

Folarin Ogunlana

**THE ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS THE DRIVER OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**Thesis
CENTRIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
Business Management
April 2018**

ABSTRACT

Centria University of Applied Sciences	Date April 2018	Author Folarin Ogunlana
Degree programme Business Management		
Name of thesis THE ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS THE DRIVER OF ECONOMIC GROWTH		
Instructor Eija Torkinlampi	Pages 40 + 4	
Supervisor Ann-Christine Johnsson		
<p>This study examined the role of entrepreneurship as the driver of economic growth. The study also analysed challenges faced by business start-ups or small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The write-up was inspired by a statement from the finance minister of Nigeria after National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) disclosed Nigeria economy was in a recession. Kemi Adeosun said the country was in “its worst possible time”, inflation rate shrank at 17.1 percent, GDP contracted by 2.06 percent and the economy by 0.36 percent. Furthermore, crude oil price had gone down all time low, and for an economy that depends solely on oil export for revenue, there is a need for revenue alternative. The search for alternative revenue was why the author seeks to find out what role entrepreneurship can play in bringing the nation out of economic recession and sustain self-sufficient economic growth for the country.</p> <p>As a result of the absence of sequential data related to entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria, the narrative-textual case study method was used to gather information. A self-designed questionnaire was used to gather additional information analysed in simple percentages.</p> <p>The study found entrepreneurship can play a significant role in achieving economic growth for the country to overcome her economic crisis. Entrepreneurship can generate employment, innovation, increase production, and diversify the economy source of revenue while fostering the development of small and medium enterprises in Nigeria. This study proposed there should be proper policy coordination and stability, provision of necessary infrastructure, and reforms in the educational curriculum to orientate people to be self-reliant. When the country has flourishing micro SMEs or start-ups, gainful employment will be created, wealth created will be distributed evenly, the economy will have developed and gradually will move out of her economic crisis.</p>		

Key words: Development, economy, entrepreneurship, government, innovation, Nigeria, policy, recession, (SMEs) small and medium scaled enterprises.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Statement of the problem	2
1.2 Research aim.....	3
1.3 Research questions	3
2 EVOLUTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NIGERIA	4
2.1 Recent development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria	4
2.2 Challenges of Business Start-ups (Small and Medium Scale Business) in Nigeria.	5
2.3 A general overview of economic recession	7
2.4 The recent economic crisis in Nigeria.....	7
2.5 Causes of economic recession in Nigeria	8
2.6 Is entrepreneurship the way out of Nigeria's economic crisis?	9
2.7 The relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth	11
2.8 The contribution of entrepreneurship to economic growth during an economic crisis	12
3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AN ENGINE OF GROWTH.....	14
3.1 What can entrepreneurs offer to their country?	15
3.2 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth in developing countries	16
3.3 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth in developed countries.....	16
3.4 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth using GEM analysis.....	17
3.5 Conceptual frameworks are linking entrepreneurship with economic growth	18
4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	21
4.1 Research design	21
4.2 Population	21
4.3 Sample Size	22
4.4 Sources of data.....	22
4.5 Administration of research instrument.....	22
4.6 Research limitations.....	23
5 DATA ANALYSIS	24
5.1 Identification of respondents.....	24
5.2 Impacts of entrepreneurship on economic development in Nigeria	25
5.3 Entrepreneurship plays a significant role in economic development during a recession.....	28
5.4 The application of entrepreneurship serves as a potential remedy to present Nigeria economic recession.....	30
5.5 The challenges of business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria.....	32
6 CONCLUSION	35
REFERENCES.....
APPENDICES	

TABLES

TABLE 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	24
TABLE 2: Does entrepreneurship reduces unemployment?	25
TABLE 3: Do you agree entrepreneurship creates room for innovation?	25
TABLE 4: Does entrepreneurship serves as the key to self-reliance?	26
TABLE 5: Do you agree facilitates economic growth?	26
TABLE 6: Do you agree entrepreneurship is the engine room of Nigeria workforce?	27
TABLE 7: is entrepreneurship the key to Nigeria revival from the current recession?	27
TABLE 8: Can entrepreneurship reduce stagnation of economic development?	28
TABLE 9: Do you agree entrepreneurship creates room for a substantial number of opportunities?....	28
TABLE 10: Does entrepreneurship creates room for ideas generation?	29
TABLE 11: Does entrepreneurship serves as a strategy for rapid economic development?	29
TABLE 12: Do you agree entrepreneurship development is the key to poverty eradication?	30
TABLE 13: Does entrepreneurship promotes the development of SMEs.....	30
TABLE 14: Do you agree finance is a significant challenge for Business Start-ups /SMEs in Nigeria?...	31
TABLE 15: Does inadequate infrastructure affects Business Start-ups /SMEs in Nigeria?	31
TABLE 16: Do government policies and process make it difficult to start a business in Nigeria?	32
TABLE 17: Is insecurity one of the challenges faced by SMEs in Nigeria?	32

1 INTRODUCTION

Many scholars have defined entrepreneurship: according to Venkataraman, it is an activity that concerns the exploration, assessment, and usage of opportunities to present new commodities, methods, process, and resources via unestablished endeavour. (Venkataraman 1997, 120; Shane & Venkataraman 2000, 219; Shane 2003, 4). Onuoha (2007, 22) defined entrepreneurship as the act of beginning new organisations or renewing developed organisations, especially new businesses generally in response to unique opportunities. The business dictionary characterised it as the capability and eagerness to advance, coordinate and deal with a business operation alongside any of its danger keeping in mind the end goal to make a benefit. Filion (2011) proposed the definition of entrepreneurship should have six main components: innovation, opportunity recognition, risk management, action, use of resources and added value. He defines an entrepreneur as an instinctive, clever, industrious performing artist who can perceive and create dangerous operation opportunities with potential for development, and who increases the value of what as of now exists by setting up exercises that include a rare utilisation of assets. (Filion 2011, 47.) Entrepreneurship is an act of identifying and exploiting opportunities. A perspective viewed as a compelling means not just of battling unemployment, poverty and under-employment in the developing countries, but also as a technique for fast economic advancement in both developed and developing countries (Ubong 2013. 115 - 117).

Scholars have also defined entrepreneur using different terms. Schumpeter characterised entrepreneurs as an individual misuse advertise opportunity through specialised as well as hierarchical development. These illustrations present an entrepreneur as somebody who exhibits initiative and innovative reasoning, can coordinate social and monetary components to turn assets and situations to beneficial use and acknowledges risk and disappointment. Entrepreneurs search for a way to create value, by creating, identifying and exploiting innovative ideas, procedures or markets. Entrepreneurial activity is an essential indicator and a key component in economic growth. Hence, it has a significant role to play in employment generation, innovation, increasing sales, and diversification of the economy and reduction of unemployment. (Carree & Thurik 2010, 561- 566).

Nigeria has the sizeable human capacity with an estimated population of 195 million. Seventy percent of this population are in youth demography. This growing youth population urgently needs empowerment system to engage the abundant human resource. There is a wide-spread opinion that micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) also known as small business or start-ups have the

propensity to drive the Nigeria economy, while data revealed that there is more than seventeen million macro SMEs engaging up to thirty million Nigerians. MSMEs account for over eighty percent of enterprises that employ about seventy-five percent of Nigeria's total workforce. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate an efficient implementation of SMEs support policies that will increase entrepreneurial activities and create more job opportunities. (Adeoye & Abu 2015, 50.)

Furthermore, the 2012 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) has empirically identified Nigeria as one of the most entrepreneurial countries in the world. The investigation demonstrated that thirty-five out of each hundred Nigerians (over a third) is into entrepreneurial activities. Therefore, it is imperative not to evaluate the principles of entrepreneurship alone but also to assess the practice and its role in fostering economic growth and development during the economic crisis.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Although there are quite a lot of researchers and studies on the link between entrepreneurship and economic growth, there is still the need to assess the case of the Nigerian economy. Notably, at a period the country is seeking alternative sources of economic revenue to come out of an economic recession. The country's GDP indicated a negative 1.7 percent and 2.06 percent in the first and second quarter of 2016. This economic crisis was analysed to have been caused mainly by dependence on crude oil for revenue, so when the global crude oil price fell it affected the country's income. (Osolor 2016a.) These statements prompt the question of what the contributions and challenges of business start-ups in the nation are and can focus on entrepreneurship lead to economic growth. Against this background, the primary objective of this study is to examine the role of entrepreneurship as the driver of economic growth through employment generation, the creation of added value, increasing gross domestic products, more export activities, and so on.

1.2 Research aim

The primary objective of this proposed study is to examine the role of entrepreneurship as the driver of economic growth during the recession. This aim will include:

1. To examine the contribution of entrepreneurship to the economic development through employment generation, the creation of added value, GDP, and export activities.
2. To assess the concept and principles of entrepreneurship.
3. To determine the challenges business start-up faces in an economic recession.
4. To determine causes of economic recession in Nigeria.
5. To evaluate the application of entrepreneurship as a remedy for economic growth in a recession.

1.3 Research questions

The research survey questionnaire was designed from these following variables to seek the opinion of respondents to determine the reliability of the study.

1. What are the impacts of entrepreneurship on economic development in Nigeria?
2. Does entrepreneurship play any significant role in economic development during a recession?
3. Does the application of entrepreneurship serve as a potential remedy to present Nigeria economic recession?
4. What are the challenges of business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria?

2 EVOLUTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN NIGERIA

First and foremost, entrepreneurship began when individuals created a large number of items more than that they can use so in this instant they needed to trade off their surpluses. For example, when a metal worker created a more considerable number of tools more than required, then the surplus is traded for what is needed. Possibly, he needed a few yams, goat and so forth, he would search for somebody who requires his items to trade for it. These producers then came to understand that they can move in their regions of creation to deliver progressively and after that trade with what they required. So, through this trade of items, business began. A commonplace Nigerian business visionary is an independent man who may be said to have the robust will to succeed. He or She may connect with the other administrations through their relatives to aid him in his work or production. (Ebo 2012.)

Nigeria was customarily an agrarian country with the people exposed to entrepreneurship opportunities inside and outside their native regions. The northern region entrepreneurs are specialists in leather works, pastoral farming and metalworks. The western region is majorly predominantly town dwellers who practised small-scale, subsistence agriculture and are well known as traders and craftsmen producing masterpieces of woodcarving and bronze casting. The finished products were traded on as business ventures and enterprises. Just like the west, the Eastern region entrepreneurs were expertise in trade, and they specialised in inventory control, management and distribution all of which they are still known for today (Ejiogu & Nwajiuba 2012, 9.)

2.1 Recent development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria

Since the mid-1980s there has been an expanded responsibility of government to entrepreneurship development particularly after the presentation of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 1986. In addition are the formulation of national training and employment program to focus is on the development, coordination and integration of SMEs so they can achieve their full potential (Thaddeus 2012, 33.) Essentially the Nigerian government advances entrepreneurial culture through activities that construct business certainty, uplifting mentality, pride in progress, support and consolation of new thoughts, social duty, giving innovative backings, empowering between firm linkages and advancement of innovative work.

In Nigeria education system, entrepreneurship studies got more attention in the mid-2000. The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) was established with the sole aim of teaching and encouraging students of higher institutions to acquire entrepreneurial, innovative, and management skills so that these graduates can be independently employed, more job opportunities can be created for others and more wealth generated. Thaddeus proceeded with that enterprise improvement in Nigeria. Toward the ending of the country civil war, the second national development plan concentrated on the improvement of the 3Rs goals of reconstruction, re-advancement and reconciliation. The exercises in the arrangement tested/entrusted the creativity and innovative aptitude of the people. (Thaddeus 2012, 35.)

Thaddeus explained that entrepreneurship development in Nigeria wound up noticeably noteworthy simply after the Nigerian civil war. After the war, the second national development plan made focused on the development of the 3Rs objectives of reconstruction, re-advancement and reconciliation. The activities in the plan challenged the ingenuity and inventive skill of the individuals. In that period of industrialisation which was achieved by technical progress and investment was the ultimate source of economic growth. After the country's independence in 1960, the government saw from the experience of the developed world that economic growth is due to the quality and efficiency of the entrepreneur hence they realised the need to promote indigenous entrepreneurs. Hence, various support institutions were established to provide aid to SMEs, but they all lack purpose function today. (Thaddeus 2012, 38-41).

2.2 Challenges of Business Start-ups (Small and Medium Scale Business) in Nigeria.

Entrepreneurship is the engine of growth that drives the socio-economic transformation of any country, especially in a developing country like Nigeria. Although, there are many advantages to establish business start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria. It is complicated to operate so in few years many SMEs collapsed or operate in debt as a result of the Nigerian harsh economic environment and many other challenges faced by them. Discussing some of these challenges are below.

Lack of financial capital is seen to be a severe problem of establishing and operating the small and medium enterprise in the country. Business start-ups need money to get the business running, but very few people are willing to invest money in an untested company. The banks that should help are not

willing to give new companies that have no experience loans, or they asked for high interest and collateral the business owners cannot afford. Although, the federal government try to intervene through the introduced microfinance policy in 2005 with the aim of lending funds to the small and medium enterprise. This policy yield little result compared to numbers of growth needed in the economy.

Infrastructural problem ranging from epileptic nature of electricity, water supply, transport systems, internet to terrible waste management. The infrastructures in Nigeria are in a big mess which the government have not been able to find a lasting solution. Hence, businesses tend to source for alternative means for production to meet market demands which will increase product cost. Also, the poor state of the roads and other means of transport makes it difficult and expensive to move raw materials and finished goods. It is so sad that most start-up businesses incur 70 percent of their sourced capital for basic infrastructural installation like the power generating set, technology, transportation and many others.

Government bottlenecks are another frustrating challenge faced by business start-ups in Nigeria. The bureaucratic procedure of government agencies prolongs processes. For example, it takes thirty days to register a business name. There are disparities between the policymaker, enforcement agent and users. The ties of government legislature of the country are not in uniform collection tax which leads to double taxation on businesses. This environment is unfavourable for business startups to survive the high cost of obtaining business licenses and other levies. These are the more reason for business startups in Nigeria are consumed with the problems they are trying to solve. Hence, they fail because they have not correctly figured out the solution and they end up having management and cash flow issues like mismanagement of funds and inefficient workforce.

Security is quite essential in any economic environment for business to thrive most especially from the perspective of gaining foreign investment. Nigeria has recently witnessed many security issues which are not only damaging to the country image but as also harm SMEs activities in the areas. Most of these issues are generic of diverse groups agitating for ethical, political, or regional ideology but this is minimal to the daunting task of securing the various platform of business activities in the world.eg. Internet theft, money and laundering. (Alawiye and Anthony 2013, 18-19.)

2.3 A general overview of economic recession

A country is said to be in recession or crisis when the economy decays essentially for no less than half a year. That implies there's a drop in the accompanying five financial pointers: GDP, salary, work, assembling and retail deals. The United States (U.S.) National Bureau of Economic Research expressed economy recession as a critical descend in economic activity circulated over the economy, enduring more than a couple of months, usually visible in the real gross domestic product (GDP), real income, employment, industrial production and wholesale-retail sales. Apparently, when the businesses stop to extend, the GDP growth rate is negative for two back to back quarters or more, the rate of unemployment rises, and housing prices decline. (Sujit 2013, 3.)

The primary indication of an impending recession occurs in one of the leading economic indicators at first and soon spreads to all sectors of the economy. The recession is very destructive as there is widespread unemployment, consumer spending reduces, stock prices fall, businesses sales and revenue reduces causing business bankruptcy, there is massive lay off employed workers and a wide spread of poverty. The economic recession portrays length, strange increments in joblessness fall in the accessibility of credit, contracting yield and venture, many insolvencies, decreased measures of exchange and business, and exceedingly unpredictable relative money esteem fluctuations, for the most part, depreciation, budgetary emergencies and bank disappointment.

The economic recession is not peculiar to any specific economy as it affects both developed and underdeveloped nations. An example is a great depression that affected the US economy 2008 where employment fell, unemployment rose, the price of houses collapsed, the stock market crashed, and the economy as a whole experienced many downturns. Countries such as South Korea, Canada, Italy, Russia, Greece and Japan have also experienced a recession at a point in their economic history. (Fapohunda 2012, 70.)

2.4 The recent economic crisis in Nigeria

The slump in global oil prices was one of the primary reason the Nigerian economy went into recession. With crude oil sales accounting for 70 percent of government revenue the country is broke, oil prices are down to below \$ 50 per barrel, and production output tumbled over 400,000 barrels due to militancy activities in Niger Delta area. Outside the oil industry, there is a great fall in the Nigerian currency

exchanged for as high as 360 nairas to US dollar other industry did not record much growth. The country did not save when there was excess, no infrastructure built, and there is not enough power to drive the industries. Hence, the economy was hurt, and the nation went into recession. According to the Nigerian NBS (National Bureau of Statistics), the economy shrunk by 1.5 percent in 2016 compared to growth of 2.8 percent the previous year and underlines the profundity of the economic crisis. By October 2016 the economy had shrunk by 1.3 percent. The country NBS illustrated the circumstance as a reflection of weaker inflation-induced consumption demand, the rise in oil pipeline vandalism, fundamentally diminished foreign reserves and a weaker currency. The oil sector shrank nearly 14 percent last year as production fell from 2.13 million barrels a day in 2015 to 1.833 million barrels a day in 2016. (National Bureau of Statistics 2016.)

Hence, the first quarter of 2016, the Nigerian economy had contracted for five sequential quarters, but with current economic diversification efforts made by the government, floating of naira for a while, and increase in oil prices the country is slowly picking up. In the second quarter of 2017, the nation's GDP grew by 0.55 percent (APPENDIX 4), and inflation rate dropped to 16.05 (APPENDIX 4). Although, Government effort has been intensified to sustain the growth and keep out of recession. For Nigeria to be great again, there is need to make tough decisions. Entrepreneurship needs to take the front burner. With around 70 percent of youth populace, there is a massive pool of human resources. The government needs to create enabling an environment for business to create more job opportunity for the young population. (Noko 2016.)

2.5 Causes of economic recession in Nigeria

The primary cause of economic recession in any economy may include high inflation, accumulation of debt servicing, high-interest rate, fall in aggregate demand, wages and income mass unemployment. However, particularly in Nigeria, some of the reasons why the nation got herself into recession are discussed below.

High inflation rate induced the government act to remove fuel subsidy simultaneously with banning the importation of specific agricultural products like rice increased commodity price and resulted in an increase in the nation's inflation rate thereby aiding the economic crises.

Over-dependence on oil made the country neglect investment in other economic sectors and focused on petrodollar for substantial portion of its economic revenue. Therefore, a drop in the international oil prices affected the economy by reducing revenue, and the adverse effect is the recession.

The introduction of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) impacts badly on business activities. Although the purpose of introducing the TSA was to block loopholes in the economy and minimise corruption, instead it dried up liquidity and stifled credit creation and economic activities in the country, and of course, this had a grave effect on the economy.

Government delay in signing the 2016 appropriation bill into law affected many activities. This delay paused economic activities as most ministries, departments and agencies of government were rendered inactive without funds to execute their projects. This act by the government led to workers layoff, project delay and increase initial project cost.

The high taxation at the inception of the economic crisis could have been reduced to help sustain existing companies, but government instead increased tax for more revenue thereby killing small businesses and discouraging investment.

The interest rate was at 14 percent which should have been reduced to encourage investors and entrepreneurs, this high-interest rate also aided by the recent economic downfall. (Farabiyi 2016.)

2.6 Is entrepreneurship the way out of Nigeria's economic crisis?

One reason the United States is such a dynamic, inventive, and prosperous country is a direct result of the various entrepreneurs that create jobs and develop institutions which in turn develop the economy. It is their imperative commitments that helped develop the nation in general. Experts have come to understand that entrepreneurs are the foundation of present-day economies. Notably, the capital and yielding in any economy depend essentially on the entrepreneur. The vast number of SMEs firms began as entrepreneurs give the advancements and make employments natural for financial development and improvement. Numerous products and ventures underestimate created by business people like computers, cars, aeroplane, mobile devices and many other inventions were altogether concocted by them. The nature of the execution of the entrepreneur decides if capital develops quickly or gradually and whether the development includes advancement where additional items and creation strategies

produced. The distinction in commercial development rates of nations is to a great extent because of the nature of their entrepreneurs. Land, labour and capital, will lie lethargic or end up noticeably sluggish without the entrepreneur who sorts them for profitable endeavours. The entrepreneur is like this, a critical operator of development, advancement or growth. (Osolor 2016b.)

At the core of other quickly developing economies, for example, India and Brazil are various small and medium scale manufacturing, retail, IT, specialised, and financial firms. China's unstable monetary development during recent years occurred due to expelling ownership, bureaucratic, and budgetary breaking points on the entrepreneurial drive of the Chinese citizens. In the United States, the world's most excellent economy, seventy-five percent of the sixteen million organisations are kept running as a sole proprietorship (entrepreneur.com). The U.S. small business administration perceives that private venture is essential to the country's financial recuperation and quality, to building America's future, and to helping the Nation contend in the present worldwide commercial centre. In many developing nations, including Nigeria, SMEs business keeps running as indicated by the vision, gifts, opportunities and assets of the business owner (entrepreneur). Moreover, entrepreneurs are known to create jobs give employment to massive youth population, spread the profits of monetary advancement, help develop rural areas, prepare household funds for speculation, add to economic development, teach new abilities and imbue innovation, and add to social and political steadiness. (Osolor 2016b.)

As Nigeria seeks after different economic development plans like the Millennium Development Strategy Vision 2020, a centrepiece of the national technique must be to develop and fortify the active components of the MSMEs, Nigeria and Africa must always put resources into MSMEs her economic future relies upon it. Like President Paul Kagame of Rwanda noted: "Entrepreneurship is the surest path" for Rwanda and Africa to creative. However, for Nigeria to be great again and walk out of her current economic recession entrepreneurship needs to take the front burner. The government as well the people of Nigeria need to take measures that will improve and encourage entrepreneurship so that the economy will grow, and the recession is over. With Nigeria's approximately eighty million youth population there is an abundance of human resources and entrepreneurship will help create jobs for the growing population. The government needs to aid entrepreneurship revolution by creating the right environment for businesses to strive for a reduction of tax and interest rate, providing funds to SMEs, stabilising the power sector and improving security. (Osolor 2016a.)

2.7 The relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth

Many scholars over the years have attempted to understand the role of entrepreneurship in economic growth, and many believe that entrepreneurship is beneficial for economic growth. Ubong (2013, 119) asserts that there is a definite relationship between entrepreneurship and economic development. Entrepreneurship has been highlighted as significantly related to the development of a given economy, and thus numerous referred to as a source of employment generation. Studies have established its positive relationship between entrepreneurship characteristics such as reactivity, innovativeness, risk-taking with economic development. (Carree & Thurik 2010, 567.)

The thought that business entrepreneurship and economic growth are quite firmly and positively linked together has indeed advanced since the early works of historical authors like Schumpeter. A rise in the number of entrepreneurs leads to an increase in economic growth. This impact is a consequence of the robust articulation of their skills, and even more unequivocally their ability to innovate. Schumpeter has previously characterised this innovative activity, "the application of new solution", by differentiating five cases. The case of new commodity introduction, a method of production, trading platform, the source of raw material supply, and industry operation formation like the creation of monopoly position. Through innovative activity, the Schumpeterian business person looks to make new profit opportunities. These opportunities can come about because of efficiency increments, in which case, their relationship to economic growth shows up unmistakably. (Carree & Thurik 2010, 568.)

However, there are diverse thoughts and debates on entrepreneurship link to economic growth, but it is necessary to understand that entrepreneurship brings about economic growth by combining existing resources with innovative ideas. Adding value to the commercialisation of inventions create wealthy, new jobs, and industries. The entrepreneur plays both roles in creating innovations and encouraging market competition to expand the economy. Carree and Thurik explained that the concept of entrepreneurship is multidimensional and mostly ill-defined. Understanding the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic growth will, therefore, require a structure because of the type of intermediate variables and connections which exist. The best cases of these intermediate variables include innovation, competition mainly characterised by exit and entry of firms, a variety of supply and energy and efforts invested by entrepreneurs. (Carree & Thurik 2010, 570.)

Asc (2006, 99) affirms that there is a definite connection between entrepreneurship and economic growth while Henderson (2007) clarified that entrepreneurship mostly recognised as the essential engine of economic growth. Entrepreneurship is the manifest ability and eagerness of an individual or group to make new economic opportunities and sell them in the market, even with vulnerability and other obstacles, by making decisions on location and the use of resources and institutions. (Wennekers & Thurick 1999,46.)

Naudé used three essential databases that describe the entrepreneurial activity of countries as the International Labor Organization (ILO) which measures self-employment, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) which measures start-up rates of new firms, and the World Bank which measures the registration of new firms to reveal two sets of the result. The first is that there is a lack of clear empirical evidence of whether entrepreneurship drives economic growth, productivity, or employment. The second is that there seems to be a U-shaped relationship between entrepreneurship and a country's stage of economic development, as measured by GDP per capita. (Naudé 2013, 7-8.)

The U-shaped relationship indicates a higher rate of entrepreneurial activity in low-income countries than in middle-income countries. This result may reflect that entrepreneurship is less innovative but rather more necessity motivated in developing countries. Therefore, higher levels of GDP may associate with more innovative forms of entrepreneurship. Another meaning is that rather than causality running from entrepreneurship to development, the causality may also run from development to entrepreneurship. Hence, one can conclude that not all entrepreneurs drive development as not all entrepreneurs are innovative for it is the innovative ability of entrepreneurship that matters most for development. (Naudé 2013, 10.)

2.8 The contribution of entrepreneurship to economic growth during an economic crisis

The hypothesis that entrepreneurship encourages economic development during economic crisis discovers its most quick establishment in straightforward instinct, common sense and pure economic perception: activities to change over thoughts into economic opportunities lie at the very heart of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is an origin of innovation and change as such spurs improvements in productivity and economic competitiveness. Many analysts assert that entrepreneurship is beneficial for economic growth and even more so during the economic crisis, especially when given the right opportunities. (UNCTAD 2004, 4.) Berglund (2005) noted that entrepreneurs disrupt prevailing

equilibria in the economic market through innovation, thereby changing various economic benchmarks enabling development within the economy.

Van Praag & Versloot (2007, 351) believe entrepreneurship contributes to the economic development through four main categories “employment generation, innovation, productivity and growth, increasing individual’s utility levels”. From the perspective of different scholars, the author can conclude that Entrepreneurship fosters economic growth during the economic crisis by providing jobs, reducing unemployment, creating products, encouraging and increasing savings. The gains of entrepreneurship can only be realised, however, if given the right opportunities government needs to create a right environment and policymakers need to make policies that will aid and encourage the growth of SMEs. (Osolor 2016b.)

3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AN ENGINE OF GROWTH

Globally, entrepreneurs are widely considered to be of immense importance to the economy as their activities act as economy's engine, enacting and empowering all monetary action. Entrepreneurial revolution has driven the economic success and impressive growth of nations worldwide. A society is prosperous as much as it compensates and empowers entrepreneurial movement because it is the entrepreneurial activities that are the fundamental determinant of the level of achievement, development and opportunity in any economy. The most potent societies are the ones that have the most entrepreneurs in addition to the financial and legitimate structure to urge and propel business visionaries to more prominent activities. (Ashraf 2017).

Entrepreneurs are as catalyst agent for expansion and promotion of economic activities in every sphere of economic life of a country. They are known for introducing new combinations, improving on already existing productive resources, proper utilisation of resources, and creation of employment opportunities. Thus, well-planned and well-coordinated actions of entrepreneurs in a country can bring about a high economic growth rate and development. From research, it is apparent that it is through entrepreneurship that essential innovations enter the market leading to new products or operation method which will eventually increase efficiency by bringing market competition. (Ubong 2013, 121.)

From studies, it is notable that countries like USA, Canada and Australia economies are ranking very high partly because they understand the impact entrepreneurs play in the growth of their economy. Their GDP is always on the increase as they support their entrepreneurs by providing assistance in respect to business formation, expansion and growth and also financing new businesses through venture capital to early-stage, high-potential and riskier start-up companies. From their examples, the future of African nation's economy depends mainly on its entrepreneurs as well as government approach to entrepreneurship. (Osolor 2016b).

3.1 What can entrepreneurs offer to their country?

Entrepreneurship can influence the economy of a country in various ways. Discussed below are some of the ways entrepreneurs are beneficial to their country.

Entrepreneurs seek to resolve economic problems by making available products and services needed by the country. These commodities are made possible through entrepreneurs active innovations to the market leading to increased productivity and intensified competition among the various industries within the economy. Entrepreneurship makes use of the country's resources by bringing factors of production to active use and creating value. Identifying invention then converting it to commercial value from entrepreneurs enable new markets to be developed and create job opportunities in their countries. When an entrepreneur starts a venture, he must employ people to work with him, as time passes the business venture may need to expand and therefore employ more people thereby creating more job opportunities in their country. Entrepreneurs strive for solution, innovation and create wealth putting together the factors of production needed to produce, offer and sell desired products and services. They invest and risk the resources available to them to generate wealth for themselves and their country. By creating job opportunities for people, an entrepreneur provides wealth to the people. With their innovation, the use of country's resource, market competition, payment of levies, duties and tax generated wealth for their country. (Seth 2015.)

Entrepreneurs reshape quality of life and economic value by modifying the traditional method of system and technology used to create efficiency. For example, smartphones have revolutionised work and play all over the world. As the growth of the mobile industry shows, technological entrepreneurship will have profound, long-lasting impacts on the entire human race. Another example is the supply of water in an area without water with a low-cost, flow-based pump that can build in people's homes automatically. This kind of innovation will improve the quality of life of people and ensure that they are more focused on their core jobs without worrying about base need like water. Entrepreneurial activities provide strength to the small business, healthy market competition which in turn ensure that the best product and service are available to the people. Some other ways the entrepreneur can impact the economy of a country are proper utilisation of resources, the creation of new business, community development and addition to national income. Entrepreneurs are the heart of any country's economy, and a country that invests in entrepreneurship has a better chance of an improved economy. (Seth 2015.)

3.2 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth in developing countries

According to the research by Iman and Nagia on seven emerging countries (Egypt, Hungary, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Romania) over the period 2004-2014 and other previous studies on entrepreneurship. Necessity entrepreneurship is indicated to have no adverse effect on economic development as the marginal productivity is zero or even negative. Necessity entrepreneurship means having to become an entrepreneur because there are no other better job opportunities. (Acs 2006, 97.) Apparently, most emerging countries have more necessity entrepreneurs who are forced to be self-employed and fewer opportunity entrepreneurs because of the high youth unemployment rate, low-income level and uneasy entrepreneurial environment. Opportunity entrepreneurs are entrepreneurs who make a deliberate choice to start a new enterprise, they demonstrate innovative capabilities and exploit unidentified opportunities (Acs 2006, 97.) However, the research concluded that there is a significant negative relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth, while both labour productivity and level of economic development shows a positive relationship with economic growth. This statement implies that entrepreneurship has excellent benefits for the economy of the nation if the government can encourage business start-ups, improve the business environment, provide necessary infrastructure as well as create a fair taxing system and business regulation. (Iman & Nagia 2016, 30 - 36.)

3.3 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth in developed countries

According to Stel, Carree and Thurik, there exist a positive impact of entrepreneurial activity on subsequent economic performance. They believe in developed countries that entrepreneurial activity is related to economic development. These means that the entrepreneurial activities in such countries can contribute to the economic growth of such country which affirms the notion that the difference in economic growth rates of countries is due primarily to the quality of their entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs in developed countries are mostly opportunity entrepreneurs who are highly creative and innovative. They employ all factors of production (land, labour and capital) for productive ventures and in most cases, their government provide an enabling environment for business to thrive as such most start-ups in no time become a more substantial corporation and enjoy economies of scale. (Stel, Carree and Thurik 2005, 313.)

China's explosive economic development over the past twenty-five years is as a result of the removal of bureaucracy, government encouragement, and support for the entrepreneurial activity of the people. In the United States, the world's biggest economy, seventy-five percent of the sixteen million businesses operate as a sole proprietorship with enormous support from the government and in turn, show how these

entrepreneurial activities have helped create jobs and moved the country out recession to growth. Also, at the heart of other rapidly growing economies such as India and Brazil are numerous SMEs manufacturing, retail, IT, technical, and financial firms who are providing jobs, creating products and services and bringing about competition, innovation and growth. (Osolor 2016b). In developing countries, the entrepreneurial activities of the population are a determinant of economic growth. The well-planned and well-coordinated activities of entrepreneurs in a nation can bring about a high economic growth rate. (Yusuf & Albanawi, 2016, 1.)

3.4 Impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth using GEM analysis

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) is the world's foremost study of entrepreneurship. Established in 1999 with ten countries as a joint project between Babson College, United States (U.S.) and London Business School, United Kingdom (U.K.) which now has over a hundred members operating programs in both developed and developing countries. The GEM project is unique in applying a uniform definition and data collection to reconcile countries official data on self - employment, distribution capacity, census data on all or most plants and firms and new entries as such information is not available for analogy across countries.

In each economy, GEM looks at two elements; The entrepreneurial behaviour and attitudes of individuals and the national context and how that impacts entrepreneurship. The data obtained is carefully analysed by local GEM researchers. The result of research allows a broad understanding of the situation for entrepreneurship and provides valuable insights to decision makers. In studying the impact of entrepreneurs, GEM is of the opinion that all entrepreneurs are talented, they have different impacts on their societies and the primary keys to economic development and growth are job creation and level of innovation. (GEM 2017, 26.)

An analysis carried out by Stel, Carree and Thurik using GEM's data, disclosed that countries even in similar stages of economic development differ sharply in the rates of entrepreneurial activity. There exists a considerable gap in countries such as Japan, France, Belgium and Sweden with low entrepreneurial activity in countries such as U.S., Canada, Australia and South Korea with high entrepreneurial activity. Notably, entrepreneurial activity is correlated with the self-employment rate although there exist few exceptions to the rule. An example is Japan self-employment rate that is relatively close to those of the U.S., yet the new entry rate is far smaller in Japan, where there are many small firms in the retail and wholesale sectors. The study also highlighted that one should be cautious in comparing countries in different stages of economic development as high start-up rates in developing

countries are perhaps less a sign of economic strength when compared to such rates in highly developed economies.

However, the analysis concluded that there exists a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth in a relatively wealthy country while a negative relationship exists between the two variables in a relatively developing country. The study went further to state that the fact that poorer countries do not gain entrepreneurial activity does not imply that entrepreneurship should be discouraged, but instead it is a sign that shows there is need to build larger companies who can benefit from economies of scale. (Stel, Carree & Thurik 2005, 315 - 320.)

3.5 Conceptual frameworks are linking entrepreneurship with economic growth

There exist two framework models relating entrepreneurship to economic growth one proposed by Wennekers et al. and GEM research programme. Wennekers and Thurik (1999, 50) proposed a model, relating entrepreneurial activity to economic growth. The model recognises three levels of examination: the individual level, the firm level and the macro level. In figure 1, entrepreneurial activity originates at the individual level, and it is traceable to a solitary individual who is the entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship consequently prompted by an individual's attitudes or motives, skills and mental endowments. However, the individual entrepreneur is not undertaking entrepreneurial exercises in an ageless and spaceless vacuum but, is influenced by the setting in which he or she is acting. Along these lines, the cultural and institutional factors, the business environment and macroeconomic conditions influenced entrepreneurial motives and actions.

While entrepreneurship originates at the individual level, the realisation achieved at the firm level. Start-ups or innovations are vehicles for transforming changing individual entrepreneurial qualities and ambitions into actions. At the macro level of enterprises and national economies, the aggregate of entrepreneurial exercises constitutes a mosaic of contending experiments, innovative ideas and initiatives. This competition prompts assortment and change in the market that is, a choice of the most practical firms, their imitation and a displacement of outdated firms. Entrepreneurial activity consequently extends and changes the profitable capability of the national economy by promoting higher productivity and expansion of new specialities and industries. Processes at the aggregate stage are, in turn, related to the individual layer, clearly including essential feedback mechanisms for individual entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs can gain from both their own and others' successes and failures, which enables them to improve their skills and adapt their attitudes. (Wennekers & Thurik 1999, 50 – 53.)

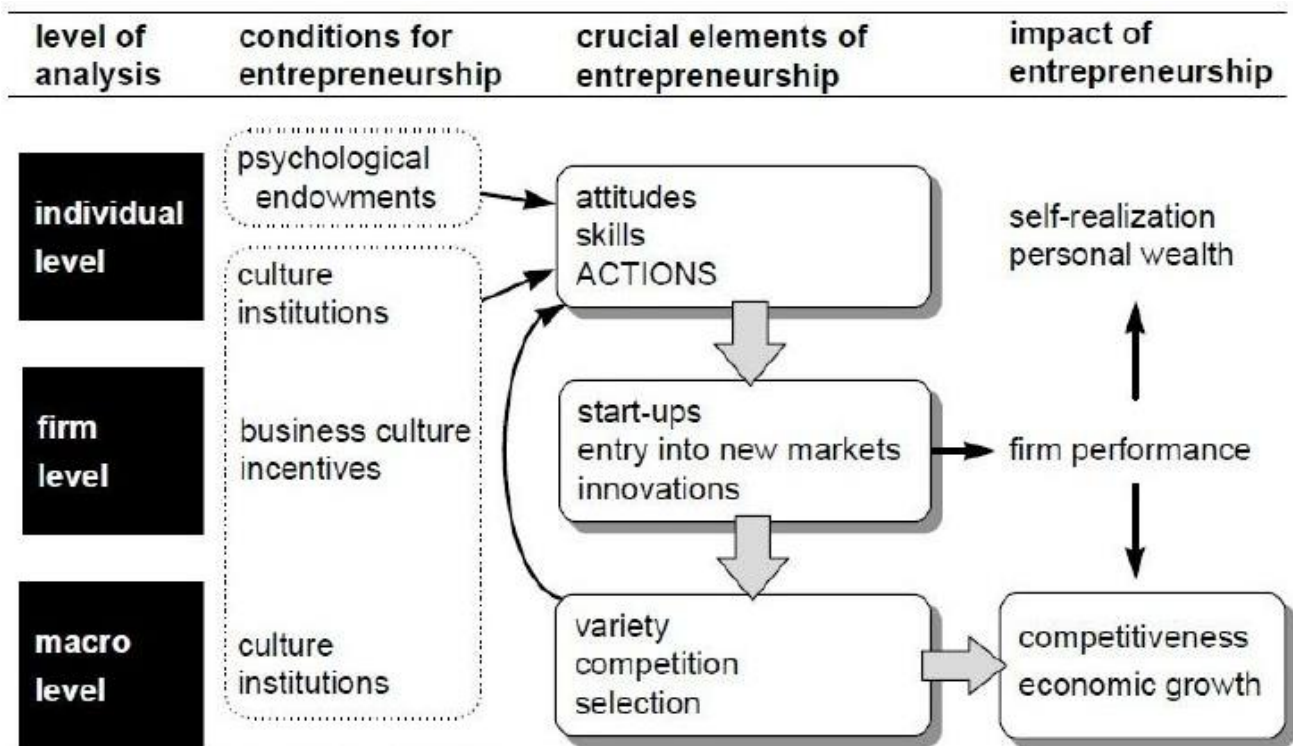


FIGURE 1. A framework is linking entrepreneurship to economic growth. (Wennekers & Thurik, 1999, 51)

The conceptual framework of GEM takes a slightly different angle. The framework derives from the underlying assumption that national economic growth is the result of the personal capabilities of individuals to see and take opportunities and that this process is affected by environmental factors which influence individual's decisions to pursue entrepreneurial initiatives. In figure 2. the main components and relationships into which GEM divides the entrepreneurial process and how it groups entrepreneurs according to the level of their organisational development. The social, cultural, political and economic context represented through National Framework Conditions (NFCs), which consider the progression of each society through the three phases of economic development (factor-driven, efficiency-driven and innovation-driven). Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions (EFCs) relate mainly to the nature of the entrepreneurial ecosystem which includes: entrepreneurial finance, government policy, government entrepreneurship programs, entrepreneurship education, research and development (R&D) transfer, commercial and legal infrastructure, internal market dynamics, entry regulation, physical infrastructure, cultural and social norms. (GEM report 2017, 21.)

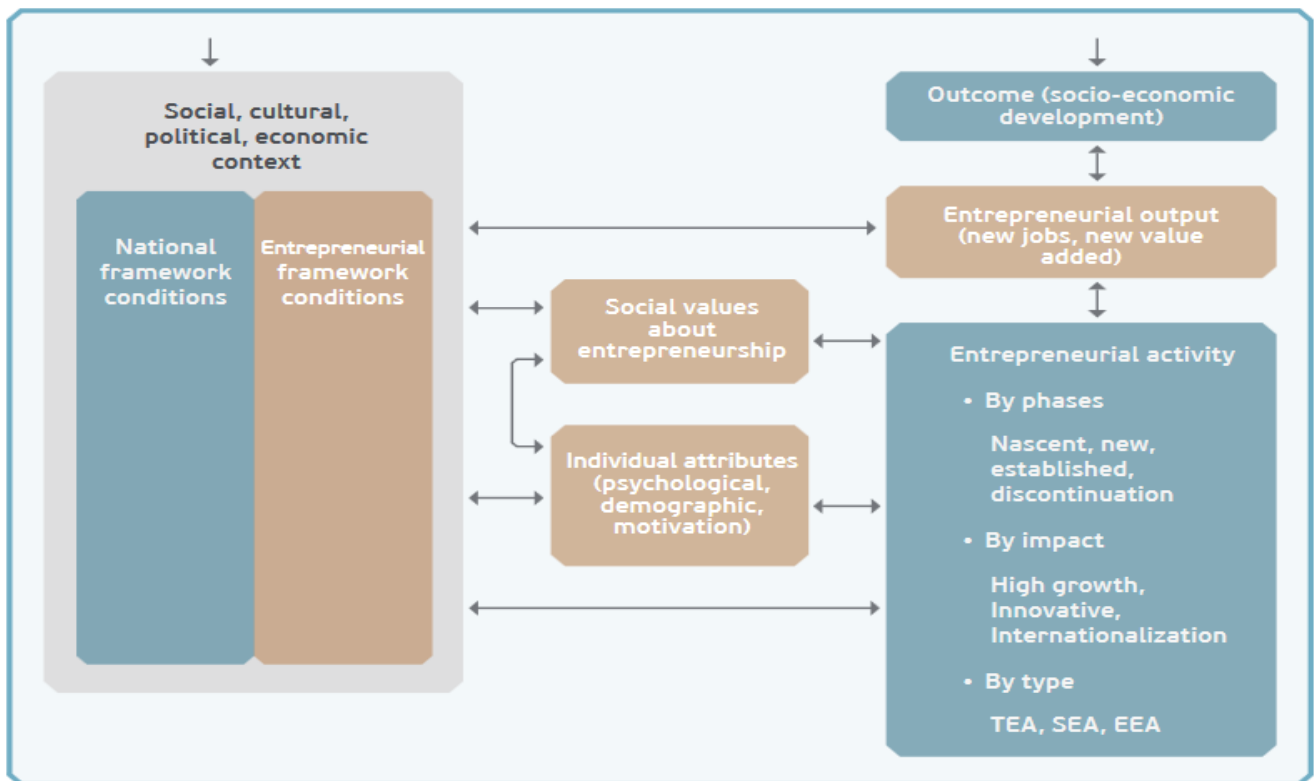


FIGURE 2: The GEM conceptual framework (GEM report 2017)

As shown in figure 2 above the GEM conceptual framework recognises that entrepreneurship is part of a complex feedback system, and makes express the connections between social values, personal attributes and various forms of entrepreneurial activity. It also perceives that entrepreneurship can intervene the impact of the national framework conditions on new job creation and new economic or social value creation. Entrepreneurial activity is in this way a yield of the connection of an individual's perception of an opportunity and capacity (motivation and skills) to act upon this and the distinct conditions of the respective environment of the individual. Furthermore, while entrepreneurial movement is affected by the framework conditions in the environment in which it takes place, this activity ultimately benefits this environment as well, through social value and economic development. (GEM report 2017, 23.)

4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This part of the research work is related to the methods and instruments that are used in gathering and analysing data for the study. It entails the methods used for data collection, the procedure for analysing data collected, the research instrument, sampling techniques and the population of study.

4.1 Research design

The study employed a descriptive and cross-sectional survey design. According to Asika, descriptive and survey design is suitable for studies involving field enquiries by collecting data over a period. It seeks to describe the variable associated with a phenomenon of interest. However, empirical studies mainly use survey design in an attempt to establish a relationship between dependent and independent variables. (Asika 2005.)

4.2 Population

The targeted population of this research study consists of staff and students of Yaba College of Technology Yaba, Lagos. However, due to logistics constraints and to collect relevant and timely data within a brief period, staff and students of Yaba College of Technology Yaba, Lagos were randomly chosen for the study.

The questionnaire was structured to gather the respondent opinion on the subject under investigation. However, the survey conducted in August 2017 in Lagos, Nigeria distributed nothing less 60 questionnaires while 30 respondents questionnaires were received and administered. Therefore, the number of surveys obtained represents the base for the population preceded on for analysis and conclusion on the research.

4.3 Sample Size

In all, a random sample of 30 staff and students of Yaba College of Technology Yaba, Nigeria constitute the sample size of this study. Stratified random sampling Technique was used to select the sample. Strata is a probability sampling technique that guarantees equal chances of all the data in the sample. However, Yaba college of technology randomly chosen for this study due to its popularity for being the foremost business institution in Nigeria and with it diverse national representation in her population. The education institution established in 1947 is a centre for entrepreneurship development with strong linkage with the world of commerce and industry, practically macro, small and medium enterprise for the exploitation and use of research for development.

4.4 Sources of data

This study utilised both primary and secondary data. Primary data obtained from staff and students of Yaba College of Technology Yaba, Lagos through copies of administered questionnaire while secondary research data sourced from online journal materials, industry-specific journal and other textbooks from the public, Centria University of Applied Science and Yaba college of Technology research library. Primary sources of data were used to answer the research questions.

4.5 Administration of research instrument

The questionnaire is a carefully structured statement or questions prepared by a researcher and administered to the respondents to obtain in writing some information. The study utilised structured questionnaires that drawn from the critical variables of the study. The questionnaire divided into two sections. Namely, section A and section B. Section A comprised items relating to respondent's demographic data while B consisted statements that explained essential variables of the study. Each statement had a close-ended structure with five scale levels that arranged as follows; strongly, disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree upon which each respondent is expected to rate himself or herself opinion to these questions. The Likert scales and their ratings provided on the questionnaire as indicators for appropriate responses. This method broadens respondents' mind and allows them to say more on the subject matter instead of the 'yes & no answer.

In a specific context, the questions are precise and direct to avoid ambiguous response. The questionnaire includes a different statement like “Can entrepreneurship reduce unemployment? Do we think entrepreneurship facilitates economic growth? Can entrepreneurship as factor help downsize stagnation? Apparently, these questions are assumed to have much significance on subject matters, so they were carefully chosen for this research. However, the rest of questions are in APPENDIX 1.

4.6 Research limitations

There were some limitations encountered in the conduct of this research study. The main limitation existed in the sample group, as it was quite small. Therefore, the diversity of the opinions could have been limited. Additionally, logistics also created some problem as the survey conducted in Nigeria adequately collected and analysed. The last but not the least was the short time frame used in conducting the research. Time constraint survey project can be argued to be limited in research findings and opinions captured based on work overloaded. Moreover, there is always a risk of insufficient response to the survey. However, the response rate was reasonable, where 30 respondents out of 60 questionnaires returned.

5 DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of results obtained by the researcher. The data is analysed using basic descriptive statistics and representation of tables.

5.1 Identification of respondents

The researcher conducted a random sample of 30 respondents in Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria. Table 1 shows both socio-demographic and educational attainment of respondents.

TABLE 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	8	26.7
Female	22	73.3
Age groups		
20 years below	5	16.7
21 - 30 years	10	33.3
31 - 40 years	13	43.3
41 years and above	2	6.7
Marital status		
Single	18	60.0
Married	7	23.3
Divorced	3	10.0
Widow	2	6.7
Educational level		
O' level	2	6.7
Diploma	7	23.8
Bachelors	17	56.7
Masters and doctoral	4	13.3

The table shows sample population demographic which is believed to have an impact on their manner of response to somewhat extent. Female gender had a higher proportion of respondents of 73.3 percent compared to their counterpart of just 26.7 percent. However, the majority of respondents are of age between 21 to 40 years. It also revealed that substantial proportion of these respondents are not married while just 23.3 percent are married, 10.0 percent are divorced and fewer cohort precisely 6.7 percent are widows.

In a similar vein, the table highlighted the status of respondents based on their educational status. It shows that majority which is no fewer than 56.7 percent are bachelor holders, followed by 23.8 percent from the other cohort whose educational attainment is Diploma. While 13.3 percent are those with Master and Doctoral degree and the remaining are high school graduate (o' level) respondents who represent the smaller proportion of all.

5.2 Impacts of entrepreneurship on economic development in Nigeria

Inquiring about the impacts of entrepreneurship on economic in Nigeria designed into statement questions to capture diverse perspective on the issue that relates to the statement in TABLE 2 to 6.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship does reduce unemployment. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 2. Does entrepreneurship reduce unemployment?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	9	30.0
	Agree	21	70.0
	Total	30	100.0

Table 2 above shows that 30 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship reduces unemployment. Hence, the remaining 70 percent were those who agree. All respondents believe that entrepreneurship reduces unemployment.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship creates room for innovation. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 3. Do you agree entrepreneurship creates room for innovation?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	7	23.3
	Agree	16	53.3
	Undecided	7	23.3
	Total	30	100.0

Table 3 above shows that 23.3 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship creates room for innovation. Hence, 53.3 percent agreed, and the remaining 23.3 percent were those disagree. The number of respondents who agree that entrepreneurship has a profound influence on innovation creation is much more significant when compared to those who disagree.a

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship does serve as a key to the self-reliant economy. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 4: Does entrepreneurship serve as the key to self-reliance?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	1	3.3
	Agree	10	33.3
	Undecided	14	46.7
	strongly disagree	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 4, 33.3 percent of respondents agreed on to entrepreneurship as the key to self-reliance, and only 3.3 percent strongly agree. A significant portion of 46.7 percent could not decide, and 16.7 percent strongly disagreed respectively.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship facilitates economic growth. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 5: Do you agree entrepreneurship facilitates economic growth?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	1	3.3
	Agree	6	20.0
	Undecided	11	36.7
	strongly disagree	12	40.0
	Total	30	100.0

Table 5 shows that 3.3 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship facilitates economic growth 20 percent agreed and 36.7 percent undecided While 40 percent strongly disagreed respectively.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship is the sole engine of Nigeria workforce. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 6: Can entrepreneurship play the sole engine of Nigeria workforce?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	10	33.3
	Agree	13	43.3
	Undecided	3	10.0
	strongly disagree	4	13.3
	Total	30	100.0

Table 6 shows the statement entrepreneurship is the engine room of workforce was agreed on by 33.3 percent of the respondent, 43.3 percent agreed. While 10 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 13.3 percent strongly disagreed respectively.

5.3 Entrepreneurship plays a significant role in economic development during a recession

Inquiring about entrepreneurship playing a significant role in economic development during the recession designed into statement questions to capture diverse perspective on an issue that relates to the statement in table 7 to table 10.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their opinion as to whether entrepreneurship is the key to Nigeria revival from the current recession. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 7: Is entrepreneurship the key to Nigeria revival from the current recession?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	6	20.0
	Agree	13	43.3
	Undecided	6	20.0
	strongly disagree	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 7 shows the statement that entrepreneurship is the key to Nigeria revival from the current recession strongly agreed by 20 percent of the respondent, 43.3 percent agreed. While 20 percent of the respondents were undecided and 16.7 percent strongly disagreed.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship reduces stagnation and promote economic development. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 8: Can entrepreneurship reduce stagnation and promote economic development?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	5	16.7
	Agree	11	36.6
	Undecided	9	30.0

TABLE 8: Continue

	strongly disagree	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 8 above shows that 16.7 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship could reduce stagnation of economic development while 36.7 percent were those agreed. Hence, 30 percent were undecided, and 16.7 percent strongly disagreed.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship creates room for a substantial number of opportunities. Their responses tabulated below.

TABLE 9: Does entrepreneurship creates room for a substantial number of opportunities?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	5	16.7
	Agree	14	46.6
	Undecided	8	26.7
	strongly disagree	3	10.0
	Total	30	100.0

Table 9 above shows that 16.7 percent of the respondent strongly agreed with the statement while 46.6 percent agreed, and 26.7 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 10 percent strongly disagreed with the statement.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship creates room for ideas generation. Their responses inputted below.

TABLE 10: Does entrepreneurship creates room for ideas generation?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	4	13.3

TABLES 10: Continues

	Agree	12	40.0
	Undecided	9	30.0
	strongly disagree	5	16.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 10 shows respondents strongly agreed by 13.3 percent of the respondent, 40 percent agreed. 30 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 16.7 percent strongly disagreed.

5.4 The application of entrepreneurship serves as a potential remedy to present Nigeria economic recession

Inquiring about the impacts of entrepreneurship on the economy in Nigeria was designed into statement questions to capture diverse perspective on an issue that relates to the statement in table 11 to table 13.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship serves as a strategy for rapid economic development. Their responses indicated below.

TABLE 11: Does entrepreneurship serve as a strategy for rapid economic development?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	11	36.6
	Agree	15	50.0
	Undecided	2	6.7
	strongly disagree	2	6.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 11 shows that the statement entrepreneurship serves as a strategy for rapid economic development was strongly agreed by 36.6 percent of the respondent, 50 percent agreed. While 6.7 percent of the respondents were undecided and 6.7 percent strongly disagreed.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship development is the key to poverty eradication. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 12: Do you agree entrepreneurship development is the key to poverty eradication?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	3	10.0
	Agree	11	36.7
	Undecided	11	36.7
	strongly disagree	5	16.6
	Total	30	100.0

Table 12 above shows respondents strongly agreed by 10 percent of the respondent, 36.7 percent agreed. While 36.7 percent of the respondents were undecided and 16.6 percent strongly disagreed.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether entrepreneurship promotes the development of small and medium scale enterprises. Their responses highlighted below.

TABLE 13: Does entrepreneurship promotes development of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs)?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	6	20.0
	Agree	15	50
	Undecided	5	16.7
	strongly disagree	4	13.3
	Total	30	100.0

The table above shows that 20 percent of the respondent strongly agreed the statement entrepreneurship promotes the development of SMEs, 50 percent agreed. While 16.7 percent of the respondents were undecided and 13.3 percent strongly disagreed.

5.5 The challenges of business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria

Inquiring about the challenges of business Start-ups in Nigeria was designed into statement questions to capture diverse perspective on an issue that relates to the statement in table 14 to table 17.

Hereunder the respondents are asked to give their respect opinion as to whether finance is a significant challenge for business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria. Their response highlighted below.

TABLE 14: Do you agree finance is a major challenge for business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	13	43.4
	Agree	12	40
	Undecided	4	13.3
	strongly disagree	1	3.3
	Total	30	100.0

The table 14 above shows that 43.4 percent of the respondent strongly agreed on the statement on finance as a significant challenge for business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria, large percent 40 of responses agreed while 13.3 percent of the respondents were undecided and 3.3 percent strongly disagreed.

Hereunder addressed issues of infrastructure requirement for SMEs. The question was considered such that it explores what people feel about it. Therefore, there could be a way to review its inadequacy.

TABLE 15: Does inadequate infrastructure affects business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	7	23.3

TABLE 15: Continues

	Agree	14	46.7
	Undecided	7	23.3
	strongly disagree	2	6.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 15 shows that the statement on inadequate infrastructure affects business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria was strongly agreed by 23.3 percent of the respondent, 46.7 percent agreed. While 23.3 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 6.7 percent strongly disagreed.

This question hereunder addressed issues of government policies and its difficulty. The question was considered such that it explores what people feel about it. Therefore, there could be a way to review such policies.

TABLE 16: Do government policies and process make it difficult to start a business in Nigeria?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	8	26.7
	Agree	15	50.0
	Undecided	4	13.3
	strongly disagree	3	10
	Total	30	100.0

Table 16 shows that the statement on government policies and process make it difficult to start a business in Nigeria was strongly agreed by 26.7 percent of the respondent, 50 percent agreed while 13.3 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 10 percent strongly disagreed with the statement.

This question hereunder related to security as a challenge facing SMEs in Nigeria. Respondent's opinions are as follow.

TABLE 17: Is insecurity one of the challenges faced by SMEs in Nigeria?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	strongly agree	5	16.6
	Agree	9	30
	Undecided	8	26.7
	strongly disagree	8	26.7
	Total	30	100.0

Table 17 shows that 16.7 percent of the respondent strongly agreed on the statement on insecurity one of the challenges faced by SMEs in Nigeria, 30 percent agreed. While 26.7 percent of the respondents were undecided, and 26.7 percent strongly disagreed.

6 CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the perspective of analysis on the questionnaire administered to respondents. Significant respondents widely agreed that entrepreneurship plays a significant role in economic development. Notably, during the economic crisis as it fosters job creation, reduces unemployment, eradicates poverty and creating value. Therefore, it is necessary for youth to be encouraged to start their businesses and entrepreneur endeavours be encouraged by the government and agencies.

This study was set out to explore the role of entrepreneurship in achieving economic growth during the economic crisis and the impact of entrepreneurship on nation's development. The study discovered that in the developing economies like Nigeria, there exist a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth. Hence, it is a potential remedy for Nigeria economic crisis. Entrepreneurship is known to encourage skill acquisition, creative thinking, product development, marketing, leadership training and wealth creation which in return results in flourishing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that generates gainful employment, creates wealth, diversify the economy and consequently grow the economy.

The study also found out that Nigeria has depended on oil for more than 90 percent of its foreign exchange income for far too long and for the country to come out of its current economic crisis there has to be an aggressive diversification of the economy. A conscious effort needs to be made to develop other sectors of the economy such as mining, agriculture, manufacturing so they can as well translate to foreign exchange income for the country. Also, from this study, it could be inferred that entrepreneurship entails identifying, utilising and maximising profitable venture opportunities in a viable manner that can advance the economic development of a community or nation. However, in the current economic situation, only entrepreneurship revolution in Nigeria can enable necessary dynamics of economic life, stop migrations towards abroad, improve the quality of life and, in general, set the new standards of social stratification based on knowledge and productivity.

Despite the massive benefits entrepreneurship can proffer to the Nigerian economy. The government policies and dominant factors in a business environment can impede the significant impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth. Hence, observation during this study connotes that government should assess and ensure proper economic policy coordination throughout each fiscal year to achieve policy stability. Secondly, reforms in institutions such as the education system's curriculum are

necessary to encourage self-reliance and vocational skills. Also, there is a need to revitalise infrastructure such as the country's power sector owing to its enormous impact on primary activities that can hance development.

More importantly, there should be a drastic reduction in tax and lending interest rate for SMEs to encourage large-scale industrial investor's interest. Diversifying the economy is apparently another thing to be considered because the country's economy is monotonous. Much emphasis based on oil exploration being the primary source of revenue. The economy needs diversification in a manner that other areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, information technology and fashion thrive. Nonetheless, it is advisable that government consider reduction on import duties for essential raw materials.

Above all, This study on entrepreneurship and economic growth reflected the fact that entrepreneurship is the key to propel expected economic growth in a short-term or long-term period. Hence, further research is recommended and focus towards benefits of using SMEs as a stimulator for economic growth.

REFERENCES

- Acs, Z.. 2006. How Is Entrepreneurship Good for Economic Growth? *Tagore LLC Innovations: Technology, Governance. Globalization* 1 (1) 97–107.
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/10.1162/itgg.2006.1.1.97>
- Adeoye, A. & Abu, Z. 2015. The Effect of Entrepreneurship on Economy Growth and Development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Economic Sustainability* 3 (49) 49–65.
- Alawiye-Adams, A. & Anthony, I. 2013. *The Challenges of Starting and Running a Business in Nigeria: The Way Forward*. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2370515> Accessed on August 20, 2017.
- Ashfar M. 2017. EDITOR’S PICKS Entrepreneurship : Engine of Growth.1-7. *The nation*. Available: <http://nation.com.pk/09-Jun-2017/entrepreneurship-engine-of-growth> Accessed 19 September 2017
- Asika, N. 2005. *Research Methodology in Behavioural Sciences: Lagos*. Longman Publishing Limited
- Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 1991.
- Berglund, H. 2005. *Towards a Theory of Entrepreneurial Action: Exploring, Risk, Opportunity and Self in Technology Entrepreneurship*. The Chalmers University of Technology. Department of Technology Management and Economic. Doctor’s dissertation.
- Carree, M. & Thurik, R. 2010. The Impact of Entrepreneurship on Economic Growth. Z.J. Acs, D.B. Audretsch (eds.), *International Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research*, (pp. 557–594). New York, NY: Springer New York. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-1191-9_20
- Ebo, N. 2012. History of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *An Articles of Niger Reporters*. December 15, 2012. Available: <http://www.nigerreporters.com/history-of-entrepreneurship-in-nigeria/> Accessed 18 September 2017
- Ejiogu, A. & Chinyere A. 2012. The Need for Inclusion of Entrepreneurship Education in Nigerian School Curricula. *Thunderbird International Business Review*.54 (1): 7–13.

- Fapohunda, T. 2012. The Human Resource Management Challenges of Post Consolidation Mergers and Acquisitions in Nigeria's Banking Industry. *International Business Management* 6 (1): 68–74.
- Farabiyi, A. 2016. Perspective on the Nigeria Economic Recession Policy Briefs Centre for Allied Research and Economic Development, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.
- Filion, L. 2011. Defining the Entrepreneur. *World Encyclopaedia of Entrepreneurship*, 41–52. Available: <http://www.eelgar.com/shop/eep/preview/book/isbn/9781849808453/> Accessed 25 September 2017.
- GEM. 2016/2017. *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2016/17 Global Report part 1*. 17-57.
- Henderson, J. 2007. Understanding rural entrepreneurs at the country level: Data challenges. Paper presented at the Frameworks for Entrepreneurship Research in Food, Agriculture, and Rural Development Workshop, Kansas City. October 18, 1-29.
- Iman M. & Nagia H. 2016. Entrepreneurship Impact on Economic Growth in Emerging Countries. *The Business and Management Review* Volume 7 Number 2 International Conference on Globalization, Entrepreneurship & Emerging Economies. 30-36.
- National Bureau of Statistics, 2016. Available: <http://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary> Accessed 26 September 2017
- Naudé, W. 2013. *Entrepreneurship and Economic Development: Theory, Evidence and Policy*. IZA Discussion Paper, no. 7507: 1–20.
- Noko, E. 2016, Economic recession in Nigeria: causes and solution. Available: <http://educacinfo.com/economic-recession-nigeria/> Accessed September 10, 2016.
- Onuoha, G. 2007. *Entrepreneurship* AIST International Journal 10, 20-32.
- Osolor, P. 2016a. Nigerian Economic Recession and Entrepreneurial Revolution. Vanguard Newspaper, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/09/nigerian-economic-recession-entrepreneurial-revolution/> Accessed on 20th July 2017.

- Osolor, P. 2016b. The impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth, Development. Vanguard Newspaper, in business. Available: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/10/impact-entrepreneurship-economic-growth-development/> Accessed on 21st July 2017.
- Seth, S. 2015. Why Entrepreneurs Are Important for the Economy. Accessed September 20th, 2017. Available <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/personal-finance/101414/why-entrepreneurs-are-important-economy.asp>
- Shane, S. 2003. A General Theory of Entrepreneurship. The Individual-Opportunity Nexus. Booksgooglecom (p. 327). Edward Elgar publishing limited. doi:10.4337/9781781007990
- Shane, S. & Venkataraman S. 2000. The Promise of Entrepreneurship as a Field of Research. The Academy of Management Review 25 (1): 217–126.
- Stel, A., Carree, M. & Thurik, R. 2005. The Effect of Entrepreneurial Activity on National Economic Growth. Small Business Economics 24 (3): 311–321.
- Sujit, P. 2013. Entrepreneurship in recession Entrepreneurs, firms & performance. Bergen: Norwegian School of Economics. Master's thesis.
- Thaddeus, E. 2012. Perspectives: Entrepreneurship development and growth of enterprises in Nigeria. Entrepreneurial Practice Review 2(2), 31-35.
- Ubong, B. 2013. Entrepreneurship and Nation Building in a Changing Environment. 4 (16): 115–135. doi:10.5901/mjss.2013.v4n16p115.
- UNCTAD. 2004. Entrepreneurship and Economic Development: The Empretec showcase. 3-15.
- Van Praag, C. M. & Versloot, P. H. 2007. What is the value of entrepreneurship? A review of recent research. Small Business Economics, 29, 351-382.

Venkataraman, S. 1997. The Distinctive Domain of Entrepreneurship Research: An Editor's Perspective. In J. Katz & R. Brockhaus (Eds.), *Advances in Entrepreneurship, Firm Emergence, and Growth*. (3), 119–38.

Wennekers, S. & Thurik, R. 1999. Linking Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth. *Small Business Economics* 13: 27–55.

Yusuf, N. & Albanawi, N. 2016. The Role of Entrepreneurship in Economic Development in Saudi Arabia. *Business Economic Journal* (7) 1–6. Accessed on September 24th, 2017. Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2151-6219.1000204>

Questionnaire

As part of thesis research, here is a survey on the significance of entrepreneurship towards economic growth during the economic recession.

The following are questions concerned with demographics in **SECTION A** and statements to indicate the level of agreement between 1 as strongly disagree to 5 as strongly agree with **SECTION B**.

SECTION A

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Gender: | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | | |
| 2. Age groups: | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 below | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 – 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 41 & above |
| 3. Marital status: | <input type="checkbox"/> Single | <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Widow |
| 4. Educational level: | <input type="checkbox"/> WAEC / NECO / WASSCE | <input type="checkbox"/> OND / A. LEVEL / NCE | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> HND / B.Sc. / BA | <input type="checkbox"/> PGD / MSc / PhD | | |

SECTION B

Please indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the questions on topic about “**the impacts of entrepreneurship on economic development in Nigeria**” below.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
5. Do you agree entrepreneurship reduces unemployment?					
6. Do you agree entrepreneurship creates room for innovation?					
7. Do you agree entrepreneurship serves as the key to self – reliance?					
8. Can entrepreneurship play the sole engine of Nigeria workforce?					
9. Can entrepreneurship facilitate economic growth?					

Please indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the questions on topic about **“entrepreneurship play any significant role in economic development during a recession”** below.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
10. Is entrepreneurship the key to Nigeria revival from the current recession?					
11. Can entrepreneurship reduce stagnation of economic development?					
12. Do you agree entrepreneurship creates room for a substantial number of opportunities?					
13. Do you agree Entrepreneurship promotes national unity					
14. Does entrepreneurship create room for ideas generation?					

Please indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with questions on topic about **“the application of entrepreneurship serves as a potential remedy to present Nigeria economic recession”** below.

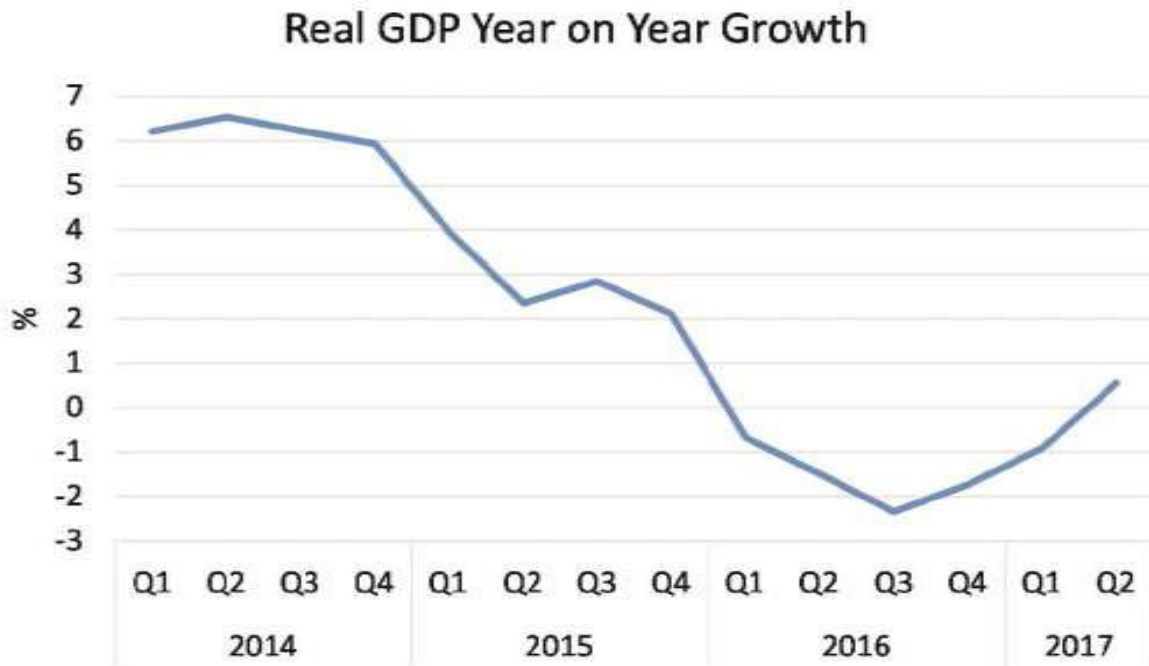
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
15. Does entrepreneurship will serve a strategy for rapid economic development?					
16. Does entrepreneurship promote the development of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs)?					
17. Is entrepreneurship development the key to poverty eradication?					

Please indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the questions on topic about “**the challenges of business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria**” below.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly Disagree
18. Is finance a major challenge for Business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria?					
19. Does inadequate infrastructure affect Business Start-ups / SMEs in Nigeria?					
20. Do government policies, and process makes it difficult to start a business in Nigeria?					
21. Is insecurity one of the challenges faced by SMEs in Nigeria?					

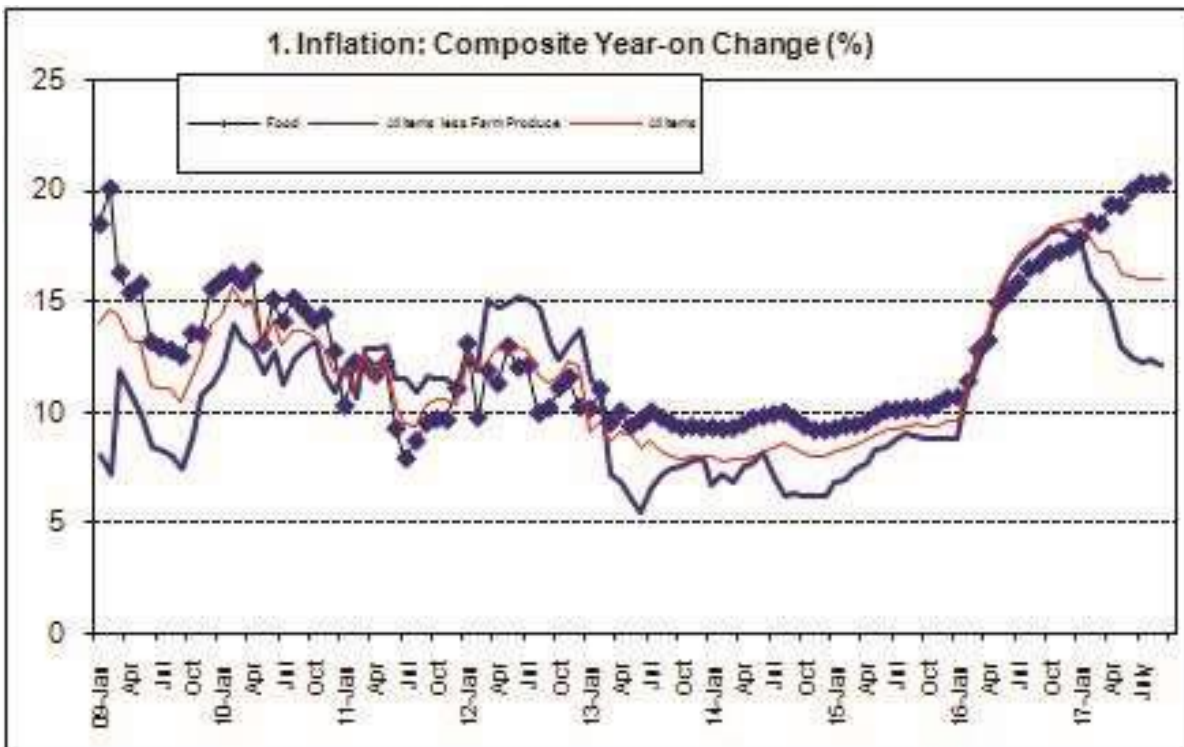
Thanks

Nigeria GDP 2014-2017



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Nigeria's Inflation



Source: National Bureau of Statistic.