# THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT ON PROMOTING SMALL SCALE BUSINESS IN TACKLING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN THE FACE OF FALLING OIL PRICE IN NIGERIA

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### **ABSTACT**

Small scale business is beautiful and has historically formed the back bone of economy. Small scale business up to date continues to play a dominant role in providing favour for growth and development of an economics all over the world, particularly in Taraba state. Evidence abounds in our respective communities of what success our great grand fathers made of their respective trading concern. So the secrets behind their success of a self reliant strategy does not lie in any particular political philosophy, so much is in the peoples attitude to be enterprising and in line of this the right incentive is adequate enough to make risk worth taking are provided. In Nigeria, the respective government policies accorded and gave priority to the country's small scale enterprises. The researcher analysis was carried out on the role of government on promoting small scale business in Jalingo metropolis. 150 questionnaire were administered and return to the researcher. As such, the data for this is hereby represented and analyzed using the simple percentage and chi-square technique for testing of hypothesis. In conclusion, this research reveals that small scale business help in generating income by individuals who owned them. It also serves as a source of revenue generation to the government and as well provide employment opportunities to the teaming youths in the state. By virtue of this research, the researcher was able to find out some of the ways through which government will promote small scale business to a greater high. Because small scale business had been the bedrock of economic development of every community, region, state and nation, this brings the need to boost the activities of all small scale business.

### INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

From the time of immemorial a lot of economist agreed that, small scale business is beautiful and has historically formed the back bone of economy. Small scale business

up to date continues to play a dominant role in providing favour for growth and development of an economics all over the world, particularly in Taraba state.

A business being it small or large, simple or complex, private or public is

created to generate income. Business in Nigeria can be classified as small scale, medium and large. The history of small scale business enterprises started long before the advent of large scale business enterprises of today. Therefore, about 95% of all businesses are still properly classified as small. Small scale enter prises are unique in many respects. They have advantages and problems that differ from those of large scale businesses. Therefore, it is necessary to have large number of small scale business if true competition is to exist, if freedoms of initiative and business enterprises are to be maintained and if we are to continue our progress in producing more goods and service to the increasing number of people in the country.

For a developing nation like Nigeria to reduce the alarming rate of poverty, Nigerians irrespective of their status, gender, educational attainment, religious and traditions, must embrace entrepreneurship (i.e, owing a business) Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) account for more than 50% of the total share of employment, sales and value added (Udechukwu, 2003).

The development of Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) by the government is a more in the direction to increase economic growth. Ekpenyong & Nyong (1992) suggested that Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) are organic part of a viable structure for sustainable economic development in

less developed countries like Nigeria. They have the tendency to produce greater benefits for the economy than large enterprises because they have higher multiplier effects in the system.

There has been a lack of agreement in Nigeria and elsewhere as to what constitutes a Small Scale Businesses (SSBs). Different scholars, associations authors and institution have advanced different definitions on the subject. For instance, under the Central Bank of Nigeria guide lines, Small Scale Business (SSBs) has been defined as "an establishment whose turnover doesn't exceed N 500,000 (Five hundred thousand naira)". The Federal Ministry of Commerce and industries equates business in that sector as "those whose capital is not over N 750,000 etc.

Ojo (2009) put forth one of the solutions to the problems development in Nigeria is the promotion of entrepreneurial development scheme. A variable way to do this is government promotion of Small Scale Businesses (SSBs). Entrepreneurship has been identified as vital for the continued vitality of the modern market for more businesses to emerge, hence, competition and economic growth are improved (Klapper & Love, 2011).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Small Scale enterprise orientation is part of Nigeria. Evidence abounds in our respective communities of what success our great grand fathers made of their respective trading concern. So the secrets behind their success of a self reliant strategy does not lie in any particular political philosophy, so much is in the peoples attitude to be enterprising and in line of this the right incentive is adequate enough to make risk worth taking are provided. In Nigeria, the respective government policies accorded and gave priority to the country's small scale enterprises.

There is no doubt that government contributes a lot in promoting small scale business. But the questions are, whether the contribution of government is because of the benefit it derives from small scale business, nobody can tell. And whether the role of the government in promoting small scale business has been effective or not?

Despite the role of the government in one way or the other in promoting small scale business, there are some people who are still not aware of such contribution of government. To others the contribution are due to the benefit drives from such business. This gives a clear gap, necessary to undertake a study in order to identify the role played by Taraba state government in promoting small scale business in the state.

### Objective of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to examine the role of government in promoting small scale business particularly in Jalingo metropolis. Other specific objectives are:

i. To examine the role of government in

- promoting small scale business in Jalingo metropolis.
- ii. To determine the level of small scale business growth in Jalingo metropolis.
- iii. To know the problems and prospect of small scale business, thereby making suggestion and recommendation for improvement in the state.

# **Research Hypothesis**

The under listed hypothesis also form the bases to carry out an empirical analysis in this study, they are as follows:

## **Hypothesis I**

**H0:** Taraba state government has not played a significant role in the promotion of small scale business in Jalingo.

**H1:** Taraba state government has play a vital role in the promotion of small scale business in Jalingo.

**H0:** There is not constant growth in the small scale business in Jalingo metropolis as a result of government contribution

**H1:** There is constant growth in the small scale business in Jalingo metropolis as a result of government contribution

### LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual Clarification

There is still no universal definition for small scale business. Yakubu (2000), "the origin of small scale business in the African continent and west African sub region is closely tied in most cases to country's cultural values or tradition". Baba

(1985) is of the view that "Nigeria and other countries small scale business have their origin from traditional occupation and heritage which reflect the societal cultural values". For instance, in Nigeria during the Babangida regime small scale business was defined as one that has a total investment of between one hundred thousand naira (100,000) and two million naira (N 2,000,000) excluding land, but including working capital. The federal government small scale industry development plan defined small scale business as any manufacturing process or service industry with a capital not exceeding N150,000 in machinery and equipment alone.

Botton committee (1971) defined Small Scale Business as "the one that has a relatively small share of the market, managed by its owners or part owners in a personalized way and it is independent". In the United States, the Small Scale Business Administration (SBA), defined a Small Scale Business as one that is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in its field of operation and meet employment or sales standard developed by the agency. The small scale industries association of Nigeria (1973) defined Small Scale Business as those having investment (i.e capital, land, building and equipment of up to N60,000 per sap value) and employing not more than 50 people. The Central Bank of Nigeria in credit guide lines classified Small Scale Business "as these businesses with an annual income/asset of less half million (N 500,000). In Nigeria, the third National Development Plan defined Small Scale Business as a manufacturing establishment employing less than ten people, or whose investment in machinery and equipment does not exceed six hundred thousand naira only (N 600,000)."

Mawoli and Aliyu (2010), Small Scale Enterprises refers to all profit making undertaking that are small in size, have small number of employees, capital employed, number of customers and sales turn over. Small Scale Business is an autonomously operated enterprise, not dominant in its area of business and meets certain criteria in terms of number of number of employment and annual receipts. Lastly, Small Scale Business has been defined in various ways but the meaning remaining the same. In this study, "a Small Scale Business is one which scale of operation is less than the average in the form of number of persons employed and in the amount of investment and annual business turnover, self employed and petty trader is also included. Therefore, Small Scale Business can take many forms, namely, Sole proprietorship, partnership and private limited liability company. Below are the brief explanations of the different forms. Sole proprietorship: is an enterprise owned and manage or control by a single individual.

**Partnership**: It has to do with two or more

persons (not exceeding twenty, i.e minimum of 2 and maximum of 20) coming together to sign a contract or agreement to conduct a business together.

**Private Limited Liability Company**: Is a situation where people come together to form a business with the aim of making profits. The membership of a private limited liability company ranges between 2 and 50 (i.e. minimum of 2 maximum of 50).

In Nigeria and worldwide, there seems to be no specific definition of Small Scale Business. Different authors, scholars and school of thought have different ideas as to the differences in capital outlay, number of employees, sales turnover, fixed capital, investment, available plant and machinery, market share and the level of development. These features equally vary from one country to the other.

#### Merits of Establish Small Scale Business

A person that decides to go in to Small Scale Business undertakes the business with a measures of risk and perceived benefits in participating in a business venture. Small Scale Business owners enjoy the following advantages:-

- the profit: The owner appropriates all the profit of the business a lone. He is in full control of the business because he is the owner and manage; hence, the success of the business depends on his personal efforts towards making the business reality.
- ii. Privacy: The owner is not liable to

any one for failing to disclose his business strategies. He is not bound by any existing laws to publish his account for public consumption.

- iii. Direct contact with employees and Customers: The owner has face to face contact with his employees and customers. He maintains close relations with his employees and therefore, supervises them effectively to maximize out put and increases efficiency in the operation.
- iv. Capital Requirement: The capital need for establishing small business is relatively small in comparison to other business firms. The owners may be able to raise capital through his personal savings, borrowing from friends and relatives, and cooperative societies etc.
- v. Ease of Formation: The process of establishing a small scale business is not as burdensome as other firms on a larges scale. The only legal document for starting this types of business is registration; a license will be issue to the owner.
- vi. Quick Decision Making: The owner does not need to make consultation to anybody before taking decision. He stands a better chance than other business forms of making quick decision.
- vii. Independence: The owner is independent of himself. As the

- owner, he has the privilege of being the administrative head. He bears the responsibility for his actions.
- viii. Tax Advantage: The owner pays personal income tax on the amount of income he is able to declare. It is possible for them to avoid and evade taxes. This is because they are too many and do not publish their account.
- start up, so also is the ease to stop the business. The owner can dissolve the business with out prior arrangement.

  Self Interest: The interest of the owner is paramount in any business. The Small Scale Business owner in his own interest taken every opportunity and incentives to make the business; thus, takes adequate precautions and measures to avoid wastage

# Roles of Small Scale Business in the Economy

According to Shokan (1997), some of the roles Small Scale Businesses play in the economy includes:-

- i. **Small Scale Business (SSBs)** bring about new goods and services and supply the needs of large enterprises, which have depend on small business for their own success.
- ii. Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) aid the mobilization of resources in their area of operation; thereby, increasing

- the living standard of the population.
- iii. They encourage the development of Local manpower as well as increasing indigenous participation in the manufacturing sector.
- iv. Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) help in the generation of employment. In most emerging economies, Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) account for a large proportion of firms and a large share of the employment (Njogo & Safiriyu, 2012).
- v. Rural and urban migration is bridged through the creation of Small Scale Businesses (SSBs) in rural areas. They check the effect of movement from the rural area to urban development area.

# Sources of Finance For Small Scale Business

Finance has been identified in many business surveys as one of the most important factors determining the growth of Small Scale Business in Nigeria. The accessibility to finance allows them to engage in productive activities in a bid to improve their business operations; thus making them more competitive. Boer, Thomas and Webster (1997) noted that Small businesses are financed in a many ways and many use a variety of funding sources.

According to Owualali (1999). And Adedeja (2002) outlined seven major sources of finance are available to Small Scale Businesses (SSBs); These include:

- i. Personal resources
- ii. Family and Friends
- iii. Partners or Business Associates
- iv. Comprising individual and group, including pool fund groups and cooperate societies.
- v. Specialized funding facilities e.g world Bank loan scheme for small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) manage by central bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the African Development Bank (ADB) loan scheme for export stimuli in the SME sector, small and medium industries equity investment scheme (SMIEIS) etc.
- vi. Specialized Financial Institutions such as the Bank of Industry (BOI), Bank of Agriculture (BOA).
- vii. Financial institutions (mainly commercial banks) small scale enterprises can source their finance from the following financial institution in Nigeria.
- i. Micro finance Bank/community
  Banks: community banks are
  established in accordance with
  provisions of decree 46 of 1992.
  These financial institution are owned
  and managed by their respective
  communities. They are self
  sustaining financial institutions with
  in their communities, hence the
  sourcing of finding for small scale

- business is made even less cumbersome and much cheaper.
- ii. Development Banks: these are specialized financial institutions which are mostly established by government for the purpose of financing commercial agricultural and industrial enterprises. Nigeria government has set up a number of development banks.
- iii. Nigeria Bank of Industry: This bank formed in 2001 through the merger of the following development institutions;
- a. Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI)
- b. Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB)
- C. National Economic Re Constructional Fund (NER FUND)

The Bank of Industry was to be funded with an initial base of about N50 billion and was expected to make credit facilities available at a much lower rate than the commercial rate. The bank has been established primarily to improve coordination and effective credit delivery facilities to small scale enterprises.

Nigeria Agricultural co-operative and Rural Development Bank (NAC RDB); this bank was establish from the merger of the following institutions:

- People Bank of Nigeria (PBN)
- Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative Bank (NACB)

- Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)

But now, the above banks are called Nigerian agricultural insurance corporation (NAIC). This was established from the merger of the above banks, according to decree n0. 37 of 1993 enabling the corporation, its functions include the following:

- i. To implement, manage and administered the agricultural insurance scheme established by section 6 of decree NO. 37 of 1993.
- ii. To subsidize the premiums chargeable on selected crops and livestock policies from the grants obtained from federal, state government and the federal capital territory, Abuja. Also this bank is to take off with capital of N4.5 billion. The bank was created to stream line the administration of credit facilities to small scale farmers

It is expected that the bank would assist federal government to achieve its objective of increasing agricultural production in Nigeria.

- Federal mortgage Bank of Nigeria: this financial institution was set up in 1977 to provide long term credit facilities for the purpose of developing real property in Nigeria.
- Nigeria stock exchange market: stock exchange market is a market for buying and selling financial securities such

as bond, shares, and debentures through accredited members.

Nigeria stock exchange is a significant part of Nigerian capital market which was established in 1960 with the aim of providing finance to both small and large scale enterprises. A small scale enterprise incorporated as a limited liability company can raise funds on the floor of the stock exchange market by selling its shares provided. It is listed under second tier security market (STSM).

The second tier security market was created in 1985 in order to encourage small scale business to be listed on the exchange market.

# **Problems of Small Scale Business in Nigeria**

Most small scale businesses (SSBs) have failed to perform at a level that makes them contribute to the growth of the economy as a result of challenged hindering their optimum functioning. Some of the challenges faced by small scale businesses (SSBs) in Nigeria include:

- I. Lack of finance: This is the life wire of every business has become a major problems facing small scale business today.
- ii. Managerial Problems: An industrial may be creative may have finance but may have little or no knowledge to manage the business very well.
- iii. Unfavorable Policies: This involves

the unfavorable government policies such as taxes, lack of incentives and lack of government supports for the small scale business had become problems.

- iv. Infrastructural Constraints: This involves deficient infrastructure in an environment e.g portable drinking water, good road for transportation, electric power supplied for industries etc.
- v. Smallness: Most of the small scale business have small resources therefore, is more difficult to expand and become attractive.
- **vi. Environmental Problems**: These are some factors which associated with the environment that works against the expansion of small scale business. Some of these problems are unforeseen, examples inflation, flood, weather, exchange rate etc.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study used the correlation research design. Describing the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable, the study employed descriptive design and focuses on the role of government on promoting small scale business in tackling socioeconomic challenges in the face of falling oil price in Nigeria

### ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Whether Taraba State Government Has Played A Vital Role On Promoting Small Scale Business.

Option	Responses	Percentages %
SA	23	18.7
A	30	20
SD	32	21.33
D	40	26.7
UD	20	13.3
TOTAL	150	100

Source: field survey 2016

The above table shows that 28 respondents representing 18.7% strongly agreed that, Taraba state government has played a vital role in the promotion of small scale business, 30 respondents representing 20% agreed to that as well, but 32 respondents representing 21.33% strongly disagreed, 40 respondents representing 26.7% merely disagreed, while 20 respondents representing 13.3% were undecided.

**TABLE 4.2**: Whether The Performance Of Small Scale Business Provide Employment Opportunities Of The People Of Jalingo.

Option	Responses	Percentages %
SA	20	13.3
A	50	33.3
SD	30	20
D	40	26.7
UD	10	6.7
TOTAL	150	100

**Source:** field survey 2016

Table 4.2 to test whether the performance of small scale business provide employment opportunities to the people of Jalingo indicates that 20 respondents representing 13.3% strongly agreed, 50 respondents representing 33.3% agreed, while 30 respondents representing 20% strongly disagreed, 40 respondents representing 26.7% disagreed, a total of 10 respondents representing 6.7% were undecided.

**TABLE 4.3** Whether There Are Problems And Prospect In The Small Scale Enterprise In Jalingo Metropolis

Option	Responses	Percentages %
SA	10	6.7
A	30	20
SD	35	23.3
D	50	33.3
UD	25	16.7
TOTAL	150	100

**Source:** field survey 2016

The above table reveals that 10 respondents representing 6.7% strongly agreed that, there are problems and prospect in the small scale business in Jalingo metropolis, 30 respondents representing 20% agreed to that view, on the other hand 35 respondents

representing 23.3% strongly disagreed, 50 respondents representing 33.3% disagreed with that too, only 25 respondents representing 16.7% are undecided on the motion.

### **TEST OF HYPOTHESIS**

The entire formulated hypothesis for the purpose of this research will be tested using chi-square, after the test based on which the test will be based upon the decision made on whether to accept or reject the hypothesis, there are two forms of hypothesis, the null and alternative hypothesis.

Two hypotheses were formulated in this research. The hypothesis generated in the study are tested using chi square (one failed test). The expected and the observed frequency would be derived from the responses of the respondents to the questionnaires administrated. Hi square for testing the above hypothesis is.

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (0-e)}{F}$$

To degree of freedom: (C-1)(R-1)

Where:

C = number of column

R = number of row

Significant level; 5% i.e 0.5

Decision; if the chi-square calculated is greater than chi-square tabulated, we accept alternative hypothesis (H1).

Conversely; if the chi-square calculated is less than chi-square tabulated, we accept Null hypothesis (Ho).

### **HYPOTHESIS 1**

HO; Taraba state government has not played a vital role in the promotion of small scale business in Jalingo.

HI; Taraba state government has played a vital role in the promotion of small scale business in Jalingo.

Refer to table 4.2

$$X^2 = 150$$

$$E = 150/5 = 30$$

Variables	0	E	О-Е	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2$
					E
SA	28	30	-2	4	0.13
A	30	30	0	0	0

SD	32	30	2	4	0.13
D	40	30	20	100	3.33
UD	20	30	-10	100	3.33
$X^2$					6.92

SOURCE: field survey 2016

Therefore  $x^2 = 6.92$ 

DF; r-1=5-1=4

From the chi-square table DF of 4 under 5% = 9.48

### **Decision:**

Since the calculated chi square value is 6.92 and the critical table value is 9.48, we should therefore accept the null hypothesis because the chi square value is less than critical table value (6.92< 9.48) that is, Taraba state government does not contribute properly in promoting small scale business in Jalingo metropolises.

This result collaborate with the result obtained in table 4.2.1

### **HYPOTHESIS 2**

H0: the performance of small scale business does not provide employment opportunities to the people of Jalingo metropolis.

H1: the performance of small scale business provide employment opportunities to the people of Jalingo metropolis.

Variables	0	E	О-Е	$(O-E)^2$	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>
SA	20	30	-10	100	0.13
A	50	30	20	400	13.33
SD	30	30	0	0	0
D	40	30	10	100	3.33
UD	10	30	-20	400	13.33
$X^2$					33.32

**SOURCE:** field survey 2016

 $X^2 = 33.32$ 

Degree of Freedom = 4

Significant level = 0.05

Tabulated value = 9.48

Since the calculated chi square value is 33.32 and the critical table value is 9.48, we should therefore reject the null hypothesis because the chi-square value is greater than critical table value (33.32 > 9.48) that is, government does not provide employment opportunities to the people of Jalingo.

### RESEARCH FINDINGS

Based on the above analysis of the data gotten for this research, the following finding were discovered.

- i. The characteristics of most small scale business in Taraba state are of small size, and have very little capital at their disposal to finance their activities.
- ii. Most of the small scale businesses are not efficiently contributing to the economy simply because of their size, management and amount of capital they have in their position.
- iii. Majority of the small scale business owners were not aware of the various workshop and seminars organized by government to promote their businesses.
- iv. Small scale business is also form the small part of sources of revenue generation in the state.

Small scale business helps in providing job opportunities to the unemployed people in the state and improving standard of living of the people as well

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this research reveals that small scale business help in generating income by individuals who owned them. It also serves as a source of revenue generation to the government and as well provide employment opportunities to the teaming youths in the state. By virtue of this research, the researcher was able to find out some of the ways through which government will promote small scale business to a greater high. Because small scale business had been the bedrock of economic development of every community, region, state and nation, this brings the need to boost the activities of all small scale business.

### RECOMMENDATION

The research make the following recommendations, suggestion which the researcher believe that if implemented will place Taraba state on high level of economic development than the present level, and will also enhance the activities of small scale business in the state.

- 1. Promotion of capital to the small scale business owners for effectiveness of their business activities.
- 2. Stabilizing the government policies which will favour small scale business for efficient production and contribution to economy of the state.
- 3. Workshop and seminars should be organize to educate business holders managers and their workers, so as to

- enhance the quality production of small scale business in the state.
- 4. Provision of proper infrastructure in the state such as good road, electric power, security, portable drinking water etc. to enhance activities of small scale business for high contribution.
- 5. Supervision of small scale business will also enhance her activities and increase production.
- 6. Tax concession should be given to some of the small scale business by the government as part of encouraging to sort small scale business for large production.
- 7. Incentives should be given to small scale business by the government inform of help or aid to enhance their activities.

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