

## **Effect of Entrepreneurship Development on Women Economic Empowerment in Adamawa State-Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

**T**his study examines the effect of entrepreneurship development on women economic empowerment in terms of women wealth creation and good standard of living in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Descriptive and causal research designs were adopted using Ordinary Least Squares Method of Regression on data collected through structured closed ended questionnaires of 4-points likert format. The regression results revealed that, women entrepreneurship development have effect on women economic empowerment in terms of women wealth creation and good standard of living in Adamawa State, Nigeria with statistical significance. The study recommends among others that government should make concerted efforts towards providing entrepreneurship development programs targeted at assisting the women to access funds, as well as providing enabling environment for women participation in economic activities that will enhance their wealth creation and spring up their standard of living.

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurship Development, Women Economic Empowerment, wealth creation and standard of living*

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### **Background to the Study**

Entrepreneurship is the engine of economic growth and wheel that pedals the vehicle of economic development. It has been recognized for its importance in the area of job creation, revenue generation, poverty alleviation and wealth creation (Josiane, 1998). Entrepreneurship is important for the support of small and medium enterprises (United Nations, 2006). It is therefore a process that involves a willingness to rejuvenate market offerings, innovation, risks taking, trying out of new and uncertain products, services, and markets and being more proactive than competitors towards exploring new business opportunities (Wiklund & Shepherd, 2005).

Entrepreneurship development is concerned with the study of entrepreneurial behaviour, the dynamics of business set-up, development and expansion of the enterprise. Entrepreneurship development (ED) refers to the process of enhancing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through structured training and institution-building programmes. It basically aims to enlarge the base of entrepreneurs in order to hasten the pace at which new ventures are created. This accelerates employment generation and economic development (OECD 2012).

Over the past two decades, there has been significant growth in support and encouragement for women's entrepreneurship development worldwide. Promoting women's entrepreneurship development requires a key strategy for private sector development, poverty reduction and women's economic empowerment. Increasingly, governments, private sector stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral agencies are trying to tap into the potential of women-led businesses as a means to economic growth and job creation. Moreover, almost all the projects pay attention to promoting women's enterprises. Women are found to be more conservative and capital efficient raising more money and selling when they get a good offer than their male counterparts (Dow Jones, 2012).

In the Africa regions, Women have shown that they can stand up to take important roles in the socio-economic development of their communities. Their contributions in the provision of both financial and social facilities is equal (Abimbola, 2011). Therefore increasing the number of women entrepreneurs involved in starting new businesses is critical for a country's long-term economic growth (GEM 2000). Also in addition to women's economic and income-generating activities, they assume multi-faceted roles in the society, some of them are breadwinner of their families, they are unpaid family workers of the homes, service providers in the communities and mother/care-taker of the family. In spite of their important contributions to socio-economic development, women suffer from various constraints, which inhibit them from fully realizing their potential for development (UNIDO, 2003).

Africa has enormous unexploited potential, especially the potential of women. Specifically, it is pointed out that women comprise one of Africa's hidden growth reserves, providing most of the region's labor, but their productivity is hampered by widespread inequality in education as well as unequal access to land and productive inputs (World Bank, 2000).

Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development, at the same time it is about rights and equitable societies. Achieving women's economic empowerment is a gradual process, involving formulating sound public policies, a holistic approach and long-term commitment from all development actors by integrating gender-specific perspectives at the design stage of policies, and programming. more equitable access to assets and services,

land, water, technology, innovation and credit, banking and financial services which will strengthen women's rights, increase agricultural productivity, reduce hunger and promote economic growth.

The experience of the Nigerian economy for the last decade has not been encouraging. Across the federation are reports of economic hardship on Nigerian citizens. The official position of the country as announced by the minister of finance in the last quarter of 2016, and analyzed by experts shows that the economy is officially in recession. Such situation has therefore forced scholars to reflect on the problem and proffer solutions that can help lessen the hardship of the people. Entrepreneurship is seen and considered as one of the areas that government can harnesses, support and encourage participation from the youths, women and entrepreneurs by providing platforms that will showcase various scales and levels of ingenuity, innovation by providing alternatives that boost economic activities and also ease out the hardship of the recession. The inquiry of the study is to examine the effect of entrepreneurship development in Adamawa state, especially on women economic empowerment based on the position that women constitute one of Africa's growth reserve (world bank 2000).

Dunne, Humphreys, Dauda, Kaibo and Garuba (2013) in their report title sustainable Adamawa development report, submitted to the Adamawa state government after a research conducted on the state at the instance of the state government by Max Lock consultancy centre in conjunction with university of westminster. They reported that Adamawa state is a backward state in terms of development in commerce, education, agriculture, employment generation, standard of living, income generation development. The important question that the study examines is to find out if women who participate in entrepreneurship activities in the state are economically empowered and therefore portends the platform for robust economic growth process for the state.

The major objective of this study is to examine the effect of Entrepreneurship Development on Women Economic Empowerment in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

### **Objective of the Study**

The specific objectives are to examine the effect of:

- i. Entrepreneurship Development on Women Wealth Creation in Adamawa State
- ii. Entrepreneurship Development on Women Standard of Living in Adamawa State

Considering the various challenges and obstacles facing Women entrepreneurship particularly in Nigeria which include; capital inadequacy, unavailability of the required infrastructures, shortage of manpower to mention but few, someone may quickly conclude that women are usually discouraged from venturing into enterprise development. Women who are estimated to constitute about fifty percent of the population, are starting and growing businesses at an unprecedented rate (Hirich & Brush, 1986). The need to assess the effect of entrepreneurship development on women economic empowerment in Nigeria becomes indispensable and necessary.

Entrepreneurship is seen as an activity involving a process of mobilizing finance, material, human and other resources, taking advantage of existing opportunity to provide a new or improved goods or service to the community for a profit. Most developing economies around the world are now focusing on improving or discovering the entrepreneurial potentials of its

citizens. This they do by directing the attention of their government towards achieving greater encouragement from its people, and as a result foster development and economic growth of the state. In this era of globalization, whereby almost all barriers are breaking off to expose the world as a common space for exchange of commerce, technology, information etc. One key factor that has been identified by researchers as an agent of development and economic growth is entrepreneurship.

### **Entrepreneurship Development**

Entrepreneurship development refers to the various attempts made to promote and develop entrepreneurship. By giving specific assistance to improve the competence of the entrepreneur and his enterprise, so as to enhance his entrepreneurial objectives and accommodate more people to become entrepreneurs as well. Entrepreneurship development is related to any activity that refer to efforts that seek to improve the economic well being and quality of life for a community or state by creating and retaining jobs.

Entrepreneurship development focuses on the individual who wishes to start or expand a business. Small and medium enterprise (SME) development, on the other hand, it also focuses on developing the enterprise, whether or not it employs or is led by individuals who can be considered entrepreneurial. Furthermore, entrepreneurship development concentrates more on growth potential and innovation than SME development does. However, many of the lessons learned from experiences in both types of development are similar.

There is a pervasive tendency to equate entrepreneurship development (ED) with self-employment. Many self-employed individuals are indeed entrepreneurs, but the majority are not. Their businesses are simply microenterprises in the informal sector, with little growth potential. The promotion of self-employment is a worthwhile objective, but it should not be confused with ED. Entrepreneurship development programmes that in reality focus only on self-employment are less likely to succeed in creating economic growth.

Entrepreneurship development should be about helping people start and grow dynamic businesses that provide high value added. In determining the difference, it is useful to look at potential growth sectors or geographic areas and to explore criteria for selecting beneficiaries who are entrepreneurial. A needs assessment before programme formulation is useful. An analysis of high-growth economic sectors enables more focused support to entrepreneurs in the most promising sectors of the economy.

Entrepreneurship development programs when formulated should identify risks and determine the likelihood of success, identify the factors that affect the levels of entrepreneurship in a country. These factors include the perception of opportunity, degree of respect accorded to entrepreneurs, acceptance of wide disparities in income and a family environment, which is oriented towards business.

Entrepreneurship development programmes require a selection process that attempts to identify those target groups that have some of the key prerequisites for entrepreneurial success. While it can be argued that public funds should be spent on those who most need help, a selection process deploys limited resources where they are most effective, to the overall benefit of the community. Beneficiaries may be individuals and/or groups.

An entrepreneurship development programme should help aspiring entrepreneurs to recognize and design unique, innovative business opportunities, based on an analysis of local conditions and their own special skills. The programme can help the entrepreneur to diversify based on his/her basic knowledge of a product or skill in a certain sector without distorting the local markets. In a truly entrepreneurial approach, innovative capacity matters more than the size of the market. Diversification can be accomplished by introducing a novelty or new product feature, stressing quality or value added, anticipating a new market or even creating a market.

Entrepreneurial development programmes may have to include support for entrepreneurship orientation and awareness. Development of the competencies skills, experience and attitudes necessary to recognize a market opportunity and organize the resources to meet it, and the improvement of business performance for growth and competitiveness. Entrepreneurship development training is usually more effective when linked to finance and other services such as marketing, quality assurance and productivity improvement. For example, involving the development banks at an early stage of the support process helps to prepare the entrepreneur for the credit process and facilitates the bank's appraisal of the business plan.

Successful entrepreneurship also depends on supportive and coordinated government policies. Entrepreneurship is conducive to economic growth and the creation of employment. Government programmes and policies have a significant impact on the level of entrepreneurship within a country. While many governments profess support for entrepreneurial businesses, they often lack specific policies and coordinated programmes designed to support entrepreneurial activity.

In Nigeria, the major factor impeding the development of entrepreneurship is the lack of adequate electric power which most times result in high cost of running businesses. However, there are other obstacles to successful entrepreneurial development initiatives. Liberalizing imports, ending public monopolies and opening public services to private-sector provision of goods and services enhance the conditions for entrepreneurship growth.

Fostering entrepreneurship involves ensuring that markets for capital, labour, goods and services are working well. It also requires that impediments to entrepreneurship be removed and that conditions be established in which innovation and risk-taking can flourish. Government policy-makers also seek to foster entrepreneurship through programs which, for example, augment the supply of information and enable reliable transportation of goods and services, encourage networking, facilitate the provision of finance, and seek to create positive attitudes towards entrepreneurial activity.

### **Women Economic Empowerment**

Women economic empowerment is the capacity of women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth (Fabiya & Akande 2015). Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information. Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information.



The economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for sustainable development, pro-poor growth and the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Gender equality and empowered women are catalysts for multiplying development efforts. Investments in gender equality yield the highest returns of all development investments (OECD, 2010). Women usually invest a higher proportion of their earnings in their families and communities than men. A study in Brazil showed that the likelihood of a child's survival increased by 20% when the mother controlled household income. Similarly, increasing the role of women in the economy is part of the solution to the financial and economic crises and critical for economic resilience and growth. However, at the same time, we need to be mindful that women are in some contexts bearing the costs of recovering from the crisis, with the loss of jobs, poor working conditions and increasing precariousness.

Empowerment studies have generally focused on disadvantaged and vulnerable people such as women rather than men (Al-Dajani & Marlow, 2013). As a result, there is an increased proliferation of research studies focusing on women's economic empowerment over the years (Kabeer, 1999). Although this is the case, it should be noted that empowerment efforts for women should not disadvantage men in any case. Several authors investigated the concept of women's economic empowerment from diverse angles.

Previous research on women's economic empowerment has been explored the nexus between gender based violence or intimate partner violence (Dalal, 2011; Gupta, Falb, Lehmann, Kpebo, Xuan, Hossain and Annan, 2013; Schuler, Lenzi, Nazneen and Bates, 2013), entrepreneurship (e.g. Blattman, Green, Annan and Jamison, 2013; Fonjong, 2013; Torri and Martinez, 2014), information technology (e.g. Prasad and Sreedevi, 2013), economic development (e.g. Duflo, 2011; Kabeer 2012; Doepke and Tertilt, 2014), access to resources such as land in agriculture (e.g. Doss, Kovarik, Peterman, Quisumbing and Van den Bold, 2013; Tripathi, Chung, Deering, Saracini, Willoughby, Wills, O and Churm, 2012; Doss, Bockius-Suwyn and D'Souza, 2012; Fabiyi and Akande, 2015), employment choices (e.g. Khumalo and Freimund, 2014), micro finance (e.g. Belwal, Tamiru and Singh, 2012; Kato and Kratzer, 2013), health (e.g. De Coninck, Feyissa, Ekström and Marrone, 2014), measures of economic empowerment (Alkire, Meinzen-Dick, Peterman, Quisumbing, Seymour and Vaz, 2012; Malapit and Kovarik, 2013; Sraboni, Malapit, Quisumbing and Ahmed, 2013; Malapit, Sproule, Kovarik, Meinzen-Dick, Quisumbing, Ramzan, Hogue and Alkire, 2014; Markel, 2014; Peterman, 2015). Despite all these works, there is a dearth of research on the nexus between women's economic empowerment and women entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector, particularly in developing countries such as Zimbabwe.

Current empirical evidence from research conducted on the relationship between women's economic empowerment and gender based violence reveals that generally an economically empowered woman is likely to suffer from less gender violence as compared to a woman who is not economically empowered (Gupta et al., 2013; Schuler et al., 2013). In addition, economic empowered is not the sole protective factor that reduces the chances of gender violence, other factors such as education and modified cultural norms are important for the overall wellbeing of an individual (Dalal, 2011).

A recent research study by Doepke and Tertilt (2014) on women's economic empowerment and economic growth suggests that that money in the hands of mothers (as opposed to fathers) increases expenditures on children (Doepke and Tertilt, 2014). The authors' further argue that this, however does not necessarily mean that giving money to women is a good development policy (Doepke and Tertilt, 2014). Targeting transfers to women may be beneficial or harmful to growth depending on the nature of the production function (Doepke and Tertilt, 2014).

Although researches have been conducted in this area such as Ozsoy, Okasoy and Kozan (2001); Swierczek and Ha (2003); Benzing, Chu and Szaba (2005); Asc (2006); Henderson (2007); Benzing, Chu and Kara (2009); Ahiauzu (2010); Naude (2013); and more recently Afolabi (2015) who posited that entrepreneurship contributes to the economic development in advanced, emerging and least developed economies alike, little or no study was conducted in Adamawa State-Nigeria. Similarly, Anyadike, Emeh and Ukah (2012); Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjiye (2011); and Kpelai (2013) made serious efforts in this area but dwelled in other parts of the country particularly, the North–Central and South-West, Nigeria. Attention was not paid to North-Eastern-Nigeria. Again, the study of Ali and Ali (2013); Kpelai (2013) revealed insignificant impact of women entrepreneurship development on economic development in Benue State as a result of operational challenges faced by them over the years. While, Mensah and Benedict (2010); Adofu and Akoji (2013); Misango and Ongiti (2013); Akhuemonkhanet al. (2013) advanced significant correlation between entrepreneurship and economic development. These mixed results also call for renewed vigor to studying in the area especially, in Adamawa State-Nigeria that has been exposed to insurgency. Thus, the study expands the frontier of knowledge by looking at the effect of entrepreneurship development on women economic development in terms of women wealth creation and standard of living in Adamawa State, North-Eastern, Nigeria.

Asc (2006) and Ahiauzu (2010) assert that there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth while Henderson (2007) explained that entrepreneurship is increasingly being recognized as a primary engine of economic growth. By combining existing resources with innovative ideas, entrepreneurs add value through the commercialization of new products, the creation of new jobs, and the building of new firms. The Global Economic Monitor indicates that nations with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity enjoy strong economic growth. In short, entrepreneurs are the link between new ideas and economic growth.

Naude (2013) posited that entrepreneurship contributes to growth and employment creation in advanced, emerging and least developed economies alike. This is a reasonable expectation – one that is supported by recent findings of historians, economists and management scientists. “With too many entrepreneurs, levels of aspirations in a country may rise - it is well-known that with increasing material wealth (or opportunities) people's aspirations increase.” Entrepreneurs create jobs – and we know that unemployment is a major and significant cause of unhappiness. We also know that goods that entrepreneurs provide, such as health and experiential activities, raise happiness levels.

Afolabi (2015) discusses the evolution and current development of principles and practice of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. It also examines the effect of entrepreneurship in fostering economic growth and development. The methodology adopted was the narrative-textual case study (NTCS) method, which is preferred because of the absence of sequential data related to

entrepreneurship and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria. However, interviews were also conducted. We used simple percentages, graph and chart in analyzing and interpreting the collated secondary data. We found that Nigeria's economy has continued to grow over the last decade- with the real GDP growth rate hovering around 7%. It was also found that entrepreneurship can enhance economic growth and development primarily by generating employment and foster the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria. We recommend that there should be proper policy coordination and policy stability; reforms in the educational curriculum to prepare students for self-reliance; and fixing the power sector-Nigeria's basic infrastructure. When we have flourishing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), gainful employment will be created, wealth created will be distributed evenly and economy is developed.

Benzing, Chu and Kara (2009) in their study of entrepreneurs and SMEs in Turkey reported on the earlier findings by Swierczek and Ha (2003) in Vietnam, where entrepreneurs start SMEs in order to address the challenges of economic security for their families. On the other hand Benzing, Chu & Szaba (2005) while studying SMEs in Romania, identified income and job security as the most critical motivators of entrepreneurs. In the case of India, they found the desire for autonomy and increased family income as key drivers. However Ozsoy, Okasoy & Kozan (2001) equally found security and increased income as why Turkey entrepreneurs venture into SMEs. Bewayo (1995) in a study of SME in Kenya and Ghana found that the strongest driver of entrepreneurship and SME venturing were to provide employment opportunities for increased family income. However Roy & Wheeler (2006) came up with the conclusion that microenterprise owners in most West African countries, Nigeria inclusive were motivated by the desire to satisfy basic psychological needs- food and shelter.

McElwee (2005) asserted that in the last few years, farmers, agricultural business, researchers and governments have recognized the need for a more entrepreneurial culture in the farming business. The development of entrepreneurial skills of farmers is a significant issue, which needs to be addressed by all stakeholders in the agricultural socio-economic network (i.e. farmers' associations, research and advisory organizations, market and chain parties, governmental and social agencies).

Sathiabama (2010) is of the opinion that development of the society is directly related with the Income Generation Capacity of its members with agriculture, and the key income generation activity the entrepreneurship on farm and home can directly affect the income of a major chunk of our population. The growth of modernization processes such as industrialization, technical change; urbanization and migration further encourage it. Sidhu and Kaur (2006) have already expressed similar thoughts about entrepreneurship that development of the society is directly related with the income generation capacity of its members. With agriculture as the key income generation activity the entrepreneurship based on farm and home can directly affect the income of a major chunk of our population. The growth of modernization processes such as industrialization, technical change; urbanization and migration further encourage it. Entrepreneurship on small scale is the only solution to the problems of unemployment and proper utilization of both human and nonhuman resources and improving the living conditions of the poor masses. Sathiabama (2010) concluded (quoting Prabha Sigh, 2009) that entrepreneurship on small scale is the only solution to the problems of unemployment and proper utilization of both human and non-human resources and improving the living condition of the people especially women. Lashgarara et al (2011) argued



that various studies (e.g. Petrin, 2002) have shown that one of the most important economical development objectives (whether in cities or villages) is employment, and most important mechanism and tool of it is the entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship reduces unemployment, increases the people's productivity, resource, and the community's income, thus creating wealth. Entrepreneurship requires a particular culture, which is very difficult to grow and requires a long-term effort. Ability of understanding the changes and discovering the opportunities, participation and teamwork, creativity, spirit of independence and responsibility, risk, and jeopardizing are all the constructive elements of this culture, which are not achieved by short-term and task force plans. Best strategy for developing entrepreneurial culture in rural areas is improving entrepreneurial education through various promotional and training programs.

Ahmad et al (2011) revealed that rural entrepreneurship is one of the foundations of rural economic development. Rural entrepreneurship generally can be defined as creation of a new organization that introduces a new product, serves or creates a new market, or utilizes a new technology in a rural environment that enhances good standard of living. Entrepreneurship in rural areas include widening the base of a farm business to include all the non-agricultural uses that available resources can be put to or through any major changes in land use or level of production other than those related solely to agriculture.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted descriptive and correlation research designs using ordinary least square method of regression on data collected through structured closed ended questionnaires of 4-points Likert Scale format. Correlational design was used as a means of trying to assess the effects of entrepreneurship development on economic development in terms of wealth creation and standard of living in Adamawa State, North-Eastern, Nigeria. The target population of the study is all the registered women entrepreneurs in Adamawa state. At the time of the study, as revealed by the Adamawa State Ministry of Commerce and Industries in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) having conducted a survey of Adamawa State industries and businesses in 2015 is 485. According to this published report (2015), the 21 local government areas, which make up the state, have 485 registered businesses of which only one hundred and thirty six (136) were owned by women which is the focus of this study. Yamane (1973)'s Sample Size Determination Formula was used to determine the sample size of 101. Then, a stratified random sampling procedure was used to select five (5) Registered Women Businesses in each of the 21 local government areas of the state.

### **Reliability and Validity**

The reliability was insured by testing the instruments for the reliability of values (Alpha values) as recommended by Cronbach, (1946). Cronbach recommends analysis for Alpha values for each variable under study. According to Sekaran2001 Alpha values for each variable under study should not be less than 0.6 for the statements in the instruments to be deemed reliable. Consequently, all the statements under each variable were subjected to this test and were proven to be above 0.6. The validity of the data collection instruments was done with the help of Questionnaires.

**Table 1: Scale Reliability of Variables**

Variables	Cronbach's Alpha
Entrepreneurship Development	0.89
Wealth Creation	0.86
Standard of Living	0.78

**Source:** Researcher's Computation (2017)

Table 3.1 revealed that all the variables have Alpha Values above 0.6 mark recommended by Sekaran. Therefore all the variables in the instrument are deemed reliable.

**Procedures for Data Analysis and Model Specifications**

Ordinary Least Squares Method of Regression was used with the aid of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) to determine and analyze the effects of Entrepreneurship Development on Women Economic Development in terms of Wealth Creation and Standard of Living. Thus, Entrepreneurship Development is independent variable, while Employment Wealth Creation and Standard of Living are dependent variables.

**Models for the Regression are:**

$$WC_i = \alpha + \beta ED_i + \mu_i$$

$$STDL_i = \alpha + \beta ED_i + \mu_i$$

**Where:**

ED = Entrepreneurship Development

WC = Wealth Creation

STDL = Standard of Living

INSURG= Insurgency (Control Variable)

$\alpha$  = Intercept or Constant

$\beta$  = Slope of the regression line with respect to the independent variables

$\mu$  = error term

i denotes cross-sectional dimension.

**Results and Discussions**

**Entrepreneurship Development and Wealth Creation**

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.602 <sup>a</sup>	.406	.398	1.51465

a. Predictors: (Constant), Women Entrepreneurship

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.978	.337		2.902	.001
	Women Entrepreneurship	2.867	1.271	.265	2.256	.038

a. Dependent Variable: Wealth Creation

The regression line  $WC = -.978 + 2.867WOMENENTR$  indicates that Wealth Creation (WC) in Adamawa State will improve by 2.867% for every 1% improvement in Women Entrepreneurship Development (WOMENENTR). The significant value or P-value of 0.038 is less than the t-value of 0.05. The study rejects Null Hypothesis that, the effect of Women Entrepreneurship on Wealth Creation is significant. The correlation coefficient (r) of 0.602 shows a moderate relationship and the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.406 indicates that about 41% of variation in Wealth Creation can be explained by Women Entrepreneurship Development or the ability of the regression line to predict Wealth Creation is 41%. In the absence of Women Entrepreneurship Development, Wealth Creation will reduce by 0.978 as indicated by constant ( $\alpha$ ).

### Entrepreneurship Development and Women Standard of Living in Adamawa State Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.716 <sup>a</sup>	.513	.499	1.36541

a. Predictors: (Constant), Women Entrepreneurship

#### Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-1.435	.940		-1.526	.092
	Women Entrepreneurship	4.262	.619	.765	6.885	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Standard of Living

The regression line  $STDL = -1.435 + 4.262WOMENENTR$  indicates that Women Standard of Living (STDL) in Adamawa State will improve by 4.262% for every 1% improvement in Women Entrepreneurship Development (WOMENENTR). The significant value or P-value of 0.000 is less than the t-value of 0.05. The study rejects Null Hypothesis that, the effect of Women Entrepreneurship on Standard of Living is significant. The correlation coefficient (r) of 0.716 shows a strong relationship and the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.513 indicates that about 51.3% of variation in Standard of Living can be explained by Women Entrepreneurship Development or the ability of the regression line to predict Standard of Living is about 51.3%. In the absence of Women Entrepreneurship Development, Standard of Living will reduce by 1.435 as indicated by constant ( $\alpha$ ).

### Discussion of Findings

It is evident from the above results and discussion that, entrepreneurship development is positively related to women economic empowerment in terms of wealth creation and standard of living with statistical significance. This implies that, women wealth creation and standard of living improve as women entrepreneurship development programmes increase. This finding is consistent with the findings in previous studies such as Asc (2006); Ahiauzu (2010), and more recently Kpelai (2013). The study tallies with the theory of Economy. The theorists here saw an entrepreneur as an agent of economic change. They argued that changes either in the environment or organization are a transformation that can occur as a result of the reaction of some economic forces. Economists assume that entrepreneurs behave rationally towards some

economic forces (business opportunities, resources etc.) that result to change in environment in form of enterprise. Entrepreneurship was seen as a process or positive event to every economic revolution. This is also supported by Schumpeter Effect. The process of entrepreneurship activity reducing unemployment situation in the economy is termed “Schumpeter effect”. Garofoli (1994) and Audretsch and Fritsch (1994) in their separate studies found that unemployment is negatively related to new-firm startups, that is, as new businesses are established employ ability is stimulated and unemployment reduces substantially.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In the light of the findings of the study, the study concludes that, women are economically better off with the introduction of women entrepreneurship development programs in Adamawa State. since women wealth creation and good standard of living are function of women entrepreneurship development programs. The study recommends the followings.

1. Women entrepreneurship development programs should be encouraged and enhanced in Adamawa State with a view to providing opportunities for women in that area.
2. The ministry of women affairs should revisit the issue of resuscitating the FSP women development centre in Jimetayola , which was transform to a court of appeal during the Nyako administration , back to its original plan for the purpose of instilling entrepreneurial skills and training in women.
3. Government and Non-governmental organizations should make concerted efforts towards providing programs that are targeted at assisting the women to access funds, as well as to provide enabling environment for women participation in economic activities which in turn will enhance wealth creation and good standard of living for the women of the area.
4. Focused policies that facilitate access to finance, professional services and training for start-up companies, should simplify business registration, reporting and taxation processes, that are essential to entrepreneurial venture creation.
5. Seminars and the study of entrepreneurial development can be included in programmes addressing entrepreneurship policy in the state.

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