DRIVERS OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIESIN MICRO-SMALL IT ENTERPRISES: A CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

In recent times, Information Technology (IT) has revolutionized the way businesses are being conducted all over the world. To a large extent, IT is rapidly changing global production process, business methods, trade and consumption patterns among consumers. This has apparently triggered expanded entrepreneurial opportunities in the areas of IT marketing, servicing, installation and repairing among others. As the utilization and commercialization of IT becomes more widespread, entrepreneurial activities vis-a-vis opportunities identification, resource mobilization and value creation for societal benefits are enhanced especially among the youth. This study explores how IT actually drives entrepreneurial opportunities among the youth and the implication of this on employment generation. The study adopts a systemic review of literatures to elicit important facts that buttress the stance of the study. It wasestablished that micro-small IT sector is highly unregulated andthishas unlocked diverse opportunities for sustainable business growth especially for the growing youth population. Furthermore, the study established that a positive relationship exists between IT and job creation/empowerment for the youth. The study concludes that entrepreneurial skill development, formal IT training/mentorship and availability of soft-loans will to a large extent promote innovative IT opportunities hence small enterprise development.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial opportunity, IT, Unemployment, Youth empowerment, Skill development

ntroduction

All over the world, the quality of youth employment has declined in recent times. As reported by International Labour Organization (2016) the number of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 is 1.1 billion globally and this constitutes 8percent of the global population. As at the last quarter in 2016, the global youth unemployment ateareached 13.1% with nearly 144.1 million youth unemployed around the world.Furthermore, UN 2015) posits that globally, the ratio of youth-to-dult unemployment rate stood at 3.0 in 2015 and .8 in 2013. This connotes that, in comparison with dults, youth continue to be three times as likely to be unemployed. These resulted to increased number of youth finding themselves in non-standard jobs, such as temporary employment and part-time works. Evidences from countries such as Spain and Ireland have recorded increases in the youth part-time employment rate of 11.8 and 20.7 respectively though with lower youth unemployment rate in the region.In year 2010, the average youth unemployment rate in OECD countries was 12.8 per cent and 15.6 per cent in the United States (ILO, 2014). The youth unemployment rate is lower in Asia than in other regions. According to International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013)

South Asia has (9.3 per cent) and East Asia (9.5 per cent) youth unemployment whiletheSouth-East Asia and the Pacific had a slighter higher rate of (13.1 per cent).Comparatively, the youth unemployment rate is far higher in Sub-Saharan Africa and few developing nations. This stood at 11.8 per cent with large variances in the continent. According to ILO (2013) Countries with the highest youth unemployment rates include South Africa, with over half of the youth population unemployed, Namibia (58.9 per cent in 2008), Reunion (58.6 per cent in 2011), Lesotho (34.4 per cent in 2008) and Nigeria (25.9% in 2010). Africa has the highest rate of working poor, estimated at 40.1 per cent in 2012. As a result, African youth are typically found in vulnerable employment conditions. ILO (2012) therefore stressed that estimates of an average of 2.1 million young people will enters the labour market every year between 2011 and 2015, there isa need for new opportunities beyond the traditional sectors.

It can be inferred from the above that in many developing economies (Nigeria inclusive), providing jobs for the teaming youth population is a major challenge. Kareem (2014) opined that the goal of achieving full employment among other macro-economic goals is an important concern in many developing nations where unemployment and underemployment have been a major cause and consequence of widespread poverty. The official statistics place Nigeria among the fastest growing economies in the world and perhaps the largest in Africa. However, more direct indicators of social and economic welfare gave a different report (World Bank, 2013).Dominant among these indicators are increased youth/graduate unemployment which manifests into various forms of anti-social nuisance such as high rate of thuggery and hooliganism, vandalism and arm robbery, prostitution and increased cases of rape among others. According to Akande (2013), today's youth face enormous challenges finding jobs and earning decent incomes. As evident all around the world, youth are far more likely than adults to find themselves unemployed or in low paying, informal sector jobs. When youth struggle at the beginning of their careers the repercussions do often except on few cases last a lifetime. It is therefore imperative that youth are exposed to various entrepreneurial opportunities that could ensure productive and fulfilling lives. One of such ways of exploiting entrepreneurial opportunities is through Information Technologies (IT). In recent times, IT is widespread in businesses of all sizes. Accordingly, business world has been deeply influenced by Information and Technologies (IT) and its application among businesseshas become inevitable. As the global economy continues to move toward increased IT integration diverse opportunities avails itself to individuals and small businesses. However, the exploitation of these opportunities depends on the individual ability to recognize and participate in IT process. According to Baron (2004) opportunities emerge from a complex pattern of changing conditions such as changes in technology, economic, political, social, and demographic conditions.

The Information Technology (IT) revolution is fueling creative ideas and innovation, hence new business creation. Tech-savvy individuals are applying their creative energies and becoming entrepreneurs in a number of ways. Having recognized that entrepreneurship could be a viable career option, governments of different nations are enacting policies aimed at encouraging more graduates to become job creators, not job seekers and this has been fostered through IT. In the views of (Bjork, 1999; Baron, 2004; and Chua, 2011) the use of IT has an improved business operation with internet providing numerous opportunities for SMEs to compete equally with other large corporations.Herron&Sapienza (2015) advocate that the rapid adoption of IT has changed the conventional way of thinking, generating ideas and conducting businesses all over the world. In like manner, Kollmann (2006) argues that, information sector is shifting from the traditional economic sectors (production, service, agriculture) to

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electronic data networks and the growth of IT formed the new business dimension called the Net Economy. It is therefore evident that IT is instigating change by expanding entrepreneurial opportunities in every sector. However, to respond effectively to such changes an entrepreneurial culture in term of greater entrepreneurialbehaviouris required, i.e. one that supports the search for change, responding to it and exploits it as anopportunity for growth. There is therefore a need to investigate the extent to which IT has assisted at generating entrepreneurial opportunities and how these opportunities have been converted to marketable products among the youth. In order to achieve this, the following objectives were formulated:

i. To ascertain the extent to which IT skills contribute to opportunity recognition.
ii. To examine the nature of IT driven opportunities for youth entrepreneurial engagements.
iii. To investigate the effects of IT competence development on youth self-employability

Literature Review

In recent years, IT has become an integral part of human daily activities and its effect has become noticeable in various forms. There is no doubt that the modern economic environment is dominated by globalization, hyper-competition, as knowledge and information technology has revolutionized the way businesses are being conducted (Teixeira and Pato, 2014).Buttressing the above Baron(2002) and Adebayo (2015) emphasized thatITthas made a major impact on the way people live, work, play and even carryout routine activities. As the trend of globalization persists, it has been argued that IT is fast becoming one of the main drivers of change and innovation as different business opportunities emerge in the process (Herron &Sapienza (2015).In the same vein, Singh and Kasavana (2005) state that organizations in recent years have developed new means of communications and information flow among their partners and customers resulting in a total paradigm shift in their operations.

Entrepreneurial Opportunity and Recognition

Entrepreneurial opportunity is difficult to define because it means different things to different scholars, authors and writers in the field of business and entrepreneurship. The consensus on whether opportunities actually exist in the environment or in the minds of specific entrepreneurs is far reaching among scholars.Hills and Lumpkin (1997) opines that "opportunity refers to the extent to which possibilities for new ventures exist and the extent to which entrepreneurs have the leeway to influence their odds for success through their own actions. Expanding the above definition, opportunity (entrepreneurial) according to (Shane, 2003; Baron, 2004) must include reference to three central characteristics which are potential for economic value (i.e., the potential to generate profit), newness (i.e., some product, service, technology, etc. that were not previously existed), and perceived desirability (e.g., moral and legal acceptability of the new product or service in society). In another related view, Singh (2000) defined entrepreneurial opportunity as a feasible, profit seeking potential venture that provides an innovative new product or service to the market, improves on an existing product/service or imitates a profitable product/service in less than saturated market.

Kirzner (1997) viewed entrepreneurial opportunity from the economic perspective. Accordingly, entrepreneurial opportunity is a market imperfection or economic disequilibrium that can be exploited by bringing market to equilibrium. In furtherance to the above, Kirzner (1997) states that opportunities (disequilibrium) exist because of "the ignorance of the original market participants and entrepreneurs are those rare individuals who take advantage of these market inefficiencies by knowing or recognizing things that others do not. From this viewpoint, opportunities exist all around us in time and space, but only those individuals (entrepreneurs) with "alertness"; who have the ability to recognize them.For purposes of this study, therefore, the

nition of Baron (2003) is adopted. According to (Baron, 2003) opportunityis defined as eived means of generating economic value (i.e. it) such that have not previously been exploited, are not currently being exploited by market cipants. This definition connotes that ortunities must involveideas that are new, ble, marketable, legal and have potential for it at a giving time.

epreneurial opportunity recognition has long viewed as a key step in any entrepreneurial ess - one from which, in many cases, all other gs follow (Venkatraman, 1997). Therefore, epreneurial opportunity and its recognition has me a common subject matter in epreneurship and business research. Bygrave and er (2004) defined opportunity recognition as eiving an opportunity and creating an nization to pursue it. On the other hand, mons (1994) developed a model for epreneurial process where he argued that ortunity recognition is primary in any epreneurial ventures. Accordingly, he defined ortunity recognition as a business idea that has qualities of being attractive, durable and timely is anchored in a product or service which creates adds value for its buyer or end user. An resting question of why some persons but not rs recognize opportunities has long been of rest to the field of entrepreneurship. Providing vers to this question, Baron (2004) nowledged that recognition of opportunities ends, in part, on cognitivestructures possessed by viduals—structures that are the result of their ious lifeexperience. These structures according Baron refer to concepts, prototypes, exemplars help specific personstoperceive connections veen seemingly unrelated changes or events; it is perception ofthese connections that constitutes core of opportunity recognition. Laying credence the above, most of the shared definition on ortunity recognition is theability of an individual he discovery of an idea to create new businesses the search for information regarding market andtechnological possibilities. Bearing this in mind, opportunity recognition was described as perceiving the possibility of creating new businesses or significantly improving the position of existing businesses with a profit potential (Bygrave and Hofer, 2004).

IT and Youth Employment Generation

Employment is one of the most important crucial socio-economic issues all over the world. In spite of this, implementation of policies on employment generation in many developing nations has not yielded much impact as there is a wide gap between the jobs available and the number of job seekers actively seeking work in most poor nations (Abdullhai&Kardi, 2012). In the last few decades, information technology revolution is fueling new business creation and expansion of existing ones. Tech-savvy individuals especially the youth are applying their creative energies and becoming entrepreneurs in good numbers. Recognizing the fact that entrepreneurship can be a viable career option, many governments are enacting policies aimed at encouraging more graduates to become job creators, not job seekers. In the views of (Sayed and Mohammed, 2009; Chua, 2011) the use of IT has improved business operations with internet providing numerous opportunities for SMEs to compete equally with other large corporations.

Employment refers to the number of people who either works for pay in cash or kind, work on their own account or are unpaid family workers (NBS, 2012). Iyoha (1978) opined that employment generation is a significant drive of the growth rate of GDP in Nigeria. However, in the Nigerian economy, most employment is in the informal sector. A large proportion of these people are under self-employment with very low income (Jodie and Ogunrinola, 2011). According to recent statistics by International Labour Organization in 2014, youth make up 17 per cent of the world's population and 40 per cent of the world's unemployed. Going by

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this statistic, high youth unemployment does not only hampers economic growth, but can be a debilitating experience that affects their desire and ability to lead productive and rewarding lives.

Coward, Caicedo, Rauch and Vegas (2014) emphasized that with the youth bulge swelling the ranks of global working age population, urgent attention is needed to address the plight of youth and provide them with better opportunities for employment. Around the world youth disproportionately suffer from the malaise of unemployment. The scale of the problem is immense, holding back economic growth while stifling the aspirations of people recently entering the workforce and at the beginnings of their careers.Nigeria structurally shifted from the agricultural sector to the petroleum industry following the oil boom in 1973. This has resulted to mass unemployment, as persons moved from the agricultural sector in search of opportunities that were none existent in the formal sector. However in recent time, the increasing rate of ICT adoption has helped to a large extent at creating opportunities and providing jobs in both formal and informal sector.Coward, et al. (2014) emphasized that youth with access to technology are coming of age as digital natives, the early adopters of ITs and better positioned than their parents to harness the power of ICTs in new and imaginative ways.

Information Technology (IT) is defined as those technologies engaged in the operation, collection, transport, retrieving, storage, access presentation, and transformation of information in all its forms (Casson, 2004). In a related view, Attaran (2014) described Information Technology as the capabilities offered to individuals or organizations by computers, software applications, and telecommunications to deliver data, information, and knowledge to individuals and processes. It can be inferred from these definitions that IT means the technological aspect of Information System. On the other hand, IT encompasses all forms of technology or devices used to create, store, exchange and utilize information in its various forms including business data conversion, multimedia presentations among others (Mahmoud, Umar and Usman 2014). In the opinion of Bjork (1999), IT is described as the use of electronic machines and programmes for the processing, storage, transfer and presentation of information through computers, software, networks and even telephone and fax machines. The recent development of a knowledge-based economy has induced IT to be an increasingly important tool for national economic growth and it has enormous implications on employment generation (Chan, 2008). Similarly, Ghobakhloo, Hong, Sabouri and Zulkifli(2011) argued that today's technological progressions and application of ICT is a significant driving force behind many socioeconomic changes.

Several studies in the field of entrepreneurship (Timmon, 1994; ITU, 2014; Amue, Igwe and Abiye, 2014) indicated that there is a link between IT and employment generation. In the opinion of Timmon (1994) the first stage of any enterprise development and self-employment creation is the ideation. It is the enterprise-initial-action and the thinking phase involving creativity or discovery of opportunities that others have failed to recognize or create. Identified opportunities are then evaluated and the best chosen are converted to marketable products that add value. In a study by Bjork (1999), the utilization and commercialization of IT is widespread throughout the world, and adoption of novel technology generates new business opportunities and value chain delivery.Amue, Igwe and Abiye (2014) opined that IT has created opportunities in many areas such as business Centres, Graphics Centres, Music Studios, the Internet Centres, Computer Training Centres, Computer Technicians, Web design and hosting, Internet employment agency services, Internet advertisements, Internet tourist and travelling agencies. In Nigeria and particularly in the study area, IT has provided opportunities for the youth in the areas of data processing, cybercafé operation, computer trainingcentres, computer sales and accessories, computer software and hardware

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tallations, computer hardware servicing and airs, handset servicing and repairs, internet ers, cable and satellite TV installations among ers. These IT driven opportunities have itioned the youth at a better advantage for self-ployment and general employment generation. knowledging these unique opportunities for the uth, Akande (2014) noted that youth acquires repeatable character personality and individuality ough networking with people on the level of ferent duties, arts and science, hence, learn the th about opportunities present in their vironment.

valuating Viable Business Opportunities

ides generating business ideas, entrepreneur needs determine whether the idea they have in mind is able or not. As emphasized by Timmon (1994) the scovery or creation of an opportunity can her take place inside an existing organization, outside by an independent individual. Then ain this opportunity can be taken forward her by the organization, or by the individuals. evaluating viable business opportunities, the llowing though not limited to these factors must be nsidered.

otential for growth and access to infrastructure are portant factors to be considered while evaluating otential business opportunity. An opportunity is id to be viable when it has the ability to grow and pand.Infrastructure support for the business is nother important factor. According to Kollmann 006) easy access to infrastructure such as roads, ater, electricity, telephone and postal services nong others enables business enterprises easily ake orders for goods and deliver them hence ducing operating expenses. With low operating penses, profits accrued to entrepreneur can be aximized.

ice structure and market for the goods and services e also important factor to be considered. Casson 005) claimed that one has to put into consideration e price-structure of the goods and services he ould like to offer. It worths knowing that goods and services, which are subjected to constant inflation, are likely to change in terms of price. On the other hand, an entrepreneur has to access potential and actual market for the goods and services he would like to sell. While Casson (2005) emphasized on price structure operational in the market, Baron (2002) emphasized on defined market. Accordingly, he stressed that there must be a clearly defined market if the opportunity is to be considered and explored over a time.

Incentives and rewards anticipated to the investor is another factor worth considering.Incentivesare offered by the government and Non-Governmental Organizations. Malone, et al (2011) described incentives as legitimate business opportunities to exploit as they save on costs such as duty free importation, tax waivers, among others, free licensing among others. On the other hand, the opportunity should be rewarding to the investor (cost-benefit consideration). Entrepreneurs must consider the expected returns against the expected cost to ensure that the benefits outweigh the cost before the final decision to explore such opportunity.

Legal consideration and competition/competitive advantage are also major while exploring business opportunity. Abdullhai&Kardi (2012) opined that the new idea should be in line with the legal regulatory framework e.g. an idea to sell drugs may not be viable because it is illegal. Competition is regarded as a threat to business of similar kinds operating in a similar location. Porter (2001) states that although competition is a threat, it is healthy in the sense that it goes along the way in controlling price of goods offered. It is crucial for entrepreneurs to consider well in advance those opportunities where competition is not high as this will enable them to get reasonable market share at early period and with lower cost. Young entrepreneurs should venture into businesses where they have competitive advantage compared to others.

Finally, financial viability and opportunity for personnel training and development are important

factors that worth considering while evaluating business opportunity. The assessment of financial viability is of significant importance when looking at the viability of the business. Capital investment requirements, break even analysis, cash flow projections, profitability of the business have to be analyzed. This is because financial viability determines the sustenance of the business in the market-mix. On the other hand, before starting a business, it is necessary to make an assessment of the required personnel training and management. Yahaya, Osemene and Abdullahi (2011) stressed the need for adequate knowledge of technicalities involved in managing an enterprise before venturing into it. Young entrepreneurs needs to look at the ability, cost of hiring and training human resource. Management efficiency will enable the business to succeed.

Youth Entrepreneurial Competence Development

It is acknowledged all over the world that many factors contribute to successful entrepreneurial venture. Most important are entrepreneurship skills and competences. According to Hofer and Delaney (2010), young and motivated people need the right set of skills to identify entrepreneurial opportunities and to turn their entrepreneurial projects into successful ventures. Therefore, entrepreneurial competence development has been acknowledged to be essentially in any entrepreneurial process. Bjork (1999)adopted value-oriented approach and observed that "the youth of a nation are trustees of prosperity". This to a large extent is valued universally. In Nigeria today, and according to vision 2010 – 2020, the youths can safely be said to constitute over 65% of the total population (Otokiti, 2012). These youth are burning with ambition for growth, desire for achievement and immense potentials for economic autonomy; hence their importance in sustainable economic development cannot be overemphasized. Teixeira and Pato, (2014) observed that a process of creating self-awareness and the development of individual capacity for creative and innovative thinking, decision making and action implementation to exploit various entrepreneurial opportunities is the focus of entrepreneurial capacity building. It can be unarguably established that in any entrepreneurial process, individual capacity in form of skills, knowledge, and experience among others plays an important role.Ogechukwu (2011) describedcompetence development as the ability to enable other people especially the youth to make use of their creative potentials, intellectual capacities and leadership abilities for personal as well as national growth. Therefore, the individual notwithstanding sex, tribe, location or occupation must possess some sets of specialized skills for effective entrepreneurial delivery. Basic among these skills are presented in the figure below.

Core Entrepreneurial Skills and Attributes		
Skills	**Description**	**Attributes**
nagerial	- The ability to plan, coordinate, and managing time and people (both one-selfand others) successfully.	Leadership
mmunication and gotiation tworking	- Such as ability to sell ideas and persuade others. - Ability of an individual to make contacts and build social capital.	Self-motivation and discipline Multi-tasking
am-building	- Ability to collaborate with others for goal-achievement.	Adaptability
eativity	- Ability to make critical thinking, problem solving and independent decision making.	Perseverance
ancial literacy	- Ability to make decision based on the available financial statement	Decision making
mmercial awareness search	- Ability to take advantage of commercial opportunities - Ability to research and synthesize information (e.g. markets, suppliers, customers and competition)	Self-confident in uncertainty Competitiveness

apted from Biosciences, 2012

he same vein, infrastructural network to a large nt contributed to entrepreneurial development as onstrated by previous studies (Malone, bacher and Johns, 2011; Adebayo, Awodun and nbadi 2016). In an attempt to build more acity and improve access to infrastructural lities especially among the youth in Nigeria, the ral government has initiated different policies structural programmes. In recognition of the ortance of entrepreneurial capacity building ng the youth, the federal government through Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) initiated acity Acquisition Programme CAP) and datory Attachment Programme (MAP). While is to enable participants acquire entrepreneurial s and vocational capabilities, the MAP was to t graduates who have completed their datory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and who are yet to secure full-time employment. Accordingly, agencies such as National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and Chambers of Commerce and Industry were specifically set up to provide entrepreneurial capacity development programmes for the youth by carrying out the above programmes.Oyedele et al (2013) further argue that incentive programmes that are technical in nature, such as the provision of manpower training, appropriate machinery selection and installation, machine repairs and maintenance, and extension services are also essential for entrepreneurial competence development. These services were provided by specialized institutions such as the Center for Industrial Research and Development (CIRD), the Center for Management Development

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(CMD), Project Development Agency (PRODA) and the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) among others.

Viable Areas of Entrepreneurial Opportunities in IT

Owing to the intensified competitive pressure of liberation from the menace of unemployment and poverty circle, the youth are beginning to explore the incremental opportunities in Information Technology (IT) in order to take advantage of its substantial benefits. Buttressing the above, Kollmann (2006), Amue, Igwe and Abiye(2014) opined that, information sector is shifting from the traditional economic sectors of production, service, agriculture on to entrepreneurial opportunities in the IT. A major breakthrough in the 21st century is electronic data networks and the growth of IT which has formed the new business dimension calls the Net Economy. The Net Economyhence,provides various business opportunities for young aspiring entrepreneurs. The areas of businesses that young entrepreneurs may venture into include but not limited to the following: IT marketing/Sales, IT Servicing/Repairs, IT Installations, WEB Design and management, Internet Café, Programming/software development, Business/Computer training Centre among others. This offers tools or training to help young people start their own business even at a lower cost and with fewer restrictions.

In higher institutions of learning in Nigeria – universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, business and internet (cyber-café) centres provides job opportunities to hundreds of young people. These businesses provide services for exchange of communication of information between one person to other or to group of others. The businesscentres(popularly called computer centres) according to Amue, Igwe and Abiye (2014) employ between three or five people they provide services to students and entire school community while on campus.Accordingly, the services provided by the business centres changes to include more interesting services which are required by different customers. Hence, business centres may provide services that ranges from computer training, graphics designs, auto-card and photo-shop services, desk-top publishing among others.

The Internet is the global system of interconnected computer networks that use the internet protocol suites (TCP/IP) to link devices worldwide. Ghobakhloo, et al (2011) described internet as a network of linkages that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services, such as the interlinked hypertext documents and application of World Wide Web, electronic mails peer-to-peer network among others. The emergent of internet has provided another way by which ICT tools can be utilized among various users at the barest cost. In recent times, many aspiring young entrepreneurs have identified business opportunities in this area by setting up Internet Centres that provides services for exchange of communication via the web. Supporting the above, Amue, Igwe and Abiye (2014) further stated that the internet services provided improve the people standard of living and also employ hundreds of individuals directly or indirectly by the entrepreneurs.

Conclusions & Implication for Policy Makers ITSkill Development among the Youth

From this study, it can be established that the growth of IT and its wide adoption have had a profound influence on job creation and self-reliance among the youth. However, before entrepreneurial opportunities could be identified and explored in IT, there is a need to develop one's skills in the area. Entrepreneurial skills builds individual self-esteem, engender growth process and changes that is never ending. As demonstrated in this study, enormous opportunities are bound in IT only if an individual possesses the required skills. Today young aspiring entrepreneurs can focus his career on technology

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ntrepreneurship. Before this could be achieved, IT kill development is of primary importance. The ate of information infrastructure, the value society uts on information exchange, attitude of policy akers and the country's level of technological evelopment should be as well taken into onsideration. The implication of IT skill evelopment among the youth is that these skills ave positive relationship with entrepreneurial pportunity recognition. This implies that the more kills possessed by individual, the higher the chance f recognizing and exploiting such entrepreneurial pportunities in the areas of IT.

T Driven Opportunities

Many governments are still finding it difficult to rovide jobs for the citizens because they are lacking mportant skills needed. There will be a lot of jobs enerated for the citizens of every country if they are ell equipped with skills. This is why it is necessary or government to organize well-structured skill cquisition programme for the teaming young opulation as this will go a long way to drive ntrepreneurial opportunities and providing jobs for thers. Someone who is well equipped on lectronics repair can train his fellow citizens. When hese citizens 'mature' in such field, they start arning from the skill they acquired from their aster. This is how the newly trained in that field ill train other persons, and employment generation eeps on growing in such circle.

Oladunjoye and Audu (2014) demonstrated usinesses related activities in IT as document data rocessing, cybercafe operation, computer training entres, computer services and repairs, hand set ervices and repairs, internet, programming, cable nd satellite TV installations, etc. with very little ake off funds.

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Competence Development for the Youth

The importance of skills acquisition in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized as this is the only sure way to youth liberation and self-reliance. For any developing nation such as Nigeria to be economically self-reliant, there is a necessity to diversify the economy and as well encourage the youth to embrace self-employment through IT skills acquisition and empowerment. Though the federal government through various agencies such as SMEDAN, NDE, BOI and CBN are of late taking a giant stride towards increasing skills acquired by the fast-growing youth population, however, these efforts have not well catered for unemployment and employability issues in Nigeria. Since it is evident that competence development promotes self-employment, there is a need for government at federal and state level to invest massively on youth competence development.

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