

EFFECT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON THE GROWTH OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES IN ENUGU METROPOLIS.

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Abstract

This study is on the effect of entrepreneurship on the growth of small and medium scale enterprises in Enugu metropolis. The objectives of the study are to assess the effect of planning on the output of SMEs and to evaluate the effect of growth on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State. The study employed descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of the owners and senior staff of the selected SMEs in Enugu metropolis with the total population of three hundred and sixty-four (364). The study made use of the whole population as its sample size due to small number. Data from the questionnaire were administered and analyzed using simple percentages, mean and standard deviation, and the research hypotheses were tested using Z – test. The findings of the study revealed that planning had significant positive effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state, $Z(95, n = 319), 7.517 < 8.636, P. < .05$. And that growth had significant positive effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State, $Z(95, n = 319), 6.565 < 7.559, P. < .05$. The study concludes that the observation and utilization of novel opportunities in the business domain are the fundamental components of entrepreneurship. It always involves diverting national resources from their customary usage and putting them in novel combinations, resulting in an alternative method of using them. It was recommended among other things that for long-term survival of a business, acquire assets, attract new talent, fund investments and drives business performance the management of the small medium enterprises should work hard for growth.

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Entrepreneurship serves as a catalyst for economic growth and development, particularly through its impact on Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs). SMEs play a crucial role in driving innovation, generating employment opportunities, and fostering industrial expansion, making them pivotal contributors to national

economies. However, the nexus between entrepreneurship and SME growth remains a subject of significant scholarly inquiry, particularly in the context of emerging economies like Nigeria.

The concept of entrepreneurship embodies the spirit of innovation, risk-taking, and value creation (Criniti, 2021). Entrepreneurs, characterized by their ability to identify opportunities and mobilize resources, drive economic progress by establishing new ventures and introducing novel goods and services to the market (Bell, 2015). In the dynamic economic landscape of Nigeria, entrepreneurship is viewed not only as a means of combating unemployment and poverty but also as a strategy for catalyzing rapid economic development (Egwu, 2015).

The growth of SMEs is intrinsically linked to entrepreneurial activity, as entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in initiating and sustaining these enterprises. The development of entrepreneurship, however, is contingent upon a myriad of economic, social, political, and psychological factors (Bwisa & Ndolo, 2014). While positive conditions facilitate entrepreneurship development, negative factors can impede its progress, underscoring the complex interplay of contextual influences on entrepreneurial endeavors (Adom, 2015).

Organizational growth, a fundamental objective for businesses irrespective of their size, is intricately intertwined with entrepreneurship. Growth entails not only an increase in physical size but also expansion in terms of revenue, market share, and organizational capabilities (Balasundaram & Avulakunta, 2021). Entrepreneurial growth, characterized by the pursuit of quality, quantity, and turnover, is essential for SMEs to achieve their objectives and contribute meaningfully to economic prosperity (Marko, 2010).

In the Nigerian context, the significance of SMEs in driving economic growth cannot be overstated. These enterprises, often overlooked in favor of large-scale industries, have emerged as vital engines of economic development, particularly in light of the country's heavy dependence on oil revenue (Shodiya, 2020). However, the growth potential of SMEs is constrained by various challenges, including limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of entrepreneurial skills (Muritala, Awolaja & Bako, 2016).

Efforts to promote entrepreneurial development and SME growth are imperative for addressing the socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria. By empowering entrepreneurs and fostering a conducive business environment, policymakers can unlock the full potential of SMEs as drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development (Ulabor et al., 2018). Recognizing the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in nation-building, it is essential to prioritize initiatives aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial talent and enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the global marketplace (Akinroluyo et al., 2021).

Against this backdrop, this research seeks to investigate the effect of entrepreneurship on the growth of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises. By exploring the dynamics of entrepreneurial activity and its impact on SME development, this study aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders seeking to foster entrepreneurial ecosystems and promote the sustainable growth of SMEs in Nigeria. Through empirical analysis and theoretical synthesis, the research endeavors to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on entrepreneurship and SME growth, thereby informing evidence-based policy interventions and strategic initiatives aimed at fostering economic prosperity and social inclusion. This necessitated the study effect of Entrepreneurship on the development of SMES in Enugu state.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Entrepreneurship is an attitude to thinking, reasoning, and doing that is balanced in leadership, opportunity-obsessed, and focused on creating and capturing value. Value is created, enhanced, realized, and renewed as a result of entrepreneurship—not only for the owners, but for all participants and stakeholders as well. The ability to create and/or recognize opportunities, together with the initiative and will to take advantage of them, are at the center of the process. To continuously change the odds of success and balance the danger and the possible reward,

one must be willing to take calculated financial and personal risks. One potential solution to the world's most persistent social and ecological problems, such as economic inequality and global warming, is entrepreneurship. Organizations face significant obstacles when attempting to embrace entrepreneurial development, mostly stemming from inadequate ideation, inadequate opportunity assessment, and inadequate planning and expansion. These challenges if not properly handled will lead to low Sustainability, lack of equity, poor output and lack of empowerment, lack of customer attracted ventures, poor product offering, inability to generate revenue and poor cost reduction in the organisation as such hindering the performance of the organisation of SMEs. Based on this the study aimed at evaluating the effect of Entrepreneurship on the growth of SMES in Enugu state.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine the effect of entrepreneurship on the growth of small and medium scale enterprises in Enugu metropolis. Specifically, the objectives are:

- i. To assess the effect of Planning on the output of SMEs in Enugu state
- ii. To evaluate the effect of growth on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- i. What is the effect of planning on the output of SMEs in Enugu state?
- ii. What is the effect of growth on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State?

1.5 Statement of the Hypotheses

The following Hypotheses guided the study:

Ho1: Planning has no significant effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

Ho2: Growth has no significant effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The research work covered the effect of entrepreneurship on the growth of small and medium enterprise in Enugu Metropolis. The research work covered the small and medium scale enterprises in Enugu Metropolis. The management issues include: Planning, and growth as independent variables while output, and empowerment as dependable variables. The unit of analysis are the owners and senior staff of the selected SMEs in Enugu metropolis.

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship embodies a dynamic process encompassing activities such as envisioning, risk-taking, organizing, and establishing new business ventures. At its core, entrepreneurship is synonymous with innovation, bringing forth novel ideas, products, and processes. It serves as a driving force behind economic growth and enhances a country's global competitiveness by fostering the creation of new enterprises and value. Central to the entrepreneurial process is the identification, evaluation, and implementation of new business opportunities, often leading to the generation of employment and upliftment of living standards. Entrepreneurs are individuals who initiate and manage business ventures with limited resources, assuming full responsibility for the associated risks and rewards. Their endeavors typically focus on introducing new products or services, characterized by high returns and uncertainty. Entrepreneurs invest their time and capital in securing necessary resources, including capital, materials, and skilled personnel, while also overseeing critical functions such as marketing and distribution. Unlike inheriting or managing existing businesses, entrepreneurship entails venturing into uncharted territory, embracing change, and navigating through challenges to realize success (Dhar, 2020; Seth, 2019).

Entrepreneurship entails the creation or extraction of value and is often associated with disruptive change and risk-taking beyond the norm encountered in conventional business endeavors. While it primarily aims for economic gains, entrepreneurship encompasses broader values and societal impacts (Diochon & Anderson, 2011; Gaddefors & Anderson, 2017). It involves designing, launching, and managing new businesses, driven by the capacity and willingness to undertake risks in pursuit of profitability. Entrepreneurs, the driving forces behind these ventures, navigate various challenges, including financial constraints, market uncertainties, and regulatory hurdles. Despite the inherent risks, entrepreneurship remains a cornerstone of economic development, albeit fraught with challenges such as funding constraints, unfavorable government policies, and market dynamics (Belicove, 2012).

2.1.2 Components of Entrepreneurship

a. Planning

Planning is the cognitive process through which individuals or organizations devise strategies to achieve desired objectives. It is an essential aspect of management, encompassing decisions regarding what needs to be accomplished, when, how, and by whom. Planning is essentially forward-thinking, utilizing foresight to anticipate future scenarios and develop appropriate courses of action (Business Jargons, 2023). Sujan (2023) emphasizes planning as the proactive determination of objectives and the formulation of effective strategies to accomplish defined goals efficiently. This intellectual process involves predefining tasks, allocating resources, and assigning responsibilities in advance to ensure goal attainment.

Fundamentally, planning relies on the cognitive capacity for mental time travel, enabling individuals to envision desired outcomes and devise the necessary steps to realize them (Suddendorf & Corballis, 2007). Ayuba (2013) underscores planning as a managerial cornerstone, involving decisions on what, how, when, where, who, and why tasks should be executed. Jegede (2014) defines planning as the process of identifying goals and charting appropriate actions to achieve them, emphasizing the dual aspects of goal-setting and strategy development.

In organizational contexts, planning serves as a guiding force, providing a clear vision of the company's direction and how individual contributions align with overarching objectives. Ekwochi (2016) highlights planning as a multifaceted process encompassing the selection of objectives, policies, programs, and procedures for the entire organization or its structured components. This entails strategic decision-making at both corporate and departmental levels to chart a path toward desired outcomes.

Moreover, planning fosters cohesion within the organization by ensuring alignment between individual efforts and organizational goals. It comprises several phases, with strategic planning serving as the foundation for subsequent tactical, operational, and contingency planning (Hill, 2019). Each phase builds upon the preceding one, with strategic planning setting the overarching direction and subsequent phases refining implementation strategies to achieve desired results. Ultimately, planning enables organizations to anticipate challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and navigate toward success in an ever-evolving business landscape.

b. Growth

Growth encompasses various forms of development, ranging from physical expansion to organizational advancement. Etymologically rooted in the Old English word "growan," meaning "to grow or flourish," growth denotes an increase in size or complexity, evident in both biological organisms and human endeavors (vocabulary.com, 2021). Biologically, growth signifies the augmentation of an organism's size, often resulting from cellular proliferation. While growth may cease upon maturity in certain organisms, such as humans, it persists throughout the lifespan of many plants and animals (YourDictionary, 2021).

In the realm of organizations, growth pertains to the expansion of size, measured by factors like membership or employment. For businesses, especially family enterprises, growth is synonymous with increased profitability, expanded operations, and enhanced technological utilization, thereby fostering employment creation (Indeed, 2021). However, organizational growth is not a spontaneous phenomenon; rather, it is contingent upon strategic decisions and actions. These decisions, encompassing hiring, firing, output augmentation, and demand stimulation, are pivotal in driving expansion and aligning with the organization's overarching goals (Balasundaram & Avulakunta, 2021).

Organizational growth is a coveted objective for businesses of all scales, underpinned by various expansion strategies and influenced by industry trends, business lifecycle, and owners' aspirations for equity value creation (Indeed, 2021). Yet, growth entails risks, particularly for startups, necessitating deliberate planning and execution. Entrepreneurial growth entails deliberate efforts to enhance business quality, quantity, and turnover, manifesting in innovative initiatives, customer acquisition, and revenue augmentation (Marko, 2010).

Starbuck (1967), as cited in Walters (2020), characterizes organizational growth as a transformation in size, measured by membership or employment figures. This growth is closely linked to organizational change and is often synonymous with employee expansion. Consequently, organizational growth impacts employees' perceptions of organizational support, highlighting the intricate relationship between growth, change, and employee dynamics (Furxhi, Stillo & Teneqexhi, 2016).

In essence, growth is a cornerstone of business prosperity and survival, driving progress and adaptation in response to evolving market dynamics. It embodies the pursuit of strategic objectives and the willingness to navigate risks, thereby fueling entrepreneurial endeavors and organizational evolution in the pursuit of sustainable development.

2.1.5. Components of Growth

a. Output

Output in economics encompasses the quantity or quality of goods or services generated within a specified timeframe by a firm, industry, or organization. It represents the tangible or intangible outcome of organizational inputs into their activities or processes. This measure encompasses all products and services produced by businesses within an industry and subsequently sold to consumers or other businesses outside the industry. The purpose of business enterprise output is to meet or satisfy human needs, contributing to overall societal welfare (Ede & Mbah, 2020).

Furthermore, output serves as an indicator of worker or group efficiency within an organization, reflecting the volume of goods, services, or waste generated per employee. This metric offers insights into a company's capacity to achieve its goals effectively or inefficiently (Ede & Mbah, 2020).

In a broader context, output also refers to the total production of goods and services within a country over a specified period, commonly referred to as its gross domestic product (GDP). This term encompasses the entire spectrum of work, energy, goods, or services generated by individuals, companies, factories, or machines. Additionally, in the realm of computing, output denotes any processed data transmitted from a computer or similar electronic device. This includes all information displayed on computer monitors or any power or data exiting a system (MBN, 2021).

Ultimately, output encapsulates the act of production, the quantity produced, and the delivery process, representing a critical aspect of economic activity and organizational performance (YourDictionary, 2021).

b. Empowerment

Empowerment within the workplace denotes granting individuals the autonomy to determine how they pursue their professional objectives. It entails affording employees the flexibility to devise solutions that align with their

personal and career aspirations without being encumbered by rigid procedural constraints (Miller, 2022). This approach to empowerment holds significance for both employees and employers alike. For employees, it fosters a sense of control by involving them in decisions that affect their work, thereby enhancing productivity and averting boredom. From an employer's perspective, empowerment cultivates a happier, more engaged, and higher-performing workforce (Wong, 2023).

In management, empowerment represents a philosophy centered on granting employees the latitude to make autonomous decisions and take initiative as they deem appropriate, contrasting with micromanagement practices that stifle independent decision-making (Wong, 2023).

Moreover, empowerment in management posits that when employees are furnished with information, resources, and accountability for their job outcomes, their productivity and job satisfaction tend to increase. It involves delegating authority and responsibility to employees and involving them in decision-making processes across all levels of management, rather than solely in routine job activities (Business, 2023). The outcomes of employee empowerment are manifold, including fostering trust in leadership, bolstering employee motivation, fostering creativity, and enhancing retention rates, ultimately contributing to improved organizational performance (Business, 2023).

Various methods can be employed to empower employees, such as participation in decision-making boards, offering stock options, engaging in collective bargaining, implementing job enrichment and enlargement strategies, establishing quality circles, implementing suggestion schemes, adopting total quality management principles, and fostering self-managed teams, among others. These initiatives aim to enhance employee autonomy, engagement, and overall satisfaction, thereby contributing to organizational success (Business, 2023).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The Entrepreneurship Theory by Schumpeter (1991) guided the study;

2.2.2 Schumpeter's Entrepreneurship Theory

Entrepreneurship Theory was founded by Schumpeter (1991). The theory was premised on the idea that creativity and innovation are key factors in any entrepreneur's field. While Schumpeter (1991) argues that entrepreneurship knowledge can go a long way in helping the firm to become successful, the entrepreneur should be innovative in order to accumulate a lot of profit in a highly competitive and dynamic market. In the entrepreneurship theory, Schumpeter chooses a case of a capitalist closed economy that is in static equilibrium. He argued that the entrepreneurs always interfere this equilibrium position through the introduction of an innovation which helps to propel the economy to a new development level. In this case, innovation could occur in different ways such as innovation of recent products, methods of production, innovation in management processes, among other innovations. The entrepreneurship theory is suitable to this study because it accentuates function of e-procurement on performance of the SMEs. In relation to Schumpeter's Entrepreneurship Theory, the SMEs adopt e-procurement as an innovation to enable them performs above rivals. The SMES in Nairobi have employed several e-procurement technologies in order to increase operational efficiency. In this study therefore, Schumpeter's Entrepreneurship Theory offered a guide in the understanding of these technologies on the procurement processes and the overall performance. Schumpeter's entrepreneurship theory is credited to be a dynamic one, which is associated with Innovations of new products and processes.

This theory in support with objective one, two and four of the study, Innovation and creative destruction require entrepreneurs who develop new technologies, introduce more efficient production processes, and push out unproductive incumbents. Creative entrepreneurs are typically behind the most dynamic and productive

companies, which innovate, expand production, and create employment opportunities at a comparatively rapid rate (Lourdes & Soumitra, 2018).

Schumpeter's entrepreneurship theory associates entrepreneurship not only with organizations of businesses, but also with Innovations or continuous business development. Schumpeter costs entrepreneurship as the central factor of economic development. The result is not a doom of capitalism foreseen by least Marx, but a progressive free-enterprise system. Thus, it is the human factor which emerges as the dominant factor in business and economic development. The theory is of contemporary relevance, as evident from the current entrepreneurship and micro enterprises to combat multiple socioeconomic problems (Tariq, Haitham, Muhammad, Anwar & Gouher, 2019).

2.3 Empirical Review

Ogbuanu, Kabuoh & Okwu (2014) conducted a study on the Relevance of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Growth of the Nigerian Economy: A Study of Manufacturing SMEs. The study employed a time series research design and descriptive method of analysis to investigate the relevance of the manufacturing SMEs in growth of the Nigerian economy. Data were extracted from relevant publications of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Thus, the SMEs analyzed were those whose contributions to economic growth were published in the data sources. Graphs were used to enhance descriptive analysis of data values over time. Questions on the relevance of SMEs in economic growth were addressed from working propositions of no significant relevance. Results showed that the manufacturing SMEs made sizable contributions to the sustained increases in gross domestic product, sustained more than 7 per cent share in employment for greater part of the 2002-2012 period and maintained increasing shares in GDP. However, contributions to export commodities fluctuated with lowest levels experienced between 2008 and 2010.

Nwosu, Madu and Nwokocha (2019) carried out a study on a Nature and Determinants of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Location Factors in Enugu State, Nigeria. This study is aimed at assessing location factors of Small and Medium Scale industries in Enugu State. To achieve the aim of this study data were collected from field observations, questionnaire and documentary material. Data were collected on nature of SME location factors and determinants of SME location. Data were analysed using percentages and Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Results show that the 15 variables of factors of SME location were compressed to five important factors using PCA. The five factors are availability of economic factors such as market, raw material, labour, influence of infrastructure especially transportation route, family ties, agglomeration effect and Government policies. The five variables, explained 74.12% of the total variance leaving 25.88% of total variance unexplained at significant loadings exceeding ± 0.06 . This means that before any entrepreneur sets up SMEs in Enugu state, the person must consider the availability of these variables. Also, it shows that the five variables will affect the behavior of SME owner in their choice of location. Appropriate recommendation based on our findings includes provision of infrastructure especially roads and Small and medium scale industrial park, estate or clusters with up to date infrastructure.

Ede, Okolie and Igwe (2023) conducted a study on an Organizational Structure and Performance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES) in Enugu State, Nigeria. The total population for the study was three thousand, one hundred and ninety-four (3194). The sample size of three hundred and forty-two (342) was drawn using Freund and William's formula at 5 percent error margin. A survey design was adopted for the study. Instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire and interviews. A total of three hundred and forty-two (342) copies of questionnaire were distributed while two hundred and seventy-eight (278) copies of questionnaire were returned. Pearson correlation coefficient(r), was used to test the hypotheses, the findings include that there was positive

significant relationship between skill variety and reduced expenses of SMEs in Enugu state, $r(95, n=278) = .519 < .790, p < .05$. There was positive significant relationship between delegation and units of output produced by SMEs in Enugu state, $r(95, n=278) = .494 < .760, p < .05$. The study concluded that skill variety and delegation had positive significant relationship with reduced expenses and units of output produced by SMEs in Enugu state. Ndubuisi-Okolo and Yvette (2023) carried out a study on the Corporate Planning and Sustainability of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in Anambra State, Nigeria. A survey research design was adopted in the study. A population of 1737 Anambra State SMEs was studied. Taro Yamane formula yielded a 325-person sample. Structured Questionnaire was used as the survey instrument to elicit data from the respondents. The hypotheses were tested with the aid of SPSS version 25 using simple regression analysis. The findings revealed a significant positive effect between strategy formulation and technological innovation, strategy implementation and competitive advantage and strategy evaluation on operational efficiency of SMEs in Anambra State. The study, therefore, concludes that corporate planning has a substantial impact on SMEs' sustainability in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study further asserts that strong corporate planning methods will help SMEs expand and sustain their firm.

Asogwa & Arinze (2017) conducted a study on the Impact of Entrepreneurship Development on Economic Growth of Enugu State: A Study of Registered Entrepreneurs in Enugu State, Nigeria. The study used survey research design of which structured questionnaires were administered to the sample drawn from the population of the study. The data collected were analyzed with chi-square (X^2). The study discovered that entrepreneurial activities create job opportunities which subsequently enhance the standard of living of the people of Enugu State and therefore concludes that the role of entrepreneurial activities on economic development cannot be overemphasized because it enhances the socioeconomic well-being of the people.

Obananya (2022) carried out a study on Government Policies and the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Anambra State. Descriptive survey design was adopted. The Population was 1,200 SME operators in Anambra State. The sample size of 300 SMEs was employed using Yamane's formula. Questionnaire was the major instrument of data collection used in the study. Regression was used to analyse the formulated hypotheses in the study. The study discover that government credit policy granted, government tax policy and government licensing policy has a significant positive effect on the growth of small and medium enterprises in Onitsha North Local Government area, Anambra State. The study concludes that government policy has a positive significant effect on the growth of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

Methodology

The study employed descriptive survey design. The area of the study comprised of five (5) selected SMEs made up of Domestic & Industrial Plastic Rubber and Foam Firms in Enugu metropolis and Member Companies of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) South-East Geo-Political Zone. The population of the study consists of the owners and senior staff of the selected SMEs in Enugu metropolis with the total population of three hundred and sixty-four (364). The study made use of the whole population as its sample size due to small number. The main instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire; the study made use of oral interview. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to staff of the organizations studied. The instrument was given to two experts from the industry and academia to measure face and content validity. To make sure that the research instruments applied in the work are valid, the research ensured that the instrument measure the concept they are supposed to measure. The reliability of the study was done by administering 20 copies of the prepared questionnaire to the sample of the study. Cronbah's Alpha was used in determining the extent of consistency of the reliability. Scale reliabilities were calculated using Cronbach's Alpha; the result obtained was 0.870. This shows that the internal consistency of the scale is good for the purpose of this study because it is greater than 0.87 which was good. The questionnaire responses were grouped into various categories and entered in the SPSS

software to facilitate analysis using descriptive statistics. Data was collected, coded, grouped into frequencies, and arranged into tables for ease of reference. Data from the questionnaire were administered and analyzed using simple percentages, mean and standard deviation, and the research hypotheses were tested using Z – test.

Data Presentation and Analyses

4.1 Distribution and returned Questionnaire

Three hundred and sixty-four (364) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents and three hundred and nineteen (319) copies were returned representing ninety-two (92%) percent, while forty-five (45) copies of the questionnaire were not returned representing eight percent (8%). This shows a high rate of the respondents.

4.2 Data presentation

4.2.1 The effect of Planning on the output of SMEs in Enugu state

Table 4.2.1: Responses on the effect of Planning on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

		5	4	3	2	1	ΣFX	-	SD	Decision
		SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		
1	Planning helps a business set realistic objectives	38 5 77	608 152 8.0	48 16 12.8	96 48 4.3	26 26 11.2	116 319 100%	3.64	1.227	Agree
2	Assigning stipulated times for those goals to be met are facilitated by planning	54 5 10 9	500 125 8.0	24 8 12.2	98 49 7.4	28 28 11.2	119 319 100%	3.73	1.308	Agree
3	Planning let the organization set benchmarks	37 0 74	512 128 44.7	78 26 5.9	112 56 5.3	35 35 11.2	111 319 100%	3.48	1.314	Agree
4	There is effective accountability for what we do	21 5 43 48 9	700 175 17.0	15 5 13.3	126 63 9.6	33 33 11.2	108 319 100%	3.38	1.238	Agree
5	The use of planning help us decide how best to use our resource (people, time, money etc)	51 0 10 2 26 1	448 112 54.8	27 9 6.9	136 68 2.1	28 28 10.1	115 319 100%	3.60	1.356	Agree
Total Grand mean and standard deviation								3.56	1.288	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.2.1, 229 respondents out of 319 representing 71.8 percent agreed that Planning helps a business set realistic objectives 3.64 and standard deviation of 1.227. Assigning stipulated times for those goals to be met are

facilitated by planning 234 respondents representing 69.2 percent agreed with mean score of 3.73 and standard deviation of 1.308. Planning let the organization set benchmarks 202 respondents representing 77.7 percent agreed with mean score of 3.48 and standard deviation of 1.314. There is effective accountability for what we do 218 respondents representing 65.9 percent agreed with mean score of 3.38 and 1.238. The use of planning help us decide how best to use our resource (people, time, money etc) 214 respondents representing 80.9 percent agreed with a mean score of 3.60 and standard deviation 1.356

4.2.2 The effect of growth on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State

Table 4.2.2: Responses on the effect of growth on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State

		5	4	3	2	1	∑FX	-	SD	Decisio
		SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		n
1	Career advancement enhances the ability of SMEs	635	304	33	130	40	114	3.57	1.485	Agree
		127	76	11	65	40	319			
			8.0	12.8	4.3	11.	100%			
		63.8				2				
2	The improved performance promotes efforts of SMEs	360	524	33		40	108	3.38	1.363	Agree
		72	131	11	130	40	319			
		61.2	8.0	12.2	65	11.	100%			
					7.4	2				
3	Employee productivity is increased with the contribution of significant social change	360	520	33		33	109	0.34	1.334	Disagree
		72	130	11	146	33	319			
		33.0	44.7	5.9	73	11.	100%			
					5.3	2				
4	The leadership development encourages SMEs to live to the fullest potential and to own their own work	680		42	130	26	119	3.73	1.395	Agree
		136	316	14	65	26	319			
		48.9	79	13.3	9.6	11.	100%			
			17.0			2				
5	Growth improve the social status and well-being of marginalized groups	430	396	39	130	14	101	3.16	1.314	Agree
		98	99	13	95	14	319			
		26.1	54.8	6.9	2.1	10.	100%			
						1				
Total Grand mean and standard deviation								2.83	1.378	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.2.2, 203 respondents out of 319 representing 71.8 percent agreed that Career advancement enhances the ability of SMEs with mean sore 3.57 and standard deviation of 1.485. The improved performance promotes efforts of SMEs 203 respondents representing 69.2 percent agreed with mean score of 3.38 and standard deviation of 1.363. Employee productivity is increased with the contribution of significant social change 202 respondent representing 77.7 percent agreed with mean score of 0.34 and standard deviation of 1.334. The leadership development encourages SMEs to live to the fullest potential and to own their own work 215 respondents representing 65.9 percent agreed with mean score of 3.73 and 1.395. Growth improve the social status and well-

being of marginalized groups 197 respondents representing 80.9 percent agreed with a mean score of 3.16 and standard deviation 1.314

4.3 Test of Hypotheses

4.3.1 Hypothesis Three: Planning has effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

Table 4.3.1 Shows the One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test Planning has effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

	Planning helps a business set realistic objectives	Assigning stipulated time for those goals to be met are facilitated by planning	Planning let the organization set benchmarks	There is effective accountability for what we do	The use of planning help us decide how best to use our resource (people, time, money etc)
N	319	319	319	319	319
Uniform Parameters ^{a,b}					
Minimum	1	1	1	1	1
Maximum	5	5	5	5	5
Most Extreme Differences					
Abso lute	.468	.484	.383	.433	.421
Positi ve	.082	.088	.110	.115	.088
Nega tive	-.468	-.484	-.383	-.433	-.421
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z	8.356	8.636	6.845	7.741	7.517
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

a. Test distribution is Uniform.

b. Calculated from data.

Decision Rule

If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis accordingly.

Result

With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – values ranging from $7.517 < 8.636$ and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms that the assertion of the most of the respondents that Planning had significant positive effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

Decision

Furthermore, comparing the calculated Z- values ranging from $7.517 < 8.636$ against the critical Z- value of .000 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis were rejected. Thus the alternative hypothesis was accepted which states that Planning had significant positive effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state.

4.3.2 Hypothesis Four: Growth has effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State.

Table 4.3.2 shows One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test Growth has effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State.

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		The improved performance promotes the efforts of SMEs	Employee productivity is increased with the contribution of significant social change	The leadership development encourages SMEs to live to the fullest potential and to own their own work	Growth improve the social status and well-being of marginalized groups
N		319	319	319	319
Uniform Parameters ^{a,b}	Minimum	1	1	1	1
	Maximum	5	5	5	5
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.398	.386	.383	.423
	Positive	.125	.125	.103	.082
	Negative	-.398	-.386	-.383	-.423
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		7.111	6.901	6.845	7.559
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000

a. Test distribution is Uniform.

b. Calculated from data.

Decision Rule

If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis accordingly.

Result

With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – values ranging from $6.565 < 7.559$ and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms that the assertion of the most of the respondents that Growth had significant positive effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State.

Decision

Furthermore, comparing the calculated Z- values ranging from $6.565 < 7.559$ against the critical Z- value of .000 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis were rejected. Thus the alternative hypothesis was accepted which states that Growth had significant positive effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State.

5.1 Summary of Findings

- i. Planning had significant positive effect on the output of SMEs in Enugu state, $Z (95, n = 319), 7.517 < 8.636, P. < .05$.
- ii. Growth had significant positive effect on the empowerment of SMEs in Enugu State, $Z (95, n = 319), 6.565 < 7.559, P. < .05$

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that in Enugu State, planning and growth significantly increased production and empowered SMEs. The process of entrepreneurship include finding, assessing, and launching new company opportunities. The process also entails the founding of new companies and businesses. Additionally, the invention is a crucial component of the procedure. The procedure raises living standards, creates jobs, and has an impact on the expansion and improvement of the economy. The observation and utilization of novel opportunities in the business domain are the fundamental components of entrepreneurship. It always involves diverting national resources from their customary usage and putting them in novel combinations, resulting in an alternative method of using them.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendation was made:

- i. The management of SMEs should try and have plans, as this will encourages innovation and creativity: Planning involves looking ahead and preparing for the future.
- ii. For long-term survival of a business, acquire assets, attract new talent, fund investments and drives business performance the management of the small medium enterprises should work hard for growth.

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