



Social Entrepreneurship as Catalyst for Solving Socioeconomic Problems Created by Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown

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ABSTRACT

The financial situation has collapsed radically amidst the double shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and the plunge in world oil prices in 2020. The lockdown measures imposed by the central government due to COVID-19 caused a lot of financial problems among the younger generation. Therefore, social entrepreneurs are found to become crucial in responding to government failure in solving complex problems and in promoting economic development initiatives at all levels. If this is true, it then becomes imperative to find out whether social entrepreneurship has any cogent relationship in solving social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic among the youth. The review inspected social business as an impetus for tackling social and financial issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Three specific purposes, each relating to research questions and speculations directed the review. The review took on a clear study research plan. The number of inhabitants in the review included every one of the social business people and the Non-Governmental Organizations directors. A sample of 400 entrepreneurs and 80 directors were purposively drawn for the study. The findings showed among others that the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship education, literacy education, training, seminars and workshops can empower and liberate the youths from the menace of idleness and poverty. The findings also revealed a significant relationship between social entrepreneurship in curbing social economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The study concluded by recommending among others the formulation of various policies to support the operation and activities of social entrepreneurs.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian economy is the largest in the West African sub-locale (Anthony *et al.*, 2018; Sharma, 2019). The nation is invested with plentiful normal assets going from strong minerals to ripe arable land with assortments of rural produce and HR (Adekunle & Adeyemo, 2020). By and by, Nigeria is the biggest oil maker in Sub-Saharan Africa and beginning around 1971 an individual from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) simultaneously has the third largest number of individuals on the planet (Akinrele, 2016; Oyeranmi, 2020; Oluniyi, 2017; Duruigbo, 2005; Adamolekun, 2019). Despite the abundant blessings of human and natural resources, Nigeria remains rated among the poor nations of the world. A blessing now seems to be a curse to the country over time.

In Nigeria, like any modern society, many contemporary social problems have emerged due to the economic situation which is contrary to the norms, morals, ethics and culture of the society and of course, these make life unbearable, insecure and uncomfortable for her citizens. Some of the contemporary social problems in Nigeria include; poverty, corruption, insecurity and insurgencies, high levels of unemployment, poor standard of education, illiteracy, domestic violence, high morbidity and mortality rates, inequality and national identity.

These problems have reduced the standard of living beyond an acceptable level and at the same time affected the daily lives of most Nigerians. The inquiry to be posed is the reason a country, for example, Nigeria which is normally and profoundly enriched with quite possibly of the most important asset (crude oil) in the world has fair disproportionately badly in economic and social terms. Adams (2019) identified the causes of the economic and social challenges in Nigeria as incapable administration and defilement, over-dependence on oil, unfamiliar trade strategy, joblessness, expansion, weakness, deficient power supply and infrastructural improvement and lacking well-being offices. Right now, Nigeria's economy is in a downturn, and this predicts a revolting skyline for the harmony and strength of the country.

The report of poverty rate, according to them, in over around 50% of Nigeria's 36 states is over 69%. High destitution reflects rising joblessness, assessed at 23.1% in 2018, up from 14.2% in 2016.

The report further emphasized low abilities limit open doors for youth work in the conventional areas notwithstanding government social programs and youth strengthening plans to address joblessness in the country. The impact of joblessness and unemployment is often closely related to the youth population of any country when discussed. In Nigeria, the youths are often the focus when unemployment, economic recession and social problems are discussed. What this implies is that the level of unemployment and socio-economic problems of a country are twin brothers which directly affect and determine the level of crimes. The federal government in 2008, acknowledged that about 80% of Nigeria's youths are unemployed. Similarly, the NBS in 2019 noted that 40.1% of Nigeria's total population is poor and that the youth population of Nigeria falls within this percentage. This implies that as of 2008, the majority of Nigerian youths were unemployed. There is no arguing the fact that the youths of any nation are its future and if these youths do not have the opportunities to utilize their potential and energies in productive activities, they will use it on other things, this means the country is at the risk of losing these energies and potentials to criminal activities. The interplay between unemployment, youth-related crimes and the magnitude of the danger which it poses to society is indeed alarming and shocking. The rate of unemployment within the youth age group of 15 and 35 years has been a major factor contributing to socioeconomic

problems and criminal tendencies among the youth and this is threatening the economic development of Nigeria. It is a fact that high unemployment created social tensions among the youths in Nigeria.

The financial situation has radically decayed amid the twin shocks of the Coronavirus pandemic and the worldwide oil cost crash in the year 2020. The lockdown measure forced by the central government because of Coronavirus made a great deal of financial issues outstanding among the young people in Lagos and Ogun states of Nigeria.

The coronavirus-induced disruption to activity further darkened the economic outlook and gingered the notorious marauders bandits in Lagos state and Ogun state into action. While Nigerians were worried about the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), most residents of Lagos state and their neighbouring state (Ogun) were more concerned about their security following attacks and intentions of attack by criminals. These attacks started barely hours after President Muhammadu Buhari announced the complete lockdown of Lagos, Ogun states and the Federal capital region to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Strain, but heightened for occupants in the limits of the two states.

A cause of concern is the bulk of unemployed Lagosian youths turning into undesirable elements, as the average of them has been involved in almost every crime imaginable. There appears an increase in youth-related crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in southwest Nigeria. However, of more concern is the criminalities activities of the notorious youth group marauders called “Awawa Boys”, “No Case Boys”, “No Salary Boys”, “Omo Kesari Boys” and “One Million Boys” who had ravaged the borders of Lagos and Ogun states respectively during COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. These boys are notorious, they moved in pretty large numbers of between 50 and 100 wielding small but deadly arms such as razor blades and stitching awls, small axes, handguns and machete are used for their operations. They are also known for their abuse of drugs, as an average of these groups takes a cocktail of drugs ranging from skunk to Indian hemp, codeine, Rohypnol and tramadol. The groups which many consider a male cult sect also have female members. For now, the residents do not feel secure as they are scared and always on high alert and also lock doors and gates to avoid uninvited guests. When accosted, the groups blamed their predicaments on unemployment, corruption and bad leadership, poverty and illiteracy, and hunger having been off their daily source of livelihood as a result of the economic recession and COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Generally, youth restiveness occurs for many reasons such as loss of moral value, obnoxious government policies, neglect of corporate social responsibility, inequality in development and unequal distribution of national wealth and resources. In a nutshell, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown has caused panic and unrest in the suburbs of Lagos and Ogun states. Must Nigerians watch these boys kill, maim, steal and destroy their property? The answer is NO.

To achieve social and economic development, Nigerian youths must be properly equipped, invested, trained and empowered to sustain all aspects of programmes and initiatives that will solve the youths’ immediate social and economic problems in enhancing national development as well. This goes to show that, tackling socio-economic problems among the youths requires empowering them economically because economic power is what gives one the confidence to contribute meaningfully to the community and the society at large. As a Yoruba proverb says “Ailowo lowo baba ijaya” meaning ‘lack of money is the father of fear’.

Social entrepreneurs are increasingly playing a pivotal role in empowering and promoting inter-sector initiatives to address economic and social problems in states, local, individual and

in the communities. Social entrepreneurship is found to be crucial in responding to government failure in solving complex problems and in promoting economic development initiatives at all levels in Nigeria. If this is true, it then becomes imperative to find out whether social entrepreneurship has any cogent relationship in solving social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic among the youths in Nigeria and mostly in Lagos state and Ogun state respectively.

Before delving into the topic at hand, it is expedient to make clear some key impressions guiding this paper.

Nigeria is in decaying social and economic conditions. The socio-economic conditions in Nigeria in the past few years seem to have been going through some challenges of youth unemployment, insecurity, crimes corruption at high places and ineffective leadership. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to worsen the socio-economic and nearly bring the country to a halt or total collapse as some sects of notorious youths called “one million boys”, “awawa”, “omo Kesari”, “no salary” and “no case” took over the city of Lagos and the neighbouring state (Ogun). The notorious boys usually in large numbers of 50 to 100 complained bitterly when apprehended by police of being marginalized, having no means of income and being economically poor by all standards. Many of these boys migrated to urban without any jobs, they had no relation to stay with or accommodation and no infrastructure to take care of them. Thus, these unemployed youths turned to become criminals to survive.

These youths and their desperation seem to have piped their intrinsic innovativeness into savage wrongdoings, an energy that could have been used to drop-forged into kinetic economic assets. The question to be asked is; why has so little been done in terms of jobs and wealth creation by government and private individuals? Why are these youths not empowered despite all the government programmes to alleviate poverty among the youths? The crux of this study is to look at how social entrepreneurship programmes found in adult education and its programmes can be used to reduce the menace of youth crimes, reduce poverty and solve socio-economic problems in Nigeria.

The purposes of the study are the following:

- (i) Ascertain the relevance of social entrepreneurship in jobs and wealth creation for the unemployed and the notorious youths in Lagos state, Nigeria.
- (ii) Find out if social entrepreneurship programmes are the best solution to solving social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic in Lagos state, Nigeria.
- (iii) Examine the roles of social entrepreneurship activities in reducing the level of crimes among the notorious youths in Lagos state, Nigeria.

The research questions are the following:

- (i) Of what relevance is social entrepreneurship in creating jobs and wealth for the unemployed and the notorious youths in Lagos state, Nigeria?
- (ii) How will social entrepreneurship programmes solve the social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Lagos state, Nigeria?
- (iii) What significant roles will SE activities play in reducing the level of crimes among the youths in Lagos state, Nigeria?

The research hypotheses are the following

- (i) Social entrepreneurship will not be significantly relevant in creating jobs and wealth for the unemployed youths in Lagos state, Nigeria.
- (ii) There is no significant relationship between SE programmes in solving social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown in Lagos state, Nigeria.
- (iii) Social entrepreneurship activities will not play a significant role in reducing the level of crimes among the youths in Lagos state, Nigeria.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Concept of Social Entrepreneurship (SE)

Social entrepreneurship (SE) as a concept can imply different meanings to different people. Some people attribute it to non-profit or earned income ventures, others mention it as a business owner who incorporates social responsibility into their operations. [Kelvin \(2010\)](#) expressed that there is ample definition of SE which also reflects different regional differences. For example, in the US, social entrepreneurship addresses the market-based approaches to income generating and social change, whereas in Europe, SE is located in the cooperative tradition of collective social action. The UK derives from both backgrounds implying that SE is chiefly a business strategy with social objectives whose profits can be reinvested for that purpose in the business or the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximize profit for shareholders and owners. There has been an increase in the number of countries and companies that have started to think about corporate social responsibility (CSR) due to an increase in social problems and emerging new challenges in the world. Social entrepreneurs must integrate social responsibility into their business operations. SE as the process of pursuing innovative solutions to social problems.

In this vein, [Gandi and Raina \(2018\)](#) characterized social business ventures as the mark of cutting-edge society and concurred that SE comprises further developing frameworks, conceiving new methodologies, getting a handle on open doors others miss and producing answers for changing society for the better. [Gandi and Raina \(2018\)](#) distinguished funding market, administration, market disappointment, mission, asset preparation and execution estimation as the boundaries separating SE from customary undertakings.

This view is in opposition to [Gandhi and Raina \(2018\)](#). They saw that the predominant variable for the ascent of SE is the cultural tension that is compelling people to work on something for the general public and its current day undertakings at large but simultaneously having a financial addition element to it that can cause them to make due in this world too. [Dacin et al. \(2010\)](#) contended that SE is remarkable in that it includes a progressive requesting of social and monetary worth by which social worth overshadows the age of economic rents.

From the above discourse, it tends to be found that SE is progressively turning into a fundamental and exceptionally critical component in the overall conversation on volunteerism and community responsibility in tackling social and monetary issues simultaneously decreasing the degree of violations. Hence, any meaning of social business ought to describe the requirement for elective market programs that work for business people. Social orders rely upon business visionaries to drive work development, improve answers for monetary moves and proffer answers for squeezing issues and trailblazer innovations. Consequently, SE ought not to be viewed as a panacea since it works inside the general social and monetary system that merits additional consideration from the scholastic talk as well as strategy creators in creating economies. Focusing on aid and palliative from the government alone will not solve the socioeconomic problems created by COVID-19 nor will relying on government effort also solve it.

The applicability of social entrepreneurship in solving social and economic problems is perhaps the most reliable approach to creating jobs and wealth that will benefit the targeted groups (youths) and society at large. Hence, SE as an approach to solving social and economic problems should be embraced and government policies to support it should be designed in developing economies like Nigeria. In light of the above, this study intends to look at social entrepreneurship programmes found in adult education as a means of empowering the

famous notorious group of boys and solving social and economic problems created by the Covid-19 lockdown and economic recession in Nigeria.

2.2. Nexus between Adult Education and Social Entrepreneurship Programme

Education be it formal, informal and non-formal remains the most effective means of solving social and economic problems in modern-day society. The purpose of adult education as spelt out and affirmed by UNESCO is to liberate adults and youths from ignorance, poverty, and idleness and make them aware of their responsibilities to themselves, their community and the nation at large (see <https://unesdoc.unesco.org> on). In the same vein, [Fajonyomi \(2015\)](#) reiterated that the definition of adult education clearly shows that an individual could gain technical and professional competence, acquire new or additional skills and knowledge, and have a change of attitude and behaviour, all of which could translate to improvement in livelihoods and significant transformation of the community. Hence, the role of adult education in individual development to be economically viable is germane and it then becomes an escape route in solving social economic problems among the youth.

Examples of adult education and its programmes prescribed in this study in reducing socio-economic problems and empowering the notorious youths disturbing the peace of the states are; entrepreneurship education, empowerment programmes such as vocational skills acquisition, conscientization education, community education and fundamental adult education. There can also be training, seminars, and workshops for the unemployed and the notorious youths to create awareness and disseminate information on job and wealth creation to the youths.

These are the types of education programmes that can empower the youths, solve socio-economic problems and reduce crimes in society. It can equally bring the youths to the information on changes in the mechanical and specialized world. They are programmes that can equip the youths with skills, knowledge and change in behaviours required for the identification of resources around them, and also creatively transform them to be resourceful to themselves and the community that hosts them at large.

Similarly, the goal of SE is to proffer solutions to the socio-economic problems of society. This can only be attained through the nexus of adult education and social entrepreneurship programmes that can take different forms such as training, seminars, workshops, simulations and development programmes such as vocational, trade engagements, apprenticeship and internship. These programmes are educational and they are good in:

- (i) Training the youths in the skills needed to set up a business and manage it to grow and stabilize.
- (ii) Raising awareness and motivating the unemployed and the notorious youths to start a business.
- (iii) Introducing and creating basic values of the businesses to individuals.
- (iv) Developing and managing a business successfully.
- (v) Providing viable business ideas to people.

In a nutshell, these are the programmes that can impact the relevant skills, knowledge, attitudes and values of the youths in reducing crimes and solving socio-economic problems of any given society.

Providing the youths with these educational programmes may prevent them from becoming involved with gangs (such as identified earlier), drugs and violence as well as boosting the living standards of households by expanding opportunities, raising productivity and increasing the youth earning power. To this extent, Nigeria youths cannot but equip themselves with educational opportunities found in adult education that can give them

relevant skills to have a means of income and to reduce their poverty level which was one of the causes identified as a reason for joining the notorious groups and their involvement in crimes.

3. METHODS

A survey research design was adopted to assess the role of social entrepreneurship in solving social and economic problems created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Nigeria. The population of the study comprises all the social entrepreneurs and all the registered NGOs in Lagos State, Nigeria.

A simple random sampling technique was used to select twenty entrepreneurs each in a ward and four registered NGO directors from the ten out of eleven wards that made up Alimosho local government twenty entrepreneurs each in a ward and four NGOs directors from ten out of eleven wards in Oshodi-Isolo local government of Lagos State, giving a total of four hundred entrepreneurs and eighty NGOs Directors as the sample size. A purposive random sampling technique was used in selecting the 400 entrepreneurs and 80 NGO directors from the wards.

Research-structured questionnaires were utilized for information assortment. The instrument has two sections (1 and 2). Section one contained the individual information of the respondents while section two contained a 25-item poll organized on a 4-point rating scale to get reactions from respondents. The reaction choices are evaluated in this manner: Strongly Agree (SA) - 4 point, Agree (A) - 3 point, Disagree (D) - 2 point and Strongly Disagree (SD) - 1 point. The decision rule was accomplished utilizing the mean of the point thus; $4+3+2+1 \div 4 = 2.5$, which accordingly was the measure reference point at which to accept or reject an item as agreed or disagreed.

The instrument was validated by four experts. Two from Measurement and Evaluation in the Department of Educational Foundations and two from the Department of Adult Education all from the faculty of education, University of Lagos. Through the split-half method, the internal consistency of the instrument was determined. Using the SPSS software, a reliability estimates of 0.72 was obtained which was high enough to consider the instrument suitable for the study. And with the help of two research assistants copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents and collected same after completion. All the four hundred and eighty questionnaires administered, representing 100% were retrieved back and this served as the sample size. The data collected were all good for analysis. The data were analysed using mean scores and Pearson Correlation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research Question One: what relevance is social entrepreneurship in creating jobs and wealth for the unemployed youths in Lagos state, Nigeria?

Table 1 shows that the estimated mean $(6.00+24.00)/2 = 15.00$ and the calculated mean is 18.1354. The calculated mean is greater than the estimated mean. This implies the extent of relevance at which social entrepreneurship will create jobs and wealth for the unemployed youths in Nigeria will be high. Hence, the respondents agreed that social entrepreneurship can create jobs and wealth, social entrepreneurship is a means of earning income, social entrepreneurship can be used to empower the youth, social entrepreneurship can change the economy for the better and is a solution to joblessness.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of the relevance of Social Entrepreneurship in creating jobs and wealth.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Social Entrepreneurship and Jobs and Wealth Creation	480	6.00	24.00	18.1354	5.45511
Valid N (listwise)	480				

4.2. Research Question 2: How will social entrepreneurship programmes solve the socio-economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Lagos and Ogun state of Nigeria?

Table 2 shows that the estimated mean is $(7.00+28.00)/2 = 17.50$ and the calculated mean is 21.1062. The calculated mean is greater than the estimated mean. This implies that the extent to at social entrepreneurship programmes will solve the socio-economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Lagos and Ogun state of Nigeria is high. Thus, the respondents agreed that entrepreneurship education can enlighten the youths on their area of interest, the youths need entrepreneurship education for their empowerment, seminars and workshops can improve their self-efficacy on the right skills needed, and literacy education is needed to become a social entrepreneur, right empowerment training can liberate youths from poverty and idleness, social entrepreneur programmes are needed to be socially and economically viable, and investment workshops can help them in the proper use of factors of production.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics on social entrepreneurship programmes and socio-economic problems created by covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Social Entrepreneurship Programmes and Socio-Economic Problems	480	7.00	28.00	21.1062	5.60859
Valid N (listwise)	480				

4.3. Research Question Three: Discuss the roles of social entrepreneurship activities in reducing the level of crimes among the youths in Nigeria.

Table 3 shows that the estimated mean $(6.00+24.00)/2 = 15.00$ and the calculated mean is 18.5229. The calculated mean is greater than the estimated mean. This implies the high extent social entrepreneurship activities will play in reducing the level of crimes among the youths in Nigeria. Hence, the respondents agreed that meeting the needs of the youths in society can reduce crime, providing civic volunteerism and commitments to the unemployed youths will reduce the level of crime, involving in corporate social responsibility at grass root level will reduce the level of crime, bringing radical economic empowerment programmes to the youth at community level will reduce crime, and creating jobs for the unemployed youths will reduce crime in Nigeria.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on Social Entrepreneurship Activities and Crimes

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Social entrepreneurship activities and crimes	480	6.00	24.00	18.5229	0.21110
Valid N (listwise)	480				

4.4. Testing of Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance.

4.4.1. Ho1: Social entrepreneurship will not be significantly relevant in creating jobs and wealth for unemployed youths in Lagos state, Nigeria.

Table 4 shows that correlation value (r) = 0.972 which is significant at 0.05 significance level. This implies that there is a positive and significant relationship between social entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs and wealth for the unemployed youths in Nigeria. Thus, reject Ho1.

Table 4. Correlation statistics on social entrepreneurship and creation of jobs and wealth.

		Creation of Jobs and Wealth	Social Entrepreneurship
Creation of jobs and wealth	Pearson Correlation	1	0.972**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	480	480
Social entrepreneurship	Pearson Correlation	0.972**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	480	480

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.4.2. Ho2: There will be no significant relationship between social entrepreneurship programmes in solving social-economic problems created by the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown in Nigeria.

Table 5 shows that correlation value (r) = -0.988 which is significant at 0.05 significance level. This implies that there is a positive and significant relationship between social entrepreneurship programmes in solving socioeconomic problems in Nigeria. Thus, reject Ho2.

Table 5. Correlation statistics on social entrepreneurship programmes in solving social-economic problems.

		Social Entrepreneurship	Socio-Economic Problems
Social entrepreneurship	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.988**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	480	480
Socio-economic problems	Pearson Correlation	-0.988**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	480	480

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.4.3. Ho3: Social entrepreneurship activities will not play a significant role in reducing the level of crime among the youths in Nigeria.

Table 6 shows that correlation value (r) = -0.974 which is significant at 0.05 significance level. This implies that there is a positive and significant relationship between social entrepreneurship programmes and the reduction of the level of crime among the youths in Nigeria. Thus, reject Ho3.

Table 6. Correlation Statistics on social entrepreneurship activities and reduction of level of crimes.

		Social Entrepreneurship	Reduction Of Level Of Crimes
Social entrepreneurship	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.974**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	480	480
Reduction of level of crimes	Pearson Correlation	-0.974**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	480	480

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.5. Discussion of Findings

From the findings of the study, it was evident that social entrepreneurship is a catalyst in solving socio-economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Lagos state, Nigeria. The result emanating from the study revealed there is a positive and significant relationship between the two variables examined in the study. The results from research question one and hypothesis one showed that the respondents strongly agreed with all the items about the relevance of social entrepreneurship in creating jobs and wealth for unemployed youths in Lagos state, Nigeria. This is in line with [Gandi and Raina \(2018\)](#) that SE is a means of improving systems that are generating solutions to change society for better conditions. The finding is also in consonance with [Dacin et al. \(2010\)](#). They reiterated that with social entrepreneurship social value will take precedence over a generation of economic rents. This in a real sense will create jobs and employment opportunities for those who are searching for jobs.

Research question two and hypothesis two showed that the respondents strongly agreed that entrepreneurship education, literacy education, training, seminars and workshops can empower and liberate the youths from the menace of idleness and poverty. This is in agreement with [Fajonyomi \(2015\)](#) who pointed out individuals can be empowered, gain competencies, and acquire new skills and knowledge through adult education and its programmes such as training, seminars, and workshops. These findings were supported by Kevin (2010) who found out that SE addresses the best approaches in generating income and bringing about change in behaviour among the youths in any given society.

The opinions of respondents regarding the impact of social entrepreneurship in reducing the level of crime posits that providing civic volunteerism, commitment and meeting the needs of the youths will reduce the level of crimes among the youths in Lagos state, Nigeria. This finding was in line with the report of the African Development Bank Group that youth empowerment schemes will address the unemployment problem in Nigeria. Social entrepreneurs must integrate social responsibility into their business operations to reduce the level of crimes and empower the youth. Summarily, the findings of the study showed that

SE programmes and social entrepreneurs' activities play a pivotal role in reducing socio-economic problems in Lagos state, Nigeria.

5. CONCLUSION

The paper explores social entrepreneurship as a means of solving social and economic problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in Nigeria. The paper examined the socio-economic situation before and during the COVID-19 lockdown and the incessant operations of famous youth groups disturbing Lagos and Ogun states during the lockdown. The lockdown has caused panic and unrest in the suburbs of the two states. Hence, causing social problems.

Conclusively, this study has shown the importance of social entrepreneurship programmes found in adult education in empowering, sensitizing, informing, and modifying the behaviours of the youth in concordance with the norms, values and culture of the society.

In addition, the findings of the study revealed that the aforementioned programs were the best solutions for solving social and economic problems because of the pandemic and the monetary downturn. Hence, the contribution of SE to individual, community and national development cannot be over-emphasized.

Given the discoveries, these accompanying suggestions were made:

- (i) Government at various levels in Nigeria (Local, State and Federal) should embrace social entrepreneurship by formulating various policies to support the operation and activities of social entrepreneurs. In doing so, the government can assist in giving delicate credits, acquisition of gear, offering warning types of assistance and different impetuses which can help and other incentives which can aid and boost the morale of social entrepreneurs.
- (ii) There should be frequent, at least quarterly empowerment programmes and assessment needs of the unemployed youths. The empowerment programmes should be creative and innovative to stir and spur the youths into action.
- (iii) The NGOs and private individuals should as part of their functions and services to humanity sensitize the youths through seminars, trainings, campaigns and capacity building. Through this, unemployed youths can develop entrepreneurial competencies as a means of earning income and reducing poverty since idle hands are known to be the devil's workshop.

6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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