
Determinants of Entrepreneurial Intention among National Diploma Students of Polytechnics in South-Western Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out the determinants of entrepreneurial intention among National Diploma Students of Polytechnics in South-Western Nigeria. Specifically, the study addressed five research questions and five null hypotheses. The design for the study was descriptive survey design. The population of the study was made up of 5,932. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select five hundred and seventy seven (577) students from the fourteen polytechnics using Yaro Yamane's formula for determining sample size. A structured questionnaire, namely MVEIQ used for data collection were adapted from six different people. The MVEIQ comprises of 49 items and was meant to measure their agreement level. Results obtained in the pilot tested questionnaire revealed that the study's instrument was reliable. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS (Version 21). Findings of the study revealed that the five variables had influence on student's entrepreneurial intentions. All the hypotheses tested using multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance, revealed that there were significant contribution of the variables in the model. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Federal government in collaboration with State governments should provide scholarships/bursaries for performing students by way of encouragement. All barriers to entry should be taken into consideration by stakeholders in developing the entrepreneurial intentions of Polytechnics students.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship education, Entrepreneurial Intention.

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a process of bringing together creative and innovative ideas by combining them with management and organizational skills in order to combine labour, money and resources to meet an identified need and thereby create wealth for national prosperity. Entrepreneurship education in Nigeria, amongst other things, seeks to provide knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage student's entrepreneurial success in a variety of business ventures creation.

The move by the government through the Federal Ministry of Education to make entrepreneurship education one of the compulsory general studies for students in tertiary institutions across the country is a positive step in the right direction. This is to inculcate in youths the spirit of self-reliance. It is believed that this development will not only address the problem of unemployment and underemployment, but will also ensure an entrepreneurial human capacity for national development. It is the hope that with the introduction of entrepreneurial education in our tertiary institutions, polytechnics will be better repositioned to become centers of excellence with the equipping of technical laboratories at tertiary level. This will put Nigeria on the path to join communities of nations that have fought poverty through strengthening of small scale businesses (Ojeifo, 2012). Nabi & Holdeni (2008) asserted that the aim of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria tertiary institutions is to produce graduate entrepreneurs that define the interactions between the graduates as products of higher education institutions and their readiness to pursue their career as entrepreneurs.

Concept of Entrepreneurship Education

There has been growing interest in undertaking and intensifying actions to promote and support the ideas of entrepreneurship as an attractive alternative to wage unemployment among students around the globe (Gerald & Saleh, 2010). Nigeria as a nation is experiencing great economic challenges' that include unemployment of the teeming graduates, which presents the need for entrepreneurial skills to be acquired to curb this menace. (Nwankwo, 2011). Considerable attention is been devoted to understanding the determination of an individual's decision to engage in an entrepreneurial activity (Bird, 1988; Krueger & Sokol, 1982; Seibert & Lumpkin, 2010). According to Romer (1994), entrepreneurial activities are seen as the engine of a nation's long-term economic growth. Recent research literature has focused on the role of intention within the entrepreneurial process (Krueger, Carsrud, 1993). Intentions and the intentions formation process are therefore considered within the entrepreneurship literature. Intentions reflect the motivational factors that influence behaviour and are reliable indicators of how hard a person is willing to try and how much effort he/she makes to perform behaviour (Ajzen, 1991).

As a result, intentions are widely seen as powerful predictors of behaviour, especially in the case of purposive, planned, and goal-oriented behaviour Bagozzi and Baumgatner, (1989). Entrepreneurial behaviour is typical sees as a purposive behaviour directed toward specific entrepreneurial events such as the creation of a new company or new products. These intentions are seen as a centre in understanding the entrepreneurial intents developed from both rational and intuitive thinking, which in turn are affected by the entrepreneur social, political and economic context, and his/her perceived history, current personality, and abilities (Mar & Noboa, 2003).

Statement of the Problem

Despite these laudable objectives and the importance of entrepreneurship in providing employment opportunities for youths the unemployment is still rising significantly among

graduates in Nigeria (Ifedili, and Ofoegbu, 2011; Akpan, 2013). National Bureau of Statistics, as at 3rd quarter of 2018 stated that 68.7% of young people within the age bracket of 15-24 years were either underemployed or unemployed compared to 67.3% in the same period of 2017. This age group had the highest rate of unemployment amongst all the age groups considered. Similarly, this age group of 18-30years represents the youth population in Nigerian Polytechnics and they are the potential graduates for the labour market which the National Bureau of Statistics (2018) reported constituted 55.4% of unemployed and underemployed to 33.30% in the fourth quarter of 2020 from 27.10% in the second quarter of 2020. This phenomenon of unemployment could be caused by lack of entrepreneurial intention among the Nigerian youth, particularly among Polytechnics students. In the face of severe unemployment situation in Nigeria, the need to investigate the factors that determine entrepreneurial intention becomes imperative.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to find out the level to which certain factors determine entrepreneurial intention among National Diploma Students of Polytechnics in South-Western Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out whether attitude influences entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
2. Determine whether subjective norms influence entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
3. Ascertain whether perceived behavioural norms influence entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
4. Find out whether closer valuation influences entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
5. Find out whether social valuation influences entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics students.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated and they guided the study:

1. What are the attitude influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?
2. What are the subjective norms influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?
3. What are the perceived behavioural norms influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?
4. What are the closer valuation influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?
5. What are the social valuation influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?

Research Hypotheses

The following Null Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- Ho₁ Attitude has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
- Ho₂ Subjective norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
- Ho₃ Perceived behavioural norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
- Ho₄ Closer valuation norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.
- Ho₅ Social valuation has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

2. Methodology

The purpose of the study was to find out the determinants of entrepreneurial intention among National Diploma Students of Polytechnics in South-Western Nigeria. Specifically, the study addressed five research questions and five null hypotheses. The design for the study was descriptive survey design. The population of the study was made up of 5,932. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select five hundred and seventy seven (577) students from the fourteen Polytechnics using Yaro Yamane's formula for determining sample. A structured questionnaire, namely MVEIQ used for data collection were adapted from six different people. The MVEIQ comprises of 49 items and was meant to measure their agreement level. Results obtained in the pilot tested questionnaire revealed that the study's instrument was reliable. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS (Version 21). Findings of the study revealed that the five variables had influence on student's entrepreneurial intentions. All the hypotheses tested using multiple regressions at 0.05 level of significance, revealed that there were significant contribution of the variables in the model; Federal government in collaboration with State governments should provide scholarships/bursaries for performing students by way of encouragement. All barriers to entry should be taken into consideration by stakeholders in developing the entrepreneurial intentions of the students.

Table 1. Description of Scales in the MVEIQ and their classification and interpretation

S/N	Scale Point	Mean Scale	Indicators
1	5	4.01 - 5.00	Strongly Agreed
2	4	3.01 - 4.00	Agreed
3	3	2.01 - 3.00	Moderately Agreed
4	2	1.01 - 2.00	Disagreed
5	1	1.10 - 1.00	Strongly Disagreed

3. Results

Research Question One

Table 2.

What are the attitude influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?

Data was analyzed to answer research question two and the result is presented in Table 2. The result revealed an overall grand mean of 3.33 on attitudes. On the questionnaire items mean rating on attitude of Polytechnics students towards entrepreneurial intention indicated that all the items were found to be within the index mean score of agreed level. This implied that, attitude had influence on entrepreneurial intention of students since average response implies an agreed level.

Table 2: Mean score of attitude influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	Remarks
1.	To have my freedom, then I will choose to start p a business	3.54	Agreed
2.	To have a challenging job, I would choose to start up a business.	3.44	Agreed
3.	To have an exciting job, I would choose to start up a business	3.31	Agreed
4.	To have a motivating an interesting job, I would choose to start up a business	3.21	Agreed
5.	I would choose to start up a business in order to receive compensation based on merit	3.24	Agreed
6.	To keep a large proportions of the result, I would choose to start up a business	3.51	Agreed
7.	I would choose to start up a business to gain economic opportunity in the society.	3.31	Agreed
8.	I would choose to start up a business to gain self-realization.	3.32	Agreed
9.	I would choose to start up a business for job security and stability	3.25	Agreed
10.	Having to work long hours, I would choose to start up a business.	3.45	Agreed
11.	Not having fixed working hours then I would choose to start up a business	3.22	Agreed
12.	I would choose to start up a business to take on too much responsibility	3.51	Agreed
13.	I would choose to start up a business to create something new in the society	3.22	Agreed
14.	To take advantage of creative needs then I would choose to start up a business	3.12	Agreed
	Grand Mean	3.33	Agreed

Research Question Two**What are the subjective norms influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?**

Data was analyzed to answer research question three and the result is presented in Table 3. It revealed an overall grand mean of 3.47 on the modified five point likert scale of measurement at agreed level. The result therefore shows that subjective norms influence entrepreneurial intention of the students. Notwithstanding, family approval, colleagues approval, decision to personal choice of starting a business and personal choice of promoting a business influenced the entrepreneurial intention of students since average response implies an agreed level.

Table 3. Mean score of subjective norms influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	Remarks
1	My friend would approve of my decision to start a business ventures	3.29	Agreed
2	My immediate family would approve of my decision to start a business	3.80	Agreed
3	My colleagues would approve of my decision to start a business ventures	3.53	Agreed
4	The culture of entrepreneur in out institution is favourable to societal development	3.41	Agreed
5	In my country, entrepreneurial activities is considered to be worthwhile, despite the risks involve	3.47	Agreed
6	I will choose to start p a business so as to participate in a social environment	3.52	Agreed
7	To be a member of a social 'milieu' then, I will choose to start p a business	3.43	Agreed
8	I will choose to start p a business so as to have opportunity for career progress	3.29	Agreed
9	I will choose to start up a business so as to promotion a business	3.52	Agreed
	Ground Mean	3.47	Agreed

Research Question Three**What are the perceived behavioural norms influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?**

The analysis on Table 4 which was used to answer research question four revealed that overall grand mean responses score of 3.51 on perceived behavioural norms that influence

entrepreneurial intention of students. The mean score fall under the scale of agreed. This implied that all the respondents agreed that perceived behavioural norms had influence on student's entrepreneurial intention.

Table 4. Mean scores on perceived behavioural norms influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

S /N	ITEMS	Mean	REMARKS
1	Starting a firm and keeping it viable would be easy for me	3.67	Agreed
2	I would be able to control the creation process of a new business ventures	3.53	Agreed
3	If I tried to start a business, I would have a high chance of being successful	3.59	Agreed
4	I know all about the practical detail needed to start a business ventures	3.18	Agreed
5	To start my own firm would probably be the best way for me to take advantage of my education	3.62	Agreed
6	I am confidence that I would succeed if I start my own business	3.62	Agreed
7	I have the skills required to succeed as an entrepreneur	3,38	Agreed
8	It would be easy for me to start my own business	3.48	Agreed
9	To start my own business would probably be the best way for me to take advantage of my education	3.57	Agreed
	Ground Mean	3.51	Agreed

Research Question Four

What are the closer valuation influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnic?

Table 5 below shows an overall mean of 3.64 on closer valuation on five point likert scale of measurement indicated that all the 9 items were agreed. Notwithstanding, students immediate family approval of decision to start up a business have mean score of 3.48, creating opportunity of running one's business mean score of (3.33) and starting a business and keeping it viable had mean score of 3.48. This result indicated that closer valuation had influence on entrepreneurial intention of students.

Table 5. Mean scores of closer valuation influences on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnic.

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	Remarks
1	There is a well-functioning support infrastructure in place to support the startup of new firms	3.59	Agreed
2	I know many people in my institutions who have successful started their own firm.	3.71	Agreed
3	My colleague would approve of my decision to start a business	3.56	Agreed
4	In my institution, people are actively encouraged to pursue their own ideas	4.00	Agreed
5	In my institutions, you get to meet lots of people with good ideas for a new firms	4.00	Agreed
6	My immediate family would approve of my decision to start a business	3.48	Agreed
7	I will make every opportunity to start and run my own business	3.33	Agreed
8	My friend would approve of my decision to start a business	3.57	Agreed
9	Starting a business and keeping it viable would be very easy for me.	3.48	Agreed
	Grand Mean	3.64	Agreed

Research Question Five**What are the social valuation influences of entrepreneurial intention on National Diploma Students of Polytechnics?**

The analysis in Table 6 contained result on data analysis to answer research question 6 revealed an overall grand mean of 3.64. The means score fall under the scale of agreed level. The result indicated that all 8 items had agreed level on social valuation influence of entrepreneurial intention on students. The result further showed that item 7 on my friend value entrepreneurial activities above other activities had a mean score of 3.74. This implied that all the respondents agreed that social valuation had influence on their entrepreneurial intention

Table 6. Mean scores of social valuation influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	Remarks
1	The culture of entrepreneur in highly favourable to societal development	3.77	Agreed
2	In my country, entrepreneurial activities is considered to be worthwhile, despite the risks	3.82	Agreed
3	It is commonly thought that entrepreneur takes advantages of others	3.53	Agreed
4	The entrepreneur's role in the economy is generally valued my students in my country.	4.00	Agreed
5	Most students in my institutions considered it acceptable to be an entrepreneur.	3.50	Agreed
6	My immediate family values entrepreneurial activities above other activities and career.	3.18	Agreed
7	My friend value entrepreneurial activities above other activities and careers,	3.74	Agreed
8	If I become an entrepreneur, my family would consider it to be good	3.56	Agreed
	Grand Mean	3.64	Agreed

Test of Null Hypotheses***Null Hypothesis One*****Attitude has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.**

Data was analyzed to test hypothesis one and the result is presented in Table 7. It revealed that the variable attitude had a standardized coefficient beta value of .320, $p = .000$. This indicated a significant contribution of the variable in the model that is attitude has a significant positive influence on entrepreneurial intention. This result does not support the prediction of hypothesis one that attitude has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of Students. This implied that attitude is one of the determinants of entrepreneurial intention of students. Null hypothesis one was therefore rejected.

Table 7. Regression Analysis of attitude as a determinant of National Diploma Students of Polytechnic entrepreneurial intention

Variable	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T value	P value	Decision
Attitude	.320	2.684	.000	Rejected

Null Hypothesis Two**Subjective norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.**

Contained data analyzed to test hypothesis two. It Table 8 revealed that the subjective norms had a standardized coefficient beta value of .740, $p = .000$. This showed a significant contribution of the variable in the model, that is the subjective norms have significant positive influence on entrepreneurial intention. This result did not support the prediction of hypothesis two that subjective norms have no significant positive influence on entrepreneurial intention of students. This implies that a subjective norm is one of the good predictor of entrepreneurial intention of students. Null hypothesis two was therefore rejected.

Table 8. Regression Analysis of subjective norms as a determinant of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics entrepreneurial intention.

Variable	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T value	P value	Decision
Subjective Norms	.740	3.543	.000	Rejected

Null Hypothesis Three**Perceived Behavioural norms has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.**

Data was analyzed to test hypothesis three and the result is contained in Table 9, it revealed that perceived behavioural control had a standardized coefficient beta value of .154, $p = .000$. This indicated perceived behavioural control have a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention. This result did not support the prediction of hypothesis three that perceived behavioural norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of Students. This implied that perceived behavioural control determine the entrepreneurial intention of students. Hypothesis three was therefore rejected

Table 9. Regression Analysis of perceived behavioural control as a determinant of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics entrepreneurial intention

Variable	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T value	P value	Decision
Perceived behavioural Norms	.154	2.750	.000	Rejected

Null Hypothesis Four

Closer Valuation norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

The statistical result documented in Table 10 on hypothesis four revealed that closer valuations had a standardized coefficient beta value of .197, $p = .000$. This indicated that closer valuation norms are significantly influenced entrepreneurial intention. This result did not support the prediction of hypothesis four that closer valuation norms have no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of Students. This implied that closer valuation norms can successfully determine entrepreneurial intention of students. Null hypothesis four was therefore rejected

Table 10. Regression Analysis of closer valuation as a determinant of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics entrepreneurial intention.

Variable	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T value	P value	Decision
Closer valuation	.197	3.978	.000	Rejected

Null Hypothesis Five.

Social Valuation has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

The statistical evidence on Table 11 of hypothesis five revealed that the variable social valuation had a standardized coefficient beta value of .246, $p = .000$. This means that social valuation has a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention. This result did not support the prediction of hypothesis five that social valuation has no significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of Students. This implied that social valuation is one of the determinants of entrepreneurial intention of students. Null hypothesis five was therefore rejected.

Table 11. Regression Analysis of Social valuation as a determinant of National Diploma Students of Polytechnics.

Variable	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T value	P value	Decision
Social valuation	.246	4.685	.000	Rejected

The following were the findings of the study:

1. The results of research question one and test of null hypothesis one showed that attitude had a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma students of Polytechnics.
2. The results of research question two and test of null hypothesis two revealed that subjective norms is one of the good predictor of entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma students of Polytechnics.
3. The result of research question three and test of null hypothesis three revealed that perceived behavioural control had a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma students of Polytechnics.
4. The result of research question four and test of null hypothesis four revealed that closer valuation had a significant influence in successfully determining or predicting the entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma students of Polytechnics.
5. The result of research question s five and test of null hypothesis five revealed that social valuation was one of the determinants of entrepreneurial intention of National Diploma students of Polytechnics.

4. Conclusion

Entrepreneurship education development is one of the core course offered at Polytechnics education where students acquired knowledge, skills and motivation that encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of venture creation. This knowledge and skills can only be achieved by taking into consideration factors that determine their intentions.

5. Recommendations

1. The Federal government in collaboration with state governments should provide scholarships/bursaries for performing students by way of encouragement.
2. Training and workshop should be organized for entrepreneurship education development coordinators, lecturers on the need to evaluating and assessing student's entrepreneurial intention in tertiary institution in Nigeria. .

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