

## An Investigation of Entrepreneurship Awareness and Skills among Library Information Science Students at Bauchi Metropolitan Universities

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### Abstract

This study investigates entrepreneurship skills and awareness among library and information science students at Bauchi metropolitan universities. Nigerian government and relevant stakeholders emphasized on the development of entrepreneurship skills and awareness among undergraduate students at universities, polytechnic and colleges of education. This led to setting up agencies like small and medium scale enterprises (SMEDAN), Industrial Training Fund (ITF) and Entrepreneurship centers and clubs in most Nigerian colleges and universities. Hence, it becomes necessary to equip library and information science students with skills required to achieve self-reliance. Bauchi State is one of the 36 States in Nigeria located in the North East Region of the country with only two public universities, ATBU and BASUG. In these universities, library and information science is offered as a degree course. This study uses Primary data where questionnaire was employ as the tool of data collection. Frequencies and Percentages was used to analyzed the respondents questions asked while the chi-square  $X^2$  analysis was employ to test the stated hypothesis. The result of the study shows that library and information science students are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness at Bauchi metropolitan universities. This study therefore conclude that library and information science students are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness in the Nigerian universities as it is seen in Bauchi metropolitan universities. The study recommends that relevant stakeholders including government and corporate world should continue to support and promote entrepreneurship skills and awareness among all students of universities in order to brace them up with the challenges in the labour market after graduation. Priorities should also be given to students to undertake practical trainings courses in entrepreneurship areas and students should be encourage carrying out practical assignments and projects based on real life problems pertaining entrepreneurship skills.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Library Information Science, Universities, Skills, Awareness

### 1. Introduction

Inability of government at different levels in developing economy to provide employment opportunities for citizenry have necessitated the need to equip graduates with entrepreneurship skills and awareness in order for them to be self-reliance after graduation. Entrepreneurship skills is paramount as it helps entrepreneurs better fulfill their personal need and contribute to the economic development of the nation (Ugwu & Ezeani, 2012) As

we notice today, government and relevant stakeholders emphasized on the development of entrepreneurship skills and awareness among undergraduate students at higher institutions of learning. For instance, in Nigeria, government initiatives involve setting up agencies like small and medium scale enterprises (SMEDAN), Industrial Training Fund (ITF) and Entrepreneurship centers and clubs in most Nigerian colleges and universities.

In the light of this, therefore, Igbeka, (2008) contends that Nigeria is gradually awakening to the importance of entrepreneurship development in the tertiary institutions. As we notice the concrete role of entrepreneurship awareness and skills in supporting the economic development, Nigerian universities students nowadays regardless of their course of study need to acquaint themselves with an entrepreneurship skills and knowledge especially those in the fields of library information sciences, general sciences, social sciences and languages. Numerous scholars define entrepreneurship in different ways. The concept has enjoyed attention of scholars due to its importance, as perspectives on the concept are myriad. This study observed that entrepreneurship is all about doing something new, innovation and creativity, competency, risk taking, self-reliance and so on. However, Idiaghe, (2011) viewed Entrepreneurship as the ability of an individual to rely on his/her abilities and efforts; that is, the person is independent. She went further to emphasized that education in relation to self-reliance and entrepreneurship is the type of education that trains a person to be self-reliance, functional, realistic, productive, pragmatic and reliable. However, in their own opinion, Lucky & Ugheh, (2014) described entrepreneurship as a concept concerned with the development and survival of both individual and the society. They also went further to explain that it is a tool through which social, economic and political development could be achieved. The concept of entrepreneurship is increasingly central phenomenon in contemporary society, there is need to stimulate the entrepreneurial mindsets of young people for them to be self-reliance and contribute to the economy without necessarily working for the government. Moreover, on their own part, Francis & Oghenevwogaga, (2015) focused on the entrepreneurship in library and information science, they posited that entrepreneurship in library and information science is about developing attitudes, behavior of library and information science students, graduates and practitioners at the individual level in pursuit of profit oriented goal. Entrepreneurship is also seen as a program that inculcates creative, innovative, productive and managerial skills needed in business enterprises for self-reliance and national development (Eke, Igwesi & Orji, 2011).

In Nigeria, observations shows that high rate of unemployment is related to social vices such as youth restiveness, armed robbery, armed banditry, prostitution, kidnapping to mention few. This study believe that these social vices to some extent is as a results of not equipping the youth and the graduates with necessary entrepreneurship skills for them to be self-employ and self-reliance after graduation even if the labour market unable to accommodate them. In support of this view, Ehirheme & Ekpeyong (2012) posits that larger part of Nigerian graduates that completed the mandatory National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC) in the last five (5) years remain unemployed. Corroborating this, Ekere & Ekere (2012) assert that this situation portrays failure of the nation's entire education system and underlines an inherent mismatch between the types of

education received by Nigerian graduates and the needs of government agencies, private industrial establishments and other employers of labour. On it is part, government have necessitated the introduction of entrepreneurial education in the curricular of all higher institutions in Nigeria by National Universities Commission (NUC) and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). Therefore, there is urgent need to prepare the library information science students and graduates of Nigeria's universities with entrepreneurship skills and awareness so as to be self-employment. It is worthy to know that if library information science students are equipped with the relevant entrepreneurial skills and awareness, at the end of the day they will definitely start up small business opportunity after graduation if there is no job available in the labor market. For instance, small scale business such as information brokerage, consultancy services, selective dissemination of information, selling of books, information packaging, sales of library materials, sales and repairs of ICT components, design of websites can be done by library information science students and graduates.

Moreover, in Nigeria the era of getting white collar job is over in the labour market, hence, the need for concerted efforts by all stakeholders including government to ensure youth and students are equip with entrepreneurship skill and awareness even before graduation so as not to rely on government to provide jobs for them.

This study, therefore, notice a high level of unemployment which degenerates to social vices due to the poor entrepreneurship skills and awareness among citizenry including students of universities. Therefore, it has become imperative to conduct a study to investigate entrepreneurship skills and awareness among university students so as to assess how far schools have gone in preparing the minds of students, especially library and information science students before graduations to be self-reliance. The problem here is to investigate the level entrepreneurship skills and awareness among library information science students in in Bauchi state metropolitan universities.

## **2. Objective of the Research**

The objective of this study is to examine the level of entrepreneurship skills and awareness by library information science students among Bauchi state metropolitan universities.

### 3. Research Questions

The following research questions have been formulated.

- Does library and information science students equip with entrepreneurship skills in Bauchi metropolitan Universities?
- Does library and information science students have awareness on entrepreneurship education in Bauchi metropolitan Universities?
- What are the problems library and information science students faced with acquisition of entrepreneurship skills at Bauchi metropolitan universities?

In this paper we seek to shed more light on the issue of investigating entrepreneurship skills and awareness among library and information science students at Bauchi metropolitan universities. To achieve this null and alternate hypothesis are developed.

- **H<sub>0</sub>**: Library and information science students' are not equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness at Bauchi metropolitan universities.
- **H<sub>1</sub>**: Library and information science students' are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness at Bauchi metropolitan universities.

### 4. Literature Review

#### 4.1 Conceptual Framework

Library is an important institution where people make research. The importance of library to human development cannot be overemphasized as it is an institution where knowledge is reserve and waiting to be tapped by researchers. The discipline of library and information science as such should be given priority. Notwithstanding, economic challenges such as unemployment has affected the capacity of library and information science students and graduates to be self-reliance which necessitated the government and universities to accord priority to entrepreneurship education, skills and awareness among students. The concept of entrepreneurship is define as the process through which entrepreneurs create, nurture and grow enterprises using a reasonable degree of initiative, skills and competencies necessary to transform change into opportunities thereby deriving personal satisfaction, monetary rewards and independence. On the other hand, the concept of library information science is seen as an institution that support the university community by delivering services to meet the teaching, research and learning needs of staff and students (Olufunke, 2017). Library plays a key role in the educational system of their parent institutions by providing a variety of services to a wide range of users in the academic environment. University libraries acquire process, manage and disseminate information resources through which their parent institutions conduct research and produce high-level manpower. Libraries provide access to information resources in diverse formats to users. They provide timely and relevant information in support of teaching and research needs of their parent institutions. The university library is a repository of information resources. These resources are the traditional information resources which include books, journals, maps, encyclopedia, dictionaries, newspapers and periodicals. Some of the services provided are reference services, technical services, selective dissemination of information, lending services, bibliographic services, reprographic services, inter-library loan services, indexing and abstracting services.

Meanwhile, there is need for the library and information science students to utilize the opportunity offers by entrepreneurial ventures. Adomi, (2009) opined that career opportunities for librarians are endless. The tasks for a librarian who wants to work in a setting other than a traditional library is to identify an area and then convince somebody that he is capable of undertaking business ventures. Anyanwu, Oduagwu, Ossai-Onah, and Amaechi, (2013) also stress that entrepreneurial opportunity exists where there is a need, want, problem or challenges in librarianship that can be addressed, solved and or satisfied in an innovative way it is about recognition or discovery of new ways of provision of library and information services and allied or information related services. The researchers also offers a comprehensive list of entrepreneurial opportunities available for library and information science students and graduates which includes Library equipment business, publishing and printing business, information brokerage business, courier services business, library consultancy business, rural information provision business, stationary business, reprographic business, art gallery business, vendor business freelance information business. Other entrepreneurial opportunities for library and information science as offer by Lucky & Ugheh, (2014) include; internet search service to co-workers especially in academic environment, computer programmer, cyber cafe operator/manager, working in telecom companies such as GLO, Airtel, MTN, Documentary services, abstracting and indexing services to publishers, advert agency, marketing of library and information science products, writing articles, conference papers, organizing workshops in areas of library and information science and digitalization of library materials as well as book reviewing.

Therefore, each of the entrepreneurial opportunities required library and information science graduates to develop professional knowledge and skills to provide the above services to people effectively and efficiently in the society. But however, other areas that can be engage includes tutorial classes and coaching centers, establishment of nursery schools for children, laundry and dry cleaning services, operating stores and supermarkets or fast food joint, indoor and outdoor catering services, cake baking, wedding designer and water factories for packing and repackaging (commonly called pure- water in Nigeria). Another business opportunity

for library information science are spell out clearly by previous studies also identify the opportunities available to library and information science graduate as publishing development of computer software, production and sale of library equipment, information brokerage and consultancy services, bookselling business, operation of business centre and computer maintenance. Hence library and information students must be prepared to take advantage of these golden opportunities as the white collar job era has gone in the country.

#### *4.2 Skills to Be Acquired By Library and Information Science Students and Graduates to Engage in Entrepreneurship*

Ugwu & Ezeani (2012) identified the following skills that must be acquired by library and information science students and graduates towards successful entrepreneurship venture.

- **Information Technology Skills:** These include networking, library automation and digitization, web based services, reprography, micrographs, facsimile, video text, teletext, database creation and management systems including CDS,ISIS,LIBSYS, content development, desktop publishing, internet, presentation, hardware/software skills and relational databases including the ability to create data structures which facilitate the indexing and retrieval of information and thesaurus development.
- **Information Literacy Skills:** These have to do with the ability to locate information efficiently and effectively, evaluate information critically and competently and using information accurately and creatively. Also included here is the economics and marketing of information products and services, information resource management, information processing and organizing, e-mail, multimedia perspectives and video conferencing.
- **Managerial Skills:** These are the business management skills such as marketing, financing, accounting, control, planning and goal setting, decision making, human relations and managing growth. These are essential in launching and growing a new venture.
- **Personal entrepreneurial skills:** These include inner control/discipline, risk taking, innovativeness, change orientation and ability to manage change, persistence, and visionary leadership.
- **Technical Skills:** Written and oral communication, interpersonal, monitoring environment, the ability to organize, and network building. These skills are necessary for successful venture and they should be given attention by students to enable them succeeding in venturing.

#### *4.3 Ways Libraries Can Advance Entrepreneurship*

Libraries help build entrepreneurial infrastructures by providing the following:

- **Access To Business Databases:** This include creating databases to assist with primary research
- **Maker Spaces:** These are free-to-use spaces with 3D printers, green screens, laser cutting and computers with video and graphic editing software
- **Education:** Libraries often hold classes and host mentoring opportunities dedicated to topics covering all things entrepreneurship from the basics of starting a business to the details of selling a business
- **Intellectual Property Guidance:** Librarians help guide inventors and entrepreneurs through copyright, patent and trademark resources
- **Youth Entrepreneurship:** Libraries engage youth in coding and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities (STEM)
- **Networking:** Libraries provide access through partnerships and collaborations with government programs like SCORE.

#### *4.4 Challenges of Implementing Entrepreneurship Skills and Awareness in Nigeria*

There are great challenges in both academia and business world in trying to equip citizens with appropriate and relevant entrepreneurship skills and awareness which need to be properly tacked in order to create needed innovative minds that will drive the nation economy to self-reliance. These challenges are numerous but notably among them are: difficulty and in accessibility for the entrepreneurs to interface with all necessary supporting entities such as banks, suppliers, customers, venture capitalists, distributors and advertising agencies, lack of entrepreneurial spirit and culture, confidence and determination and fear of competition and failure and lack of adequate support, motivation and financial assistance from parents and guardians.

These challenges are still militating against the full potential of developing entrepreneurship skills and awareness for both the practitioners and the library information science students Kristiansson & Jochumsen, (2015). Though it is fact that most universities in Nigeria have developed a centre for entrepreneurship research and development for their institutions, but most library and information science departments have yet to develop an entrepreneurship curriculum that aligns with the demands of the profession. On this note, this study however, calls on the students to commit themselves to the practical work and make an entrepreneurial skills and education their priority. Students should acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge in terms of entrepreneurship skills, this is necessary because life after school is challenging, hence, students should strive to gain knowledge about entrepreneurship theory and methods.

#### 4.5 Brief Information on the Bauchi Metropolitan Universities

Bauchi state is a one of the state in Nigeria situated in the North East Region of the country with vast and arable land area of about 54,926 Sq. Km and a population of about 9,000,000 Million People approximately. The state is blessed with natural resources especially non-minerals deposit and recently a mineral deposit was discovered in the state. Bauchi State has been blessed with two universities namely Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Univeristy [ATBU] and Bauchi State University Gadau [BASUG]. The ATBU is located in the Bauchi Metropol an approxiamately has a xxx of students while the BASUG is operating multiple campus with its Main campus located in Gadau Town, Itas Gadau Local Government Area of Bauchi State and a law Faculty in Misau and Management and Social Sciences Faculty located in the capital city of Bauchi State.

However, the two universities offered introductory computer course irrespective of student course of study in their first year entry students to acquaints the students with the reality of the modern teaching and learning and to prepare the to be competitive after graduation. Therefore, this research considered it necessary because of the importance of computer knowledge to society to investigate the undergraduate students' attitudes towards learning this introductory computer course at the two universities.

#### 5. Methodology

##### 5.1 Research Design and Instrument

This study used survey research design; primary data were obtained from the respondents by using survey questionnaire. The researcher with the help of the students administered the questionnaire and it was designed in two sections, the first section is demographic section and the second one on investigation of entrepreneurship skills and awareness among library and information science students. The questionnaire were designed with a 5-point Likert scale (5 = strongly agree; 4 = agree; 3 = undecided; 2 = disagree; 1 = strongly disagree) to determine students agreement with each statement on the questionnaire. However, data obtained from the respondents were analyzed using the chi-square method and percentage analysis was done.

##### 5.2 Population and Sample of the Research

The target populations for this study include all the undergraduate students at Bauchi Metropolitan universities that are undergoing library information science as degree course. Convenience sampling technique was adopted were 50 students were selected (25 students from Bauchi State University Gadau and 25 students from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

##### 5.3 Presentation and Analysis of Data from Research Questionnaire

Responses from the questionnaire indicating strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree were analyze and presented.

Table 1. Frequencies and Percentages of questions

Computer Knowledge & Attitude Questions	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>F</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Do you think entrepreneurship skills awareness is needed in universities	198	66	100	34	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Do you thing all LIS students need to learn entrepreneurship	150	50	148	49.6	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Do you love attending an enpreneurship class	124	41.6	125	42	49	16	0	0.00	0	0.00
Students have enough skills in university	50	17	100	34	25	8	123	41	0	0.00
Students are interested to engage themselves with entrepreneurship	74	25	100	34	75	25	49	16	0	0.00
Do you think students apply entrepreneurship skills after school	75	25	223	75	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Entrepreneurship skills increase students chances of findings good job	75	25	150	50	50	17	23	8	0	0.00
Do you think students	73	24	150	50	25	9	50	17	0	0.00

become successful if equip with e/skills										
Do you think students like to read entrepreneurship related books	23	8	100	33	125	42	50	17	0	0.00
Do you think students get good in entrepreneurship related course	50	17	100	33	25	9	100	33	23	8
Do you take a long time to understand entrepreneurship course	25	9	100	33	50	17	123	41	0	0.00
It is difficult for students to learn entrepreneurship skills	23	8	50	17	100	33	75	25	50	17
Every student should learn entrepreneurship skills	125	42	98	33	25	8	0	0.00	50	17
Students were engage in practical entrepreneurship class	75	25	125	42	23	8	50	17	25	9
Entrepreneurship course lecturers teach effectively and efficiently	75	25	198	66	25	9	0	0.00	0	0.00
Entrepreneurship is reliable and effective course in thought	198	66	50	16	25	9	25	9	0	0.00
Proper and enough time have been allocated to entrepreneurship class	123	41	50	17	25	9	100	33	0	0.00
I love doing research in entrepreneurship area	148	50	125	42	25	8	0	0.00	0	0.00
Computer lecturers regularly ask students to practice one form of business in holiday	123	41	150	50	0	0.00	25	9	0	0.00
I can learn one or two business with the help of entrepreneurship skills	173	58	100	33	0	0.00	25	9	0	0.00

Source: (Questionnaire Survey 2018)

### 5.3.1 Chi-Square (X<sup>2</sup>) Analysis

Table 2. Chi-square contingency table

OF	EF	(OF-EF)	(OF-EF) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(OF - EF)^2}{EF}$
38	37	1	1	0.027
50	50	0	0	0.000
37	37.5	0.5	0.25	0.007
25	24.5	0.5	0.25	0.010
35	33	2	4	0.121
46	45	1	1	0.022

43	42	1	1	0.023
24	23	1	1	0.043
0	0	0	0	$X_c^2 = 0.253$

Source: (Questionnaire survey 2018)

$$X^2 = \sum \left( \frac{OF - EF}{EF} \right)$$

$$X_c^2 = 0.253$$

$$X_t^2 = 3.841 @ (\text{level of significance}) = 0.05$$

Degree of freedom = 1

$$\xrightarrow{3.841 > 0.253}$$

### Decision

From the above- calculated chi-square ( $X_c^2$ ) is 0.253 which is less than the tabulated Chi-square ( $X_t^2$ ) 3.841. i.e.  $X_c^2 < X_t^2$ .

Since the calculated Chi-square is less than the tabulated Chi-square we reject the null hypothesis which says library and information science students' are not equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness at Bauchi metropolitan universities and library and information science students' are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness at Bauchi metropolitan universities.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 6.1 Discussion of Findings

Entrepreneurship skills and awareness among library and information science students is important so as to get them ready for the real world after graduation. Even though, attention is now given to the inculcating the general public including students to quint themselves to entrepreneurship skills and education while in school, much is still needed to be done in terms of practical session and provision of adequate items for the practical. The findings of this study shows that library and information science students are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness while at universities as it is the case with Bauchi metropolitan universities. In essence, this implies that students at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi and Bauchi State University, Gadau do actually acquire the relevant entrepreneurship skills that can make them ready and accessible to the variety of entrepreneurship opportunities after graduation. Based on the findings of this study we therefore, conclude that library and information science students at Bauchi metropolitan universities are equip with entrepreneurship skills and awareness. This result agrees with the findings of Raymond, (2017) but contravene the result of Igbeka, (2008) and Ugwu & Ezeani (2012).

In line with the findings, the study recommends that universities, corporate world, government agencies and wealthy individuals should continue to support and promote entrepreneurship skills and awareness among all students of universities in order to brace them up with the challenges in the labour market after graduation. Library and information science students should also begin to undertake practical trainings courses in entrepreneurship area and finally students should be given opportunity to attend workshop to carry out practical assignments and projects based on real life problems.

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