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 Ngozi for her significant support and encouragements. I could not have blossomed without you.
INFLUENCE OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND BARRIERS
ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUTH IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

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 pemerkasaan 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 pemerkasaan 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
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
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xviii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Background of study</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Statement of problem</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Research Questions</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Objectives of study</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Research Hypotheses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Significance of study</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Scope and limitations of study</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Conceptual framework</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 Operational definition of concepts</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 Organization of thesis</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Capacity Building</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Understanding Capacity Building</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Capacity Building for Empowerment</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Components of Capacity Building</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.4 Capacity Building and Participation</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5 Capacity Building in the Informal Sector</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.6 Informal Apprenticeship</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Empowerment</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Concept of Empowerment</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.2 Levels of empowerment 46
2.2.3 The Concept of Power 51
2.2.4 Relationship of Capacity Building and Empowerment 53
2.2.5 Sustainability in Empowerment 56
2.3 Empowerment in the Informal Sector 58
2.4 Youth Economic Empowerment in Nigeria 60
2.5 Government Programmes for Youth Empowerment 63
2.5.1 National Directorate of Employment 63
2.5.2 National Poverty Eradication Programme 66
2.6 Barriers to Youth Economic Empowerment 68
2.7 Theoretical Framework 72
2.8 Conclusion 77

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 80
3.1 Research Design 80
3.2 Location and respondents of study 81
3.3 Population and Sampling 84
3.4 Instrumentations 86
3.5 Measures and Validation of Instruments 88
3.5.1 Training Satisfaction Scale 89
3.5.2 Perceived Skill Acquisition Scale 89
3.5.3 Personal Growth Initiative Scale 93
3.5.4 Perceived Control Scale 94
3.5.5 Self-Esteem Scale 95
3.5.6 Barriers to Economic Empowerment Scale 95
3.5.7 Perceived Economic well-being Scale 97
3.6 Pilot Report 102
3.7 Data Collection 105
3.8 Data Analysis 108
3.9 Conclusion 114
# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents 115
4.2 Level of Capacity Building Components among Participants 123
4.3 Level of Perception on Economic Empowerment 125
4.4 Level of Barriers to Economic Empowerment 129
4.5 Unique predictors of economic empowerment 131
4.6 Relationship between Capacity Building Components and Economic Empowerment 145
4.7 Moderating effect of barriers to economic empowerment 157
4.8 Conclusion 167

# SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary 169
5.2 Conclusion 176
5.3 Recommendations for Policy Interventions 183
5.4 Recommendations for Future Research 188

REFERENCES 190
APPENDICES 212
BIODATA OF STUDENT 231
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 232