

Stemming the Tide of Youth Restiveness through Information Dissemination and Entrepreneurial Training: A Study of Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study delved into disseminating accurate information and youth engagement in entrepreneurial training as curative measures to stemming the tides of youth restiveness in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. The two (2) objectives that guided the study were to: determine the extent to which the dissemination of information would curtail youth restiveness in Minna and investigate the extent to which restiveness could be curtailed through entrepreneurial training. The research design used for the study was a survey. Stratified random sampling was used to divide Minna into five (5) strata (development areas). In each stratum, a total of twenty (20) respondents were picked, making a total of one hundred (100) in the whole metropolis. A total of eighty (80) copies of the questionnaire, which was 80%, were retrieved and used for the study. Data were presented and analyzed using simple statistical tools of tables and frequencies. Findings from the study showed that: dissemination of appropriate information could curtail youth restiveness, and when they are fully occupied with entrepreneurial training, they could be less restless. The study concluded that: good, accurate, and correct information should be disseminated to all citizens, including the youth, to stem the tide of unrest in Minna and that the youth should be engaged in entrepreneurial training to forestall unpalatable experience of youth restiveness. The study recommended that: accurate and correct information be disseminated to the youth in Minna, and they should be engaged in entrepreneurial training.

Key Words: Information Dissemination; Entrepreneurial Training; Youth Restiveness

Introduction:

Information has been described as an empowerment tool. When an individual possesses the right, accurate, timely, appropriate information at the right time, they would be able to take the right decision that would bring maximum profit. With the possession of the right information, the level of uncertainties is reduced. Information is an essential tool for productive engagement. It is a tool that all ages, including youth, cannot do without. Youth are known for possessing special strength, special skills, including youthful exuberance. The tides of youthful restiveness in Nigeria and globally have been increasing at an unprecedented rate. On most occasions, youth restiveness has been accompanied by wanton destructions of lives and properties. It is a popular saying that an "idle hand is the devil's workshop."

There is high certainty and probability that if engaged and occupied with entrepreneurial activities, the youth are most likely not to get the idle time they would use to protest and carry out all forms of vandalism. There is no gainsaying that a good number of youth in Nigeria walk aimlessly along streets in Nigeria. They are usually used as cheap tools in the hands of politicians to cause mayhem. When youth are productively engaged in one career or one productive business, they must have utilised their strength, their skill, their prowess, their creativity, and their ingenuity in a productive manner which would definitely make them have little or no time to engage themselves in a frivolous assignment.

More importantly, when youth are armed with the right information and engaged in productive enterprises, they are most likely to refuse to take hasty decisions that could lead to an uproar in society. Most of such hasty steps are, on most occasions, products of fake (unverified) information and idleness. To stem the tides of youth restiveness in Minna and Nigeria at large, the need to disseminate appropriate, accurate, correct, timely information to the youth who are the future leaders of Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. In addition to being armed with information, when the youth are fully engaged in productive ventures, they are most likely not to be vulnerable to becoming cheap tools in the hands of mischief-makers.

Our country, Nigeria, has been undergoing all forms of unrest and protest. The latest among such uproars is the "End SARS protest," which took place in every part of the country and laid a siege on all socioeconomic activities of the country. The protest was coordinated by youth and went on simultaneously in almost all states of Nigeria and lasted for two (2) good weeks. The protest was hijacked by hoodlums (youth), which resulted in mass loss of lives and destruction of properties in Nigeria. If these youth are armed with accurate information and are equally engaged in productive ventures, they are most likely not to be involved in such unpleasant protests.

Literature review

"Information," as popularly said, is "power." The importance of disseminating accurate and adequate information to youth in every society cannot be overemphasised. Information dissemination, according to Isibor and Fidella (2018), involves the strategic effort put in place to reach out to individuals, organisations, and communities with the right information, in the right format, using the right medium, and at the right time. While alluding to the importance of information in curbing youth restiveness, Oyadeyi (2012) opined that restiveness means refusal to be controlled, especially the adolescents in our society. Such actions are geared up with the insatiability of our youths by the government or people in authority. Enueme and Onyeme (2010) opined that Nigerian youths have for some years developed into what could be regarded as social loafing, non-conformity behaviour, illusions of self, and group vulnerability. Major factors that are responsible for youth restiveness, according to Maciver and Igbojinwaekwu (2019), are unemployment, poverty, corruption, and bad governance. However, the least among these factors is imbalance reporting by mass media.

Similarly, Igbo and Ikpa (2013) asserted that youth restiveness is a social vice that gives the entire nation sleepless nights. The causes are multifaceted, and hence curbing it demands a multidimensional approach. The paper believes that effective counseling to youths, parents, and political leaders at various levels of governance could go a long way in curbing youth restiveness in Nigeria.

Moreover, to curb youth restiveness entrepreneurial training programme should be encouraged among youth. Entrepreneurial training generally has been described as a means to an end to youth restiveness and positive impact on not just youth but to every adult. Ismail (2018), in his opinion concluded that entrepreneurship training is a programme useful for both young and old people and it will enable them to be creative and productive. He added that the programme will also engage them positively. Entrepreneurial training is also a tool for youth to be self-employed and be disciplined in the society. Martines et al. (2016) were of the opinion that entrepreneurial training is a designed programme to help youth gain freedom and be self-employed through creation of their own businesses.

Entrepreneurial training is highly beneficial to youth because it will enhance their confidence, sense of empowerment and responsibility. Similarly, entrepreneurial training is a booster for youth. Patel (2014), submitted that entrepreneurial training is a programme that should not be undermined or take lightly because it is more effective in regards to the boosting of good business ideals and business knowledge. An entrepreneur is a tool to nation building. Hence, for a country to be known as a developed country and for such country to remain a giant among other countries, the youth of the country must be entrepreneurial minded and focused.

It is a known fact that the whole world is passing through serious economic recession and one of the major ways out of this problem is to get all citizens especially the youth engage in one form of entrepreneurial training or the other. In the same vein, Oyadeyi

(2012) opined that the country is passing through a global economic depression, decay in critical sectors of socioeconomic life, corruption, poverty, unemployment, and reduced life expectancy unchecked everywhere and while all these avalanches of challenges are starring the country in different dimensions, youth restiveness has evolved in different parts of the country, especially, in the Niger Delta regions of Nigeria. The author averred further that these newer developments had brought breakdown of law and order, destruction of property, attack on constituted authority, and the killing of innocent citizens of Nigeria.

Problem Statement

It is a known fact that the youth of any country, including Nigeria, are assets to such nations where they are found. The youth are strong, virile, intelligent, skillful, creative, and futuristic. They could become real assets if their youthful zeal and ingenuity are directed and tailored towards the right direction. However, the youth could not be productive, and they could cause unrest in the face of any slightest provocation if they are not properly informed, not engaged in productive ventures, and are in the midst of a bad peer group. The end SARS protest that took place in almost all states of Nigeria in the year 2020, which was strongly coordinated by youth, is a clear indication of youth idleness, lack of profitable engagement, and misinformation. The study, therefore, investigated how youth restiveness in Minna, Nigeria, could be curtailed through the dissemination of information and by engaging them in productive ventures.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to investigate how youth restiveness could be curtailed in Minna through the dissemination of information and involvement in entrepreneurial training. The specific objectives were to:

1. Determine the extent to which the dissemination of information could curtail youth restiveness in Minna, Nigeria.
2. Investigate the extent to which youth restiveness could be curtailed if they are engaged in entrepreneurial training.

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the dissemination of information and curtailing of youth restiveness in Minna.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between curtailing youth restiveness and engaging them in entrepreneurship activities.

Methodology

The research design used was a survey. Stratified random sampling was used to divide the Minna metropolis into five (5) strata (development areas). In each stratum

(development) area, a total of twenty (20) youth were selected, making a total of one hundred (100) respondents in the five developmental areas of Minna, Niger State.

Data Presentation and Analysis

A total of one hundred copies of the questionnaire instrument were administered to one hundred (100) respondents in Minna. A total of eighty (80) copies of the instrument making 80% were retrieved and used for the analysis.

Table 1: Showing Responses and Percentages and Area Involved

S/N	Area	Response Rate	Percentage
1	Tunga	20	20%
2	Chanchaga	15	15%
3	Bosso	20	20%
4	Maitunbi	10	10%
5	Kpakungu	15	15%

Table 1 shows the responses and percentages, and areas involved. 20% of the respondents resided in Tunga, 15% of the respondents resided in Chanchaga, 20% of the respondents resided in Bosso, 10% of the respondents resided in Maitunbi, while the remaining 15% of the respondents resided in Kpakungu.

Demographic Information on the Respondents

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentages (%)</i>
Male	61	76.25
Female	19	23.75
Total	80	100

Table 2 shows the demographic information on the gender of the respondents from the strata used in Minna, Niger State. From Table 2, it is clear that 76.75% of the respondents were males, while 23.25% of them were females.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Age Range

<i>Age range</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentages (%)</i>
18 – 25	5	6.25

26 – 35	49	61.25
36 -50	26	32.5
Total	80	100

Table 3 shows the demographic information on age brackets of the respondents from the strata (areas) used in Minna, Niger State. Table 3 showed that 6.25% of the respondents were within the 18-25 age bracket years, 61.25% of the youths who responded to the instruments used were between 26-35 years, and 32.5% were between the age of 36-50 years.

Table 4: Academic Qualifications of the Respondents

<i>Qualification</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentages (%)</i>
NCE	33	41.25
ND	19	23.75
HND	16	20.0
B. Sc	10	12.5
M. Sc	2	2.5
Ph.D	Nil	Nil
Total	80	100

Table 4 shows the demographic information on academic qualifications of the respondents from the studied areas in Minna, Niger State. The Table revealed that 41.25% of the respondents had National Certificate in Education (NCE), 23.75% of the respondents were National Diploma (ND holders). Furthermore, the Table showed that 20.0% were Higher National Diploma (HND holders), while Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) holders was 12.5%. 2.5% were M.Sc holders, while there were no Ph.D. holders among the respondents.

Table 5: Marital Status of the Respondents

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentages (%)</i>
Married	57	71.25
Single	21	26.25
Divorced	2	2.5
Total	80	100

Table 5 shows the demographic information on the marital status of the respondents. 71.25% of the respondents were married, while 26.25% of them were single and 2.5% were divorced.

Research question one: To what extent would the dissemination of proper information curtail youth restiveness in Minna?

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics Showing the Distribution of Responses on how the Dissemination of Proper Information could curtails Youth Restiveness in Minna

S/ N	Statements	Very High Extent	High Extent	Low Extent	Very Low Extent	Decision
1	Dissemination of proper information curtails youth restiveness	44(55.0%)	15(18.75%)	21(26.25%)	-	VH
2	Proper dissemination of information reduces idleness		12(15%)	48(60%)	20(25%)	LV
3	Dissemination of proper information controls people's behaviour	35(43.75%)	23(28.75%)	22(27.5%)	-	VH
4	Proper dissemination of information reduces illiteracy	28(35%)	39(48.75%)	13(16.25%)	-	HE
5	Proper dissemination of information increases employment	35(43.75%)	34(42.5%)	11(13.75%)	-	TH E
6	Proper dissemination of information reduces the rate of improper spending/expenses	26(32.5%)	12(15%)	42(52.5%)		LE
7	Dissemination of proper information motivates/inspires one towards development	34(42.5%)	39(48.75%)	7(8.75%)		HE

8	Proper dissemination of information refines people	22(27.5%)	36(45%)	22(27.5%)	HE
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KEY: VHE: Very high extent, HE: High Extent, LE: Low extent, VLE: very low extent

Table 6 showed the extent to which the dissemination of proper information would curtail youth restiveness in Minna. The majority (73.75%) of the respondents picked a very high extent that is, dissemination of proper information curtailed youth restiveness, 85% of the respondents chose low extent, that proper dissemination of information reduced idleness. 72.5% of the respondents picked dissemination of proper information controlled people's character, 83.75% of the respondents chose high extent that is proper dissemination of information reduces illiteracy, 86.25% of the respondents chose high extent which implies that proper dissemination of information increased thinking capacity, 47.5% of the respondents chose high extent that is proper dissemination of information reduced the rate of improper spending/expenses, 91.25% of the respondents picked high extent that is dissemination of proper information motivated/inspired towards good conduct, 72.5% of the respondents chose proper dissemination of information refined people.

Research question two: To what extent would youth restiveness be curtailed if they are engaged in entrepreneurship activities.

Table 7: Descriptive Statistics showing the Distribution of Responses on the Extent of Youth Restiveness be curtailed if they are engaged in Entrepreneurship Activities

Statements	Very High Extent	High Extent	Low Extent	Very Low Extent	Decision
Entrepreneurial training skills rebirth person to a better self	24(30%)	38(47.5%)	18(22.5%)		HE
Entrepreneurial training reduces idleness	8(10%)	48(60%)	24(30%)		HE

Entrepreneurial training increases skills and thinking ideology	36(45%)	36(45%)	8(10%)	TH E
Entrepreneurial training increases one's income	48(60%)	10(32.5%)	22(27.5%)	VH E
Entrepreneurial training skills make youths to be responsible	27(33.8%)	27(33.8%)	26(32.5%)	
Entrepreneurial training skills divert youths attention from devilish act and destruction	-	62(77.5%)	18(22.5%)	TH E
Entrepreneurial training skills are tools for economic developments	23(28.75%)	35(43.75%)	22(27.5%)	HE
Entrepreneurial training skills empower youths	22(27.5%)	50(62.5%)	8(10%)	HE

KEY: VHE: Very high extent, HE: High Extent, LE: Low extent, VLE: very low extent

Table 7 showed the extent to which youth restiveness could be curtailed if they are engaged in entrepreneurship activities. 77.5% of the respondents chose High extent that is entrepreneurship training skills, rebirth person, to a better self, 70% of the respondents admitted high extent that is entrepreneurship training reduced idleness, 90% of the respondents chose that entrepreneurial training increased skills and thinking ideology, 92.5% of the respondents picked entrepreneurial training increased one's income, 67.6% of the respondents chose high extent that is entrepreneurial training skills make youths to be responsible. 77.5% of the respondents chose high extent that is entrepreneurial training skills diverted youth attention from the devilish act and destruction. 72.6% of respondents chose high extent that is entrepreneurial training skills are tools for economic developments. 90% of the respondents picked high extent that is entrepreneurial training skills empower youths.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference between the dissemination of information and curtailing youth restiveness in Minna

Table 8: Chi-square Analysis showing whether there is significant difference in how the Dissemination of Proper Information would curtail Youth Restiveness in Minna

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.212^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	1.299	4	.862
Linear-by-Linear Association	.414	1	.520
N of Valid Cases	80		

Table 8 showed whether there is a significant difference in how the dissemination of proper information would curtail youth restiveness in Minna. The p-value ($0.000 < 0.05$) implies that we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference in the extent to which dissemination of proper information would curtail youth restiveness in Minna.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference between curtailing youth restiveness and engaging them in entrepreneurship activities

Table 9: Chi-square Analysis showing whether there is a significant difference in the Extent to which Youth Restiveness could be curtailed if they are engaged in Entrepreneurship Activities

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.978^a	4	.003
Likelihood Ratio	9.796	4	.044
Linear-by-Linear Association	.587	1	.444
N of Valid Cases	80		

Table 9 showed whether there is significant difference between the extent to which youth restiveness could be curtailed and engaging them in entrepreneurship activities. The p-value ($0.003 < 0.05$), which implies that we reject the null hypothesis

and conclude that there is a significant difference in the extent to which youth restiveness could be curtailed if they are engaged in entrepreneurship activities.

Discussion of Findings

Data presented in the study showed that youth restiveness in Minna could be seriously curtailed if they are armed with the right information. The findings of the study is in consonance with the findings of Annune (2012), who discovered that access to information is an essential requirement for development either in organisation, state, country, and even the world at large. Furthermore, Oluleye (2014) found out in his study that information dissemination is a means of sensitising or orientating people on the importance and relevance of the information for productive engagement/enterprises, among other things. Furthermore, he added that when there is communication, the action of information disseminated could be positively related. Similarly, [Filmer](#) (2011) indicated that the dissemination of information could increase people's choice in the selection of the way of life they want to live. Jiyane and Mostert (2010) equally affirmed further that developed countries invest more in information and communication for the purpose of improving the living standard of their citizens.

In addition, the findings of the study revealed that when youth are engaged in entrepreneurial training, they would not have idle time to engage themselves in protest and unrest. The findings of the study is in agreement with the findings of Jones, Beynon, and Packham (2017), who in their study discovered that entrepreneurial training played vital roles in innovation, creativity, employment generation as well as wealth creation which would take away the idleness of the youth. Furthermore, employers of labour, government agencies prefer to employ/recruit those who can make use of their talents to bring more innovation and add to the value of the workplace. Similarly, Umrani, Kura & Ahmed (2018), in their research, argued that entrepreneurship training contributed significantly to risk-taking attitudes, the formation of new businesses that could boost self and nation's economy. Hence, one could expect greater entrepreneurial performance/better outcomes from the trainees when the number of trainees increases. Finally, Abdulrazak *et al.* (2012), in their study, which is also in consonance with the findings of this research, identified a strong connector between adequate entrepreneurial training profitable engagement and stemming the tide of youth restiveness and restlessness.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it is safe to conclude that proper dissemination of information would go a long way to stem the tides of youth restiveness in Minna. Furthermore, if the youth are armed with accurate information and engaged in entrepreneurial training, the tide of youth restiveness would be curtailed. For a better society, the need to run an open government that listens to the citizens' yearning could not be over-emphasized. Democracy is expected to work for all citizens, including youth

in Nigeria. This is when we have leaders at the local, state, and federal levels who listen to the yearnings of the youth and who at the same time get them engaged in productive enterprises.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Proper, accurate, correct, and timely information should be disseminated to all citizens, including the youths in Minna and Nigeria at large.
2. It is imperative to engage youth in entrepreneurial training such as youth counselling, skills acquisition programmes for the youth, among others, to forestall unrest in Minna and Nigeria as a whole.

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