

Entrepreneurship Development On The Social Economic Development Of Communities In Uganda. A Case Study Of Nazigo Town Council

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Abstract

This study aimed at examining the impact of entrepreneurship development on the socio-economic development of communities in Nazigo Town Council, Kayunga District, Uganda. Specifically, the study focused on three key objectives: to examine the effect of entrepreneurship education programs on socio-economic development, to establish the role of trade license fees in infrastructural development, and to determine the contribution of entrepreneurship programs in reducing unemployment within the community. A total of 300 respondents, including entrepreneurs and local government officials, participated in the survey. Data were analyzed using multiple logistic regression in SPSS and STATA to identify significant relationships between entrepreneurship factors and socio-economic outcomes. The regression analysis revealed that entrepreneurship education programs had a statistically significant positive impact on socio-economic development, with individuals who participated in these programs more likely to experience improved economic outcomes such as business ownership, increased income, and better living standards. Furthermore, trade license fees were found to significantly contribute to local infrastructural development, with higher fees leading to enhanced infrastructure, although the relationship between business numbers and infrastructure development was weaker. Lastly, the study established that entrepreneurship programs were instrumental in reducing unemployment in Nazigo Town Council, with participants showing a higher likelihood of creating employment opportunities through business ventures. Based on these findings, the study concluded that entrepreneurship development is a key driver of socio-economic growth in Nazigo Town Council. The research recommends expanding and enhancing entrepreneurship education programs, implementing a more equitable trade license fee system, providing targeted support for SMEs, and strengthening public-private partnerships to foster job creation. The study also calls for the monitoring and evaluation of entrepreneurship initiatives to ensure their long-term effectiveness in addressing unemployment and driving sustainable development.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship development, socio-economic development, trade license fees, infrastructure, unemployment, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Nazigo Town Council, Kayunga District, logistic regression analysis.

Background of the study

Entrepreneurship can be understood as the process of identifying, creating, and pursuing opportunities to establish businesses that produce goods and services that meet societal needs (Promise et al., 2024). In Uganda, the role of entrepreneurship in economic development is significant. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), accounts for approximately 90% of the businesses in

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

Uganda, contributing about 20% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 40% of employment opportunities (Frank et al., 2023a). Despite this considerable contribution, the challenges of inadequate infrastructure, lack of access to finance, and insufficient entrepreneurial skills continue to hinder the full potential of these enterprises.

Uganda's entrepreneurial environment is shaped by its youthful population, with approximately 77% of Ugandans under the age of 30, according to the (A. I. Kazaara & Audrey, 2024). This demographic presents both an opportunity and a challenge for entrepreneurship, as the young population is increasingly seen as a source of creativity, innovation, and labor (A. I. Kazaara & Audrey, 2024). However, there is a significant gap in the level of skills and opportunities for entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas where access to resources, technology, and markets remains limited. Rural areas like Nazigo Town Council in Uganda face unique challenges and opportunities in promoting entrepreneurship. The rural economy is typically characterized by agricultural activities, with limited access to industrialization and modern business infrastructure (Alex & Julius, 2024). The government's efforts to promote rural entrepreneurship have mainly focused on agricultural innovations, microfinance programs, and skills training (Moses & Ntirandekura, 2022). However, entrepreneurship in these areas often faces barriers such as poor road networks, inadequate power supply, limited access to markets, and inadequate business training. In Nazigo Town Council, located in the central region of Uganda in Nakaseke District, the local population predominantly engages in subsistence agriculture (Allan et al., 2023). The economy is mainly based on the production of crops such as maize, beans, and cassava, which are grown for local consumption and limited market sales. Despite these challenges, there is potential for entrepreneurship to create sustainable livelihoods by diversifying the local economy, improving access to markets, and creating value-added products (Turyatamba et al., 2022). In recent years, the Ugandan government has introduced programs to boost entrepreneurship, such as the Youth Venture Capital Fund and the Uganda Development Bank's Small Business Fund, which are aimed at supporting youth and women entrepreneurs in rural areas.

The socio-economic development of a community refers to the improvement in the quality of life and living standards through the creation of wealth, employment, education, healthcare, and infrastructure (Alex & Devis, 2023). Entrepreneurship has the potential to significantly contribute to these aspects of development. For example, it can stimulate economic growth by generating new businesses, fostering innovation, and creating jobs (Muhamad et al., 2023). In rural Uganda, entrepreneurship can also lead to improved agricultural practices, diversification of income sources, and increased access to goods and services. In Nazigo Town Council, entrepreneurship has the potential to transform the local economy by creating jobs for youth, women, and marginalized groups. According to (Winny, Ariyo, et al., 2023), small businesses in rural areas can contribute significantly to local economic growth by improving access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Entrepreneurship development can also help reduce poverty levels by providing individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources to start and grow their own businesses (Faridah, Jacob, et al., 2023). The socio-economic impact of entrepreneurship in rural communities is reflected in both direct and indirect benefits. Direct benefits

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

include increased income for individuals and families, the creation of jobs, and the provision of essential services that improve the quality of life (Emmanuel et al., 2023). Indirect benefits include the development of social networks, community cohesion, and the empowerment of women and youth. In particular, women's participation in entrepreneurship is crucial for community development as it enhances family welfare and promotes gender equality (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

Despite the numerous potential benefits, several challenges hinder the growth of entrepreneurship in Nazigo Town Council. One of the primary challenges is the limited access to capital. Many aspiring entrepreneurs in rural areas struggle to secure funding due to the lack of collateral, high-interest rates, and limited financial literacy (Alex & Moses, 2024). According to the Uganda Microfinance Support Centre (2022), only about 22% of rural entrepreneurs have access to formal credit, which restricts their ability to expand their businesses (Derrick et al., 2023). Another challenge is the lack of infrastructure, including poor road networks and inadequate power supply. In rural areas like Nazigo, poor infrastructure increases the cost of doing business and limits access to markets (Gloria et al., 2023). Moreover, the absence of reliable internet connectivity restricts access to digital platforms for marketing, business development, and e-commerce.

Problem Statement

Entrepreneurship is widely recognized as a key driver of socio-economic development, contributing significantly to job creation, poverty alleviation, and overall economic growth (Frank et al., 2023a). In Uganda, however, the potential of entrepreneurship to foster socio-economic development at the community level remains underutilized (Frank et al., 2023b). According to (Winny, Kazaara, et al., 2023), only about 20% of small businesses in rural areas like Nazigo Town Council survive beyond five years, pointing to challenges such as limited access to capital, poor infrastructure, and inadequate entrepreneurial skills. In Nazigo Town Council, a predominantly rural area, entrepreneurial activities have the potential to transform the local economy by providing employment, reducing poverty, and improving living standards (A. G. Kazaara et al., 2024). However, despite these opportunities, many community members face barriers that hinder their entrepreneurial potential, including limited training, inadequate financial support, and lack of mentorship. Additionally, the National Development Plan (NDP III, 2020) highlights that over 40% of Ugandans in rural areas remain below the poverty line, with limited access to formal employment. This creates an urgent need to explore how entrepreneurship can be developed and leveraged to improve the socio-economic status of communities in Nazigo (Brian et al., 2024). This study aims to investigate the impact of entrepreneurship development on the socio-economic development of Nazigo Town Council, focusing on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for enhancing entrepreneurial activities in the area.

Specific objectives of the Study

1. To examine the impact of entrepreneurship development education programs on social economic development of Nazigo town council Kayunga district.
2. To establish the effect of trade license fares on infrastructural development of Nazigo town council

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

Kayunga district.

3. To determine the role of entrepreneurship development programs in reducing unemployment in Nazigo town council Kayunga district.

Methodology

The research adopted a descriptive correlational research design. This design was chosen because it allows for the examination of the relationships between entrepreneurship development and socio-economic outcomes in Nazigo Town Council (Lanlege et al., 2013). By using a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods, this design facilitated an in-depth exploration of the local entrepreneurial environment, the challenges faced by entrepreneurs, and the effects of entrepreneurship development on employment, income generation, and community development (Anwar et al., 2022). The descriptive aspect helped to capture the nature and extent of the relationship between entrepreneurship and socio-economic development, while the correlational element allowed for the identification of patterns and trends (Nafiu et al., 2012).

The study population comprised of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners, local government officials, and residents of Nazigo Town Council who were directly or indirectly affected by entrepreneurship development (Faridah, Kazaara, et al., 2023). According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Nazigo Town Council has an estimated population of 10,000 people, with a growing number of individuals engaged in informal and formal businesses. A sample size of 300 individuals was selected to participate in the study (Olanrewaju et al., 2021). This included 150 entrepreneurs (owners of small and medium-sized enterprises), 50 local government officials involved in entrepreneurship development programs, and 100 community members who were beneficiaries of these programs or who had experienced the effects of entrepreneurship development in the area (Jallow, Abiodun, & Weke, 2022).

A combination of purposive and simple random sampling techniques was employed to select the sample for the study. Purposive sampling was used to select the entrepreneurs and local government officials, as these groups were directly involved in entrepreneurship development. Simple random sampling was applied to select the 100 community members, ensuring that every individual in the community had an equal chance of being included in the study (Alex & Devis, 2023). This mixed sampling approach ensured that the study captured a diverse range of perspectives and experiences related to entrepreneurship and its impact on socio-economic development (Promise et al., 2024). A structured questionnaire was designed to gather quantitative data from the 150 entrepreneurs and 100 community members. The questionnaire consisted of closed-ended questions aimed at measuring variables such as the type of business, income level, challenges faced in business, access to entrepreneurial training, and perceived socio-economic

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

benefits of entrepreneurship (Innocent et al., 2023). The questionnaire was divided into sections addressing demographics, entrepreneurial activities, business outcomes, and community impacts. Secondary data was collected from government reports, policy documents, publications from development agencies, and relevant academic literature (Ramadhan, Alex, Ariyo, et al., 2023). These sources provided context and background information on the state of entrepreneurship in Uganda, particularly in rural areas, and the government's role in fostering entrepreneurship development. Secondary data helped to complement primary data and enrich the understanding of the socio-economic impact of entrepreneurship in Nazigo Town Council (Abiodun et al., 2022).

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS and STATA, which are statistical software programs widely used for data analysis in social science research (Nelson et al., 2022). Both programs were chosen for their ability to handle large datasets, perform complex statistical tests, and produce reliable results (A. Nafiu et al., 2012). Before analysis, the collected data was cleaned and prepared for statistical analysis. Incomplete responses, duplicates, and outliers were identified and addressed. Data validation checks were performed to ensure the consistency and accuracy of the responses (Jallow, Abiodun, Weke, et al., 2022). The dataset was then coded to facilitate entry into SPSS and STATA, where it was organized into variables such as income level, business type, entrepreneurial challenges, and socio-economic outcomes (Nelson et al., 2023). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the characteristics of the sample population. This included calculating frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations for key variables such as business size, income level, educational background, and business outcomes (Ramadhan, Alex, Kazaara, et al., 2023). Descriptive statistics provided an overview of the sample's demographic profile and entrepreneurial activities, which served as a foundation for more advanced analysis.

Results

Table 1: Impact of Entrepreneurship Development Education Programs on Socio-Economic Development in Nazigo Town Council, Kayunga District

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error	Wald Chi-Square	p-value	Odds Ratio (Exp(B))
Access to entrepreneurship training (Yes/No)	0.8	0.2	16	0.0001	2.22
Duration of training (1-3 years)	0.5	0.15	10	0.0015	1.65
Business ownership (Yes/No)	1.2	0.25	22	0	3.32
Access to credit (Yes/No)	0.45	0.18	6.25	0.0125	1.57

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

Government support (Yes/No)	0.35	0.22	4	0.045	1.42
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The variable access to entrepreneurship training showed a highly significant positive relationship with socio-economic development, with an odds ratio of 2.22. This indicates that individuals who have access to entrepreneurship training are more than twice as likely to experience improved socio-economic outcomes compared to those who do not. This finding highlights the crucial role that entrepreneurship training plays in enhancing the socio-economic status of individuals, by equipping them with the necessary skills to start and manage businesses effectively.

The duration of training also had a significant positive impact on socio-economic development, with an odds ratio of 1.65. This suggests that individuals who undergo longer periods of entrepreneurship training are more likely to experience better socio-economic conditions. The longer the training, the more comprehensive the skills gained, and this has a lasting effect on their economic activities.

Further, the ownership of businesses was a strong predictor of socio-economic improvement, with an odds ratio of 3.32. Individuals who own businesses are over three times more likely to experience improved socio-economic outcomes than those who do not, underscoring the critical role that entrepreneurship plays in socio-economic mobility. This supports the view that business ownership provides financial independence, job creation, and community development.

Other variables such as access to credit (odds ratio = 1.57) and government support (odds ratio = 1.42) were also significant in promoting socio-economic development, though to a lesser extent. Access to credit allows entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, while government support ensures that these businesses have access to the resources they need to thrive. Although these factors are important, they were not as influential as the more direct factors like training and business ownership.

Table 2: Effect of Trade License Fees on Infrastructural Development in Nazigo Town Council, Kayunga District

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error	Wald Chi-Square	p-value	Odds Ratio (Exp(B))
Amount of trade license fee (Low/High)	0.55	0.18	9.25	0.0024	1.73
Number of businesses in the area (Low/High)	0.3	0.22	3.5	0.061	1.35
Government investments in infrastructure (Yes/No)	1	0.3	11	0.0009	2.71

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

Local government involvement (High/Low)	0.4	0.25	5	0.025	1.49
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The amount of trade license fees (low/high) emerged as a statistically significant variable with an odds ratio of 1.73. This suggests that higher trade license fees are associated with better infrastructure. The logic behind this relationship is that trade license fees can generate revenue for the local government, which can then be reinvested into infrastructural development projects like roads, public utilities, and community facilities. In addition to the trade license fees, the number of businesses in the area (low/high) showed a marginally significant positive relationship with infrastructure development (odds ratio = 1.35). Areas with a higher number of businesses tend to see more investment in infrastructure, as businesses contribute to the local economy and demand better facilities. Although this relationship is positive, it was less significant compared to the influence of trade license fees.

The variable government investments in infrastructure (yes/no) had the most substantial effect on infrastructure development, with an odds ratio of 2.71. This indicates that government investments in infrastructure directly lead to significant improvements in local infrastructure. This finding underscores the importance of public-sector investment in driving infrastructural development, as government-funded projects can provide the necessary physical infrastructure for economic growth. Local government involvement (high/low) was positively related to infrastructure development, with an odds ratio of 1.49, suggesting that areas with more active local government participation tend to have better infrastructure. Active local governments are more likely to allocate resources to maintain and develop infrastructure that benefits local businesses and the broader community.

Table 3: The Role of Entrepreneurship Development Programs in Reducing Unemployment in Nazigo Town Council, Kayunga District

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error	Wald Chi-Square	p-value	Odds Ratio (Exp(B))
Access to entrepreneurship programs (Yes/No)	0.75	0.21	12	0.0005	2.12
Business expansion (Yes/No)	0.9	0.22	16.36	0.0001	2.46
Job creation by SMEs (High/Low)	1.15	0.19	28	0	3.16
Entrepreneurial skill development (High/Low)	0.6	0.25	6	0.014	1.82
Government subsidies	0.4	0.24	4	0.045	1.49

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

(Yes/No)					
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The variable access to entrepreneurship programs (yes/no) was found to have a highly significant positive effect on unemployment reduction, with an odds ratio of 2.12. This means that individuals who have access to entrepreneurship programs are more likely to find employment opportunities or create jobs compared to those who do not. Entrepreneurship programs teach individuals how to start businesses, which leads to job creation, thereby reducing unemployment in the community.

The variable business expansion (yes/no) also played a significant role in reducing unemployment, with an odds ratio of 2.46. This indicates that businesses that expand tend to hire more employees, which further contributes to reducing unemployment. As entrepreneurs grow their businesses, they need more labor, thus providing more job opportunities to local residents.

Additionally, job creation by SMEs (high/low) had a particularly strong relationship with unemployment reduction, with an odds ratio of 3.16. This is the most significant factor in this model, suggesting that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are crucial in driving employment growth in the region. The role of SMEs in job creation is well-documented in economic development literature, and this finding reaffirms their centrality in reducing unemployment in Nazigo Town Council.

The variable entrepreneurial skill development (high/low) was also significant in reducing unemployment, with an odds ratio of 1.82. This indicates that individuals who undergo skill development in entrepreneurship are better equipped to start businesses and generate employment opportunities, thus lowering unemployment levels. Entrepreneurs who have strong skills in business management and operations are more likely to succeed in creating jobs for others. Government subsidies (yes/no) were positively correlated with unemployment reduction (odds ratio = 1.49). Government support in the form of subsidies or incentives helps entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses, thus contributing to job creation and the reduction of unemployment.

Conclusions

The findings from the logistic regression analysis have highlighted the crucial role of entrepreneurship education programs in promoting socio-economic development within Nazigo Town Council. Access to entrepreneurship training significantly enhances individuals' capacity to start and run businesses, thereby improving their socio-economic status. Business ownership emerged as the most influential factor, with individuals who own businesses being more likely to experience enhanced socio-economic conditions. Moreover, the duration of training and availability of financial support were also pivotal in achieving socio-economic progress. These results underscore the importance of entrepreneurship education as an essential driver of community development, economic independence, and wealth

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

creation in the region.

Trade license fees were found to have a positive and significant effect on the development of local infrastructure in Nazigo Town Council. The results suggest that higher trade license fees enable local governments to generate revenue that can be reinvested into infrastructural projects such as roads, electricity, and water systems. However, the relationship between the number of businesses and infrastructure development, though positive, was less pronounced. This indicates that while businesses contribute to the local economy, trade license fees remain a more substantial source of funding for infrastructural projects. The findings emphasize the need for a balanced trade license system that considers the financial capabilities of businesses while ensuring that adequate resources are generated for local development.

The logistic regression analysis confirmed that entrepreneurship programs play a significant role in reducing unemployment in Nazigo Town Council. The access to entrepreneurship training, expansion of existing businesses, and job creation through SMEs were found to be key factors contributing to the reduction of unemployment in the region. Individuals who undergo entrepreneurial skill development are more likely to create their own employment opportunities or generate jobs for others. The role of SMEs in driving job creation was particularly pronounced, indicating that they are integral to addressing unemployment and enhancing the community's economic stability. Government support and entrepreneurial incentives also played a role in enhancing job creation and reducing unemployment levels.

Recommendations

Based on the significant impact of entrepreneurship education on socio-economic development, it is recommended that the local government, educational institutions, and development agencies expand and enhance entrepreneurship programs in Nazigo Town Council. Programs should be made more accessible to a broader range of individuals, especially marginalized groups such as women and youth. These programs should also be extended in duration to provide more comprehensive training that covers all essential aspects of entrepreneurship, from business management to financial planning. Additionally, practical, hands-on training and mentorship should be integrated into the programs to help participants apply what they have learned in real-world scenarios.

The positive relationship between trade license fees and infrastructure development suggests that trade license fees are an essential revenue source for local governments. However, it is recommended that the local government review the structure and rates of trade license fees to ensure they are equitable and sustainable. While higher fees can contribute to better infrastructure, they should not impose undue financial strain on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which play a key role in local job creation. A tiered or progressive fee system based on business

Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

Published on: 30.12.2024

size or revenue could ensure that businesses are not overburdened, while still generating adequate revenue for infrastructure development.

Given the significant role of SMEs in reducing unemployment, it is recommended that the government and relevant stakeholders provide more targeted support for SMEs to expand their operations. This support could take the form of financial incentives, access to credit, tax breaks, or subsidies. In addition, training programs that focus on business expansion, marketing, and scaling could help SME owners build the necessary skills to grow their businesses. Encouraging entrepreneurship within the community can have long-term benefits, not only for the individuals involved but also for the broader economic health of Nazigo Town Council.

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Received: 15.12.2024

Accepted: 19.12.2024

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