



ABSTRACT

Unemployment and underemployment has become a serious challenge to development and economic well-beings to human dignity in the society. This paper Titled entrepreneurship and crime reduction in Nigeria. The paper identity causes of crime in Nigeria, roles of entrepreneurship in crime reduction as well as ways to stimulate entrepreneurship in crime reduction. Secondary data was used for data collection. the paper recommended that government and

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CRIME REDUCTION IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

Unemployment and underemployment has become a serious challenge to development and economic well being to human dignity in the society. Individuals and employment are important elements of development of any country. The future of any society depend on effective performances of its citizens on the economic activities of the country. Missoul (2006) and Gbosi (2008) stated that entrepreneurship education is a way boosting the economic growth, job opportunities offers varieties of consumer goods and services. it equips an individuals with necessary skills, knowledge to enable them find employment or self employed.

Coulter (2010) The concept of entrepreneurship was expanded in the late 18th century to include not only the bearing of risks but also the planning, supervising, organizing and even the owning of factors of production that is the land, labour and capital.

According to Ossal and Nwalado (2013) the need for entrepreneurship education started emerging in the Mil- 1980s



private sectors must establish various means of reducing causes of crime in Nigeria, government should put more emphases on entrepreneurship as it reduces the prevalence of unemployment and poverty which in turns reduces crime in Nigeria and finally all ways to stimulate entrepreneurship needed to stress for it effective functioning in crime reduction.

Key words: Entrepreneurship, Crime Reduction.

when there were political instability and inconsistency in the economic policies of successive government, high level of unemployment, large scale lay off of workers and early retirement as a result of structural adjustment policies and bad economic policy. Entrepreneurship education as a part of the total educational system introduced by the federal government is the type of education that involves the acquisition of skills, ideas and management abilities necessary for job creation. An entrepreneur promotes self employment which leads to crime reduction because an idle mind is a devil working but when people are engaged in entrepreneurial activities there will be no room for idleness and crime will be reduced among youths. Therefore, there is a need to embrace this type of education and provide all the necessary resources needed to make it functional.

Quality entrepreneurship education could be used as a tool for fighting the war against poverty and crime reduction in Nigeria. In the light of increasing level of poverty and crime which have a long way to contribute to youth restiveness and other social problem in the society. The federal Government of Nigeria decided to find solutions to them. Ugiagbe and Umunna (2002) reported that due to the dwindling economic situation and the resultant massive unemployment of both youths and adults in Nigeria, the federal government has emphasized the need for every Nigerian citizens to strive for self-reliance through self-employment. This is why government established the National Directorate of Employment which eventually established the entrepreneurship program.

Consequently, in the light of the federal government recognition of the relevance of entrepreneurship education, it directed that all institutions of higher learning should introduce entrepreneurship education as a compulsory course for all students irrespective of their disciplines effect from 2007/ 2008 academic session. NBTE study Manual (2006) furthermore, the National University Commission (NUC) is developing minimum academic standards for the teaching of entrepreneurship education in the Universities (Boroffice 2008).

Nigeria as a country has numerous businesses and investment potentials due to the abundant, vibrant and dynamic human and natural resources, it possesses. The performance and effectiveness of entrepreneurs in the country as an instrument of economic growth and development has long been under scrutiny. This intense scrutiny has been against the backdrop of the low performance and inefficiency that characterized small business particularly in assessing its role in economic growth, job creation and crime reduction.



Entrepreneurship activities in Nigeria have developed enterprises in areas such as agriculture/agro-allied, solid minerals, transportation, information and telecom, hospitality and tourism business, building and construction but not as expected. Anyadike, Emeh and Ukeh (2012) express that these human and natural resources not with standing, Nigeria seems to be among the poorest countries in the world with the highest rate of youth unemployment in sub sahara Africa, despite its alledged strong economic growth. In respect of the above situation it seems the government has done little to reduce the misery and frustrations of it citizens this has foisted a state of hopelessness on the majority of young and old people who have resorted to any means including crime, to succeed in life.

Furthermore, the young resort to vices because they are not gainfully engaged in other works, they are unemployed not because they lack the qualification but because the system seems to be crippled politically, economically, socio-culturally and even religiously (Anyadike, Emeh and Ukeh, 2012). The need for entrepreneurship development in the country today is necessitated by the fact that entrepreneurship development seems to be a major factor in economic growth, development and crime reduction and also the permanent cure for extreme hunger and poverty necessitated by unemployment.

Objectives of the study in Nigeria.

- i. identify causes of crime in Nigeria
- ii. examine roles of entrepreneurship on crime reduction in Nigeria
- iii. identify ways to stimulate entrepreneurship and crime reduction in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship relates to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action by applying creativity and innovation to create, plan and manage a project. Eze (2012). in the view of Aina and Salaku (2008) entrepreneurship is the willingness and ability of an individuals to seek out investment opportunities and takes advantage of scarce resources to exploits the opportunities profitably. Aruwa (2004) and Adejumo (2001) posit that entrepreneurship is about taking the risk. It is the process of creating new values that did not previously exist. It is the practice of starting a new organization especially new business; It involves the creation of new wealth through the implementation of new concepts. Carter (2006) expressed that what entrepreneurs have in common is not personality traits but a commitment to innovation. For innovation to occur the entrepreneur must have not only talent ingenuity and knowledge but he must as well be hardworking, focused and purposeful.

Allawadi (2010) sees entrepreneurship as the process of creating something different with value by devoting the necessary time, effort, social risk and receiving the rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction. Furthermore, Soyibo (2006) identified some characteristics of habitual entrepreneurs to include: pursue of best opportunities with economics discipline, not been alert to spot opportunities but to act on it.

Missoul (2006) and Gbosi (2008) stated that entrepreneurship education is a way boosting the economic growth, job opportunities offers varieties of consumer goods and



services. It equips and individuals with necessary skills knowledge to enable them find employment or self employed. Coulter (2010) The concept of entrepreneurship was expanded in the late 18th century to include not only the bearing of risks but also the planning, supervising, organizing and even the owing of factors of production that is the land, labour and capital.

According to Zimmerer and Scarborough (2006) although the creation of business is certainly an important fact of entrepreneurship, it is not the complete picture. An entrepreneur is a person that brings in overall change through innovation for the maximum social good and human value. Entrepreneurs accelerate personal, economic as well as human development and are visionary, integrated being with outstanding leadership qualities with a desire to excel; they give top priority to research and development and always works for the well-being of the society.

THE ROLES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN CRIME REDUCTION

An entrepreneur promotes self employment which leads to crime reduction because an idle mind is a devil workshop but when people are engaged in entrepreneurial activities there will be no room for idleness and crime will be reduced among youths. The generation of bright prospects for employment and wealth creation has also been attributed to entrepreneurship by several scholars who view it as one of the major causal factors of the economic advancement of several nations (Dejardin, 2000; Carree and Thurik, 2002; Naude, 2008). social entrepreneurship helps in achieving sustainable development goals, such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection and human rights supports. Additionally, entrepreneurship can reduce crime rates within communities by enhancing socio-economic integration, especially for disadvantage groups. Social entrepreneurship, in particular addresses social problems and creates social values, improving people's lives and increasing welfare. It also contributes to job creation, self employment and the activation of citizens at risk, while solving problems faced by local communities. (Yullia Hryniuk (2012). Here are some ways entrepreneurship can contribute to crime reduction in Nigeria as follows:

1. Job creation: Entrepreneurial ventures can provide employment opportunities, reducing idle hands and minimizing the allure of criminal activity.
2. Economic empowerment: Entrepreneurship can equip individuals with skills and resources helping them become economically stable and less susceptible to criminal behavior.
3. Innovative solutions: Entrepreneurs can develop innovative solutions to tackle specific crime related challenges in Nigeria, such as kidnapping, fraud or drug abuse.
4. Community engagement: Entrepreneurship initiative can foster community engagement promoting social cohesion and collective responsibility for crime prevention.
5. Skills training: Entrepreneurship programs can offer training in skills like vocational training mentorship and leadership development, helping to redirect potential criminals towards positive pursuits.



By supporting entrepreneurship in Nigeria we can empower individuals and communities to become active participants in crime reduction fostering a safer and more prosperous society.

CRIME

Crime is defined as any act that violates the law. Hence, it is defined relative to laws, and varies from society to society or omission, from state to state, from time to time and from strict enforcement to none. According to Curzon (1973) “ crime is any act of omission resulting from human conduct which is considered in itself or in its outcome to be harmful and which the state wishes to prevent, which renders the person responsible liable to some kind of punishment, the result of the proceedings which are usually initiated on behalf of the state and which are designed to ascertain the nature, extent and the legal consequence of that person responsibility”.

Donald C., Clarke, David A.T (2024) crime, is the intentional commission of an act usually deemed socially harmful or dangerous and specifically defined , prohibited and punishable under criminal law. Sowmya T. (2014) crime is a public wrong. It is an act of offense which violates the law of the state and is strongly disapproved by the society. Crime is defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment or fine. murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving child neglect and failure to pay taxes are examples of crimes. Each society may define crime in a different perspectives. A crime may be legal or illegal, illegal and punishable crime is the violation of any rule of administration or law of the state. Or practice of any wrong doing and harmful to self or against third parties, provided in criminal law. Legal and not punishable crime is all acts of self-defense.

CAUSES OF CRIME

The root causes of crime are well documented and researched. Crime is primarily the outcome of multiple adverse social economic, cultural and family conditions. To reduce crime it is important to have an understanding of its roots. these are complex and interrelated, but can be summarized in three main categories:

- i. Economic factors/poverty.
- ii. Social Environment.
- iii. family Structures.

ECONOMIC FACTORS/POVERTY

In addition to lack of financial resources, poverty manifest itself in a lack of educational opportunities lack of meaningful employment options, poor housing, lack of hope and the prejudice against person's living in poverty.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT.

Our social structures mirrors to citizens and communities what we value and how we set priorities, social root causes of crime are: Inequality, not sharing power, lack of support to families and neighborhoods, real or perceived inaccessibility to services, lack of



leadership in communities, low value placed on children and individuals well-being the over exposure to television as a means of recreation.

FAMILY STRUCTURES

Families are uniquely placed in contributing to raising healthy responsible members of society. But the task of putting children first goes well beyond the family to include communities and society. Dysfunctional family conditions contribute to future delinquency. These conditions include: Parental inadequacy, parental conflict, parental criminality lack of respect and responsibility, abuse and neglect of children, family violence, lack of communication. Crime prevention must focus on improvement of all three factors. Louise D. (2000).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

Routine activities theory (RAT)

Routine activities theory (RAT) is a criminological theory that explains the occurrence of crime based on the convergence of three key elements.

1. Motivated offender:- The presence of an individual with the intention and desire to commit a crime.
2. Suitable Target:- The availability of a vulnerable target, such as a person or property, that presents an opportunity for crime.
3. Absence of capable Guardianship:- The lack of effective protection or supervision allowing the offender to commit the crime without interference.

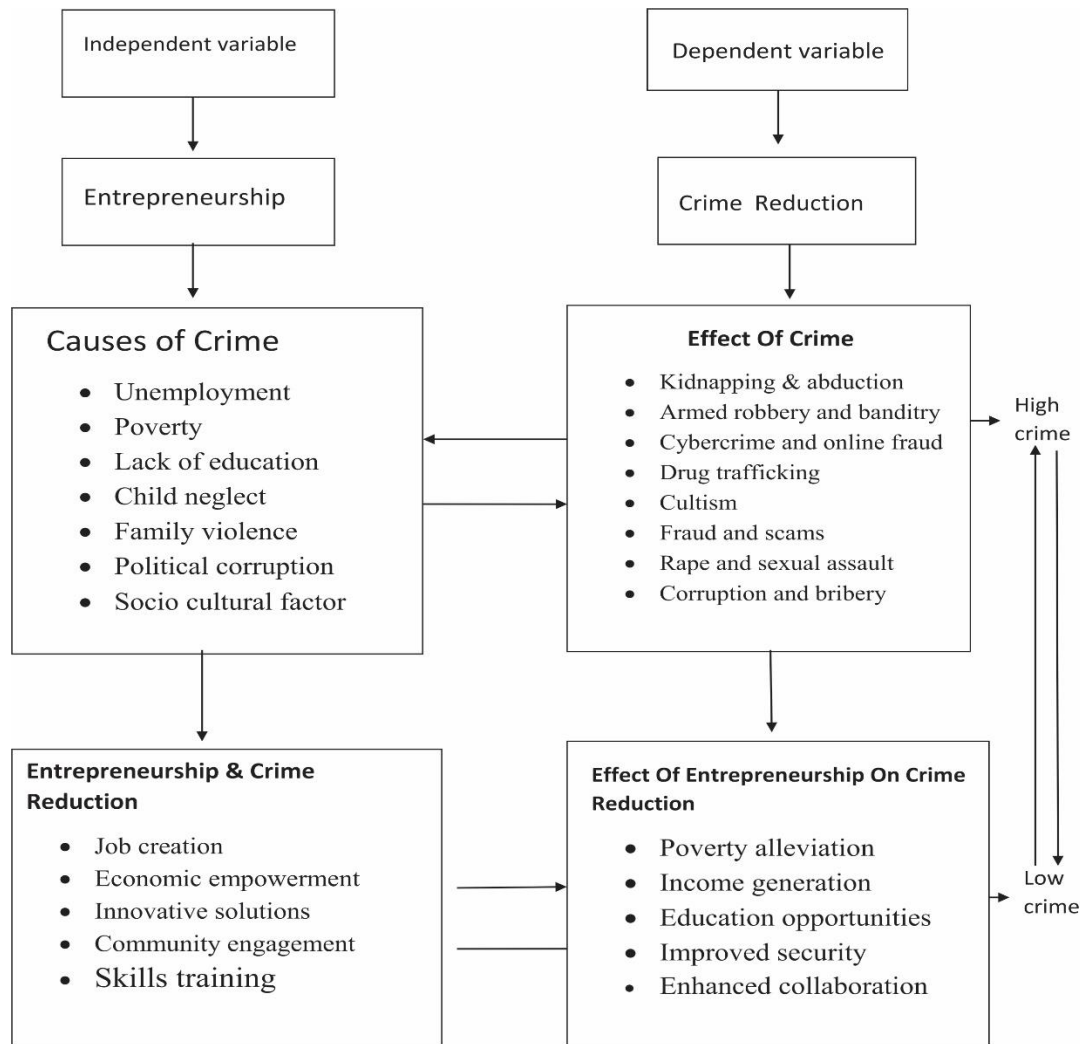
This theory was developed by criminologists Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in (1979). They argued that crime is more likely to occur when these three elements come together in time and space. RAT emphasizes the importance of opportunities and environmental factors in shaping criminal behavior, rather than solely focusing on the offenders characteristics or social background. The theory has been applied to various types of crime, Including burglary, robbery and sexual assault. It has also influenced crime prevention strategies such as target hardening (e.g Locking Doors and Windows) in creating surveillance and security measures, improving lighting and environmental design. Encouraging community engagement and social control.

By understanding the inter play between motivated offenders, suitable targets, and capable guardianship, Routine Activities Theory provides valuable insight in to the dynamics of crime and informs effective crime prevention approaches.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.

The independent and dependent variables

The entrepreneurship is the independent variables while crime reduction is the dependent variable. Below is the diagram that conceptualize the independent and dependent variables.



Source: Authors compilation 2024.

Methodology:

Secondary: this study used secondary data which involves the use of data obtained from other scholars and researchers works such as text books, internet sources journals project work that served the purpose of literature review and theoretical framework.

Conclusion

By the foregoing the paper identify roles of entrepreneurship on crime reduction in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship play a key role in crime reduction in Nigeria. It provide job opportunities, poverty alleviation, educational opportunities and skills acquisition which generate income in the society and as well reduce crime. Government agencies should develop and strengthen the various aspect of entrepreneurship. These efforts aim to



address the root causes of crime and promote sustainable development in Nigeria, we can empower individuals and communities to become active participants in crime reduction, fostering a safe and more prosperous society.

Recommendations

1. The government and the private sectors must establish various means of reducing causes of crime in our society.
2. The government should put more emphasis on entrepreneurship as it reduces the prevalence of unemployment and poverty which in turn reduces crime in Nigeria.
3. All ways that stimulates entrepreneurship needed to stress for it effective functioning in Nigeria as it reduces crime in Nigeria.

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