

ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAININGS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP'S) FOR SELF-RELIANCE AS PERCEIVED BY DELTA STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY STAFF

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Abstract

The study was designed to examine entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency. Three research questions guided the study. A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of eighty-one (81) Staff of State Emergency Management Agency Asaba. There was no sample because the population was a manageable one. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire made up of 35 items, validated by two experts for its face and content validity. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained; the result yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.83 which showed that the instrument was reliable. Eighty one (81) copies of the questionnaire were administered and only sixty five (65) were retrieved. Data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that the problem of displaced persons has in recent years become a global concern with its implications and since there is no guarantee that IDPs problems will end soon, entrepreneurial skills training is strongly needed in order to boost entrepreneurship development for the IDPs in Delta State. The study recommended among others that the three tiers of government should identify with established entrepreneurs of business education, technical education also in the communities like in bakery, fashion designing, catering, computer schools etc. who will provide professional trainings; and entrepreneurial training should be practically oriented rather than theory as this will expose the IDPs to various lucrative vocations.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Training, Internally Displaced Persons, Self-Reliance and Civil Servants.

Introduction

The problem of displaced persons has in recent years become a global concern with its implications. It is on record that the total number of displaced persons is currently estimated around fifty million worldwide, with the majority of these people in Africa and Asia (Grace, 2017). Displacement across the country in Nigeria is as a result of communal violence, internal armed conflicts, leadership tussle and natural disasters such as flood. Flood had been the major cause of displaced persons in Delta State in particular. As a result of the ravaging flood wreaking havoc on different parts of the country, about 22 Internally Displaced Persons camps have been set up in Delta State. Twelve of the camps were created by the Delta State Government, while the 10 others were set up by communities and people that are not disposed to moving into the government holding camps which are not near their original places of abode (Omon, 2018). The state said, the Flood Management Committee it created recently was providing for the needs of the people in the private camps.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) centres in Delta State include; Emede Camp in Isoko South LGA, Alaka (Ozoro) in Isoko North LGA, Ashaka Camp in Ndokwa East LGA, Utagba-Ogbe Camp in Ndokwa West LGA, Emede camp (Ozoro) Isoko North LGA, Otagba-Ogbe IDP camp at Kwale and Ewulu in Aniocha South LGA.

In some of the camps visited, non-indigenes were seen in large numbers because the camps are located in areas where the state shares boundaries with other states (Punch, 2018). During the visits, it was observed that adequate security, light, water, well-stocked clinics, and other facilities that will make the victims feel a little bit comfortable were in place. Delta State Government has expressed worry at the increasing number of persons displaced from their homes by ravaging flood, noting that, the number of such persons being sheltered in many camps set up for displaced persons by the state government has almost doubled that for the same time last year.

The advent of flood in Delta State, led to many persons being displaced from their homes. These persons are known as internally displaced persons or IDPs. IDPs refers to persons or groups of persons who have been forced to flee their homes, as a result of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters (United Nations, 2015). On the other hand, a refugee could be defined as “someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group”. Hence, from the definitions above IDPs are those displaced persons who remain within the country. This is a situation where several people have left their homes, towns and local government to another town seeking for refuge and survival on what the government and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide for them.

This compelled government to set up camps to accommodate them to ensure their wellbeing. The victims of war, battle, clash or conflict are not just those who die in the battle, those who live to tell the story with pains and memories that may never make them remain the same again. Above and beyond, the displaced persons at the camps have seen a lighter shade of death with the hardship and sufferings they have endured in recent times. Some of them are lost and have no suspicion of the where about of their loved ones. As one can see several of them roaming about on the streets of Delta State and other States, some motor parks and market places begging for alms, house to house begging and some result into stealing where nobody is found around or in a house. Living in the IDP camp is enough reason to be unhappy and upset when they used to be major business owners and land owners.

For those who have lost all other assets, education represents a primary strategy which forms the basis to build livelihood and re-integration. The sole aim of basic education in Nigeria entrepreneurial training is to equip individuals with knowledge and skills that will enable them to live meaningful and fulfilling lives, contribute to the development of the society, derive maximum social, economic, and cultural benefits for the society and discharges their obligation competently (Federal Ministry of Education, 2014).

It may be implied from the above that, education is meant to foster social cohesion, provide access to life-saving information, address psychological needs and offer a stable environment for persons referred as IDPs. It is to help these set of people rebuild their lives, communities and direct energies towards productive and meaningful lives. IDPs’ education requires professionals in all aspects of education which business education through entrepreneurial skills training is relevant to develop the vital learning domain which includes basic knowledge, technical or job related skills, positive attitudes, inter-personal relationship and productive consciousness, for personal and communal efficiency.

Entrepreneurial skill training acquisition prepares the individual for self-employment. It is a creative and innovative response to the environment (Oyemah and Ebiloma, 2018). Entrepreneurial skills’ training is the main engine for economic growth and development. A major factor in promoting private sector development and partnership, improvement in the living standard of citizens, substantial local capital formation, high level of productivity and capability, a principal means for achieving and sustaining industrial diversification (Magaji, 2016). Entrepreneurial training needed by IDPs include;

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Soap Making, Fashion Designing, Food and Catering Services, Photography, GSM Repairs, Computer repairs, Laundry/Dry Cleaning Services, Driving, Barbing/Hair making, Bee Production, Welding and Fabrication, Poultry Production, Snail Production, Tailoring, BeadMaking, Brick Laying, Painting, Shoe Making, Motor Mechanic, Electrician, Trading and so on. For these reasons, it is extremely important for every individual and especially the IDPs to acquire entrepreneurial skills that are necessary to establish a small scale business enterprise, run it effectively, reap the benefits that accrued to it and become a self-reliant person. Emeruwa 2019, Maina 2016 and Aiyeduso 2016, summarized and outlined the benefits of entrepreneurial skills training to IDPs are:

- Development in the individual's opportunity for creativity and innovation to produce, market and manage their own business.
- Assisting the individuals to be independent and self-reliant.
- Develop in the individuals the spirit of taking business risk with confidence.
- Entrepreneurial skills development is an avenue for personal wealth for those who are interested because, our economy is filled with individuals who rose from rags to riches through the establishment of their own business organization.
- Entrepreneurship skills development makes individuals to be a job provider instead of a job seeker.
- Enable individuals to take rational decision and become optimistic person who sees opportunities where the average person see the need for caution, identify opportunities others are blind and develop optimum confidence in them well beyond that of others.
- Entrepreneurial skills development enables individuals to transfer theoretical concepts into practical ideas.

Globally, entrepreneurial trainings are aimed at equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, vocations and attitudes needed to manage personal business as well as function effectively in the economic system (American Vocational Association in Olubukola, 2015). IDPs entrepreneurial trainings are important because, it provides strategies of ensuring that individuals are trained to meet up with skills needed to survive in the society. It prepares IDPs for self-employment which goes further to empower them economically and socially by providing recipients with generic lifelong and life copying skills, knowledge and understanding (Osuala 2010). The IDPs entrepreneurial training skills will change the orientation and attitudes of the recipients and the process will equip them with the skills and knowledge to enable them start and manage their own businesses for life instead of depending on the government and NGOs at all times.

Nonetheless, literature is relatively replete on entrepreneurship training, as well as studies on strategies on how to improve the living standard of the IDPs and training for wealth creation, employment. These literatures are lacking in Nigeria. From the review, it is clear that with entrepreneurial skills training integrated into the IDP camps by admitting the youths and other young ones into the programme of skill acquisition, wealth creation, poverty reduction, self-employment, improve economic competitiveness and economic growth are attainable in the country (Magaji, 2016).

For these reasons, it is extremely important for every individual and especially the IDPs to acquire entrepreneurial skills that are necessary to establish a small scale business enterprise, run it effectively, reap the benefits that accrued to it and become a self-reliant person. The entrepreneurial skills training will build confidence and self-esteem, will improve IDPs' occupational business, and entrepreneurship skills, help them generate income to build a better life for their shattered families; and give them hope and opportunities. The IDPs' community patterns are deconstructed and lifestyles may be changed; since there is no guarantee that IDPs problems will end soon (Gana 2014). Entrepreneurial skills training are seen as prerequisites for sustainable development for the IDPs. It is against the background, that this study seeks to determine entrepreneurial training needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.

Statement of the Problem

The massive unemployment of internally displaced people in Delta State and Nigeria as a whole caused by natural disaster (such as flood), global economic crisis (Economic melt-down) made the federal government to emphasize the need for all Nigerians to strive for self-reliance through self-employment. Displaced people, asylum seekers, living in exile are confronted with complexities and uncertainties about their future. Youths and Adults, for example, are in need of opportunities that will help them gain knowledge and skills for a healthy life away from criminal activities and violence. Girls and women are the most susceptible to sexual abuse and exploitation in refugee camps. In many cases, girls turn to sex for money in order to support the family. For that reason, hope and opportunities for young people and women who are the vulnerable group must have protection, especially in the camps.

It is disturbing to acknowledge that a greater number of this percentage are IDP's from who roam the street and in the job markets looking for non-existing jobs for lack of entrepreneurial skills. Lack of entrepreneurial skills is no doubt a major contributing factor to the problem of unemployment of the less privileged in Nigeria (Adebisi and Oni, 2017, Gana 2014). The incidence of IDP's unemployment is attributed to lack of skill acquisition. Again, in spite of federal government efforts to create 2 million jobs every year, most Nigeria university graduates fail to get employed less of IDP's to get employed. Based on these pathetic situations, there researchers were determined to examine entrepreneurial trainings of internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.

Purpose of the Study The main purpose of this study was to examine the entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.
2. Examine the benefits of the entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.
3. Determine the challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDP's) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the entrepreneurial training required of internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.
2. What are the benefits of the entrepreneurial training required of internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba.
3. What are the challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDPs) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance?

Methods

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Descriptive survey research design is a generalized means of data collection through the use of questionnaires (Agburu in Abah and Abah, 2015). The descriptive survey approach was adopted in order to choose a smaller number to represent the whole population. Hence, descriptive survey research design was employed to examine the entrepreneurial training needs for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance as perceived by Delta State Emergency Management Agency Asaba. The population for the study consisted of eighty-one (81) civil servants in State Emergency Management Agency Asaba, Delta State. There was no sample because the population was a manageable one. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire containing 35 item-statements measured on a four-point scale of Highly Needed (HN) = 4, Needed (N) = 3, Fairly Needed (FN) = 2, Not Needed (NN) = 1 and Strongly Agree (SA)=4, Agree (A)=3, Disagree (D)=2 and Strongly Disagree (SD)=1. The questionnaire was

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subjected to face and content validation by two experts, one from School of Business Education and the other from State Emergency Management Agency Asaba. The observations and suggestions of the experts were put into consideration in the final draft of the instrument.

To establish the internal consistency of items within the instrument, the researcher administered the questionnaire to 20 respondents at State Emergency Management Agency in Bayelsa State, which are not part of the population but with similar demographic characteristics such as sex and departments to the intended population of the study. The consistency and reliability of the instrument was ascertained using the split half method to determine the degree of reliability which yielded a correlation co-efficient of 0.86. Out of 81 copies of the questionnaires distributed, 65 copies of the questionnaire were returned which indicated 80% of the sample. The collected data from respondents were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation to analyze the research question 1-3. Mean values from 2.50 and above were regarded as Needed/Agree, while mean values below 2.50 were regarded as Not Needed/Disagree.

Results

Table 1: Respondents' Mean and Standard Deviation Rating on Entrepreneurial Trainings for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for Self-Reliance.

| S/N | Statements (Training on) | X | SD | Decision |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1 | Soap Making | 3.25 | 0.33 | Needed |
| 2 | Fashion Designing/Tailoring | 3.55 | 0.81 | Needed |
| 3 | Food and Catering Services | 2.77 | 0.40 | Needed |
| 4 | Photography | 3.36 | 0.31 | Needed |
| 5 | GSM/Computer Repairs | 2.92 | 0.35 | Needed |
| 6 | Painting | 3.04 | 0.36 | Needed |
| 7 | Laundry/Dry Cleaning Services | 3.05 | 0.40 | Needed |
| 8 | Driving | 2.72 | 0.37 | Needed |
| 9 | Barbing/Hair dressing | 3.88 | 0.60 | Needed |
| 10 | Bee Production | 3.12 | 0.37 | Needed |
| 11 | Welding and Fabrication | 2.90 | 0.49 | Needed |
| 12 | Poultry/Snail Production | 2.75 | 0.44 | Needed |
| 13 | Brick Laying, Electrician | 3.22 | 0.35 | Needed |
| 14 | Motor Mechanic | 3.14 | 0.37 | Needed |
| 15 | BeadMaking/Trading | 3.75 | 1.11 | Needed |
| Grand Mean | | 3.16 | | Needed |

Source: field survey data, 2021, n = 65

Table 1 showed the respondents' opinions on the entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance. The result shows that all the entrepreneurial trainings outlined were accepted by respondents with a mean ratings ranging between 2.72 to 3.88. The standard deviations (SD) of the items ranged from 0.33 to 0.81 which indicates closeness in respondents' opinions. The grand mean 3.16 indicated complete acceptance that the above identified skills are highly needed by the internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance in Delta State.

Table 2: Respondents' Mean and Standard Deviation Rating on Benefits of Entrepreneurial Trainings for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) for Self-Reliance

| S/N | Statements | X | SD | Decision |
|-------------------|--|-------------|------|--------------|
| 16 | It creates job for self-employment. | 2.75 | 0.44 | Agree |
| 17 | It stimulates economic development. | 3.22 | 0.35 | Agree |
| 18 | Utilization of local resources is made possible. | 3.42 | 0.30 | Agree |
| 19 | It provides skills to manage businesses. | 3.46 | 0.29 | Agree |
| 20 | Provision of job opportunities to rural dwellers | 3.32 | 0.33 | Agree |
| 21 | It improves individual living standard | 2.75 | 0.44 | Agree |
| 22 | It develops indigenous entrepreneurship. | 3.22 | 0.35 | Agree |
| 23 | It helps in identifying business opportunities. | 3.42 | 0.30 | Agree |
| 24 | It inspires creativity | 3.54 | 0.28 | Agree |
| 25 | It enhances innovation in business world | 2.90 | 0.49 | Agree |
| Grand Mean | | 3.20 | | Agree |

Source: field survey data, 2021, n = 65

Table 2 reveals the benefits of the entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance. The result shows that all the benefits of entrepreneurial trainings outlined were accepted by respondents with a mean ratings ranging between 2.75 to 3.54. The standard deviation of the items also ranged from 0.28 to 0.49 indicating that the respondents were close in their opinions and not too close from their respective mean response. The grand mean 3.20 indicated complete acceptance that the above identified benefits of entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance are agreed by SEMA Staff in Asaba, Delta State.

Table 3: Respondents' Mean and Standard Deviation Rating on Challenges Faced by the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) when acquiring Entrepreneurial Training Skills for Self-Reliance.

| S/N | Statements | X | SD | Decision |
|-------------------|---|-------------|------|--------------|
| 26 | Poor funding by government and Non-governmental organizations. | 3.28 | 0.28 | Agree |
| 27 | Poor enabling business environment | 2.94 | 0.38 | Agree |
| 28 | Emphasis on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge due to lack of entrepreneurship education centre. | 3.42 | 0.30 | Agree |
| 29 | Absence of self-confidence on the part of the IDPs | 2.92 | 0.35 | Agree |
| 30 | Inability of the IDPs to communicate well | 2.68 | 0.37 | Agree |
| 31 | Lack of access to credit/ facilities | 3.54 | 0.28 | Agree |
| 32 | High level of poverty | 3.28 | 0.33 | Agree |
| 33 | Lack of fund to starter pack for a skill/ business | 3.42 | 0.30 | Agree |
| 34 | Political instability | 2.55 | 0.71 | Agree |
| 35 | Insecurity of lives and properties (Business Commodities) | 2.61 | 0.64 | Agree |
| Grand Mean | | 3.06 | | Agree |

Source: field survey data, 2021, n = 65

Table 3 reveals challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDP's) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance. The result shows that all the challenges outlined were accepted by respondents with a mean ratings ranging between 2.55 and 3.54. The standard deviation of the items also ranged from 0.28 to 0.71 indicating that the respondents were close in their opinions and not too close from their respective mean response. The grand mean 3.06 indicated complete

acceptance that the above identified challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDP's) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance are agreed by the respondents at State Emergency Management Agency in Asaba.

Discussion of Findings

The findings from table 1 under research question one (entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance) revealed that all the respondents accepted that the identified 15 items are the entrepreneurial training needed by internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance in Delta State with grand mean of 3.16. The findings are in agreement with the study of Magaji(2016), who found out that skills such as photography, food and catering services, electrical installation, welding and fabrication, fashion design, bee production and so on are vocational skills that enhances empowerment among internally displaced persons (IDPs) for self-reliance in Delta State.

The findings from table 2 under research question 2 (benefits of entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance) revealed that all the respondents agreed that the identified 10 items are the benefits of entrepreneurial trainings for internally displaced persons (IDP's) for self-reliance in Delta State with grand mean of 3.20. This result agrees with Aiyeduso in Maina (2016), which states that, entrepreneurial training helps to reduce the problem of unemployment and other social vices among youths in Nigeria. He added that, an entrepreneur does not only provide jobs/employment for himself alone, but provides for others too. This in turn, helps the individual to increase per capital income hence improve standard of living of internally displaced persons (IDP's). The finding also collaborates with Emeruwa (2019), who asserted that, the entrepreneur does not only identifies but mobilizes and organizes the resources to tap the opportunities by assisting men, materials, money and machines to explore the opportunity.

The findings from table 3 under research question 3 (challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDP's) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance) revealed that all the respondents agreed that the identified 10 items are the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDP's) when acquiring entrepreneurial training skills for self-reliance in Delta State with grand mean of 3.06. This result conforms to the findings of Gana (2014), who opined that, challenges of entrepreneurship training include; absence of self-confidence on the part of the IDPs, improper supervision and evaluation, poor funding and so on. The findings of this study is also in line with Osuala (2010) and Aiyeduso (2016), who posited that emphasis on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge, political instability and inadequate access to credit/ loan are challenges faced by Nigerians who will be entrepreneur. These challenges discourage from acquiring entrepreneurial skills training for self-reliance.

Conclusion

The problem of displaced persons has in recent years become a global concern with its implications. Displacement across the country in Nigeria is as a result of communal violence, internal armed conflicts, leadership tussle, terrorism (Boko-Haram) and natural disasters such as flood. Flood had been the major cause of displaced persons in Delta State in particular. It becomes pertinent that entrepreneurial trainings seems to be the major way to reduce poverty, create employment, increase household income and youth empowerment for IDPs in Delta State. When people are busy doing one form of small business or the other, the possibility of using them by few individuals to ferment trouble that brings about conflict in the state and the nation at large would be reduced. The findings of this study concludes that since there is no guarantee that IDPs problems will end soon, entrepreneurial skills training is highly needed in order to boost entrepreneurship development for the IDPs in Delta State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. The Federal, State and Local Governments should partner with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to make the entrepreneurship training programs workable. For instance, the three tiers of government should identify with established entrepreneurial centers in the state and the communities like owners of bakeries, fashion design/tailoring, catering services, computer schools, soap makers, electricians, motor mechanics workshops, brick layers, traders etc. who will provide professional trainings for them. While government would provide entrepreneurial workshops and facilitators who should teach communication, social and political skills for as many who could not have the opportunity of going further after primary schools or have not even gone to school. When IDPs are exposed to these skills and with some credit facilities they would know what to do with their newly acquired entrepreneurial knowledge and skills.
2. Towards ameliorating the plight of the IDPs in Delta State, all hands of both the government and non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals must be on deck to salvage the situation. Therefore, the government of Delta State through the host central agency of the IDPs in the camps – National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) should seek for admission for the IDPs that have gone through secondary education to enroll into the programme of entrepreneurial training.
3. Entrepreneurial trainings should be practically oriented rather than theory as this will expose the IDPs to various lucrative skills, Starter packs should be given to IDPs from entrepreneurial training to immediately setup a choice business and access to credits/loans should be granted without collateral in order to make the training realizable and achievable.

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