



Entrepreneurship and Rural Development in Anambra State

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Abstract

The study investigated the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development in Anambra State. The study specifically examined the influence of entrepreneurship orientation, entrepreneurship innovation and employment creation on rural development in Anambra State. The study was anchored on psychological theories of the Refugee and Schumpeter effects. The study adopted survey research design. A total of two hundred and fifty registered entrepreneurs in Anambra State were purposively selected for the study. Structured questionnaire was employed as the instrument of data collection. The questions were analyzed using frequency tables and percentages while the hypotheses were tested using Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA). The study also found that entrepreneurship orientation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. The study also found that entrepreneurship innovation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. The study further found that employment creation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. The study concludes that entrepreneurship play crucial role in accelerating economic development of rural areas. The study recommends amongst others that entrepreneurship orientation should be made an element at all levels of learning from primary schools to secondary schools and tertiary institutions to enhance knowledge about entrepreneurship among the citizens.

Key Words: Entrepreneurship, Economic Force, Rural Development

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I. INTRODUCTION

The importance of entrepreneurship in rural economy cannot be overemphasized as they have been identified as a veritable vehicle for employment generation, poverty reduction, indigenous technology, reduce the flow of people from rural to urban areas, increase the gross domestic earning etc. at low investment rate as well as the development of capabilities. It is obvious on the way some countries have encouraged the entrepreneurs sector, thus reducing the level of unemployment to the barest minimum. In every economy both develop and developing economy, one cannot rule out the importance of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship is one the measures embraced by the government to reduce mass poverty and unemployment in the country. This study is not established to evaluate past measures of poverty reduction in Nigeria, but aim at investigating the effect of entrepreneurship training on poverty alleviation. Entrepreneurship education and training entails philosophy of self-reliance such as creating a new cultural and productive environment, promoting new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of future challenges (Arogundade, 2011).

The development process of any country is determined by the way the production forces in and around the economy is organized. For most countries the development of industry had depended a great deal on the role of private sector. Entrepreneurship has played a major role in this regard. This opinion is supported by Ogundele (2007) that the promotion and development of entrepreneurial activities would aid the dispersal and diversification of economic activities and induce even development in a country. Similarly, Osuagwu (2002) added that entrepreneurial development in Nigeria should be perceived as a catalyst to increase the rate of economic growth, create job opportunities, reduces import of manufactured goods and decrease the trade deficits that result from such imports.

In addition, Ariyo (2008) noted that if Nigeria wants to reach its full potential in terms of economic and social developments, it cannot afford to ignore the importance of its indigenous entrepreneurs and the

contributions that they make to the country's economy. Entrepreneurship remains the gateway to sustainable wealth creation in Nigeria (Ogundele, 2000). In view of Matanmi and Awodun (2005), if Nigeria desire to move out of the disturbing high level of unemployment and ravaging level of poverty, adequate attention must be given to the growth of entrepreneurship. They concluded that Nigeria still remain in the doldrums because of the combination of ignorance, low capacity building and lack of encouragement of entrepreneurship.

The importance of entrepreneurship on rural development cannot be overemphasized. Nwankwo and Okeke (2017) noted that rural development is now being linked more and more to entrepreneurship. Rural development is a strategy designed to improve economic and social life of rural poor (Umebadli & Akubuilu, 2006). Rural development is a way of restructuring the national economy to bring about improvement in the level of living condition of people in rural areas (Deji, 2005). Egwemi and Odo (2013) observe that Nigeria still falls for short of the economic and social progress required to impact the wellbeing of average Nigeria, given that over half of Nigeria's population live in less than 1 dollar per day. This obviously suggested the need for attention to rural areas for sustainable development; it becomes apparent that action must be taken to ensure sustainable rural development. Baum, Frese and Baron (2007) observe that "entrepreneurship is an important mechanism of economic growth and development, their role is to promote prosperity by creating new jobs, reducing unemployment and increase economic growth and development of country, they also increase productivity by bringing new innovation and speed up structural changes by forcing existing business to reform and increase competitiveness". Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in the development of a country's economy as this is the key contributor to innovation, poverty reduction, product improvement and employment creation.

Entrepreneurship which is basically the practice of starting a business in order to earn profit on new found opportunities can go a long way to stabilise economy of a nation as well as generate massive returns to the government (Dejardin & Fritsch, 2011). Entrepreneurship can impact the economy of a country in diverse ways. It is through entrepreneurship that important innovations enter the markets leading to new product or production process which eventually increases efficiency by bringing competition into the market. It contributes to poverty reduction when it creates employment through the start-up of new business or the expansion of existing ones and they increase social wealth by markets, new technology, new jobs and increase in real productivity, increase income which culminates in higher standard of living for the people. Entrepreneurship is the heart of any country's economy and a country that does not play with its entrepreneurs has better chance of an improved economy. The future of rural economy depends largely on its entrepreneurs as well as government policies on entrepreneurship. Based on the foregoing, the study investigated the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development in Anambra State.

Statement of Problem

One of the major challenges facing developing and underdeveloped countries of the world is poverty. It has been so endemic as a result of the high rate of unemployment that has become the major characteristic of the developing and underdeveloped countries of the world. Although the level and magnitude of poverty and unemployment has been observed to be different within and across nations, it still remains the major obstacle to the success of the struggle for the optimum utilization of human resources for both social and economic development of nations (Adofu, Orebiyi & Otitolaiye, 2012). Generally, Nigeria situation is weakened by poverty, disease and ignorance. Poverty in Nigeria is multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary. The Nigerian economy has been characterized by the paradox of growth without poverty reduction and the trickledown effect of growth on the poor, slow response of government to the endemic and persistent problem of poverty and poor governance. Thus far, this characterization of the economy requires articulation for the purpose of designing programmes that are truly poverty reducing.

Also, the economic decline in Nigeria since the 1980s has created a hostile environment that is unfavorable to entrepreneurial success. The lack of infrastructure limits entrepreneurial effectiveness in the state and is a barrier to success. The high cost of doing business in Nigeria, such as the lack of adequate electricity and basic needs by a large amount of the population cripple entrepreneurial activity. Difficulty in gaining access to bank credits and other financial institutions proved to be a major obstacle hindering the process of Nigerian entrepreneurial development but the most serious and damaging problems threatening the state of entrepreneurship in Nigeria is a lack of government interest in and supports for medium scale enterprises MSEs (Muritala, Awolaja & Bako, 2012).

Furthermore, the poor state of most of rural economy is very devastating and pathetic. Rural areas have peculiar problems of low income, high degree of unemployment, low infrastructure, high illiteracy rate, malnutrition, low productivity, and low level standard of living among others. However entrepreneurial ability and leadership tend to be relatively lacking in rural areas as a result of many factors inhibiting it growth and development which include poor access to finance, lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate entrepreneurship training, environmental problem, political factors etc. Economic incentives are the main motivators of entrepreneurial activities; the incentives include taxation policy, industrial policy, source of

finance and raw material, infrastructure availability, investment and marketing opportunities, access to information about market conditions and technology (Anupam, 2011). Based on the foregoing, the study investigated the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development in Anambra State.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development in Anambra State. The specific objectives include:

1. To investigate the influence of entrepreneurship orientation on rural development in Anambra State.
2. To examine the influence of entrepreneurship innovation on rural development in Anambra State.
3. To evaluate the influence of employment creation on rural development in Anambra State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study.

1. To what extent does entrepreneurship orientation influence rural development in Anambra State?
2. To what extent does entrepreneurship innovation influence rural development in Anambra State?
3. To what extent does employment creation influence rural development in Anambra State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses stated in null form guided this study.

1. Entrepreneurship orientation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.
2. Entrepreneurship innovation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.
3. Employment creation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is more than simply “starting a business.” It is a process through which individuals identify opportunities, allocate resources, and create value. This creation of value is often through the identification of unmet needs or through the identification of opportunities for change. It is the act of being an entrepreneur which is seen as “one who undertakes innovations with finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods hence Entrepreneurs see “problems” as “opportunities,” and then take action to identify the solutions to those problems and the customers who will pay to have those problems solved (Dejardin & Fritsch, 2011). Entrepreneurial success is simply a function of the ability of an entrepreneur to see opportunities in the marketplace, initiate change (or take advantage of change) and creates value through solutions. Entrepreneurship is known as the capacity and attitude of a person or group of persons to undertake ventures with the probability of success or failures. It demands that the individual should be prepared to assume a reasonable degree of risks, be a good leader in addition to being highly innovative (Naudé, 2011). In business management, Entrepreneurship is regarded as the “prime mover” of a successful enterprise just as a leader in any organization must be the environmental change agents.

Aina and Salako (2008) described entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment opportunities and takes advantage of scarce resources to exploits the opportunities profitably. It is the process of creating something new with value by devoting the necessary time and efforts, assuming the accompanying financial social risks at the end receiving resulting reward. Timmons and Spinelli (2004) see entrepreneurship as the function of being creative and responsive within and to the environment. He stated further that entrepreneurship activity is a destabilizing force, which starts the process of “creative destruction” which is the essence of economic development.

Rural Development

The concept of rural development in Nigeria lacks a unified definition as different scholars tend to view it from varying perspective. Various attentions has been given to the issues of rural development since the early 70s by various levels of government organization and different scholars that it is a concept that is not easily amenable to definition but it is view in relation to personal research problem. Baba (2011) defined rural development as a calculated and deliberate effort by individuals, groups and government agencies towards providing basic infrastructural facilities like water, roads, hospitals and electricity, for the rural dwellers and the training, harnessing and empowering of the rural masses, for their self-actualization and comfort.

The Overseas Development Institute defined rural development as the improvement of living conditions in rural areas, through the increased productivity of agricultural and related enterprises. The world Bank on the other hand defines it as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social conditions of specific group of the people; the rural poor (World Bank). King (2004) also conceived rural development in

terms of the changes in the structure of opportunities that residents of rural areas can avail themselves and thereby improve their standard of living.

Sarta (2008) explain rural development as consisting of concerted efforts directed at improving the quantitative and qualitative conditions of living of a given population. Amaeshi (2007) opined that rural development is that stage at which people in my village and other villages in Nigeria turn on their taps and get clean water inside or near their homes, have improved medical facilities, schools, markets, transportation etc and participate in decision making that affects their lives, with inner satisfaction and pride to remain in the these rural villages. In essence, the rural people and their communities should be the focus of development programmes.

Theoretical Framework

Therefore, the theoretical foundation of this study is based on the psychological theories of the Refugee and Schumpeter effects. The motives seem to influence the individual to select entrepreneurial career. He opines that “the presumed mechanism by which achievement level translate itself into economic growth is the entrepreneurial class. If the need for achievement is high, there will be more people who behave like entrepreneurs. The second theory is Richard Cantillon and John Stuart Mill’s psychological theory of entrepreneurship, otherwise called risk taking theory (RTT). The theory considers entrepreneurship as a mentality to take chance or calculated risk, because people taking a very big risk also have a great responsibility. The traits of creativity, risk-loving, innovation, strategic thinking and constructive engagement against the government by discontented Nigerians could as well be directed to entrepreneurship development.

The Refugee Effect: This process of unemployment fast-tracking entrepreneurship activity has been termed a “refugee effect”. This remarkable view dates back at least to Oxenfeldt (1943), who pointed out that individuals confronted with unemployment and low prospects for wage employment often turn to self-employment as a viable alternative. This observation was also an extension of Knight’s view that individuals make a decision among three states – unemployment, self-employment and employment. The simple theory of income choice lends credence to refugee effect by suggesting that increased unemployment will lead to an increase in startup business activity on the grounds that the opportunity cost of not starting a firm has decreased. Similarly, new firms hire the needed employees to work for them, thus helping to reduce the level of unemployment in the society.

The Schumpeter Effect: The process of entrepreneurship activity reducing unemployment situation in the economy is termed “Schumpeter effect”. Garofoli (1994) and Audretsch and Fritsch (1994) in their separate studies found that unemployment is negatively related to new-firm startups, that is, as new businesses are established employability is stimulated and unemployment reduces substantially. In the same vein, Lucas (1978) and Jovanovic (1982) note that high unemployment in the society is associated with a low degree of entrepreneurial activities, that is, where propensity to set up enterprises is low; the rate of unemployment would be very high. The implication of the above assertions is that those who are unemployed tend to remain so because they possess lower endowments of human capital and entrepreneurial talents required to start and sustain new firms to keep them going. A low rate of entrepreneurship culture and skills in any society may be a consequence of the low economic growth, which also reflects higher levels of unemployment (Oladele, Aleke & Oladunjoye, 2011).

Empirical Review

Existing empirical studies on the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development are discussed below. Okeke, Onuorah, Nebolisa and Oboreh (2019) carried out a study on entrepreneurship as an economic force on rural development in Anambra State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study investigated the influence of poor access to finance, unemployment, entrepreneurship orientation and infrastructural facilities on rural development. Findings revealed that access to finance, unemployment and entrepreneurship orientation had significant influence on rural development while infrastructural facilities had no significant effect on rural development. The study therefore, concluded that entrepreneurship as an economic force had a significant influence on rural development in Anambra.

Ebi (2007) studied the effect of small scale business in rural development in Bayelsa State.” The purpose of the study amongst others is to evaluate the effectiveness of small scale business in developing the rural economy of Bayelsa State. the study found that mall scale businesses contribute to the development of local government areas by creating job opportunities and meeting the needs of the local population.

Ogbo (2012) examined the role of entrepreneurship in economic development in Enugu State. A total of 100 SMEs were randomly selected for the study. Frequency distributions, means, standard deviations, chi-square statistics, and analyses of variance were employed in analyzing the data. The findings of the study include the following: SMEs have played and continue to play significant roles in the growth, development and industrialization of many economies the world over. In the case of Nigeria, SMEs have performed below

expectation due to a combination of problems which ranges from attitude and habits of SMEs themselves through environmental related factors, instability of governments and frequent government policy changes etc.

Raymond (2014) investigated the appraisal of entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises (SME) on sustainable economic growth in Nigerian. Data obtained were analysed with means, standard deviation and Z-test statistical technique. The study found that entrepreneurship has contributed significantly to enhance sustainable economic growth of Nigeria through mobilization of individual savings and channelling of such in productive investment as a major source of domestic capital formation in economy.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted survey research design. The study was carried out in three senatorial zones in Anambra State. A total of two hundred and fifty (250) registered entrepreneurs were purposively selected for the study. Structured questionnaire was employed as the instrument of data collection. The study also employed Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) method to determine entrepreneurship as an economic force and rural development. The regression model is represented as:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

Where:

- Y = Rural Development. (RD)
- α = Constant Term
- β = Beta coefficients
- X1 = Entrepreneurship Orientation (EO)
- X2 = Entrepreneurship innovation (EI)
- X3 = Employment Creation (EC)
- ϵ = Error Term

IV. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this section, the data generated from the entrepreneurs in Anambra State were presented, analyzed and interpreted. A total of two hundred and fifty (250) copies of questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which two hundred and two copies of the questionnaire were properly filled and found relevant to the study. Therefore, the analysis in this section was based on the two hundred and two relevant copies.

Analysis and Interpretation of Questionnaire Items

Table 1 Analysis of Questionnaire Items Related to Ambience Marketing

s/n	Questionnaire Items	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Entrepreneurship helps to reduce unemployment in rural area	35 (17.3)	143 (70.8)	9 (4.5)	15 (7.4)
2	Entrepreneurship provide necessary advice and capacity building for the empowerment of the rural population	95 (47)	42 (20.8)	29 (14.4)	36 (17.8)
3	Entrepreneurship creates avenue for the unemployed to be gainfully employed in business activities	89 (44)	65 (32.2)	21 (10.4)	27 (13.4)
4	The higher the entrepreneurial orientation, the higher the level of rural development	52 (25.7)	96 (47.5)	28 (13.9)	26 (12.9)
5	Through entrepreneurial orientation, the rural population gets opportunities to start up new business ventures	89 (44)	65 (32.2)	21 (10.4)	27 (13.4)
6	Entrepreneurial orientation helps to anticipate future demands and opportunities in the rural market	44 (21.9)	122 (60.4)	10 (5)	26 (12.7)
7	Entrepreneurship creates opportunities for innovativeness in business activities	48 (23.2)	110 (54.5)	19 (9.4)	25 (12.4)
8	Entrepreneurship innovation helps the rural population to come up with new way to produce a product	64 (31.7)	98 (48.5)	30 (14.9)	10 (4.9)
9	Innovations contribute to the success of business enterprises in the rural areas	69 (34.2)	72 (35.6)	32 (15.8)	29 (14.4)
10	Entrepreneurship is very effective in ensuring rural development	56 (27.7)	105 (52)	18 (8.9)	23 (11.4)
11	Entrepreneurship creates opportunities for the establishment and advancement of rural businesses	64 (31.7)	69 (34.2)	34 (16.8)	35 (17.3)
12	Entrepreneurship helps to boost the rural economy	72 (35.6)	77 (38.1)	27 (13.4)	26 (12.9)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The table above indicates that 35 respondents representing 17.3% strongly agreed that Entrepreneurship helps to reduce unemployment in rural areas, 70.8% of the respondents agreed, 4.5% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 7.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that

entrepreneurship helps to reduce unemployment in rural area. The table above also shows that 95 respondents representing 47% strongly agreed that entrepreneurship provide necessary advice and capacity building for the empowerment of the rural population, 20.8% of the respondents agreed, 14.4% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 17.8% strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurship provide necessary advice and capacity building for the empowerment of the rural population. The table further indicates that 89 respondents representing 44% strongly agreed that entrepreneurship creates avenue for the unemployed to be gainfully employed in business activities, 32.2% of the respondents agreed, 10.4% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 13.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurship creates avenue for the unemployed to be gainfully employed in business activities.

The table above further indicates that 25.7% of the respondents strongly agree that the higher the entrepreneurial orientation, the higher the level of rural development, 47.5% of the respondents agreed, 13.9% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 12.9 percent of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that higher level of entrepreneurial orientation increases the level of rural development. The table also shows that 44% of the respondents strongly agreed that through entrepreneurial orientation, the rural population gets opportunities to start up new business ventures, 32.2% of the respondents agreed, 10.4% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 13.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that through entrepreneurial orientation, the rural population gets opportunities to start up new business ventures.

The table above also indicates that 21.9% of the respondents strongly agree that entrepreneurial orientation helps to anticipate future demands and opportunities in the rural market, 60.4% of the respondents agreed, 5% of the respondents disagreed while 12.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurial orientation helps to anticipate future demands and opportunities in the rural market. The table above also indicates that 23.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship creates opportunities for innovativeness in business activities, 54.5% of the respondents agreed, 9.4% of the respondents were undecided, 12.4% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 1.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurship creates opportunities for innovativeness in business activities.

The table above indicates that 31.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship innovation helps the rural population to come up with new way to produce a product, 48.5% of the respondents agreed, 14.9% of the respondents disagreed while 4.9% of the respondents were undecided. This implies that entrepreneurship innovation helps the rural population to come up with new way to produce a product. The table above further indicates 34.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that innovations contribute to the success of business enterprises in the rural areas, 35.6% of the respondents agreed, 15.8% of the respondents disagreed while 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that innovations contribute to the success of business enterprises in the rural areas.

The table above also indicates that 27.7% of the respondents agree that entrepreneurship is very effective in ensuring rural development, 52% of the respondents agreed, 8.9% disagreed while the remaining 11.4% strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurship is very effective in ensuring rural development. The table above shows that 31.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship creates opportunities for the establishment and advancement of rural businesses, 34.2% of the respondents agreed, 16.8% of the respondents disagreed while 17.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that entrepreneurship creates opportunities for the establishment and advancement of rural businesses. The table above further indicates that 35.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship helps to boost the rural economy, 38.1% of the respondents agreed, 13.4% disagreed while the remaining 12.9% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that Entrepreneurship helps to boost the rural economy.

Analysis of the Regression Result

Multiple regression analysis was employed to determine the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The essence is to ascertain the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development. The results are presented in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: Summary of Regression Result

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.174 ^a	.530	.617	3.197	2.745

a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurship Orientation, Entrepreneurship Innovation, Employment Creation

b. Dependent Variable: Rural Development

Source: SPSS Ver. 21

Table 2 above indicates that R^2 which measures the strength of the influence of independent variable on the dependent variable have the value of 0.530. This implies that 53.0% of the variation in rural development is explained by variations in entrepreneurship variables (entrepreneurship orientation, entrepreneurship innovation and employment creation). This was supported by adjusted R^2 of 61.7%. The Durbin-Watson statistics was employed to check for autocorrelation in the model. Durbin-Watson statistics of 2.742 show that the variables in the model are not auto-correlated and are therefore, reliable for predications.

Table 3: ANOVA Result

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	112.562	5	22.512	72.203	.004 ^a
	Residual	3587.511	351	10.221		
	Total	3700.073	356			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurship Orientation, Entrepreneurship Innovation, Employment Creation

b. Dependent Variable: Rural Development

Source: SPSS Ver. 21

The F-test is applied to check the overall significance of the model. The F-statistic is instrumental in verifying the overall significance of an estimated model. The f-statistics value of 72.203 in table 3 above with probability value of 0.004 shows that the independent variables has significant effect on dependent variable. This shows that entrepreneurship orientation, entrepreneurship innovation and employment creation can collectively explain the variations in rural development. This shows that entrepreneurship has significant influence on rural development in Anambra state.

Test of Hypotheses

Here, the three hypotheses formulated earlier in this study were tested using the t-statistics and probability from the coefficient result of the multiple regression analysis. The results are presented the table 4 below.

Table 4. Coefficients of the Regression Result

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	22.159	1.757		12.612	.000
Entrepreneurship Orientation	1.040	.040	.054	2.003	.007
Entrepreneurship Innovation	.056	.042	.071	2.340	.001
Employment Creation	.028	.041	.037	2.693	.009

a. Dependent Variable: Rural Development

Source: SPSS Version 21.0

Test of Hypothesis One

Ho: Entrepreneurship orientation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

Entrepreneurship orientation recorded a t-statistics value of 2.003 with an alpha value of 0.007. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This implies that entrepreneurship orientation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

Test of Hypothesis Two

Ho: Entrepreneurship innovation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

Table 4 above indicates that entrepreneurship innovation recorded a t-statistics value of 2.340 with a probability value of 0.001 which is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This implies that entrepreneurship innovation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

Test of Hypothesis Three

Ho: Employment creation has no significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

Employment creation recorded a t-statistics value of 2.693 with a probability value of 0.009 which is statistically significant at 5% level. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted. It is therefore concluded that employment creation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State.

V. CONCLUSION

This study evaluated the influence of entrepreneurship on rural development in Anambra State. Data were sourced from the entrepreneurs in Anambra State were subjected to empirical analysis. The study found that entrepreneurship orientation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. The study also found that entrepreneurship innovation has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. The study further found that employment creation by entrepreneurs has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. Based on the foregoing, the study concludes that entrepreneurship has significant influence on rural development in Anambra State. Therefore, it is evidently proved from the study that entrepreneurship play crucial role in accelerating economic development of rural areas.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following are recommended:

1. Government should ensure provision effective technical education, youth empowerment, and social welfare service as a catalyst for poverty alleviation. Entrepreneurship orientation should be made an element at all levels of learning from primary schools to secondary schools and tertiary institutions.
2. The government should pay adequate attention in the provision and maintenance of basic infrastructure. Good infrastructure generally promotes business activities regardless of the size or type of enterprise.
3. Government should adopt a policy that will allow graduates of entrepreneurship and technological institutions access to soft loans from financial institutions with little or no interest at all, so that they can establish their business enterprises with ease.

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