DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A STRATEGY FOR CURBING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Technological advancements had created an avenue for digitisation and the development of information and communication technologies (ICT). This had created incredible potential and benefits in electronic commerce (E-commerce) and entrepreneurial skills, especially among youths. The study's main purpose was to explore digital entrepreneurship as a panacea for reducing Nigeria's youth unemployment rate and providing new jobs. The study focused on the effect of ICT on job creation, the extent to which e-commerce contributes to employment creation and the influence of programmes geared towards spurring entrepreneurship training on line. The study further tested null hypothesis to determine if there was no significant relationship between digital entrepreneurship and employment creation. 110 owners of small firms were surveyed to investigate how ICT, e-commerce, and online training programmes had aided in the creation of jobs in Lagos state through descriptive tools and multiple regression technique. The study findings showed that in Lagos state, ICT and e-commerce had substantially contributed to job creation and aided in disseminating commercial activities to a wide range of customers. The findings also showed that many people gained a wide range of skills through online training programmes. The study recommended the advancement of e-commerce through a reliable and affordable telecommunication network, provision of access to training platforms, and affordable prices of various e-commerce training programmes.

Keywords: information and communication technologies; E-commerce; online training
JEL classification: O31, M21, E24, I15

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Globally, the increasing demand for technology has brought about the development of new and better forms of technology (Hair et al., 2012). These new means of meeting the demand for technology have undoubtedly brought changes to the old ways of doing things in our environment (Bharadwaj et al., 2013). Thus, technology in different forms, like artificial intelligence, internet, social media and mobile services has been trending in the past decades (European Commission, 2019). However, this study focuses on a "new trend" in the business environment, digital entrepreneurship (D.E.).

Thus, economies that had not fully engaged and harnessed the benefits of D.E. could not attain the economic significance and aspirations of development hoped for (Olukayode, 2017). Such countries are without a job-growth economy, especially developing ones (Karahman, 2011).

The alarming increase in the joblessness of young adults has been a critical problem most governments aim to solve. This is because the active population is a major determinant of the development of the economy. As a result, World Development in 2007 emphasised the need for countries to pursue and attain full employment which implies an inclusive, sustainable economic growth as stated in the eighth pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Other programmes include: Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), Youth Employment Network (YEN) to mention a few. However, such attempts by governments, especially in Nigeria, have been frustrated by poor funding, corruption, poor governance, unstable power supply, insufficient infrastructural facilities, and recently, the outbreak of COVID 19. The increasing level of joblessness, also known as unemployment amongst the youth or preferably the young adults, has caused a high level of restiveness among them.

Societies frown at youth restiveness, which is seen as an exhibition of unacceptable traits among youths and a dangerous display of aberrant behaviour (Igbo and Ikpa, 2013). Such behaviour leads to actions that deter development. A country with such aberrant youthful behaviour will experience many social, political, and economic problems. In Nigeria, this is evident in the frequent occurrences of violence and lawlessness, kidnappings, insurgency, and armed robbery (Egunjobi, 2021)

A thorough review of the literature showed that focus has been majorly on training programmes as a means of creating employment (Ajayi & Ademokun, 2010; Okoli & Anugwu, 2022; Wiklund and Shepherd, 2003 and Adelekan et al., 2018) there is a dearth of knowledge on digital entrepreneurship in relation to employment generation, and research in that area is lacking specifically on the youth population in Nigeria. This research therefore set to fill the missing link by focusing on the drive and motivation for digital entrepreneurship among youths. Thus, it set to appraise the impact of digital (ICT, e-commerce, and online training) entrepreneurship on youth employment. The study, therefore, addressed these research questions;

What is the effect of ICT on employment creation amongst the youth?

To what extent does e-commerce contribute to employment creation amongst the youth?

What is the effect of online programmes on employment creation amongst the youth?

Also, the null hypotheses of no significant relationship between one, ICT and employment creation, two, e-commerce and employment creation and three, online programmes and employment creation are tested in the study.

This research is planned in the following order: Introduction, literature review and theoretical framework, methodology, discussion of results, summary, conclusion, and recommendations.

2.0. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship involves a vigorous advancement of design, idea, and change which requires the creation and execution of new vision and resolutions. Starting up your own business is perhaps the simplest and most common pattern of entrepreneurship (Esuh, 2011; Adelekan and Dansu, 2016). Hence, an entrepreneur is a person who has some resources and is expected to manage the limited resources of the business and make it a profitable venture (Akanwa and Agu, 2005).

2.2 Digital Entrepreneurship

Digital technology is the enabler of creating new business ventures using technology for business operations, which can be done using various digital tools (Von, Recker and Davidson, 2018; Kuester, Konya-Baumbach and Schuhmacher, 2018). Big or small firms can use digital technology to improve business activities (Rosenbaum and Cronin, 2013). However, this research work emphasises small business firms, such as the ones used in ICT, for example, the internet, installing software and storage devices (Vasilchenko and Morrish, 2011) and social computing websites (Oestreicher-Singer and Zalmanson, 2013).

2.3 Unemployment

The condition of being jobless or without a job is called unemployment. This implies that the unemployed are those who desire to be employed but do not have a job. (Olubukola, 2013). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) describes those who have no job or have looked for a job for four weeks and cannot get one as being unemployed.

Presently, unemployment has become one of the critical issues that need serious attention in developing nations. Statistically, the increasing percentage of youth unemployment in Nigeria is

alarming; youth unemployment averaged 25.87% between 2014 and 2020. Recording the highest rate of 53.40% in the fourth quarter of 2020. During this period, youth unemployment was 38.5% (NBS, 2020). As collaborated by Egunjobi (2021) and Olubukola (2013), youth unemployment has made many youths, regardless of their educational level or skill, idle with no hope of getting a job. This is a major concern to policymakers.

2.4. ***Digital Technology Usage by Entrepreneurs in Developing Economies***

The application of technology by entrepreneurs depends on the firm's size and the nature of goods and services. Such applications of technology include; the internet (wifi), storage devices (lash drive, memory cards), installing software devices, business advertisement and consultancy, and social computing websites (Rosenbaum and Cronin, 2013). Digital entrepreneurship is recent in emerging markets and thus requires research and in-depth study of these digital enterprises. However, the use of ICT and training in ICT is paramount to the success of digital entrepreneurship.

For entrepreneurs to successfully apply digital technology in their businesses, they must have comprehensive information technology skills, consciously plan and make technology work, and possess a business system thinking ability (Cragg and Herring, 2012). Reuber and Fische (2011) believed that successfully engaging the use of technology as an entrepreneur, requires the ability to identify information communication and technology resources that can enable an internet-based market, can use the web, and know how to use the internet to gather information about the business customers and suppliers. Nevertheless, the use of technology by entrepreneurs must be done with caution and with a conscious mind to avoid misuse. Entrepreneurs are further employed to take advantage of ICT in a positive way (Ashurst, Cragg and Herring, 2012). Also, in terms of market orientation, there should be market enlightenment programmes for entrepreneurs to discover new technology, understand the usage of such new technology towards profitability, mastery of the technology and put the consumers into consideration in the use of this new technology (Hair et al., 2012).

2.6 ***Entrepreneurship Development in Nigeria***

Previously, business owners were known for modest education and managerial experience. However, companies became more successful through consistency in business and networking/partnering with others. They progressed from petty business owners to product

distributors of various manufacturing companies owned by foreigners. Nowadays, we have more young entrepreneurs handling businesses with better skills and have “found their place” in the world of business (Inegbenebor & Ogunrin, 2011).

Entrepreneurship in Nigeria can be divided into two categories, as opined by Attah et al., (2014). These are the early category and the current category. This study opined that entrepreneurs grouped in the earlier category were business owners whose supply was more than demand in the society and usually started up with meagre capital sourced from personal savings. Hence the excesses produced were majorly traded in a sort of trade by barter system.

The introduction of modern entrepreneurship commenced with the advent of the British colony and the introduction of formal learning. Britain brought in goods while Nigerians became the middlemen. Hence, the current category of entrepreneurs is major retailers.

Historically, the people in the South-East region of Nigeria, popularly known as the "Ibos," were considered the oldest entreprenuers. Their business activities date back to when items such as cowries and gold were used as a medium of exchange before the emergence of money and the modern entrepreneur category. Subsequently, Nigerians relied on their talents and gifts to start local businesses and crafts, which had become a source of income, especially for the poor and low-income earners (Osalor, 2008).

Initially, Nigeria’s expectation of building a strong economy did not depend on entrepreneurs. However, ex-president Obasanjo’s policy to accelerate development through entrepreneurship education and a business arena conducive to the business era amplified the focus on entrepreneurs as nation builders. This necessitated the need to enhance, conduct research, allow the required intermediations, and make effective policies and reforms to attain a feasible sustained growth. Instead of this, various programmes were initiated to encourage entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Such programmes included the Micro, Small, and Medium-scale Enterprise (MSME), an initiative by the government to give out loans to small and medium business owners to boost their businesses. Some other efforts concurrently included the establishment of National Enterprise Development Programme (NDEP) and Youth Enterprise with Innovation programme (YouWiN).

A report of the survey conducted by MSMEs at the national level in 2013 noted that the increasing significance of MSMEs in the growth and advancement of the economy, especially concerning generating employment, is indisputable, especially as SMEs are a combination of

many important factors that can aid development in the economy. In the Nigerian context, there is the dominance of SMEs because of the unending rise in unemployment rate and poverty ravaging Nigeria (Egunjobi, 2013). Also, the dominance of establishment of SMEs in Nigeria is a result of the increasing scourge of poverty and unemployment because the active population could not get the so-called “white-collar jobs." Also, the 2010 Survey report on SMEs in Nigeria predicted that SMEs could provide more employment, increase export remunerations and per capita income, and, in the long run, has the potential to stimulate economic prosperity and GDP growth (NBS, 2020).

2.7 Theoretical Framework

2.7.1 The Schumpeter/Entrepreneurial Effect

Schumpeter was one of the first scholars who propounded theories about entrepreneurship. His foundation theories about entrepreneurship were denoted as Mark 1 and Mark 11. Mark 1 explained that changes in technology and innovation originated from entrepreneurs or the "wild spirit," which is the interpretation of the German word "Unternehmergeist." Thus, entrepreneurs were the main factor in attaining development since their creative and innovative ideas and skills contributed immensely to economic prosperity in the long run. Schumpeter also opined that large companies were key drivers of a country’s economy because these businesses invested huge amounts into research and development to make the business thrive in terms of products, technology, and customer satisfaction.

Thus, the activities embarked upon by any government to reduce unemployment through creation of entrepreneurial businesses are called the "Schumpeter effect" or the "pull effect" (Zubair and Olaolu, 2021). This had been proven in the studies conducted by Garofoli (1994) and Andretsch and Fritsch (1994), wherein unemployment harmed new firm startups. When new businesses are created, unemployment is reduced since unemployment is prevalent when people are not involved in entrepreneurial activities, leading to a reduction in investment (Zubair and Olaolu, 2021).

2.8 Empirical Review

Conducting a personality test using open-ended interviews, Berglund and Wennberg (2006) researched if there exists creativity spirit of entrepreneurship between business and engineering students. Findings revealed that a higher creative spirit was possessed by business students who

were more theoretical and market focused as against engineering students who were more focused on application traits. Studies that also discovered a direct relationship between education and establishment of business include Wiklund and Shepherd (2003) and Luthje and Frank (2002).

Ogah et al., (2013) assessed free enterprise participation amongst students by administering a planned survey to students with individual businesses regardless of size. Results showed that family knowledge and usual capability could not decide students' free enterprise participation. The major determinants were the desire for money, self-dependence and to be employers of labour.

Examining the impact of participating in entrepreneurial development programmes on the performance of SMEs in Nigeria, Aribaba-Foluso, (2013) made use of simple regression and correlation techniques. Findings showed that participating in entrepreneurial development programmes directly influenced the performance of SMEs.
Again, Aribaba et al., (2011) assessed the influence of innovative and technical entrepreneurial training on the performance of SMEs. The techniques used in analysing data collected in Nigeria are ANOVA, t-test, and ordinary least squares. Findings showed that the design of entrepreneurial programmes significantly influenced SMEs' growth rate and operations. It was recommended by the study that the government should sponsor development programmes that are entrepreneurship inclined to relieve the burden of unemployment.

Analysing the cost-benefit of entrepreneurship programmes using descriptive and simple percentages, study discovered that entrepreneurship development programmes positively influenced employment and capital formation. Investment in entrepreneurship development programmes was recommended among other recommendations for the promotion of entrepreneurship in Nigeria as supported by the research done by Khursheed, (2012)

Also, Adelekan et al., (2018) analysed the influence of entrepreneurship programmes on economic growth of Lagos state. The study used simple percentages, frequencies, and multiple regression on data collected from 377 respondents. The study revealed a significant relationship between Lagos state's government strategies and economic growth. It recommended that policies

be made to ensure that entrepreneurship takes place as the driving force needed to achieve development. Okoli & Anugwu (2022) study examined the relationship between entrepreneurship training and business growth using primary and secondary data. The study revealed that entrepreneurship training positively impacted the business growth of SMEs in Southwest Nigeria and recommended that managers, SME owners, and government develop and invest in entrepreneurship training programmes to create jobs required for economic prosperity and sustainability.

Furthermore, the study to ascertain the effect of entrepreneurship programme and availability of credit was conducted by Ajayi & Ademokun (2010). Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and the study discovered that entrepreneurship training inspires business ideas and creativity which would not only create jobs but also increase wealth among the educated youths. The study recommended that attention should be given to training to sharpen the concerned individuals' skills.

Adamu et al., (2017) assessed digital entrepreneurship to reduce joblessness amongst higher institution graduates; this research work noted a deficiency in digital expertise and learning syllabus. Hence, suggested that political regimes should make provision for establishing digital free enterprise at all stages of learning to inspire graduates to take advantage of these opportunities.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1. Study Area

The study centres on Lagos State, Nigeria's commercial capital, which was once the capital of Nigeria and has the highest percentage of youths in Nigeria (NBS, 2013). The study was limited to businesses owned/managed by youths at the University of Lagos because of COVID 19 restrictions.

The University of Lagos, which prides itself as the University of First Choice based on the preferences of admission seekers in Nigeria, offers undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, distance learning, primary and secondary education, and other academic programmes. It is a beehive of business and educational activities. It can be referred to as a town due to the many

students, staff, dependents, and business staff who live on and off-campus. It has tourist attractions, religious centres, entertainment venues, and business outfits.

3.2. Data Collection and Technique

The study used a descriptive kind of design to conduct the research. The survey sample comprised 133 respondents determined using Yaro Yammane's formula, wherein the population consists of 200 shop operators/business owners in the University of Lagos who are also youths.

Descriptive statistics and multiple regression were used to analyse the data collected effectively.

Model is specified in its explicit form;

EC = f (ICT, ECOM, OTP) ----------3.1

$EC = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ICT + \beta_2 ECOM + \beta_3 OTP + \mu$ --------- 3.2

Where:
EC – employment creation
ICT – information and communication technology
ECOM – e-commerce
OTP – online training programme
$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2$ & β_3, are the parameters of the model while μ is the stochastic error term.

Apriori expectation is that β_1, β_2 & $\beta_3 > 0$

For data collection, a self-administered structured questionnaire was used. The first section of the questionnaire focused on demographic data, while the second section focused on the issues/questions raised by the study.

4.0. PRESENTATION OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 4.1: Demography Information

Demography Information	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	55	50
Female	55	50
Total	110	100
Age		
16-20	19	17.3
21-30	44	40
31-40	47	42.7
Total	110	100

Status		
Shop owner	90	81.8
Joint owner	5	4.5
Manager	15	13.6
Total	110	100
Monthly Income		
N20,000 - N30,000	96	87.3
N31,000-N40,000 or more	14	12.7
Total	110	100
Nature of business		
Printing and photocopying-related businesses	68	61.8
Eateries	10	9.1
Stationeries	14	12.7
Phone Accessories	14	12.7
Others	4	3.6
Total	110	100

Source: Author's Computation

In table 4.1. 50% respondents analysed in the study were males, and 50% were females. Coincidentally, the same number of females and males were respondents. Regarding age, 17.3% of the respondents were between ages 16 and 20, 40% were between 21 and 30, and 42.7% were between ages 31 and 40.

81.8% were shop owners, 4.5% were joint owners, and 13.6% were managers. On the monthly income earned, 87.3% earned incomes between N20,000 and N30,000, while 12.7% earned revenues between N31,000 – N40,000 and above.

On the nature of business, 61.8% were in printing and photocopying related businesses, 9.1% were involved in eatery business, 12.7% were engaged in the stationery business, and 12.7% were in phone accessories businesses. In comparison, 3.6% were involved in other enterprises not identified.

Analysis of Responses

The 5 Likert-scale was used; the code used is 1 for strongly disagree (S.D.); 2 for disagree (D); for moderately agree (M.A.); 4 for agree (A); 5 for strongly agree (S.A.)

A mean score of 5 to 4.5 implies "strongly agree"; a mean score of 4.4 to 3.5 implies "agree", a mean score of 3.4 to 2.5 implies "neutral", a mean score of 2.4 to 1.5 implies "disagree", and a mean score of 1.4 implies "strongly disagree".

Table 4.2: The effect of ICT on employment creation among youths

Descriptive Statistics		

Questions	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
The introduction of social media platforms in places of work has created employment opportunities for youth with ICT competence	110	4.51	0.60
Foreign organisations like Facebook and Twitter often made use of ICT hubs to train youths to make them more employable	110	4.6	0.70
Youths have attracted more job opportunities in the area of customer services as a result of their expertise on social media platforms	110	3.37	1.51
The spread of ICT amongst the youths had largely promoted online content and creativity as well as created more employment opportunities for the youths	110	4.64	0.69
The adoption of Google AdSense clicks which has created an avenue for youths to monetise their contents and thereby earning income for the youth and at the same time, taking them away from the streets	110	3.99	0.80
The adoption of ICTs in business has largely improved greater connectivity in business and employment creation.	110	3.94	0.95
ICT has helped to boost retail opportunities in university campuses such as Unilag in the area of Printing and Photocopy, Computer Operations, Cyber cafés, and Airtime sales.	110	4.27	0.77
Average		**4.188571**	

Source: Author's Computation

Table 4.2 above, displayed the mean scores of 4.51, 4.6, 3.37, 4.64, 3.99, 3.94 and 4.7 showing the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements. The introduction of social media platform in work places in places of work has created employment opportunities for youth with ICT competence; Foreign organisations like Facebook and Twitter often made use of ICT hubs to train youths in order to make them more employable; Youths have attracted more job opportunities in the area of customer services as a result of their expertise on social media platforms; The spread of ICT amongst the youths had largely promoted online content and creativity as well as created more employment opportunities for the youths; The adoption of Google AdSense clicks which has created an avenue for youths to monetise their contents and thereby earning income for the youth and at the same time, taking them away from the streets; The adoption of ICTs in business had largely improved greater connectivity in business and employment creation and ICT had helped to boost retail opportunities in university campuses such as Unilag in the area of Printing and Photocopy, Computer Operations, Cyber café and Airtime sales.

The overall mean score of 4.19 showed that the respondents agreed that ICT has greatly contributed to employment creation.

Table 4.3 Influence of e-commerce on employment creation among youths

Descriptive Statistics		

Questions	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
E-commerce trading has introduced the opportunity to further explore the markets thereby, creating more employment.	110	4.17	0.72
Businesses are becoming more innovative with electronic products and services.	110	3.32	1.40
The adoption of e-commerce has led to an increased customer base and more employment creation.	110	4.51	0.79
The prevalence of e-commerce among the youths has led to the creation of lots of e-payments platforms and a reduction in youth restiveness.	110	3.93	0.90
E-commerce has enhanced interaction between consumers and sellers through online communication.	110	2.92	1.53
E-commerce has provided opportunities for business owners to attend online training programmes and create employment.	110	4.42	0.75
Average		**3.878333**	

Source: Author's Computation

Table 4.3 displayed a mean value of 4.17, which showed the respondents believe E-commerce trading has introduced the opportunity to further explore the markets thereby, creating more employment. This is in accordance with the findings of Adamu (2017). The mean score of 3.32 showed the respondents were neutral in their choice on the statement that businesses were becoming more innovative with electronic products and services. The mean values of 4.51 and 3.93 implies the respondents agreed that the adoption of e-commerce had led to an increased level of customer base and more employment created and also that the prevalence of e-commerce among the youths had led to the creation of lots of e-payments platforms and a reduction in youth restiveness. The mean score of 4.42 showed that the respondents agreed that E-commerce had created opportunities for business owners to attend online training programmes and created employment.

The overall mean score of 3.88 showed that the respondents agreed that E-commerce helped reduce the unemployment rate and youth restiveness.

Table 4.4. The effect of an online training programme on employment creation and youth restiveness

Descriptive Statistics			
Questions	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
E-learning offers a more efficient way of job delivery, accessibility, and time management	110	4.84	0.479
The adoption of online training reduces youth restiveness.	110	4.28	0.879
E-Learning/training largely enhanced the chances of getting employed	110	3.75	0.88
E-learning amongst youths is largely associated with convenience and flexibility of	110	4.73	0.573

employment.			
Average		4.4	

Source: Author's Computation

Table 4.4 depicted mean scores of 4.84, 4.28, 3.72, and 4.73 showing the respondents either agree or strongly agree with the following statements, respectively; The adoption of digital entrepreneurship training can largely be associated with improved technical skills, efficiency, and time management; ICT training had brought about a reduction in youth restiveness and generated employment; the adoption of E-learning platforms had created lots of employment opportunities for the youths. This was also confirmed by the study of Aribaba-Folusho (2013). Online training programmes have enhanced the skill level of the people, reduced youth restiveness, and made the youths more employable. In addition, the ICT adoption enabled corporate workers to work from home during the stay-at-home order of Covid-19, indirectly reducing the risk of being unemployed.

The overall mean score of 4.4 showed that the respondents agreed that online training helped reduce the unemployment rate and youth restiveness.

4.1.2 Hypothesis Testing

H_0: There is no significant relationship between digital entrepreneurship and employment creation.

Table 4.5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. The error in the Estimate
1	.943[a]	.889	.886	.314

Predictors: (Constant), Online_Training_Prog, E-Commerce, ICT

Table 4.6: Regression Results

Model		Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.662	.226		2.932	.004
	I.T.	-.152	.050	-.126	-3.041	.001
	E-Commerce	.137	.037	.226	3.752	.000
	OnlineTraining_Prog (OTP)	.912	.085	.865	10.768	.000

Table 4.7: ANOVA RESULT

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	83.416	3	27.805	282.095	.000[b]
	Residual	10.448	106	.099		
	Total	93.864	109			

a. Dependent Variable: Employment Creation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Online-Training Prog, E-commerce, ICT

The regression result in table 4.6 above indicated significant relationship between ICT contributions and employment creation in Lagos state. Also, there existed a significant direct influence of e-commerce on employment creation in Lagos state at a 5% significance level. Furthermore, the result showed that online training significantly influenced deployment creation in Lagos state.

The coefficient of determination (R-squared) is about 89% in table 4.5; this implies the degree of variation in E.C. explained by independent variables is up to 89%. This is a good fit. The adjusted coefficient of determination with a value of about 87% revealed that even when degrees of freedom are adjusted or other necessary but excluded explanatory variables are included in the model, the dependent variable (E.C.) would still be explained up to a magnitude of about 87% which is still very acceptable and also a good fit. The F statistics result depicts a significant joint effect of the explanatory variables on employment creation at a 5% significance level.

4.2 Discussion of findings

The results revealed that ICTs significantly impacted employment creation in Lagos state. ICTS has contributed to business development. For instance, ICTs have promoted greater connectivity in business, made the youth more employable, and enhanced their chances of trading and investing profitably online even with little capital. It has helped spread business activities in reaching customers far and wide. However the results portrayed a negative relationship, this could be attributed to the creation of illegal business/ wealth from “yahoo”, betting games and the likes prevalent amongst youths in Nigeria.

The result of the study had also shown that e-commerce has significantly contributed to employment creation as it has made businesses more innovative, interactive, and penetrating new markets. As e-commerce continues to develop, it is expected that more new jobs will be generated, directly and indirectly, leading to increased income, thus curbing curb youth restiveness.

It has also been established that online training programmes have made significant contributions to employment creation. Many have acquired lots of skills and training via online programmes and schools at home and abroad, which has helped reduce the high-rate unemployment especially as COVID -19 has increased the business activities carried out online.

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary

Analysis of respondents showed a gender balance, youths earning income between N20,000 - N30,000 monthly, and are majorly involved in printing and photocopy-related businesses (business centres). The result showed a significant relationship between ICT, online training programmes, E-Commerce, and employment creation. This aligns with the findings from the works of Adamu et al, (2017) which justified the need for digital training as it reduces joblessness amongst higher institution graduates and also conforms with the descriptive statistics that ICT, online training programmes, and E-Commerce has generated employment opportunities amongst youths in Lagos state.

5.2 Conclusion

With the global awareness of the enormous opportunities of social media and outbreak of COVID 19, it is obvious that digital entrepreneurship will eventually dominate the business environment. Given the enormous potential of the youth population in Nigeria and the belief that social media is a "comfort zone" for the youth, Nigeria needs to embrace digital entrepreneurship more than hitherto as a powerful tool in generating employment and curbing youth restiveness.

5.3 Recommendations

i. Inclusion of ICT education in schools curriculum should be emphasised, and training centres for ICT training should be established. This is required so that the economic potentials inherent in digital entrepreneurship will be properly harnessed and tapped by youths.

ii. E-commerce should be encouraged by ensuring the provision of stable and cheaper telecommunication networks with enhanced interconnectivity and the need to facilitate the ease of making payments and transactions online.

iii. Government should encourage online programmes by regulating the charges of the mobile network providers to ensure connectivity at all times and that the prices of data are affordable for

the people, especially those who need data to assess online programmes. Government can also set up different training platforms for e-learning at subsidised rates or facilitate private sector social cooperate responsibility in this area.

Limitations and future opportunities.

This research is limited in its sample size and restricted to youths and the University of Lagos. Further research could focus on a larger sample size and location. Focus can be extended to the impact of youth restiveness on economic progress and development.

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