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Data Article

Q1 Contribution of small and medium enterprises to economic development: Evidence from a transiting economy

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 13 January 2018

Received in revised form

21 March 2018

Accepted 27 March 2018

Keywords:

Entrepreneurship

SMEs

Economic development

Transiting economy

Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The focus of this research was to present a data article on the contribution of SMEs to economic development in a transiting economy. Descriptive research design was adopted in this study. Data were obtained from 600 respondents in 60 small-scale enterprises located in different parts of the country (20 small-scale enterprises located in Lagos State, 20 in Anambra State and 20 in Kano State of Nigeria respectively). Data analysis was carried out using tables and percentages and the null hypotheses of the study was tested using chi-square (X^2) inferential statistical model at 5% level of significance. The findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between the operation of small and medium-scale enterprises and economic growth in developing nations.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.03.126>

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Specifications Table

Subject area	<i>Entrepreneurship, Economy</i>
More specific subject area	<i>Small and Medium Enterprises, Economic Development</i>
Type of data	<i>Table, figure</i>
How data was acquired	<i>Researcher made questionnaire analysis</i>
Data format	<i>Raw, analyzed, descriptive and statistical data</i>
Experimental factors	- <i>Samples consist of owner/managers of SMEs in three major commercial states of Nigeria.</i> - <i>In this paper, the strategic contributions of SMEs to job creation, poverty alleviation and standard of living of people was studied.</i>
Experimental features	<i>SMEs are critical to economic development, especially of transiting economies</i>
Data source location	<i>SMEs in Lagos, Anambra and Kano States of Nigeria</i>
Data accessibility	<i>Data is included in this article</i>

Value of the data

- These data describe demographic data of SME owner/managers across three strategic industrial sectors in Nigeria, in order to understand the influence of their background factors to issues relating to SMEs' contribution to economic development.
- The data showed that SMEs contributions are very essential to improving economic development especially in the areas of job creation, poverty alleviation and standard of living of people. These aspects of economic development are very strategic to transiting economies, like Nigeria [1,4].
- Considering their strategic roles to promoting economic value, the data from this study can be used by policy makers and researchers to understand the importance of SMEs [2,3,7], especially in the agricultural, manufacturing and trading sectors, towards the attainment of economic development.

1. Data

In the distribution of respondents by gender; 380 (63.3%) were male, while 220 (36.7%) were female. This shows that a larger percentage of the men are participating in small-scale business in the areas studied (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents by age and educational qualification. It can be seen that greater number of people participating in small-scale business fall within the age bracket of 30–50 (53.4%). These are matured people in life. However, youths are also taking more and more interest in small-scale business since they rank second at 200 (33.3%).

Table 1
Gender classification of the respondents.

Gender	Number of respondents (Frequency)	Percentage
Male	380	63.3%
Female	220	36.7%
Total	600	100%

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