

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING, CORE-SKILLS ACQUISITION AND
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' SELF-EMPLOYABILITY IN
NORTH CENTRAL, NIGERIA**

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07/68OF011

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UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' SELF-EMPLOYABILITY IN NORTH CENTRAL,
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**ALoba, Fatimah Musa
07/68OF011**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
MANAGEMENT, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN,
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AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) IN EDUCATIONAL
MANAGEMENT.**

SUPERVISOR: PROF. A.O. SOFOLUWE

JANUARY, 2020

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by **ALoba, Fatimah Musa (07/68OF011)** and has been read and approved as meeting part of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) in the department of educational management, faculty of education, university of Ilorin. Ilorin, Nigeria.

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DECLARATION

I, **ALOPA, Fatimah Musa**, matriculation number **07/68OF011**, a Ph.D. student in Educational Management Department at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria do hereby declare that this thesis title Entrepreneurship Training , Core-skills Acquisition and Public University Graduates' Self-employability in North-central, Nigeria was submitted by me in partial fulfillment of Ph.D. degree as my original work, and that this work contains no material which has been previously accepted for the award of any degree or qualification in any institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contain no material published by another party, except where due reference is made in the work.

Signature

ALOPA, Fatimah Musa

Date

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my husband, Sayyid Musa Aloba.

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ABSTRACT

The problem of unemployment and poverty occasioned by low university graduates employability has been of great concern to the stakeholders in education. Hence, the introduction of entrepreneurship training to enhance students' acquisition of core-skills to enables universities to produce self-employed graduates. Thus, this study examined the relationship among entrepreneurship training, core-skills acquisition and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria. Other purposes includes: i. to investigate the relationship between vocational training and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria; ii. theoretical training and public university graduates' graduates self-employability in North-central Nigeria; iii. practical training and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria; iv. vocational skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria; v. communication skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria; and vi. managerial skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria.

Descriptive research design was adopted for this study. The population of the study consist of 11 Directors of the entrepreneurship centers and all 50,957 final year students (400 level) in the universities in North-central Nigeria. Eight directors were selected and 382 (400 level) students were selected as sample for the study. There were two researcher's designed questionnaires titled entrepreneurship training questionnaire (ETQ) to elicit information from the Directors on entrepreneurship training and core-skills acquisition questionnaire (CSAQ) designed to elicit information from the 400 level students. The validity of the instruments were ensured by given the instruments to the researcher's supervisor and four other experts while Crumbach Alpha were used to ascertained the reliability of the instruments. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the three research questions while Pearson Product Moment-Correlation statistics were used to test the six operational hypotheses at .05 level of significance.

The findings were that:

- i. there was significant relationship between vocational training and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 2.27, p < 0.05$).
- ii. there was significant relationship between theoretical training and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 2.12, p < 0.05$)
- iii. there was significant relationship between practical training and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 2.19, p < 0.05$)
- iv. there was significant relationship between vocational skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 1.79, p < 0.05$)
- v. there was significant relationship between communication skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 1.96, p < 0.05$)
- vi. there was significant relationship between managerial skills and public university graduates' self-employability in North-central Nigeria ($r = 2.59, p < 0.05$)

The study concluded that upon all the investments and efforts in entrepreneurship training to ensure graduates' self-employability, progress towards enhancing self-employability of public university graduates in North-central Nigeria seems little. Therefore, it was recommended among others that university administrators should partner with the community to lessen the burden of recruiting core-skilled personnel that can aid effective vocational training and managerial skills acquisition.

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