

THE UPSHOT OF SOCIAL MOTIVATION ON SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN SELECTED INFORMAL ELECTRONICS MARKETS, SOUTHWEST, NIGERIA

Ayeni Adebajji, Landmark University

ABSTRACT

People desire to gain social acceptance, respect and recognition by enhancing their economic status through informal entrepreneurship. In other words, some persons are socially motivated to become informal entrepreneurs in order to express their love to the society and also to feel loved by the people. The study considers the effect of social motivation on sustainable competitive advantage to reflect a possible drive in the least environment for self-actualisation; the study was carried out in southwest, Nigeria in selected electronics informal market. Adopting a cross sectional design for a transit population, data was analysed using linear regression to examine the degree of the relationship, between the independent variable (that is, the social motivation) and dependent variable (sustainable competitive advantage). The result showed that the need for the informal entrepreneurs to maintain the attained social status leads to the push effect from family sustenance. Aside the ties of a social unit via demands, requirements and provision tends to create the positive drive with focus on sustainable competitive advantage amongst the informal entrepreneurs resulting to performance of the electronics business which should be taken care of by the government but seems the funds gotten illegally from the street urchins hides the real value of the market.

Keywords: Informal Entrepreneurship, Electronics Market, Social Motivation, Sustainable Competitive Advantage.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of the informal sector in developing nations such as Nigeria, may not require any special introduction, as it is epically enshrined in the nation's unabridged activities. This is central to the inclusion of informal sector in all facets of every societal activity. In such societies, people desire to gain social acceptance, respect and recognition by enhancing their economic status through informal entrepreneurship. In other words, some persons are socially motivated to become informal entrepreneurs in order to express their love to the society and also to feel loved by the people. The malady of value crises predicated Nigeria as open society in which anything goes. As such, persons who are interested in operating businesses are restraining by formality to operate in the informal market. Scholars (Akanke, 2008; Webb et al., 2009; Fadayomi & Olurinola, 2014) have examined various drivers of informal entrepreneurship but very limited studies have made reference to this crave for the satisfaction of social needs, having the urge for naïve affinity as one of the possible motivations of informal entrepreneurship resulting to materialistic tendency amongst the youth. Studies on materialistic tendency of youth (Estrin et al., 2013) have reported diverse negative effect of such tendency but this study considered the relevance of such social value system to the Nigerian economy through informal

entrepreneurship. The aim of this research was to determine the effect of social motivation on sustainable competitive advantage in the informal market. The electronic markets located in Lagos state, Ogun state, Osun state, Oyo state, Ondo state and Ekiti state in southwest, Nigeria were chosen because of the diverse ethnicity involved in the electronics market and high level of patronisation in comparison with other electronics markets in other regions of the country. Thus making the geographical location in this work, Southwest, Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The pivotal concept of the study was conceptualised on the strength of motivation from the social perspective, centred on the existence of informal entrepreneurship. It is further discussed.

Entrepreneurship Concept

Using Anderson et al. (2013) views on entrepreneurship, this study adopts the definition of an entrepreneur to be an individual who is talented with ideas, which he uses as the bedrock to start up business and this is not endorsed to a particular set of personalities. The forms or rather basic types of entrepreneurship are based on measurement of performance linked with intents of the entrepreneurs founded on risk seeking, branding and transition into different respective levels and ultimately bringing about economic growth after personal attainment has been gotten. Therefore, it stipulates that as an entrepreneur grows, the difference in cadre must be reflected to indicate these differences. Hence, entrepreneurial types are based on the way the business activities are conducted; existing both formal and informal Entrepreneurships.

While the formal entrepreneurship stands for guided and accepted principles of operation in any given task and with the Oxford learning dictionary; it can be defined as the accomplishment of a given task in line with the designed rules of convention or etiquette which is suitable for the work or occasion. In this respect, formal entrepreneurship means the conduction of business activities in ways that are designed by the involved nation.

Thus, it can be said that these rules are designed to make the operations of the entrepreneurs becomes accessible by the government and this explanation is in connivance with Gerxhani (2004) ascertainment of being a place where autonomy, flexibility and freedom are to an extent restricted or monitored. Above all, it is expected to create more jobs amidst the creation of funds for the government while ensuring the security of the involved participants. Inter-alia, meaning the informal entrepreneurship will alternatively be an escape route for entrepreneurs at the expense of the benefits overlooked.

Hitherto, it could be referred to as the growing incubator for an intending and existing entrepreneur since opportunities detection, innovation and resilience are being developed viz- a- viz, the urge to make earnings and in larger retrospect, profit after ensuring the survival aim has been met. Obviously, all sectors have a notable participation of the informal entrepreneurship and this exists in every nation. To this end, Smit & Musango (2015) posited the need to engage the informal economy with more informed policy, even though it was constantly being undervalued with the ability to eradicate poverty and possibly lead to sustainable development. This is expected to bring about a socially equitable and sustainable development environmentally, though; it was in connection with green economy.

Formal and informal practice of entrepreneurship determine the economic activities in every nation, which translate to the high level of dependence created for free enterprise in every

undergone activity in both formal and informal market. In relation to the above, Hart (1973) saw both business sectors as generating opportunities, while (Benzing et al., 2005) posited both as contrasted systems of production, "*one derived from capitalist form of production*", and the other "*the peasant system of production*". Santos (2004), on the other hand, opined them as "*the upper*" and "*lower circuits*" and Sethuraman (1976) viewed the identification tags as the emphasis that places the "*distinctive organization*" of production activities. Ekpenyong (1985) stated that one third of workers in the informal sector were self-employed, half were apprentices and one fifth were journeymen. In line with the above, an agreeable fact was made on the informal sector having large employers of labour who are self-employed and driven with woman and children participating in the sector while involving in commerce and domestic activities (Mueller, 2007; Nwachukwu, 2012; Ugoani & Ibeenwo, 2015; Badenhurst-Weiss et al., 2014). This clearly reflects a case of motivation in a sector that continually seeks to be recognised.

Motivations of Informal Entrepreneurs

The form of motivation of the informal entrepreneurs established by the study is social motivation. It is on this premise that the next session discusses social motivation in line with how it promotes entrepreneurship.

Social Motivations of Informal Entrepreneurs

Social motivation involves the drive to attain social value by the informal entrepreneur as the participation within the informal business enables enhancement of the entrepreneur's social status. It further includes the provision of required platform for social incentives such as catering for the entrepreneur and entrepreneur's family with the maintenance of cordial relationship. Anetor (2015) stressed the influence of social motivation by maintaining the informal business operation was in link to preserving the interpersonal relationships with the entrepreneur colleagues. Thus, the entrepreneur's involvement in the informal market enables the establishment, maintenance, and restoration of positive affective relations with others. According to Douglas & Prentice (2019), social motivation births cordial relation with other informal entrepreneurs, this encourages the entrepreneurs' willingness to operate informally.

Of a note, the drive from social motivation enables the informal entrepreneur to maintain his position as the breadwinner of the home while having the ability to make influencing decisions in his space. This will relatively cause the entrepreneur's love for the business in the informal mode of operation while causing a strong effect on other people, triggering an influx into the informal market.

Dagmar (2014) viewed that the McClelland's motivation needs theory was developed on the studies of managers, having three most important needs, namely: achievement, affiliation, and power. The achievement segment associates the needs theory with the requirement for competitive success measured against a personal standard of excellence. The affiliation segment was focused on the need for warm, friendly relationships with others, interpersonal relationships, and the power segments is in sync with the search with the ability and yearn to control and influence others. In totality, it can be summed as a social motivation. In collectiveness, a social and economic goal are achieved via the chosen means of business operation indulge in (Webb et al, 2013). In sociology, motivation studies have emphasized the relationship between socially-oriented situational factors that push individuals to act outside the laws and regulatory guidelines in society.

One of the established goal of entrepreneurship since inception is wealth creation while the creation of value has also been found to be of necessity for participating entrepreneurs. In collectiveness, a social and economic goal are achieved via the chosen means of business operation indulge in (Webb et al., 2013). In sociology, motivation studies have emphasized the relationship between socially-oriented situational factors that push individuals to act outside the laws and regulatory guidelines in society. This act is seen as a symptom of disassociation between the structures that has being built for a society due to forgetting about the cultural prescribed aspiration in the realization of those desires (Merton, 1968).

Merton (1968) further gave reasons to why such an identified strain occurs as being the inaccessibility of a designed legitimate means of the said individual in achieving the predesigned societal goals (e.g. monetary success). In the cause of this study, it has been noted by State (2014) that the Nigeria societal goals have changed in accordance with the political instability structure, leading to the absorption of a new culture. In developed economies, an individual in such a need will attempt to use illegitimate means to get his desires with constant reminder of the new absorbed culture. This had been worsened by the media via the creation of aide memoire from the public wealth, status, ownership and visible assets of others, thereby creating a motivator (in its sense, a strain) to the business practitioners operating in the informal sector. Thereby, calling for a need to be different in a suggested irregular market that needs to attract customers, calling for a better use of competitive advantage technique over others in the market.

Sustainable Competitive Advantage

Sustainable competitive advantages are organization resources, traits, or capacities that are hard to copy or surpass and give a better or great long haul position over contenders (Faulkenberry, 2019). In business, a competitive advantage is the characteristic that enables an organization to beat its rivals. A competitive advantage may incorporate access to natural assets, high-grade metals or an ease power source, profoundly gifted labour, geographic area, high entry barriers, and access to new technology. A business's relative position inside its industry decides if an organization's profitability is above or underneath the industry average. The basic premise of better than expected profitability over the long haul is sustainable competitive advantage (Calantone, 2000). Porter (1980) made it known that there are two types of competitive advantages. The two types of competitive advantages brought the activities which a business tries to accomplish. Thereby, leading to three nonexclusive procedures for accomplishing better than expected performance in an industry. The three nonexclusive procedures are cost leadership, differentiation, and focus. The focus strategy has two variants, cost focus and differentiation focus. The Porter (1980) identified three strategies are discussed below:

Cost Leadership Strategy

Cost leadership is a business' capacity to create an item or service that will be at a lower cost than other contenders. This is on the off chance that the business can deliver a similar quality item, however selling it for less, giving an upper hand over other organizations. This gives a price value to the customers. Lower costs bring about higher benefits as businesses make sensible profit on every good sold or service rendered. In the event that businesses are not making enough benefit, Porter prescribes finding a lower-cost base, for example, work, materials, and facilities. This gives a lower assembling cost over those of different contenders. The business organization can increase the value of the customer by means of transfer of the cost benefit to them.

Differential Strategy

A differential advantage is gained when business' items or services are unique in relation to its rivals. In his book, Michael Porter suggested making those merchandise or services alluring to stand apart from their rivals. The business requires solid research, advancement and configuration thinking to make inventive thoughts. These upgrades to the merchandise or service could incorporate conveying high quality to customers. In the event that customers consider a product or service as being not quite the same as other products, consumers are happy to pay more to get these advantages (Rijamampianina et al., 2003).

Focus Strategy

Focus strategy in a perfect world attempts to get business organizations to go for a few target markets as opposed to attempting to target everybody. This methodology is frequently utilized for smaller business organizations since they might not have the proper assets or capacity to target everybody. Businesses that utilize this technique, centres on the necessities of the customer and how their products or services could improve their everyday lives. In this strategy, a few businesses may even give buyers a chance to give their contributions for their product or service (Yang, 2015).

This system incorporates geographic, demographic, social and physical division. By narrowing the market down to smaller sections, business organizations can address the issues of the buyer. Porter posited that once business organizations have chosen the group to target, it is fundamental to choose on the off-chance that they will adopt the leadership approach or differentiation approach. Porter specifies that it is essential not to utilize each of the 3 nonexclusive techniques on the bases that there is a high possibility that organizations will turn out accomplishing no strategies as opposed to making progress. This can be classified "*stuck in the centre*", and the business will not most likely have a competitive advantage (Alexander & Martin, 2013; Yang, 2015).

Shortcomings of Porter's Model

Porter recognizes high market share with cost leadership, referring to (General Motors) GM as an effective practitioner of this strategy. This was as GM turned into a market share leader in the American car industry because of a technique of market segmentation, differentiation and an expansive degree formed during the 1920s. Porter contends that cost leadership and differentiation offer a similarly reasonable way to competitive achievement. Nevertheless, a differentiation strategy dependent on better quality compared to rivalry is more beneficial than cost leadership strategy. It can lead a market share leader, and thus even a low-cost leader (Datta, 2010). Research shows that differentiation and cost leadership can exist together. Be that as it may, Porter demands that every conventional procedure requires an alternate culture and an entirely unexpected way of thinking. The issue is that Porter's conventional methodologies are excessively expansive. It is not his rationale that is imperfect, however his essential reason that endorses cost leadership strategy as the main course to market share leadership. This is because of the presentation of a limited perspective on differentiation with a remarkable item sold at an exceptional cost from one viewpoint, and a "*standard, or no-frills*" item on the other.

Mintzberg (1988) says Porter's cost leadership strategy ought to be classified "*price differentiation*": a procedure that depends on a lower cost than that of the competition. He proposes that business strategy has two dimensions: differentiation and scope. Hence, setting

scope aside, competitive strategy has just a single segment: differentiation. In most other markets, differentiation is considerably more basic. Along these lines, putting a major fortune in cutting edge hardware without some favourable position in the market means placing an excessive number of eggs in the low-cost basket. Another detriment of contending on price is that it can prompt a "cut rate" or "discount" picture that might be difficult to survive. One example is Sharp technologies, which attempted to contend based on price despite the fact that it was offering quality items that were positively appraised.

Relevance to Informal Entrepreneurship

Competitive advantage distinguishes a business from its rivals. It adds to more expensive prices, more customers, and brand loyalty. Setting up such a preferred position is one of the most significant objectives of any informal business. In today's world, competitive advantage is fundamental to business achievement (Chivasa & Hurasha, 2016). Without it, entrepreneurs will think that it is hard to endure. To end up and stay focused, an informal entrepreneur should continually seek a competitive advantage. Keeping up a competitive advantage, further implies that favourable position would require fortification. This will be more enduring and significant; for instance, if an informal entrepreneur competitive advantage is its sales force, keeping it could mean discovering new and better approaches to train them. Similarly, competitive advantage allows the informal businesses to have an increase in profitability that at least reaches placed above the average profitability of the sector or market (Kokemuller, 2017).

Competitive advantage prevents a business from taking part in an extremely self-assertive and costly fight for customers. In the event that the business cannot unmistakably state to customers why its brand is predominant, the business might leave income to risk. A customer analysing a rack with 10 brands would have no convincing motivation to purchase the enterprise items. At the point when the business set up brilliance in item quality, natural generation or reliable encounters, the business enables a customer to perceive the prevalent worth.

At the point when a business has clear, sustainable competitive advantages, it picks up the advantages of economies of scale. It does not need to put as much in growing transient favourable circumstances to get customers in the entryway. A sustainable advantage turns into a business cash cow (Bhasin, 2018). The business can calibrate points of interest or add to them after some time, yet it does not need to reliably toss cash at research and development and promotion. The reason behind the adoption of the competitive advantage by the informal entrepreneur is further supported by the dualist school of thought. This is further discussed below.

Dualists School of Thought

In 1972, the ILO enacted world employment mission in Kenya. This school of thoughts was based on the informal economy acting as a shock absorber to give the society relief when the unemployment jolt should have hit the people and as a result, opportunity for survival was detected in the informal market to relief possible employees from vices where sustainable income can be brought about. This relates to meeting basic survival.

The school of thought had the opinion that the informal economy was characterized by autonomous activities with few (none in some cases) relationships with the rest of the economy. Therefore, it can be categorically said that the economy activities are fully excluded from the opportunities that our modern society provides and this are subjected to two imbalances; growth of population and growth of modern industrial employment (WIEGO, 2017). The inclusion of

the social motivation perspective with the participation of informal entrepreneurship was further encompassed with the adopted the identity status theory.

Identity Status Theory

Refining and extending Erikson (1968) on development of coherent sense of identity of adolescence, Marcia (1966); Marcia (2002); Marcia (1999); Block et al. (2015) came up with four Identity Statuses of psychological identity development. The main idea was that one's sense of identity is determined largely by the choices and commitments made regarding certain personal and social traits. The theory came from the ground breaking work of Erik Erikson on identity and psychosocial development (Marcia, 1966). James Marcia, being a developmental psychologist refined and extended Erikson's model, primarily focusing on adolescent development. He decided to address Erikson's notion of identity crisis, by positing that the adolescent stage consists neither of identity resolution nor identity confusion. Rather, it was to the degree to which one has explored and committed to an identity in a variety of life domains from vocation, religion, relational choices, and gender roles, amongst many others. Marcia's theory of identity achievement argues that two distinct parts form an adolescent's identity: crisis and commitment. Crisis was defined as a time of upheaval where old values or choices are being re-examined. The end outcome of a crisis leads to a commitment. This is further made into a certain role or value.

Identity Statuses of Psychological Identity Development

Having developed a semi-structured interview for identity research, Marcia recommended identity statuses of psychological identity development. These posited statuses are: identity diffusion, identity foreclosure, and identity moratorium and identity achievement.

Relevance of the Theory to the Study

Marcia's theory of identity achievement related that two distinct parts form an adolescent's identity: crisis and commitment to the social drive of achievement. This was shown by relating the informal entrepreneurs' complexities of engaging in the electronics market to their respective status identity or vice-versa.

Furthermore, the theory links the existence of informal entrepreneurship in curbing hardship related to unemployment. This has been the case of the Nigerian youth at getting needs met but a dire exists when related to the African cultural heritage of value and goals attainment. Thus, the theory shows how the attainment of success in the global stage inclines to correct the irony of age with success as the 21st century notable world revolutionaries have gotten the expected glorified stage at their respective youthful age.

Linking Social Motivations and Sustainable Competitive Advantage

The work of Rey-Marti et al. (2016) assessed the level of attention given to social entrepreneurship related research, which caused by social motivation. This further brought into limelight the areas with the greatest research output, countries and languages responsible for most social entrepreneurship research. The study was tied to the countries and the year conducted. In doing this, it provided an orientation to new research about parameters and authors in the social entrepreneurship that ought to be consulted when studying the social entrepreneurship phenomenon. The study employed bibliometric analysis on the Web of Science online data base on the related literatures as its methodology. The conducted analysis of 2984

social entrepreneurship research documents revealed that 1851 are scientific articles in English language in the business economics line of research for socially induced entrepreneurs. An extension of the study, being empirical would have been an input that could spawn new researchers into the line of study.

Rahdari et al. (2016) examined how to achieve sustainability through the Schumpeterian social entrepreneurship. This was viewed from the role of social enterprises. In their study, they decided to enhance social entrepreneurship with the Schumpeter's perspective developed in his magnum opus "*Theorie der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung*". The methodology adopted for the study was theoretical analysis. The analysis made use of social enterprise, an effect of social motivation in transforming a business into an engine for sustainable development. The concept of corporate citizenship, social entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, social enterprise, and sustainable development were employed in the study. From the concept generated, the socio-economic ecosystem was hypothesised to work in alignment with sustainable development but the evidence of an empirical data was absence in the study.

Furthermore, Aquino et al. (2018) provided a conceptual framework of tourism social entrepreneurship for sustainable community development, an offshoot utilising competitive advantage. This was designed to address this gap in knowledge of the conceptualisation of tourism social entrepreneurship as a more holistic strategy for sustainable community development. The study critically analysed related literatures by creating a conceptual framework. The framework incorporates community development concepts, generic social entrepreneurship, tourism social entrepreneurship principles and community capitals perspectives. From the study, emerging literature on tourism social entrepreneurship that assist the socially motivated entrepreneurs in the system was established. This was a view of projecting the established new community-centric social enterprises. The intent driver into the tourism sector was a vital point missed alongside with no empirical data in the study.

While looking at the negativity of social entrepreneurship, birthed from social motivation, Lundmark & Westelius (2019) examined antisocial entrepreneurship conceptually. It was posited that studies were conducted from the view point of social entrepreneurship while neglecting antisocial entrepreneurship. This brought about the provision of a conceptual foundation for antisocial entrepreneurship. Thus, making up the methodology of the research with illegal and destructive entrepreneurship serving as the constructs. The findings of the study brought to fore a suggestion for future research on antisocial entrepreneurship. These are entrepreneurs who are not socially motivated. The exclusion of empirical evidence limited the study strength.

The unsuitable findings across different scholarly works makes social motivation and sustainable competitive advantage concepts intellectually thought-provoking but demands hypothetical fusions' towards critiquing existing works.

Motivation was earned via the need to meet the social demands of entrepreneurs. However, the actions poised by informal entrepreneurs, regarded as social entrepreneurs because of their drive to improve their social status and that of the people around them in relations to the engaged activities in the electronic market has not been understudied. Therefore, the study hypothesizes that there is an upshot of social motivations on sustainable competitive advantage in the informal market.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in six markets in six south-western states. These include Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti States. The markets considered for the research were Ikeja computer village, Okelewo market, Bola Ige International market, Fagbesa market, Olukayode shopping complex and Ayo Fayose market respectively. A descriptive-survey research design was adopted for the study, while the respondents comprise of informal entrepreneurs. According to Creswell (2014) the adoption of a cross sectional design is more appropriate because it permits the collection and investigation of all measurement of intended studied variables at one or supplementary points in time. Causal research was adopted for the quantitative method. In addition, causal research design was deemed appropriate, as the study sort to examine the effect of social motivations on sustainable competitive advantage. The need to obtain subjective opinion of the respondents and draw an accurate assessment of the entire population via the studied sample calls for the adoption of the descriptive survey research design (Osuala, 2005). The target population of the study comprises of all the informal entrepreneurs dealing in electronics products in southwest, Nigeria. The study population can be described as an infinite population because these informal entrepreneurs are not formally registered and constantly mobile. Thus, an accurate summative figure could not be derived as they are characterised with being unregistered business operators. However, based on cluster sampling, the study considered informal electronic entrepreneurs operating in the under-listed market

- Computer Village, Ikeja-Lagos state
- Fagbesa Adenle, Osogbo-Osun State
- Ayo Fayose Modern, Ado-Ekiti-Ekiti State
- Olukayode shopping Complex, Akure- Ondo State
- Okelewo market, Abeokuta-Ogun State
- Bola Ige International market, Ibadan-Oyo State

All the selected markets are focused on sales and rendering of services of electronics products. It is possible that other products, which are not electronics are being sold but majority of the involved informal entrepreneurs focus on electronic products.

The selected market has been adjudged to be a market with high concentration of informal entrepreneurs. Due to the large involving numbers of informal entrepreneurs situated in the listed electronic markets, it was deduced that the population of informal entrepreneurs are infinite as it was noted that they change places of business operations and are mostly mobile. This assertion came from the observation of entrepreneur's inconsistency where they conduct business transaction. An informal entrepreneur in any of the listed market was observed to own a stand, being paid for daily. This was located by the street/road side. To arrive at the sample size, Kumar (2012) posited a formula for deriving it as:

SS=Sample Size

Z=given z value

P=Percentage of Population

C=Confidence level

P=Population

Therefore:

$$SS = \frac{Z^2 p(1-p)}{C^2}$$

With the above formula, the sample size in its infinite population will be calculated as thus

$$N = \frac{(1.96)^2 (0.5) (0.5)}{(0.04)^2} = 600.25 \approx 600 \text{ Respondents}$$

z- The normal deviate corresponding to the desire confidence level = 1.96

p- Is the estimate proportion of an attribute that is present in the population =0.5

q- The opposite of p, q=1-p=0.5,

d-Degree of accuracy desired=0.04

n-Minimum sample size.

This agrees with Krejcie & Morgan (1970) on determining sampling size of five hundred as the appropriate unit for acceptable paradigm rationality in a large population scenario.

The Link-tracing method was used to study the hard-to-reach populations, by engaging respondents that can access the market, also known as gatekeepers. These gatekeepers extended their reach by recruiting their peers. Adopting the quasi percentile for the market location analyses called for a periodic sighting to get an estimated number of informal within the market. The sampling frame for quantitative frame is the list of all the informal entrepreneurs in the market.

Table 1			
SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE TO SELECTED MARKETS			
S/N	Market Names	States	Quantitative samplings
1	Computer Village, Ikeja	Lagos	255
2	Bola Ige International market, Ibadan	Oyo	128
3	Fagbesa Market, Osogbo	Osun	48
4	Okelewo market Abeokuta	Ogun	78
5	Ayo Fayose Market, Ado-Ekiti	Ekiti	38
6	Olukayode shopping Complex, Akure	Ondo	53
	Total		600

Cluster, Purposive and convenience sampling techniques were used for the selection of sampling size due to the constant transient nature of the entrepreneurs Table 1. Due to the nature of the correspondents used for the study, non- probability sampling was adopted for the research. The non-probability sampling was used to select the areas where the informal entrepreneurs perform their business operations in which the study was to be conducted and also engage in informal electronic business practices in those locations. In lieu of this, the informal entrepreneurs must be engaged in electronics business (services or sales) and gathered in an identified location. To be selected under the purposive sampling, the entrepreneur had to be an informal electronics entrepreneur who has been in the market for more than a year and engages mainly in electronic business. The cluster sampling method grouped the population into six different electronics markets in the south west. The clustering sampling method assisted the researcher to choose those market areas where the respondents have been identified to operate in big clusters. The purposive sampling method aided the researcher to determine the informal entrepreneurs with the above expected requirements.

Questionnaire was structured in a clear and equitable form, creating a stress free filling of the queries by the respondents from their own perception (Zikmund et al., 2010). The questions focused on the research variables. Five likert scale question spanning from strongly agree to strongly disagree was adopted (strongly agree=5, agree=4, undecided=3, disagree=2, strongly disagree=1). The reason behind the use of the likert scale was to quantify the degree of

agreement between the responses from the respondents and the questions featured on the questionnaire. The survey questionnaire was employed as a research instrument. This was to ensure that the collected information was appropriate, reliable, objective and standardised. In lieu of this, six hundred copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents at the selected market based on the above ratios in Table 2.

Table 2 MEASUREMENT OF RESEARCH			
Constructs	Variables	No of Items	Sources
Motivations	Social Motivation	9	Garcia-Rodriguez et al. (2013); Williams & Nadin, (2010),

Social motivation was measured using the McClelland's human motivation theory, which consists of power, affiliation and achievement needs Table 2. This was drafted from a questionnaire study of Garcia-Rodriguez et al. (2013). The questions tested constructs such as sustainable development. Checking the data was done to verify the absence of any lapses, error or lost data and ensure that all questionnaires are entirely completed. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 25 aided in the assessment of relevant statistical analysis. This includes descriptive statistics, reliability and validity tests. In describing the responses of respondents, the frequency distribution, percentage analysis and descriptive statics was used. The use of regression analysis was deemed appropriate due to the need to test for the relationship and effects that existed between the study variables (Osuala, 2005).

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

H₁: Social motivation is a significant predictor of sustainable competitive advantage in the informal market

Hypothesis One was statistically tested using linear regression to; (i) identify whether or not there is a relationship, (ii) examine the degree of the relationship, between the independent variable (that is, the social motivation) and dependent variable (sustainable competitive advantage); (iii) to access the predictor importance of the variable and finally (iv) to analyse the significance effect of the variable under study.

Table 3 MODEL SUMMARY				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.389 ^a	0.151	0.150	0.77200
a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Motivation				

The model summary Table 3 shows how much of the variance of the dependent variable (sustainable competitive advantage) is explained by the independent variable (social motivation). In this case, the R square shows a coefficient determination of about 0.151 if expressed by a percentage will be 15.1%. This infers that 15.1% variation of sustainable competitive advantage is predicted by the measures of social motivation.

The findings are supported by Analysis of Variance ANOVA (F test) results that the model or none of the parameters was equal to Zero.

Table 4 ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	57.501	1	57.501	96.480	0.000 ^b
Residual	323.026	542	0.596		
Total	380.528	543			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable competitive advantage					
b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Motivation					

Interpretation of Result: The ANOVA Table 4 shows that the F value is 96.480 at 0.000b significance level. The implication is that social motivation has a significant effect on sustainable competitive advantage.

Table 5 COEFFICIENT TABLE FOR THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE (SOCIAL MOTIVATION)						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.591	0.156		16.639	0.000
	Social	0.391	0.040	.389	9.822	0.000
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable competitive advantage						

The coefficient Table 5 above depicts the statistical significant contribution reflected in the simple model expressing the extent to which variables included in the model contributed to the prediction of the dependent variable via the viewing of the sig column in the table. The level of significance was based on a level of 0.05 for a two sided test, with the absolute value of the test statistics (T) greater than or equal to the critical value of 1.96. The model revealed that social motivation has a statistical significance in predicting sustainable competitive advantage recording the beta value of (beta=0.389 with t-val (9.822) higher than 1.96, sig.000 $p < 0.05$). This means that social motivation makes a strong unique contribution to explaining sustainable competitive advantage in the informal market. This implies that for each unit increase in social motivation there is up to 0.389 unit increase in sustainable competitive advantage.

Decision: The significance level below 0.05 implies a statistical confidence of above 95%. This implies that the social motivation has an effect on sustainable competitive advantage. Thus the null hypothesis was rejected, while the alternate hypothesis (H_1)

Which says social motivation is significant predictors of sustainable competitive advantage in informal market was accepted.

The significance of the informal entrepreneur's activities was in existence before the determination of its legality in the society. Thus, a bated eye cannot be given to informal sector. Likewise, the electronics industry with the inclusion of information technology sector is notably the determinant of development in every nation. Government intervention, programme and facilities among others have been provided to soften the effects of informal business activities as well as the push and pull effects on some of the policies created to address the sector undertakings while ignoring the reason for their existence.

The study examined the effect of social motivations on sustainable competitive advantage within entrepreneurs operating in the informal market of the six south-western states in Nigeria. The presence of the informal market is a training ground for business development among youths and survival for those avoiding wrong acts in a society, making the eradication of such a sector, an impossible task. In the course of the study, it was discovered that there is a positive effect

emanating from the social motivation on sustainable competitive advantage exhibited by the informal entrepreneurs in the electronics market. The creation for social value seems to be the backbone for the engagement in the informal market as it shows a high level of independence at a low cost of engaging in the business activity, since registrations cost and other required setup cost are averted or slightly overcome via the use of youthful energy. The need for the informal entrepreneurs to maintain the attained social status leads to the push effect from family sustenance. Aside the ties of a social unit via demands, requirements and provision tends to create the positive drive with focus on sustainable competitive advantage amongst the informal entrepreneurs resulting to performance of the electronics business which should be taken care of by the government but seems the funds gotten illegally from the street urchins hides the real value of the market.

The expected needs to be met at home create the silent change in satisfying the customers' demands by getting the products off the shelf at a low profit margin as against what the market tagged such products. This also was linked to the service providers in the market, who repair electronics products at low process and provide software solutions at ridiculous price in comparison with the formal business practitioners because they want to meet a need at home or close relations demand.

From extant literature reviewed, it was gathered that the presence of social motivation could arise from the cordial relationship with involving business operators leading to continual revolving strategic business operation in the market. This relationship birthed from social interaction reflects the strength of influencing the incremental performance exhibited from the informal entrepreneurs. This was affirmed on the premise of clustered interaction presence in the market and transiting into the positive business performance.

The tested hypothesis on this statement reflected the acceptance of the alternate hypothesis stating; social motivations are significant predictors of sustainable competitive advantage in informal market. Thus, reaffirming the need to create policies that could reflect the possibility of meeting social commitment, as a result of the African society operates on collectivism and indulges in community provision before personal needs.

CONCLUSION

The application of the identity status theory stands on the pivots of why the entrepreneurs engage in the informal market and when the status is met, it transcends to another impending status with the assurance that it could be gotten from the market informally. Thus, providing the aligned necessary framework for objective of the study, identified as: determine the effect of social motivation on sustainable competitive advantage in the informal market. This finding is in agreement with the works of positing sustainable formal independent small businesses are socially motivated into the business activities while retaining their competitive nature via the respective differentiation made. On the other hand, position on necessity entrepreneurs being more likely to pursue a cost leadership strategy than a differentiation strategy as a result of socioeconomic attributes establishes with the study's findings. This study has provided new insights on the social motivation of informal entrepreneurship in a developing country like Nigeria. The uniqueness of each state as regards the social motivations of informal entrepreneurship was brought to the fore.

REFERENCES

- Akande, S.O. (2008). *Employment generation in the informal sector of Nigerian economy*. Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER).
- Alexander, A. & Martin, D. (2013). "Intermediaries for open innovation: A competence-based comparison of knowledge transfer offices practices". *Technological Forecasting & Social Change*, 80: 38–49.
- Anderson, A., El Harbi, S. & Brahem, M. (2013). Enacting entrepreneurship in “informal” businesses. *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, 14(3), 137–149.
- Anetor, F.O. (2015). An investigation into the value of street vending in Nigeria: A Case of Lagos State. *Journal of Marketing and Consumer Research*, 11, 67-75.
- Aquino, R.S., Luck, M., & Schanzel, H.A. (2018). A conceptual framework of tourism social entrepreneurship for sustainable community development. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management*, 37, 23-32, DOI: 10.1016/j.jhtm.2018.09.001
- Badenhorst-Weiss, J.A., Cilliers, J.O. & Eicker, T., (2014). A unique market offering by formal independent retail and wholesale small businesses in Soweto township, South Africa. *Problems and Perspectives in Management*, 12(4), 366–376
- Benzing, C., Chu, H. M. & Callanan, G. (2005). Regional comparison of the motivation and problems of vietnamese entrepreneurs. *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, 10, 3-27.
- Bhasin, H. (2018). What is Sales Growth? Sales growth Explained in Detail.
- Block, J.H., Kohn, K., Miller, D., & Ullrich, K. (2015). Necessity entrepreneurship and competitive strategy. *Small Business Economics*, 44(1), 37-54.
- Calantone, P. (2000), *Competitive Advantage: Creating and Sustaining Superior Performance by Michael E. Porter 1980*, 18
- Chivasa, S. & Hurasha, C. (2016). Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) adoption and usage of e-commerce: A Probit Modelling. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*. 4(3): 218-226
- Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches* (4th ed.). London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Dagmar, R. (2014). *Motivation - Basic Concepts and Theories*.
- Datta, Y. (2010). A critique of Porter’s cost leadership and differentiation strategies. *Chinese Business Review*, 9 (4), 37-51.
- Douglas, E., & Prentice, C. (2019). Innovation and profit motivations for social entrepreneurship: A fuzzy-set analysis. *Journal of Business Research*, 99, 69–79. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2019.02.031>
- Ekpenyong, S. (1985). Development and operation of the urban informal sector in Port Harcourt and Calabar. *Comp. Urb. Res.*, 10(2), 21-31.
- Erikson, E. H. (1968). *Identity: Youth and crisis*. New York: Norton.
- Estrin, S., Korosteleva, J. & Mickiewicz, T. (2013) Which institutions encourage entrepreneurial growth aspirations? *Journal of Business Venturing*, 28(4), 564-580.
- Fadayomi, T.O., & Olurinola, I. (2014). Determinants of labour force participation in Nigeria: The influence of household structure. *Journal of Economics and development Studies*, 2(2), 169-190
- Faulkenberry, K. (2019). Sustainable Competitive Advantages: Definition, Types, & Examples.
- Garcia-Rodriguez, F.J., Gill-Soto, E., Ruiz-Rosa, I., & Sene, P.M., (2013). Entrepreneurial Intentions in diverse development context: a cross cultural comparison between Senegal and Spain. *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal*, 18, 119–133
- Gerxhani, K. (2004). The Informal Sector in Developed and Less Developed Countries: A Literature Survey. *Public Choice*, 120(3/4), 267-300.
- Hart, K. (1973). Informal income opportunities and urban employment in Ghana. *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 11(1), 61-89
- Kokemuller, N. (2017). Why Is It Important for a Firm to Gain Competitive Advantage in a Marketplace?
- Krejcie, R.V., & Morgan, D.W. (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30, 607-610
- Kumar, R. (2012). Sample size calculation. *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*, 60 (6), 582.
- Lundmark, E. & Westelius A. (2019). Antisocial entrepreneurship: conceptual foundations and a research agenda. *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*, 11, 22-34.
- Marcia, J.E. (1966). Development and validation of ego-identity status. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 3(5), 551.

- Marcia, J.E. (1999). Representational thought in ego identity, psychotherapy, and psychosocial developmental theory.
- Marcia, J.E. (2002). Identity and psychosocial development in adulthood. *Identity: An international journal of theory and research*, 2(1), 7-28.
- Merton, R.K. (1968). *The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy*. In *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: The Free Press
- Mintzberg, H. (1988). Generic strategies: toward a comprehensive framework. *Advances in strategic management*, 5(1), 1-67.
- Mueller, P. (2007). Exploiting entrepreneurial opportunities: The impact of entrepreneurship on growth. *Small Business Economics*, 28(4), 355-362.
- Nwachukwu, A.C. (2012). The Role of Entrepreneurship in Economic Development: The Nigerian Perspective. *European Journal of Business and Management*, 8(4), 95-105
- Osuala, E.C. (2005). *Introduction to Research Methodology*. 3rd ed. Onitsha: Africana – First Publishers
- Porter M.E. (1980) *Competitive Strategy: Techniques for Analysing Industries and Competitors*. New York, Fress Press.
- Rahdari, A., Sepasi, S., & Moradi, M. (2016). Achieving sustainability through Schumpeterian social entrepreneurship: The role of social enterprises. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 137, 347-360.
- Rey-Marti, A., Ribeiro-Soriano, D.E. & Palacios-Marqués, D. (2016). A Bibliometric Analysis of Social Entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business Research*, 69(5), 1651-1655.
- Rijamampianina, R., Abratt, R. & Yumiko, R. (2003). A framework for concentric diversification through sustainable competitive advantage. *Management Decision*. 41 (4): 362.
- Santos, M. (2008). O espaço dividido: os dois circuitos da economia urbana dos países subdesenvolvidos. In *O espaço dividido: os dois circuitos da economia urbana dos países subdesenvolvidos*, 433-433.
- Sethuraman, S.V. (1976). The urban informal sector: Concept, measurement and policy. *Int'l Lab. Rev.*, 114, 69.
- Smit, S., & Musango, J.K. (2015). Towards connecting green economy with informal economy in South Africa: A review and way forward. *Ecological Economics*, 116, 154-159.
- State, O. (2014). Conceptual issues in development administration. *International Journal of Innovative Education Research*, 2, 19–31.
- Ugoani, J.N.N., & Ibeenwo, G. I. I. (2015). Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation in Nigeria: A Study of the National Directorate of Employment. *Independent Journal of Management & Production*, 6(3), 145-178.
- Webb, J.W., Bruton, G.D., Tihanyi, L., & Ireland, R.D. (2013). Research on entrepreneurship in the informal economy: Framing a research agenda. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 28(5), 598–614.
- Webb, J. W., Tihanyi, L., Ireland, R. D. & Sirmon, D. G. (2009). You say illegal, I say legitimate: Entrepreneurship in the informal economy. *Academy of Management Review*, 34(3), 492–510.
- WIEGO (2017). *WIEGO Network: Holistic Framework*.
- Williams, C.C. & Nadin, S. (2010). Entrepreneurship and the informal economy: An Overview. *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, 15(04), 361–378.
- Yang, C. (2015). The integrated model of core competence and core capability. *Total Quality Management*. 26: 173–189.0
- Zikmund, W.G., Babin, B.J., Carr, J.C., & Griffin, M. (2010). *Business Research Methods*.

Received: 08-Aug-2022, Manuscript No. AJEE-22-12439; **Editor assigned:** 10-Aug -2022, PreQC No. AJEE-22-12439(PQ); **Reviewed:** 24-Aug -2022, QC No. AJEE-22-12439; **Published:** 31-Aug -2022