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Entrepreneurship Education for Self-Reliance: A Study of Library and Information Science Graduates in Kano State

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Abstract

The study investigates entrepreneurship education for self-reliance: a study of library and information science graduates in Kano State. The study used a quantitative methodology using a cross-sectional survey design to collect data from the respondents. Seven research questions were formulated. The population of the study consists of one thousand and three (1003) graduates of library and information science who graduated in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 sessions from Bayero University, Kano and Northwest University, Kano, respectively. Two hundred and seventy-eight (278) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents, out of which two hundred and forty-eight (248) were filled, returned and found useful. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The study found that the respondents have high levels of entrepreneurial skills but have low levels of perception and readiness, as well as low levels of utilisation of entrepreneurial skills and self-reliance. The finding further revealed that a statistically significant relationship exists between the perception of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities. The finding revealed that a statistically significant relationship exists between the readiness of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities. The study concludes that the graduates of library and information science acquired the necessary entrepreneurial skills, but they are not utilising it for self-reliance. The study recommends that the government should provide a favourable business environment so that the graduates of library and information science can engage in entrepreneurship ventures for self-reliance among others.

Keywords

Entrepreneurship education, self-reliance, LIS graduates

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Introduction

Nigeria's rising unemployment rate, particularly among graduates, is becoming unmanageable. Even though the country is one of the major producers of crude oil, the majority of its youth are unemployed. Unemployment remains the main social problem impeding development in the country. This is seeing teeming unemployed youths roaming nooks and crannies on our streets. It is attested by the National Bureau of Statistics (2024) that Nigeria's unemployment rate has risen for three consecutive quarters, reaching 5.3% in the first quarter of 2024. As a result, many young people have turned to illegal and other criminal acts out of desperation as unemployment worsens. Apart from the effect on the individual, youth unemployment is a major national security concern and has an impact on the economy as a whole, as it increases poverty and societal discontent.

Nigerian universities produce a significant number of graduates annually despite the already oversaturated labour market. According to the National Universities Commission (2024), there are two hundred and seventy-two (272) universities in Nigeria. The universities produce thousands of graduates yearly. The graduates roam the streets and occasionally pose a threat to the community. It is in this regard that the Federal Government of Nigeria gave an order to the Ministry of Education that beginning with the 2007–2008 sessions, to make entrepreneurship education a required course for all students. The goal of entrepreneurship education is to prepare students of tertiary institutions with entrepreneurial abilities, mindsets, and skills they need to be job creators, minimise poverty and advance the country's industrial, technological, and economic development (Magaji, 2019). It is impossible to overestimate the significance of entrepreneurial education given the favourable social and economic impacts of entrepreneurship. It educates people on how to come up with ideas, solve issues, and turn innovative concepts into feasible business strategies. It also fosters creativity and helps people see market opportunities.

The graduates of library and information science in Nigeria were not left out in this giant development, as courses relevant to entrepreneurship are taught to the students in their educational programs. The graduates of library and information science acquired skills that could help them to be self-reliant and geared towards efficient productivity and permanent employability in an economy where the sequence of highly qualified graduates is chasing scarce jobs. It is in this regard that Musa (2019) argued that graduates in the field of library and information science have access to entrepreneurship opportunities. Additionally, according to Abdullahi et al. (2021), libraries and information science programs in the twenty-first century provide strategies for improving performance in a business environment.

The present economic situation has led to a high rate of unemployment among Nigerian graduates. The scenario becomes a challenge to the graduates, members of the community and government at large. The introduction of entrepreneurship education into the curriculum of higher learning intends to ameliorate the situation and bring a better life for the graduates. The role of entrepreneurship education in creating job opportunities for the graduates of library and information science cannot be over-emphasised. It equips graduates with a range of skills that enable them to become self-sufficient and start their businesses, advancing economic growth,

raising living standards, and capital optimisation. Despite the aforementioned, it is disheartening to observe that, regardless of the introduction of entrepreneurship education in library and information science, many graduates remain unemployed, and this points to the fact that the objective of the course has been defeated (Ezema & Ekenna, 2020). It is equally observed by the researchers that the graduates of library and information science are yet to embrace this new wave. It is in this regard that this study is undertaken to investigate the entrepreneurship education for self-reliance: a study of library and information science graduates in Kano State.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What types of entrepreneurial skills did the graduates of library and information science in tertiary institutions in Kano State acquire for self-reliance?
2. What is the perception of the graduates of library and information science in Kano State towards utilising entrepreneurship for self-reliance?
3. To what extent are the graduates of library and information science in tertiary institutions in Kano State ready to use entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance?
4. To what extent do the graduates of library and information science in tertiary institutions in Kano State utilise entrepreneurial opportunities for self-reliance?
5. What are the challenges militating against the use of entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance among the graduates of library and information science in tertiary institutions in Kano State?
6. What is the relationship between the perception of the graduates of library and information and utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in tertiary institutions in Kano State?
7. What is the relationship between the readiness of the graduates of library and information and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in tertiary institutions in Kano State?

Hypotheses

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between the readiness of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in the study area.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between the perception of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in the study area.

Methodology

The research method adapted for this study is the quantitative research approach using a cross-sectional survey design. The population of the study consists of one thousand three (1003) graduates of library and information science who graduated in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 sessions from Bayero University, Kano and Northwest University, Kano. The sample size is two hundred and seventy-eight (278) according to Research Advisers (2006). The sampling technique adapted for this study is a multi-stage sampling technique. In the initial stage, proportionate stratified sampling was used in selecting the required number of respondents from each university under study, while the convenience sampling technique was used to select the respondents of the study. The data collection instrument used for this study is a closed-ended

questionnaire. A Google Forms questionnaire was administered to the respondents in their respective WhatsApp groups and concurrently hard copies were also given to their class representatives for distribution to their members. This research analysed the data collected quantitatively using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics were adopted using percentage, mean, and standard deviation to describe or analyse the data, while for the inferential statistics, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was employed as a tool for testing hypotheses to determine the relationship between the study variables. Two hundred and seventy-eight (278) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents, out of which 248, which represent 89%, were filled, returned and found useful.

Findings

Table 1: Types of Entrepreneurial Skills acquired by LIS Graduates in Tertiary Institutions in Kano State for Self-reliance

S/N	Skills Acquired	Frequency	%
1	Indexing and abstracting skills	162	65%
2	Bibliography skills	173	70%
3	Cataloguing and classification skills	190	77%
4	Information search and retrieval skills	177	71%
5	Book publishing skills	138	56%
6	Desktop publishing skills	173	70%
7	Web designing skills	187	75%
8	Networking/internet services skills	170	69%
9	Information brokerage skills	213	86%
10	Digitization skills	168	68%
11	Database management skills	174	70%
12	Compilation of directory skills	137	55%
13	Book trading skills	189	76%

Respondents were asked to indicate the types of entrepreneurial skills they acquired during the LIS program in their institutions. Findings show that the majority of the respondents, 213 (86%) acquired information brokerage skills, followed by skills of cataloguing and classification 190 (77%), and 189 (76%) for book trading skills. In addition, the respondents possessed information search and retrieval skills with 177 (71%), while 173 (70%) for bibliography skills and desktop publishing skills, respectively. Moreover, 170 (69%) have networking/internet services skills, and 168 (68%) of the respondents possessed digitisation skills, whereas 162(65%) had indexing and abstracting skills, where a compilation of directories became the least skill acquired by the respondents, 137 (55%). The finding of the study supports that of Awurdi and Muhammad (2018), who revealed that library and information science students are equipped with entrepreneurship skills. This implies that the graduates of library and information science acquired various skills that will make to self-reliant

Table 2: Perception of LIS Graduates in Kano State towards Entrepreneurship

S/n	Items	D	UD	A	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Entrepreneurship in LIS is a welcome development	131 (53%)	0 (%)	117 (47%)	3.06	1.36	High
2	Entrepreneurship in LIS is a viable career option for me	165 (66%)	22 (9%)	61 (25%)	2.30	1.37	Low
3	Entrepreneurship in LIS encourages graduates to create jobs for self-reliance	85 (34.3%)	18 (7.3%)	145 (58.4%)	3.37	1.41	High
4	Entrepreneurship in LIS provides benefits to graduates	131 (52.8 %)	23 (9.3%)	94 (37.9%)	2.79	1.46	Low
5	Utilising job opportunities in LIS is capital-intensive	63 (25.4%)	29 (11.7%)	156 (62.9%)	3.46	1.24	High
6	I like being an entrepreneur	163 (65.7%)	11 (4.4%)	74 (29.9%)	2.50	1.45	Low
7	Entrepreneurship in LIS is a sustainable path to self-reliance	137 (55.2%)	27 (10.9%)	84 (33.9%)	2.71	1.44	Low
8	I am afraid of taking a risk	171 (68.9)	39 (15.7%)	38 (15.4%)	2.16	1.13	Low
9	Entrepreneurship in LIS will add value to my life	163 (65.7%)	11 (4.4%)	74 (29.9%)	2.51	1.39	Low
10	Entrepreneurship in LIS yields more income than being employed	138 (55.6%)	31 (12.5%)	79 (31.9%)	2.65	1.40	Low

Weighted Mean= 2.75 Criterion mean= 3.00

The table shows computed responses about the perception of LIS graduates in Kano state towards entrepreneurship development. The result shows that the mean rating for the items ranged from 2.30 to 3.37, with an average mean of 2.75, which is less than the criterion mean of 3.00. The finding corroborates that of Emiri and Emojorho (2020), who investigated entrepreneurship development in university libraries in the South-South zone of Nigeria and found that LIS practitioners have a low perception of entrepreneurship development. The finding is contrary to the finding of Osisanwo and Afolabi (2023), which shows that undergraduates displayed a positive perception and attitude towards innovative courses in the library school curriculum. This implies that the perception of graduates of library and information science in Kano State is low.

Table 3: Readiness of Graduate of LIS towards the Use of Entrepreneurial Skills for Self-reliance

S/n	Items	D	UD	A	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	I have the skills and competencies to start my own business in LIS	83 (33.5%)	22 (8.9%)	143 (56.6%)	3.38	1.43	High
2	I have the intention to start a new venture in LIS career for self-reliance	146 (58.9%)	27 (10.9%)	75 (30.2%)	2.58	1.33	Low
3	I have some capital to start entrepreneurship for self-reliance	200 (80.6%)	19 (7.7%)	29 (11.7%)	1.88	1.02	Low
4	I have access to the resources needed to start my own in LIS	175 (70.57%)	33 (13.3%)	40 (16.13%)	2.12	1.19	Low
5	I am willing to take risks to achieve my entrepreneurial goal in LIS	189 (76.21%)	25 (10.08%)	34 (13.71%)	2.02	1.17	Low
6	I cannot imagine working for someone else.	77 (31.01%)	19 (7.7%)	152 (61.29%)	3.52	1.45	High
7	Having my business is very appealing & important to me	163 (65.73%)	14 (5.65%)	71 (28.62%)	2.41	1.49	Low
8	There is government support and assistance towards entrepreneurship for self-reliance	194 (78.23%)	25 (10.08%)	29 (11.69%)	2.06	1.12	Low
9	There is family support towards assisting me in engaging in entrepreneurship for self-reliance	132 (53.23%)	31 (12.5%)	85 (34.27%)	2.69	1.37	Low
10	There is community support towards assisting me in engaging in entrepreneurship for self-reliance	189 (76.21%)	23 (9.27%)	36 (14.52%)	2.01	1.15	Low
11	I am confident in my ability to overcome obstacles and challenges in starting my own business in LIS	131 (52.82%)	27 (10.89%)	90 (36.29%)	2.66	1.51	Low

Weighted Mean= 2.45 Criterion Mean= 3.00

The table shows computed responses about the readiness of LIS graduates in Kano State towards entrepreneurship development. The result shows that the mean rating for the items ranged from 1.88 to 3.52, with an average mean of 2.45, which is less than the criterion mean of 3.00. Except for items 1 and 6, which have a high level, all the items had a low level of readiness. The finding is substantiated by that of Idowu and Musbaudeen (2018), who found that the majority of the librarians have one or two LIS skills that can be used to become an entrepreneur, but they do not have the zeal for entrepreneurship. The finding is contrary to that of Osisanwo and Afolabi (2023), who found that the students have the readiness to venture into information brokerage and consultancy after graduation. This implies that there is a low level of readiness by the graduates of library and information science in Kano State toward applying entrepreneurial skills towards self-reliance.

Table 4: Extent of Utilisation of Entrepreneurial Skills by LIS Graduates in Kano State for Self-reliance

S/N	STATEMENT	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	To what extent do you utilise indexing and abstracting skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	164 (66.13%)	61 (24.60%)	23 (9.27%)	2.12	1.06	Low
2.	To what extent do you utilise bibliography skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	184 (74.20%)	29 (11.69%)	35 (14.11%)	1.95	1.18	Low
3.	To what extent do you utilise cataloguing and classification skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	194 (78.23%)	23 (9.27%)	31 (12.5%)	1.99	1.12	Low
4.	To what extent do you utilise information search and retrieval skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	203 (81.85%)	11 (4.44%)	34 (13.71%)	1.93	1.13	Low
5.	To what extent do you utilise book publishing skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	189 (76.21%)	33 (13.31%)	26 (10.48%)	2.04	1.11	Low
6.	To what extent do you utilise desktop publishing skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	202 (81.45%)	16 (6.45%)	30 (12.10%)	1.70	1.14	Low
7.	To what extent do you utilise web design skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	197 (79.44%)	16 (6.45%)	35 (14.11)	1.86	1.19	Low
8.	To what extent do you utilise networking skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	195 (78.63%)	13 (5.24%)	40 (16.13%)	1.79	1.27	Low
9.	To what extent do you utilise information brokerage skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	202 (81.45%)	14 (5.65%)	32 (12.90%)	1.75	1.14	Low
10.	To what extent do you utilise digitisation skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	195 (78.63%)	14 (5.65%)	39 (15.72%)	1.78	1.25	Low
11.	To what extent do you utilise database management skills to establish a business for self-reliance?	196 (73.38%)	30 (12.10%)	36 (14.52%)	2.05	1.18	Low
12.	To what extent do you utilise a	196	19	33	1.77	1.25	Low

compilation of directory skills to (79.03%) (7.66%) (13.31%)
establish a business for self-reliance?

13. To what extent do you engage in selling books for self-reliance	131	32	85	2.64	1.48	Low
	(52.82%)	(12.91%)	(34.27%)			

Weighted Mean= 1.95 Criterion mean= 3.00

The table shows computed responses about the extent of utilisation of entrepreneurial skills by LIS graduates in Kano State towards self-reliance. The result shows that the mean rating for the items ranged from 1.70 to 2.64, with an average mean of 1.97, which is less than the criterion mean of 3.00. The finding agrees with that of Chika (2019), which showed that the skills of entrepreneurship possessed are not adequately utilised by business education graduates. The result of the study further supports that of Emmanuel and Ezewoko (2021), which revealed that undergraduate students do not utilise entrepreneurship opportunities for self-employment and creation of wealth after graduation. This implies that there is a low level of utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities by the graduates of library and information science in Kano State towards self-reliance.

Table 5: Challenges militating against the Use of Entrepreneurial Skills for Self-reliance among the LIS Graduates in Kano State

S/N	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lack of entrepreneurial spirit	169	68.1%
2	Fear of failure	168	67.7%
3	Lack of self-confidence	175	70.6%
4	Perception of librarianship as a non-entrepreneurial field	175	70.6%
5	Limited job opportunities	174	70.2%
6	Unfavourable business environment	188	75.8%
7	Limited funding opportunities	162	67.3%
8	The problem of generating compelling business ideas	168	67.7%
9	Difficulty in commercialising professional skills	163	65.7%
10	Unwillingness or incompetence to market one's professional skills and competence	170	68.6%
11	Difficulties in finding customers	176	71.0%
12	Lack of knowledge on how to interact with entities that make businesses succeed	152	61.3%
13	Difficulty in getting external finance	173	69.8%
14	Bureaucracy (Difficulties in obtaining licenses and certificates)	159	64.1

Descriptive statistics were equally used in determining the challenges affecting the utilisation of entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance among the graduates of library and information science in Kano state. The table presents multiple factors militating against the use of entrepreneurial skills

for self-reliance. The result shows that all the responses were above the average; as such, they affect the utilisation of entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance. The finding supported that of Awurdi and Mohammed (2018) who identified a lack of supporting entities such as banks, suppliers, customers, venture capitalists, distributors and advertising agencies, a lack of entrepreneurial spirit and culture, confidence and determination fear of competition and failure and lack of adequate support, motivation and financial assistance from parents and guardians. This implies that the identified challenges can deprive the graduates of library and information science from the utilisation of entrepreneurship skills for self-reliance.

Table 6: Relationship between the Perception of the Graduates of Library and Information Science and the Utilisation of Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Variables	M	SD	r	p-value	Sig-level	Decision
Perception	27.54	8.49				
			.625	.000	.05	Accepted
Utilisation	25.40	11.05				

- Correlation is significant at a 0.05 level

Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used in examining the relationship between the perception of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in tertiary institutions in Kano State. Table 8, computed result ($r = .625$ $p = .000$, $p < .05$) revealed that a statistically significant relationship exists between the perception of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities. The finding corroborates the finding of Mari (2019), which shows that there is a relationship between a positive perception of LIS entrepreneurial courses and the academic performance of undergraduates in the library schools studied. The finding disagrees with that of Yusuf et al. (2021), who discovered that there is a significant difference in the perception of library and information science students on entrepreneurship education in universities in the North West zone of Nigeria. Based on the obtained result, the stated hypothesis was rejected. It implies that the perception of the graduates of LIS influences the utilisation of entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between the readiness of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in the study area.

Table 7: Relationship between the Readiness of the Graduates of Library and Information Science and the Utilisation of Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Variables	M	SD	r	p-value	Sig-level	Decision
Readiness	24.72	5.83				
			.465	.000	.05	Accepted
Utilisation	25.40	11.05				

Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used in examining the relationship between the readiness of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities in the study area. Table 9, computed result ($r = .465$, $p = .000$, $p < .05$) revealed that a statistically significant relationship exists between the readiness of the graduates of library and information science and the utilisation of entrepreneurial opportunities. Based on the obtained result, the stated hypothesis was rejected. It implies that the readiness of the graduates of LIS influences the utilisation of entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance.

Recommendations

1. The graduates of library and information science acquired various skills; as such, they should be encouraged to apply the skills acquired for self-reliance.
2. The departments of library and information science should identify and collaborate with successful library and information science entrepreneurs and invite them to share their experiences with the graduating students to raise their perception toward venturing into entrepreneurship.
3. The graduating students should be encouraged to write a realistic business plan and should be guided by the experts in the departments to develop their readiness toward entrepreneurship.
4. The government should provide a favourable business environment so that the graduates of library and information science can utilise entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance.
5. The departments of library and information science should encourage their students to be devoid of fairness, lack of confidence, and fear of failure, and develop an entrepreneurial spirit and self-confidence regarding entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

The study aimed to investigate the utilisation of entrepreneurship education for self-reliance by the graduates of library and information science in tertiary institutions in Kano State. The findings revealed that library and information science graduates in Kano state acquired various entrepreneurial skills. The study established that the graduates of library and information science in Kano State acquired the necessary entrepreneurial skills but did not adequately utilise the skills for self-reliance.

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