

**AN ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION  
AMONG POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN NIGERIAN  
UNIVERSITIES.**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
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**UUM**  
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**Pusat Pengajian Pengurusan  
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## ABSTRACT

Governments in most developing countries are doing their best to ensure that graduates who are not employed should engage in entrepreneurship activities which can go a long way in reducing the problem of unemployment among the youths. Nigeria is among one of those developing nations with such problem. The government has introduced some many programmes and policies which are aimed at reducing poverty and will encourage self-employment among the youths. Yet, students are still lacking the intention of becoming an entrepreneur. Thus, this study aimed in examining the entrepreneurial intention among postgraduate students in Nigerian universities. The study used factors such as entrepreneurship education, environmental factors and societal entrepreneurship attitude to explore the student's entrepreneurial intention. Also, the study used a convenient sampling method with 254 questionnaires were administered to three universities. The result indicated that all the independent variables used (entrepreneurship education, environment factors and societal entrepreneurship attitude) has positive significant and are related to entrepreneurial intention. Finally, this study finding is important to the Ministry of Education on how to design a more comprehensive and benefice entrepreneurship courses and curriculum to these Nigerian universities. This will aim at preparing these students to be self-employed (entrepreneurs) which will reduce and assist the government in overcoming the problem of youth poverty and unemployment in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial intention, entrepreneurial education, environmental factor, societal entrepreneurship attitude

## ABSTRAK

Kerajaan di kebanyakan negara membangun, melakukan yang terbaik untuk memastikan graduan yang tidak mempunyai pekerjaan perlu terlibat dalam aktiviti keusahawanan bagi mengurangkan masalah pengangguran di kalangan belia. Nigeria adalah antara salah satu negara membangun yang menghadapi masalah tersebut. Kerajaan telah memperkenalkan beberapa pengaturcaraan dan dasar yang bertujuan mengurangkan kadar kemiskinan dan menggalakkan di kalangan belia untuk bekerja sendiri. Namun, pelajar masih kurang berminat untuk menjadi seorang usahawan. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti minat di kalangan pelajar pasca siswazah universiti di Nigeria untuk menceburi bidang keusahawanan. Kajian ini menggunakan faktor-faktor seperti pendidikan keusahawanan, faktor persekitaran dan sikap keusahawanan masyarakat untuk menarik minat pelajar. Selain itu, kajian ini menggunakan kaedah persampelan mudah dengan 254 soal selidik telah diberikan kepada tiga universiti. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa semua pembolehubah bebas yang digunakan (pendidikan keusahawanan, faktor persekitaran dan sikap keusahawanan masyarakat) mempunyai kesan positif yang ketara yang berkaitan dengan minat keusahawanan. Akhir sekali, dapatan kajian ini adalah penting kepada Kementerian Pendidikan tentang bagaimana untuk mereka bentuk kursus keusahawanan dan kurikulum yang lebih komprehensif dan bermanfaat untuk universiti-universiti Nigeria. Ini bertujuan untuk menjadikan pelajar-pelajar ini untuk bekerja sendiri (usahawan) yang akan mengurangkan dan membantu kerajaan dalam mengatasi masalah kemiskinan dan pengangguran belia di Nigeria.

Kata kunci: niat Keusahawanan, pendidikan keusahawanan, faktor persekitaran, sikap keusahawanan masyarakat

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## **DEDICATION**

TO MAY BELOVED PARENT, ALHAJI A.B IDRISU AND HAJIYA HAUWA  
ADAMU IDRISU.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ABU: Ahmadu Bello University
- COSC: Cambridge Overseas School Certificate
- EE: Entrepreneurial Education
- EF: Environmental Factor
- EI: Entrepreneurial Intention
- GDP: Gross Domestic Product
- MBA: Master of Business Administration
- MSC: Master of Science
- NBS: National Bureau of Statistics
- NDE: National Directorate of Employment
- NPC: National Population Commission
- OAU: Obafemi Awoluwo University
- OYAGSB: Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business
- SEA: Societal Entrepreneurship Attitude
- SEE: Shapero Entrepreneurial Event Model
- SPSS: Statistical Programme for Social Sciences
- TPB: Theory of Plan Behaviour
- UN: University of Nsukka
- UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- UUM: Universiti Utara Malaysia
- USA: United State of America
- WDI: World Development Indicator

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Throughout the last decades, entrepreneurship as an area of research has enticed researchers, policy makers and agencies. The main reason for the high interest is as a result of the increasing need for entrepreneurs that have put more effort in creating new ideas and making such that these ideas are put into profitable businesses that would boost the country's economic development (Turker & Selcuk, 2009). Additional reasons for the growing concern about the issue of entrepreneurship include poverty and the rising rate of unemployment among youths that have become clear during the post economic decline era of the early 1980's; this decline or slowdown in the recognition of the capacity in a small and medium business and the agricultural market activities that provide a widespread employment and job opportunities to check unemployment and eradicate poverty (Alarape, 2009).

Nevertheless, the challenges currently faced by most developing countries in the world are how to involve their teeming youths in advantageously employed. The growing rate of unemployment among the graduate youths as a result of delays in getting jobs that harmonized their professions and expectations has therefore become the core goal of intense to both academicians as well as manager's evaluation (Aliman & Jalal, 2013). Moreover, an irregularity that exists between the ratio in demand for labour and the total number of graduates that are seeking for jobs also grounds to a strong level in the rate of unemployed youth (Ismail, 2011). One strategy which can be used to overcome this



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