



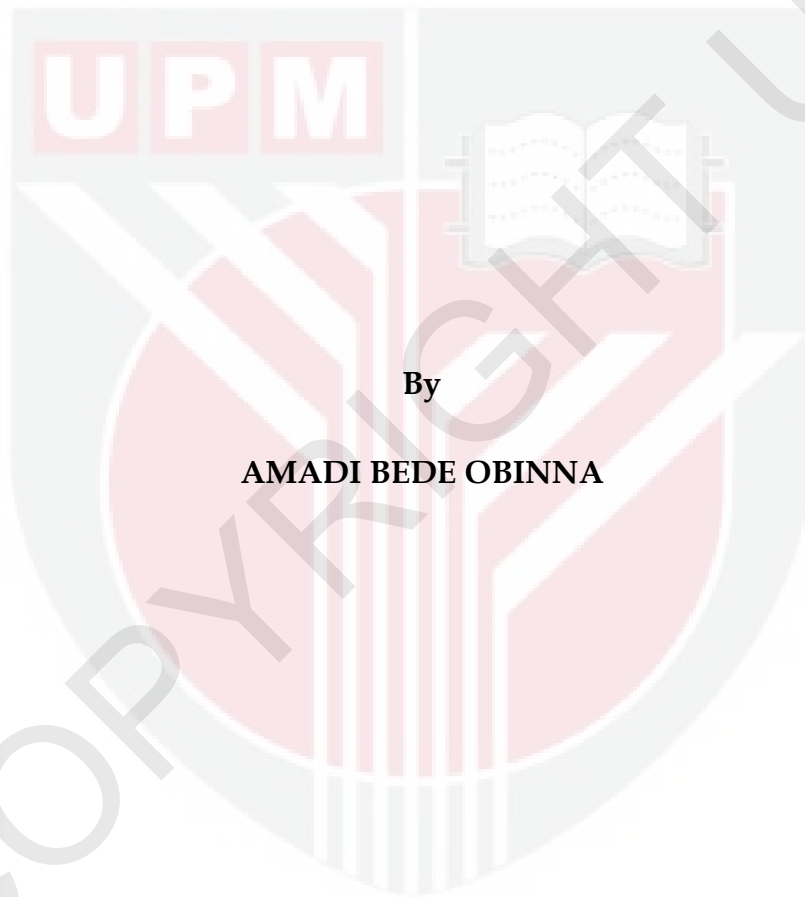
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***INFLUENCE OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND BARRIERS ON ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUTH IN ABUJA, NIGERIA***

AMADI BEDE OBINNA

FEM 2012 36

**INFLUENCE OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND BARRIERS
ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUTH IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**



By

AMADI BEDE OBINNA

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

October 2012

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my sister Nęozi for her significant support and encouragements. I could not have blossomed without you.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**INFLUENCE OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND BARRIERS
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By

AMADI BEDE OBINNA

October 2012

Chair: Haslinda Abdullah, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

The informal sector of Nigeria has become a growing source of economic empowerment for the unemployed youth. Using the Vocational Skills Development model of Nigeria's National Directorate of Employment, the study illustrates the effectiveness of skills training (capacity building) as a valuable community development strategy of promoting economic empowerment and self employment among the unemployed Nigerian youth. The study employed a quantitative approach using questionnaire survey which was self-administered to a sample size of 268 participants, who were aged 19 to 35 years. They were trained under the above skills development scheme and are presently either self-employed or wage-employed (in the case of those yet to establish their personal businesses). Insightful information through focus group discussions

complemented the designing of some research instruments by the researcher, which include perceived skill acquisition scale, perceived economic wellbeing scale and barriers to economic empowerment measure. Other research scales were either used in their original or modified version. The data collected were quantitatively analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences; while inferential statistics and multiple regression were used as techniques for analysis. Findings from the analysis revealed that capacity building resulted in economic empowerment of the youth. The study also found that barriers to economic empowerment showed significant influence on participants' economic wellbeing, such that the more the participants experience the barriers the less their economic empowerment. The moderation effect of barriers reduced the significant positive relationship between capacity building components and economic empowerment when it is at a high level. Since poverty among Nigerian youth is manifested in unemployment, the training has proved to be a useful community development strategy of unemployment reduction through job creation, improved livelihood, and economic independence among the youth. However, to achieve a more successful result among the youth the researcher proffered a list of recommendations to policy makers, such as providing financial services and enabling infrastructure for the youth.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENGARUH PEMBINAAN KAPASITI DAN HALANGAN TERHADAP
MEMPERKASAKAN EKONOMI BELIA DI ABUJA, NIGERIA**

Oleh

AMADI BEDE OBINNA

October 2012

Pengerusi: Haslinda Abdullah, PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

Sektor tidak formal di Nigeria telah menjadi salah satu sumber pemerksaan ekonomi yang sedang berkembang bagi golongan belia yang menganggur. Dengan menggunakan model Pembangunan Kemahiran Vokasional oleh Lembaga Pekerjaan Kebangsaan Nigeria, kajian menunjukkan bahawa keberkesanan latihan kemahiran (pembangunan kapasiti) sebagai satu strategi pembangunan komuniti yang berharga dalam menggalakkan pemerksaan ekonomi dan pekerjaan secara sendiri dalam kalangan belia yang menganggur di Nigeria. Pendekatan kuantitatif menggunakan soal selidik yang ditadbir sendiri telah digunakan kepada satu saiz sampel seramai 268 peserta, berumur dari 19 hingga 35 tahun. Mereka dilatih dibawah skim tersebut dan kini samada mereka tidak bekerja sendiri atau makan gaji (kes bagi mereka yang sedang berusaha menstabilkan perniagaan persendirian). Informasi yang mendalam melalui

perbincangan kritis kumpulan berfokus di gunakan untuk instrument kajian dimana ianya merangkumi skala persepsi perolehan kemahiran, skala kesejahteraan ekonomi dan halangan terhadap pengukuran pemerksaan ekonomi. Skala-skala kajian lain yang digunakan adalah dalam bentuk samada versi asal atau yang telah diubahsuai dan dianalisis secara kuantitatif menggunakan Pakej Statistik untuk Sains Sosial. Data di analisis secara inferensi dan analisis hirarki berganda. Hasil analisis mendapati bahawa pembangunan kapasiti telah memperkasakan ekonomi belia. Kajian turut mendapati bahawa halangan terhadap pemerksaan ekonomi menunjukkan pengaruh yang sangat nyata kepada kesejahteraan ekonomi peserta, dimana semakin banyak halangan dilalui peserta, semakin kurang pemerksaan ekonomi mereka. Kesan kesederhanaan pada sekatan mengurangkan hubungan positif yang sangat nyata antara komponen pembangunan kapasiti dan keperksaan ekonomi dimana ia berada di satu tahap yang tinggi. Oleh kerana kemiskinan dalam kalangan belia di terjemahkan melalui pengangguran latihan yang diberikan membuktikan ianya satu strategi pembangunan komuniti yang berguna dalam mengurangkan kadar pengangguran melalui penghasilan peluang kerjaya, peningkatan taraf kehidupan, dan ekonomi teguh secara berdikari dalam kalangan belia. Walau bagaimanapun, bagi mencapai hasil yang lebih baik dalam kalangan belia, pengkaji telah menyenaraikan cadangan-cadangan penambahbaikan kepada penggubal polisi, seperti menyediakan servis kewangan dan infrastuktur kepada belia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to God Almighty for His grace throughout this academic journey.

My special thanks go to my parents, George and Florence; and to my brothers and sisters, for their prayers, tremendous love and support.

To my supervisory committee, Dr Haslinda Abdullah, Associate Professor Dr Nobaya Ahmad, and Associate Professor Dr Ma'rof Redzuan, I am grateful for the insights, feedback, mentoring, and guidance throughout this research process. I must recognize my Chair, Dr Haslinda, for the immeasurable encouragements when morale was low. To my Examination Committee, I express my deep sense of gratitude for your invaluable contributions.

I would like to extend my immense appreciation to my research assistant, Odunayo Oluwafemi, for his assistance during the fieldwork. My heartfelt gratitude goes also to Ossy Peter Nwokeke and Godwin Onuh for their friendship and encouragements all through this journey.

Lastly, I convey my sincere thanks to all those who provided me with words of encouragement along the way.

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on October 11, 2012 to conduct the final examination of **Amadi Bede Obinna** on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “**Influence of Capacity Building and Barriers on Economic Empowerment among Youth in Abuja, Nigeria**” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

Mariani Mansor, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Sharifah Norazizan Syed Abdul Rashid, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Mohamad Fazli Sabri, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Muthusami Kumaran, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences
University of Florida
USA
(External Examiner)

SEOW HENG FONG, PhD

Professor/Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Haslinda Abdullah, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Nobaya Ahmad, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Ma'rof Redzuan, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

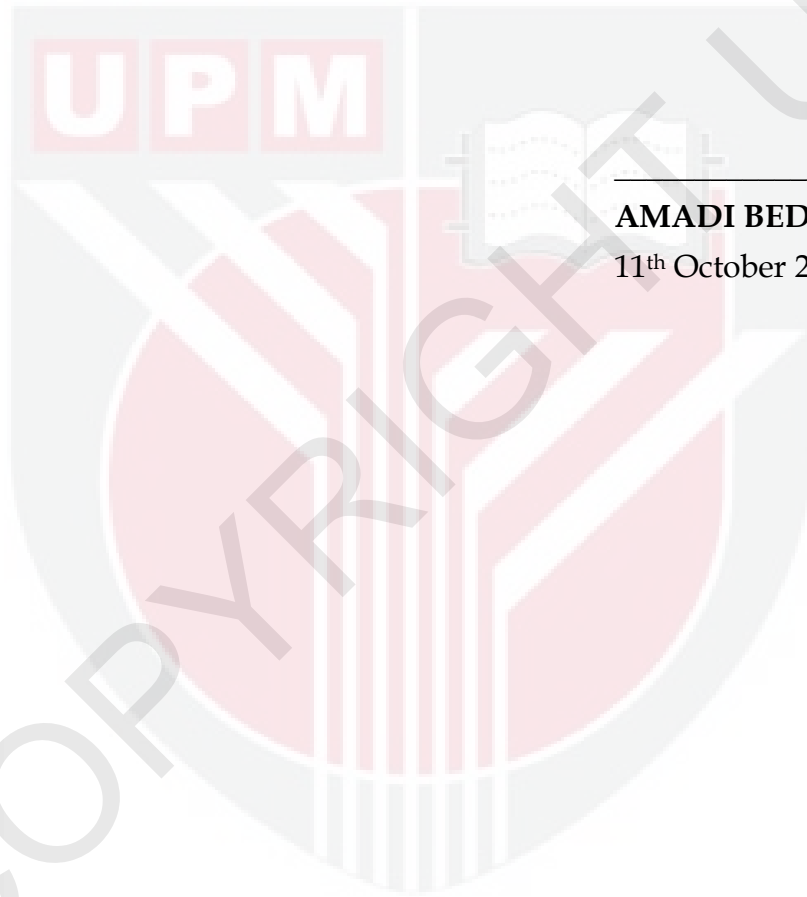
BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or other institutions.



AMADI BEDE OBINNA
11th October 2012

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