chain, Library Services, Systematic Literature Review

Introduction

The traditional library services involves siting between books while expecting people to come and read and in case the readers do not come, the librarians will close for the day . The libraries during this era can be described as a place-based service institutions that provides information needs to their users . The users need to visit the libraries for consultations of various sources of information that meet their needs. However, in the last three decades, the introduction of internet and information and communication technology has radically impacted libraries functions and its environment .

This is because the library users are no longer contented with the place-based library services and their information needs has gone beyond the four wall of the library . Some of the services in the libraries are not utilized which has been major source of concerns to librarians. In order for the libraries to retain their users, they have to start implementing new technologies capable of providing innovative services failure of which the library may slip into extinction. Meanwhile, creativity and

innovation is possible through the provision of information and knowledge which are ingredients in the economic development of a nation . Block chains technology has the capacity to provide access to digital content and print collections . Block chain is a distributed record database or immutable public ledger of digital events and transactions shared by the participating entities . It is database or distributed ledger shared and replicated among numerous parties. It can be updated by following the pre-established rules after which it is shared among all the parties. The transaction are linked together in a chain that make it possible for all the parties to have access to accurate copy of the ledger . Block chain technology is a peer-to-peer network that time-stamp transactions and eliminate third party services validation. It contains trust-based transaction and tampered resistance. Block on block chains are information containers capable of holding variety of contents . Each block stores its own hash or unique identifier that links it to other blocks and those that precede it. Block can store all attributes such as time, dates, measurements, text, transactional information and the computer codes that triggers actions.

In furtherance to this, block chain has the capacity to increase the capacity of the network, provides better security for the data, immutability and decentralization of the data. Based on the foregoing, the aim of this study is to investigate what innovative services can be provided in the libraries using block chain technology. Other sections of this paper are arranged as follow: related works, methodology, publication distribution by countries and publication distribution by year, innovative services in the libraries using block chains technologies, contributions and conclusions.

1. Statement of Problem

In the recent time, the polytechnic libraries has been recording low patronage which has been a major concern to the librarians . Many of the services provided in the library are not utilized and in order to retain their uses, the library needs to implement block chain technology which is capable providing innovative services that will satisfy the new information needs of their users.

2. Related Works

.Block chain technology has the capacity to transform the ways libraries provide their services and organized their information . The application of bock chain technology is still at conceptual stage, the real implementation has not taken place. However, before the adoption of this technology, librarians need to understand its benefits, capabilities and the risk associated with its application or implementations. explains that block chain technology is useful for storage, preservation and sharing of information. It can also be applied in the acquisition of library materials. It provides security for the records, research data and ensure the privacy of the users. Both the librarians and the users can collaborate using the same technology. Bloch chain technology has brought advancement to the provision of library services such as improve and increase data

system, protect digital sales right and peer-to-peer sharing of information . Block chain can reconfigure all societal operations. It is immutable and distributed thereby making it difficult for the transactions or record to be duplicated, changed or faked . Block chain technology is still emerging and still at its infancy . In spite of this, the technology can still be used for acquisition of library materials, store, preserve and sharing of information . It can be used to secure record and the privacy of the users. It can also increase collaborations among the users and the library professionals. Block chain can be used to embed instructions and information with wide range of application . Block chain technology can be used for record keeping acquisition and circulation of books, record fees and fine and stock verification of document. It has the capabilities to change the functional and structural framework of the library and nurture it .

3. Methodology

This study uses preferred reporting item for systematic review and meta-analysis (PRISMA) recommendations for systematic literature review. The literature was searched through Google due lack of other database and the year covered ranges between 2016-2022. The word used for the search include Block chain, Block chain AND library services, block chain AND innovative services. Some of the criteria used in the search include:

- Ø Is it a book chapter, conference paper or journal
- Ø Is the paper written in English
- Ø Is the article a review or empirical paper
- Ø The reporting of the SLR. The result of the study are communicated using effective method.

4.1 Planning the Systematic Literature Review

The research question are as follow

- Ø RQ1. Which countries have adopted block chain technology?
- Ø RQ2: which year has more publications on block chain technology?
- Ø RQ3: what are characteristics of block chain technology?
- Ø RQ4: why do the library need to use block chain technologies?
- Ø RQ5: what are the innovative services that can be introduced in Nigerian libraries?

Research Objectives

RO1. To identify those countries that have adopted block chain technology

RO2. To investigate which year recorded more publications on block chain technology

RO3. To identify the characteristics of block chain technology

RO4. To identify the reasons why the libraries in Nigeria need to implement block chain technology.

RQ 5. To identify those innovative services that can be implemented in the Nigeria libraries The search yielded 150 papers. The papers were then evaluated. Out of the papers, only 25 papers were relevant to the study. Five were also removed due to the fact that they were written in other languages. The remaining twenty papers are used for the studies. Figure 1. Shows the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

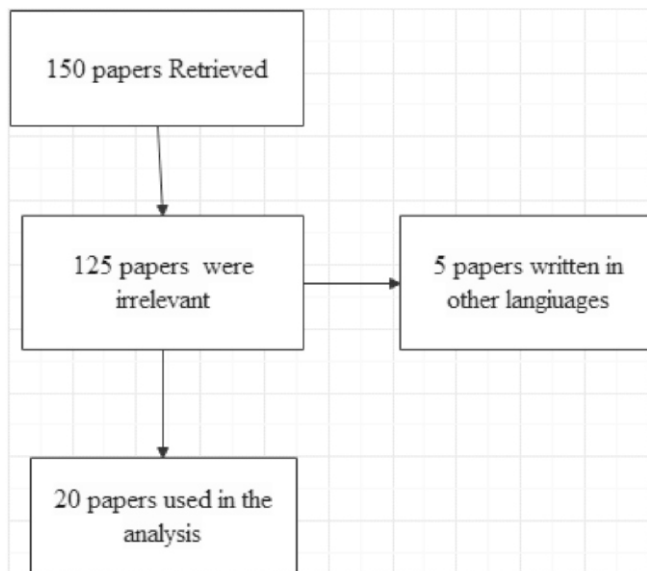


Figure 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

1. Results

This sections shows the results of the study based on the identified research questions.

RQ1. Countries which have adopted block chain technology

As earlier stated, the use of block chain technology is relatively new. However, few countries from different continents have adopted block chain technologies in their libraries. Some of the study, countries from Europe, Asia and Africa are the continents involved. From Europe, only USA features as country that has implemented the use of block chain their library. From Asia, Pakistan, Indian and Taiwan have implemented the use of block chain. Meanwhile from the Africa continent only South Africa has implemented the use of block chain technology in their libraries. Figure 2 shows the

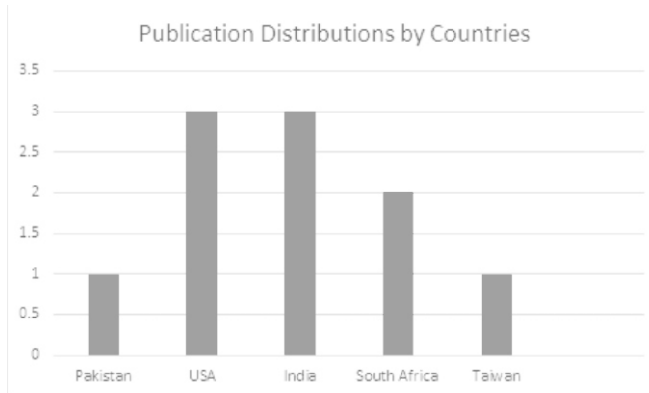


Figure 2 shows the publication distributions by countries.

Rq2: Years and publications on block chain technology

Figure 3 shows that 2020 has more number of publications on the use of block chain technologies for the provision of innovative services in the library and information centers. Similarly, 2019 and 2022 followed by recording more publications in the same area. 2017 and 2021 has he least publications

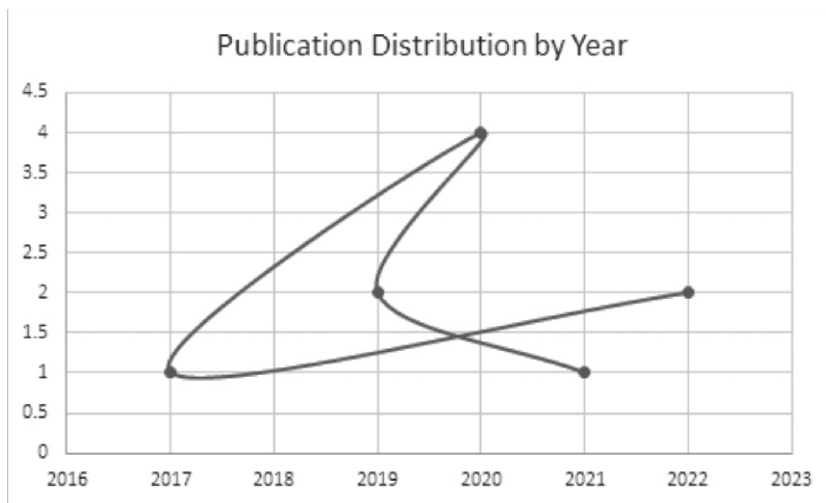


Figure 3 publication distribution by year

RQ3: Characteristics of block chain technology

Block chain has a number of nodes and each of the node has a local ledger . The Nodes communicates with one another so as to have agreement on the content of the ledger. Although each of the node belong to different organization but, the nodes do not need

central

authority to validate the transaction. According to Meth, (2019) some of the characteristics of lock chain include immutability, fast settlement and Decentralized system. stated that block chain is capable of providing security for information. Figure 4 shows the security attribute of the block chain



Figure 4 security attribute of the block chain (adapted from

RQ4: Why the library need to used block chain technologies

The use of block chain technology is very important in the library and information centers because it can help the libraries to achieve privacy of their users, increase collaboration and improve the way libraries work and relate with their communities . The libraries can now provide services to their communities using the block chain technology. Similarly, library needs to get familiar with the technology because it is the technology for the future. So the librarians needs to know how it works. Many applications will be developed using the block chain technology .

RQ5: Innovative services that can be introduced in Nigerian Libraries?

Selective Dissemination of Information

Block chain technology enhances information peer-to-peer sharing between the library and their communities . It provides tools for information sharing and selective dissemination of information. It also gives room for networking.

Loan Services:

Lib chain technology which is block chain technology, can help the the patron to pass the book to other library users without going to the library in as much as the patron is valid and register member of the library. Block chain also make it possible for inter-library loan . The block chain technology assist the library in providing efficient and

effective services to their community. The library patron can control their circulation record through the use of block chain technology.

Storage Media.

Block chain provides a storage for preserving scientific knowledge published around the world. It stores information in a tamper-resistant setting Data Management Services Block chain is using in the management of research data. It ensures accountability, enhance security and protect the ownership rights . It helps in the reduction of duplication of research by providing open source and sharing of research data. I stores data with immutable time-stamp metadata which make it possible to trace the origin of research data.

Cataloguing and Classification

Block chain technology can help the library in keeping and maintain the records of activities and procedures. Some of the record include acquisition, cataloguing, circulation and record of journal subscriptions .

6. Contributions

Figure 2 shows that different countries that have implemented block chains technology. Indian, Taiwan, Pakistan, USA and South Africa have implemented block china in their libraries. The study however shows that there is no publication from Nigeria and other African countries. This study contributed by investigating those innovative services that can be applied in the Nigeria library and information centers. The paper also contributed by stating the reason why the application of block chain in the library is very important

7. Conclusions

Block chains a very viable technology which are very new but can assist the librarians in the provision of innovative services in library and information centers. The major limitation of this study is the fact there are very few publication on the subject matter. Therefore there is the need to study how block chain can be used for library services such as the use of RFID in the library.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARACTERISTICS AND AUDIT REPORT LAG: EVIDENCE FROM MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN NIGERIA****Author****Adeleke Mary Toyin**

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Abstract:

This paper examined audit committee characteristics and audit report lag of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. *Expo-facto* research design was adopted and 20 firms were randomly selected as the sampled size. The study used secondary data gotten from the published financial reports of the sampled firms for 20 years, spanning from 1999-2018. Data gathered was analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and panel regression analysis. It was discovered that audit committee size has a negative and insignificant effect on audit report lag, audit committee independence has a negative but insignificant effect on audit report lag, audit committee expertise exerts a positive and insignificant effect on audit report and that audit committee meeting was discovered to exert a negative and significant effect on audit report lag. It was established that audit committee characteristics have a significant effect on audit report lag.

Keywords: *Audit Committee, Audit Report Lag, Audit Committee Size, Audit Committee Independence, Audit Committee Expertise, Audit Committee Meeting*

Introduction

World over, the significance of a financial report to make an informed decision cannot be overstressed. Users of financial reports, shareholders and stakeholders, considered the financial report as a means to make a productive decision. In this regard, the timeliness of the financial report is of great significance. A timely financial report does not only engender the proper running of the capital market; it equally attracts investors who believe that the quality of a financial report is rooted in its timeliness. Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013) noted the timeliness of the financial report reflects the dependability of the financial information and equally cause users to have access to information needed to make a profitable decision, even with their limited resources.

A timely financial report is grounded on the time taken to finish the audit process by the external auditor. The essence of external auditing is to validate the trueness of the financial information and ensure its fairness to all the interested users. Audit report lag is the time used to finish the audit process. That is, the number of days it takes the external auditor to finish the audit process from the end of the organization's fiscal year (Gospel & Ngozi, 2019). Audit report lag seems to be connected with the usefulness of the audited financial report to promote productive decisions by users. This underscores the regulation of the CAMA 2004 that fixed 120 days as a deadline for the release of the audit report for listed firms (Gospel & Ngozi, 2019). This regulation is to shield the interest of the shareholders and ensure the smooth running of the capital market.

The essence of a timely audited financial report is to secure the interest and confidence of shareholders and stakeholders. However, the degree to which this has been accomplished raises a continued concern among academicians. In the opinion of Akhidime (2015), the argument is based on the collapse of companies that are not limited to Enron, WorldCom, HIH Insurance Ltd, Bernie Madoff scandals, Intercontinental Bank Plc, Oceanic Bank Ltd and Bank PHB that are declared fit and solvent by auditors before their sudden downfall. In a bid to correct the menace and restore the significance of auditors in the accounting field, Companies and Allied Matters Act (2004 as amended) provides for the establishment of the audit committee, which is one of the mechanisms of corporate governance, in terms of the rules and standards, composition and operations of this committee.

According to section 359(3) of Company and Allied Matter Act (CAMA), every public organization or entity should establish audit. The audit committee is expected to consist of three shareholder representatives and three directors, making six members altogether (Abiola & Adesanwo, 2017). Basically, audit committee functions as the board of director's representatives from whom it receives its powers to perform its corporate governance responsibilities. This informs that audit committee could be used as an effective tool to ensure quality-reporting process. However, for this to be achieved, audit committees must possess some essential characteristics such as audit committee independence, size, and financial expert as resource persons and frequent meetings (Li Mangena & Pike. 2012).

Given the importance of audit report lag to the reliability of the financial report, a lot of studies which include Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013), Sharinah, Mohd and Azlina (2014), Akhidime (2015), Sadiq and Emmanuel (2017), Zalailah, Saeed and Norsiah (2017), Murat and Evrim (2018), Gospel and Ngozi (2019) and Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) have been carried out on the possible relationship between audit committee characteristics and audit report lag. However, findings reported by these studies are inconsistent. Also, most of these studies were conducted in developed countries where regulations are firm and the system of transparency is developed.

Studies carried out in this context in Nigeria are relatively few and findings reported are mixed. Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) reported that audit committee size showed a negative and statistically insignificant relationship with timeliness of financial reporting, frequency of meetings showed a positive insignificant relationship with timeliness of financial reporting and that audit committee expertise (ACE) showed a positive significant relationship with timeliness of financial reporting. Gospel and Ngozi (2019) reported that the frequency of meeting and timeliness of financial report maintained a negative significant relationship and that the financial reporting timeliness has insignificant positive relationship with audit committee size and a negative insignificant relationship with audit committee independence. Sadiq and Emmanuel (2017) discovered that audit committee independence has a significant relationship with financial reporting lag while audit committee meeting and audit committee gender has no significant relationship with financial reporting lag. Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013) discovered that audit committee independence and audit committee expertise were significantly related to the timeliness of financial reports, while audit committee meeting and audit committee size were not significantly related to timeliness of financial reports. This implies that studies in this context are inconclusive and therefore justify the motivation for this study.

Furthermore, the period covered by previous studies in Nigeria leaves a gap to be filled. While Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013) covered 2007-2011, Sadiq and Emmanuel (2017) covered 2011-2015, Gospel and Ngozi (2019) covered 2012-2015 and Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) covered 2011-2015. It is not only that the periods covered by these studies are too short, findings reported might not be relied upon given the intermittent change of the government policies and the current economic condition. Based on the identified gaps, the researcher examined audit committee characteristics and audit report lag in Nigeria with a special reference to manufacturing firms. The relevance of this study is found on the addition made to the few studies on audit committee characteristics and audit report lag in Nigeria. Also, the findings made revealed the importance of audit committee features to audit report lag and this could be helpful to the management team of organizations. The remaining sections are divided into four. Section 2, 3, 4 and 5 covered literature review, methodology, results and discussion, and conclusion and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

The significance of an audit report to the users of financial reports cannot be overstressed. It confirms the usefulness of financial information to make an informed productive investment decision. Fredrick (2017) defined audit report as an independent examination and expression of opinion on the financial statements of an organization's annual report. The aim of an audit is to independently verify the content and prepare the organization's financial statements according to the standards,

legislation, regulations and requirements (PCAOB, 2016). The timeliness of audited annual reports is significant to investors because it influences the usefulness of the information available to investors for investment decision making (Alkhatib & Marji, 2012).

Audit Report Lag (ARL) has been defined as the number of days from the financial year-end to the audit report date (Habib & Bhuiyanb, 2011; Hassan, 2016). A timely financial report serves to reduce the unfavourable effects of moral hazard and the implications of adverse selection. Leventis, Weetman and Weetmann (2004) posited that delays in reporting present opportunities for insider trading and misappropriation or misapplication of corporate assets. The timeliness for auditing financial statements is very crucial, especially for manufacturing organizations that use capital markets as their funding source. Information contained in the financial statements is referred relevant only if presented timely and accurately. Halim (2011) added that financial statements delay could have a negative influence on the market's reaction. The longer the delay, the level of significance of the financial statements are increasingly uncertain and seems to present erroneous financial information to its users, specifically to investors who base their investment decisions on financial reports. Audit report delay is found to be influenced by audit committee characteristics (Akinleye & Aduwo, 2019).

An efficient and effective audit committee minimizes the audit reporting timing which invariably reduces the information irregularity between the management and stakeholders, therefore lessens the organizational cost (Bédard & Gendron, 2010). Archangeault and DeZoort, (2011) opined that a larger committee could have access to a larger knowledge base and more experience required to resolve problems without depending on a subcontracting consultancy service. He added that audit committee size consists of the number of individuals that make up the committee. Regulatory bodies such as the Security & Exchange Commission Code of Corporate Governance (2011) and Companies & Allied Matters Act (2004 as amended) have detailed the number of individuals to make up the audit committee board. Specifically, section 359 (4) of the Act stated that the audit committees must be six (6) in number and be made up of equal numbers of shareholders' representatives and directors.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Theoretically, this study was grounded on agency theory. Agency theory otherwise known as the principal-agent theory was founded on the basis that problems arise as a result of the agreement or contract between a principal and his agent. Debatably, this model was propounded by Jensen and Meckling (1976). There is the issue of agency costs, conflict of interest and so on. Also, in connection to this study, the agreement between the two parties (principal and agent) could be the audit report lag. However, it is relevant to this study because there can be said to be an agency relationship whenever an audit committee is charged with different

responsibilities. Also, it clarifies that audit committee characteristics could have an impact on audit report lag, because audit report lag is part of the responsibility usually given to audit committee as part of the principal-agent relationship

2.3 Empirical Review

Lina (2018) carried out a study the results uncovered a significant relationship between the corporate governance characteristics and audit report, the uniqueness of this study lies in the sector and independent variable. Sadiq and Emmanuel (2017) carried out a study and the empirical results showed that audit committee independence had a significant relationship with financial reporting lag, while audit committee meeting and audit committee gender had no significant relationship with financial reporting lag.

Other studies like Rohail and Maran (2016), Zaitul and Desi (2018) undertook a further research in this area. Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) study further revealed the relationship between frequency of meetings and timeliness of financial reporting. The work of Gospel and Ngozi (2019) revealed a significant and negative relationship between audit committee meeting frequency and timeliness of corporate financial reporting

3.1 Methodology

Expo-facto research design was considered appropriate for this study hence, it was adopted. The study elements covered all the listed manufacturing firms on the Nigeria Stock Exchange in Nigeria. Out of the 37 listed manufacturing firms, 20 firms were randomly selected from 4 sectors. Five firms were selected each from Consumer Goods Sector, Agricultural Sector, Health Sector and Oil and Gas Sector respectively. The study used secondary data gotten from the published financial reports of the sampled firms for 20 years, spanning from 1999-2018. This is justified because it covered periods of significant changes which include global and domestic financial crises and the intermittent changes of government policies that affect the operational activities of manufacturing firms. The dependent variable was audit report lag and the predictor variables were audit committee size, audit committee independence, audit committee expertise and audit committee meeting. Data gathered was analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and panel regression analysis. Particularly, panel data was used because it can minimize estimation prejudices from amassing all the sampled firms into a single time series. The model used by Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) was modified and used for this study. The model of Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) was specified in equation 1:

$$FRT_{it} = a_0 + \beta_1 AIN_{it} + \beta_2 AEP_{it} + \beta_3 ASI + \beta_4 AGD_{it} + \mu_{it} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where FRT is Financial Report Timeliness, AIN is Audit Committee Independence, AEP is Audit Committee Expertise, ASI is Audit Committee Size and AGD is Audit Committee Gender Diversity. $\beta_1 - \dots - \beta_4$ = the slop parameters, i is cross sectional variable and t = time series variable.

The model was modified with the exclusion of financial report timeliness and gender diversity with audit report lag and audit committee expertise. This was basically done to suit the intended objective of the study. Also. The model was controlled with audit quality proxied by the Big4 and board size. The modified model was specified in equation 2:

$$ARL_{it} = a_0 + \beta_1 ASI_{it} + \beta_2 AIN_{it} + \beta_3 AEP + \beta_4 AMT_{it} + \beta_5 BIG4_{it} + \beta_6 BSI_{it} + \mu_{it} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where ARL is Audit Report Lag, AMT is Audit Committee Meeting, BIG4 is used to proxy audit quality and BSI is Board Size. The control variables were included based on the findings of Nahla, Hasnah and Mazrah (2019) and Murat and Evrim (2018) that these variables have a significant effect on audit report lag. The Big Four is the nickname used to refer collectively to the four largest professional services networks in the world, consisting of Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

4.1 Data Analysis and Discussion

Table 1. Pearson Correlation Matrix

	ARL	ASI	AIN	AEP	AMT	BIG4	BSI
ARL	1						
ASI	0.065	1					
AIN	0.001	0.118	1				
AEP	-0.039	0.095	0.156	1			
AMT	-0.287	0.062	0.064	0.525	1		
BIG4	0.179	0.041	0.053	0.062	0.073	1	
BSI	-0.093	0.127	0.219	0.219	0.063	0.308	1

Source: Data Analysis, 2020. All Variables are as Defined.

The result revealed that audit report lag has a positive relationship with audit committee size, audit committee independence and Big4 with the correlation coefficients of 0.065 for audit committee size, 0.001 for audit committee independence and audit committee Big4. This reflects that audit report lag together with audit committee size, audit committee independence Big4 move towards the same direction. Also, the results revealed that audit report lag maintained a negative relationship with audit committee expertise, audit committee meeting and board size

with their respective correlation coefficients of -0.039 for audit committee, -0.287 for audit committee meeting and -0.093 for board size. All the predictor variables maintained a positive relationship all through.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

This study was an attempt to examine audit committee characteristics and audit report lag in Nigeria. The study was delimited to manufacturing firms in Nigeria and it covered 20 years, spanning from 1999-2018. Since it was a cross-sectional and time series study, panel data was obtained from the published financial reports and the analysis was done via descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation analysis and panel regression analysis. It was discovered that, on the average, some manufacturing firms were not complying with the regulation of 120days to complete the audit process by the external auditors. This gave credence to the findings of Mohammed (2015), that many firms in Nigeria failed to complete the audit process by the stipulated days required by the law. This might be attributed to the operational activities of the board members and other related internal issues. Only 25% of the audit committee members are independent non-executive directors, as against the 50% stipulated by the law for the period covered by this study Also, the regulation that the membership of audit committee should not exceed 6 was not totally in play.

Audit committee size was found to have a negative and insignificant effect on audit report lag for the period covered by this study to the tune of $-1.860(p=0.702>0.05)$. This is an indication that the null hypothesis was rejected. Based on the expected sign, the reported finding was in conformity and it implies that with the addition of two more members to audit committee, audit report lag will be reduced by 2 days. The negative part of the result might be attributed to the general view of people that larger audit committee size might have more manpower to carry out their oversight functions. It was not significant probably because some members of the audit committee don't have the expertise to function productively. This is an indication that quality is better than quantity. This finding confirmed some of the tenets of agency theory that audit committee could influence the operational activities of the external auditors to determine the completion of the audit process. The corollary of this discovery is that audit committee size could influence audit report lag but not in a significant way. While this outcome corroborated the findings of Akinleye and Aduwo (2019) that audit committee size has a negative and insignificant effect on the timeliness of the financial report, it disagreed with the findings of Lina (2018), Apadore and Mohd Noor (2013) and Sharinah, Mohd and Azlina (2014) that audit committee size has a positive significant relationship with audit report lag.

Another discovery made was that audit committee independence has a negative but insignificant effect on audit report lag for the period covered by this study

to the tune of $-4.955(p=0.812>0.05)$. This is a confirmation that the null hypothesis was rejected and the negative coefficient was in line with the expected sign. The discovery revealed that audit committee independent stands the chance of reducing audit report lag by 5 days. However, the effect was not significant and this could be attributed to the failure of the manufacturing firms in Nigeria to fully comply with the government regulation that the formation of audit committee members should include 3 independent non-executive directors. The implication of this outcome is that the completion of the audit process could be stimulated through audit committee independence but not in a significant way. This discovery was not in tandem with the discovery of Sadiq and Emmanuel (2017), Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013), Sharinah, Mohd and Azlina (2014) that audit committee independence has a positive and significant effect on audit report lag. However, this outcome was in agreement with the findings of Gospel and Ngozi (2019) that there was a negative and insignificant effect of audit committee members on audit report lag.

It was also discovered that audit committee expertise exerts a positive and insignificant effect on audit report lag for the period cover to the tune of $7.025(p=0.127>0.05)$. This is a confirmation that the null hypothesis was accepted and that the inclusion of members with financial expertise would delay the audited financial report. The positive coefficient negates the a-priori expectation. It is positive and insignificant probably because the financial expert is over-stressed with many functions and lack of clarity of the definition of a financial expert. Audit committee expertise, being an agent of the organization to oversee and ensure timely delivery of the financial report, confirms the relevance of agency theory to this study. It is confirmed that the inclusion or exclusion of members with an adequate financial knowledge could affect the operational activities of the audit committee. This outcome was against the findings of Gospel and Ngozi (2019), Yadirichukwu and Ebimobowei (2013) and Sharinah, Mohd and Azlina (2014) that there was a positive and significant effect of audit committee financial expertise on audit report lag.

Audit committee meeting was discovered to exert a negative and significant effect on audit report lag to the tune of $-11.351(p=0.0001<0.05)$. The negative sign confirms the expected sign and this reflects that audit committee meeting has a significant chance of reducing audit report lag by 11 days. This is an indication that frequent meetings of the audit committee members might fast-track their oversight functions, which in turn, aided the timely delivery of the financial report by the auditors. This outcome relates that the activities of the audit committee members have a significant effect on the overall performance of an organization thereby confirming the tenet of agency theory. The outcome corroborated the discovery of Sharinah, Mohd and Azlina (2014) and Gospel and Ngozi (2019) that audit committee meeting has a significant effect on audit report lag.

5.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined audit committee characteristics and audit report lag of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Based on the findings made, it was established that audit committee characteristics have a significant effect on audit report lag of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Particularly, it was concluded that audit committee size has no potency to significantly reduce audit report lag, audit committee independence could reduce the time taken by external auditors to complete the audit process but not in a significant way, audit committee expertise has a positive insignificant effect on audit report lag and the frequent meeting of the audit committee could engender decrease in audit report lag. Thus, it was recommended that manufacturing firms in Nigeria should fully comply with the regulations of the government regarding audit committee size, audit committee independence and audit committee financial expertise. The clarification of the definition of financial experts should be considered and their inclusion in the audit committee should be embraced with moderate responsibilities. Frequent meeting of the members should never be discouraged and that each meeting should be made productive with appropriate modalities such as supervision and monitoring. The study was delimited to listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria, scholars interested in a similar topic should consider firms in the financial sector.

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LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Fixed Effect Estimation Result

	Prediction	Coefficient	t-test	Probability
Constant		217.439	4.95	0.000
ASI	-	-0.678	0.12	0.904
AIN	-	-6.193	0.28	0.780
AEP	-	8.857	1.82	0.158
AMT	-	-12.735	3.28	0.002
BIG4	-	-4.767	2.59	0.092
BSI	-	-1.690	0.87	0.388

Sources: Data analysis, 2020.

Table 2: Random Effect Estimation Result

	Prediction	Coefficient	t-test	Probability
Constant		189.2004	5.31	0.000
ASI	-	-1.860	0.38	0.702
AIN	-	-4.955	0.24	0.812
AEP	-	7.025	1.53	0.127
AMT	-	-11.351	3.33	0.001
BIG4	-	-3.316	2.26	0.034
BSI	-	-1.073	1.12	0.264

Source: Data Analysis, 2020.

Table 3: Hausman Test

Null hypothesis	Chi-square stat	Probability
The difference in coefficient not systematic	2.18	0.9025

Sources: Data analysis, 2020.

Table 4: Post Estimation Tests

	Statistics	Probability
Pesaran test	3.1123	0.1208
Wald test	2.005	0.4544
Wooldridge test	0.8014	0.5101

Sources: Data analysis, 2020.

FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN ADO EKITI METROPOLIS

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Abstract:

The impact of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused a global shock and led to flexibility in every sector today. The primary aim of this paper is to make a shift by building a comprehensive theoretical basis for the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs for post-COVID-19 economy recovery in the country. This study reviewed past studies and data of other researchers to analyse the effect of COVID-19 on the performance of small and medium-scale enterprises. The study made use of the qualitative approach. The findings of this paper showed that studies had provided health implications of COVID-19 which was devastatingly explained by the World Health Organization (WHO). Hence, this paper claims that suitable actions should be offered especially by giving loan support to SMEs in growing and developing existing and new business opportunities as a rejoinder to the impact of post-COVID-19 economic recovery in the country. It is therefore suggested that collaboration between SME actors and the government have vital roles to play especially through the activities of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in providing a platform for the inclusion of digitization into SMEs or business operation in the country.

Keywords: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and SMEs

Introduction

Small and medium enterprises are one of the sectors that enhances the efficient performance of an economy (Adebayo & Taiwo, 2022). It contributes a larger share of the domestic product earnings, employment rate and resource distribution among people (Ufua, Olujobi, Tahir, Al-Faryan, Matthew & Osabuohien, 2022). These enterprises had the risk that spans across marketing and production risk, not until a pandemic called COVID-19 destabilised their performance. It is a virus

disease that emerges in Wuhan city of China in December 2019. The virus was first identified by Dr Li and later on the spread of the disease achieved a global scale quickly, and as of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the disease a pandemic (WHO, 2020).

The rapid transmission of the disease attracts the attention of the world's Doctors, Academicians, and other Researchers with the view to find out the root cause of the disease, transmission, medication, and other means of controlling its spread. Madhukalya and Kapoor (2020) argued that COVID - 19 remains active and stable at temperatures less than 6 degree Celsius and lose potency when it rises. Russman (2020) opined that warmer weather may slow the spread of this virus only in some parts of the world but not in some other parts.

World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) has indicated that (COVID-19) is an emerging respiratory infection caused by a novel corona virus called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). WHO signifies that this virus is a member of the coronavirus family that are zoonotic pathogens, i.e., the viruses cause and transmit illnesses between humans and several animal species such as cattle, camels, cats, and bats (WHO,2020).

In the WHO records, it was argued that the SARS-CoV-2 virus is like the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), which have their origins in bats (WHO, 2020). It was on record that about 200 countries over the entire world have reported different numbers of cases; however, the disease has drastically expanded in the United States, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, China, Iran, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

In the State capital of Ekiti, the SMEs, informal sector and agricultural enterprises form the backbone of the economy and provide most employment. The emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic is taking a significant toll on SMEs, particularly in agricultural-related businesses pushing many farming households into food insecurity and poverty (Blanke,2020). Evidence abounds in past studies that smallholders provide up to 80 percent of the food supply in Asian and sub-Saharan Africa (FAO,2012). Hence, COVID-19 presents a very high risk for food security and nutrition diversity. Consequently, research into COVID-19 effect on farming SMEs income is critical to gaining a greater understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect their transaction and viability, especially in the light of the current economic shutdown already taking its toll on the livelihood of entrepreneurs in Nigeria (Blanke, 2020).

It was revealed that COVID-19 had caused more than 3.7 million confirmed cases and killed at least 260,000 worldwide up to the 17th of April 2020 (WHO,2020).

These figures below were recorded as of the 11th of April,2020 and 31st of September 2020 (6 months' period):

Country	Cases confirmed	Death (2019) 11 th April	Death (2019) 30 th September	Remarks	GDP(PPP) 11 th April, 2019 (\$)	GDP(PPP) 11 th April, 2020 (\$)	Remarks
United States	632,781	28,221	197,868	Very High	21,427,700	20,807,269	Decrease in GDP
Spain	182,816	19,130	31,791	High	1,987,305	1,773,364	Decrease
Italy	168,941	22,172	35,851	High	2,664,946	2,415,410	Decrease
Germany	133,830	3,868	9,471	Low	4,454,498	4,659,795	Slight increase in GDP
France	107,778	17,899	31,956	High	2,664,946	3,315,118	Slight increase in GDP
China	84,149	4,642			23,460,170	24,162,435	Slight increase in GDP
Iran	71,686	4,474	112,800	Very High	1,172,666	1,006,697	Decrease in GDP
United Kingdom	103,097	13,729	42,143	Very High	2,978,564	3,225,484	Slight Increase in GDP
Turkey	74,193	1,643	9,445	High	2,325,617	2,381,594	Slight increase in GDP

Source: Wordometer, 2019

It was observed from the table above that, between April –September 2020 United States and Iran were the most affected compared to other countries mentioned above and virtually all the countries mentioned above were affected because their GDP also dropped drastically.

Evidence has shown that the COVID-19 pandemic is a health and Economic issue that has threatened the economy and food security of millions of people around the world (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal UNSDG, 2020). Facts have shown that hundreds of millions of people were already suffering from economic disaster and hunger before COVID-19, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The coming of COVID-19 has deepened economic catastrophe and poverty among millions of people around the world (World Bank, 2020). The global spread of COVID-19 and the rising number of confirmed cases in Africa have raised concerns about the weak healthcare systems and agricultural development in the region (World Bank, 2020). Evidence has shown that the lockdowns in these periods have added to economic woes substantially affecting millions of jobs and enterprises particularly agriculture and agricultural enterprise where the majority derived their livelihood (World Bank,

Country	Confirmed cases	Death	Remarks
South Africa	324,221	4,669	72.90%
Egypt	85,771	4,120	19.28%
Nigeria	34,854	769	7.84%

Source: NCDC,2020

From the foregoing, it is therefore justified to examine the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, agriculture, and agricultural-related enterprise. The focus of this study will be on vegetable farming households because this has a short-term production cycle and can easily provide direction on economic evaluation. It has been argued that more than a third of people that are expected to fall below the poverty line during this period are rural farm households (World Bank,2020). Moreover, there have also been concerns about income losses or relative price shocks that will push consumption away bringing hardship to millions of Nigerian farming households (Headey and Ruel 2020). Studies argued that COVID-19 would significantly make the economy stagnate and can worsen the economic situation, pushing large populations back into poverty if no serious interventions are not put in place (Ufua et. al. 2022). In light of this, this study will evaluate the effect of COVID-19 on the economy and welfare of farmers, strategies to cope and government responses/interventions using Vegetable farmers in southwest, Nigeria as a case study. In addition, the research aims to learn from serious countries how they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the outcomes of their policy implementations. This is the rationale on which the conceptual construct of this study was built.

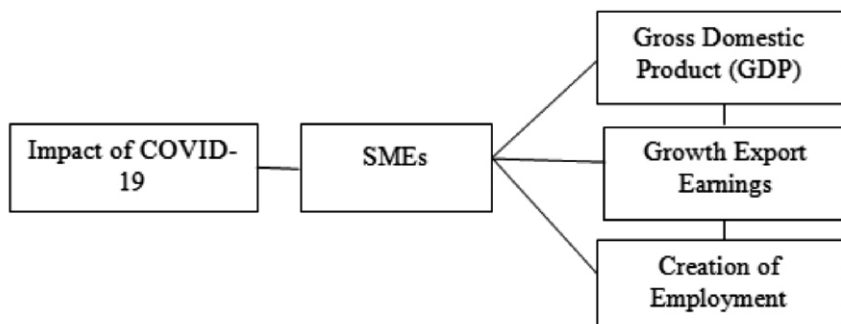
Conceptual Framework

The major inspiring factor of the study is to theoretically analyse the impact of Coronavirus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and improvise ways for post-covid economic recovery in Nigeria. The conceptual framework for the performance of SMEs is significant especially because of the lack of a clear framework for exploring the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs in making the economy thrive in the country. It is not arguable to posit that, COVID-19 has drastically contributed to the decline in utilizing SMEs as an important yardstick in reducing the high rate of unemployment and job creation (Ayyagari, Demircuc-Kunt & Maksimovic, 2011).

Studies have shown that, at the international level, 95% of businesses are from SMEs (Ufua et. al. 2022). This invariably means that it contributes up to 60% of the employment in the sector of the economy, especially in the private sector. Hence, it is

vital to ensure that, the improvement of SMEs provides sustainable strategies for responsiveness to the current challenge of COVID-19. Although, the literature emphatically stresses that developing countries like Nigeria can provide efficiency for SMEs because it is an essential player in improving productivity, competitiveness, innovation, and entrepreneurship (Shrivastava, 2016). This position should not be underestimated because Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-OECD- (2017) submitted that, SMEs are estimated as 63% of the whole employment of the member countries especially since an emphasis has been made towards enhancing global and digitalized economy (OECD, 2017).

This research is towards resource diversification for a sustainable economy to attain post-COVID-19 economic recovery (Ufua et. al. 2022). This position is in line with the assertion of Bassey (2012) that advocated for the diversification of resources in attaining sustainable economic development in the country. Therefore, this paper aims to examine the performance of SMEs as a solution to the economic impact of COVID-19 in the country. Figure 1 depicts the conceptual framework of the study which can be empirically investigated in future research.



Note: Adapted from Pulka et al. (2017); World Health Organization (2019); MSMEs (2020); Odinaka & Josephine (2020)

An Overview of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This section expatiates on coronavirus or otherwise known as COVID-19 which started in Wuhan in China in late 2019. The pandemic of COVID-19 has been affecting all spheres of human endeavour in recent times. As the coronavirus affects public health services at the global level, it also does to global economies. The pandemic of COVID-19 is worrisome because it is inevitable leading to a global economic recession. World Health Organization (2020) notes that the victim of COVID-19 will surely experience respiratory illness and older people and more importantly, people with medical or health problems such as diabetes, cancer respiratory disease among

others are likely to be infected with COVID-19. It is reiterated that COVID-19 can spread easily through the nose or mucus discharge and droplets of saliva, especially through sneezes and coughs (World Health Organization, 2020). Nonetheless, the most common symptoms of the disease are fever, dry cough and tiredness. The severe symptoms are chest pain, loss of speech and difficulty breathing. Globally, many lives have been taken as a result of the prevalence of coronavirus. Hence, it is important to adhere to preventive measures especially by washing hands, using sanitisers etc. as directed by health workers (World Health Organization, 2020). Currently, there is no actual treatment or vaccine to be taken by someone infected with the virus. Nonetheless, there are several efforts at the international level, especially in China, the US, the UK, Japan, Canada, Germany, France etc. to trial vaccines for the treatment of COVID-19.

Nigerian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

There is no generally accepted definition of SMEs and the definition depends on the context in which it is given. Hence, there is no perfect wall for defining SMEs in developing countries even though, it has been playing a prime role in the overall economy (Gibson & Van der Vaart, 2008). Notably, small, and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the businesses meant for the provision of goods and services in the aspect of manufacturing, agriculture, shoe making, computer skill, tailoring and other service sectors (Fatai, 2011; Chile, 2016). The purpose of SMEs can be entrenched with a specific emphasis on investment and employment to reduce the rate of unemployment and poverty as the literature contends (Kozetinac et al., 2010). The literature further acknowledges that business link, knowledge effectiveness, social context and innovation are important determinants for successful SMEs (Bryson, 1997; Carrillo et al., 2007). Hence, the study by Hayton (2003) contends that human capital management is important for the success of SMEs, especially in improving entrepreneurial performance in the country.

The government has been making a tremendous effort in expanding the sector of the economy through the enhancement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This assertion is regarded as a response to the advocate of earlier studies such as Egena et al. (2014) that stress institutional support for the improvement of SMEs in Nigeria. The government has initiated an Act relating to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and the Act explicitly elaborated policy that will foster the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSMEs in the country (MSMEs, 2020). It is specifically mentioned that SMEDAN is expected to stimulate different programmes and facilitate support services that will accelerate economic development in the country with specific attention on the operations of SMEs. It should be reiterated that the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment contends that, there are more than 37.07 million SMEs which provide employment opportunities and contribute to the sector of the economy. This assertion is in line with the position of previous studies such as Shrivastava (2016) which contend that government plays a vital role in the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSEMs).

Although, there is an existing challenge relating to the funding of SMEs. Nevertheless, the government can still do more in various ways especially through an effective strategy in promoting different investments in areas such as farming, fishing, well construction, masonry, productive trades, tailoring, and small businesses. Hence, recent, there has been a negative hindrance or impact of coronavirus on SMEs in the country which the subsequent sub-heading explains.

Impact of Coronavirus-COVID-19- on Nigerian SMEs

Indeed, SMEs immensely contribute to the overall economic development of Nigeria, but it has not efficiently expanded and strengthened. Nonetheless, the literature posits that that are different resources such as oil which significantly have an impact on the economic policy formulation in Nigeria and the policy is expected to support the economic condition of the poor citizens to achieve sustainable economic growth in the country (Ufua et. al. 2022). Notably, the Nigerian government has solely relied on oil as the source of revenue and overwhelming studies have canvassed for the diversification of the economy (Adedayo and Taiwo, 2022).

Nevertheless, COVID-19 has affected the deterioration in the oil price which is the prime source of revenue for the government. The outbreak of COVID-19 in Nigeria has virtually affected all facets of life such as education, social activities, politics, governance, and economic dealings. Most business transactions since the outbreak of COVID-19 recorded low sales whereby most SMEs reported a decline in the source of income (Ufua et. al. 2022). We must move fast, decisively, and together. The right, urgent measures could make the difference between survival and collapse.

Before the current scenario of COVID-19 in Nigeria, the country's economy is still evolving, and the evolvment has been affected by COVID-19 which requires urgent measures to address it (Ufua et. al. 2022 and Adedayo & Taiwo, 2022). According to the National President of, the Association of Small Business Owners of Nigeria (ASBON), coronavirus has created a negative impact on the overall operations of SMEs in the country. It is due to this negative consequence that, there are a lot of cutdowns in production. It is observed that many businesses especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria have collapsed because of the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a vulnerability in business transactions especially SMEs even though, priority has been given to the protection of the life and health conditions of the citizens.

More importantly, the production factories have stopped because of the prevalent coronavirus pandemic. In addition, because of the lack of supply of raw materials, small and medium businesses cannot triumph and consequently, there is no supply of

goods in the market (Ufua et. al. 2022 and Adedayo & Taiwo, 2022). This situation has two major consequences for SMEs. First, most manufacturing industries have liquidated. Second, the factories with available materials for production surely will increase the price of the product whereby inflation is ensured. This situation is worrisome and even becomes unbearable to most citizens because the prices of goods and services are on the increase every day.

Further still, it must be repeated that priorities should be given to the recovery of the economy after COVID-19 specifically through stimulation of the economy and the creation of more employment opportunities. In addition, significant attention and support should be given to the sustainability and viability of SMEs because it plays paramount roles in the growth and development of the country's economy (Ufua et. al. 2022 and Adedayo & Taiwo, 2022; MSEMs, 2020). This position is in line with the provision of a framework by the government which will harmonize the non-interest window for several intervention programmes of the government such as Targeted Credit Facility (TCF), Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ASAP) etc. which are meant to support the households and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are more specifically affected by COVID-19. Thus, it is essential to explain strategies for post-COVID-19 economic recovery in the country.

Strategies for Post- COVID-19 Economic Recovery in Nigeria

Undeniably, COVID-19 has caused uncertainties in all spheres of human endeavours. Hence, there has been a concerted effort in facing the current reality in the world in general and Nigeria in particular. Many countries worldwide have been responsive and supportive of their citizens in time of difficulty. The current COVID-19 pandemic is a period during which citizens need the attention and support of the government (Ryder, 2020). Undoubtedly, the intervention of the government is very significant, especially by concretizing it into short- and long-term plans, especially towards coming out of the crisis with strong economic viability as the literature contends. For instance, in the UK, Canada, Europe, the US etc., there are support initiatives, especially where the government attempt to pay the wages to employees at risk of losing their jobs (Ryder, 2020). Concerted effort and effective response of the government can provide meaningful tranquillity to the citizens through the provision of palliative measures.

Besides, the role of leaders of SMEs is significant for the expansion of businesses even though, the government has been trying to foster the health sector to respond to the challenge of COVID-19. It should be reiterated that digitization of business operations is also significant for further exploration of business opportunities

in SMEs.

Furthermore, since the current hardship of COVID-19 has the potential of losing jobs by some employees, thus, to safeguard people's jobs, the government has taken a proactive step through an Emergency Economic Stimulus Bill 2020 before the House of Assembly in order to incentivize businesses to protect the employees. It is specifically mentioned that the company should not retrench staff between the 31st March 2020 and 31st of December, 2020 with an exception of rationale to a breach of the Labour Act.

The implication of the Study

This paper used secondary sources of data. Theoretically, the paper vastly contributes to the exploration and expansion of SMEs by addressing issues relating to economic activities after COVID-19 pandemic especially by strengthening SMEs performance. More specifically, this paper provides understanding strategies to the government which has been trying to strategize for addressing the socio-economic conditions of the citizens in the post-COVID-19. Improving social intervention programmes of the government can serve as an expressive and valuable way of promoting SMEs performance which is an important mechanism for improving the socio-economic situation of the citizens. The study will be helpful to various agencies such as SMEDAN, NGOs etc. who are concerned with the improvement of SMEs performance.

Limitations of the Study

This paper is theoretical and needs further empirical investigation to establish a better understanding of the framework for SMEs performance as part of the strategy for reviving post-COVID-19 economic recovery in the country. Nonetheless, overall, this study has provided a basis for building on the conceptual framework of this research to further explore the SMEs performance as an important aspect of the economy in the country.

CONCLUSION

This paper clarifies the ancient background of coronavirus from the international level and then narrows it down to the root of its prevalence in the context of Nigeria. The paper further explores the roles of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) before the epidemic of COVID-19 and it is reasoned that the government has been supportive of the SMEs in the country. It has been established that SMEs greatly contribute to 48% of the GDP in the country and it largely contributes to 84% of job creation and 96% of business according to the National Bureau of Statistics. It is not doubtful that the paramount contribution of SMEs to the Nigerian economy cannot be underestimated.

Nonetheless, the paper argues that the actors of SMEs are worried about the negative impact of COVID-19 on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) especially when there is no necessary financial support. Nevertheless, some people are optimistic that with the keen support of the government, the country will come out stronger after the pandemic of COVID-19. The conceptual framework of the paper provides considerable direction for an empirical exploration of the identified variables especially towards investigating the correlation or relationship between COVID-19 and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are therefore provided:

1. The Nigerian government is anticipated to considerably reduce the costs of governance and operation and offer strategies for accessing grants and loans in the country.
2. That the government should provide financial support for the diversification of various aspects of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to be receptive to the impact of COVID-19 in the country.
3. Different ways of getting raw materials should be given to the development of SMEs in the country to create alternative sources of income for the producers.
4. The government should work together with the actors of SMEs to discover the possible ways of rendering the needed assistance for the maximization of production in SMEs.
5. That as the government has been trying to enhance the health system in the country, there is a need to improve the post-COVID-19 economy, especially by strengthening and bringing desired changes for the operations of SMEs.
6. The government should promote a digital economy through delivery and payment system. More importantly, the focus should be on integration of the digitization into business operations to explore emerging business opportunities in the country.
7. That the government should strengthen its support for the local provision of raw materials for production because COVID-19 has greatly affected the importation of raw materials necessary for production from abroad and other countries in general.
8. Monitoring mechanism in an innovative way should be put in place by the government to ensure that financial support for business loans is used judiciously towards making businesses thrive and make the national economy evolve after COVID-19 in general.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**EFFECTS OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND STAFF EFFICIENCY ON PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN EKITI STATE****Authors****Olufunke Rhoda Omolade And Samuel Adebayo Abiodun***Department Of Office Technology & Management,
The Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti***Abstract:**

This paper examined the effect of ethical leadership and employees' efficiency on performance of public institutions in Ekiti State. Primary data were collected with the aid of questionnaire from the respondents in two selected public institutions in the State. Performance of the public institutions was the dependent variable while effect of ethical leadership, employees' efficiency was the independent variables. The data were analyzed by employing both descriptive and inferential statistics; specifically, mean and standard deviation as well as the ordinary least square regression were employed for the analysis of the data. Results from the analysis showed that the variables mean scores are within and around the maximum expected mean value and the standard deviation values were all low as expected. Furthermore, finding of this study revealed that ethical leadership, employees' efficiency are positive and significant influencers of the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State. Based on these findings, it was recommended that management of public institutions should be made alive to their responsibility of ensuring the effectiveness of their institutions while government should not shy away from providing necessary infrastructures and tools to ensure effective delivery of services by the public institutions.

Keywords: Leadership, ethics, organizational growth, efficiency, employees, effectiveness

Introduction

One of the top priorities of any management in both public and private sectors is enhancement of organizational performance. Organizational performance has a positive correlation with creation of value in terms of goods and services by an organization. Also, it is a habit for an organization to pursue achievement of competitive advantage by achieving more superb results than the competitor in its market environment (Ilona & Evelina, 2013). Therefore, it is importance for an organization to monitor its performance from time to time and ensures that the performance is measured and compared with set goals. In the light of the foregoing, (Robbins, 2000 & Bounds, 2005) posit that effectiveness and efficiency

are key parameters for measuring organizational performance. Supporting the aforementioned, Chavan (2009) asserts that there are many organizations that gauge their performance by using efficiency which the optimal use of resources to achieve the required level of production output.

There have been vituperations and cacophonies regarding the performance of public institutions in Nigeria. Citizens have claimed that inefficiency have crept into major public institutions which hampers effectiveness and efficiency in line with their core mandates, (Harpreet, 2018). Although there are many factors responsible for the poor performance of public institutions in Nigeria, unethical practices, staff inefficiency as well as ineffectiveness are notable among these factors. To this end, (Sonia, 2011) claims that ethical scandals bedeviling public and private sectors' institutions have provoked the interests of scholars for investigation. The author adds that although frantic attempts have been made to enhance standard of ethics in the public servants, it is important to emphasize that taking step to improve leadership skills can be very potent in ensuring ethical conducts in the public service. Consequently, Hart (2001) believes that ethics cannot be made effective unless proper leadership is put in place in an organization.

Furthermore, another factor responsible for poor performance of public institutions is the inefficiency of staff from the top to the bottom level of the administrative cadre. Thus, Obicci (2015) avers that in the wake of rising poor performance of the public institutions in Nigeria, there is need to improve employees' performance in the public sector. Employee performance is an important element in any organization and very instrumental to the success or failure of organization and its productivity. In other words, organizational survival largely, rests on the shoulders of its employees.

Statement of the problem

Numerous studies abound in the areas on ethical/unethical practices and effects on the performance of organization, (Obalade & Akeke, 2020, Obicci, 2015 and Ilona, 2013) have conducted studies on ethics and organizational performances. However, none of the aforementioned and other existing studies, has examined the correlation between ethical leadership and staff efficiency on performance of public institutions in one study like the present study. Additionally, the previous studies did not adopt quantitative approach as in the present study.

There is also methodological gap in the literature as preponderance of the studies approached the issues of ethics and staff efficiency by designing qualitatively research. However, this study departs from the norms by examining the relationship between ethical leadership, staff efficiency and performance of public institutions using quantitative approach. The result of the present quantitative approach helps to

corroborate or refute outcomes of the existing studies, Therefore, there is need for this study to be conducted so that the empirical validation can be obtained to support or refute the theoretical positions about the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State.

Research Questions

The following questions are raised and guided the study:

- i. What is the effect of ethical leadership on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State?
- ii. What is the effect of employees 'efficiency on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State?

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

- i. examine the effect of ethical leadership on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State
- ii. find out the effect of employees' efficiency on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State

Research Hypotheses

The following testable hypotheses are conjectured to guide the conduct of this study:

- i. H_{0_1} : Ethical leadership has no significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State
- ii. H_{0_2} : Employees' efficiency has no significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State.

Conceptual Review

Ethics and Leadership

According to Yukl (2008) the process by which a person influences and guides group members in the direction that lead to the achievement of the group goals is generally referred to as leadership. In every organization, norms and values are expected to be kindled, developed and maintained by the leader (Grosenick & Gibson, 2001). The ideal behavior are the origin and setters of the trends of the culture of an organization while success or failure of an organization is a function of how committed

the leaders of such organization are to their responsibilities.

Northouse (2010) views leadership as a process in which an individual persuades a group of individuals to achieve a consensual goal. Kanongo (2001) mentions that ethical leaders always portray themselves in manners that make them feel concern with the welfare of others. By implications, ethical leaders are truthful, fair in their decisions and good at talking with their followers. Consequently, Khuong and Nhu, (2015) assert that ethical leaders are skillful in the act of setting ethical norms in a clear manner and apply befitting rewards and commensurate punishments to enforce the set standards. According to Dorasamy (2010) the absence of leadership that is inclined to adhere to acceptable level of behavior can make the integrity of any public institution to fizzle out easily. Also, Rehman and Khokhar (2017) explain that in recently, there are scandals arising from the unethical behaviour which has reduced the belief of stakeholders in the public institutions. Given that the effect of ethical leadership on public institutions, especially in Ekiti State has not been accorded the deserved attention; hence, effect of ethical leadership is measured in this study in relation to the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State.

Staff Efficiency (Performance)

This study also measures the effect of staff efficiency on the public organizations' performance in Ekiti State. Harpreet (2018) opines that the important performance measurement parameters, which individuals and organizations can employ for the measurement of their performance, are effectiveness and efficiency. Staff efficiency therefore, is concerned with success in respect of the transformation of inputs into outputs. It also involve the ability employees to deliver on their duties in such a way as to bring about the accomplishment organizational goal. According to Pattanayak (2005), the performance of an employee is expressed in term of his/her resultant achievement on a task which can be observed, measured and evaluated. By implication, employee's efficiency is expressed in terms of the contribution made by an individual to the achievement of organizational goals. As employees are considered the most important resources any organization can have, and hence, deserve the best of care and nurture. Organization is just an entity and cannot achieve its objective itself except through an agent i.e employee. Therefore, efficiency of staff of very organization determines the extent and the speed at which its goals are accomplished. Thus, it becomes imperative to conduct this study in order to measure the effect of public servants' efficiency on their organizational performances.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Social Learning Theory as propounded by Bandura in 1986. According to the theory, leaders influence the ethical conduct of their

followers by playing the role of a model for. Bandura (1986) pointed that individual or leaders with high cadre or hierarchical status in the organization and significantly wields influence over reward system can easily persuade their subordinates to behave ethically in the course of discharging their duties. Furthermore, social learning theory explains why employees in an organization try to imitate behaviors of role models who are attractive in their environment (Brown et al. 2005). The author also submitted that there is strong connection between ethical leadership and employee's efficiency. SLT argues that judging from the view of employees, ethical leaders are awesome people who can be trusted and believed in. Ethical leaders, shape the perceptions and views of the employees and enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in the performance of their duties to bring about better organizational performance and productivity (Mayer, Kuenzi, Greenbaum, Bardes, Salvador, 2009).

Empirical Review

Review other studies is beneficial not only to learners but also to the body of literature, hence, the need for empirical review of the following relevant past work of some authors. Harpreet d(2015) examined the influence of ethical leadership behavior on the performance, efficiency and productivity of employees. Archival research approach to was adopted. Hence, structured research approach was used in determining the studies to be reviewed and analyzed, while the literature that was not published within 5 years was excluded from the study. Analysis of the data was by descriptive approach and the result of the study revealed evidently that ethical leadership affects the performance of organizations in public sector; this is in corroboration of the past research studies and the frameworks of transformational leadership which posit that ethical leadership affect the performance of the organization.

Effects of ethical leadership on employees' performance in the public sector of Uganda was research on by Obicci (2015) The study employed surveyed method on a target population of 160 employees Self developed and validated structured questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. Regression analysis and Pearson correlation coefficient employed for data analysis. The results of the study revealed that ethical leadership significantly influenced employee performance. The study recommended that ethical leadership in public sector needs to be encouraged as well that leaders at the top management level must behave ethically

The relationship between ethical leadership and employees' performance in public secondary schools in Ondo State was research into by Rehman and Khokhar in 2017. Survey research design was adopted and questionnaire was used to collect primary data from the participants such as principals, vice-principals, headmasters, and deputy headmasters of 107 educational institutions in Ondo State. Data were

analyzed by inferential and descriptive statistics. The results showed significant positive relationships between ethical leadership and employees' performance. The outcome of the study revealed that counterproductive work behavior indirectly connects the relationships between ethical leadership behavior and employee's performance. On the contrary, the study showed that organizational citizenship behavior did not have correlation in the relationship between ethical leadership and employees' performance. It was consequently concluded that that ethical leadership has effect on employees' job performance.

Research Design

Survey research design was adopted in this study since it involves the investigation of the participants through administration and retrieval of questionnaires. The target population of this study consists of all permanent staff in public institutions scattered across all local government councils in Ekiti State. Because of the disperse and large number of the population involved, the study sites Ekiti State University (EKSU) and Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH) were purposively selected. These institutions are the largest and most critical public institutions located in Ekiti State. The total population for the selected institutions 4 was 4,001 comprising 2,450 and 1,551 permanent staff in EKSU and EKSUTH respectively. Adopting the sampling approach proposed by Yammane Taro in 1967, 364 permanent staff was selected as sample for this study.

Method of Data Collection

Primary data were collected with the aid of self-developed and validated questionnaires. The instrument was administered and retrieved by the researcher. The questionnaire was drawn in compliance with five point Linkert scale of Strongly disagree =1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, Agree= 4 and Strongly Agree = 5. Also, out of the 364 questionnaires administered, 360 were successfully retrieved and analyzed in this study.

Method of Data Analysis

Analysis of the collected data carried out was by both inferential and descriptive statistics. Consequently, mean, variance and standard deviation were employed to describe the nature of the variables while regression technique was employed to analyze the relationship among the variables.

Data Presentation

Decriptive Statistics of the Research Variables

The maximum expected mean score is 5 while the minimum is 1 based on the 5-point

Likert Scale of the questionnaire administered.

Table 1: Decriptive Statistics of the Variables

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Ethical Leadership	360	1	5	3.89	1.202
Employees' Efficiency	360	1	5	4.11	1.028
Performance of Public Institutions in Ekiti State	360	1	5	4.09	1.160
Valid N (listwise)	360				

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Table 2 : Summary of Regression Output

Predictor Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-0.092	0.070	-1.320	0.188
ETHL	0.117	0.044	2.652	0.008
EMPE	0.717	0.046	15.612	0.000
Statistics:				
R2	0.94			
Adj. R2	0.94			
F-stat.	1783.52			
Multiple R.	0.968			
Durbin-Watson Stat	2.08			
Standard Error of the Estimate	0.291			

Source: Authors Computation (2021)

Test of Hypotheses and Discussion of Findings

The decision rule for testing hypothesis is that Null Hypothesis (H0) should be rejected and Alternate Hypothesis (H1) accepted if p-value is less than 0.05 and vice

versa.

Hypothesis One

H_{0_1} : Ethical leadership has no significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State

H_{0_1} : Ethical leadership has significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State

From Table 2 the P-value of ethical leadership is 0.008 which is certainly less than the critical value of 0.05; thus, we do not have enough reason to accept the H_{0_1} . Hence, ethical leadership has significant positive effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State. This result aligns with a priori expectation that ethical leadership should be a positive influence of the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State. By implications, a leader that ethically carries out his duties and influences others to follow suit will promote the delivery of goods and services of his organization and improve overall performance his employer. This result concurs with the finding of Sabir, Iqbal1, Rehman, Shah & Yameen (2012) that corporate ethical values have significant role to play in enhancing ethical leadership and increasing employee performance towards the achievement of the organizational goals as well brings about high level of organizational productivity. It also aligns with Pavtav (2017) who posit empirically that that ethical leadership affects the performance of organizations in public sector.

Hypothesis Two

H_{0_2} : Employees' efficiency has no significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State.

H_{1_2} : Employees' efficiency has significant effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State.

From the p-value of EMPE on Table 2, which is 0.000, it is obvious that this is less than 0.05 significant level. Therefore, H_{0_2} is rejected. Consequently, employees' efficiency has significant positive effect on the performance of public institutions in Ekiti State. This aligns with both theoretical and empirical positions that efficiency of employees determines the productivity of an organizations; and that employees' efficiency are better honed by ethical leaders (Obicci, 2015). This result agrees with the submission of Mwita (2000) who argues that employee performance is a key and multi character factor which is helps to achieve aims and objectives of an organization. Similarly, (Bello, 2012) empirically found that employees' performance can be increased if ethical leaders lead them. The result emphasis the need to create a situation where employees are recognized as the most valued factor in the production

process.

From Table 2, it is noticeable that the variable with the highest mean score is 'Employees' efficiency'. This variable has the highest mean score of 4.11 and standard deviation of 1.03. The next variable with the next highest mean score is "Performance of public institutions in Ekiti State". This variable has a mean score of 4.09 and standard deviation of 1.160. With respect to ethical leadership, this variable has the least mean score of 3.89 and standard deviation of 1.20. Generally, the variables mean scores are within and around the maximum expected mean value. Furthermore, looking at the standard deviation values, they are all low as expected. This implies that the estimated results are reliable with minimal errors while the observed frequencies all cluster around their mean values. This strengthens the reliability of the outcome of this study and connotes that there exists a relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study, empirically investigated the effect of effect of ethical leadership and employees' efficiency on performance of public Institutions in Ekiti State, with focus two key public institutions in Ekiti State. Collected data by means of questionnaire while analysis of the data showed clearly that there was a positive relation between the performance of public institutions and the predictors which were ethical leadership and employees' efficiency. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 significance level and the result favoured the rejection of null hypotheses in all cases and suggested the significant effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable. Consequently, in line with findings of this study, it can be concluded that ethical leadership, and employees' efficiency are strong determinants of the performance of public Institutions in Ekiti State.

Recommendations

Following the findings and conclusion of this study, we recommend as follows:

- i. Since ethical leadership has been found to be a positive promoter of public institutions in this study, ethics should be set, standardized and enforced across all the public institutions in Nigeria to enhance their performances.
- ii. Employees' efficiency is key to improving the performance of public institutions in line with this study; hence, employees should not see as a mere working tool in the production process, but must be recognized as the most important asset of the organization, this is because the leaders and the employees are the bedrock of any organizational performance.

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COVID-19 PANDEMIC: ASSOCIATED TERMINOLOGIES AND SEMANTIC IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract:

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) which started in China in December, 2019 moved at exceptional alacrity around the world causing WHO to declare it a pandemic. It was codenamed COVID-19 to reflect its year of out-break. The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 has ignited a "rush" for effective use of old and new terms. Even as the spread of the disease revolutionized our lives, it has equivalently birthed new vocabularies, new acronyms and new words to express the various aspects of the disease as it affects human lives. It is a consistent theme of lexicography that great social change brings great linguistic change, and that has been the case in this present global crisis. Some of these nineteenth century terms are put to modern use and their emergence are not necessarily coined for COVID-19 pandemic, they have seen wider usage since the inception of the pandemic. As a result, these terms are now part of our vocabulary for everyday usage. This paper explores the semantic implications of the new terminologies using the qualitative descriptive methods of analysis. Speech Act is use as the theoretical framework to aid this research. The crux of the paper closely reflects the examination of 'newborn' terms, their meanings and implications.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Terminologies, Semantics, Speech Act.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a severe crisis and far-reaching repercussion across the world, ranging from the worldwide loss of human lives and challenge to health, education, food system economic and social section down to upheaval in our language. The effects of the pandemic are many, varied from closure of schools, devastated industries, social and economic crisis, millions of jobs

loss, undermine progress on global poverty and more but, with the kiosk the world has encountered, COVID-19 has silver lining to it. The positive impacts cannot be under emphasized, they include:

- Abrupt shifts in human behavior in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Some other infectious diseases are fading from hospital emergency departments.
- Life style changes and improvement on personal hygiene (the use of hand sanitizers).
- The use of technology in all sectors and sphere has improved drastically.
- Introduction of new tools and software (education, teaching and learning is digitalize. For instance, learning on Zoom).
- The chaperone of new vocabularies to the general populace.

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced various changes into the world, these changes are gradually being accepted as norms or regularity. English has been able to adapt and accept the unusual births of new and scarcely used vocabularies and coinages that COVID-19 has championed. Language is dynamic, this is why it could decide to orchestrate and accommodate new happenings in the society.

The unprecedented alteration and impact of COVID-19 has equivalently ushered in new vocabularies. The terms ignite and create their semantic implications in the mind of users. This paper gives COVID-19 a different perspective from the usually examined. It highlights and discusses the associated terminologies under English Language as a result of COVID-19 and the semantic implications.

Corona Virus is a family of seven viruses which are known to infect people. These viruses are:

- 229E (alpha coronavirus)
- NL63 (alpha coronavirus)
- OC43 (beta coronavirus)
- HKU1 (beta coronavirus)
- MERS-COV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)
- SARS-COV (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
- SARS-COV2/COVID-19 (2019-Ncov/Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome2)

Although, people around the world usually get infected with 229E, NL63, OC43, HKU1, but sometimes the Corona Viruses that infect animals can evolve and make people sick and become a new human Corona Virus. Three recent examples of this are: MERS-COV, SARS-COV and the most recent, 2019-nCOV.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine Home, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC&P) stated that, SARS was recognized as a global threat in March 2003. It started in Southern China and spread to more than 24 countries in Asia, Europe, North America and South America. The World Health officials were able to contain the SARS epidemic within a few months. The Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome (SARS) virus known as SARS-COV is an example of Coronavirus that spread rapidly in 2002/2003. Many experts believe that the novel SARS-COV2 likely originated from bat and the first transmission to human occurred in Wuhan, China on 31st December, 2019.

In January 2020, when the early endemic signs of the outbreak started in Hubei Province, the Chinese government ordered a lockdown, barring 11 million citizens from going to school or work and closed all commercial establishments except for essential services such as grocers or clinics and hospitals. This was the first severe movement control order issued by a country in an effort to battle the outbreak of the coronavirus. Since then, the virus, identified as COVID-19, has viciously spread at a pandemic rate across the globe. To date in June, WHO has reported over 7.2 million confirmed cases, including more than 413,000 deaths as it spreads at an exponential rate across WHO recognized regions, namely the Americas, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia, Western Pacific and Africa (WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard, June 2020). To decrease the alarming rate of transmission and reproduction of the virus across the population, and in the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) aimed at reducing contact rates in the population (Ferguson, et.al, 2020, p. 3; Pei, Kandula & Shaman, 2020) were quickly imposed by affected countries. The NPIs recommended by WHO to governments and public worldwide was to practice hand-hygiene, exercise social distancing, and to stay-in-place. Consequently, most governments adopted this intervention as a policy to mitigate the transmission of the virus by declaring some degree of lockdown state wide or nationwide, and suggesting the notion of a new normal for the immediate future. Obviously the impact of these mandated mitigation policies depends critically on how people respond to their introduction as the interventions are disruptive and entail significant changes in population behavior and social norms.

PANDEMIC: Pandemic is an epidemic, a prevalent infectious disease, for it to be referred to as a Pandemic, it must have spread across the world, it must have impacted millions of lives and it must have crossed international boundaries that is, cut across the globe. An example of Pandemic is Covid-19; this is because, the impact is known and felt across the world.

SEMANTICS: Semantics has a universal definition. It is known as the scientific studies of meaning. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that specializes in two main parts, which are "logical" and "lexical". Logical Semantics deals with the matters of sense, implication, reference and presupposition. Lexical Semantics deals with the analysis of word meaning and the relation between them. In Linguistics, Semantics is a sub-field that studies meanings at the level of word, phrases, sentences or larger units of

discourse. Semantics is also called Semiotics, Semology and Semasiology.

TERMINOLOGY: The word “Terminology” is derived from “Term”, which means a word or phrase that is used to describe an item or concept especially in a particular field of study/branch of study. The word Terminology (plural: terminologies) is defined as the body of an item or specialized words relating to a particular or specific subject of study or profession. Terminologies are not like every other word or phrase; they are derived from a subject or field of study.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 has ignited a “rush” for effective use of old and new terms and vocabularies. Even as the spread of the disease revolutionized our lives, it has equivalently birthed new terms, vocabularies, and acronyms to express the various aspects of the disease as it affects human lives. It is a consistent theme of lexicography that great social change brings great linguistic change, and that has been the case in this present global crisis. Some of these nineteenth century terms are put to modern use and their emergence are not necessarily coined for COVID-19 pandemic, they have seen wider usage since the inception of the pandemic. As a result, these terms are now part of our vocabulary for everyday usage, which have brought about the variations in the effective usage of English language. Schools and social meetings have shifted from face to face to online in order to reduce or avoid physical contacts, and this has greatly affected the interpretation of the meaning of the COVID-19 glossaries. It is against this backdrop that this study aims to examine the semantic implications of COVID-19 associated terminologies using the qualitative descriptive methods of analysis. Speech Act was used as the theoretical framework to aid the study.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is to explore the semantic implications of the new, coinages and unpopular words, terms, acronyms and terminologies that evolved as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic, the semantic implications of the new terminologies

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

COVID-19 has, of recent, gained prominence in academic research. The literature is replete with studies on associated terminologies and the meaning implications, albeit from diverse disciplinary and theoretical standpoints. We have had studies from qualitative research (Bogdan & Steve J., 1975), philological sciences (Rets I., 2014), neologism and ecology of language (Nikolay & Irina, 2015), language study (Yule G.,

2018), coronavirus and economy (Terina, 2020). However, this study will review paramount related texts in order to fully grasp the current state of knowledge with regards to the phenomenal under study. In this regard, Jefwa (2021).

Jefwa (2021) correlate the effect of COVID-19 on language with the analysis of Neologism. Ibid states that COVID-19 has impacted the life of everyone around the world, that although language is dynamic, English Language has been able to adapt to these new changes thereby creating new vocabularies through the quick assistance of lexicographers. The views above without shows that COVID-19 terms and the semantic implication have received little attention thus far. Uniquely however, this study is a body of research that made the focal point, terms that emerged and became prominent as a result of COVID-19, the meaning implication on the users. This is intended to explicate the semantic implications of this exclusively new and unpopular old terms.

2.2 THEORETICAL REVIEW

In examining Associated Terminologies to COVID-19 and the Semantic Implication, I am guided by the Speech Act perspective. Speech Act is a theory propounded by a philosopher named J.L Austin and was further developed by another philosopher named J.R Searle. Speech Act is a subfield under Pragmatics that studies how words are used not only to present information but, to also present actions. Speech Acts refer to actions performed by produced utterances. This theory states that, there are three degrees to which utterances are performed, these are: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts.

A.) Locutionary acts: Locutionary acts partially has to do with uttering certain utterance with certain sense and reference. This is slightly equivalent to meaning in traditional sense. (Austin 1962; 108) (Cutting 2002; 16) also state that, locutionary is what is said. For instance:

- 1.) The road is messy.
- 2.) There is light at the end of that tunnel.

The above sentence represents the actual condition of the road while, the other sentence implies the condition of a particular tunnel.

B.) Illocutionary acts: Illocutionary acts have to do with the communicative force of an utterance. Such as promising, apologizing and offering. (Yule 1996; 48). Illocutionary acts can be the real description of interaction condition. For instance:

- 1.) The road is messy.

2.) There is light at the end of that tunnel.

The above examples show a request to be on a smooth road, the second sentence indicate a request to leave for the tunnel end.

C.) Perlocutionary acts: Perlocutionary acts have to do with the act that is carried out by a speaker when making an utterance caused in certain effect on the hearer and others. It is the effect that the utterance has on thoughts and actions of other people. Also, it includes all those effects intended or unintended that some particular utterances in a particular situation caused.

For instance:

1.) The road is messy.

2.) There is light at the end of that tunnel.

These examples explain that, the first sentence is uttered by moving on the road, and the second is done by someone while walking along the tunnel.

The intended meanings of utterances sometimes hide behind the words uttered. In line with the assumption of speech acts that, when people say something, they do something. The utterance that people hear almost every now and then, contains meaning that needs to be analyze in order to grasp the real intended meaning. The ability to analyze the hidden meaning occasionally brings about different results. The utterances could be in the form of spoken words or even in the lyrics of a song, movie dialogue.

There are certain aims beyond the words or phrases when a speaker says something. Austin (in Tsui, 1994: 4) explains that speech acts are acts that refer to the action performed by utterances. In line with this, Yule (1996: 47) states that speech acts are actions which are performed via utterances. Stating the same idea, Birner (2013) also says that, uttering something means doing something. Here, people can perform an action by saying something. Through speech acts, the speaker can convey physical action merely through words and phrases. The conveyed utterances are paramount to the actions performed. It is hereby suggested that, COVID-19 associated terminologies and their semantic implications should be viewed from the perspectives of the Speech Acts; which will help the populace to understand the intended meaning of the COVID-19 terms

1.1.1 TERMINOLOGIES ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Covid-19 has undeniably orchestrated our lives, as a result of this orchestration, new words have emerged and relatively old words have become more prominent. These old and new words, phrases and acronyms are termed “associated terminologies” as a result of finding their roots from the “Covid-19 pandemic”. Associated Terminologies are words, phrases, acronyms that are connected or closely related to a concept or something.

The antecedent of Covid-19 brought about the emergence of some exclusively new words and unpopular old words, phrases, acronyms that are unanimously related and associated to Covid-19 peculiarity. It is, therefore, normal to call or refer to these words as, “Associated Terminologies”. The new words, terms, acronyms and phrases that come into use as a result of COVID-19 should be understood in order to protect us from infection and decrease anxiety. We have words like:

COVID-19 TERMINOLOGIES	ASSOCIATED MEANINGS
<i>ARDS</i>	<i>Acute Respiratory Stress Syndrome.</i>
<i>AstraZeneca</i>	COVID-19 vaccine
<i>Asymptomatic</i>	<i>Not showing any symptoms.</i>
<i>BCV</i>	<i>Before Corona Virus.</i>
<i>CDC</i>	<i>The centers for Disease control.</i>
<i>Communicable</i>	<i>Similar in meaning as contagious. Use to describe disease that can spread from person to another.</i>
<i>Community Spread</i>	<i>The spread of an illness within a particular location, neighborhood or town.</i>
<i>Confirmed Cases</i>	<i>Someone tested and confirmed to have COVID-19.</i>
<i>Congregate Settings</i>	<i>Public places that can get crowded and where contact with infected person can happen. e.g: Mall, Market etc.</i>
<i>Corona Virus</i>	<i>A family of related viruses. Many of them cause respiratory illness.</i>
<i>COVID-19</i>	<i>The name of the illness caused by Corona Virus, SARS-COV-2. COVID-19 stands for “Corona Virus Disease 2019”.</i>

<i>Epidemic</i>	<i>A widespread or an outbreak of an infectious disease in a geographical area.</i>
<i>Face Mask</i>	<i>A protective mask designed to cover the nose and mouth.</i>
<i>Flatten the Curve</i>	<i>An attempt to create a more gradual uptick of cases, rather than a steep rise in an effort to avoid overburdening the health care system all once.</i>
<i>Hydroxychloroquine</i>	<i>An oral drug that treat malaria, arthritis and lupus. Also effective in treating patients with COVID-19 disease, although it is still in question.</i>
<i>Immunity Herd</i>	<i>Also known as “community immunity” the reduction in risk of infection within a population.</i>
<i>Immunosuppressed</i>	<i>An individual who experiences reduced efficacy of the immune system as a result of</i>

As consistent as the usage of these new terms and unpopular old terms that emerged as a result of COVID-19 have become, one cannot disassociate from the fact that, they induce semantic implication on the users of the terms.

1. METHODOLOGY

This paper explores the semantic implications of the new terminologies using the qualitative descriptive methods of analysis. Speech Act is the theoretical framework under which the study is underpinned. The crux of the paper closely reflects the examination of 'newborn' terms, their meanings and implications. This qualitative descriptive study intends to obtain and analyze vital information on trending newborn and unpopular Covid-19 terminologies, their meanings, and implications.

2. DATA SOURCES

The study collected data from different secondary sources such as social media platforms, library, internet and newspapers in order to study new and unpopular old terms, acronyms and phrases that emerged during COVID-19, for the sake of illuminating the semantic implications on the users and the society at large.

3. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the emergence of Covid-19, a pandemic that brought the whole world to a standstill, a good number of new vocabularies were coined in addition to some words that have been in existence but redundant because of low or non-usage by individuals. This paper focuses on the Semantic implications of the newly derived words as regards Covid-19 pandemic, what each word, acronym or phrase means, and how they have assisted in guiding against the contraction and easy transmission of the virus. The study hereby summarise, conclude and recommends as follow:

- Awareness should be created for better knowledge and understanding of the terminologies, by so doing, the society can be harnessed together.
- The government should sensitize the people by creating more awareness about the new words through the radio, internets and talk show.
- Through the communities with their local languages or dialects especially the indigenes.
- Through the religious leaders and traditional rulers because they are closer to the indigenes.

Finally, most importantly, having a better knowledge about these COVID-19 associated terminologies can help understand what each word, acronyms or phrases mean, this will protect the people from infections, easy transmission of the virus and decrease anxiety.

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FEDPOLAD JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT (FEDPOLADJM)**EXPLORING THE DETERMINANTS OF THE DEMAND FOR POTTERY PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT****Authors**

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Abstract:

The obvious decline in the demand for pottery wares in Nigeria is worrisome as the trend is pushing many potters out of business. Meanwhile, the nation needs to harness all its resources for economic growth, but the pottery, through which the resources could be exploited seem not to enjoy patronage. In this work, literatures were reviewed to fathom the determinant for the demand for pottery. It was discovered that the attributes of the pottery wares, price of alternative imported pottery wares, and that of vessels made of materials other than clay, effect of poor advertisement, taste, interest and orientation, and the income of the consumers are the major determinants for the demand for pottery wares. Homemade tiles, personalized pottery, and ceremonial wares are pots with unique selling points identified for the potters to engage in. The Nigerian potters need to improve on the qualities of their products in order to compete favourably with imported wares and wares made of plastics and metals at the market.

Keywords: Pottery products, Demand, National economic advancement, Nigeria

Introduction

Demand drives economic growth. If there is no demand for a good or a service, the economy of the supplier will crumble. The truism of this fact does not exclude pottery products and the ripple-effects will take its toll on the nation's economy. The pottery technology is an aspect of ceramics that deals in the manufacture of clay ware. Objects made are commonly useful ones, such as vessels for holding liquids, plates or bowls for serving food, and pots for planting flowers. Also, decorative wares which include, flower vases, decorative figures, wall hangings etc.

are part of objects made by the potter. There used to be heavy demands for these items on daily bases by consumers as household, utility wares and souvenirs during occasions such as wedding, burial ceremonies among others .

Clay is the major material used for the manufacture of pottery and its deposits can be found in large quantities in many states in Nigeria. These states are Abuja (FCT), Akwa Ibom, Anambra State, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, and Sokoto as shown in figure 1. Clay is a type of soil or natural rock with fine grain particles. When appropriately moistened, clays becomes plastic, and could be manipulated into different shapes of interest. Shaped plastic clay are dried and subjected to firing and it becomes rock-hard, giving it a permanent physical and chemical change. These properties are the reason why it is invaluable for making pottery.



Figure 1 : Map of Nigeria showing states with large deposits of clay

Source:

In the 90s, production of pottery wares was a source of survival for many families in Nigeria. Unfortunately, in the 20s many pottery centres have become the shadows of their previous selves. Potters have reduced drastically and younger generations are not prepared to take up the job. In a study on students' perception of Ceramics Education in Nigeria Tertiary Institutions, Okonkwo (2014) identifies poor economic reward as a major factor responsible for the reluctance of most Nigerian youths to enter into ceramics profession. The students were of the opinion that the course is not lucrative and therefore will not guarantee decent livelihood after graduation. Consequently, only a negligible percentage of the few who managed to study the course practice it after graduation. Results of research efforts points to low patronage of pottery products in Nigeria as the major setback for the growth of the trade Sullyman, (2003) and Bakinde, (2008).

As a result of this decline in the demand for the products, the economic and social

status of potters were badly affected. The low economic and social status of potters may of course account for the youths' ambivalent negative perception towards pottery practice (Okonkwo, 2014). Indeed many potters quitted the trade because their wares are no longer selling, which further increases the number of unemployed persons in Nigeria. Only a few who could engage in other ventures such as farming, and trading, are managing to survive.

In a study by Nortey Asismoaso (2019), it was discovered that the effect of declining demand for pottery in Ghana has significant effect on potters becoming unemployed. Potters in Nigeria are out of job, based on the low demand for their products. This has contributed to the growth of unemployment and consequently to the stunted economic growth. In the first place the human resources in the form of the skill of the unemployed lot are rendered unproductive. In the same vein, the natural resources in the form of clay deposits become redundant. Without doubt, decline in the demand for pottery ware has adverse effect on Nigerian economy.

Consequent upon the decline in the demand for pottery products, Okonkwo (2014) recommended an urgent need for a study on the determinants of the demand for pottery in Nigeria in order to create a place for it at the national market and keep the potters in business. Thus, this study is a review focusing on what determines the demand for pottery products in Nigeria. A general overview of products demand from the economic perspectives was considered. Attempts were made at factoring the attributes of pottery products into the consumers' readiness to demand for them. The products were then categorized in accordance with income-demand relationship analysis. A set of clay products that could stimulate the consumers interests were identified for the potters to repackage and market.

1. Method and Materials

This study is a qualitative research in which literatures were reviewed on the determinant of demand for products with particular reference to pottery. Data were collected from books, journals and print media. The review was complemented with the voice of the consumers and observable behaviours. Interviews with contemporary potters were also held. As the demand for a good depends upon a potentially infinite number of factors, which impact each consumer's decision to buy. Eleven commonly identified determinants were considered as each affects the demand for pottery products in Nigeria. These determinants can be stated in function form as:

$$D_x = f(P_x, P_y, I_c, I_d, A, C_t, C_e, G_p; P_i C_c) \quad (1)$$

Where D_x = demand for good x; P_x = price of good x; P_y = prices of related goods; I_c =

individual income; I_d = distribution of income in the society; A = advertisement; C_i = Consumer's taste; C_e = Consumers expectation; G_p = Government policy; P_g = Population growth; C_c = climatic condition and X_a = product attributes. This equation applies with the assumption of all things being equal.

Results and Discussion

The Price of Goods

Like many other goods, there is an inverse relationship between the price of a pot and the willingness of the consumer to buy it, all things being equal. Assuming a person wants to buy pot for any reason, the chances of buying it is greater at an affordable price than when the price is higher. However, in the case of many pottery wares even when the price is low customers still don't buy them. In the ordeal of Lami Samuel, a potter in Bwari area of Abuja, it was found that pottery products were selling a few years back but later, patronage continues to dwindle . This was not because of price but due to changing time and some other factors. One such factor may be the prices of related goods.

Prices of related goods

Related goods to pottery may be substitute goods or complimentary goods. In the case of pottery in Nigeria, the substitute goods include glazed wares from foreign lands and bigger factory, and vessels made in metals and plastics. The pottery craft, which has been a source of livelihood for many craft potters and contemporary ceramicists, is now challenged by modern conveniences. Pots are being replaced by modern vessels of aluminium, enamelware and plastics. The products of Nigerian potters cannot compete favourably with the imported potteries, and the mass-produced wares. If wares of exact qualities with the imported ones are to be produced in Nigeria, it will be more expensive due to the cost of production. The price of the substitute goods in this regard is indirectly a factor determining the demand for pottery produced in Nigeria.

Complimentary goods to pottery may also be a determinant for pottery made in Nigeria. Example of such goods are ornamental plants, tea, isi-ewu, beer, coffee, and garri. Many hotels use native pottery cups to serve local beverages like pito, burukutu, gin and beer etc. As the demand for these complementary goods increases, that of the pottery used with them increases. For instance the increase in the demand for ornamental plants would bring about increase in the demand for pot planters so long



Figure 2 A



B

Plate : A- samples of terracotta lidded bowl for serving local soup at a joint in Lagos; B- a pot planter for flower

Individual income

The income of a consumer may affect the purchasing power. However, some people still do not buy pottery wares despite increase in income. Considering income demand relationship, goods are group into four categories, namely: inferior goods, normal goods and luxury goods. Some pottery product can be classed as inferior goods because demand decreases with increase in the income of the consumer. For instance people living at Abuja of today are of higher income than those living there in the time past. Despite that, the potter, Lami Samuel of Bwari, finds it difficult to sell her wares as before. In like manner, demand for cooking pots falls when consumers can afford to buy modern cooking vessels. With increase in income, those using clay pots to contain water abandon it for more expensive modern water dispenser. As for normal goods, demand increases linearly with increase in the consumer's income. Pottery wares like garden planter and homemade tiles may fall into this category as those who are still struggling with 3-square mill may not demand for flower planter until their incomes increase. In the case of luxury goods, demand decreases with decrease in the income of the consumer and their perception about the use of the good. Potteries like garden sculpture and wares of high aesthetic values fall into this category.

Distribution of income in the society

Only a section with high income can demand for certain goods because of the uneven distribution of income in the society. For instance, only consumers of high income, who lives in a building with large space to accommodate the type of giant pot (about 1.6m) as shown in the plate can demand for it. According to the potter at ATAMORA Pottery, people of high income who live at urban cities and tourists usually demand for giant pots.



Figure 3

1.1. Effect of Advertisement

The effects of advertisement may have enormous effect on the demand for a product. Advertisement has been defined as a means of communication in which a product, brand, or services is promoted to a viewership in order to attract interest, engagement, and sales . It involves catching the attention of the consumers, making information available, demonstrating the features to potential consumers, persuasion, and endorsement by celebrities. As a factor in the demand for pottery, Nortey and Asismoaso (2019), found out that location was highly influential factor in determining the demand for pottery. This is in agreement with the observation of William & Kwesiga (2016) that more successful studio potters enjoy more patronage, because their studios are usually strategically positioned near towns and by the roadside. In addition, they display and sell their products at craft centres. The display of pottery at strategic points brings the products to the attention of prospective consumers. If the wares were not brought to the attention of the consumers they may not know they are in existence and would not buy. Advertisement therefore has a significant effect on the demand for pottery wares.

1.2. Consumer's taste and preferences

The taste and preferences of consumers depend upon factors such as life styles, customs, common habits and change in fashions, standards of living, religions values, age, and sex, provided differences in prices are proportionate to their income. This was corroborated in the study on ceramic as a way of economic empowerment, that development, perception, and religious beliefs of prospective consumers were identified banes of low demand for articles of local pottery. As well, in a study of low patronage of Nigerian made pottery, it was observed that the reason for poor demand for contemporary pottery was that the vessels are produced without recourse to ideological or cultural values of the consumers. Once a pottery product does not

meet the taste and interest of the consumer, there will be no demand for it.

1.3. Consumer's expectation

The anticipation in the fall or rise in price, or increase or decrease in income, or anticipation of scarcity of a good can dictate the demand for it. People do not buy clay pot unless they have need for it, or stumble on one that meets their interest. They buy at their convenience and not based on any anticipation of rise or fall in price or its scarcity. From the work of William and Kwesiga (2016), there are indications that pottery are used for occasional and special purposes such as vases used by the newly wedded brides for keeping hot water and perfume pots. In addition, smoking pipes are used by elderly people while some items are used for cultural purpose. Demand for such items are not determined by expectation or any anticipation of any sort.

1.4. Population Growth

The demand for a product may increase with increase population of prospective consumer. More people are becoming sophisticated and more are becoming religious. The growth in the population of these set of people has negative correlation to demand for pottery. Conversely, the growth in the population of pot collectors and users of pottery affects the demand. Population growth can have both negative and positive impact on the demand for pottery, depending on the type of consumers.

1.5. Government Policy

Government policy on tax, importation and credit facilities for producer affects the demand for a good. Since there is no government banning importation, consumers have ample chance for alternatives at the detriment of wares produced in Nigeria. Nigeria ranked among the largest consumers of ceramic products in the world. African consumer growth was pleasingly apportioned across several countries with Ghanaians and Nigerians driving sales in the West, while Kenyans and Tanzanians heightening their ceramic tile consumption in the sub-Saharan Southeast..

1.6. Climatic Condition

The climatic condition may be a determinant of demand for some products like umbrella or raincoat. In the case of pottery, climatic condition may not be a strong determinant for it. Pottery is for all weather and so it is seldom affected by the seasons of the year.

1.7. Attributes of the product

The consumer needs in a product are the attributes of the product which give them satisfaction and delight. That is, the consumers will always demand for what gives

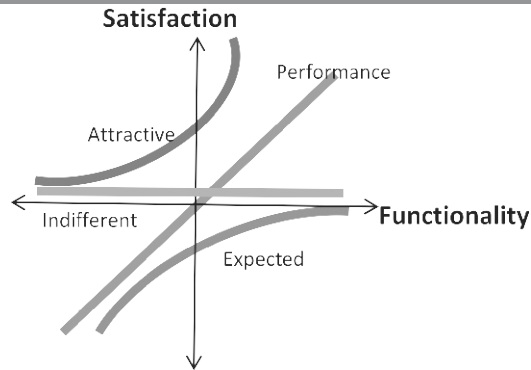
them pleasure. In which case, what gives the consumer that emotional, hedonic and practical benefits associated with products must be the attribute of focus. From the designers perspective, the attribute of a product could be classified into soft and hard attributes, Hard-Attributes define the product's "infrastructure" – abilities, performances, and reliability. While the Soft-Attributes define the product's front – user-experience, character, look and feel. Just as the consumer will be dissatisfied with unattractive product, a non performing attractive one will be unsatisfying. The balance between the two differs from product to product.

However any good product must include them both in totally separate and different manners. A product is not measured solely by its performance. Indeed, a product's soft-attributes act (in many cases) as the product's Unique Selling Point (USP). Nonetheless, the best soft-attributes cannot cover poor hard-attributes performances. As there are varieties of pottery ware, it is important to identify which attribute needs to be improved in one type of product or the order to guarantee

In prioritizing customer satisfaction and delight, Daniel(2017), alluded to Kano model by categorizing products attributes into four, based on how their functionality brings about satisfaction to the consumer. These attributes come under one of the following categories:

- i. Performance
- ii. Must-be (expected)
- iii. Attractive
- iv. Indifferent

As shown in figure, attractive attribute quickly brings excitement and further efforts on increasing the attribute may bring no further satisfaction. As for performance attribute, functionality is proportional to satisfaction. The more the functionality of the performance the greater the satisfaction. It thus mean that attractive pottery of high functionality will be most sought for by the consumers where such functions are desired.



1. Conclusions and Recommendations

From the foregoing, it could be concluded that the major determinants of the demand for pottery products are price, advertisement, consumer taste and preferences, government policy and product attribute.

This is in agreement with the findings of Angela, Christian, & Aja, (2019) the on influence of the attribute a product on consumers purchase decision: that brand name has a significant relationship with consumers' purchase decision, that celebrity endorsement has a significant effect, attractive product has a significant relationship on consumers purchase decisions, that celebrity endorsement has a significant effect on consumers purchase decision that celebrity endorsement has a significant effect on consumers purchase decision but in contrast with the findings that that taste has no significant effect on consumers purchase decision in the case of pottery. This means that the price must be affordable, the consumers must be aware of the existence and be convinced of the capability of the products. The product must also meet the taste and preference of the consumer. The government too has a role to play in encouraging the potters in production, distribution, patronage and prevention of competition by imported goods. Also, the product must present an inviting appearance at the same time perform to the satisfaction of the consumer.

The price of alternative products is a major factor for the decline in pottery demand. The unit cost of producing pottery wares in Nigeria is higher when compared to the cost of imported wares due to the high cost of firing. Therefore, it is recommended that technocrats assist in building fuel efficient kilns using renewable and affordable energy source such as saw dust. If this is achieved, it will tremendously cut the cost of production. Also, there should be industries that are producing prepared raw materials of standard specification for the potters. This will remove the burden that makes the porter a jack of all trades that will mine the clay and still prepare it for use.

Appropriate and easy means of distribution, and intensive advertisement of the product will boost the demand for them. It is therefore recommended that the potters should endeavour to display their wares at strategic places. A typical example is the

Atamora display shop at Waasimi along Ibadan – Ife road. With respect to distribution of pottery wares, there is need for good and accessible road networks to be constructed to give pottery dealers and retailers' easy access to pottery production centres. Owing to the fragile nature of pottery wares, bad roads can lead to damages of the product during transportation and thereby discouraging customers to settling for other available competing brands within their reach in the cities or towns. The potters need to be displaying their wares at supermarkets, exhibitions and trade fairs. Above all collaboration between potters, marketers and designers is recommended for an in-depth research on how to create a place for pottery in Nigeria.

The consumers taste and preferences are equally a major factor in demanding for pottery. Even when the wares are advertised the taste an interest of the consumers must be met for them to decide to buy. Delivering products and services to customers that solve their key problems, enable opportunities, or enhance their well-being in physical and emotional ways will sustain the demand and improve the business. Also the meaning which the appearance of a product communicates helps consumers to assess the product on functional, aesthetic, symbolic or ergonomic motives . The potters need to involve the personalization process, where a user is identified as a specific type of individual and then delivers relevant and individualized content and functionality to them. It is therefore recommended that the potters produce personalized wares that will enhance the experience of the users, anticipating and meeting their unique needs

The government policy too has a far reaching effect on the demand for pottery wares. As earlier pointed out, consumer in Nigeria prefer imported pottery to the ones made in Nigeria. This is because there is no stringent policy on importation in favour of pottery products. Also, quality and price of these imported goods makes them a better choice. It is therefore recommended that the government makes policies to prevent importation of pottery that could be made in Nigeria. The government also should establish standards for and extend quality control to pottery wares produced in Nigeria.

The product attributes appear to be a major determinant for its demand. Of course, one way to improve a product and to retain the demand for it is to pay attention to its quality. This was corroborated in the work of Chang & Wu (2007). On the investigation of the types and characteristics of household products, focusing in particular on those qualities that evoke consumer pleasure through simply the look of the product, five forms were identified. These forms are namely aesthetic forms, Bios forms, cultural form, novelty form and ideo forms. It was discovered that Aesthetic and Bios forms in the design of a consumer product have more potential than the other three, to attract a consumer's attention and elicit pleasure . Based on the results of the analysis of Bios form, it is recommended that potters produce forms mimicking

animals, human figures, objects, or natural elements, which tended to interest and fascinate the viewers. For instance, a flower pot in the shape of a goose, will catch the attention of a consumer than ordinary geometrically shaped pot. In addition, there is the need to apply modern technology in the production of local pottery, in order to enhance its quality and meet the expectations of consumers. The products should be properly coated by glazing, and made more attractive. It is therefore recommended that there should be workshops and seminars organized for the potters, for exchange of ideas and introduction to modern production techniques.

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EFFECT OF TAX REVENUE ON ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract:

This research work examined the effect of tax revenue on economic advancement in Nigeria. Data were collected from the secondary sources, specifically from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) database from 2010 -2020. The Study employed Ordinary Least Square regression to estimate the Eq(ii) and (iv) to actually reveal the relationship between the dependent and the independent variable. OLS estimator was chosen being the Best Linear Unbiased Estimator in the class of efficient estimator. It shows that just as it was in the case of HDI, gross tax revenue (GTR) collected by the Nigerian government is a positive and significant predictor of Nigerian economic growth (RGDP). The results show that tax revenue has direct relationship with Nigerian economic growth, such that increase in the collected tax revenue is capable of stimulating growth in the economic and vice versa. The result shows that gross tax revenue accruing to Nigerian government is a significant stimulant for both economic growth and human capital development and tax revenue is found to be related to both HDI and GDP. The study recommends that Nigerian government should henceforth channel larger parts of tax revenues in promoting the health sector, education sector and the overall standard of living of the Nigerians as doing this would help to increase the human development index.

Keywords: Tax, Revenue, Economic advancement, GDP, PPT, VAT.

Introduction

From time immemorial tax constitutes the major source of revenue to government. Oisasoje and Ojeifo (2019) noted that tax is a strong mechanism that is used by government to develop the economy of a country. Tax is

essential in every country to meet developmental and non-developmental expenditure. It is very important that the government maximises and reduces tax evasion and tax avoidance in order to gain adequate resources needed for economic advancement of a country rather than borrowing heavily to meet the economic advancement of the country. 3

Economic advancement must be met by the government because it is the responsibility of the government to ensure maximum welfare (which include good road, health care, education, good enabling business environment etc.). However, government responsibilities continue to increase with time due to the growing population of the citizens and technological development in a country (Ofoegbu, Akwu&Oliver (2016).

A lot of research have been conducted on effect of tax revenue and economic development or economic growth (Ewa, Adesola &Essien(2020), Sun(2019).Most of the findings show a positive effect. (Ewa, Adesola &Essien(2020), Ali, Ali &Dalmar(2018) however stated that there is a negative effect of foreign aid on economic growth. Both economic growth and development have been interchanged by most researchers. Some researchers estimate the effect of tax revenue on economic development or growth using Gross Domestic Product(GDP).Economist have proved that there may be increase in growth with little economic development, there can be increase in GDP and the standard of living of the people may not improve(Tejvan, 2015). Therefore, this research work will focus on assessing the effect of tax revenue on economic advancement. Economic advancement will include both economic growth and economic development. Human development index (HDI) will be used as a proxy for economic advancement.

Hence, the following objectives are stated for the study:

- i. To examine the effect of tax revenue on Nigerian economic development, and
- ii. To evaluate the effect of tax revenue on Nigerian economic growth

The following hypotheses guided the study:

H01: Tax revenue has no significant positive effect on economic development in Nigeria

H02: Tax revenue has no significant positive effect on economic growth in Nigeria

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Taxation

Cheazmi &Kamarulzaman (2019) define tax as a compulsory levy imposed on

individuals and organisations by government, it is a good source of revenue to the government. OECD classified taxes as compulsory unrequited payments to government. Tax revenue in Nigeria include personal income tax, company income tax, petroleum profit tax, capital gain tax, direct and indirect tax. Imposition of tax on goods and services is the indirect tax and it is payable at consumption of goods and services with import duties/ tariffs export duties, value added tax and excise duties. The highest share of tax revenues in Nigeria in 2019 was contributed by Corporate income tax(46%), the second highest share of tax revenues in 2019 was derived from value added taxes(14%). In 2019, non-tax revenues amounted to 3.2% of GDP. This was lower than the average non tax revenues for other 30 African countries. Rents and royalties represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in Nigeria which amount to 2.1% of GDP and 67.4% of non-tax revenues (OECD,2020).

Objectives of taxation

The main purpose of tax is to raise revenue to meet government expenditure and to redistribute wealth and management of the economy (Ola, 2001; Jhingan, 2004; Bhartia, 2009). Anyanwu (1993) pointed out that there are three basic objectives of taxation. These are to raise revenue for the government, to regulate the economy and economic activities and to control income and employment. Also, Nzotta (2007) noted that taxes generally have allocation, distributional and stabilization functions. The allocation function of taxes entails the determination of the pattern of production, the goods that should be produced, who produces them, the relationship between the private and public sectors and the point of social balance between the two sectors. The distribution function of taxes relates to the manner in which the effective demand over economic goods is divided, among individuals in the society. According to Musgrave and Musgrave (2006), the distribution function deals with the distribution of income and wealth to ensure conformity with what society considers a fair or just state of distribution. The stabilization function of taxes seeks to attain high level of employment, a reasonable level of price stability, an appropriate rate of economic growth, with allowances for effects on trade and on the balance of payments. Nwezeaku (2005) argues that the scope of these functions depends, inter alia, on the political and economic orientation of the people, their needs and aspirations as well as their willingness to pay tax. Thus the extents to which a government can perform its functions depend largely on the ability to design tax plans and administration as well as the willingness and patriotism of the governed

Economic growth and development

Economic growth is defined as the process whereby a country 'real national and per capital income increases over a long period of time. It measures increase in GDP.

Economic growth involves qualitative changes in the economy and it indicate growth of a nation per capital income on the other hand economic development implies changes in income, savings and investment in a progressively alongside with socio-economic structure of both institutional changes and technological changes. Economic development involves qualitative changes along with quantitative growth of output or national income.

Economic development deals with the standard of living of the people and freedom to enjoy good quality living. Economic advancement encompasses economic growth, good living standard, good education improved healthcare, infrastructure and diversification of the economy.

A country can have economic growth without experiencing economic development. This is possible due to many factors such as corruption of the leaders who syphoned benefit of growth into their personal account, Production of toxic chemical that can lead to health issues and problem and a decline in the living standard of the people. congestion when people spend long hours in traffic which can affect their health and only few people may be enjoying the benefit from oil revenue. When the government spend a lot of money on military goods at the expense of health care, education and technology. They can all lead to low quality of living.

According to Tejvan(2021) there are several ways of measuring economic development which include: Human Development Index(HDI), Human poverty index, Gini coefficient balance of trade, Physical quality of life index, Gender development index and Balance of trade.

Human Development Index(HDI) is a combination of Life expectancy index, Education Index and Income Index.

Gross Domestic Product(GDP) is the market value of all officially recognized final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time(Goossens et al 2007). It is also measure the economic health of a country.

Theoretical Review

Benefit Received Theory:

This theory dictates that the state should levy taxes on individuals according to the activities of the state, the more he should pay tax to the government. In other words this theory proceed on the assumption that there is basically an exchange or contractual relationship between a tax payer and the state. Tax revenue is expected to be used by the government to provide common benefit to the citizen. It is not intended to provide a direct or specific benefit to any individual. One of the objectives of taxation is to redistribute income by taxing the rich more than the poor. It then means that if the benefit received theory is to be applied; the poor will end up paying more tax than the

rich because most of the government expenditures are intended to benefit the poor more than the rich. Secondly, taxation based on the benefit theory will not yield enough revenue to the government because many people who can afford to pay high taxes may end up paying less since they do not receive much benefit from government activities. This theory therefore kicks against the principle of justice.

Ability to Pay Theory:

This theory dictates that every taxpayer should be taxed based on his ability to pay. Under this theory people with higher income should pay more taxes than people with lower incomes. In this case taxes should be levied on the basis of taxable capacity of an individual. This approach considers tax liability in its true form of compulsory payment to the government without quid pro quo and does not assume any commercial or semi commercial relationship between the government and the individuals. An individual is to pay taxes just because he can, and his relative share in the total tax burden is to be determined by his relative paying capacity. This theory ensures justice or equity in taxation (Musgrave and Musgrave, 2004; Bhartia, 2010; Jhingan, 2012; Appah, 2014).

Empirical Review

Atolagbe and Abiodun (2021) studied the relationship between tax revenue and the interplay of macroeconomic factors is necessary to maximize the gains of the proposed elimination of non-tariff barriers by the African Union. This study was carried out to investigate the impact of trade liberalization and six macroeconomic variables on tax revenue in Nigeria from 1981-2019, using the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) approach to cointegration and the Error Correction Model (ECM). The results of ECM showed that short run and long run equilibrium were present in the system. The macroeconomic variables found to be predictors of both domestic and external tax revenues are share of petroleum and mining in GDP, foreign direct investment, share of agriculture in GDP, per capita income, exchange rate and inflation rate.

Asaolu, Olabisi, Akinbode and Alebiosu (2018) studied the relationship between tax revenue and economic growth in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive and historical research design; secondary data for twenty-two years (1994 -2015) were collected from various issues of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin and annual reports. The study concluded that the role of taxation in nation's building is irreplaceable. Taxation remains a strong socio political and economic tool for economic prosperity. Tax revenue should be judiciously utilized to provide enabling environment for business survival and economic growth in Nigeria.

Other studies include Francis, Ochuko and Ardi (2018) whose study finds a positive

impact of tax revenue on the gross domestic product of Nigeria and Ghana confirming prior studies. Also Cornelius, Ogar, and Oka, (2016), Ihenyen and Ebipanipre (2014), Abata (2014), and Owolabi and Okwu (2011) all show various results.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design to be used for this study is ex-post facto research design, since the event being investigated antedates the study and data that cannot be manipulated.

Model Specification

The econometric model explored to capture the effect of tax revenue on Nigerian economic development was adapted from the work of Elechi, Kasie and Chijindu (2016) as follows:

Model I

$$RGDP = f(GTR) \quad \text{Eq(i)}$$

In econometric form, Eq(i) can be expressed thus:

$$RGDP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GTR + u_t \quad \text{Eq(ii)}$$

Model II

$$HDI = f(GTR) \quad \text{Eq(iii)}$$

Eq(ii) can also be expressed in econometric form thus:

$$HDI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GTR + U_t \quad \text{Eq(iv)}$$

Where:

RGDP= Real Gross domestic product of Nigerian economy

HDI = Human Development Index of Nigeria

GTR = Gross Tax revenue collected by Nigerian Government.

U_t =Error terms

Sources of Data

Data were collected from the secondary sources, specifically from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) database from 2010 -2020.

Method of Data Analysis

The Study employed Ordinary Least Square regression to estimate the Eq(ii) and (iv) to actually reveal the relationship between the dependent and the independent variable. OLS estimator was chosen being the Best Linear Unbiased Estimator in the class of efficient estimator.

RESULT AND DISUSSIONS

Table 1: Summary of Regression Output (Effect of Tax Revenue on Nigerian Economic Development)

The predicting equation between tax revenue and Human Development Index (HDI) as proxy for Nigerian economic advancement can be expressed as :

$$\text{HDI} = -0.1637 + 0.0437\text{GTR}$$

The above equation reveals that there is a positive relationship between gross tax revenues (GTR) and human development index (HDI), such that if GTR is increased by 1%, it would cause about 4% increase in the development of human capital in Nigeria. This result confirms that revenue accruing to government from tax is a virile tool for boosting the development of human capital in Nigeria; indeed, since human capital development is also part of the metric for measuring economic development of a nation, this result therefore attests to the reality that the Nigerian economy can be advanced through proper and dedicated channeling of tax revenue to support health sector, knowledge acquisitions centres such as school and improvement in the standard of living of the Nigerian populace. This result is supported by the p-value of the GTR which is very significant at 95% confidence interval, thereby lending weight to the vitality of the tax revenue in promoting human capital development in Nigeria.

The R² of the result is 0.42; this means that tax revenue was responsible for about 42% development in the Nigerian human capital within the scope of the study and the remaining 58% change in the human development in Nigeria is facilitated by other factors not included in the study's model. The F-statistics is equally very significant, judging from its p-value which is less than 0.05 critical value while the Durbin Watson statistics is connotes the absence of autocorrelation problem in the estimated model. From the Table 1, the p-value of the GTR is 0.0298 which is less than the 0.05 critical value, the study thus rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that tax revenue has significant positive effect on the Nigerian economic development.

The predicting equation along the line of best fit for the estimated regression result is expressed thus:

$$\text{LRGDP} = 6.7486 + 0.2767\text{LGTR}$$

Obviously, the equation above shows that just as it was in the case of HDI, gross tax revenue (GTR) collected by the Nigerian government is a positive and significant predictor of Nigerian economic growth (RGDP). The coefficient + 0.2767LGTR thus implies that for every change in gross tax revenue by 1%, there would be about 28% resultant change in the RGDP. To this extent, this results shows that tax revenue has direct relationship with Nigerian economic growth, such that increase in the collected tax revenue is capable of stimulating growth in the economic and vice versa. The virility of the tax revenue is promoting economic growth is further underscored by the statistical significance of the coefficient of GTR as indicated by its p-value. In addition,

the R^2 is 40% which is very close to the one obtained in the first model, and connotes that tax revenue is responsible for boosting growth in the Nigerian economy by 40%, thereby leaving the remaining 60% for other factors not captured in the estimated model. Furthermore, given that the p-value of GTR is 0.0380, which is less than the critical value at 0.05 significance level, the null hypothesis is rejected and the study concludes that tax revenue has significant positive effect on the growth of Nigerian economy.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The effect on tax revenue on Nigerian economic advancement is evaluated by this study. The existing studies have focused mainly on measuring tax revenue effect on the aggregate economy with no consideration for other aspect of economic development. Sequel to the foregoing, the study incorporates Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure of economic advance and in addition to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and examines the effect of gross tax revenue on each of these development indices. The result shows that gross tax revenue accruing to Nigerian government is a significant stimulant for both economic growth and human capital development and tax revenue is found to be related to both HDI and GDP. Hence, this study concludes that tax revenue is an important and potent tool in advancing Nigerian economy. In view of the foregoing, the study recommends that Nigerian government should henceforth channels larger parts of tax revenues in promoting the health sector, education sector and the overall standard of living of the Nigerians as doing this would help to increase the human development index, which according to OECD is among the lowest in the world. Furthermore, there should be overhaul in the Nigerian tax policies to bring more eligible taxpayers into the tax net as way of booting the tax revenue, and by extension Nigerian economic growth.

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RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN EKITI STATE

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Abstract:

One way to contribute to national development is through ICT compliance in all sectors of life and the economy at large. The bedrock of this study is to find out the relevance of information technology on National Economic advancement in public organizations in Ekiti State. The broad aim of this study is to identify the level of ICT that are necessary for development of National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State. This paper looks at the concept of IT, national development and IT relevance on national development advancement. A survey method was adopted and sampled of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents who are information managers from Federal polytechnic Ado Ekiti (FPA), Ekiti State University (EKSU) and Federal University of Oye Ekiti. (FUOYE) was used to gather information from respondent through self-administered questionnaires. The findings revealed that the use of IT (information technologies) such as computers and other ICT facilities have play a significant role on the service delivery of information managers. It was concluded that, Information Technology positively impacts the economy of a nation and as such government of Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that, government should invest more on Information Technology in several areas of the economy such as the education sectors, recreation, civil service, business organisations, libraries in its kinds especially e-library and information centres so as to ensure information management system to promote quality information access and retrieval for sustainable economic growth and development.

Keywords: *Relevance, Information Technology, National Economic, Advancement, Public Organizations.*

Introduction

Information technology is any computer base tool that can be used for information processing needs of an organization such as libraries and information centres. (Gbadegesin 2015). Information technology (IT) is a critical element for today's

business. It supports corporate strategy and consumes a significant amount of a corporate's resources. IT represents a significant investment for any corporation in today's business environment and the results can be disastrous if the IT investment does not support the organization in strategically outperforming its competitors (Sethi and King, 2018).

The Information Technology (IT) is the most transformative technology of our present generation and its development, even from the earliest days, has benefited from close partnership between government and various private sector companies which has continues to accelerate national development in Nigeria (Nwabueze and Ozioko, 2019). Development is partly determined by the ability to establish a synergetic interaction between technological innovations and human values (Iwu and Nzeako, 2017). Also, national development implies a sustainable growth and development of a nation to a more desirable one (Adekoya and Kolade, 2019). National development is people oriented and its success is evaluated in terms of the impact it has had in improving the lot of the masses (Enyi, 2020). Information technology has created impact in Nigeria. It has various opportunities for job seekers in the area of web design, business centre, graphic design; data programming etc. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are electronic technologies used for information storage and retrieval. Development is partly determined by the ability to establish a synergistic interaction between technological innovation and human value.

The term creative economy first coined by Howkins (2019), has attracted worldwide attention. Creative economy may be defined as a policy that aims to generate new growth through economic operations that promote creativity, knowledge convergence, and advanced scientific technology based on coordinate learning, consequently creating a new market and new jobs. This may be inferred as representing a new paradigm in economic development that has evolved out of the chase-and imitate economic model followed by most developing countries until now (National Information Society Agency, 2013). According to Howkins (2019), creative economy comprises advertising, architecture, art, crafts, design, fashion, film, music, performing arts, publishing, R&D, software, toys and games, TV and radio, and video games. An examination into noticeable differences in the application of IT in creative and manufacturing industries promises to be valuable as the results may better elucidate the nature and characteristics of creative economy.

The creative economy concept has emerged as a means of focusing attention on the role of creativity as a force in contemporary economic life, stating that economic and cultural development are not separate but can be a part of a larger process of development. The term 'creativity' gained traction in professional disciplines in the

20th century in educational theory and psychology, drawing on models of artistic practice and perception to suggest different forms of learning and understanding from those of 'linear' rationalist thinking. With the advent of the knowledge economy in the late 20th century, Richard Florida and John Howkins were placing these knowledge workers under the banner of the 'creative class' and 'creative economy' by the late 1990s (Oakley, 2019). At this time the notion of creativity became linked with innovation. The creative economy is also being linked to positive gains on the environmental front. From an environmental perspective, the creative sector is relatively low impact. Cultural activities are most often experience-based rather than material-based and require less infrastructure over other industries. With a more recent trend towards ethical consumerism, producers and consumers are questioning the true cultural, economic and environmental values of what they create, buy and sell. Pier Luigi Sacco takes this a step further by suggesting that “the arts and culture as an economic sector may contribute to a reorientation of economic development towards more sustainable perspectives”.

Development is essential and critical to growth and sustenance of any country (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2020). In order to successfully enhance meaningful national development in all area of the economy in Nigeria, effective strategies must be evolved. According to Terry Lucey (2021) Information and Communication Technology is acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textural and numerical information by micro–electronics based combination of computing and telecommunications.

There is a growing awareness that IT are not reaching to rural dwellers to enhance their socioeconomic and livelihood activities as well as the Nigeria aggregate national development (Bello and Aderbigbe, 2019). The main reason could be attributed to the poor linkages between research organization, and rural dwellers and poor technical know-how. ICTs include a heterogeneous series of products and services. The ICT sector itself includes semiconductors, voice telephony technologies, and technologies supporting high-speed data and audio-visual systems as well as computers and packaged and customised software. There is no single technological pathway that must be followed by countries that are seeking to enhance and extend their national infrastructures or to connect them to global information networks. Given their different starting points, the technical configurations and the service applications that are selected by the public and private sector actors in developing countries are likely to vary considerably. Their choices are influenced by past investment levels, existing hardware and software production capabilities, experience with the customisation of the new products and services, and the capital available to promote new ICT applications.

Rapid innovations in IT applications and the availability of high-speed

networks are creating opportunities for generating and managing increasing amounts of information that can be tailored to users' needs and which can contribute to development goals. In order to benefit from these developments, however, a wide range of technological and related capabilities need to be strengthened (Bell and Pavitt, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

Information Technology has the capacity to transform the economy of any nation as it allows acceleration transfer of knowledge both between generations, and between people of one generation. Likewise, the knowledge bases and interaction with Information Technology helps a person to adapt to requirements of modern society. The new information technologies are widely perceived as major tools for kick-starting ailing economies and consequently assist developing societies 'catch up' with the developed world, including those groups that have lost out of the mainstream of development.

Information technologies serve as new tools for escaping from poverty, empowering impoverished communities, and providing access to vital resources and information (Odufowokan, 2018). In this context, the problem of Information Technologies in public organisation has been perceived as lack of availability and accessibility of internet facilities, lack of telecommunication equipment's and services media and broadcasting, libraries and documentation centres, commercial information providers, network-based information services and other related information activities. Accordingly, information technology crises affecting the ranging levels of people's standard of living, poverty level has now gained the attention of economic observers throughout the world. They have linked the problems of under employment and socio-economic crisis to technology inadequacies, high cost of IT equipment/facilities, lack of qualified personnel to handle the equipment. It was in view of this that this study will therefore examine the relevance of office technology on National Economic Advancement in public organization in Ekiti State.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this paper is to examine the relevance of information technology on National Economic advancement in public organizations in Ekiti State. The secondary objectives are as follows:

1. Identify the level of ICT that are necessary for development of National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State.
2. Find out how information technology serves as a tool for enhancing the National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State.
3. To examine the impact of ICT on National Economic advancement in public

organizations in Ekiti State.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of ICT that are necessary for development of National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State?
2. How does information technology serve as a tool for enhancing the National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State?
3. What is the impact of ICT on National Economic advancement in public organizations in Ekiti State?

Literature Review

Meaning of Information Technology (IT)

Information Technology has been defined by different authors/scholars in different ways. The term information and communication technology according to Akintunde and Ekechukwu (2018), are computers, ancillary equipment, software, hardware, services and resources bought together to form network for automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission or reception of information or data. Information which is a processed data made available to all concerned individuals that need to assess such information. Olowookere and Iyiola (2015) posited that ICT is a concept which is used to describe the strength and divergent use of computer and telecommunication devices for data and information interchange involves the processing, storage, selection, transformation and dissemination of data via vocal, pictorial, numerical and symbolic information.

According to Enyekit, Owaji, Obayo and Enyekit (2019), IT is the system that is used in processing, storage and transfer of information which can be audio, visual or both in the form of numbers, letters and pictures. To Utoware, Kren-Ikidi and Apreala (2017), ICT are represented by tools like computers, internet and intranet, general system of devices and mobile technologies. From the definitions of IT above, the author is of the view that ICT is the means of transmitting of information via vocal, symbols, pictorial and electronic gadgets such as e-mailing and messages, internet and intranet using search engines, computer software (e.g., word/data processing, graphic, power point and accounting packages such as peach tree, spreadsheet), yahoo, Google, in the past the world was going traditional office, but today we are in the era of paperless office as a result of IT.

Concept of National Development

Before the discussion of national development, there is need to explain the

meaning of development. According to Ezeuwa (2019), development is a dialectical concept seen as the use of human resources to qualitatively change man's physical and biological environments to his benefits or seen as involving the introduction of new ideas into the social structure and causing changes on the patterns of organizations and the social structure. Azuka (2020) defined development as increasing the production system of a nation population, reducing poverty, creating employment and creating equality of opportunities and increasing the welfare of all social. On the other hand, Ohakwe (2019) described development as: Event causing change: an incident that cause a situation to change or progress. Process of change: the process of changing and becoming larger, stronger or more impressive, successful or advanced or of causing something to change. A specified stage of growth or advancement. A new product or idea. An event constituting a new stage in a change situation.

However, development is an improved efficiency in making changes or adaptation of individuals in becoming successful or in achieving success in the society. National development according to Ezeuwa (2019) refers to positive growth, modernization and a function of change towards economic, social and cultural conditions of different communities' status and ethnic groups of the country. These changes could be achieved through the joint efforts of the people and government of a nation. Azuka (2020) added that national development is a multi-dimensional process that involves the economic, social and political systems of a nation. Therefore, national development connotes the joint efforts of individuals and government to make changes or improve the economic, social, cultural, political and physical wellbeing of a nation or society at large.

National development attracts a lot of benefits to the people and government of a nation. Though, benefits accrued differ on the individual exposure. That was why Ezeuwa (2019) argued that a modern man emerges with different characteristics from that of a traditional man in terms of been open to new experience, be a good planner, aspire to glamour to higher level, have good and proper orientation, not being dependent rather make things happen, accords respect to other individuals, and being advantageous of controlling his environment. However, if one is a good citizen of a developed nation, he/she should provide democratic values needed for his survival and as well as his nation, grow in status and also contribute ideas that is viable to the economic life of the nation. Hence, national development reduces to the barest minimum unemployment, poverty and inequality due to its reflection on the standard of living, education, technology and welfare of people in the society. Also, it leads to stable economy, political stability and socio-cultural changes that will assist the nation for comfortable living.

Overcoming the problems of unemployment, poverty among others demands effective use of some natural resources such as land, labour, production and capital. In

other to improve the basic standard of living conditions of people in the society, national development could be sustained through the improved good health, general infrastructures, and educational improvement, improvement of unemployment conditions and technology and environment. One way to contribute to national development is through ICT compliance in all sectors of life and the economy at large. The increase of ICT usage has become an international phenomenon in the past years, it started as a concern for some computer literate people but now it has become a norm and way of life for people globally. Therefore, there is need for all hands to be on deck in order to tackle these challenges posed in adapting to ICT environment.

Stakeholders that need Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for National Development

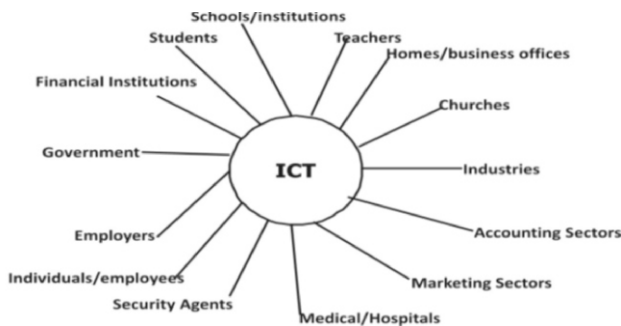


Figure 1:

Office Equipment (Machines) used by various Stakeholders for National Development

Eze (2018) opined that computer and its accessories is the vital tool used in information and communication through the internet, e-mail, e-commerce, e-banking, webcam, power point presentations, teleconferencing. The author noted that paperless offices are invoked these days as a recent trend in the society. With different office machines, information can be disseminated effectively to various recipients. Supporting the above views, Asonibare (2015) enumerated the ICT equipment and machines that constituted the new trend in ICT application in a modern office thus; telex, facsimile (fax), collecting, teleprinter, photocopying, shredding, franking, laminating, duplicating, telephone, printer, projector machines, global systems for mobile communication (GSM) and scanner which could be used in scanning a cheque, electronic signature, medical cards, ID cards, passport (International), business cards and documents of all types. Asonibare also noted that the internet facilities is useful for communication, office activities, search for jobs, services, researches, chats exchange businesses, public relations, e-banking, e-education, registration, e-payment, e-result, e-library, e-shopping. However, machines of all sorts

could be of help in assessing information in various human endeavours.

Information Technology (ICT) Applications

As the traditional practice of keeping records has been replaced by paperless electronic office, the demand of business environment has also increased with its dynamic and sophisticated nature. A large number of individuals, bankers, academic, employers/employees, students, civil servants, industrial personnel, marketers, publics, etc who were trained before the advent of computer, were now found in schools, colleges, universities, even business centres as to make themselves available and conversant with the new trend in IT facilities such as computers, internet and intranet, e-mailing, word processor etc. IT facilities/gadgets are virtually utilized in all works of life: such as education, banking, industries, research, military, medical services, recording of accounting data (sales, purchases, pay rolling), banks, educational institution, industrial organizations, construction companies, accounting firms, communication companies etc wants their employees to have basic computer skills because their organization become ever more dependent on computers/IT tools (Onwuachu, 2018). In consonance with the above assertion, Asonibare (2015) affirmed that ICT application affects many aspects of our lines and as such it has penetrated into office, factory, home, bank, transportation system and many other areas of human endeavour. Business needs to meet the demands of their employees and customers as

Importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for National Development

According to Ibrahim (2019) the importance of ICT is to: provide easy access for learning materials/resources. make distance learning materials easily accessible, access to on line libraries, provide authentic and current information, reduces time on many routine tasks, provides educational data storage, collaborative, anytime, anywhere learning, multimedia approach to education, better accesses to children with disabilities

Omotayo and Umoru (2015) noted that the importance of ICT is, thus;

- ICT enable individuals to learn with ease, speed, and accuracy of academic work.
- Facilitates less teacher led approaches and enables students to work more autonomously.
- ICT facilitates working processes and improves resulting products.
- It made various types of modification much easier.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Need/Usage for National

Development

As we are now in technological era, there is need for an individual to comply with the new for survival. In the labour market employees were expected to exhibit different business skills in the areas of accounting, secretarial, marketing, and the other business-related skills. The ability to use computers has become an essential part of everyone's life that the demand for ICT literacy is increasing in Nigeria, because employees and employers realized that ICT enhances job efficiency. Everyone needs to do their jobs by ICT. With high level demand for ICT literacy and other ICT gadgets, it is now a concern for all individuals and professionals to become ICT literate. Series of electronically operated machines are invented as to enhance communication in this modern age; ICT is meaningless without human factors and human were to operate these ICT facilities. This was why Akintunde and Ekechukwu (2018) noted that as the demand of the business environment increased with the dynamic and sophisticated nature, the executive functions have widened and employees' job are challenged more. Ibrahim (2019) posited that ICT facilities/gadget is needed thus;

- As education is a lifelong process it could be access anytime and anywhere.
- Since information explosion is an ever-increasing phenomenon there is need for one to have access to this information.
- Education should meet the needs of variety of learners as such it is important in meeting this need.
- Society at large required individual to possess technological/ ICT literacy
- In order to eradicate the challenges of illiteracy and poverty in our society, ICT should be embraced.

Buttressing the above assertion, Umoke and Esheya (2021) added that the challenges of training and re-training of employees of various organizations towards increasing their knowledge, skills in ICT application has brought about the need for the acquisition of ICT skills by individuals. Onwuachu (2018) posited that the need for ICT skills include using of computers and internet access in schools for all the individuals to have equal and ready access to the skills of effectively using this technology.. As computer applications are highly needed in our society today, many seems to communicate with computers hence computers are preferred over the pen, paper and manual typewriters because of their inability to duplicate, edits or retain vital information over a time while computer does all these things therefore reverse is the case. Also, in terms of recruitment in our society today, computer literacy is considered to be a pre-requisite skill to possess for recruitment in Nigeria. During the interview, process, individual participants are required to knowledgeable in operating ICT tools as to meet up with the sophistication of modern office equipment.

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed the survey research design. According to George (2017), survey is the investigation of behaviour, opinion or other manifestation of a group of people by questioning them. The study aims at collecting data for analysis in the most adequate way for the chosen population of the study. The main source of data was through administration of questionnaires. The data collected from respondents were analysed using simple percentage method.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

A total of one hundred and fifty (150) information managers were selected from Public organizations in Ekiti State and were used as sample population for the study. one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaire copies were administered to respondents which comprise selected information managers of the public organizations in Ekiti State. The questionnaires were distributed as follows: Federal polytechnic Ado Ekiti (50), Ekiti State University (50) and Federal University of Oye Ekiti. (50). All the questionnaires were returned for processing.

Validation of the Study Instrument

Two Directors at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, were given a draft copy of the study instrument (questionnaire) for face and content validation. These resource persons' input was taken into account, and required changes were made.

Reliability of the Instrument

Following the validation of the study instrument, the test-retest reliability approach was used to administer 5 copies of the validated instrument to respondents who were not part of the sample. It took two weeks from the initial test (administration) to the final administration of the instrument on these selected respondents.

Data Analysis

The data collected was put into tables and analysed using the simple percentage approach. The total number of respondents to a particular item was divided by the total number of questionnaires returned, then multiplied by a hundred to get the percentages. The following are the methods used in the analysis:

$$F \times \frac{100}{N}$$

N = 1

Where F = frequency of Responses

Where N = total number of respondents

100 = percentage figure

1 = constant figure

Research Question 1: What is the level of ICT that are necessary for development of National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State?

Table 1: The level of ICT that are necessary for development of National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State.

S/N	Items	Total No. of respondents	Agree	%	Disagree	%
1	The use of ICT facilities ensures job accuracy.	150	111	74	39	26
2.	The use of computer eliminates time wasting in the organization.	150	123	82	27	18
3	Computer creates neat document for use.	150	97	65	53	35
4	The use of computer enhances productivity of information managers.	150	105	70	45	30
5	Computer ensures quick data processing.	150	131	87	19	13

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Interpretation of Data

From the above result, 111 respondents representing 74% indicated that the use of ICT facilities ensure job accuracy while 39 respondents representing 26% disagreed. In item 2, 123 respondents representing 82% indicated that the use of computer eliminates time wasting while 27 respondents representing 18% disagreed. In item 3, 95 respondents representing 65% indicated that computer creates neat document while 53 respondents represent 35% went on disagreement. Item 4, stated that the use of computer enhances productivity of information managers 105 respondents representing 70% agreed and 45 respondents representing 30% disagreed. In item 5, 131 respondents representing 87% were of the opinion that computer ensures quick data processing while 19 respondents represent 13% disagreed.

Research Question 2: How does information technology serve as a tool for enhancing the National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State?

Table 2: Information technology as a tool for enhancing the National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State.

S/N	Items	Total No. of respondents	Agree	%	Disagree	%
1.	The use of Information technology helps to reduce unemployment to barest minimum.	150	104	69	46	31
2.	Poverty and inequality due to its reflection on the standard are reduced due to the adoption of information technology.	150	115	77	35	23
3.	The use of Information technology assists the nation for comfortable living.	150	121	81	29	19
4.	The use of Information technology helps to advance the education sector in the country.	150	109	73	41	27
5	The use of information technology changes the technological mindset of the society.	150	103	69	47	31

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Interpretation of Data

From the above result, 104 respondents representing 69% indicated that the use of Information technology helps to reduce unemployment to barest minimum. while 46 respondents representing 31% disagreed. In item 2, 115 respondents representing 77% agreed that poverty and inequality due to its reflection on the standard are reduced due to the adoption of information technology while 35 respondents representing 23% disagreed. Item 3 stated that the use of Information technology assists the nation for comfortable living, 121 respondents representing 81% agreed while 29 respondents represent 19% disagreed. In item 4, 109 respondents representing 73% agreed that the use of Information technology helps to advance the education sector in the country while 41 respondents representing 27% disagreed. In item 5, 103 respondents representing 69% indicated that the use of information technology changes the technological mindset of the society.

Research Question 3: What is the impact of ICT on National Economic advancement in public organizations in Ekiti State?

Table 3: Impact of ICT on National Economic advancement in public organizations in

Ekiti State.

S/N	Items	Total No. of respondents	Agree	%	Disagree	%
1.	ICT enable individuals to learn with ease, speed, and accuracy of academic work.	150	99	65	51	35
2.	Facilitates less teacher approaches and enables individual to work more autonomously.	150	120	80	30	20
3.	ICT facilitates working processes and improves resulting products.	150	117	78	33	22
4.	It made various types of modification much easier.	150	100	67	50	33
5	ICT also prepare individual to be ICT competent for a work place and increasingly globalizing job market.	150	116	77	34	23

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Interpretation of Data

From the above result, 99 respondents representing 65% indicated that ICT enable individuals to learn with ease, speed, and accuracy of academic work while 51 respondents representing 35% disagreed. In item 2, 120 respondents representing 80% indicated that ICT facilitates less teacher approaches and enables individual to work more autonomously while 30 respondents representing 20% disagreed. In item 3, 117 respondents representing 78% indicated that ICT facilitates working processes and improves resulting products while 33 respondents represent 22% disagreed. In item 4, 100 respondents representing 67% indicated that ICT made various types of modification much easier while 50 respondents representing 33% disagreed. Finally, in item 5, 116 respondents representing 77% indicated that ICT also prepare individual to be ICT competent for a work place and increasingly globalizing job market while 34 respondents represent 23% disagreed.

Key findings

- i. Based on the above analyses, it was found that, the use of ICT (information technologies) such as computers and other ICT facilities have and play a significant role on the service delivery of information managers.
- ii. It was also found that, information technology serves as a tool for enhancing the National Economic in public organizations in Ekiti State.
- iii. The findings finally revealed that ICT has significant and positively impact on National Economic advancement in public organizations in Ekiti State.

Conclusion

This study therefore concludes that Information Technology positively impacts the economy of a nation and as such government of Nigeria. Therefore, government should invest more on Information Technology in several areas of the economy such as the education sectors, recreation, civil service, business organisations, libraries in its kinds especially e library and information canters so as to ensure information management system to promote quality information access and retrieval for sustainable economic growth and development.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. Government at all levels should establish ICT centre and as well endeavour to expose various stakeholders to the importance of ICT facilities/gadgets and usage in carry out their functions as to facilitate business transactions.
2. Institutions should educate their students for proper use of internet facilities/gadgets, network, ATM, e-mail, Facebook, and other communication devices.
3. Teachers at various levels of education should be trained and retrained on the use of ICT facilities/gadgets because of ever changing nature of technologies.
4. Stakeholders should utilize modern technologies hence it is the only effective and efficient means of communication in this technological era.
5. Government at all levels (federal, state and local) and stakeholder/philanthropist should provide relevant modern ICT facilities/gadgets to all ICT centres established and at all levels of educational systems.

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**MONEY POLITICS AND VOTE BUYING:
THE BANE OF NIGERIA DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM**

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Abstract:

In an ideal democratic system, the choice of who to vote for during the electioneering system should be based on the political party's manifesto and the personal integrity of the candidate seeking an elective office. However, in Nigeria's democratic system of today money politics and vote buying are prevalent, this begins from the party primary election via delegate vote buying and proceeds to the general election via the electorate vote buying system. The role that money and vote buying play in Nigerian politics today have earned them a dominant position in the election of officers into the position of authority where they can authoritatively decide who gets what, when, and how. This has gone a long way to reducing the credibility of the country's electoral system. Hence, this study examined money politics and vote buying as the bane of Nigeria's democratic system. This study relied on data from secondary sources such as journals papers and textbooks. The findings of this study revealed that politics has become a game for the rich manipulating the electoral attitude of the electorates also that parties and party flag bearers never deem it fit to sell their manifestoes while contesting for public office to the electorate since they are sure of buying their vote. The study recommends among others that the government, the electoral commission, the political parties, the candidates, the electorate, the civil society, and the press must each cultivate the right attitudes to make democracy system strive better in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Money politics, Vote buying, Democratic system*

Introduction

Nigeria is the largest democracy in Africa with a population of over 180 million people (Nwankwo, 2017). Since the return to democratic rule in 1999 following decades of military dictatorships (Nwankwo, et al., 2017), one might anticipate that the fundamental elements of electoral democracy would have at least begun to take shape, if not fully developed. Right now, authoritarian elements can still be seen in

Nigeria's democracy. The key distinction is that while elections may represent democracy, they must also be "free and fair" to be considered democratic. Election chaos and democratic self-government ideas cannot coexist. As a result, electoral democracy is shown by the contest's observance of democratic principles, whereas electoral authoritarianism is indicated by the opposite. Therefore, fair elections serve as the foundation of democracy (Nwankwo et al., 2017), provide a means of peacefully changing the government, and strengthen and legitimize it politically (Ojo, 2008). Involving the populace in political decision-making on a genuine basis fosters accountability and answerability. But in the majority of African nations, violence and vote-buying are pervasive, making elections anything but fair and free (Bratton, 2008).

In a democracy, the process of soliciting votes should ideally consist of an open discussion of the reasons why particular political candidates are the most qualified to hold office (Heywood & Rose, 2015). Candidates must provide public-benefit initiatives to set out competitive positions and win over the median voter at the center of the political spectrum (Nichter, 2008). The candidate whose policies and programs most closely align with voters' preferences is then chosen by the electorate. Elections in Nigeria, like many other African nations, are a result of violent fights over access to the resources that the state controls, which are priceless resources for Nigerian society (Nwankwo & Okafor, 2017). Elections in Nigeria are extremely competitive due to the lucrative nature of elective seats, and politicians use a variety of tactics to win, including violence, intimidation, manipulation, and rigging (Cletus, 2015). They use "carrots," such as voter buying when these techniques are not persuasive enough to win.

Due to their influence on Nigerian politics today, money and vote buying have gained a privileged place in the selection of officers to positions of responsibility, allowing them to decide with authority who gets what, when, and how. In Nigerian politics, money is, regrettably, now playing an increasingly essential role to the point where the term "money politics," which has a negative connotation, has crept into the nation's political lexicon. Money seems to have taken center stage in the political process in most countries (Davies, 2006). The issue with this scenario is that elections frequently aren't free and fair because the democratic process is undermined. It is important to note that there is in no way any suggestion that the use of money in politics by political parties, individuals, or groups of individuals has an inherent corruptive influence. The fact is that money is required for a variety of logistical services, such as organizing political campaigns and demonstrations, printing manifestos and posters, creating party emblems and other symbols, etc. The sole cause for concern, however, is the apparent corruption brought on by money and vote-buying, as well as their detrimental effects on Nigeria's system of good government. It's against this background that this paper examined money politics and vote buying: The bane of Nigeria's democratic

system.

Money Politics and Vote-Buying in Post-Colonial Nigeria

Only after Nigeria gained its independence did the practice of buying votes and using money in politics become widespread. Even then, from 1960 to 1966, the first republic had very little impact. The most effective election strategies used by political leaders and tribal leaders during the first republic were appeals to ethnic and religious feelings. This was made feasible because the fundamental relationships that the major political parties and their supporters had with the people in their regions effectively increased the strength and popularity of both groups. The parliamentary system in use at the time also allowed political parties to have a great deal of influence over the candidates put out for elections. As Dudley noted with accuracy: Election candidates were less significant because the parties took center stage, played alliance politics, appealed to ethnicity, and used emotionally charged language that frequently incited violence. The parties funded the majority of the election costs with the money they were able to generate (Dudley 1982) However, it should be noted that while politicians were known to hand out T-shirts, caps, badges with party emblems, some food items, and other random items to voters at political rallies, there was no significant spending by individual candidates to win elections, as is the case now in the political activities of candidates.

During the second republic, which began in 1979, vote-buying and money politics reached new heights. It was perhaps supported by some affluent Nigerians who got their money by selling weaponry and ammunition to both sides of the civil war in Nigeria between 1967 and 1970 as well as from working for the government as contractors on reconstruction projects following the bloody conflict. These people entered politics or supported candidates for electoral office as soon as the military announced the start of competitive politics. In a recent article, Davies provides the following situational summary: The wealthy contractors and the mercantile class put on such a show of wealth and profligacy during the conventions and primaries of some political parties, particularly the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), Nigerian People's Party (NPP), and Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), that those who won belonged to the business managerial class (Davies, 2006).

In 1993, things got even worse as candidates' political campaigns became deeply ingrained with the practice of "buying votes" and money politics. This was due to the political campaigns for the 1993 election administration exhibiting an excessive use of funds during the presidential and party primaries, even though the elections were held with military oversight. The two political parties established by the military, the National

Republican Convention (NRC) and the Social Democratic Party, had been taken over by the wealthy (SDP). For instance, during the primaries, accusations of bribery lagged behind the outcomes while the use of money to secure party nomination was widespread. According to one of the contestants who came in last. "Money was provided to party functionaries, who demanded and negotiated the amount to be handed to them for payment to obtain offices and other positions, as well as for how votes will be distributed to hopefuls" (Nwosu, 2018). It's interesting to note that the obvious overspending during the 1993 presidential race was ostensibly presented by President Babangida to void the election he announced that the 1993 election was invalid: There have been confirmed reports of electoral fraud against voters, NEC officials, and agents... there was evidence of bribes, money offers and acceptance, and other sorts of influence.

Vote buying and Vote Selling

Vote buying and vote selling. It is a new phenomenon adopted by politicians who possess no moral uprightness, power-drunk, and corruption. Democratic crisis deepens as a result of shrinking the political vacuum and which has gradually demeaned the dividend of democracy (Nwankwo, 2018). The pattern of polity advancement has fuelled politicians' search for monetary gains and consequently spun the political processes into a commercial path for the highest bidders to hijack, direct and control the social, economic as well as political affairs of the country. It has become a game for the rich manipulating the electoral attitude of the electorates. This has abandoned the politics of logic and innovation to the extent that parties and party flag bearers never deem it fit to sell their manifestoes while contesting for public office (Adigun, 2019).

The principles of vote buying and vote and selling which can be referred to as demand and supply have attracted electorates' vote and franchise in Nigeria as 'godfathers' willingly admit concerning gross misconduct deals in funding and ensuring that 'godsons' declare a winner by buying electoral victory. In the same vein, successful political arrangements require substantial resources to function, and the wasteful expenditure for political justifications in Nigeria is negating democracy and poses a serious threat to socio-economic development in the country. Despite the guideline of political rules for financing in the electoral act, its application is a mirage. Politicians spend lavishly during electoral campaigns and this enhances vote buying and selling (Onuoha & Ojo, 2018). Vote buying poses threat to every democracy. It raises concerns about the quality and kinds of democracy being practiced and to an extent, three levels of arguments that are generally raised against the practice. First, it is debated that an act of buying a vote enables inequality in wealth owing to irrational advantage over other candidates; second, it is also argued that vote buying is done with the consent of the electorate and the community; and, third, it raises questions of inefficiency in keeping to the promises of manifestoes (Omeonyekwule, et al., 2022).

These acts have promoted inefficiency trade by barter logic propelled by votes buying and selling have promoted inefficiency, jettisoned developmental interest at the expense of voters, and become repellents to foreign and multinational organisations.

Why Money Politics and Vote-Buying

Numerous explanations may be offered for the prevalence of money politics and vote buying in Nigeria. Unawareness on the part of the electorate, apathy, poverty, and political dishonesty are a few of these issues. Additionally, there are issues with attitudes on the part of those engaged in both purchasing and selling. Nigeria's perception of politics is incorrect because most politicians see it as an invitation to investment from which enormous profits are anticipated rather than as an opportunity to serve the electorate. On their side, the electorates view politics, particularly during elections, as a chance to sell their votes to represent their piece of the national cake because they are unable to discern how the national cake is being divided. Davies (2006), identified seven predisposing characteristics that nearly entirely explained why money politics and vote-buying are so prevalent in Nigeria. The following is a reproduction of the factors listed by Davies (2006):

- A) The incapacity of many political parties and candidates to draft thorough and understandable manifestos that can be examined by voters' Meaningless slogans, demagogic rants, and rabble-rousing speeches are given precedence over concise manifestos that would allow the electorate to make an informed political decision. Such lectures are rarely instructive and persuasive; instead, they either overestimate or underestimate how voters view politics. Nigerian politicians were of the opinion that it is necessary to bribe people to secure their support because many voters don't seem to be impressed by the various tactics that the Parties and candidates use.
- B) Voters who believe that politicians are inherently dishonest, selfish, and incompetent, that politics is a dirty, dishonorable endeavour, and that the entire political system is a farce and violation of the public trust. Promises made by election winners in the past that have not been kept serve to emphasize this pessimistic perspective of politics even more. Asking for a pay-off is another way for the populace to get a piece of the national pie. However, the candidates who accepted donations from voters likely think that they are investing to protect themselves from losing the election.
- C) Concentrating on people rather than problems, the majority of candidates divert voters' attention away from political parties and toward themselves through the methods of their campaigns. As a result, the electorate starts to place less importance on political parties and their message. The candidates then take center stage and would need to raise support for themselves by spending more money than their parties could afford.
- D) The public's notion that every elected or appointed public officer is acquiring money from the public treasury has been tremendously reinforced by

outrageous displays of extravagance by public officeholders and the ostentatious living of many politicians. This appears to have made many voters more determined to sell their ballots to the highest bidder.

- E) Because politicians tend to try to win elections, even at the party primary level, at all costs, desperate candidates will participate in all kinds of unethical behaviour, such as providing voters with monetary and material incentives. To alleviate the nation's poverty, Nigerian politicians have a history of giving away food and other consumables to voters in the days leading up to elections and on election day, in violation of the electoral law's prohibition on such behavior. There are numerous instances where candidates have thrown money into the air during campaign rallies, causing people to rush for it and suffer injuries as a result.
- F) The seeming weakness in a party whip, a feature of party politics under a presidential system, is when elected members exercise a sizable amount of latitude in their voting decisions. Due to their increased independence, legislators are more open to receiving favors from special interest groups. Interest groups use what Shank refers to as "legalized bribery." In order to obtain the votes of the politicians in the legislature, they make substantial payments to phony private or community programs in which the target legislators are engaged, as well as provide the legislators expensive presents or support their travel abroad.
- G) There is no law that caps the amount of money that can be donated to political parties and candidates by organizations or individuals (Davies, 2006).

However, we must swiftly point out that while the Nigerian constitution does not express a complete lack of concern for party finances, its provisions solely address the sources of funding and other assets used by political parties. For instance, the 1999 constitution's provision 225(3) merely forbids any political party from (a) keeping any funds or assets transferred to it from outside Nigeria. The main purpose of requiring political parties to compile and submit audited financial statements to the electoral authority is to guarantee openness and responsibility. The National Assembly has not yet issued regulations to control the activities of lobbyists and other political action groups that operate, formally or informally, buying the votes of legislators for their causes in the legislature, so there is currently no law limiting the amount of money candidates can spend during elections.

Vote buying Implication for Nigeria

Vote buying in Nigerian elections has the potential to erode political legitimacy and make a mockery of the country's democratic process in the general election and beyond. As a result, there will be a fundamental issue with irresponsibility and lack of accountability, and the elections' legitimacy would suffer since voters won't have the

moral authority to demand decent governance from candidates. Vote buying increases election expenses for parties and candidates and may discourage trustworthy candidates from running for the government (Matenga, 2016). Voters become disgruntled and feel alienated from a tarnished system that subverts democratic norms as a result (Onuoha & Okafor, 2020). As a result, improving the electoral statutory framework is needed as a necessary check on this electoral threat. The Electoral Act of 2002, 2006, and 2010 improved the legal framework to thwart election-related financial malpractices, setting up the Nigerian democracy for success. While the Electoral Act's Section 91(9) specifies that "no individual or other entity shall donate more than one million naira to any candidate," he points out that Section 93(2)(b) allows political parties to raise an unlimited amount of money above the limit. This gap needs to be filled to prevent political parties from accepting an unlimited sum of money from individuals holding public office or from organizations in secretive methods. Vote buying will be somewhat reduced if politicians are restricted in how much money they may spend on elections.

Adegbami and Makinde (2018), are of the view that the idea of voters showing ballot papers to party agents after voting to attract payment should be discouraged, thereby upholding the secret open ballot system in Nigeria. Matenga, (2016) argues that strict legislation is required, particularly in light of the electoral officials and security personnel who helped "see and buy" the Nigeria election. Enhanced secret balloting is essential for democratic integrity. While vote-buying is common in several developed democracies, such as the United States of America and Sweden (Nichter, 2008), Nigeria needs to step up its game by toughening the laws against it. For instance, five democratic party agents in East St. Louis were jailed in federal court in the United States in the 2004 election for distributing \$5 to \$10 in incentives, alcohol, cigarettes, and medicine to influence the turnout of the poor (Nichter, 2008). Vote buying during the Nigerian election may be a hint that another huge electoral tampering is imminent for the country's democracy. Institutional reform is therefore most important to prevent a coming political and electoral disaster. Since 2011, Nigerian democracy has made some headway in terms of reducing election rigging; nonetheless, vote buying continues to hinder the advancement. To prevent vote-buying before the 2023 general elections, institutional reform is, therefore, necessary, as path dependence theorists suggest (Nwankwo, 2018). The electoral legislation has to be further amended to criminalize and make illegal vote buying and selling, as well as any individuals or organizations who support it. Additionally, to stem the overflow of vote buying and selling, the legal enforcement processes need to be strengthened.

The Way Forward

It is quite improbable that vote-buying and money politics would disappear entirely in Nigeria. However, there must be at least a few ways to lessen its detrimental effects on sound government. Even though there are legal restrictions on the solicitation, acceptance, and disbursement of funds for political campaigns in Nigeria, severe punishment should be given to anyone found wanting.

Therefore, it is crucial to first and foremost urge all project participants in Nigeria to adopt new attitudes that would help them develop a favourable view of politics. This is because in a system of free and fair elections only a legally recognised legal document may be guaranteed. As Alabi notes with accuracy: For instance, tougher penalties for rigging might be the answer, but only if the enabling legal and judicial system is set up in a way that justice is always guaranteed (Alabi, 2008). To ensure that the game of politics is played by the rules, which requires their collaboration and knowledge, the government, the electoral commission, the political parties, the candidates, the voters, the civil society, and the press must all nurture the correct attitudes (Nwankwo, 2017).

All elected politicians must abide by some ethical rules that forbid them from displaying extravagant riches because doing so sends a message to the public that holding public office is a rare opportunity to accumulate a fortune. This kind of signal will, of course, unduly heighten the stakes, encourage candidates to view the election as a struggle to the finish, and as a result, heat the political climate. The public should avoid politicians who flaunt wealth that was not earned fairly, even when they are fully aware that the funds belong to them and are frequently stolen by more advantageous politicians. By disregarding and disrespecting inept people, they should uphold their dignity and demonstrate self-respect.

To secure the elimination of politicians with an overt or disguised predisposition to tamper with the electoral process and the results, political parties and the electoral body must establish more transparent and effective screening measures. Additionally, the electorate needs to be politically educated for them to make more informed voting decisions and lessen the demands made on their elected officials for monetary and material incentives for voting. The mass media has a part to play in educating voters about their main duties in selecting trustworthy politicians. For instance, the phenomenon of money politics and vote-buying will continue to flourish in the Nigerian political scene where the media is lauding rich people who use their wealth to undermine democracy and good government.

Conclusion

While vote-buying is common in several developed democracies, Nigeria needs to step up its game by toughening the laws against it. The vote-buying event in some of Nigeria's most recent elections may be a warning that the country's democracy is at a turning point where future dubious electoral manipulation, is possible, therefore, to prevent an oncoming political and electoral catastrophe in the near future, urgent election reforms are most required. Although it is widely acknowledged that money is necessary to operate elections in terms of the campaign, printing party manifestos, emblems, and other services, using excessive amounts of cash to buy votes is detrimental to good government. This is because elections become synonymous with the subtle technique of "grabbing votes from the poor and campaign contributions from the rich by promising to protect one from the other" whenever excessive amounts of money are used to influence elections.

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