

Evaluation of the Influence of Gender on Entrepreneurial Intentions among Technical College Electronics Students in South-South Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the influence of gender on entrepreneurial intentions among technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Two research questions and one hypothesis guided the study. The population for the study consisted of 330 National Technical Certificate (NTC) III students studying Radio, Television and Electronics devices and Circuit (RTVE) works in all the 26 approved technical colleges in South-South zone of Nigeria in 2019 academic session. Purposive sampling was used to select a sample of 220 NTC III students comprising of 183 males and 37 females from only the twelve technical colleges that have both male and female students studying RTVE works. A structured questionnaire known as Entrepreneurial Intention Questionnaire (EIQ) was the adapted instrument used to collect data for the study. The structured questionnaire was subjected to face validation by five experts. The reliability of the instruments was determined by trial testing in Imo state. Cronbach alpha formula was used to establish the internal consistency of the instrument. The coefficient of 0.82 (student's entrepreneurial intentions) was obtained. Mean was used to answer the research questions while independent t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings show that the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students to start a new RTVE enterprise after graduation was high. There was no difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. Among the recommendations made were that male and female technical college students should be motivated through conferences, seminars and workshops on the need to understand that gender is not a mediator on entrepreneurial intentions and entrepreneurial success. Emphasis should rather be made during these seminars for students to understand that building sufficient confidence in their area of specialty and taking moderate and calculated risks is the key for a successful business career.

Keywords: Intentions, Entrepreneurial intention, Gender and entrepreneurship.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship development has led to employment generation, growth of the economy and sustainable development. When Nigerians especially unemployed technical college electronics graduates in South-South zone are mentored and provided with the needed resources as well as enabling environment for business startups, they may be inspired and motivated to be economically engaged in self-employment, by utilizing their knowledge and skills to set up new businesses in their trade areas. By engaging in such ventures, they will shun the illegal acts of hostage-taking, kidnapping, cultism, oil bunkering and vandalism. Development in entrepreneurship are sometimes seen as arising from three sources, namely: (a) from the contributions of economic writers and thinkers on the role of the entrepreneur in economic development and the application of economic theory, (b) from the psychological trait

approach on personality characteristics of the entrepreneur, and (c) from social behavioural approach which stresses the influence of social environment as well as personality trait (Duru, 2011). However, Shepherd and Douglas (2002) observed that the essence of entrepreneurship development is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture, by combining information from functional disciplines and from the external environment, in the context of the extraordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which faces a new business venture. Individual's entrepreneurial intentions may be the important variables to predict their entrepreneurial behaviours. Azjen (2002) observed that three attitudinal antecedents are necessary to trigger the action of starting a business: the desire to start the business; the belief that the business contributes to well-being of the society and that success is possible. Markmam, et al. (2002) in their study affirms that what motivate individuals to demonstrate entrepreneurial behaviour is their self-efficacy belief, rather than their objective ability. Zhao et al.'s (2005) findings provided evidence that individuals choose to become entrepreneurs (or at least formulate intentions to do so) because they are high in entrepreneurial self-efficacy, the belief that they can succeed in this role.

An intention reflects an individual's willingness or plan to engage in a particular behaviour. Krueger et al. (2000) defines entrepreneurial intention as a commitment to starting a new business. This is accepted as a more encompassing concept than merely owning a business; since intentions have been found to be immediate antecedent of actual behaviour; intention models predict behaviour better than either individual (e.g. personality) or situational (e.g. employment status) variables, and predictive power is critical to improve post hoc explanations of entrepreneurial behaviour (Urban, Van Vuuren & Owen, 2008). For this study the definition accepted for use is the one put forward by Drost (2010) who defined entrepreneurship intention as one's desire to engage in entrepreneurship and one's interest to start one's own business or become self-employed, driven by desire for autonomy and expectation of economic gain. Recognizing that starting a business is an intentional act holds substantial implications for this study because intentions models offer an opportunity to increase one's ability to explain and predict entrepreneurial activity.

Some factors predict entrepreneurial intentions. Ajzen (1991) in his theory of planned behaviour (TPB) maintained that there are three predictors of entrepreneurial intention: attitude towards the behaviour, subjective norms and the degree of perceived behavioural control (which is thus related to perception of self-efficacy). Shapero and Sokol (1982) model of entrepreneurial event (SEE) proposed that entrepreneurial intention emanate from perceptions of feasibility, desirability, and the propensity to act upon opportunities. Both models have been tested and applied, receiving empirical support. Based on these theories, the present study is on the evaluation of the influence of gender on entrepreneurial intentions among technical college electronics students in South-South zone of Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

- i. determine the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students
- ii. compare the difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students.

Research Questions

- i. What is the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students?
- ii. What is the difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students?

Null Hypothesis

There is no significant influence of gender on entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South Nigeria

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will provide information that may be useful for stimulating the perceived possibility of self-employment intentions for electronics students in technical colleges. This can be achieved through the use of perceived behavioural control skills by teachers in raising the entrepreneurial capability of the students. The students will tend to develop more attitudes that will increase their confidence to become future entrepreneurs in RTVE ventures. The findings of this study will provide information that may be used to increase the perceived attractiveness of entrepreneurship activities by technical college electronics students. These attitudes will likely help to shape their inclination to start their own RTVE businesses in future. The students will be encouraged by their teachers through verbal persuasion to always form the habit and develop the propensity to act on their feasible and desirable career plans.

Scope of the Study

The research study was carried out in South-South zone of Nigeria. The zone comprises of six States viz: Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross-river, Delta, Edo and Rivers state.

Literature Review

Intention

Intentions represent the belief that one will perform certain behaviour. According to Bird (1989), intention is the state of mind directing a person's attentions and action towards self-employment as opposed to organizational employment. Intention has also been defined as the efforts of a person to carry out entrepreneurial behaviour (Linan & Rodriguez, 2004). Pihie (2009) notes that intention is the state of mind or attitude which influences entrepreneurial behaviour. The ultimate purpose of intentions research is the prediction of behaviour. Intent is a dependable predictor of human behavior in an assortment of circumstances, and has been deemed by many to represent the most successful forecaster of human attitudes and action (Krueger et al., 2000). Based on the understanding of the belief, attitude and intention relationship, individuals' beliefs and attitudes regarding self-employment would inform their intention to become self-employed. There are several conceptual models of entrepreneurial intentions in literature (Davidsson, 1995; Krueger & Brazeal, 1994; Krueger & Carsrud, 1993; Reitan, 1996) but as Peterman and Kennedy (2003) and Krueger, et al., (2000) have pointed out, there is little difference in the approaches of these models. By and large, they are all founded on Azjen's (1991) theory of planned behavior, Shapero and Sokols' (1982) model of intention in entrepreneurial situations, Bandura's (1997) self-efficacy and social learning theory.

Entrepreneurial Intention

Entrepreneurial intention refers to the intent to perform entrepreneurial behaviour. Entrepreneurial intention has been defined as the intention to start a new business (Zhao et al., 2005), the intention to own a business (Crant, 1996), or the intention to be self-employed (Douglas & Shepherd, 2002). According to Bird (1988), entrepreneurial intentions are a state of mind, which directs and guides the actions of the individual toward the development and the implementation of new business concepts. For the purpose of this study entrepreneurial intention is defined as an individual's intention of technical college electronics student to be self-employed after graduation. Being antecedents of entrepreneurial behaviour, different authors define intentions depending on whether the contemplated type of entrepreneurial behaviour is self-employed (venture creation) or entrepreneurship in its broad sense (both in employed work setting "intrapreneur" and self-employed "venture creation"). Entrepreneurial behaviour can also be viewed as a person's will to execute new venture formation behaviour or exploit (Grundsten, 2004). According to Pihie (2009), entrepreneurship can be measured in two ways: actual entrepreneurship (i.e. people that have actually started business) and entrepreneurial intention or latent entrepreneurship (i.e. people that intend to start business).

Gender in relation to differences of students on entrepreneurial intentions

Gender is an important aspect in entrepreneurship intention discussion. The term gender according to Nnachi (2010), is social-cultural and is built on the basis of the biological expectations of the individual as being a male or female. In this sense, individuals are oriented towards the behaviour type that is expected of them on the basis of being a male or female. In real sense, there are traditional belief difference for males and females. There are different encouragements for males and females, thus expectations tend to vary from one sex to another. Sanchez-Canizares and Fuentes-Garcia (2013) carried out a study on gender and entrepreneurship: An analysis of young university population. The aim of the study was to compare the entrepreneurial intentions of university students, and their evaluation of the figure of the entrepreneur, contrasting the perception of men and women. In both cases, the idea of entrepreneurship was seen as desirable. A dependence relation was noted, however, between gender and intention to create a business in the future.

Previous studies of female entrepreneurs have mainly been descriptive or conducted with restricted samples (Ndemo, 2007; Pio, 2007). Given the increasingly important role that women play in entrepreneurship, more research on gender differences in entrepreneurship is necessary. Of particular interest are the ways in which men and women are similar to, or different from, each other with respect to the interest in starting small firms. Men were generally found to have a stronger interest than women in starting new businesses (Mueller, 2006). The imbalance has been attributed to differences in psychological characteristics resulted from their socialization and networking experiences (Manolova, Carter, Manev & Gyoshev, 2007). Many studies show that male have more entrepreneurial intentions and have more interest to start businesses than their female counterparts (Phan, Wong & Wang 2002).

The variable, gender-role orientation will be studied as a factor in entrepreneurial intentions among technical college electronics students in South-South Nigeria. It is well known that a career in entrepreneurship offers significant opportunities for individuals to achieve

financial independence, creates jobs thereby contributing to the economy, innovations, and economic growth. Today's students (technical college electronics students) are tomorrow's potential entrepreneurs, which may explain why a growing number of universities/institutions/technical colleges offer courses and programs in entrepreneurship (Souitaris, Zerbinati & Al-Laham, 2007). However, there is little understanding of some of the factors that affect student's intentions of becoming entrepreneurs as many lack the necessary intentions and capabilities that is required to foster entrepreneurial activities. Similarly, little is known about differences in entrepreneurial intentions among students who share different gender-role orientations. Based on their research, Wilson et al. (2007) concluded that women need the self-confidence and expectation of success in order to pursue entrepreneurial aspirations. Harris and Gibson (2008) reported that there was a significant difference between male and female business students in their need for innovation in business, with males having higher scores on the entrepreneurial attitude scale than females.

The interesting question to ask is: why do women lag behind on entrepreneurial propensity as compared to men? Delmer and Davidson (2000) argued that men universally are always on high rank to bear attitudes and values favouring them for competitiveness and achievement than women. Efforts to establish a business involves high degree of self efficacy, thus women seem to have lower perceptions in this aspect (Davidsson 1995). Moreover, the perceived natural inequalities in gender roles are another issue to be taken into consideration. For example, for many past years women were mainly regarded as responsible for children care and kitchen duties. Thus the traditional occupations for women did not attract much of entrepreneurship efforts. Further to that, the institutional approach where there was patriarchal pressure in most societies hindered women from entering into business. Delmar and Davidsson (2000) for example, have shown that it is sometimes difficult for women to face bank for getting loan than men.

It is a known fact that women also face difficulty in getting loans from Nigerian financial institutions. Fridoline (2009) stated that entrepreneurial undertakings are more related to male than to females, as results from his study showed that whereas percentage wise males counted for 55.1% of those who wanted to own their own business while female were 34%. A study from Tanzania which explained about gender differences between female and male students was done by Olomi and Sinyamwale (2009). The authors stated that entrepreneurship intention between gender among vocational training students in Tanzania follow the traditional trend in which women and men were socialized to prefer different activities with the main motivation being economic necessity. Women prefer activities such as tailoring, hair-dressing and printing while men prefer electrical/electronics, auto-mechanic, carpentry and joinery. The Olomi and Sinyamwale study went further saying that greater proportion of female trainees intended to start their own business after graduation than male counterparts. Moreover, the study showed that women were of fewer ambitions in terms of future growth of business than men. Studies conducted by Veciana, Aponte & Urbano (2005) revealed that females have lower entrepreneurial intentions than males. Carter, Anderson and Shaw (2001) found that feminine orientation individuals differ in entrepreneurial intentions from masculine individuals in that the females are less likely to have prior business experience or training. Females choose

entrepreneurship as a result of experiencing glass ceiling in large organizations and have difficulties to acquire resources such as financial, human and social capital (Carter, Anderson & Shaw, 2001).

Methodology

The design of this study was a descriptive survey research. The study was carried out in South-South zone of Nigeria. The area was chosen so as to explore the influence of gender in relationship to the entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students to see whether it may be strong enough to enable them become entrepreneurs in RTVE trade after graduation. The population for this study comprised of the entire 330 National Technical Certificate (NTC) III students studying RTVE works in all the 26 approved technical colleges in South-South states of Nigeria in 2019 academic session (NBTE, 2014). The sample consists of 220 students of RTVE works made up of 183 males and 37 females. The study adopted purposive sampling technique to select the 12 technical colleges with male and female students. This was done because gender was the variable under investigation. The instrument used by the researcher for this study was Entrepreneurial Intention Questionnaire (EIQ) adapted from Linan and Chen, 2009. The instrument was face validated by five experts. Three senior lecturers in the Department of Industrial Technical Education from University of Nigeria, Nsukka and two senior lecturers in the Department of Industrial Technical Education from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Ndele campus. The questionnaires were administered with the help a willing staff in each technical college involved in the study who was trained as a research assistant. The instrument has 28 items and each item is based on the student's intention to become an entrepreneur or be self-employed in RTVE trade after graduation. In each statement, the students were to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement on the responses using response options in the range of Very great extent (4), Great extent (3), Low extent (2) and Very low extent (1). In order to ensure the reliability of the instrument, trial testing was carried out in Imo state. Imo state is in South-East zone of Nigeria which presents an area different from the area of study. Twenty-five copies of the questionnaire instrument were administered to the respondents comprising of all the 22 male and 3 female NTC III students who are studying Radio, Television and Electronics Devices and Circuits works in Government Technical College, Owerri, in Imo state. The data obtained through the trial testing was used to determine the internal consistency of the items. This was achieved through the use of Cronbach's alpha method. The coefficient obtained was 0.82 for student's entrepreneurial intentions. Decisions were taken based on the weighted cut-off point of 2.50 on the assigned values of the response categories for answering the research questions. Any item whose mean is 2.50 and above was judged as high level while any item whose mean is less than 2.50 was judged as low level. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze data for research questions, while independent t-test was adopted to analyze the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. All computations were done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0.

Data presentation and Analysis

Research Question 1: What is the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students?

Data in relation to this research question were analyzed and presented in Table 1

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria *n= 220*

S/N	Items	X	SD	Dec.
1	My professional goal is becoming an entrepreneur	3.32	0.90	GE
2	I will make every effort to start and run my own RTVE business	3.53	0.74	GE
3	I have got the strong intention to start a RTVE firm some day	3.40	0.80	GE
4	If I had the opportunity and resources, I'd like to start a RTVE firm	3.37	0.79	GE
5	I am determined to create a new RTVE business venture in the future	3.49	0.73	GE
6	I am very much interested in setting up my own RTVE business than getting a paid job	3.33	0.89	GE
7	I am working towards owning my own RTVE business	3.46	0.77	GE
8	I intend to start my own business within the next two years after graduation	3.10	0.91	GE
9	I intend to start my own business within the next five years after graduation	2.76	1.12	GE
10	I prefer to be self-employed after graduation	3.33	0.92	GE
11	It never came to my mind to start up a business	2.15	1.13	LE
12	I have thought seriously to start my own business after completing my study	3.44	0.79	GE
13	I am prepared to do anything to be an entrepreneur	3.13	0.97	GE
14	I want to be my own boss	3.58	0.76	GE
15	I want to use the skills learned at school to develop my private enterprise after graduation	3.73	0.57	GE
16	I want to be self-employed and provide employment to others	3.71	0.59	GE
17	I want to set up a RTVE business after my schooling for my own satisfaction and growth	3.60	0.66	GE
18	I want to become an entrepreneur to increase my prestige and status	3.43	0.84	GE
19	I want to explore existing RTVE opportunities in the market place	3.42	0.74	GE

20	I want to become an entrepreneur to realize my dream	3.42	0.83	GE
21	I want to be self-employed to put my business idea into practice	3.59	0.66	GE
22	I want to be an entrepreneur to take advantage of my creative talent	3.55	0.75	GE
23	I want to be an entrepreneur to earn a reasonable living	3.50	0.79	GE
24	I want to be self-employed to enjoy job security	3.24	0.94	GE
25	I want to be in the forefront of technological ideas	3.66	0.62	GE
26	I think that founding a new venture is the only way to succeed in life	3.07	1.00	GE
27	I would dedicate my life to establishing a new RTVE venture even if my parents were strongly against it	3.26	0.88	GE
28	Even if I launch new RTVE ventures and fail many times, I will keep on trying until I succeed	3.49	0.82	GE
	Cluster 3	3.36	0.40	GE

Key: N= Number of respondents, X= mean, SD= Standard Deviation, Dec. = Decision, GE= Great extent, LE= Low extent.

Results presented in Table 1 showed the mean and standard deviations of respondents on the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. Results showed that the mean ratings of items 1-10, 12-28 ranged from 2.76 to 3.73. Each of the means is above the cut-off of 2.50 for accepting an item. This implied that the respondents rated that the items indicated the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria to a great extent. On the other hand, result also showed that item 11 had a mean rating of 2.15 which is less than the cut-off point of 2.50 for accepting an item. This implied that the respondents rated that the item indicated the level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students to a low extent. The cluster mean of 3.36 as presented in Table 1 above is higher than the cut-off of 2.50 for taking decision. This result showed that the respondents rated the overall perceived level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria to a great extent.

Research Question 2: What is the difference between the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students?

Data in relation to this research question were analyzed and presented in Table 2

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the difference between the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students

S/NO	Items	<i>Males (N= 183)</i>		<i>Females (N = 37)</i>		Dec.
		Gender	Mean	SD	Dec.	
1	My professional goal is becoming an entrepreneur	Male	3.33	0.88	GE	
		Female	3.27	1.01	GE	
2	I will make every effort to start and run my own RTVE business	Male	3.56	0.70	GE	
		Female	3.33	0.96	GE	
3	I have got the strong intention to start a RTVE firm some day	Male	3.43	0.75	GE	
		Female	3.21	1.02	GE	
4	If I had the opportunity and resources, I'd like to start a RTVE firm	Male	3.37	0.79	GE	
		Female	3.33	0.82	GE	
5	I am determined to create a new RTVE business venture in the future	Male	3.50	0.70	GE	
		Female	3.369	0.90	GE	
6	I am very much interested in setting up my own RTVE business than getting a paid job	Male	3.736	0.86	GE	
		Female	83.198	1.07	GE	
7	I am working towards owning my own RTVE business	Male	3.51	0.70	GE	
		Female	3.18	1.07	GE	
8	I intend to start my own business within the next two years after graduation	Male	3.11	0.89	GE	
		Female	3.06	1.06	GE	
9	I intend to start my own business within the next five years after graduation	Male	2.82	1.08	GE	
		Female	2.45	1.33	LE	
10	I prefer to be self-employed after graduation	Male	3.33	0.90	GE	
		Female	3.30	1.02	GE	
11	It never came to my mind to start up a business	Male	2.11	1.14	LE	
		Female	2.39	1.09	LE	
12	I have thought seriously to start my own business after completing my study	Male	3.47	0.76	GE	
		Female	3.27	0.94	GE	
13	I am prepared to do anything to be an entrepreneur	Male	3.18	0.94	GE	
		Female	2.85	1.12	GE	
14	I want to be my own boss	Male	3.55	0.79	GE	
		Female	3.79	0.55	GE	
15	I want to use the skills learned at school to develop my private enterprise after graduation	Male	3.74	0.56	GE	
		Female	3.70	0.64	GE	
16	I want to be self-employed and provide employment to others	Male	3.71	0.58	GE	
		Female	3.73	0.67	GE	
17	I want to set up a RTVE business after my schooling for my own satisfaction and growth	Male	3.63	0.59	GE	
		Female	3.39	0.93	GE	
18	I want to become an entrepreneur to increase my prestige and status	Male	3.44	0.81	GE	
		Female	3.33	0.99	GE	
19	I want to explore existing RTVE opportunities in the market place	Male	3.45	0.71	GE	
		Female	3.24	0.90	GE	
20	I want to become an entrepreneur to realize my dream	Male	3.44	0.78	GE	
		Female	3.27	1.10	GE	
21	I want to be self-employed to put my business idea into practice	Male	3.61	0.62	GE	
		Female	3.45	0.83	GE	
23	I want to be an entrepreneur to take advantage of my creative talent	Male	3.60	0.68	GE	
		Female	3.27	1.04	GE	
24	I want to be an entrepreneur to earn a reasonable living	Male	3.52	0.76	GE	

		Female	3.42	0.94	GE
25	I want to be self-employed to enjoy job security	Male	3.27	0.91	GE
		Female	3.09	1.07	GE
26	I want to be in the forefront of technological ideas	Male	3.70	0.58	GE
		Female	3.45	0.83	GE
27	I think that founding a new venture is the only way to succeed in life	Male	3.09	1.00	GE
		Female	2.94	1.03	GE
28	I would dedicate my life to establishing a new RTVE venture even if my parents were strongly against it	Male	3.31	0.83	GE
		Female	2.97	1.10	GE
29	Even if I launch new RTVE ventures and fail many times, I will keep on trying until I succeed	Male	3.51	0.78	GE
		Female	3.39	1.06	GE
	Cluster 3	Male	3.38	0.35	GE
		Female	3.24	0.59	GE

Key: N= Number of respondents, X= mean, SD= Standard Deviation, Dec. = Decision; GE= Great extent; LE= low extent

Results presented in Table 2 showed the mean and standard deviations of respondents on the difference between the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. Results showed that the male respondents had a cluster mean rating of 3.38 while the female respondents had a cluster mean rating of 3.24. Since the mean ratings of both male and female respondents are approximately equal, it shows that there is no difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students in South-south, Nigeria.

Null Hypothesis 1: There will be a significant influence of gender on the entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 3: Dependent t-test summary showing the influence of gender on Entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students.

	Sex	N	Mean	SD	df	t	p
Entrepreneurial Intention	Male	183	3.38	0.35	218	0.21	p>0.05
	Female	37	3.24	0.59			

In order to test the hypothesis, independent t-test was used. The result in Table 3 shows that there is no significant difference in the entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students [t (238) =0.21, p>0.05]. The hypothesis was thus rejected.

Major Findings

1. The overall perceived level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria is high.
2. There was no significant difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students in South-East, Nigeria

Discussion of the Findings

The data presented in Table 1 answered research question one. The finding revealed that the perceived level of entrepreneurial intentions of technical college electronics students in

South-East, Nigeria is high. This showed that the level of electronics students' willingness in undertaking entrepreneurial activity in RTVE works, or in other words become self-employed after graduation is high. This finding agrees with Drost (2010) who defined entrepreneurship intention as one's desire to engage in entrepreneurship and one's interest to start one's own business or become self-employed, driven by desire for autonomy and expectation of economic gain. The finding is consistent with the result of the study done by Antwi, Amofah, Koffuor and Yakubu (2012) which concluded that the general entrepreneurial intentions of Senior High School students are high and encouraging. Moreover in applying the Planned Behaviour Theory, the theory states that the antecedent of entrepreneurial behaviour is the intention to become an entrepreneur or entrepreneurial (Hytti & Kuopusjärvi, 2004). In supporting this theory, Fridoline (2009) argued that it can be theorized that if one knows such intention and its level of existence among individuals, then he/she can predict whether enterprising students exist in the student population. Bird (1988) stated that intentions play a great role before launching an entrepreneurial venture. It is the belief of the researcher that with focused intentions technical college electronics students will perform certain entrepreneurial behaviour in RTVE works after graduation. Therefore, if their entrepreneurial intention is known, then perhaps some training and development programmes can be put in place for their dreams to be materialized.

Finding from Table 2 revealed that there is no difference in the perceived level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. This result implies that both male and female electronics students perceive themselves equally in the level of their intentions to set up RTVE workshops after graduation.

Finding from Table 3 also showed that gender did not have a significant influence on the entrepreneurial intentions of male and female electronics students, contradicting the work done by Phan, Wong & Wang (2002) which show that males have more entrepreneurial intentions and have more interest to start businesses than their female counterparts. However, the findings of this study did not support their finding. Rather the finding is in agreement with the result of the study done by Seyi, Nurdan and Serkan (2012) which found that there was no significant difference between male and female vocational high school pupils and their entrepreneurial intentions.

Conclusion

This study explored the relationship between gender and entrepreneurial intentions among technical college electronics students in South-South, Nigeria. The research study compares the difference in the level of entrepreneurial intentions of male and female technical college electronics students. The finding of this research has successfully shown that the level of intentions of technical college electronics students to set up RTVE workshops after graduation is high. The results also showed that gender was not a mediator on the intentions of the students to set up new RTVE enterprises after graduation.

Recommendations

1. The Federal and States Ministry of Education should provide enabling study environment for students through adequate funding of technical colleges where these constructs can be taught to electronics students.

2. The male and female technical college students should be motivated through conferences, seminars and workshops on the need to understand that gender is not a mediator on entrepreneurial intentions and entrepreneurial success especially for electronics students. Through these seminars, teachers and parents should emphasize the importance for students to understand that building sufficient confidence in their area of specialty and taking moderate and calculated risks is the key for a successful business career. The opportunity will be used to make it clear to the students that whether male or female, every student must work hard to achieve success in his/her social, educational and moral development in the society.
3. Famous and successful local entrepreneurs should be invited by the teachers to deliver lectures and to share their success stories with the students in their classrooms
4. Training and development programmes should be organized for teachers to acquaint them to the corporate world.

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