

**ROLE OF BUSINESS EDUCATION IN POVERTY ERADICATION;
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN AS A CASE STUDY**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, IN
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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that this research work was carried out by **Oghenerukevwe OMONIGHO** with Matriculation Number **EDU2001950** in the Department of Vocational & Technical Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City.

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Date

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Date₃

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the Almighty God, for his mercies, benevolence and for preserving and protecting me against all odds.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am deeply indebted to God Almighty (my creator) who stood by me all through my year of studies and ensured I do not lack any financial, moral, material, physical and spiritual provision in the course of this research work in particular and my academic life in general. I am indeed grateful to you Lord.

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ABSTRACT

This research study investigated the role of Christianity in curbing the menace of alcohol and drug abuse among university students; using University of Benin as a case study. During the period the research was carried out, the researcher brought about four research questions that was used to guide the study. There was a total of 80 University of Benin students used as respondents in this study. The survey research technique was used as the research method for this study and the researcher used table and percentage to collect and present data for this research study. The study was to investigate the role of Christianity in curbing the menace of alcohol and drug abuse among university students. Different techniques such as population of the study and sample and sampling techniques were used during this study. The questionnaire that was used to collect data for the study was the likert type of question which was further divided into two sections, Section A which was designed to obtain personal information from the respondents, and Section B which comprised of items on the topic under investigation. The research instrument was reviewed and validated by the project supervisor and other experts in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City. The findings exposed the how bad students have gotten themselves involved in drugs abuse and consumption of alcohol and to stop this, different strategies were brought up as recommendations.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to Study

Nigerian society has several obstacles in the areas of socio-economic and political growth, as well as the battle to eliminate poverty in the West African subregion and Nigeria, particularly given Nigeria's status as an African giant. Nigeria's poverty rate has risen to the point that it is recognized as one of the most significant developmental impediments to the country's economic and social progress. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) just issued the "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria" study, revealing that 40% of the entire population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 Naira (\$ 381.75) each year. Nigeria's poverty rate has risen to the point that it is recognized as one of the most fundamental developmental impediments to the country's economic and social progress. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) just issued the "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria" study, revealing that 40% of the entire population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 Naira (\$ 381.75) each year. This indicates that many Nigerians cannot comfortably afford basic necessities such as food, clothes, and shelter. It is unnecessary to underscore how terrible and pitiful this is.

The leaders, on their part, have undertaken many endeavors and efforts to control and halt this occurrence, spending enormous sums of money over many years of trials. This article will look at how business education might help alleviate poverty. This is to support the efforts made by the government in this regard. According to Ugwuogo (2013), business education is a type of vocational education aimed at preparing students to be productive in teaching, paid job, and self-employment. Okoye (2013) defined business education as a program that teaches students the art of business creation (marketing), typing and shorthand skills (currently competing with computer appreciation and operation), service delivery, secretarial jobs, account clerking, office information systems, and management.

Bookkeeping, transcribing, answering phones, stenography, private secretary work, machine operation, and other similar jobs are examples of this type of career. This also entails management and career progression in office-related fields. The main goal of the educational process known as "business education" is to get students ready for roles in businesses, whether they be employers, entrepreneurs, or independent contractors.

The quality and quantity of domestic and foreign investment, along with the overall policy environment, form the other important determinants of economic performance. The quality of policy making and of investment decisions is bound to be influenced by the education of both policy makers and managers. Business

education plays different roles in eradicating poverty. Education is also a significant contributor to technological capability and technical change in industry. Of course, skill and education alone cannot transform an economy.

Business education plays different roles in poverty eradication, they include:

- i. A business education enables people to launch small businesses. Instead of looking for white collar positions like their counterparts from other disciplines, those who have the necessary knowledge and abilities in business education typically launch micro industries and other small businesses to escape poverty (Gana, 2016). When this is completed, the nation's and each person's economic prospects will improve, lowering the rate of poverty in the population.
- ii. It also serves as a means of fostering good citizenship by educating pupils to become knowledgeable, successful workers. Since the subject/course focuses on training people to acquire skills and knowledge that adequately prepare them for employment in business-related occupations, it disallows them from engaging in unlawful acts that could negate the ideals of good citizenship, which in turn enhances employability (Oyerinde, 2017).
- iii. Business education gives secondary school students who don't want to continue their education to a higher level of education alternatives, which helps to lower the high rate of school drop-outs.

- iv. It helps prepare people for careers that rely more on manual labour and practical skills than on certification. Education needs to change from being certificate-based to skill-oriented. This will help people use their hands and brains to improve their lot in life and eradicate poverty in both their personal lives and society as a whole (Sani, 2011).
- v. Business education equips people with the technical know-how, mental tools, and other attributes required for active teamwork, increasing the nation's productive labour force and preparing them for a lifetime of learning.
- vi. Business education gives people the tools they need to comprehend the country's economy and their civic duties. Every citizen has an economic obligation to increase the nation's GDP (gross domestic product) in order to raise the per capita income of the populace and, therefore, the citizens' standard of life.

Statement of the Problem

One of the crippling issues that people in many nations confront is poverty. As a result, various people, groups of people, and established and developing nations have all encountered varying degrees of poverty across time. According to Ndem (2010), poverty is the inability to meet one's fundamental requirements, which include, but are not limited to, food, housing, work, and education. According to Greenberg, those who are impoverished do not have access to knowledge about

market pricing for the commodities they create, information that is essential to their survival. The lack of information, education, and chances for skill development that the poor have access to can hinder their progress. A crucial component of vocational education, or education for employment, is business education. It is an aspect of technical education that includes, in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences; the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding, and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of the economy and social life. This was recognized by the Federal Government of Nigeria (2013).

A business education prepares students for careers in office work, marketing, accounting, and other business-related fields. It is practically focused. In addition, business education focuses on imparting the information and competencies (skills, abilities, understanding, and attitudes) that people need to become respectable citizens and productive members of society (Etonyeaku, 2012). It equips students to play a variety of roles in business as informed and economically educated citizens. Business education is closely related to skill learning when it comes to vocational education (Mc Omish, Elspeth, Mohan, and Perera, 2013). The authors pointed out that in the absence of paid work, people with vocational skills can open small businesses that provide the services their communities need. This can strengthen the local economy from the ground up and help free the populace from

the culture of dependency on outside help. The writers went on to say that business education, which is a component of vocational education, is essential for reducing poverty, fostering peace, protecting the environment, raising everyone's standard of living, and assisting in the realization of sustainable economic growth.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study

1. How does business education help individuals to set up small scale business enterprises?
2. How does business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs?
3. How does business education prepare individuals for career that is based on manual and practical activities rather than certification?
4. What are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose and goals of this study is to investigate the role of business education in poverty eradication, the study seek to determine the following:

1. The extent business education will help individuals to set up small scale business enterprises.

2. The extent business education will help in the reduction of high incidence of school drop-outs.
3. The extent business will prepare individuals for career that is based on manual and practical activities rather than certification.
4. The extent business education will prepare individuals for lifelong learning by developing in them the necessary mental tools, technical skills.

Significance of the Study

Ensuring that all citizens live above the poverty line is the government's ongoing responsibility. Nigeria's political and socio-economic conditions have remained unstable for more than 40 years, despite the country's potential for human and physical resources. This has had a negative impact on the welfare and poverty of its people. Experience has demonstrated that the key component that regulates the other components for effective service delivery is human resources.

Human development through education is focused on constantly striving to achieve a positive change in the work force's behaviour in terms of attitude toward work and increased productivity. Every progressive nation, no matter how advanced, at some point needs well-developed human resources that will transcend the systems existing culture and procedures in use to highlight, among other things, areas of improvement and changing the old ways of doing things to a new and better way of

doing things. The optimal development of business education, human resources, their utilization, protection, and motivation are very essential for economic growth and development.

The significance of this study lies in placing human development above all other factors used to aid in the eradication of poverty. Given the foregoing, it is anticipated that this study would contribute to the complete eradication of poverty in Nigeria at the time of a massive advancement in human development. This book will be helpful to authors who wish to explore related subjects, and government organizations will find it useful as a guide in adopting and choosing policies that would reduce poverty in Nigeria.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This work attempts to tackle issues that concern the role of business education in poverty eradication in the country. Another focus of this research work is to closely examine the extent to which human development via education plays a role in poverty reduction in Nigerian context and beyond. This work will essentially concentrate on one of the variables that if well-developed will lead to improvement in overall poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria, using Edo State as a case study.

Definition of Terms

Business Education: This is the acquisition of knowledge and skills in business related subjects through both formal and informal learning channels in order to enable individuals function effectively in the business world

Poverty: This is a state of not having enough income or resources to meet basic needs like food, shelter, education etc.

Eradication: This is the complete end or elimination of something.

Role: This is the part or contribution played by business education in eradicating poverty.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The following topics were discussed under the literature review;

- Concept of Business Education
- Concept of small scale business
- Concept of school drop-outs
- Concept of life long learning
- Concept of career based activities
- Role of Business Education in addressing Poverty
- Review of Related Empirical Studies
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

Concept of Business Education

Teaching pupils the foundational ideas and procedures of business is a part of business education. There are several degrees of education in this profession, including secondary school and other post-secondary establishments including universities and colleges of education. In today's classroom, business education includes hands-on activities that help students refine their abilities. According to Igboke, referenced in Ikpe & Undie (2014), business education includes topics

such as bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, and business law. In summary, business education is that set of connected, systematically ordered general education and occupationally oriented courses that are required for potential certification. Furthermore, because it is crucial to the development, use, and sustainability of human resources, the subject or course is an essential instrument in capacity building. One component of a curriculum designed to educate students for jobs in business is business education. It is the education required to inform students about the commercial prospects that are open to them and that they may take advantage of in order to improve as citizens and fulfil their own share of the national development.

The course has been thoughtfully created to assist people in learning the skills required for self-employment as well as their chosen profession in order to improve their quality of life. The goal of the business education curriculum is to give students who want to pursue careers in business a solid foundation. It is also emphasized that the goal of business education is to produce the necessary labor force with the skills, knowledge, and positive attitudes needed to effectively utilize resources. This could lead to a cooperative relationship that eventually produces the goods and services required to satisfy all of the needs and wants that the people of the country have.

Due to its abundance of possibilities for useful, hands-on learning, business education is crucial to a country's socio-economic progress and sense of independence. These programs offer routes to certain apprenticeship and job locations, as well as important data and contacts that will support their investigation of possible employment and business prospects.

Moreover, well-read people come up with creative ways to engage the potential audience. They thereby convey the message much more effectively. Additionally, business education stimulates a company's sustainable development in a deliberate manner. For this reason, businesses want candidates who possess the ability to solve problems, as well as expertise in finance, economics, and the foundations of marketing and manufacturing. The course is crucial because it imparts the principles required for effective company management. As a result, the people are qualified to oversee the production, finance, and market departments in a more structured manner. This makes it quite clear that someone with a high level of knowledge in business education, the correct mindset, and all other things being equal will succeed in the business world.

According to Ikpe cited & Undie (2014), there are four legitimate and justifiable goals and purposes for business education, whether it is taken as a secondary school topic or as a course of study at a higher education institution..These objectives are:

- To equip the business students with the capacity to solve practical problems.
- To provide the business students with a detailed knowledge of the intricate performance of a complex economic system.
- To give the business students the capacity to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- To afford him/her through understanding of the functional areas of business.

Therefore, a key component in fostering people's socio-economic growth is business education. The course material also emphasizes the career options open to business education students, including employment as administrators in both the public and private sectors of the economy and as secondary school teachers. In addition, it aims to help students pursue post-graduate or undergraduate degrees in business education and to turn them into independent contractors after exposing them to business expertise.

Concept of Small Scale Business

A small firm, often referred to as a small scale business operation, is one that employs fewer people, has a lower financial investment need, and serves a smaller market than larger businesses. Small companies are crucial to the regional economy. They frequently inspire pride and have a stronger feeling of community. The industries that create goods and services on a small scale are known as small

scale businesses. A major part of a nation's economic growth is played by these industries. The owner may choose to lease or hire acquire equipment, businesses, and plants, or they may invest once. These sectors only make one main investment. A few small-scale enterprises are those that produce paper, toothpicks, pens, bakeries, candles, etc.

Characteristics of Small Scale Businesses

- **Ownership:** Sole proprietorships, partnerships and closely held family businesses are the most common ownership structures for small scale businesses.
- **Market Focus:** Small scale businesses typically cater to local or regional markets however with the rise of e-commerce, some can establish an online presence and expand their reach.
- **Financial Resources:** Compared to large corporations, small scale businesses generally have a lower initial financial investment and operate with fewer resources.
- **Management Style:** Decision-making in small scale businesses is often centralized with owner involvement. They tend to adopt a more flexible management style compared to larger corporations with defined hierarchies.

Importance of Small-scale Businesses

- **Job Creation:** They are a significant source of employment, particularly for recent graduates and those entering the workforce.
- **Innovation and Competition:** Small scale businesses can be more agile and adaptable, fostering innovation and introducing new products or services. They also promote competition by offering consumers alternatives to established corporations.
- **Community Development:** By sourcing materials and hiring locally, small scale businesses contribute to the economic health of their communities.

Concept of School Drop-outs

A student who quits attending courses and remains outside of the educational system without earning a diploma is said to be a "school drop-out." The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) lists social exclusion, underfunded schools, hungry children or youngsters who must work as a result of their poor living conditions as some of the primary reasons of school drop-outs.

Causes of School Drop-outs

- **Academic Struggles:** Difficulty keeping up with coursework, learning disabilities, or a lack of support can lead to discouragement and ultimately dropping out.

- **Economic Factors:** Poverty can force students to work to contribute to the family income, limiting time for school. Additionally, the cost of education, even in free public systems, can be a burden for low-income families.
- **Social Issues:** A lack of engagement at school, bullying, or feeling unsafe can make students feel alienated and disconnected, pushing them to leave.
- **Family Circumstances:** Family instability, lack of parental support, or care-giving responsibilities can disrupt education
- Teacher, in a first aspect the poor working conditions in which teachers find themselves have an impact on desertion. It also affects the poor training and preparation of them.
- Low allocation to the school budget, which affects the sufficiency of school materials as well as the conditions of schools and public institutions.
- Bullying
- Gender stereotypes
- Problems in terms of age, cultural or socio-economic and ethnic level
- Pregnancy
- School located at great distances. In view of this, children must travel several kilometres until they reach their destination.

Prevention of School Drop-out

- **Early Intervention:** Identifying and supporting students who are struggling academically or socially, it can help prevent them from falling behind.
- **Addressing Economic Barriers:** Financial assistance programs and scholarships can make education more accessible for underprivileged students.
- **Engaging Learning Environments:** Creating a positive and inclusive school atmosphere where students feel valued and supported, it can increase engagement.
- **Parental Involvement:** Encouraging family participation in education and fostering open communication between parents, teachers and students is crucial.

Concept of Life Long Learning

Lifelong learning is a type of self-directed education that focuses on personal growth. It's about a drive to continue learning and developing abilities, both for personal growth and to remain relevant in a changing environment. It is also a combination of formal, non-formal, and informal learning that occurs across an individual's lifetime in order for the individual to reach their maximum potential. It refers to learning that takes place outside of a conventional educational setting, such as a school, university, or business training.

Lifelong learning is often voluntary and self-motivated by a desire to learn more, acquire new skills, or promote professional progress. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) popularized the phrase "lifelong education" by advocating core ideas for all education systems in all nations of the globe.

Importance of Lifelong Learning

- **Adaptability in a changing World:** The world is constantly evolving, with new technologies, ideas and challenges emerging all the time. Lifelong learning equips one to adapt to these changes by continuously acquiring new skills and knowledge, one can stay relevant in their career and personal life.
- **Career Advancement:** Many jobs require ongoing learning to keep pace with industry advancements. Whether it's new software, management techniques or industry regulations lifelong learning ensures you have the skills employers seek. It can also open doors to new career paths you never considered before.
- **Brainpower Boost:** Research shows that lifelong learning keeps your brain cells firing on all cylinders. It can help improve memory, focus and overall cognitive function. This not only benefits your work but also helps maintain mental sharpness as you age.
- **Personal Growth:** Lifelong learning isn't just about work. It's about exploring your interests and passions. Learning a new language, mastering a musical

instrument or taking up photography-these pursuits can be incredibly rewarding and contribute to your overall sense of well-being and fulfilment.

- **Broadened Perspective:** By exposing oneself to different ideas and cultures, one can develop a more open-minded and well-rounded perspective. This fosters better communication, stronger relationships and a richer overall life experience.
- **Improvement in Other Personal and Professional Skills:** We utilize skills in order to learn something new. For example, learning to sew requires problem-solving, learning to draw involves developing creativity. Skill development can include interpersonal skills, creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, leadership, reflection, adaptability.
- **Improved Self-Confidence:** Becoming more knowledgeable or skilled in something can increase our self-confidence in both personal and professional lives.

Concept of Career Based Activities

Career-based activities include everything you can do to learn about and explore various career choices, build relevant skills, and gain experience to help you land your ideal job. It's like a choose-your-own-adventure for one's professional life.

There are broadly categorized into three areas:

1. **Exploration:** This is where one gets to know themselves better and figure out what kind of work one finds fulfilling. It involves activities like:

- **Self-Assessment:** It reflects on one's interests, values, skills and personality.
- **Career Research:** Learn about different occupations, their educational requirements, job outlook and typical work environments.
- **Informational Interviews:** Talk to people working in fields that interest one to get first-hand insights into their day-to-day work and career paths.

2. **Skill Development:** Once one has a better idea of what they're interested in, one can focus on building the skills and knowledge needed for that career. This might involve:

- **Formal Education:** Pursuing degrees, certifications or diplomas relevant to one's target career.
- **Online Courses:** Many platforms offer affordable online courses on a wide range of job-related skills.
- **Workshops and Seminars:** Attending events related to one's field of interest to gain specific knowledge and practical skills.
- **Volunteer Work:** Volunteering allows one to gain experience, build your resume and test the waters in a particular field.

3. **Experience:** Building practical experience in your chosen field is crucial for getting a job. Here are some ways to gain experience:

- **Intern-ships:** Intern-ships provide valuable hands-on experience working in a professional setting.
- **Part-time Jobs:** Look for part-time work related to your career goals, even if it's not ones dream job yet.
- **Freelancing:** If ones skills allow freelance work can provide relevant experience and build your portfolio.
- **Shadowing:** it is about spending a day observing a professional in ones field of interest to learn about their daily tasks and responsibilities.

Role of Business Education in Addressing Poverty

Business education, as stated earlier, plays a significant role in curbing the challenges or menace of poverty in the society. In the contemporary Nigeria, the problem of unemployment which has led many into poverty can be addressed through the implementation of appropriate policies and programmes as contained in the business education curriculum. Business education, as earlier defined, talks about the building of a strong foundation for those who wish to move on to business activities rather than relying on government jobs that are not even available. It therefore contributes immensely to the eradication of poverty among Nigeria citizens in order to bring about economic development in the following ways:

Individuals with business knowledge can start their own small businesses. Those who have gained the necessary knowledge and abilities in business education are more likely to establish micro industries and other small-scale businesses to lift themselves out of poverty than those who have obtained white-collar positions in other fields. When this is done, the individual's and the country's economic futures will improve, lowering the degree of poverty in society.

It also promotes good citizenship by teaching pupils to be intellectual, industrious wage workers. The knowledge of business education increased the employability of graduates of the discipline because the subject/course focuses on training people to acquire skills and knowledge that adequately prepare them for employment in business-related occupations, thus prohibiting them from engaging in illegal acts that contradict the ideals of good citizenship (Oyerinde, 2017).

Business education contributes to the lowering of the high rate of school drop-outs by giving options for secondary school students who do not want to continue their education at a higher institution level. Furthermore, students at higher education institutions can engage in commercial endeavours while still attending classes, preparing them for a brighter future.

It aids in training individuals for careers that rely on manual and practical skills rather than certification. There is a need to transition our educational focus from certificate-based to skill-oriented. This will encourage people to utilize their hands

and brains to improve their lives and reduce the prevalence of poverty in their communities and society as a whole (Sani, 2011).

Business education trains individuals for lifelong learning by instilling in them the mental tools, technical abilities, and other attributes required for active engagement in teamwork, therefore increasing the nation's productive personnel.

Business education helps to promote peace in society because people with gainful employment have little or no time to engage in crime and other illegal activities (Oyerinde, 2017). He believes that if militants and insurgents who have surrendered are trained in vocational skills, including business education, there will be peace in the land and they will contribute maximally to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

Business education provides instruction to help people comprehend the national economy and their duties as citizens. Any citizen's economic responsibility is to increase per capita income by contributing as much as possible to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which will improve residents' standard of life.

Review of Related Empirical Studies

Business education has emerged as a viable technique for addressing poverty; the research analyzed indicate that business education may be an effective instrument in the battle against poverty. However, its performance is dependent on a number of factors, including program design, availability to supplementary resources, and

the overall economic backdrop. This review investigates existing empirical research to determine the effectiveness of business education in reaching this aim. According to a research undertaken by the International Labour Organization, vocational and business skills training can lead to higher income and employment for those living in poverty. Another World Bank study discovered that access to finance and business support services is critical to small company growth and employment creation.

Several studies highlight the positive contributions of business education to poverty eradication:

- **Entrepreneurial Spirit:** Research suggests that business education programs fostering entrepreneurial skills and mindsets can increase the likelihood of individuals, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, starting their own businesses. This empowers them to create income opportunities and build wealth, potentially elevating themselves and their communities out of poverty.
- **Enhanced Employability:** Business education equips individuals with valuable skills like financial literacy, marketing and management, making them more attractive to potential employers and increasing their chances of securing higher paying jobs. This translates to improved living standards and a pathway out of poverty.

- **Micro and Small Business (MSB) Development:** Studies show that business education programs specifically designed for MSB owners or aspiring entrepreneurs can significantly improve their business acumen. This translates to better decision-making, stronger financial management, and overall improved business performance. This improved performance can lead to increased income generation and job creation within communities.

Considerations and Challenges

While the potential benefits of business education are evident, some studies highlight limitations to consider:

- **Context is Key:** The effectiveness of business education programs can vary significantly depending on the specific context, factors like access to capital; infrastructure and a supportive business environment play a crucial role in influencing the success of business ventures initiated by program graduates.
- **Quality Matters:** The design and quality of the educational program are critical. Programs that are practical, skills oriented and tailored to the local context are more likely to have a significant impact.

Summary of Reviewed Literature

This chapter of this research project aims to provide a complete review of the role of business education in poverty eradication, as well as the idea of poverty and its

many manifestations, such as absolute, relative, situational or transient, generational or chronic. Poverty causes include income inequality, land disputes and instability, natural calamities, and human disease and disability. Business education plays an important part in reducing poverty by training students to be competent, productive wage earners. More so, it helps to promote peace in society because people with gainful employment will have little or no time to engage in crime and other illegal activities. It also moved to the challenges facing business education, such as misconception of business education as education for people with low intelligence, shortage of equipment and infrastructural facilities for the training of business education students, lack of understanding by most school administrators,

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methods and procedures that were used in carrying out this research study under the following headings;

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The study adopted the survey research design .This can considered appropriate for the study because it sought to establish the characteristics of the variables for the study.

Population of the Study

The population of the study is made up of 46 lecturers made up of 18 male and 28 female business educators teaching in the University of Benin, offering Business Education programme.

Sample and Sampling Technique

There will be no sampling due to the manageable size of the population.

Research Instrument

The research instrument that was used for this study is a structured questionnaire, which was specifically designed to accomplish the objectives of this study. These statements are based on a Likert scale of five point (1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree). The questionnaire is divided into two sections, section A and B, section A is directed at the respondents bio data while section B are questions relating to the research questions.

Validity of the Study

The questionnaire for the study will be submitted to the project supervisor who will analyse and logically examine the instruments relevance of the contents and statements and then make the instrument valid for the study.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the research instrument will be determined. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient will be used to determine the reliability of the instrument.

Method of Data Collection

The information relating to this study will be collected from the respondents mainly through the primary source using questionnaire, after the questionnaire have been filled they will be retrieved by the researcher for analysis

Method of Data Analysis

In this study the retrieved data will be analysed using descriptive statistics (Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation). The decision rule is 2.50 any research item with 2.50 and above will be regarded as Strongly agree any item below 2.50 will be regarded as Strongly disagree.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter is concerned with the presentation of results from analysis of data collected and discussion of findings. Research questions were answered and are presented in the Tables provided.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic characteristics of respondents is presented in Table 1- 5

Respondents Demographic Data

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	48	48%
Female	52	52%
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

The Table above shows the sex distribution of participants. The results indicate that Male respondents were 48% while 52% are females. This implies that majority of the participants of the study are females.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15- 18	18	18%
19 – 21	14	14%
22 - 25	48	48%
26- 29	20	20%
30 and above	0	0%
Total	100	100(%)

Source: Field Survey 2024

The Table 4.2 above shows the age distribution of participants. It shows that 18%, 14%, 48%, 20% and 0% respondents were in the age range of 15-18, 19-21, 22-25, 26-29 and 30 years and above respectively. This implies that the majority of the participants of the study fall within the age range of 22-25.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Level

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
100	8	8%
200	11	11%
300	24	24%
400	56	56%
Total	200	100(%)

Source: Field Survey 2024

The results in Table 4.3 above shows the religion distribution of participants. This shows that 56% of the respondents are 400 level students, 24% are 300 level students, 11% are 200 level students and 100 level students are 8%. This means that the study had more 400 level participants.

Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Employment

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Employed	15	15%
Self- Employed	27	27%
Not Employed	58	58%
Total	200	100(%)

Source: Field Survey 2024

The Table 4.4 above shows the employment distribution of participants. It shows that 15% of the respondents are employed, 27% are self-employed, and not employed participants were 58%. This means that more not employed participants were involved in the study.

Research Question 1:

Is Business education helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprise?

Table 5: Distribution of responses on how business education helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprise

N=100				
S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Business education equips individuals with the necessary skills to navigate the financial aspect of starting and running a small business.	3.94	0.99	Agree
2	A strong background in business education is essential for successfully launching a small or enterprise.	2.91	0.63	Agree
3	Business education programs provide valuable knowledge in areas like marketing which can help small businesses interact and retain customers.	3.67	0.92	Agree
4	Individuals with a business education are better equipped to develop a comprehensive business plan for small business.	3.78	0.94	Agree
5	Business education plays a significant role in increasing the chances of success for small-scale business enterprises.	3.56	0.98	Agree

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2024

Table 5 contained the respondents' mean rating on how business education helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprise. It was revealed that the

participants agree business education equips individuals with the necessary skills to navigate the financial aspect of starting and running a small business with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.99 respectively. The participants also agreed that strong background in business education is essential for successfully launching a small or enterprise with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.91 and 0.63 respectively. Furthermore, the participants also agreed that by becoming digitally literate, adult learners can enhance their employability with a corresponding mean score and standard deviation of 3.67 and 0.92 respectively. Finally on the Research Question Two (1), the respondents agreed that business education plays a significant role in increasing the chances of success for small-scale business enterprises with a corresponding mean score and standard deviation of 3.78 and 0.94 respectively. It was therefore concluded that business education is extremely helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprises.

Research Question 2

Will Business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs?

Table 6: Data on Will Business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs.

		N=96		
S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Business education provides students with practical skills like financial literacy which might increase their confidence and ability to succeed in school potentially leading to lower drop-out rates	3.72	0.93	Accepted
2.	It can be a valuable tool in reducing the incidence of school drop-outs rates.	3.38	0.85	Accepted
3	Learning about business concepts can empower students to see the value of education for their future careers.	2.82	0.41	Accepted
4.	Business education can make school more relevant and engaging for students, potentially reducing drop-out rates	3.83	0.96	Accepted
5.	Business education adds value to education	3.56	0.91	Accepted
Grand Mean		3.43		

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2024

Table 6 revealed the participants' opinion Will Business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs. It was found that the participants agreed that business education provides students with practical skills like financial literacy which might increase their confidence and ability to succeed in school potentially leading to lower drop-out rates with the mean score and standard deviation of 3.72 and 0.93 respectively. The participants agreed that It can be a valuable tool in reducing the incidence of school drop-outs rates with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.38 and 0.85 respectively. The respondents also agreed that Learning about business concepts can empower students to see the value of education for their future careers with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.82 and 0.41 respectively. Finally on the last item in the Research Question Three (2), the respondents agreed that Business education can make school more relevant and engaging for students, potentially reducing drop-out rates with a corresponding mean score and standard deviation of 3.83 and 0.99 respectively. It was therefore concluded that business education doesn't increase high chance of drop-outs, rather, it provides students with practical skills like financial literacy which might increase their confidence and ability to succeed in school potentially leading to lower drop-out rates, empowers students to see the value of education for their future careers, makes school more relevant and engaging for students, potentially reducing drop-out rates.

Research Question 3

Does Business education offer relevant skills for careers emphasizing practical work over certification?

Table 7: Data on does business education offer relevant skills for careers emphasizing practical work over certification

		N=96		
S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Business education offers valuable skills and knowledge that can complement technical training and prepare individuals for success in practical, non-certified trade careers.	3.89	0.97	Accepted
2	Technical skills are crucial business education might equip individuals with the ability to market themselves and services more effective in non-certified fields	3.94	0.99	Accepted
3	Business education can foster an understanding of customer service principle, interacting directly with clients.	2.91	0.63	Accepted
4	Business education can develop essential skills like communication, problem-solving and time management, which are valuable for success in	3.67	0.92	Accepted

non-certified trade career.

5	Knowledge gained in areas like project planning and budgeting from business education can be applied to manage personal work load and resources effectively in practical careers.	2.97	0.66	Accepted
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Grand Mean

3.82

Accepted

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2024

Table 5 contained the respondents' mean rating on Does Business education offer relevant skills for careers emphasizing practical work over certification. It was revealed that the participants agreed that business education offers valuable skills and knowledge that can complement technical training and prepare individuals for success in practical, non-certified trade careers with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.89 and 0.97 respectively. They also agreed that Technical skills are crucial business education might equip individuals with the ability to market themselves and services more effective in non-certified fields with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.99 respectively. Furthermore, the participants also agreed Business education can foster an understanding of customer service principle, interacting directly with clients with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.91 and 0.63 respectively. In addition on the Research Question Four (4), the respondents agreed business education can develop essential skills like

communication, problem-solving and time management, which are valuable for success in non-certified trade career with a corresponding mean score and standard deviation of 3.67 and 0.94 respectively. Also, the participants agreed that Knowledge gained in areas like project planning and budgeting from business education can be applied to manage personal work load and resources effectively in practical careers with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.97 and 0.66 respectively. It was therefore concluded that business education offers valuable skills and knowledge that can complement technical training and prepare individuals for success in practical, non-certified trade careers, business education can foster an understanding of customer service principle, interacting directly with clients, business education can develop essential skills like communication, problem-solving and time management, which are valuable for success in non-certified trade career and technical skills are crucial business education might equip individuals with the ability to market themselves and services more effective in non-certified fields.

Research Question 4

What are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning?

Table 7: Data on What are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning.

		N=96		
S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Business educations introduce students to research methods, equipping them with tools to independently learn and stay updated on industry trends.	3.89	0.97	Accepted
2	By equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate change, explore new information.	3.94	0.99	Accepted
3	Business education encourages individuals to analyse real-world scenarios and fostering curiosity for ongoing learning.	2.91	0.63	Accepted
4	Business education programs emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving skills	3.67	0.92	Accepted
5	Exposure to diverse business disciplines(marketing, finance, accounting) in business education broadens individuals knowledge base and encourages them to seek further learning in specific areas of interest.	2.97	0.66	Accepted
Grand Mean				3.82
Accepted				

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2024

Table 7 contained the respondents' mean rating on are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning. It was revealed that the participants

agreed that business educations introduce students to research methods, equipping them with tools to independently learn and stay updated on industry trends with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.89 and 0.97 respectively. They also agreed that by equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate change, explore new information with a mean score and standard deviation of 3.94 and 0.99 respectively. Furthermore, the participants also agreed business education encourages individuals to analyse real-world scenarios and fostering curiosity for ongoing learning with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.91 and 0.63 respectively. In addition on the Research Question Four (4), the respondents agreed business education programmes emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving skills with a corresponding mean score and standard deviation of 3.67 and 0.94 respectively. Also, the participants agreed that exposure to diverse business disciplines (marketing, finance, accounting) in business education broadens individuals knowledge base and encourages them to seek further learning in specific areas of interest with a mean score and standard deviation of 2.97 and 0.66 respectively. It was therefore concluded that are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning are by exposure to diverse business disciplines(marketing, finance, accounting) in business education broadens individuals knowledge base and encourages them to seek further learning in specific areas of interest, business educations introduce students to research

methods, equipping them with tools to independently learn and stay updated on industry trends, by equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate change, explore new information and business education encourages individuals to analyse real-world scenarios and fostering curiosity for ongoing learning.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study revealed that business education is extremely helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprises

The findings of the study revealed that business education doesn't increase high chance of drop-outs, rather, it provides students with practical skills like financial literacy which might increase their confidence and ability to succeed in school potentially leading to lower drop-out rates, empowers students to see the value of education for their future careers, makes school more relevant and engaging for students, potentially reducing drop-out rates.

The findings of the study revealed that business education offers valuable skills and knowledge that can complement technical training and prepare individuals for success in practical, non-certified trade careers, business education can foster an understanding of customer service principle, interacting directly with clients, business education can develop essential skills like communication, problem-solving and time management, which are valuable for success in non-certified

trade career and technical skills are crucial business education might equip individuals with the ability to market themselves and services more effectively in non-certified fields.

The findings of the study revealed that the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning are by exposure to diverse business disciplines (marketing, finance, accounting) in business education broadens individuals' knowledge base and encourages them to seek further learning in specific areas of interest, business education introduces students to research methods, equipping them with tools to independently learn and stay updated on industry trends, by equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate change, explore new information and business education encourages individuals to analyse real-world scenarios and foster curiosity for ongoing learning.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this research study is to analyse the role of business education in poverty eradication. The survey research design was adopted by the researcher as the research design used for this study. The Likert scale questionnaire was used by the researcher to collect data for this research study. When the research was ongoing, the researcher brought up four research questionnaire to guide the study and they are as follows;

1. How does business education help individuals to set up small scale business enterprises?
2. How does business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs?
3. How does business education prepare individuals for career that is based on manual and practical activities rather than certification?
4. What are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning?

This study research was used to analyse the role of business education in poverty education and how different types of business strategies can be used to alleviate poverty.

The data that was gotten from the questionnaire administered to students were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation)

Conclusion

This research study is focused on investigating the role of business education in poverty eradication of lecturers in the University of Benin, Benin City. This study showed the role of Business education and how it can eradicate poverty through different business strategies and types and its role in providing good citizenship by preparing students to become intelligent productive wage earner which will also promote peace in the society as people with gainful employment will have little or no time to engage in crime and other unlawful activities. As a result of the level of poverty seen in the university environment, the researcher has been able to come up with various recommendations that can be used in business education for the eradication of poverty.

Recommendations

Based on the findings that were gotten during the research, the following recommendations were suggested by the researcher;

- Public awareness on business education and it's effect on poverty alleviation should be promoted. Students should be encouraged to be responsible socially and use their business skills in poverty alleviation.

- Business education programmes should be designed to meet the needs of students. Also, they should be relevant to the economic and social challenges of the community and provide solutions that can meet these challenges.
- The practical skills of the students and lecturers as well that can be applied to the real world should be developed by business education. This will help them have enough experience that can meet up with various areas in their daily life.
- Collaboration and networking should be encouraged as it will help build relationships and support systems that can be instrumental in the creation and growth of their different businesses.
- Partnership between government and business education institutes and between the private and public sectors should be encouraged by business education as this can help in creating programmes that can alleviate poverty.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY
“QUESTIONNAIRE”

Dear Respondent(s)

I am a final year student of the above named institution carrying out a research work on “Role of business education in poverty eradication”. I will be grateful if the questionnaire is responded to as sincerely as possible, your responds will be treated as confidential.

Section A: Demographic Data

Gender: Male () Female ()

Age: 15-18 () 19-21 () 22-25 () 26 -29 () 30 years and above ()

Level: 100 () 200 () 300 () 400 ()

Employment Status: Employed () Self-employed () Not employed ()

Instructions: Read carefully and tick against any option that you consider to best represent your opinion.

Section B

S\N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
	Is Business education helpful for individuals in setting up small scale business enterprise				
1.	Business education equips individuals with the necessary skills to navigate the financial aspect of starting and running a small business.				
2.	A strong background in business education is essential for successfully launching a small or enterprise.				
3.	Business education programs provide valuable knowledge in areas like marketing which can help small businesses interact and retain customers.				
4.	Individuals with a business education are better equipped to develop a comprehensive business plan for small business.				
5.	Business education plays a significant role in increasing the chances of success for small-scale business				

	enterprises.				
	Will Business education reduce high incidence of school drop-outs				
6.	Business education provides students with practical skills like financial literacy which might increase their confidence and ability to succeed in school potentially leading to lower drop-out rates				
7.	It can be a valuable tool in reducing the incidence of school drop-outs rates				
8.	Learning about business concepts can empower students to see the value of education for their future careers.				
9.	Business education can make school more relevant and engaging for students, potentially reducing drop-out rates				
10.	Business education adds value to education				
	Does Business education offer relevant skills for careers emphasizing practical work over certification				

11.	Business education offers valuable skills and knowledge that can complement technical training and prepare individuals for success in practical, non-certified trade careers				
12.	Technical skills are crucial business education might equip individuals with the ability to market themselves and services more effective in non-certified fields				
13.	Business education can foster an understanding of customer service principle, interacting directly with clients.				
14.	Business education can develop essential skills like communication, problem-solving and time management, which are valuable for success in non-certified trade career.				
15.	Knowledge gained in areas like project planning and budgeting from business education can be applied to manage personal work load and resources effectively in practical careers.				

	What are the ways business education prepares individuals for lifelong learning				
16.	Business educations introduce students to research methods, equipping them with tools to independently learn and stay updated on industry trends.				
17.	By equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate change, explore new information.				
18.	Business education encourages individuals to analyze real-world scenarios and fostering curiosity for ongoing learning.				
19.	Business education programs emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving skills.				
20.	Exposure to diverse business disciplines(marketing, finance, accounting) in business education broadens individuals knowledge base and encourages them to seek further learning in specific areas of interest				