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Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a Catalyst for Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-Reliance in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

In alignment with the national mandate of Nigerian polytechnics???"Technology for Self-Reliance"???this empirical study examines the impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) curriculum delivery on entrepreneurial intention and post-graduation enterprise creation among polytechnic graduates in North-Central Nigeria. A structured questionnaire was administered to 450 HND graduates across three polytechnics, analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM). The empirical findings demonstrate that practical workshop adequacy (beta = 0.412, p < 0.001) and industry-polytechnic internship linkage (beta = 0.368, p < 0.001) significantly mediate self-employment uptake. However, access to seed micro-credit remains a major moderating constraint. Policy recommendations for NBTE curriculum modernization and institutional incubation hubs are presented.

Keywords: TVET, Polytechnic Education, Youth Entrepreneurship, Self-Reliance, Human Capital Development, Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

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