

# Entrepreneurship And Human Capital Development: Veritable Tools For Poverty Reduction In Kaduna State Nigeria

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## **Abstract**

*This study examined the impact of entrepreneurship development on poverty reduction in Kaduna State. The study employed survey research design. Purposive or judgmental sampling was adopted to select respondents whose opinions are relevant and to make valuable decisions. Thus, 452 samples were arrived at based on value judgement that the respondents are very knowledgeable in the subject matter. The unit of analysis of this paper are; (170 farmers, 150 small scale business owners and 132 skills acquisition trainers in different skills) in 23 local government areas in Kaduna State. The instrument for data collection was closed-ended structured questionnaire. The face validity assessment was done by the issuance of a copy of the questionnaire each to three experts in the field. Cronbach alpha coefficient was used to determine the reliability of instruments used at 0.7. Data were coded using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. Hypotheses were tested using multiple regression. The findings revealed that agriculture, small scale businesses and skills acquisition have positive significant impact on poverty reduction in Kaduna State. The paper recommended that the government and other stakeholders should continue to; improve their budgetary allocation in agriculture to ensure rapid increase in the output of agriculture like fishery, livestock, crops, forestry and staple which reduce the rate of poverty; they should continue to support small-scale businesses through various forms of funding like soft loans and grants and also provide social amenities to facilitate the operation of small scale businesses which reduces poverty in the country; they should do more by establishing entrepreneurship training and skills acquisition centres at local government levels and inculcate into the school's curriculum at all level to instill entrepreneurial drive, which promotes job creation, wealth creation and human capital development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition and training thus reducing poverty in the society.*

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Human Capital Development, Agriculture, Small-Scale Businesses, Skills Acquisition, Poverty Reduction.

### **Background to the Study**

The impact of entrepreneurship and human capital development on poverty reduction is important, given its policy implications especially with respect to the developing countries particularly Nigeria. One of the challenges faced by many nations in developing countries is the inability to tackle high rate of poverty. Many countries have therefore made it a significant task to reduce the level at which poverty has eaten deep into their economies causing so much havoc and becoming an impediment to growth and development (Adekoya, 2018). The effect of poverty in Nigeria are; hunger, an absence of shelter, lack of access to health care, education and tools to work, displacement due to natural and environmental disaster, high state of insecurity, kidnapping, high level of unemployment, especially youth unemployment, prostitution, slavery, disenfranchisement and child labour (Orajaka and Okoli, 2018).

The population explosion of Nigeria, combined with the nation's inefficient use of its resources, is driving the nation deeper into poverty at an alarming rate (Somefun, Esomu and Nkume, 2022). Nigeria has always been considered as one of the world's most impoverished nations even though it possesses a significant number of both resources and people. Nigeria's poverty is getting worse at an alarming rate because the country's population is growing and its resources are not being used well enough. This has led to poor performance on the country's local and global markets (Metu and Nwokoye, 2014). Based on the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2019) 82.9 million people in Nigeria were considered to be poor by benchmarks (2020). This translates to the fact that about 41% of the population live through poverty levels.

To reduce poverty, the world leaders came up with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to end starvation, impoverishment, and lack of education (Somefun, et al, 2022). As a consequence of this, numerous Antipoverty Efforts in Nigeria have been started over the course of the nation's democratic history in an effort to lessen the nation's level of poverty. It was hoped that these approaches would lead to an improvement in the standard of living enjoyed by Nigerians (Somefun, et al, 2022). Amongst others, the report can be counted as examples of some of these programs: Domestic Improved Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), which was initiated in 1976, The Green Revolution Scheme, as well as the Go Back to Land Programme established in 1983, in 2016, the Anchor Borrowers programme (ABP) was established after banning the importation of rice through the borders. Although these programs attained some levels of success, but Nigeria is one of the countries which currently has the largest number of poorest people on earth. Thus, to reduce the level of poverty in Nigeria, there is need to embrace entrepreneurship and human capital development.

Entrepreneurship and human capital development when understood as they relate to the Nigerian context will become the most important means and channel to improve the socioeconomic status of Nigerians and solve poverty rather than dependence on already worsening revenues from oil and other sectors (Nkwusi, 2019). Entrepreneurship development helps reduce poverty by generating employment through the establishment of new businesses or the growth of existing ones, as well as by generating social wealth through the creation of new markets, industries, technology, institutional forms, jobs, and net increases in real productivity (Ogidi and Okonkwo, 2021). These developments also raise income levels, which in turn raise people's standards of living. It follows that the number of entrepreneurs in any particular nation will logically rise as compared to the poverty indices, and vice versa.

The role of human capital development on poverty alleviation in a country cannot be overemphasized. The goal of the human capital development is to expand people's capacities and help them reach their full potential (Ewubare, and Wokekoro, 2021). This inherently means giving individuals the power to take an active role in their own development. Human capital development also serves as a tool for improving people's skills, productivity, knowledge, and ineffectiveness with the ultimate goal of lowering poverty. However, there are many entrepreneurship and human capital development related factors but this paper concentrates on agriculture, small-scale businesses and skills acquisition.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Poverty is on the increase in Nigeria, and it is worsening the already low socioeconomic status of many Nigerians. There are many causes and dimensions of poverty in Nigeria, but the result is a lack of money, poor social and economic status, and low standards of living. Nigeria is blessed with a pool of human resources but has not been able to harness this great potential especially towards eradicating poverty in the country (Somefun, et al, 2022). Entrepreneurship and human capital are seen as catalyst for development and if utilized properly could be used as a tool for eradicating poverty in Nigeria (Orajaka and Okoli, 2018). The government has therefore for a very long period of time introduced programmes and policies geared towards alleviating poverty in the country. While some of these programmes and policies have made a little impact in this cause, others seem to have either been ineffective or even aggravating the situation. Some of these policies and programmes include, "Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution, the Directorate of Foods Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFFRI), the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). However, there are many studies on entrepreneurship and human capital development and poverty reduction in Nigeria; but only few were conducted in relation to Kaduna State. Also, there are many studies on agriculture (Bello, 2020), skills acquisition, small scale businesses (Ololade, 2020) and poverty reduction (Somefun, et al, 2022) but no research has combined them in one study. Thus, this paper therefore tends to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship and human capital development on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.

### **Research Questions**

In order to provide solution to the problems, a research question was formed;

1. What are the entrepreneurship and human capital development activities available for poverty reduction in Kaduna State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this paper is to investigate the impact of Entrepreneurship and human capital development on poverty reduction in Kaduna State. However, the specific objectives of this paper are to;

1. Assess the impact of small-scale business on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.
2. Assess the impact of agriculture on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.
3. Assess the impact of skills acquisition on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

The following hypotheses were formulated in null;

1. Small-scale business has no significant impact on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.
2. Agriculture has no significant impact on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.
3. Skills acquisition has no significant impact on poverty reduction in Kaduna State.

### **Conceptual Framework of the Study**

#### **Concept of Poverty Reduction**

Poverty reduction/alleviation refers to sustained improvements in the living conditions of a particular group of people (Alamanda, 2020). Therefore, the aim of poverty alleviation of any government is to achieve lasting improvement in the quality of life and not just short-term improvement that disappear at the end of the project cycle (Ilemona et al., 2013).

#### **Concept of Entrepreneurship and Human Capital Development**

Entrepreneurship development entails the process of enhancing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through structured training and institutional building programmes focused on individuals who wish to start or expand a business (in in Somefun, et al, 2022). Entrepreneurship development in the 21st century does not only focus on theoretical approach but a development

oriented action towards poverty reduction among rural and urban populace. The aim of entrepreneurship development is to enlarge the base of entrepreneurs in an economy in order to accelerate the pace at which new ventures are created thereby speed up creation of jobs and economic growth thus reduces poverty level (Ogidi and Okonkwo, 2021). Entrepreneurship development can only be achieved through the involvement of various stakeholders that include the government and its agencies, academic institutions (primary, secondary and tertiary education), technical or vocational training and the private sector that includes entrepreneurs and large companies (Mwatsika 2015).

Human capital development on the other hand refers to the skills, education, health, and training of individuals. It is capital because these skills or education are integral part of us that is long-lasting, in the way a machine, plant or factory lasts (Adekoya, 2018). Human capital development refers to the process of acquiring and increasing the number of people who have the skills, education and experience which are critical for the economic and the political development of a country (Shisoka and Wepukhulu, 2018). Human capital development is therefore associated with investment in man and his development as a creative and productive resource. Human capital development is the process of further developing the productive capacity of human resources through investment in education or other means (Orajaka and Okoli, 2018).

### **Concept of Agriculture**

A strong agricultural sector provides food for the country's increasing population, employment opportunities; generate foreign exchange and raw material to industries. Agriculture, which is the main occupation of people in poorest countries is essential for economic growth and poverty reduction; thus, growth in agriculture reduces poverty more compared to growth outside agriculture (Bello, 2020). When there is increase in agricultural production, the poor household gain directly as producers, as cost reduces more than price, consumers gain through lower prices or as agricultural labourers gain through higher wages and increased employment. Consequently, increase in agricultural productivity exhibit a larger poverty-reduction impact in comparison to increase in industry and other services (Ivanic and Martin 2018).

### **Concept of Small-Scale Businesses (SSBs)**

Small-scale businesses stand as sources for generating income and its redistribution enhances the acquisition of capital, alleviate poverty, empowers people particularly women and the youths (Addaney, Akudugu and Asare, 2016). Small-scale businesses also facilitate the forming of a new group of small and medium scale entrepreneurs, that is, expanding the middle class, as well as broader income distribution, have the potential to increase and diversify household incomes as well as minimize household poverty. Small-scale businesses possess the capacity to promote economic growth and also to advance socio-economic development at both the national and local levels for poverty reduction (in Ololade, Abiodun, Olaoye and Okeya, 2020).

### **Concept of Skills Acquisition**

Skill acquisition is defined as the process of acquiring a particular skill through education, training, skill transfer, and apprenticeship (Effiong et al, 2022). Skill acquisition can also be seen as the process through which an individual acquires a particular skill set that would help him or her to be gainfully employed. Skills acquisition helps to reduce poverty level by providing avenues for the skilled manpower to be fully involved in actual practice of the skills (Salihu, 2016). The core objectives of skills acquisition are to; enhance employment generation, reduction of insecurity, promotes wealth creation, increases the rate of technical empowerment, helps in jobs creation, serves as economic booster and helps in reduction of poverty (Effiong, et al, 2022).

### **Empirical Review on Entrepreneurship and Human Capital Development Related factors and Poverty Reduction**

Many literatures have been reviewed in relation to entrepreneurship and human capital

development and poverty reduction. Somefun, et al (2022) studied entrepreneurship as a means of reducing poverty in Nigeria. The study employed survey research design. The population of the study consists of small business owners in the commercial cities of Aba, and Onitsha Nigeria. Random sampling was used to select 400 business owners from the two cities. The study adopted the stratified-random sampling method to select the respondents. The instrument used for this study was a self-designed questionnaire. Linear regression and descriptive statistics were used for analysis of data. It was discovered that entrepreneurship significantly influence poverty reduction. The study recommended that entrepreneurship development should be encouraged by the government and other stakeholders because it improves people's financial circumstances and quality of life, lowers poverty when it creates new opportunities or business owners, and improves social well being by creating new jobs, emerging markets, new technologies, new organizational contexts, and net multiplies in real productivity. Additionally, it increases income, which eventually leads to a higher standard of living. The report suggested that the government keep funding the growth of entrepreneurship, as this lowers the rate of poverty.

Using the framework of cointegration and the Granger Causality technique, Obiakor, Wahid, Olufemi, and Aderemi (2022) investigated the relationship between agriculture, food security, and poverty reduction in Nigeria from 1990 to 2019. Data was generated from the World Development Indicators and the Nigerian Central Bank's Statistical Bulletin, respectively. The study found that; there is long-term equilibrium convergence between Nigeria's GDP per capita, food production index, and agricultural value added; there is a one-way causal relationship between Nigeria's declining rates of poverty and the food production index; and there is a causal relationship that runs from the nation's increased agricultural value added to the decrease of poverty. The study recommended that the policymakers in Nigeria and other African nation should ensure that agricultural value added and food production are critical variables that should not be overlooked if poverty level is to be reduced.

Ogidi and Okonkwo (2021) investigated poverty alleviation and entrepreneurship in the Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. Data was obtained from selected business enterprises. Seventy-nine (79) copies of questionnaires were distributed to these enterprises and the data was analyzed using Chi-Square. The study found that entrepreneurial development among small scale businesses alleviates poverty in Jos North LGA, Plateau State. However, government support towards promoting entrepreneurship has been poor and the economic conditions do not support entrepreneurship in Jos North LGA, Plateau State and Nigeria, at large. The findings recommended that government should support entrepreneurship through various forms of funding like soft loans and grants and also provide social amenities to facilitate the operation of small-scale businesses.

Popoola, Brimah and Gbadeyan (2018) assessed entrepreneurship practice as a means of poverty reduction in Southwestern Nigeria. Data collection was done by interview, in-depth discussion with respondent. The sample size of the study was 480 Pure and table water industry business owners. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and Partial Least Square (PLS) method. The finding revealed that entrepreneurship practices have positive impact on poverty reduction in Southwestern Nigeria. It was recommended that though business operators are prospering well, they still need optimized entrepreneurial competency in all their activities to achieve the desired result, thus reducing poverty level in the region.

Orajaka and Okoli (2018) examined the effect of human capital development on poverty reduction in Nigeria. Econometric regression model of the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) was used to analyse data. It was revealed that human capital development, government expenditure on agriculture, health, education, skill acquisition and small-scale enterprises are statistically significant in reducing poverty in Nigeria. The study therefore recommended among others that government should prioritize its investment in education, health, agriculture, skill acquisition and small and medium enterprises and also make sure that its investment in these areas is structurally balanced, supervised and focused because they have been identified to significantly influence poverty reduction in Nigeria.

John-Akamelu and Muogbo (2018) evaluated the contribution of small and medium scale enterprises in poverty eradication in Nigeria. Primary data were sourced from the population

size of 150 through the administration of a questionnaire to employees of some selected SME's in Anambra state, and the sourced data were analyzed using the Chi-square method. Findings revealed, that small and medium enterprises provided employment opportunities, training ground, and harness utilization of local resources, thereby helping in reducing the poverty rate in Nigeria

Dialoke, Onyi and Edeh (2017) examined the impact of entrepreneurship on Poverty Reduction using Industrial Layout in Coal Camp Enugu State, Nigeria as study Site. The study was survey research with 248 respondents (N=3242) using pre-tested self-designed, close-ended questionnaires to generate primary data. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS) 20. Pearson's correlation analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between Entrepreneurship (Skill Acquisition,

Entrepreneurship Training, and Creativity & Innovations) and Poverty Reduction (Youth Empowerment, Job Creation and Wealth Creation) The results showed a positive significant relationship between the independent variables (Skill Acquisition, Entrepreneurship Training and Youth Creativity) and the dependent variables (Youth Empowerment, Job Creation and Wealth Creation) in Industrial Layout Coal Camp, Enugu State Nigeria. ( $r=0.466, 0.388$  &  $0.480$  respectively). The study recommended that Entrepreneurship training and development should be instituted at the Local Government levels and inculcate into the school's curriculum at all level to instill entrepreneurial drive, to promote job creation, wealth creation and human capital development through entrepreneurial skill acquisition and training thus reducing poverty in the society.

Mulikat and Sadiat (2017) carried out research on effect of entrepreneurship on poverty reduction by using empirical fact from Sokoto State Nigeria. The population of the study was 300 respondents in the state. It comprises 233 entrepreneurs and 67 non-entrepreneur. The study showed that there is positive relationship between entrepreneurship and poverty reduction, that is, as the level of entrepreneurship rise, the rate of poverty reduced. The study recommended that the government should provide funds, power and good transportation system as well entrepreneurship skill programme within its policy frame work in order to boost the level of entrepreneurship and reduce the level of poverty in the state. The study also recommended that government should intensify the high level of awareness of the benefit of entrepreneurship to the generality of its people but also provide enabling environment for entrepreneurial activities to function effectively. In addition, that the government in order to promote the level of entrepreneurship, should provide enough fund, power and good transportation system as well as entrepreneurship skill programme within its policy framework.

Hussain, Bhuiyan and Said (2015) accessed the role of micro, small and medium enterprises in eradicating poverty in Malaysia. The study used a content approach by reviewing extensively on the existing studies on the subject matter, and it was found that the development of micro, small, & medium enterprises depend on individuals or a group of peoples that have certain factors such as innovativeness, family background, government support programs, and training or education. As a result, individual entrepreneurial characteristics, like an increase in youth empowerment and women participation in entrepreneurship. A significant role played in the development of entrepreneurship is the robust collaboration between government-university-industry resulted in stimulating employment and create job opportunities which will lead to alleviating poverty.

Anowor, Ukwani and Ezekwem (2013) examined agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation in Nigeria and adopted an econometric method to test hypotheses. The findings showed that growth in agricultural output has strong and significant influence in alleviating poverty (reducing the level of poverty). The study recommended that there is need to ensure a rapid increase in the output of agriculture like fishery, livestock, crops, forestry, staple, etc. through genuine investment in infrastructure, education, health and R&D to ensure sustainable economic growth and development

### Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study is anchored on human capital theory. According to the theory, people can increase their knowledge and abilities by being exposed to training and retraining. This notion states that a person who receives training comes up with new ideas on how to execute tasks more quickly and effectively, as well as how to increase productivity at work (in Agbonna, Shoge, Okun, and Olorunlome, 2022). Based on these presumptions, the theory comes to the conclusion that education, not just any education, but education with an entrepreneurial bent helps to reduce poverty. The implications of the theory in the current study is that entrepreneurship could reduce poverty by exposing individuals to agriculture, businesses and skills acquisition through training.

### Methodology/Materials Used

This study examines the impact of entrepreneurship development on poverty reduction in Zaria. The study employed survey descriptive research design. The population of the study are farmers, business owners and skills acquisition trainers making a total of 2692. The sample size of the study was 452 respondents selected from the population. The unit of analysis of this paper are; (170 farmers, 150 small scale business owners and 132 skills acquisition trainers in different skills) in 23 local government areas in Kaduna State. The instrument for data collection was closed-ended structured questionnaire. The study adapted items suitable in measuring the various construct of this study from previous studies. The questionnaire was designed using 5-point likert scales ratings of "strongly disagree" (1) and "strongly agree" (5). Face validity assessment in this area of academic discipline was also done by issuance of a copy of the questionnaire each to three experts in the field. Cronbach alpha coefficient was used to determine the reliability of instruments used at 0.7. Farmers was 0.752, auto Small-Scale Business Owners was 0.744 and Skills Acquisition Trainers was 0.733. This implies that the instruments used in this study are reliable enough. Data were coded using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27.0. Hypotheses were tested using multiple regression. The null hypothesis is rejected if the p-value is less than 5%, otherwise it is not rejected.

### Data Presentation and Analysis

**Table 1: Distribution of Copies of Questionnaires**

Questionnaire distributed	Frequency	Percentage
Copies of questionnaire administered	470	100%
Returned Copies of questionnaire	452	96.17
Non-returned Copies of questionnaire	18	3.83

Table 1 shows that 470 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents. Four hundred and fifty-two (452) copies of questionnaire were returned and correctly filled; and this constitutes 96.17% valid for the study. While 18 copies of questionnaire were not returned.

**Table 2: Demography of Respondents**

S/n	Characteristics	Respondents Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Gender	Male	282	62.39%
		Female	170	37.61%
		Total	452	100%
2	Age	18-30	100	22.12%
		31-40	150	33.18%
		41-50	121	26.77%
		51 and above	81	17.92%
		Total	452	100%
3	Educational Qualification	SSCE	60	13.27%
		NCE/OND	177	39.16%
		B.Sc./B.Ed/HND	152	33.63%
		Masters/Ph. D	63	13.94%
		Total	452	100%
4	Type of Skill	Farmers	230	50.88%
		Small Scale Business Owners	116	25.66%
		Skills Acquisition Trainers	106	23.45%
		Total	452	100%
5	Marital status	Married	265	58.63%
		Single	187	41.37%
		Total	452	100%

Table 2 shows that 282 (62.39%) of the respondents are males, while 170 (37.61%) are females. This means that both genders are represented in poverty reduction in Kaduna state. The age of respondents shows that 100 (22.12%) fall within the ages of 18 to 30, 150 (33.18%) are between 31-40 years, 121 (26.77%) fall within the ages of 41-50. While 81 (17.92%) are 51 years old and above. This implies that all the age brackets are represented in entrepreneurship and human capital development for poverty reduction. In table 2, it was also found that 60 (13.27%) of the respondents are WAEC holders, 177 (39.16%) are NCE/OND holders, 152 (33.63%) are degree holders while 63 (13.94%) are masters and Ph. D. holders. This implies that all cadres in academics are represented in poverty reduction in Kaduna State. The table 2 also revealed that 116 (25.66%) of the respondents are farmers, 230 (25.66%) are small-scale business owners and 106 (23.45%) are skills acquisition trainers. In the table 2, it was also found that out of the 452 copies of questionnaires returned, 265 (58.63%) are married while 187 (41.37%) are single. This means that for poverty to be reduced in Kaduna State, both the married and singles must participate through agriculture, small scale business and skills acquisition.

**Table 3: Multiple Regression Result on Small-Scale Businesses, Agriculture, Skills Acquisition and poverty reduction**

Variable	Beta	Std. Error	t. stat.	P. Value	Decision on Null Hypothesis
SMEs	0.29	0.05	5.83	0.000	Not Supported
Agriculture	0.39	0.04	9.77	0.000	Not Supported
Skills Acquisition	0.32	0.08	4.02	0.000	Not Supported
F. stat.	0.000				
R <sup>2</sup>	0.53				

Source: SPSS Output, 2024



### Findings and Discussion

Table 3 revealed that small-scale business has positive significant influence on poverty reduction at  $\text{Beta}=0.29$ ,  $t=5.83$  and  $p \text{ value}=0.00$  at 0.1 significant level. This implies that a unit change in small-scale business will result to 29% change in poverty reduction. This finding supports the study of (Ogidi & Okonkwo, 2021; John-Akamelu and Muogbo, 2018; Popoola, 2018) which found that entrepreneurial development among small-scale businesses alleviates poverty. Small and medium enterprises provided employment opportunities, training ground, and harness utilization of local resources, thereby helping in reducing the poverty rate in Nigeria. We fail to support the null hypothesis one which states that small-scale business has no significant impact on poverty reduction.

Table 3 also found that agriculture has positive significant influence on poverty reduction at  $\text{Beta}=0.39$ ,  $t=9.77$  and  $p \text{ value}=0.00$  at 0.01 significant level. This means that the more people are engaged in agriculture the more the reduction in poverty. This finding supports the study of Anowor et al (2013) which found that growth in agricultural output has strong and significant influence in alleviating poverty (reducing the level of poverty). Therefore, there is need to ensure a rapid increase in the output of agriculture like fishery, livestock, crops, forestry, staple, etc. through genuine investment in infrastructure, education, health and research and development to ensure sustainable economic growth and development leading to poverty reduction. Hence, we fail to accept the null hypothesis two which states that agriculture has no significant impact on poverty reduction.

Table 3 also showed that skills acquisition has positive significant influence on poverty reduction at  $\text{Beta}=0.32$ ,  $t=0.08$  and  $p \text{ value}=0.000$  at 0.01 significant level. This implies that a unit change in skills acquisition will result to 32% change in poverty reduction. This finding is in line with the study of Dialoke et al (2017) which revealed that skill acquisition, entrepreneurship training and youth creativity have positive significant impact on youth empowerment, job creation and wealth creation. The null hypothesis three is rejected.

The  $R^2$  value of 0.53 indicates that the coefficient of determination 53% of variation in poverty reduction are attributed to, small-scale business, agriculture and skills acquisition. This implies that agriculture, small-scale business and skills acquisition reduce poverty level in Kaduna State. Other entrepreneurship development related factors not considered in the study contributed to 47% of the variation in poverty reduction in Kaduna State.

### Conclusion

The study looked at the impact of entrepreneurship and human capital development in poverty reduction in Kaduna State. The results show positive and significant impact of small-scale business, agriculture, and skill acquisition on poverty alleviation in Kaduna State. As a result, the government needs to make sure that funds are managed effectively to increase the nation's production capacity, speed up economic growth, and reduce poverty. Nigeria's numerous initiatives to reduce poverty should be unified and coordinated with the creation of an all-encompassing framework focused on the development of human capital and entrepreneurship.

### Recommendations

The study recommended that;

1. In order to ensure a rapid increase in agricultural output, such as that of fisheries, livestock, crops, forestry and staple foods, the government should continue to increase its budgetary expenditure in agriculture. This can be achieved by making genuine investments in infrastructure, health, education, and research and development, which will promote sustainable economic growth and development and lower Nigeria's poverty rate.
2. The government and other stakeholders should continue to support small enterprises through provision of social amenities, grants and soft loans. This would help to lower the nation's poverty rate.

3. In order to combat poverty in society, the government and other stakeholders should take more action by establishing centres for entrepreneurship training and skill acquisition at the local government level and incorporate entrepreneurial education into the curricula of all schools. This will foster an entrepreneurial spirit and help create jobs, wealth, and human capital through the development of entrepreneurial skills.

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