



FACTORS AFFECTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE FOOD MARKETERS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACTS

The study assessed the factors affecting entrepreneurship development among Food Marketers in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria. One hundred and ten respondents were randomly selected in four markets in Ilorin. The data was analyzed using frequency count, percentage, mean and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The result reveals that mean age of the respondents was 30.5 years and about 58.2% were female. Record keeping skills (mean score =2.42) was the highest ranked entrepreneurial information needs of the respondents while lack of start-up capital (mean score =2.40) was the most severe factor affecting entrepreneurial activities of food marketers. There is a weak positive significant relationship between the entrepreneurial information needs and factors affecting entrepreneurial development of the respondents ($r=0.407$, $p=0.0001$). The study recommends that there should be provision of training on entrepreneurial skills based on the identified areas of needs and there should be provision of credit facilities to the food marketers as these will enhance their productivity.

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurial Development, Factors, Information Needs, Food Marketers, Ilorin Metropolis.

INTRODUCTION

An entrepreneur is a person who starts a business, or businesses, taking on financial risk in the hope of profit. Entrepreneurship is an activity that involves discovering, evaluating and exploiting opportunities in order to introduce products, services, methods, processes, and new materials (Sabuhilaki, 2016). Entrepreneurship is the application of energy for initiating and building an enterprise (Mishra, El-Osta & Shaik 2010). The term entrepreneurship is used to describe the dynamic process of creating incremental wealth (Shailesh, Gyanendra & Yadav 2013). Entrepreneurship is actually concerned with creating opportunities and meeting the needs of individuals or customers. Food marketer is a person that deals with food in the market. Food marketers promotes or sells food stuffs or food products in the market. Food marketers makes food available to the consumers in the market.

According to Owoade, (2014) entrepreneurs through their active participation in the food and agricultural sector would strongly impacts food security, industrialization efforts, quality of life, economic growth, and political stability and, to a certain extent, a nation's position in international relations and trade.

Development of entrepreneurship skills of food marketers will enhance their productivity, open up new business opportunities, improve the Nigerian economy and reduce the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria. This is important because agriculture is an effective strategy or tool to alleviate hunger and poverty as it has huge and diverse potentials that can not only transform the national economy but also immensely reduce the high rate of unemployment in the country (Amungwa & Baye, 2014). Provision of entrepreneurial skills and financial opportunities to farmers and food marketers in Nigeria will help develop the Nigerian economy as sustainable development can only be achieved in Nigeria if there is food and nutritional security in the country.

According to Jancikova (2004), the factors affecting entrepreneurial activities are persistence factor, organizational factor, finance, education, personal autonomy, previous experience, creativity, sense of accomplishment and internal control. Also, poor management practices, low entrepreneurial skills, lack of relevant educational background and business exposure are the constraints of agricultural entrepreneurship in Nigeria (Chibundu, 2006). Several studies have been conducted in Nigeria on entrepreneurship. Nwibo &

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Okorie (2013) examined the constraints to entrepreneurship among investors in South-east Nigeria and Kagbu (2018) also examined the constraints of women farmers' entrepreneurial development in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. However, there is dearth of information on the factors affecting entrepreneurial development among food marketers in Kwara State. This creates a great lacuna in knowledge and this is the gap this study seeks to fill. It was on this note that this study sought to determine the factors affecting the entrepreneurial development among the food marketers in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

The specific objectives were to;

- (i) describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
- (ii) determine the entrepreneurial information needs of the respondents.
- (iii) identify the perceived factors affecting entrepreneurial development among the food marketers.

The Hypothesis of the study were stated in null form as:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial information needs and the factors affecting the entrepreneurial development of food marketers in Ilorin Metropolis.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria. Ilorin is the capital of Kwara State, Nigeria. Ilorin is the most populated city in Kwara State. A two-stage sampling procedure was used for the study. The first stage involved a random selection of our markets in Ilorin metropolis. The markets are Oja-oba market, Ipata market, Oja-tuntun market and Kulende market. The second stage involved a purposive selection of one hundred and ten respondents across the four markets. In Oja-oba market 30 respondents were selected, Ipata market 30 respondents were selected, in Oja-tuntun market 30 respondents were selected and in Kulende market 20 respondents were selected making a total of 110 respondents. To determine the entrepreneurial information needs of the respondents. Respondents were provided with the list of 16 possible entrepreneurial information need areas. A

three-point Likert-typed scale was used, scores were assigned as follows: Not Needed=1, Moderately Needed=2 and Highly Needed=3. To identify the factors affecting entrepreneurial development, respondents were provided with the list of 16 possible factors affecting entrepreneurial development. A three-point Likert-typed scale of Not a factor=1, Not serious=2, Serious=3 was used. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentage and mean score were used to analyse the findings of the study. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the hypothesis of the study. The SPSS statistical package 22 was used to analyse the data of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Socio-economic Characteristics

The result in Table 1 reveals that more than half (58.2%) of the respondents were female and about 41.8 % were male. This result indicates that both male and female are involved in food marketing. The average age of the respondents was 30.5 years. This denotes that the respondents were in economic active age bracket. This result is in contrast with the findings of Olowa and Olowa (2015) who reported that the average age of people in agri-business in Lagos State was 42.1 years. The result in Table 1 reveals that about 47.0 % of the respondents were single while about 40.0% were married. This indicated that higher percentage of the respondents does not have marital responsibility. The result in Table 1 reveals that about 40.9 % of the respondents had tertiary education. The average monthly income of the respondents was 50,136.13Naira. This indicates that food marketing is a viable means of livelihoods as the average monthly income of the respondents is above the new national minimum wage of 30,000 naira in Nigeria. This result is contrary to the findings of Kagbu (2018) who reported that average monthly income of women farmers in Nasarawa State, Nigeria was 17,396.62 Naira. The average years of experience of the respondents was 5.7 years. The result in Table 1 further reveals that about 30.0 % of the respondents were into meat and fish business and about 21.8 % were into beverages and packaged food business in the study area.

Table 1: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS (N = 110)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
1. Gender			
Male	46	41.8	
Female	64	58.2	
2. Age			30.5 years
≤20	3	2.7	
21-30	66	60.0	
31-40	34	31.0	
≥ 41	7	6.3	
3. Marital status			
Single	52	47.0	
Married	44	40.0	
Separated	8	7.3	
Widowed	5	4.5	
Divorced	1	0.91	
4. Educational Status			
Non-Formal	12	10.9	
Primary	15	13.6	
Secondary	38	34.5	
Tertiary	45	40.9	
5. Monthly Income (Naira)			50136.13 Naira
≥50,000	82	74.5	
≤50,000	28	25.5	
6. Years of experience			5.7 years
≤ 5	73	66.36	
5-10	25	22.73	
≥ 11	12	10.91	
7. Type of Food Marketing Enterprise			
Cooked food vendor			
Beverages/Package food vendor	14	12.7	
Meat/Fish seller	24	21.8	
Fruit seller	33	30.0	
Raw/uncooked food vendor	15	13.6	
Other	19	17.4	
	5	4.5	

Entrepreneurial Information Needs

The result in Table 2 reveals that the highest ranked entrepreneurial information needs of the respondents was record keeping skills (mean score =2.42), the second ranked entrepreneurial information needs was risk taking skills (mean score =2.32), The third ranked entrepreneurial information needs was time management skills (mean score =2.30), goal setting skills (mean score =2.28), decision making skills (mean score =2.22), product branding and packaging skills (mean score =2.21), customer relation skills (mean

score =2.20), business plan, proposal writing and marketing skills (mean score = 2.17), value addition initiative (mean score =2.11) and persuasive and persistent skills (mean score =2.03). This indicates that the food marketers required more information as there are gaps in their current knowledge on entrepreneurial skills. This result is in agreement with the findings of Owoade, Omogoye and Olaniyan (2011) who reported that the entrepreneurs needs motivation skills, credit acquisition skills, interpersonal relationship skills, social network and interaction skill.

Table 2: The Entrepreneurial Information Needs of the Respondents.

Entrepreneurial Information Needs	Mean	S.D	Rank	Remark
1. Goal setting skills	2.28**	0.608	4	Highly Needed
2. Risk taking skills	2.32**	0.651	2	Highly Needed
3. Efficiency and quality skills	1.98*	0.691	12	LowlyNeeded
4. Credit acquisition skills	1.94*	0.694	16	LowlyNeeded
5. customer relation skills	2.20**	0.727	7	Highly Needed
6. Record keeping skills	2.42**	0.721	1	Highly Needed
7. Time management skills	2.30**	0.761	3	Highly Needed
8. Decision making skills	2.22**	0.645	5	Highly Needed
9. Persuasive and persistent skills	2.03**	0.729	11	Highly Needed
10. Networking skills	1.97*	0.723	13	LowlyNeeded
11. Business plan/proposal writing	2.17**	0.702	8	Highly Needed
12. Product packaging/branding skills	2.21**	0.679	6	Highly Needed
13.Information and Communication Technology skills	1.95*	0.613	15	LowlyNeeded
14. Marketing skills	2.17**	0.734	8	Highly Needed
15. Business registration information	1.97*	0.715	14	LowlyNeeded
16.Value addition initiatives	2.11**	0.726	10	Highly Needed

Note: Likert scale - Not Needed=1, Moderately Needed=2, Highly Needed=3. Decision rule: $(1+2+3=6/3=2.0)$. Mean score ≥ 2.00 = Highly Needed; ≤ 2.00 = Lowly Needed.

The Factors Affecting Entrepreneurial Development of Food Marketers

The result in Table 3 reveals that the most severe factor affecting entrepreneurial activities among food marketers was lack of startup capital (mean score =2.40), the second ranked factor affecting entrepreneurial activities was poor attitude of the society to food marketers (mean score =2.34), ranked third was cumbersome procedure for credit acquisition (mean score =2.21), long distance to the rural farms and markets (mean score =2.20) and lack of labour (mean

score =2.17). This result reveals that food marketers were constrained by poor infrastructures, lack of market opportunity, lack of access to finance and enabling environment and managerial skills. These factors indicated that there are enormous challenges facing food marketers. This result is in agreement with the findings of Olowa and Olowa (2015) who reported that the factors affecting entrepreneurial activities are economic, social, cultural, marketing and training factors.

Table 3: The Perceived Factors affecting Entrepreneurial Development

Factors	Mean	S D	Rank	Remark
1.Lack of start-up capital	2.40**	0.726	1	Highly Severe
2.Poor infrastructural facilities	2.15**	0.715	6	Highly Severe
3.Unavailability of machine /equipment	1.96*	0.735	14	Less Severe
4.Business registration problem	1.99*	0.711	13	Less Severe
5.High cost of rents/inputs	2.10**	0.647	8	Highly Severe
6.Low patronage of locally made good	2.03**	0.723	10	Highly Severe
7. Political instability/civil interest	1.93*	0.646	16	Less Severe
8. Lack of adequate information	2.10**	0.805	8	Highly Severe
9. Family commitment	2.01**	0.677	11	Highly Severe
10.Poor family background	1.95*	0.683	15	Less Severe
11.Inadequate experience and exposure entrepreneurial activities	2.00**	0.691	12	Highly Severe
12.Cumbersome procedure for credit facilities	2.21**	0.664	3	Highly Severe
13. Scarcity of labour	2.17**	0.709	5	Highly Severe
14. High cost of labour	2.11**	0.729	7	Highly Severe
15. Long distance to rural farms and markets	2.20**	0.734	4	Highly Severe
16. Poor attitude of the society toward food marketers	2.34**	0.679	2	Highly Severe

Note: Likert-typed scale of Not a factor=1, Not serious=2, Serious=3, Decision rule: $(1+2+3=6/3=2.0)$. Mean score ≥ 2.00 = Highly Severe Factor; ≤ 2.00 = Less Severe Factor*.**

TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS:

H₀1: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial information needs and the factors affecting the entrepreneurial development of food marketers in Ilorin Metropolis.

The result in Table 4 reveals that there is a weak positive significant relationship between the

entrepreneurial information needs and factors affecting entrepreneurial development ($r = 0.470$, $p=0.001$) at 1% level of significance. This denotes that the higher the entrepreneurial information needs, the higher the factors affecting entrepreneurial activities of the marketers. This further indicates that the higher the severity of the factors affecting entrepreneurial activities, the more the

food marketers would seek more information on their entrepreneurial activities. The implication of the weak positive correlation is that as one variable increases,

there is a lower likelihood of an increase in the second variable.

Table 4: The Result of Correlation of Entrepreneurial Information needs and the Factors affecting the Entrepreneurial Development of Food Marketers

	Factors affecting Entrepreneurial Development	Entrepreneurial information Needs
Entrepreneurial information Needs	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	1 0.470** 0.000 110
Factors affecting Entrepreneurial Development	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	0.470** 0.000 110

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

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, the study concluded that the average age of the respondents was 30.5 years, the average monthly income of the respondents was 50,136.13 Naira, the highest ranked entrepreneurial information need was record keeping skills and lack of start-up capital was the most severe factor affecting entrepreneurial development among the food marketers.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to develop entrepreneurial capacity of the food marketers in Nigeria, this study recommends that there should be provision of training on entrepreneurial skills based on the identified areas of needs and there should be provision of credit facilities to the food marketers as this will enhance their productivity.

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