Assessing Sustainability of Small Scale Business Opportunities in Nigeria: Prospect and Challenges

ASIMIYU KOLA AGUNBIADE, OLASUNKANMI MUFTAU AFOLABI
ABIODUN LUKUMAN OLAIYA, GBENGA OLUYEMI OMOTAYO
Federal Polytechnic, Offa, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Abstract. Small Scale Enterprises have been accepted worldwide as instrument of economic growth and development. No wonder that government, particularly in the developing countries has made tremendous efforts and establish policies to enhance the capacity of small scale enterprises. However, despite government institutional and policies support to enhancing the capacity of small scale enterprises, small scale enterprises has fallen short of expectations. This then, generated serious concern and skepticism on whether it can bring about economic growth and national developments in Nigeria. This type of business are faced with significant challenges that compromise their ability to function and to contribute optimally to the economy. Hence there is need to examine the challenges and prospects of small scale enterprises opportunities in Nigeria. Survey in the form of descriptive research design were used, 152 questionnaires were administered to the staff of selected poultry farm in kwara state out of which 15 were wrongly fill nor returned the remaining 137 were used for the analysis. Proportional sampling method was used to determine the sample size. Data generated through questionnaire were analysed using both regression and Pearson correlation. Data were analysis, at (R) 0.05 level of significance and the result revealed that access to finance and capital have significant impact on SMEs Drives. (b=0.741, t=3.842, df=4 p(.000)<0.05). This study was conducted in kwara state, Nigeria. The phenomenal growth of small enterprise in Nigeria is mainly due to the people’s quest to be self-employed and not because it is easy to establish or manage. Financial constraints and Lack of management skill hamper the efficient performance of small scale enterprises in Nigeria. In view of this, we recommend that government and other non-governmental organization should regularly organize seminars for potential and actual small and medium enterprise operators on how to plan, organize, direct and control their businesses, and that small business enterprises operators’ should device effective marketing strategies and good management customers relations at all times.

Keywords: Small Business Enterprises, Opportunities, Challenges, Prospect, Development

1. Background to the Study

Small scale business started gaining prominence in Nigeria in the early 1970s when many personal enterprises started springing up. Before this time, agricultural dominate the economy. There were a lot of agricultural small holding before and during emergency of oil boom. Over 75 percent of agricultural holding were managed by the small farmers which comprise mainly family business Government agricultural holdings were not more than 10 percent. Micro and small scale businesses are catalyst in the socio-economic development of any country. They are a veritable vehicle for the achievement of national macroeconomic objective in term of employment generation at low investment cost and enhancement of apprenticeship training. In Kenya, for instance, Kombo, Justus, Murumba and Makworo (2011), submitted that “micro and small scale entrepreneurs who include agriculture and rural businesses have contributed greatly to the growth of Kenyan economy”.

The sector contributes to the national objective of creating employment opportunities, training entrepreneurs, generating income and providing a
source of livelihoods for the majority of low income households in the country. According to Jegede (2015), said that the role of small-scale business in the industrial development of any nation include such factors as employment generation, poverty eradication, improved income distribution and fulfillment of basic needs. Small scale business had suffered a lot of problem in Nigeria such as facilities problem, expansion, location, inadequate fund etc. government always neglect the sector, therefore, the problem of small-scale business has not been rectify, government should provide all necessary amenities to assist small scale business in Nigeria.

The catalytic roles of micro and cottage businesses have been displayed in many countries of the world such as Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Zambia, and India among other countries. They contribute substantially to the Gross Domestic production (GDP), export earnings and employment opportunities of these countries. Micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) have been widely acknowledged as the springboard for sustainable economic development. Apart from the fact that it contributes to the increase in per capital income and output, it also creates employment opportunities, encourage the development of indigenous entrepreneurship, enhance regional economic balance through industrial dispersal and generally promote effective resource utilization that are considered to be critical in the area of engineering economic development (Tolentino, 1996; Oboh, 2004; Odeh, 2005).

Governments have stepped up efforts to promote the development of SMEs through increased incentive schemes including enhanced budgetary allocation for technical assistance programme. Also, new lending schemes and credit institutions such as Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND), World Bank-assisted small-scale enterprises loan scheme (SMES), Nigeria Export and Import Bank (NEXIM), the people’s Bank of Nigeria (PBN) and the Community have been established by the federal government for the purpose of assisting the MSEs to meet their finance needs. There have also been fiscal incentives, grants, bilateral and aids from multilateral agencies as well as specialized institutions towards making the small and micro business and apprenticeships schemes vibrant.

2. Statement of the Problem

There have also been fiscal incentives, grants, bilateral and aids from multilateral agencies as well as specialized institutions towards making the small and micro business and apprenticeships schemes vibrant. It’s of great concern that this vital sub-sector has fallen short of expectation. The situation is more disturbing and worrying when compared with what other developing and developed countries have able to achieve with their cottage businesses coupled with significant attention to apprenticeship training and employment generate. It has been shown that there is a high correlation between the degree of poverty, hunger, unemployment, and economic well-being of the citizens of countries and the degree of vibrancy of the respective countries small scale enterprises. In spite of the fact that small scale enterprises have been regarded as the bulwark for employment generation and technological development in Nigeria, this subsector is faced with enormous challenges such as facilities problem, expansion, location, inadequate fund etc. government always neglect the sector despite if prospect. To ensure the achievement of this management objective in Small-scale business, this research has been proposed to address the following challenges:

- Management problem caused by poor planning
- Finance problem caused by lack of financial support and poor funding
- Multiple and High Taxes

The prospects of Small Scale Business in Nigeria shall look at:

- Employment opportunities
- Job Creation
- Contribution to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

3. Research Questions

The following research questions have been raised to enable the researcher pursue the study effectively:

- Does Access to finance/Capital have greatest impact on SMEs in Nigeria?
- Do Employment opportunities have significance relationship with the management of small-scale business?

4. Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are to examine the durability of small scale business opportunity and challenges in Nigeria and the specific objective is as follows:
- To examine if access to finance/Capital has greatest impact on SMEs in Nigeria.
- To determine the significance relationship of employment opportunities on the management of small-scale business.

5. Research Hypotheses

H₀₁ Access to finance/Capital has no greatest impact on SMEs in Nigeria.
H₀₂ Employment opportunities have no significance relationship with the management of small-scale business in Nigeria.

6. Literature Review

6.1 Concept of Small Scale Business

There is hardly any unique, universally accepted definition of SMEs because the classification of business into small and large scale is a subjective judgment (Ekpeyong & Nyong, 2012). Egboogu (2013) noted that definitions of SMEs vary both between countries and between continents. The major criteria use in the definitions according to carpenter (2015) could include various combinations of the following: Number of employees, financial strength, Sales value, Relative size, Initial capital outlay and Types of industry. Inang & Ukpong (2012) however, stressed the indicators prominent in most definitions namely, size of capital investment (fixed assets), value of annual turnover (gross output) and number of paid employees. In countries such as the United States of America, Britain and Canada, small and medium business is defined in terms of annual turnover and number of paid employees. In Britain, for instance, a small and medium business is defined as that business with an annual turnover of £2 million or less with fewer than 200 paid employees.

The Research institute for Management Sciences, University of Delft, The Netherlands, has classified businesses into four groups and defined small-scale industry as one employing 10 –99 persons in which the Manager personally performs all the functions of management without actually taking part in the production. Stanley and Morse (1965) in the work of Odeh (2016) stated that post World War Japan defines small and medium enterprises as one either having capital not exceeding 50million or having not more than 300 employees in manufacturing industry, and either having capital not greater than 10million or having not more than 50 employees in commerce and service sectors. They further reported an Indonesia Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises as defining small scale enterprises to mean all enterprises, household or cottage, employing less than 10 full time workers and not using motive power or machinery, and medium sized industry as one employing between 10 –50 workers and using motive power. From the point of view of quantitative measure, the Indian official version defines small scale industry as comprising manufacturing enterprises with investment in plant and machinery not exceeding 750,000 Rupees. In the definition, employment was emphasized, thus reflecting India’s preoccupation with problems of scarcity of capital and unemployment.

In Nigeria, the definition of SMEs also varies from time to time and according to institutions. The Nigerian Government has used various definitions and criteria in identifying what is referred to as micro and small sized enterprises. At certain point in time, it used investment in machinery and equipment and working capital. At another time, the capital cost and turnover were used. However, the Federal Ministry of Industry, under whose jurisdiction the micro and small sized enterprises are, has adopted somewhat flexible definition especially as to the values of installed fixed cost. Amidst several definitions provided by the Government and its attendant agency, the National Council on Industry (1991) defined micro enterprises as an industry whose total project cost excluding cost of land but including working capital is not more than N500,000:00 (i.e. US$50,000). Small scale enterprises on the other hand is defined by the council as an industry whose total project cost excluding cost of land and including working capital does not exceed N5m (i.e. US$500,000).

Consequently, The National Council on Industry (2001) following the agreement of a Committee comprising FMI, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI), Nigerian Industrial Development Bank(NIDB), NASME, Kebbi State and the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Scale Leather/Allied Products Industrialists on the classification of SMEs reclassified and defined Micro Enterprises as an industry with a total capital employed of not more than N1.50 million, including working capital but excluding cost of land, and/or a workforce of not more than 10 workers, and Small Scale Enterprises as an industry with a total capital employed of over N1.50 million but not more than N50 million, including working capital but excluding cost of land, and/or a workforce of 11 –100 workers. According to Essein (2001), small-scale
industry as an industry with total capital, employed for over N1.50 million but not more than N50 million, including and per a labour size 11-100 workers.

The enterprise promotion Decree of 1989 as amended in 1994 defines small scale business as any enterprise set up to make the owner self-employed and self-reliant. Such businesses include businesses include business centers, organized mechanics and allied artisan such as electricians; panel beaters supermarkets, gift shops e.t.c. Emphasis is not laid the amount of capital or on the number of employees engage by the business but on creating employment for the owner. There are many definitions of small-scale enterprise and there is no conventional uniformity among them. However, the definition based on capital especially in the Nigeria economy should be revisited from time to time due to consistent devaluation of Naira (national currency) and high inflationary trend in the economy.

- Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and National Bureau of Statistics SBN Collaborative Survey (2013). See MSMEs as
- Micro Enterprises are those enterprises whose total assets (excluding land and buildings) are less than Five Million Naira with a workforce not exceeding ten employees.
- Small Enterprises are those enterprises whose total assets (excluding land and building) are above Five Million Naira but not exceeding Fifty Million Naira with a total workforce of above ten, but not exceeding forty nine employees.

Medium Enterprises are those enterprises with total assets excluding land and building) are above Fifty Million Naira, but not exceeding Five Hundred Million Naira with a total workforce of between 50 and 199 employees

6.2 Types of Micro and Small Scale Enterprise

Fasua (2006) categorized business that full under small and medium scale as follow in small scale enterprise, firewood supply, packaging of food items, meat retailing, plantain production, restaurant service, small scale poultry raising, rabbit raising, organizing labour squad, operating a nursery for children, home service, arranging food for parties and host of others. Business grouped under medium scale according to fasua are: soap production, acqua culture/fish farming, chalk making, foam production, nylon production, concrete block production, hair/body cream productions, chemical production, commercial poultry, professional practice claw, accountancy, education, food and beverage production among others. Importance of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises in Nigeria (MSEs) are the backbone of national development. For a country to reach its full potential in terms of economic and social development, it cannot afford to ignore the importance of its indigenous micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) and the contributions that they make to the country’s economy.

In this wise trade liberalization and the encouragement of foreign directive investment has to go hand in hand with a through and concentrated effort to help the growth and development of small business to enhance development. For instance, study done by the federal office of statistics in 2004 shows that 97% of all businesses in Nigeria employed less than 100 employees. It therefore means that 97% of all business in Lagos State used the umbrella “small business”. The micro and small enterprises sector provides, on average, 50% of Nigeria’s employment and 50% of its industrial output. No government can afford to ignore such a high contributor to its economy. The proportion of Nigeria micro and small enterprises and their impact on the economy is pretty much similar to these in other countries of the world especially in advanced economies. These altogether employed more than 50% of private work force, and generate more than half of the nations.

Rationale for Emphasizing Micro and Small Scale Enterprise in Nigeria’s Industrial Development Fabayo (1989) observed that one major claim for focus on SMEs is that they are large employers of labour and this makes them vital in coping with the problems of unemployment and poverty. According to him, strong evidences based on country and regional experiences exist to show that small firms are major source of employment opportunities for a wide cross-section of the workforce: the young, old part-time workers and the cyclically unemployed. Meyanathan (1994); Ukpabio (2004) and the World Bank (2001), agreed that it is micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) that play intermediate role in the development of large scale enterprises. They reduce regional disparities through the creation of employment opportunities in the rural areas and mobilize local resources more readily than large-scale industries. Uzor (2004) opined that micro and small scale
enterprises (MSEs) contribute to national development by positively influencing the distribution of income both in functional terms, wages and profits in nominal terms. Focus on SMEs help to decentralize industries thereby not only accelerating rural development but also stemming urban immigration and the consequent problems of congestion in the cities.

Another rationale for focus on micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) is its contribution to value added in the manufacturing sector and to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy. Numerous country studies have shown that the value-added contribution of SMEs can be quite substantial for example small firms in the U.S. economy in 1978 accounted for 37% of the GDP, SMEs have also the potentials for contributing to export promotion as is the case in some developed countries where industrial exports are drawn from the small firms producing textiles, electrical goods, clothing, leather and ceramic products etc. Micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) have been found to have locational flexibility. From the study conducted by Uzor (2004), he noted that MSEs could be more readily used to achieve industrial dispersal and regional balance in economic development. Of particular importance is small firms’ usefulness in the diversification of the industrial structure and for the transformation of the rural economy. Another outstanding contribution of modern small business is its influence on the contribution to the competitive price structure. The large number of small firms forms a broadly based variety of piece enterprise firms, providing a near perfect competitive situation. In this way, small businesses act as a natural antidote to the price formation of large and powerful monopolistic or oligopolistic conglomerations. Economists have in addition to the above reasons for the attractiveness of small firms, identified specific advantages associated with small-scale enterprises.

6.3 Problems of Small Scale Enterprise

Baumback (1983) in the work of Fatai, (2011) contend that most of problems of small and medium scale enterprises including manufacturing ones are external to it. According to Baumback “among the more important of these external or environmental factors are those related to capital shortage, taxation and regulations, product liability patent and franchising abuses. These are discussed: Lack of Basic Infrastructure: The micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) sector Nigeria operates in an environment with very poor infrastructure which constitutes a barrier to entry and hinders international competitiveness. In many States in the country, nonexistent of infrastructure, inability to access market, communication, power, water etc. prevent development of micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs).

Access to Financing: Lack of short, medium and long term capital, inadequate access to financial resources and credit facilities affect the growth of micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs).

Capital shortage: The author observes that micro and small scale enterprises (MSEs) have serious financial problem in at least three respect of:

a) Securing funds in small amount at rates comparable with those paid by large industries.

b) Building and manufacturing adequate financial reserves

c) Securing long term equity capital.

Inflation: Despite the fact that cost of capital is higher for the small scale manufacturer, the effect is even compounded by raising inflation rate.

6.4 Challenges Facing Small Scale Enterprises in Nigeria

There are various challenges facing micro and small scale enterprises in Nigeria; while some are financial others are non-financial. The financial constraints include those factors that prevent small scale enterprises from accessing funds easily, inadequate sources and supply of funds has been a major setback to the realization of many brilliant business ideas and outward expansion of existing business. The inability of the small business owners to raise funds expand their business has been linked to poor business history, high risks, associated with starting new business, which banks tend to avoid, insufficient collaterals, inadequate record keeping and knowledge of the risks facing their business. Record keeping is particularly important to the integrity of the business. The prevailing corrupt tendency in Nigeria society, which has permeated the fabric of the society including Nigeria entrepreneurs, have prevents most small and medium enterprises operators from keeping adequate records. Many entrepreneurs avoid paying tax into the relevant authorities.

Poor governance structure is another factor preventing small and medium enterprise to access founds easily from banks and other specialized financial institution. An industrial analysis recently observed that one of the reasons why small scale enterprises funds has not been invested, is the
operator prefer to get the funds as loan, rather than as equity contribution.

To gain access to finance, small scale enterprises owner should learn to put up realistic business plan supported with financial projections, which highlight the profitability of the enterprises before they seek for funds. Such companies should be duly and legally registered with appropriate authorities maintain financial records and put in place strong internal control mechanism. Above all, the operators should be knowledgeable about the kind of business they want to venture into.

### 6.5 Prospect of Small Scale Businesses

The prospect of small scale businesses development is very promising in Nigeria being one of the developing economies, where most of the sectors are yet to be optimally utilised or developed (Sanusi, 2009). The presence of a dynamic population is the sole basic rock of prospect because it guarantees varieties in terms of taste, fashion, needs and wants, thus providing a good framework for business opportunities, which forms the basis of investment for any SME development (Oyedijo, 2001). Ogechukwu (2005) opined that the population in Nigeria as currently being experienced would also be in tune with the provision of manpower. SMEs are more efficient than the large-scale plants in utilising and training a small number of skilled labours, which can more readily be effectively utilised leading to continuous and effective utilisation of manpower in the economy (Jegede, 2015). They can easily adapt to the local markets and local sources of raw materials, therefore promoting industrialisation/decentralisation of industry in rural and urban areas. They are suitable for mobilisation of small savings for productive purposes, which would not be readily available or at least not in industrial capital formation within the context of large-scale projects.

SMEs are generally the foundation of a never falling supply of potential entrepreneurs, who are ready to take a chance on the exploration of new ideas or favourable market opportunities (Ogechukwu 2005; Oyedijo, 2001; Sanusi, 2009). They will provide productive outlets for the energy of the large number of individualistic people, who prefer to work in small units. They will help to create more jobs per unit of invested capital and per unit of energy consumed in the near future. In the peculiar circumstances of Nigeria therefore, the proliferation of successful SMEs would be particularly a blessing in employment generation (Ike, 1988; Lawal, 1997). It will continue to perform a highly economic role in those area, where the optimum size of operation was small e.g. where there was short run production, large variety of products and where customers services were of key importance.

Under certain conditions, there are economies of scale to be exploited by SMEs. The technical unit of production may be small, but a small firm may operate quite economically with very limited overhead costs (Loveman & Sengenberger, 1990; 2005). This will make the firm less vulnerable in period of depression and gives it a degree of flexibility, which a large firm does not possess. It facilitates decentralisation of industrial processes, which is helpful in providing a lasting solution to the current problem of imbalance in the distribution of business enterprises between the rural and urban areas (Sule, 2006). This will also help to check the perennial rural-urban drift, which has heightened social tension in Nigerian cities.

### 6.6 The Importance of a Small Scale Business

Eze, 2012. Small scale industries generate employment for a lot of Nigerian. A lot of unemployment for a lot of Nigerians. A lot of unemployed people and youths have found employment in small scale industries. A lot of small retail shops, cottages, restaurants, poultry farms, and telecommunication/telephone shops have been established and managed profitably by Nigerians who would have been unemployed till date. The entrepreneurs have in turn provided jobs for other Nigerians, who serve as support, technical and administrative staffs for them.

- It has encouraged self-employment for many youths both in the rural and urban areas. The spirit of successful entrepreneurship has taken over the mind of Nigerians, who believe in themselves and in the goal of self-employment, instead relying on government jobs. In the telephone retail and rental jobs, a lot of youths and Nigerian have remained self-employed. Their businesses have expanded to the level of employing some other unemployed people.

- Through the establishment of manpower development support schemes, and their involvement in the training and retraining of entrepreneurs, small scale industries have provided a pool of potential entrepreneurs and business people who are well equipped to start and successfully manage industries whether small or large, not only in Nigeria, but overseas. Successful business people in Nigeria like the Aliko Dangotes, the Ibrus, Mike Adenuga, Illodigwe and the Orji Kalus
started as SMES, before the growth of their various businesses into conglomerates.

- It has reduced the dependence on government and large firms on salaried employment. This is evidenced from the liberalization policy of the government in the telecommunication and education sectors as a lot of companies have been established to provide support staff and employment for Nigerians.

7. Empirical Review

In the work of Eze, (2012) on the problems and prospects of management of small-scale business in Nigeria, the Statement of Problem identified were management problem caused by poor planning, finance problem caused by lack of financial support and poor funding and multiple and high Taxes. While the prospects of Small Scale Business in Nigeria can be sub-divided into: employment opportunities, job creation and contribution to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To meet the general objective, the study focus on the following specific objectives: To identify the effect of poor planning to the management in small-scale business, to examine how lack of financial support and poor funding can lead to Finance problem of small-scale business and to determine how Multiple and High Taxes influence the management of small-scale business. The descriptive survey method was used and the research tool was questionnaire. 9 respondents answered the questionnaire. Data analysis using likert scale and presentation was done by the use of tables. The findings from the study showed mainly that there is evidence to prove that poor planning affects the management in small-scale business. Finally, solutions and recommendations were proffered on how the poor planning to the management in small-scale business should be improved to help their productivity by combination of critical success factors.

8. Methodology

Area of the Study: The area of the study is Kwara state. The selected Poultry farm companies under study are: Dayntee Farm, yamffy farm Limited, De integrated farm kwara state.

Research Design: The study employs the use of descriptive research design using survey techniques. The justification is that the survey method allows the collection of significant amount of data in an economical and efficient manner. A survey is a fact-finding study and it is a method of research which involves the gathering of data directly from a population or a sample thereof at a particular time.

Population of the Study: The population of the study is collated from the staffs of Dayntee Farm, yamffy farm Limited, De integrated farm Kwara state.

The population is represented in the table below:

| Table 1: Population of the Staff from the selected poultry farms Companies in Kwara State |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Company                        | Top Management | Middle Management | Lower Management | Total  |
| Dayntee Farm                   | 3              | 10                 | 50                 | 63    |
| Yamffy farm Limited            | 12             | 27                 | 84                 | 123   |
| De integrated farm             | 4              | 6                  | 50                 | 60    |
| Total                          | 19             | 43                 | 184                | 246   |

Source: Field Survey. 2020

The population of the study comprises of 246 management/employees of the selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara state.

Sample Size: The sampling technique employed for this study is simple random sampling. The simple random sampling technique was used because it gives every member of the population an equal opportunity of being included. The sample size of this study is 152 back by Yamane formulae, this is because a total of 152 questionnaires were issued, 15 was invalid while 137 was returned and used for analysis

Method of Data Analysis: Simple percentages and frequency were used in analyzing responses collected from the respondents in the selected poultry farm companies in kwara state through the aid of questionnaire. However, Pearson correlation technique was used to identify the relation between variables. Pearson’s correlation statistical technique was used in order to examine the impact of durability of small scale business prospect of selected poultry farm companies in Kwara state.
9. Data Presentation and Analysis

The data gathered from the management/employees of the selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara state are hereby represented using simple percentages and frequencies. The study presents and analyses the data collected from the respondents as follows:

**Response Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>No of questionnaires distributed</th>
<th>Questionnaire returned and valid</th>
<th>Questionnaire not returned or invalid</th>
<th>Percentage of returned and valid questionnaires (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dayntee Farm</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamffy Farm Limited</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De integrated farm.</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 2 shows the distribution of questionnaires to respondents. 89% of the questionnaires were retrieved while 11.% was not returned or invalid for analysis. However, the number of questionnaires retrieved is enough to carry out the study.

**Table 3: Demographic Distribution of Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>21 - 30 Years</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 - 40 Years</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40 years and Above</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualification</td>
<td>WAEC/OND</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HND/B.Sc./B.A</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.Sc./Ph.D.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The respondents gender indicate that 97 (71%) are male, while 40 (29%) are female. Respondent age indicates that 92 (67%) were between the age of 21 and 30 years, 27 (20%) are between the age of 31 to 40 years while 18 (13%) are above the age of 40 years. Respondents qualifications revealed that 100 (73%) have WAEC/OND, 31 (23%) have HND/B.Sc./B.A while 6 (4%) have M.Sc./Ph.D

**Test of Hypotheses**

**Hypotheses 1**

**H₀₁: Access to finance/Capital has no greatest impact on SMEs in Nigeria**

Table 4: The Regression Output for the Access to finance/Capital has no greatest impact on SMEs in Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coefficients</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>23.484</td>
<td>36.139</td>
<td>7.41</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance/Capital</td>
<td>19.654</td>
<td>5.139</td>
<td>3.824</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependent Variable: SMEs drive

b Finance/Capital was significant at (P = 0.05). At a glance, this suggests that access to finance and capital predict the level of SMEs in Nigeria.
A regression model of access to Finance/Capital was conducted to predict its impact with the level of SMEs drive in the selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State. This had a positive effect of 3.824 on the level of profit. This means that 1% increment in access to Finance and capital it has a 74.1% increment in SMEs Drives. Significant test for individual independent access to Finance and capital variable revealed that this strategy has a T-value of 3.824, P = 0.05 at a significance of 0.001. This suggests that access to Finance and capital has impact on SMEs Drives of selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State. It was found that finance and capital had a strong correlation with and the level of SMEs drive of selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State. Hypothesis 1 which states that “Access to Finance/Capital has no greatest impact on SMEs performances of selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State.” was rejected and Accept the Alternative which says Access to finance / Capital have greatest impact on the SMEs Drive of selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State

**Hypotheses 2**

H02: Employment opportunities have no significance relationship with the management of small-scale business in Nigeria

Table 5: the correlations results for the relationship between Employment opportunities and the management of SMEs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correlations results</th>
<th>Employment opportunity</th>
<th>Management of SMEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment opportunities Pearson correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.696**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed) N</td>
<td></td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>management of SMEs Pearson correlation</td>
<td>.696**</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed) N</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2 – tailed)

Table 5 shows that there is a positive relationship of .696 between Employment opportunities and management of SMEs. This means that Employment opportunities have a positive relationship of 70 percent with management of SMEs and the result is significant as p value less than 5% level of significance. Impliedly, Employment opportunities highly correlated with the management of SMEs Consequently, the null hypothesis whose say that Employment opportunities have no significance relationship with the management of small-scale business in Nigeria is fails statistically to be accepted.

10. Discussion of Results

Results in hypothesis one shows that there is a positive impact between the two variables, T-value of 3.824, P = 0.05 at a significance of 0.001, thus there is a significant relationship between access to finance and capital and the level of SMEs drive of selected Poultry farm companies in Kwara State. Results from hypothesis two revealed that there was a positive correlation between the two variables, which shows a strong relationship of 69.6%, P = 0.05 at a significance of 0.001, thus there is a significant relationship between Employment opportunities and the management of small-scale business drive of selected poultry farm companies in Kwara State.

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

The need for Small scale businesses skill updating, this should be directed at enhancement of Small scale businesses in Nigeria. Small business growth and development is based on the strength of the supports they receive from governments through effective policies and financial regulations to meet the needs of the business operating in Nigeria. In this era of high global standards, greater accountability and competitiveness, it is critical that government leaders do everything necessary to improve Small scale business for economic development. Therefore, Nigeria can learn from the experience of global giants and create conducive environment that will enable these businesses to adapt imported technologies, modernize their process and grow to become large corporation.

The study recommends that government and other non-governmental organization should regularly organize seminars for potential and actual small and medium enterprise operators on how to plan, organize, direct and control their businesses, and that small business enterprises operators’ should device effective marketing strategies and good management customers relations at all times.

**References**


