

## Employment Generation of Small-Scale Enterprise and Poverty Alleviation in Rivers State

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### ABSTRACT

Job creation opportunities of small-scale businesses in Nigeria for low-skilled workers should be the key to employment creation, which in turn leads to poverty reduction. The study seeks to investigate the effects of the employment generation of small-scale enterprises and poverty alleviation in Rivers State. The study used descriptive statistics and the Z-test for the analyses of the data. The finding revealed that the employment generation of small-scale enterprises has a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. In addition, it was established that the economic benefits of participants in small-scale enterprises have a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. It is concluded that the employment generation of small-scale enterprises considerably enhanced poverty alleviation in Rivers State. The study recommends that policymakers and governments and their agencies provide the technical, technological, financial, managerial assistance, and infrastructure needed for the optimal use of the enormous employment creation opportunities in the small-scale businesses in Rivers State and Nigeria at large.

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the years, the international community, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and academics have all taken an interest in Nigeria's poverty issue. In Nigeria, a significant section of the population lives in extreme, widespread, and chronic poverty. Human circumstances in Nigeria have significantly worsened, especially in the past ten years, with real disposable income declining and rates of malnutrition rising (Uma & Eboh, 2013). Nigeria is endowed with more natural and human resources than any other country, but despite this wealth, the people live in extreme poverty, making less than \$1.25 per day. According to data released by the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2022, the country's poverty rate has never been lower than 50%. It was 57.1% in 1992, grew to 63.5% in 1996, 66.9% in 2002, down to 60.90% in 2010, and then rose to 61.2% in 2020. Therefore, Nigeria's incapacity to address the high percentage of poverty is one of its problems. Nigeria's fight against poverty is as ancient as the nation itself. Large quantities of money have been spent on initiatives and programs to reduce poverty by successive governments at various levels. The increasing prevalence of poverty calls for ongoing evaluation of anti-poverty policies and initiatives (Tamuno, 2013). Indeed, in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have as their major objective the eradication of severe poverty in half by 2015, the primary focus of government policy and budget has been on poverty reduction.

According to reports, Nigerian small companies have struggled to create enough wealth, jobs, and revenue throughout the years. However, a research by Ogbuabor, Maladu, and Elias (2013) found a favourable and substantial relationship between small and medium-sized businesses and poverty, income creation, and employment in Nigeria. Furthermore, Oregu and Chima's (2021) research showed that small and medium-sized businesses had a significant role in explaining employment levels and, consequently, the decline in poverty in Nigeria. Therefore, there is no difference in John-Akamelu and Muogbo's (2018) perspective, which affirms that small and medium-sized businesses helped to reduce poverty by providing training facilities, job possibilities, and the utilisation of local resources. The problem is that there is no proof linking the creation of jobs by small businesses to the reduction of poverty. This is required to determine the true impact of small-scale job possibilities on Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty. With this context in mind, the study examined how small-scale firm job creation affects the reduction of poverty in Nigeria.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### **Karl Marxian Theory of Poverty**

Karl Marx posits that poverty arises from the circumstances in which an impoverished individual exists, influenced by several elements that render the poor victims of their predicament, hence critiquing the production system (Alfandega, 2017). Karl Marx indicated that capitalists, who own the means of production, must transition from labour-intensive to capital-intensive production methods to enhance output, which may increase profitability but can also result in significant unemployment, thereby contributing to poverty.

Capital-intensive manufacturing will compel capitalists to reduce their workforce to enhance profitability, resulting in significant unemployment. Retrenched workers will either relocate to metropolitan regions or transition to different professions. The ongoing retreat by capitalists will elevate the number of impoverished individuals in the economy, resulting in a long-term rise in poverty levels. A succession of structural failures leads to a growth in the population of the impoverished. The Marxist idea advocates for poverty reduction via improved production structures and enhanced education and training for those displaced by technological advancements, enabling them to adjust to environmental and occupational changes. Therefore, to do this, small and medium-sized firms may be utilised by the impoverished to address their poverty issues with government assistance. In the long term, the issue of poverty can be decreased.

### **Vicious Circle of Poverty**

The thesis was propounded by Nurkse in 1953; he claims that there are cyclical interactions known as the vicious rings of poverty that tend to maintain the low level of development in less developed nations like Nigeria. "In other words, there is a circular constellation of factors tending to operate and react upon one another in such a way as to maintain a poor country in a condition of poverty. For instance, a poor guy may not have enough to eat, being undernourished his health may be weak, being physically weak, his working ability is low, which means that he is poor, which in turn implies that he will not have enough to eat and so on. A condition of this type referring to a country as a whole might be summed up in the hackneyed statement that a country is impoverished because it is poor. The fundamental vicious loop derives from the fact that overall productivity in low income nations is poor owing to deficiency of capital market flaws, economic backwardness and underdevelopment, and this circle acts both on demand and supply sides"

### **Concept of Small-Scale Business**

According to the National Council of Industries' 2009 definition, small and medium-sized businesses are those whose total expenses, excluding land, do not exceed two hundred million naira (N200,000,000.00). However, there is disagreement among academics and policymakers on whether a company is considered small or medium-sized. The scale of business must be specified for a specific purpose, but that is the only globally or even nationally accepted standard definition. The issue of identifying small and medium-sized businesses is particularly severe in developing nations because, in addition to being hard to count, small and medium-sized businesses are also hard to measure separately. As a result, statistics on the number, size, geographic distribution, and operations of businesses, as well as the sub-sectors of small and medium-sized businesses, are incomplete and extremely unreliable. According to Sanusi (2013) and Eniola, Entebangm, and Sakariyau (2015), a small and medium-sized firm is defined as one that employs five to one hundred people and generates around four hundred thousand Naira (N400,000) in revenue annually. Based on factors like installed capacity utilisation,

output, employment, capital, country type, and other criteria that are more pertinent to the industrial policies of the particular nation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) found "fifty definitions of small-scale businesses in 75 different countries. Nonetheless, it has been proposed that, excluding informal businesses, the small and medium-sized company subsector may account for around 87% of all companies doing business in Nigeria. According to the USAID definition, an enterprise is defined as an informal company that employs five or fewer people, including unpaid family labour; a small business is defined as one that operates in the formal sector and employs five to twenty people; and a medium business is defined as one that employs twenty to fifty people". There is broad agreement about the significance of small and medium-sized businesses, particularly the small and medium-sized company sub-sector to economic growth and development, despite its definitional issues. Nonetheless, Oluba (2019) has noted that the significance of small and medium-sized businesses changes depending on the industry and the stage of a nation's growth. According to him, small and medium-sized businesses are less vulnerable to the unsatisfactory outcomes of development strategies that concentrate on large, capital-intensive, and highly import-dependent industrial plants as well as failed public enterprises because of developing characteristics like the level of capital allocation/requirements, management size and arrangement, and limited market access(John-Akamelu & Muogbo, 2018).

### **Concept of Poverty**

According to the World Bank (2020), poverty is defined as a deprivation of an individual's or a group's personal well-being. It consists of individuals whose low salaries prevent them from obtaining the resources they need to survive. Poor health, a low literacy rate, a lack of access to safe drinking water and a secure environment, insufficient security, and a lack of possibilities for life-altering experiences are all considered components of poverty. Deprivation of fundamental essentials of life, primarily housing, food, and clothes, is the situation known as poverty. While eating is more than just putting food in your stomach, housing is more than just a place to live since it contains all the services and infrastructure that make a place functional and livable. Sustainable agriculture becomes an essential component of food provision (Oba & Onuoha, 2013). Making a distinction between the three levels of poverty—relative, moderate, and extreme (or absolute) poverty—is helpful. Households in extreme poverty are unable to satisfy their fundamental survival needs. Chronic hunger, lack of access to healthcare, lack of sanitary facilities and safe drinking water, inability to pay for any or all of the children's education, and maybe a lack of basic clothing and housing are all problems they face. He goes on to say that extreme poverty only exists in emerging nations, in contrast to moderate and relative poverty. According to his definition, moderate poverty is typically understood to be a family income level below a specific percentage of the national income. In high-income nations, the comparatively poor have limited access to cultural products, entertainment, and leisure activities, as well as to

high-quality healthcare, education, and other necessities for upward social mobility. Therefore, even if a person's income is more than sufficient to support himself, they may be considered to be in poverty if it is extremely low in comparison to the rest of the community. The income threshold that defines poverty rises as society becomes wealthier. Poverty may be viewed from the perspectives of permanence and transience. This dimension distinguishes poverty according to two factors: distribution, such as concentration or wide spread, and duration (Hussain, Bhuiyan, & Said, 2015).

### **Poverty Alleviation**

According to Okpoko and Ezeadichie (2013), poverty alleviation is the process of continuously improving a certain set of people's quality of life. According to their theory, the idea of poverty alleviation is closely tied to development, which they defined as a random process marked by higher productivity, equitable distribution of social goods, and the rise of indigenous institutions whose interactions with the outside world are marked by equity rather than subordination or dependence. One term for poverty reduction is sustainable development. Because development is viewed as an indigenous process that should largely rely on the power and resources of the community in question, rather than as a collection of advantages that a needy nation may simply buy. Any government's goal in reducing poverty is to enhance people's quality of life for the long term, not only temporarily, as these gains fade away at the conclusion of the project cycle. Therefore, the goal of poverty alleviation is to preserve the natural resource base by implementing a process that appropriately improves people's social values while also adapting to the natural environment.

According to the United Nations, poverty is a condition caused by a lack of money to cover essential expenses. It is calculated by comparing the actual per capita income of families with an estimated "poverty line," which is the cost of meeting basic necessities per capita. According to the World Bank (2013), a household is deemed impoverished if its current income falls below the poverty threshold. Therefore, the notion that there are established and clearly defined norms of consumption known as "poverty lines" below which an individual is considered impoverished is the basis for measuring poverty. The methodology used to determine the poverty line has a significant impact on the factors that determine whether a family or an individual is considered impoverished. The amount that each person must pay per capita to acquire a basic bundle of goods and services is typically used to define poverty limits. Clarity, efficiency, and focus in policymaking and poverty assessment are ensured by defining the poor as individuals whose income (or consumer spending) falls below the established poverty level.

### **Empirical Literature**

Oregu and Chima (2021) researched on small-scale enterprises' roles in reducing poverty in Nigeria between 2001 and 2019. "The models were estimated using regression analysis. The earnings of SMEs captured by their contributions to GDP were statistically significant to explain the level of

employment and, therefore, the reduction of poverty. Furthermore, SME financing and the level of government participation are not significant for the growth of SMEs, measured by their level of income" (SGDP).

Kowo, Adenuga and Sabitu (2019) examined the "role of small and medium enterprises on poverty eradication in Nigeria. The study made use of statistical tools which include: analysis of variance (ANOVA), correlation coefficient and regression analysis in testing hypotheses where applicable. Therefore, the study found out that SME development affects poverty alleviation and also Training organized by SMEDAN affects SMEs employment creation. It was discovered that the small and medium enterprises provided employment opportunities, training ground, harnesses utilization of local resources and also acts as a pillar hold of a nation, Nigeria inclusive. The study concluded that a good development strategy if employed by these SMEs will grow to large-scale capital intensive"

John-Akamelu and Muogbo (2018) assessed how small and medium-sized businesses helped eradicate poverty in Nigeria. Employees of a few chosen SMEs in Anambra state were given a questionnaire to complete in order to gather primary data from the 150-person population. The Chi-square method was then used to analyse the data. The results showed that small and medium-sized businesses helped lower Nigeria's poverty rate by creating jobs, offering training facilities, and using local resources.

The impact of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses in eliminating poverty in Malaysia was examined by Hussain, Bhuiyan, and Said (2015). Through a thorough review of previous research on the topic, the study employed a content approach and discovered that the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses is dependent on individuals or groups of people who possess particular attributes like inventiveness, familial history, government assistance programs, and education or training. This leads to individual entrepreneurial traits, such as a rise in women's entrepreneurship and youth empowerment. A major factor in the growth of entrepreneurship is the strong cooperation between the government, academia, and business sector, which has stimulated employment and created job possibilities that will help reduce poverty.

The contribution of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) to the fight against poverty in Nigeria from 2001 to 2011 was examined by Oba and Onuoha (2013). Simple linear regression, an econometric model, was employed in the investigation. The empirical findings show that the income of SMEs, as measured by their GDP contributions, is statistically significant in predicting employment levels and, consequently, the reduction of poverty. Additionally, the expansion of SMEs as shown by their level of income (SGDP) is not much impacted by government engagement or support. Based on the R<sup>2</sup>s and their adjusted values, the developed models fit the data well. Additionally, the F-ratio confirms that the variables are significant overall and that some of them do not match the apriority assumptions.

Ogbuabor, Malaolu, and Elias (2013) investigated the effectiveness of using charred bricklaying, a small-scale business, to address Nigeria's dual

economic problems of unemployment and poverty. The socioeconomic traits of the bricklayers and the main obstacles preventing their advancement and effectiveness were also investigated in the study. The findings show that charred bricklaying significantly improves money production, employment creation, and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Rivers State, commonly referred to as Rivers, is a state in southern Nigeria's Niger Delta (Old Eastern Region). Rivers State was created in 1967 after being divided from the previous Eastern Region. Its boundaries are Bayelsa and Delta to the west, Abia and Akwa Ibom to the east, and Anambra and Imo to the north. One city that is regarded as the commercial hub of Nigeria's oil sector is Port Harcourt, the state capital. According to the 2006 census, Rivers State has 5,198,716 residents, ranking it as Nigeria's sixth most populated state. The Ogoni and Ijaw are among the various ethnic groups that call Rivers State home, while the Ikwerre make up the majority. The linguistic variety of the state is especially noteworthy; it is estimated that 28 indigenous languages are spoken in Rivers State, with the Ogoni and Ijaw languages, which are spoken by the Ikwerre speaking tribes, being the most common. The Bonny River is one of the several rivers that run through Rivers State, which is the 26th biggest state by area. These rivers dominate the state's topography.

Primary sources were used to gather data for the survey-style study approach. In particular, standardised surveys with closed-ended questions, interviews, and observation were used to gather the data. A Likert rating system is used for the closed questions. There were 2,400 small companies in Rivers State that were recorded as part of the study's population. The Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (PHCCIMA) provided this data. Taro Yamane's method was used to calculate the study's sample size at the 5% significant level using a simple random sampling procedure. Three hundred and forty-three (343) small businesses in Rivers State made up the study's estimated sample size. Additionally, content validity was applied. Project peer lecturers from the Department of Economics as well as other colleagues from different postsecondary institutions evaluated the research tool (questionnaire). Furthermore, the Cronbach's alpha of 0.83, the coefficient of stability of the questionnaire questions, was obtained by employing the test-retest approach to assess the instrument's reliability using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. Descriptive statistics of percentages, mean, and standard deviation, as well as inferential statistics of the z-test, were used to the data.

## **RESULTS**

The data presentation, analysis, results, and discussion of the findings are presented:

Table 1. Response Rate of Questionnaire Administered

	Number of Questionnaire Administered	Number of Questionnaire Retrieved	Number of Questionnaire Not Retrieved	Number of Invalid Questionnaire	Number of Valid Questionnaire
Number of Questionnaire	343	296	47	16	280
Percentage (%)	100.0	86.3	13.7	4.7	81.6

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Table 1 shows the summary of the questionnaire administration. As revealed in the table, a total number of 343 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents while 280 copies of the administered questionnaire representing 81.6% were the valid copies of questionnaire returned, forming the basis of analysis for the study purpose.

With respect to the age of the respondents, 29 respondents represents 10.4% of the total respondents were within age bracket 17-26 years, 88 respondents representing 31.4% were within the age bracket 27-36 years, 113 respondents representing 40.4% were within the age bracket of 37-46 years, while 47 respondents representing 17.9% of the total respondents were aged 47 years and above. This age distribution shows that majority of the respondents were within age bracket of 37-46 years. Consequently, the distribution of the respondents by gender is 163 respondents representing 58.2% of the total respondents were males while 1117 respondents representing 41.8% were females. This gender distribution shows that majority of the respondents were males.

As regards the educational level of the respondents, reveals that 141 respondents representing 50.4% of the total respondents had OND/HND, 110 respondents representing 39.3% were Bachelor's Degree holders, 21 respondents representing 7.5% were Masters' Degree holders while 8 respondents representing 2.9% were Doctorate Degree holders. This educational level distribution shows that majority of the respondents were OND/HND holders.

With respect to the marital status of the respondents, 108 respondents representing 38.6% of the total respondents were single, 159 respondents representing 56.8% were married, 7 respondents representing 2.5% were divorced/separated while 6 respondents representing 2.1% were widowed. This marital status distribution shows that majority of the respondents were married.

Table 2. Male and Female on Employment Opportunities Generated by Small Scale Enterprise Generate

No	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	Male		Female		DECISION
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	
1.	Suppliers of product	3.80	0.91	3.30	0.87	Agreed
2.	Marketing of product	2.83	0.66	2.99	0.77	Agreed
3.	Transporter	3.64	0.83	3.52	0.72	Agreed
4.	Sales boy/girl	3.26	0.75	3.35	0.69	Agreed
5.	Idle family members	3.05	0.68	3.28	0.84	Agreed
6.	Security/vigilante	3.44	0.72	3.15	0.79	Agreed
<b>Aggregate Mean/SD</b>		<b>3.34</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>0.78</b>	

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Key:  $\bar{X}$  = Weighted Mean; SD = Standard Deviation

In order to determine respect to how small-scale enterprise generate employment in Nigeria, the results in Table 2 indicated that male respondents have an aggregate mean of 3.12 and a standard deviation of 0.81 while female respondents have an aggregate mean of 3.15 and a standard deviation of 0.79. However, male respondents have a high mean than the female respondents, there is sufficient statistical evidence to concluded that more male respondents agreed that small scale enterprise generates employment in Nigeria.

Table 3. Mean and Standard Deviation of the Business Owners and Economic Benefits of Participants in Small Scale Enterprise

No	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	Single		Married		DECISION
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	
13.	Feed the family from business earning	3.11	0.93	3.14	0.80	Agreed
14.	Pay children school fees	3.23	0.79	3.11	0.94	Agreed
15.	Health care services	3.10	0.85	3.44	0.76	Agreed
16.	Pay house rent	2.98	0.68	2.60	0.65	Agreed
17.	Acquire home facilities e.g. TV, Radio	3.50	0.73	3.55	0.81	Agreed
18.	Care for aged parents/relatives	3.30	0.59	3.25	0.76	Agreed
<b>Aggregate Mean/SD</b>		<b>3.20</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>0.79</b>	

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Key:  $\bar{X}$  = Weighted Mean; SD = Standard Deviation

As regards how economic benefits of participants is improved by small scale enterprise in Nigeria, the results in Table 3 indicated that single respondents have an aggregate mean of 3.20 and a standard deviation of 0.76

while married respondents have an aggregate mean of 3.18 and a standard deviation of 0.79. However, since married respondents have a high mean than the single respondents, there is sufficient statistical evidence to concluded that more married respondents agreed economic benefits of participants is improved by small scale enterprise in Nigeria.

Table 4. Mean and Standard Deviation of the Business Owners and Customers' Economic Benefits of Participants in Small Scale Enterprise

No	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	Business Owners		Customers		DECISION
		$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	
19.	Income transportation of goods	2.91	0.76	3.03	0.80	Agreed
20.	Income for dependants	3.02	0.72	2.99	0.87	Agreed
21.		3.14	0.81	3.20	0.73	Agreed
22.	Income for service providers	3.09	0.68	3.11	0.85	Agreed
	Source of income for sole proprietor					
	<b>Aggregate Mean/SD</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>0.81</b>	

Source: Field Survey (2023)

**Key:**  $\bar{X}$  = Weighted Mean; SD = Standard Deviation

With respect to the effect of income of small-scale business on poverty alleviation in Nigeria, the results in Table 4 indicated that business owners have an aggregate mean of 3.04 and a standard deviation of 0.74 while customers have an aggregate mean of 3.08 and a standard deviation of 0.81. However, since customers have a high mean than the business owners, there is sufficient statistical evidence to concluded that more customers agreed that income of small-scale business

H<sub>01</sub>: Employment generation of small-scale enterprise has no significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

Table 5. Z-test Analysis of Employment Generation of Small-Scale Enterprise and Poverty Alleviation

	$\bar{X}$	SD	Z-Cal	Z-Cri	Level of Significance	P-Value	Decision
<b>Male</b>	3.34	0.76	2.09	1.96	0.05	0.0027	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
<b>Female</b>	3.27	0.78					

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023 (SPSS 21.0 Output)

The first hypothesis was tested at 5% level of significance. The result showed the *p-value* to be 0.0027 while the *alpha value* is 0.05. Following the decision rule; that is, since the *p-value* (0.0027) is less than the *alpha value* (0.05), we therefore reject the null hypothesis one (H<sub>01</sub>) and conclude that employment generation of small-scale enterprise has a significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

H<sub>02</sub>: Economic benefits of participants in small scale enterprise has no significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

Table 6. Z-test Analysis of Economic Benefits of Participants in Small Scale Enterprise and Poverty Alleviation

	$\bar{X}$	SD	Z-Cal	Z-Cri	Level of Significance	P-Value	Decision
<b>Single</b>	3.20	0.76	2.11	1.96	0.05	0.009	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
<b>Married</b>	3.18	0.79					

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023 (SPSS 21.0 Output)

The third hypothesis was tested at 5% level of significance. The result revealed the *p-value* to be 0.009 while the *alpha value* is 0.05. Following the decision rule, i.e. since the *p-value* (0.009) is less than the *alpha value* (0.5), we therefore reject the null hypothesis three (H<sub>03</sub>) and conclude that economic benefits of participants in small scale enterprise has a significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.``

## DISCUSSION

The study examines the business in poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The finding of the data analysed showed that the employment generation of small-scale enterprise has a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. This implies that increase in employment generation of small-scale enterprise will led to poverty alleviation in Nigeria. This finding is related to the finding of Oba and Onuoha (2013), Alfandega (2018), Kowo, et al. (2019) that established that the employment generation of small-scale enterprise has a positive and significant impact on poverty reduction in Nigeria. In addition, the finding equally showed that the economic benefits of participants in small scale enterprise has a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. This indicates that increase in income generating activities of small-scale enterprise will lead to significant reduction poverty in Nigeria. This finding supported the finding of John-Akamelu and Muogbo (2018) that found that a significant level of poverty was eradicated as a result of economic benefits of small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria. However, Oba and Onuoha (2013) is at variance by establishing that the government participation is not significant to poverty reduction. The implication of the study is that the employment generation of small-scale enterprise desires adequate incentive that will enhance their capacity reducing poverty in Rivers State.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has examined the role of small-scale business in poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The result of the study showed that employment generation of small-scale enterprise, income generating activities of small-scale enterprise, economic benefits of participants in small scale enterprise and income of small-scale business have positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. Thus, the study concluded that small scale business plays a significantly vital role in alleviating poverty in Rivers State. In a broader perspective, small scale enterprise is a grassroots initiative, capable of assisting individuals of their daily needs, therefore improving their standard of living and also contributing to economic growth.

Based on from the findings, the policy makers and governments and their agencies provide the technical, technological, financial, managerial assistance and

infrastructures needed for the enormous opportunities in the small-scale businesses to be harnessed optimally. These will enable SMEs to play their catalytic role in the economy and help government to reduce the high unemployment rate in the country and by extension, reducing poverty. In addition, effort should be made by the government to train small scale business owners on various financial facilities available to improve the productivity of their business. This will enable them to utilise the advantages provided by the government to boost their productivity.

#### **FURTHER STUDY**

1. Studies should be carried out to explore the various micro facilities and training programme available in Nigeria for improving small scale business enterprises in the country.
2. Further studies should be carried out to expose further contribution of small scale enterprises to the economic development of the Nation.

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