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## IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION ON JOB CREATION AMONG GRADUATES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*The study investigated impact of entrepreneurship education on job creation among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised 5110 teacher from 297 public secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. A sample of 371 teachers from 15 public secondary schools was used for the study. A 10-items structured questionnaire titled, "Entrepreneurship Education and Job Creation Questionnaire" (EEJQC) was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by two experts; one from Educational Management, and another from Measurement and Evaluation, Benue State University, Makurdi. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through a trial test which yielded a Cronbach Alpha*

*The Intuition* ~~co-efficient of 0.81. This was considered high enough to be used for the study. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test of goodness of-fit was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings indicated that entrepreneurship education enhance Catfish farming and cyber café business among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. Based on these findings, it was recommended among others that, school administrators should not only include the practical teaching of entrepreneurship in their school academic programmes but also encourage students to take it very serious and establish a business in any area of their specialty so as to create job for themselves and not depend on government.~~

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship education, job creation, catfish farming, cyber café business

Education is seen as a veritable tool in not only enhancing growth and development of the nation but to also bring about a desirable changes in behaviour and attitude of an individual as well as make them acquire relevant skills and knowledge which would make them useful and functional in the society especially when they have graduates from one level of education like secondary school. In this regard, education is seen as any ongoing process that facilitates the learning and acquisition of theoretical and practical skills that equip mankind to utilize his environment effectively for personal success in life as well as for the development of the society (Denga, 2009). Education according to Edward (2008) is the process of learning in order to develop physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually and economically. Education today comes in different forms, this is because, there is a seemingly continuous quest for the type of education that will not only address the problem of Nigerians but will also transform and individual as well as make such individual eke a better living. Thus in the present days, much emphasis is on entrepreneurship education which is the focus of this study.

Entrepreneurships has long been debated and used in various ways. Even today is no unanimity on what that term exactly means and who an entrepreneur is. Anaemena (2010) defines entrepreneurs as people who create a special situation to gain profit and growth by determining and seizing opportunities through source preparation with simple ideas and also preparing needed sources to execute the idea through a suitable business. According to Anaemena, the terminology “entrepreneur” does not only refer to those who are in business, but is also expended to individual with high entrepreneurship characteristics who are not in a business of their own (i.e. internal and social entrepreneurs). Entrepreneurship is a process of creating a new item with the consideration of time, effort, financial risks, psychology and

On the other hand, Commission Communication in Nnebe (2019) defines entrepreneurship education as the individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and risk taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. According to European Union Commission in Nnebe (2019), entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students of secondary schools and other level of education with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial studies in a variety of settings. The commission emphasizes that different aspects of entrepreneurship education are offered at all levels of schooling from primary or secondary schools through graduate university programmes so as to enhance job creation among school leavers.

Moreover, in view of the importance of education, one may say that the importance of entrepreneurship education on job creation among youths today cannot be overemphasized. This is because, entrepreneurship education is designed to ensure an enlarged supply of entrepreneurs, diversity ownership of business, promote regional spread of economic activities, encourage self-employment for the unemployed and improve the health and standard of living of the people (Okoro, Ekwe & Ibekwe, 2013). Entrepreneurship education is one among the recent type of education that seems to provide for job creation among youths. In their opinion, Aliu and Ibe (2011) posit that the aim of entrepreneurship education amongst others is to inculcate in the learner the ability to: Identify and solve problems using critical and creative thinking, consider self-employment as a viable option upon graduation from higher institutions, organize and manage one-self and one's activities and work together and cultivate the ability to resolve conflicts.

In the opinion of Ezeani (2012), entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of vision, change and creation. Indeed, at this period of national emergency and high rate of unemployment, the necessity to look for solutions becomes more than inevitable. Entrepreneurship over the past several years has become of growing importance to most nations of the world because of its contribution towards the identification of young, prospective entrepreneurs, their training and development towards being self employed, thereby reducing the number of unemployed youths. This importance of this type of education in this contemporary age is also geared towards keeping the youths busy with something rather than being idle and hence indulging in anti-social vices such as stealing, thurgery, prostitution, cultism, drug pushers among others. This is also because, through entrepreneurship education, there are seemingly various kinds of jobs that are created for the graduating youths of secondary schools and other levels of education.

Job creation is an act of making work in which one receive regular payment available to the citizenry. That is creating an enabling environment for ample employment opportunities in the society. This is done by establishing cottage, small/medium scale enterprises in Nigeria (Maina, 2013). It is one of the cardinal objectives of Millennium Development Goals. When an ample job opportunities is created it will invariably help to reduce poverty and enhance better standard of living among secondary school graduates in Nigeria. It is evident that entrepreneurship education is given all it deserves and properly implemented, it will produce quality graduates that will foster job creation and reduce or eliminate social vices and poverty in Nigeria. This could be realized when the graduates are self-reliant by establishing their own business small/medium scale enterprises.

The researchers observed in the study area that, there is seemingly need for effective teaching of entrepreneurship education in secondary education through. This may help in enhancing job creation among the secondary school graduates especially in the area of Catfish farming and cyber café business. Gabadeen and Raimi (2012) note that in order to make Nigerian graduates more resourceful and self-reliant, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education in 2015, introduced entrepreneurship skills into the curriculum of upper basic level of learning, effective from 2017/2018 academic calendar. The importance of entrepreneurship skills to human capital development cannot therefore be over emphasised.

Catfish farming is one among entrepreneurship education skill which seems to enhance job creation among secondary school leavers in the study area as speculated by relevant education stakeholders such as school administrators, teachers, parents, community leaders and students among others. Pond catfish fish farming is the principal form of aquaculture that involves raising fishes commercially in tanks or enclosures. Various pond fish farming technology have emerged to smoothen the activities involve in the farming processes. Such technologies include: improved pond construction and management, breed selection, stocking, feeding, water management, breed selection, stocking, feeding water management spawning, sorting, harvesting, processing, storage, marketing and record keeping (Ofuoku, Emah & Hedjere, 2008). The acquisition of these technologies to a greater extent can impact positively on youth development and rapid job creation especially if imparting from the basic level of secondary schools.

Catfish farming is one of the seemingly first of the fastest growing business opportunities in Nigeria today. In their studies, Ihugba, Odii and Njoku (2013), found that the major players in catfish business are usually regional players. What this means in essence is that each major player in the catfish farming industry is focused only on a particular business terrain within the geographical location of the farm. So all an entrepreneur like a

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Eng catfish business opportunities, one must note three important facts: (a) food is one of the basic necessities of man, thus making catfish and poultry farming a huge potential. (b) The population in Nigeria is estimated to be over 150 million and growing so that entails a growing demands for food. (c) Even if the local market with 150 million Nigerians gets saturated (which I strongly doubt as this niche is still in its adolescent phase), there is still a growing demand for catfish all over the world. So do your own in-depth analysis and put your money to work. About 117 students were educated on the methods of fish farming, and 44 women received training in fish farming and its role in household health.

Cyber café is another entrepreneurship opportunities the researchers observe to be creating job opportunities for secondary school leavers in the study area today. Ihugba, Odii and Njoku (2013) found that the demand to stay connected to the rest of the world is rapidly on the increase and the cost of internet connection is still high when compared to what is obtainable in the western world, thereby making cyber café an alternative for internet users; and an investment opportunity for entrepreneurs among secondary school student graduates. Ihugba, Odii and Njoku further report that this business can be started either on a small, medium or large scale but preferably a large scale because size can be a competitive edge for you as customers won't like to be kept waiting. Customers of this industry want speed and efficient service and most importantly; they want to be sure to find a vacant computer system anytime they want to surf the web without having to wait in a queue. If you can get a good location; provide speedy internet access and provide complementary services; you are in for a breakthrough.

Similarly, World Bank in Nnebe (2019) posits that about 80% of Americans find their first jobs in Small businesses. In Nigeria for instance, Small Scale Businesses (SSB) Constitutes 85% of all firms operating in the economy, and like in most other developing countries they employed the largest number of workers. Nnebe (2019) found that technical innovation has a significant positive influence on skills acquisition of graduates in Nigeria public Universities. Creativity has a significant positive effect on skills acquisition of graduates in public Universities. Risk taking has a positive influence on skills acquisition of graduates in public Universities. Opportunity recognition has a significant positive effect on skill acquisition of graduates" in public universities South-East, Nigeria. The study concludes that entrepreneurship education had a significant positive influence on skill acquisition of graduates" in public universities South-East, Nigeria.

In another perspective, Nnebe (2019) points out that, unemployment among graduates has remained one of the fundamental challenges threatening the economic development and stability of Nigeria. In his opinion, Ayoola (2008) states that the situation in Nigeria is gloomy with seven out of ten graduates being either unemployed, underemployed or simply unemployable as at 2006, while over 200,000 graduates remain unemployed as at the last five years. Ayoola further posits that considering the fact that these graduates constitute the most active segments of the population, their inability to find good jobs portend grave danger for the country. Unfortunately, owing to the dysfunctional nature of our educational system, most of them do not possess relevant skills that would –be employers may need. Additionally, the huge number of Nigerians graduating from secondary schools and other various tertiary institutions each year further worsens the situation, is the economy as presently constituted, is incapable of absorbing most of them. The bleak employment climate therefore, partly accounts for the general insecurity in the nation such as terrorism, violent crimes, advanced fee fraud and other sundry unpatriotic behaviour. The area of study also seems to an exception. It is against this background that the researchers deemed it necessary to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship education on job creation among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria with particular focus on Catfish farming and cyber café business.

### **Statement of the Problem**

There has been a growing concern by education stakeholders for the type of education that would enhance useful living for secondary school leavers today. So much worry and concern had been expressed by education stakeholders in the study area on the manner in which most of their children graduate from secondary schools today and without proceeding to higher education cannot find any useful thing to engage in that will help them eke a living. This is unlike in the yester years when students graduate from such levels of education and are able to get government jobs very quick.

It is observed that, most youths today who leave secondary schools cannot afford to proceed to higher education cannot even find any job to engage in rather they result to engaging in anti-social vices in the society such as kidnappings, rubbery, prostitution, thurgery, cultism, cheating, drug pushers and other fraudulent activities. Such situations is not only creating worry to education stakeholders such as parents, the community, school administrators but has also created more problem to government, the community and the nation at large. The researchers also observe that there is seemingly much insecurity in the study area and Nigeria as a whole which may also be attributed to youth who have graduated from schools without having any useful thing to do and live better. This is attested to the

popular saying that ‘an idle person is the devils workshop’. Nobody is finding it funny again, the essence of education is seemingly been defeated. *Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Job Creation among Graduates of Secondary Schools in Benue State, Nigeria* by Samuel Aondowase Gbough, Ezekiel Dando Iwagher, Ph.D and Margaret Ijagwara Adamu, Ph.D

quacy of teachers to instil morals in the students? Or could it be that government is not doing much to provide a functional education like entrepreneurship education capable of creating more job opportunities and breed a generation of youth who will be useful and functional in the society devoid of involving in deviant behaviours? This study has set out to critically examine the impact of entrepreneurship education on job creation (catfish farming and cyber café business) among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The aim of this study is to investigate the perceived impact of guidance and counselling on the management of functional secondary education for sustainable development of Benue state, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. examine the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.
2. determine the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools.

### **Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions.

1. What is the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria?
2. What is the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 level of significance.

- Ho<sub>1</sub>. Entrepreneurship education has no significant impact on Catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.
- Ho<sub>2</sub>. Entrepreneurship education has no significant impact on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

### **Methodology**

The researchers adopted descriptive survey design in this study. Descriptive survey research design according to Emaikwu (2011) is a design in which a group of people are studied by collecting and analyzing data from a selected set of people considered to be a representative sample of the entire population. This method was chosen by the researcher because survey studies are often carried out by the use of questionnaire to determine opinions of people about phenomena including the causes, impact and effects. The study is confined to Benue State which comprises 23 local government areas. The population of the study comprised 5110 teacher from 297 public secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. A sample of 371 teachers from 15 public secondary schools was used for the study. The selection of respondents was done using stratified random sampling technique. A 10-items structured questionnaire titled, “Entrepreneurship Education and Job Creation Questionnaire” (EEJCQ)” was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by two experts, one in Educational Management and one in Measurement and Evaluation all from the Faculty of Education, Benue State University, Makurdi. A reliability study was conducted on 30 teachers in secondary schools that were not part of the sample for the study. Data collected was analysed using Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.82. This agrees with Emaikwu (2011) who asserts that the reliability of 0.60 and above is considered adequate to use an instrument for field study. The data collected was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation to answer the two research questions. The Boundary limit for Decision Making was 1.00-1.49=Strongly Disagree, 1.50-2.49=Disagree, 2.50-3.49=Agree, 3.50-4.00=Strongly Agree. The two hypotheses were tested using chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test of goodness of fit at .05 level of significance. The decision was that if the calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value was greater than the critical table value, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted and vice versa.

## **Results and Findings**

This section presented and discussed the results of the study.

### **Research Question One**

What is the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria?



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**Table 1: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of the Respondents on the Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Catfish Farming among Graduates of Secondary Schools in Benue State**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b><math>\bar{X}</math></b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	Through entrepreneurship education, graduated students of secondary schools acquire basic skills on how to establish catfish business.	201	148	6	16	3.44	0.73	Agree
2	Students are oriented on how to breed catfish very well.	198	143	21	9	3.43	0.71	Agree
3	Entrepreneurship education does not enhance students' ability to establish catfish pond.	42	68	149	112	2.11	0.96	Disagree
4	Students find it difficult to feed catfish in ponds to its maturity without knowledge of entrepreneurship education.	172	133	52	14	3.25	0.83	Agree
5	Students are oriented on how to market matured catfish harvested from their established ponds.	196	121	23	41	3.30	0.92	Agree
<b>Cluster Mean</b>						<b>3.07</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>Agree</b>

**Decision Rule: 1.00-1.49=SD, 1.50-2.49=D, 2.50-3.49=A, 3.50-4.00=SA**

Data on Table 1 showed that the mean ratings for items 1-5 are 3.44, 3.43, 2.11, 3.25 and 3.30 respectively with their corresponding standard deviations of 0.73, 0.71, 0.96, 0.83 and 0.92. The standard deviations are small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. Based on the decision rule, it means that respondents agreed with item 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the cluster which mean scores were above the cut-off point of 2.50. Meanwhile, item 3 was disagreed because it had mean score less than 2.50 cut-off mark. The cluster mean of 3.07 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that entrepreneurship education impact on catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

**Research Question Two:**

What is the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools?

**Table 2: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of the Respondents on the Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Cyber Café Businesses among Graduates of Secondary Schools**

Item No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SA	$\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
6.	Students are oriented on how to use computers in doing cyber café business through entrepreneurship education.	188	145	18	20	3.35	0.81	Agree
7.	Students do not necessary need entrepreneurship education to establish cyber café business.	62	53	144	112	2.18	1.04	Agree
8.	Entrepreneurship education creates in the minds of students the demands of global networking businesses.	175	116	28	52	3.12	1.05	Agree
9.	Through entrepreneurship education, students see the need of using laptops to register students' courses in the university in various cyber cafés.	191	129	32	19	3.33	0.84	Agree
10.	Through entrepreneurship education, most students engage in configuration of peoples' handsets using their establish cyber cafe.	181	130	27	33	3.24	0.93	Agree
<b>Cluster Mean</b>						<b>3.04</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 2 indicated that the mean ratings for items 6–10 are 3.35, 2.18, 3.12, 3.33 and 3.24 with their corresponding standard deviations of 0.81, 1.04, 1.05, 0.84 and 0.93. The standard deviations are small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. Based on the decision rule, it means that respondents agreed with item 6, 8, 9 and 10 in the cluster which mean scores were above the cut-off point of 2.50. Meanwhile, item 7 was disagreed because it had mean score less than 2.50 cut-off mark. The cluster mean of 3.04 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that entrepreneurship education impact on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools, Nigeria.

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**Hypotheses Testing**

**Hypotheses One:**

Entrepreneurship education has no significant impact on Catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

**Table 3: Chi-square test of the Impact of Catfish Farming among Graduates of Secondary Schools in Benue State, Nigeria**

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of Sig.	df	$\chi^2$ -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	16	92.8	-76.8	0.05	3	277.03	0.00	Sig.
D	14	92.8	-78.8					Rejected
A	143	92.8	50.3					Ho <sub>1</sub>
SA	198	92.8	105.3					
<b>Total</b>	371							

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 92.8.

Table 3 revealed that  $\chi^2 = 277.032$  at  $df = 3$  and  $p = 0.00$ . Since  $p$ -value of  $0.00 < .05$  at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that guidance and counselling has no significant impact on students' indiscipline in secondary schools for sustainable development of Benue state, Nigeria is therefore, rejected. This implies that entrepreneurship education has significant impact on Catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

**Hypotheses 4:**

Entrepreneurship education has no significant impact on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

**Table 4: Chi-Square test of the Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Cyber Café Businesses among Graduates of Secondary Schools**

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of Sig.	df	$\chi^2$ -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	46	92.8	-46.8	0.05	3	221.01	0.00	Sig.
D	5	92.8	-87.8					<b>Rejected</b>
A	132	92.8	39.3					<b>Ho<sub>2</sub></b>
SA	188	92.8	95.3					
<b>Total</b>	371							

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 92.8.

Table 4 revealed that  $\chi^2=221.01$ , at  $df =3$  and  $p = 0.00$ . Since  $p$ -value of  $0.00 < .05$  at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that guidance and counselling has no significant impact on students’ academic achievement in secondary schools for sustainable development of Benue state, Nigeria is therefore, rejected. This implies that entrepreneurship education has significant impact on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

### Discussion of Findings

The first finding of the study indicated that entrepreneurship education has significant impact on Catfish farming among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. The result agrees with the findings of Ihugba, Odii and Njoku (2013) that the major players in catfish business are usually regional players. What this means in essence is that each major player in the catfish farming industry is focused only on a particular business terrain within the geographical location of the farm. So all an entrepreneur like a secondary school graduate need to do is look for a region with a growing demands that has not been covered by a major player and situates your business there. Relatedly, Ihugba, Odii and Njoku found that when accessing catfish business opportunities, one must note three important facts: (a) food is one of the basic necessities of man, thus making catfish and poultry farming a huge potential. (b) The population in Nigeria is estimated to be over 150 million and growing so that entails a growing demands for food. (c) Even if the local market with 150 million Nigerians gets saturated (which I strongly doubt as this niche is still in its adolescent phase), there is still a growing demand for catfish all over the world. So do your

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own in-depth analysis and put your money to work. About 117 students were educated on the methods of fish farming, and 44 women received training in fish farming and its role in household health. The researcher also discovered in the field survey that through entrepreneurship education, graduated students of secondary schools acquire basic skills on how to establish catfish business as well as oriented on how to breed catfish very well.

The second finding of this study revealed that entrepreneurship education has significant impact on cyber café businesses among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. This finding corroborate with the findings of World Bank (2010) that about 80% of Americans find their first jobs in Small businesses. In Nigeria for instance, Small Scale Businesses (SSB) Constitutes 85% of all firms operating in the economy, and like in most other developing countries they employed the largest number of workers. The finding also supports the findings of Ihugba, Odii and Njoku (2013) that the demand to stay connected to the rest of the world is rapidly on the increase and the cost of internet connection is still high when compared to what is obtainable in the western world, thereby making cyber café an alternative for internet users; and an investment opportunity for entrepreneurs among secondary school student graduates. Ihugba, Odii and Njoku further report that this business can be started either on a small, medium or large scale but preferably a large scale because size can be a competitive edge for you as customers won't like to be kept waiting. Customers of this industry want speed and efficient service and most importantly; they want to be sure to find a vacant computer system anytime they want to surf the web without having to wait in a queue. If you can get a good location; provide speedy internet access and provide complementary services; you are in for a breakthrough. The researchers also discovered in the field study that most students now engage in various forms of cyber café businesses to eke a living after graduating from secondary school and not proceeding to the university. Some of them are seeing on university campuses using their laptops to register students' semester courses and get money, while others help graduates apply for various kinds of jobs on internet. The finding of this study is also in line with the finding of Nnebe (2019) that technical innovation has a significant positive influence on skills acquisition of graduates in Nigeria public Universities. Creativity has a significant positive effect on skills acquisition of graduates in public Universities. Risk taking has a positive influence on skills acquisition of graduates in public Universities. Opportunity recognition has a significant positive effect on skill acquisition of graduates" in public universities South-East, Nigeria. The study concludes that entrepreneurship education had a significant positive influence on skill acquisition of graduates" in public universities South-East, Nigeria.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that entrepreneurship education has significant impact on Catfish farming and cyber café business among graduates of secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended as follows;

1. School administrators should not only include the practical teaching of entrepreneurship in their school academic programmes but also encourage students to take it very serious and establish a catfish business in any area so as to create job for themselves and not depend on government.
2. Government of ensure the not just the inclusion of entrepreneurship education in schools but also monitors its implementation in schools so as to enhance students acquisition of relevant skills that could create various jobs like cyber café for them without depending on government job.

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