

CAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAPACITY BUILDING REDUCE POVERTY IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA?

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Abstract

The alarming rate of poverty in Nigeria has piqued the interest of academics and policymakers both inside and outside the nation. The mono-cultural structure of Nigeria's economy, declining oil prices, and the Covid-19 epidemic exacerbate the fragile nation's poverty malice; economic shocks aggravate and compound the already pervasive poverty malice. The poor are distinguished by their inability to sway social processes, government policy decisions, resource allocations, low educational capacities, poor vocational and entrepreneurial competences, poor health and low life expectancy; and exposure to risks due to a lack of financial, social, or physical security, inadequate environmental preventative measures, a lack of macroeconomic stability that impedes the poor's resources via inflation and other factors, etc. Thus, this study looks at the impact of entrepreneurial capacity building on poverty reduction in the Kumbotso local government area of Kano State, Nigeria. The study was guided by O'Donnel's individualistic theory of poverty. 200 respondents of National Social Investment Program(N-power) participated in the study. The hypothesis tested in the study are **Ho**: entrepreneurial technical and management skills have no significant impact on poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government Kano State, Nigeria; **and H1**: entrepreneurial technical and management skills have a significant impact on poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government Kano State, Nigeria. The study employed a survey design. The main research instrument was questionnaires and data were analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficient and regression analysis. The study found that entrepreneurial technical skills had a positive and significant effect on poverty reduction ($r=.405^{**}$, $p<0.01$); and entrepreneurial management skills also had a positive and significant effect on poverty reduction ($r=.250^{**}$, $p<0.01$). The study concludes that developing entrepreneurship capacity is paramount to poverty reduction. The study recommended the continuous capacity building of the N-power beneficiaries to equip them with technical and managerial skills.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, capacity building, poverty, Nigeria.

Introduction

The most important responsibilities of governments at all levels is poverty alleviation and elimination. Nigeria has been working hard to alleviate internal poverty to considerably reduce global poverty. The United Nations' first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) aims to "end poverty in all its manifestations worldwide." To reach this objective, several nations have made significant steps since 2015 to help people

enhance their lives, moving over 85 million people out of extreme poverty (Luo et al. 2020). Despite this outstanding accomplishment, development has been inconsistent. More than 700 million people were expected to be living in severe poverty throughout the world in 2019, as bulk of them located in impoverished, destitute, rural parts of developing countries. As a result, one major difficulty for governments pursuing SDGs is determining how to alleviate poverty in their impoverished rural communities (World Bank, 2020).

Nigeria's grim poverty indicators underscore the necessity for the government and all stakeholders to aggressively yet efficiently address the issue of poverty, if not for the sake of current generations, then for future generations (Ominyi et al., 2019). Poverty has caused Nigeria to be labelled as "one of the poorest countries in the world" (Ominyi et al., 2019). According to a 2016 United Nations assessment on Nigeria's common analysis, the nation is "one of the poorest and most unequal countries in the world, with over 84 million, or 64% of its people, living below the poverty line" (Salisu&Rozita, 2018).

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtually 5 out of 10 Nigerians were poor, with millions more at risk of sliding below the poverty line due to sluggish and inequitable development (World Bank, 2020). According to the most current official statistics of Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, 39.1 per cent of Nigerian's citizens lived in poverty in 2018/19, with a daily income of less than \$1.90 based on 2011 PPP (NBS, 2019).

However, 31.9 per cent of Nigerians required daily consumption levels ranging from \$1.90 to \$3.20, putting them in danger of sliding into extreme poverty if a shock happens. Nigeria has struggled to generate the broad-based development required to combat poverty, owing to its ongoing reliance on oil, significant population growth, and inadequate job creation (NBS, 2021).

Rural inhabitants and households in northern Nigeria were disproportionately affected by pre-crisis poverty in Nigeria. In 2018/2019, rural regions accounted for 84.6 per cent of individuals living below the \$1.90 poverty level, whereas both North-East, North-Central, and North-West zones contributed for 76.3 per cent (World Bank, 2019). According to simulation results, the combined COVID-19 and oil price crises might force roughly 10 million extra Nigerians into poverty by 2022, on top of the slower growth in the number of poor people expected before the epidemic started (World Bank, 2020). According to the bimonthly COVID-19 National Longitudinal Phone Survey (NLPS), from March and May 2020, the percentage of respondents who were working virtually halved as Nigeria enacted severe lockdown procedures, with service-sector employees bearing brunt of the impact. Most Nigerians had returned to work by August 2020, but family incomes remained tenuous (NBS, 2020).

The Sustainable Development Goals are devoted to eradicating poverty and increasing poor people's earnings by 2030. Poverty has become a worldwide problem which impacts political and the socioeconomic elements in the lives of about 2 billion people (Umar et al 2016). It strikes people at varied depths and levels, as well as at various times and stages of their lives. No country is free of poverty. The key distinction is the severity and pervasiveness of this ailment. South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America today have the worst levels of poverty and, as a result, the lowest levels of socioeconomic development. They have the highest degree of social insecurity, violence, unrest, and an egregiously poor standard of living (Atkinson, 2016).

Nigerian administrations in previous regimes sought to alleviate poverty through a variety of measures, but to little result (Agwu&Kadiri, 2014). Poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria are a tool for the government to restructure and rebuild the economy. Poverty reduction methods have been key policy alternatives in the country over the years, with different success due to the country's high prevalence of poverty. Poverty-reduction programs such as Green Revolution (GR), National Directorate for Employment (NDE), Directorate of Rural Roads and Infrastructures (DFFRI), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), River Basin Development Agency (RBDA), and Better Life Program (BL), Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP), Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP), National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS), Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Youth Enterprise with Innovative Ideas in Nigeria (You-WIN), and recently N-power Scheme under National Social Insurance Program depicted efforts by various successive governments in the country to combat the menace of poverty (Baghebo& Emmanuel, 2015; Demefun et al., 2020).

Despite the aforementioned initiatives, poverty remains a problem in Nigeria. Given the breakdown of the trend of poverty rates in the nation, the National Bureau of Statistics observes that the statistics of people living beneath the poverty line has climbed dramatically, although the Nigerian economy is rising (NBS, 2018). Furthermore, recent research on poverty and poverty reduction in various Nigerian states, as well as programs, show that there is a significant gap in between the ultimate objective of alleviating or eradicating poverty and achievement (Ijaiya et al., 2011; Mustapha, 2011; Abdu, 2011; Sylvester & Ekpenyong, 2012; Baghebo& Emmanuel, 2015).

However, some of these initiatives failed due to high levels of corruption, inefficient programming, and inadequate beneficiary targeting, among other factors (Ogun, 2010; Sylvester & Ekpenyong, 2014). Furthermore, the government has embarked on capacity building for the beneficiaries of these poverty reduction initiatives to equip them with entrepreneurial skills, although their success has been limited (Usman& Adam, 2017). Similarly, the political insecurity, corruption, tribalism, and absence of effective governance that have plagued Nigeria over the years have cast doubt on the country's

varied poverty reduction efforts (Chimere&Urama, 2019). As a result, the poverty headcount rate in Kano state was 55.08 per cent in 2018, with a poverty gap index of 15.24. (NBS, 2019). In this background, this study investigated the impact of entrepreneurial capacity building on poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government, Kano state. The development of entrepreneurial capacity was restricted to technical and management skills.

Nigeria needs more employment now than ever to elevate its people out of poverty, and governments alone cannot offer these opportunities. As a consequence, the importance of entrepreneurship in employment creation and poverty reduction cannot be underestimated. Silvinski (2012) states that a considerable number of scholarly studies contend that entrepreneurial endeavors can assist individuals to move out of poverty, whether they start their firms – such as a food truck or a beauty salon – or are employed by an entrepreneur. Indeed, greater average rates of entrepreneurship in a state correspond to larger drops in poverty; in fact, every 1% rise in entrepreneurship corresponds to a 2% fall in the poverty rate. However, entrepreneurship cannot exist without the development of entrepreneurial capacity. This is because it will teach entrepreneurial skills such as technical and business capabilities, which will enable their business to prosper even in hard financial times. The main objective of this study was to look at the impact of entrepreneurial capacity building on reducing poverty in Kumbotso Local Government Kano State, Nigeria.

Research Objective

1. To determine the relationship between entrepreneurship capacity building and poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government, Kano state.

Hypothesis

Ho:Entrepreneurial technical and management skills have no significant impact on poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government Kano State, Nigeria.

H1:Entrepreneurial technical and management skills have a significant impact on poverty reduction in Kumbotso local government Kano State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Theoretical Review

O'Donnel's (1997) Individualistic Theory of Poverty served as the foundation for this research. This theory argues that the individual's incapacity to produce leads to poverty. The argument stresses that the poor people ended-up poor because they do not work

hard, spent money on gambling, drinking, and superfluous luxury, and had a dysfunctional family life. They lacked desire, had no inner drive to work, were fatalistic, and suffered from 'intractable in-educability' This idea is based on self-help and survival, in which those who work hard thrive while the weak fail, resulting in the non-poor and the impoverished. The poor people get poor due to their actions. The poor in this situation may remain poor until society can considerably improve his/her income via purposeful actions targeted at lifting them out of poverty (Archibong, 1997). The current poverty alleviation program National Social Investment (N-power) program was formed in Nigeria per this approach. This is because the program has been renowned for the payment of stipends and the issuance of loans to individuals (NBS 2020; FGN, 2020).

Concept of Poverty

Poverty is complex and spatial in nature. Poverty is defined differently by various individuals. Prior studies on poverty concentrated mostly on poverty instigated by income poverty; that is, poverty is defined as a low-income level, inadequate consumption ability, deficiency of food, and inability to preserve an environment in which person's fundamental requirements are satisfied (Liu et al., 2017). Central Bank of Nigeria (2015), defines poverty is "a state in which an individual is unable to meet his or her basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter; is unable to meet social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment, skills, assets, and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, potable water, and sanitation; and, as a result, has a limited chance of advancing his or her welfare to the limit of his or her capabilities".

Poverty, on the other hand, is defined as that state were people lived below a certain minimum income level and are unable to afford the essentials of life necessary for an acceptable living standard (Adamu&Abdullahi, 2021).

Poverty entails not just deficiency of income but absence of fundamental capabilities. Poverty is described by the World Bank as a lack of opportunities for a community to get all the socially recognized and commonly accepted food and living conditions of others, as well as to engage in social activities (United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 2010). Poverty has been defined as a combination of economic constraints, social exclusions, lack of opportunity or public services, and vulnerability or exposure to the risk of these inadequacies. Since the 1990s, the World Bank and developed countries have attached great importance to space poverty research (Li et al., 2020).

Causes of Poverty

Poverty is caused by multiple and complex factors. Brady (2019) attributes these multifaceted causes to inadequate information, knowledge about product price, health difficulties, availability of public services, and human rights. There are political minority

that lack visibility and voice when it comes to the institutions that governs their lives. Poor people are considered to be lacking access to necessary skills, awareness, competencies, education, and personal development opportunities to help them better their lives (Babjaková et al., 2019).

According to Mensah et al., (2018), poverty can be caused or exacerbated by the poor's inability to sway social processes, government policies, and resources; low capabilities due to a poor education, vocational/technical skills, and entrepreneurial capacities; poor health, low quality of life; and exposure to risks due to shortage of financial, social, or physical security. Derisory environmental protection measures, a lack of macroeconomic stability that erodes the poor's resources through inflation and other variables, the national economy's inability to optimize benefits within the global system, superstitious and mythical habits and conventions that give rise to anti-social behaviour, and other factors that lead to vulnerability and exclusion (Ampofo, 2017).

According to Kakwata (2018), poverty in Africa is driven by corruption and bad governance, poor land usage and land tenure systems, civil wars and ongoing political disputes, poor infrastructure, diseases, and inadequate health facilities. According to the World Bank (2020) and the UNDP (2015), poverty manifests itself in a multitude of ways, such as low of income and productive resources sufficient to guarantee a sustainable livelihood, hunger and malnourishment, ill-health, limited access to education and other basic services, increasemortality and morbidity, homelessness, unsafe, and degraded environment, social discrimination, and exclusion. It is also categorized by poor participation in decision making process in civil, cultural, and social life (Shabbir et al., 2019).

According to Bako et al., (2021) and Pierre (2020), poverty is also induced by generalized marginalization of people from social life. Exclusion, according to them, indicates prejudice, which is a process that repudiates individuals from complete participation in material trade or interactions. The notion is correlated to marginalization from the labour market, protracted unemployment, and disintegration of the social ties and integration that are often associated with work.

Concept of Capacity Building

Capacity-building is the process of developing and enhancing the skills, instincts, abilities, procedures, and resources required by organizations and communities to strive, adapt and prosper in a rapidly changing environment (Millar & Doherty, 2018). According to European Commission, World Bank, and United Nations, Capacity building comprises of five areas: clear policy framework, institutional development and legal framework, citizen/democratic participation and oversight, human resource improvements including education and training, and sustainability (Hambrick et al., 2019). The UN Development Group Capacity Development Guidelines give a

framework for capacity development that includes three levels of capacity that are interconnected: individual, institutional, and enabling policy (Millar & Doherty, 2018).

Furthermore, the World Bank (2013) defines capacity building as change process and the strategic management of transformation. It entails the potential of people, institutions, and society to be transformed. According to Dibia et al. (2015), capacity building necessitates commitment, a leadership vision, a functioning institution and respective organization, and material, financial, and skilled human resources. To Fforda (2017) and Mair (2020), capacity building occurs on three stages: (a) individual level, (b) organizational level, and (c) societal level. These three stages are inextricably intertwined and dependent on one another. To account for the impact of these multiple levels, an investment in capacity development must be planned and budgeted. Capacity building is the long-term development of solutions and the stability of capacity to eliminate poverty, increase self-reliance, and improve people's lives (Shams, 2016).

Concept of Entrepreneurship capacity building

Bruton et al. (2013) defined entrepreneurship as an identification of new business opportunities and the utilization of economic resources to start a new business or revitalize an existing one amid risk and uncertainty to profit under private ownership. Entrepreneurship, according to Hisrich (2015), is the act of creating something new with value by dedicating the required time and effort, incurring the associated financial, psychological, and social risks, and reaping the ensuing monetary rewards and personal satisfaction and independence. Entrepreneurship capacity building is the process of developing an entrepreneur knowledge and skills before he or she starts a business venture. The entrepreneurship training skills in this study were limited to technical and business management skills (Hisrich, 2015).

The effect of technical skills on poverty reduction

Technical skills could refer to a person's aptitude and competence in doing a certain profession or activity. Technical skills are those abilities that can be learned and practiced. They are usually job or task-specific; that is, a certain skill set or competency is necessary to accomplish a given job or activity. Technical skills consist of writing, listening, oral presentation, organizing, coaching, teamwork, and technological know-how etc. (Mullins, 2010). These skills are crucial as they reduce costs on unnecessary repairs and maintenance of machinery and other business equipment. As a result, a firm that spends less and saves more is more likely to succeed, and their income level will rise as well, resulting in an improvement to living standard and, eventually, a reduction in poverty (Alberti et al., 2014).

The effect of management skills on poverty reduction

Management skills encompass all aspects of starting, developing, and managing a business. Being an entrepreneur entails being your manager as well as a manager of others. To be successful, you must have a wide range of talents. A competent entrepreneur must be capable of successfully managing people, budget, investors, and operations in certain cases. This demands for someone with a multi-tasking work style who can plan for both his business's short- and long-term objectives (McQuerrey, 2015).

A successful entrepreneur must be able to make sound judgments about how to spend his time, constantly analyzing and prioritizing tasks based on relevance and significance. This sort of time management entails both short- and long-term planning, as well as the capacity to participate in economic forecasts and market research. This means that if his/her business succeeds, he/she will be able to escape poverty (Arogundade, 2011).

Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

Poverty is the most severe difficulties confronting many developing countries where the general populace is deemed poor. In Nigeria, the poverty rate is 40.1 per cent despite the country's tremendous riches and a large population to sustain commerce. The report appears to be contradictory to reality. According to the World Bank report, income inequality has deteriorated and now stands at 12.9. According to the report, the depth and severity of poverty were greater in rural region than urban area, at 52.1 and 18, respectively. NBS (2019).

According to Oluwatayo (2008), the primary repercussions of poverty is poor health, as seen by Nigeria's higher infant mortality and shorter life span. Poor people in Nigeria experience a variety of health concerns due to a lack of basic health amenities and qualified medical practitioners. According to Ilori (2013), the plague of poverty in Nigeria is an undeniable truth that resulting to hunger, illiteracy, malnutrition, sickness, unemployment, low access to credit, short life expectancy, and general sense of human pessimism.

According to Ucha (2010), there exist several causes of poverty in Nigeria, including but not limited to corruption, poor governance, debt burden-overhang, unemployment, low productivity, burgeoning population growth, globalization, poor education system, inequality, uncoordinated government policies, oil dependency, inadequate effectiveness training skills, and so on. This suggests that Nigeria, huge quantities of natural resources and the environment, can only brag of a higher proportion of impoverished Nigerians.

This research used income-expenditure to measure poverty reduction. According to an NBS study (2019), "there is a substantial degree of discrepancy in expenditure pattern." For example, the poorest per capita spending on food were 81,767.00 and 137,430.00 as a total of food and non-food consumption expenditures per person yearly. When compared to rural households, urban households spent nearly twice as much on food and non-food items.

Methodology

This research was conducted in Kano State, primarily in Kumbotso local government. The research targeted 774 N-power and NAPEP beneficiaries in Kano state's Kumbotso local government. The sample size was calculated using Sloven's formula: $n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$; Where n=sample size, N=target population, $\alpha=0.05$ level of significance. The sample size was 263 respondents; however, 200 managed to participate in the study, giving a participation rate of 76%.

This study used a cross-sectional survey research because it allows for the study of the population at a single point in time and the comparison of differences between particular groups within the population (Creswell, 2014). The study also employed a quantitative method, with a questionnaire serving as the primary research tool. Inferential statistics were utilized in the study to determine the effects of the IV on the DV. Pearson correlation coefficient and regression analysis were also used in this case.

Demographic profile of respondents:

Age: Considering the result from the survey indicated that 63% are aged 26-35 years, 11% aged between 18-25 years and 26% aged 36 year and above. This indicates that dominant respondents in the study are youth at between the ages of 26-35 years old.

Gender: result revealed that 82% are male and while 18% are female indicating that male are the dominate respondent in the study area.

Educational Qualification: result revealed that 9% of the respondents are having Masters, 51.5% have Diploma/ NCE holders and 39.5% have Bachelor's degree. Thus Diploma/NCE holders are the majority.

Findings

Table 1: Effect of technical skills on poverty reduction (n=200)

		Technical skills	Poverty Reduction						
Technical skills	Pearson Correlation	1	.405**						
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000						
	N	200	200						
Poverty Reduction	Pearson Correlation	.405**	1						
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000							
	N	200	200						
		Change Statistics							
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.405 ^a	.164	.160	.69424	.164	38.552	1	196	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Technical skills

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

Table 1 shows that there is a positive and substantial relationship between technical skills and poverty reduction ($r=.405^{**}$, $p<0.01$). As a result, the alternative hypothesis that technical skills had a major influence on poverty reduction was accepted. Furthermore, the study found that technical skills did accounted for a 16% variation in poverty reduction (Adjusted R Square=0.160).

Table 2: The Effect of Management Skills on Poverty Reduction (n=200)

		Management skills	Poverty reduction						
Management skills	Pearson Correlation	1	.250**						
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000						
	N	200	200						
Poverty reduction	Pearson Correlation	.250**	1						
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000							
	N	200	200						
		Change Statistics							
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.250 ^a	.062	.058	.73534	.062	13.063	1	196	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), management skills

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

Table 2 shows a substantial and positive correlation between managerial skills and poverty reduction ($r=.250^{**}$, $p<0.01$). As a result, the alternative hypothesis that management skills had a significant impact on poverty reduction was accepted.

Furthermore, the study discovered that managerial skills account for a 5.8 per cent variation in poverty reduction (Adjusted R Square=0.058).

Table 3: Relationship between Entrepreneurial capacity building and Poverty Reduction

		Entrepreneurial training	Poverty reduction
Entrepreneurial capacity building	Pearson Correlation	1	.372**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	200	200
Poverty reduction	Pearson Correlation	.372**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	200

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.372 ^a	.138	.134	.70494	.138	31.483	1	196	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurial capacity building

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

Table 3 demonstrated a positive and significant relationship between entrepreneurial capacity building and poverty reduction ($r=.372^{**}$, $p<0.01$). This means that an increase in entrepreneurial training will increase poverty alleviation. Furthermore, entrepreneurship capacity building accounts for 13.4% of the variation in poverty reduction (Adjusted R Square=0.134).

Table 4: Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.726	.332		5.205	.000
Technical skills	.438	.089	.383	4.908	.000
Managementskills	.046	.088	.041	.529	.597

a. Dependent Variable: povertyreduction

Table 4 demonstrated that the model was appropriate for poverty reduction ($p=0.000$). Management skills, on the other hand, were found to be not substantially fit in the model ($p>0.01$); only technical skills were found to be significantly fit in the model ($p>0.01$). Furthermore, the study discovered that every single improvement in technical skills might result in a 38.3 per cent difference in poverty reduction ($\text{Beta}=0.383$).

Discussion

The study's findings demonstrated a strong and positive relationship between entrepreneurial capacity building and poverty reduction ($r=.372^{**}$, $p<0.01$). This means that developing entrepreneurship capacity is a key component of poverty alleviation. Hence, any public policy aimed at poverty reduction will be at its best if entrepreneurial capacity is incorporated in it, specifically (technical skill empowerment) due to the dynamic and complex nature of the business world. This study aligns with Muttalib et al. 2016; Kareem 2015; Shaeikh and Hafiez, 2013; Yakubu and Chado, 2018; who discovered positive and significant correlations between entrepreneurship and poverty reduction in their studies. While Shaeikh and Hafiez (2013) discovered a modest positive correlation between entrepreneurship development and poverty reduction in Somalia utilizing a correlative approach with 80 participants, which was significant at the 0.01 level of significance.

Muttalib et al. (2016) discovered that entrepreneurship has a substantial influence on poverty reduction in Southeast Sulawesi in their study on the entrepreneurship effect on poverty reduction. Their survey also revealed that enterprise business actors' implementation has been good, but entrepreneurial capabilities still need to be enhanced. This suggests that poverty may be alleviated by encouraging the growth of the business. Similarly, Kareem (2015) used a descriptive correlational methodology in evaluating the influence of entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation in Nigeria and discovered a significant association at a 1% probability level. Yakubu and Jami'u (2020) also found a positive and significant relationship between youth entrepreneurship and poverty reduction.

This is true because entrepreneurial training aids in the transfer of knowledge and competencies to entrepreneurs. As a result, possessing technical and management skills acquired via entrepreneurial capacity development aids in the establishment of an enterprise that could also prosper in difficult economic times. In other words, a successful business entails that the income level of the entrepreneur would rise. This means that if one's income rises, he or she will be able to purchase basic necessities such as nutritious food, clothes, shelter, education, medication, and access to safe drinking water. In a nutshell, it means that poverty in his or her home has been reduced to a certain level. However, if people do not engage in entrepreneurial activities, they

would be susceptible to poverty if they are unable to find occupations that provide a salary or earnings.

Recommendations:

1. The government should embark on capacity building, continual training, and education on life skills for N-power beneficiaries, which should include business management skills, technical skills, marketing competencies, and ICT. Such capabilities would enable the enterprises founded and run by these recipients to prosper even in difficult economic times.
2. Furthermore, the Nigerian government should place a strong focus on youth entrepreneurship. This will make them less vulnerable to banditry and terrorism and will enable them to be more productive in life. This may be accomplished by encouraging young people to enroll in vocational training programs that give hands-on training and life skills. The government can do this by providing financial assistance to students for tuition and bursaries. This will assist the youth to be prepared with the required skills to start and manage their enterprises.
3. For any poverty eradication program to be successful, the government should also aim to reduce high levels of corruption, inefficient programming, and poor beneficiaries targeting.

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