

MODERATING EFFECT OF SMUGGLING, BAD CHARACTER AND NEGATIVE SELF-COMPORTMENT ON THE CREATIVE ABILITY OF YOUTHS IN SHAKI BOARDER TOWN, OYO STATE NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This study investigated the moderating effect of smuggling, bad character and negative self-comportment on the creative ability of youths in Shaki boarder town, Oyo State Nigeria. Using the descriptive survey research design, three research questions were asked and three hypotheses tested. Data were collected using four validated instruments, from two hundred (200) randomly selected youths residing in Shaki town in Oyo state Nigeria, a border town with Benin Republic. Analysis of data was done using the multiple regression analysis and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the study revealed that the three independent variables made a joint contribution of 53% on the creative ability of youths. The composite effect of the independent variables as jointly contributive on the creative ability of youths are revealed as thus, $R = .703$, $R^2 = .565$, $Adj. R^2 = .531$ and $Std. error of estimate 7.112$. The result of the multiple regression analysis produced an F -ratio $(3/196) = 57.09$ which is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level. The study further revealed significant relative and contributive effect of each of the independent variables as thus (smuggling $\beta.441$; bad character $\beta.496$ and negative self-comportment $\beta.394$) on the dependent variable. The findings suggest the need for employers of labour to ensure that they are supportive of their employees and possibly provide government, school and significant others to support the development of the creative potentials of youths. This would enable them to adjust favourably to the challenges of the 21st century Nigeria.*

KEYWORDS: Creativity, Smuggling, Bad character, Negative self-comportment, Youths, Shaki, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

At any moment in time, every society faces constraints imposed either by nature or by man. Some societies are handsomely endowed by nature with fertile land, water and other natural resources, while some received much from previous generations and others are left with over grazed, eroded land, cities leveled with water or polluted environment. The pace of economic growth and development of a country is determined, among other things, by the depth of resources endowment of the country, and proper harness and utilization of these resources. This tends to create disparity in terms of growth between an economy with surplus and the other with limited resources. In some economies, especially in Africa, resources are inefficiently utilized as a result of wastage, due to natural disaster or human factor. This development has in most situations led some able bodied youths, men and women to express negative self conduct and be involved in smuggling activities in most countries in the world for which Nigeria is no exception.

As experienced in Nigeria, despite the abundant natural and human resources which could have served as a source of power for international relations, it remain characterized by poverty, corruption, conflicts, hopelessness and under development that have remained a constant issue even as the 21st century experiences huge technological advancements and globalization (Kalu, 2010). Over the years, the case of Nigeria has become very instructive; Nigeria consistently gets mentioned on the wrong side of human development indicators of various international agencies. For instance, Nigeria is almost always ranked low in indexes such as primary enrolments, health care's, poverty reduction, capacity building, water and sanitation and human capacity development. Besides, it has always experienced one social crisis or the other. Given the foregoing, this paper examines the moderating effect of smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment on the creative ability of youths in Shaki boarder town, of Oyo State Nigeria

According to Sternberg, (2006), there are five commonalities in the research of creativity around the world. First, creativity involves thinking that aims at producing ideas or products that are relatively novel and in some respect, compelling. Second, creativity has some domain-specific and domain-general elements; i.e. it needs some specific knowledge, but there are certain elements of creativity that cut across different domains. Third, creativity is measurable, at least to some extent. Fourth, it can be developed and promoted. And fifth, creativity is not highly rewarded in practice, as it is supposed to be in theory. It is well recognized that the most difficult task in evaluating creativity is to define what is to be measured; that is, to define creativity. Creativity can be understood as a product, person, press or process (Amabile, 1996; Runco, 2007) or as the interaction among "aptitude, process, and environment" (Plucker, Beghetto & Dow, 2004). In the present study, creativity is conceived as undimensional latent trait (Eysenck, 1995). Thus, Sternberg and Lubart (1995) proposed six resources that nurture creativity: intelligence, knowledge, thinking style, personality, motivation, and environment. With the exception of environment, the other five resources belong to the category of creative person. Runco, (2007) defined creativity in terms of three Ps: the creative person, the creative process, and the creative product. Creative person is similar to an independent variable that can influence the creativity and creative product is equivalent to a dependent variable that is a measure of creativity.

Kozbelt, Beghetto and Runco (2010) affirmed that the dominant factors that foster creativity in diverse individuals are usually identified as "the four Ps" - process, product, person and place. Also, a focus on process is shown in cognitive approaches that try to describe thought mechanisms and techniques for creative thinking. Theories invoking divergent rather than convergent thinking (such as Guilford) or those describing the staging of the creative process (such as Wallas) are primarily theories of creative process. A focus on creative product usually appears in attempts to measure creativity and in creative ideas framed as successful (Gabora, 1997). In support of this assertion, Sternberg, (2009) posited that a focus on the nature of a creative person considers more general intellectual habits, such as openness, levels of ideation, autonomy, expertise, exploratory behaviour and so on. A focus on place considers the circumstances in which creativity flourishes, such as degrees of autonomy, access to resources and the nature of gatekeepers. Creative lifestyles are characterized by nonconforming attitudes and behaviours as well as flexibility (Sternberg, 2009).

Furthermore, Sternberg (2006) in the creativity research journal reviewed the "investment" theory of creativity as well as the "propulsion" theory of creative contribution, suggesting that there are eight types of creative contribution; replication - confirming that the given field is in

the correct place - redefinition - the attempt to redefine where the field is and how it is viewed - forward incrimination - a creative contribution that moves the field forward in the direction in which it is already moving - advance forward movement - which advances the field past the point where others are ready for it to go - redirection - which moves field in a new, different direction - redirection from a point in the past - which moves the field back to a previous point to advance in a different direction - starting over/ re-initiation - moving the field to a different starting point - and integration - combining two or more diverse ways of thinking about the field into a single way of thinking.

However, Ortuno (2009) reported that the end of the cold war saw the emergence of a new phenomenon in the society – the phenomenon of transnational boarder smuggling or trans-border crime with its dimensions and threat to global peace and security. The dimensions and momentum of trans-border smuggling and criminal activities have increased with the emergence of globalization. The phenomenon of globalization encompasses the growing internationalization of financial, industrial and commercial capital, but it also makes threats transnational and heightens the feeling of insecurity of the planets inhabitation. Thus, current global trends such as the growing interdependence between states and the opening of borders, which exist alongside socio-economic, cultural, legal and political inequalities, facilitate the activities of transnational smugglers and criminal groups. The international economic crisis spawned by the financial crisis of 2008, has had a number of consequences some of which are unemployment, a drop in remittances, a fall in both the volume and price of exports, less direct foreign investment and a downward trend in tourism (Ortuno, 2009).

As more people are working in the informal sector, others have joined organized crime networks. Available literature on trans-border smuggling and criminal activities shows that no region of country of the world is spared of this phenomenon. For instance (Maetens, 2007) argued that the problems of smuggling, crime and violence – the drug trade and trafficking in weapons and others are factors that make most countries and their economics most vulnerable. The seriousness of these problems has necessitated governments of different regions of the world to explore innovative policy responses at both national and regional levels. The concern is to come out with approaches to address boarder smuggling and criminal activities.

Ortuno (2009) have maintained that the past few years have been characterized by a significant increase in global criminal activities such as smuggling, money laundering, trafficking in human and nuclear technology and material, the trade in human organs and migrant smuggling. At the same time, emerging crimes such as modern piracy, and trafficking in toxic waste, counterfeit medicines, precious metals or natural resources have been added to the list of traditional illegal activities such as prostitution, drug trafficking and arms trafficking. Most recently, transnational crime has grown in scope and is characterized by increasingly global reach, involved in multiple forms of smuggling and criminal activity, expanding criminal markets to include large-scale financial fraud and cybercrime. And the syndicates are willing to protect their activities through violent and ruthless means, linked to international terrorist groups and devising novel and notorious organizational strategies to deter capture (Luna 2008).

With reference to Nigeria, Akano (1986) pointed out that smuggling is one of the commonest crimes across Nigerian borders and that it is rampant in the West-Africa sub region. Akano (1986) identified two causes of smuggling, especially since 1974, namely; the protectionist policies of successive Nigerian governments and the over active import demand preferences,

especially of the middle class elites, which have provided a congenial atmosphere for illegal commodity trade to blossom over the year. In Nigeria, the trade protectionist policies of successive Nigerian governments have resulted in either a total ban or a restriction of the volume of trade flows to levels, which are below their natural equilibrium. The protective measures could have been motivated by a variety of needs such as revenue raising, conservation of foreign exchange, restoration of balance in the external payment accounts and protection of local infant industries. Nevertheless, they are inducement to smuggling activities.

Besides, the local industries are unable to meet up with local demands. Since protection causes a divergence between the domestic price and world price of the protected commodity, the former being higher, the prospect of buying cheap abroad and selling dear at home clearly provides an incentive for the smugglers to take risk of clandestine importation, especially if the perceived chances of detection are low (Akano, 1986). These indiscriminate importations of arms and ammunitions and drugs into the country have contributed largely to increased rates of armed robbery and other social crimes. Some people have got their health impaired through the use of dangerous drugs. Be that as it may, smugglers in the country have opposing views. To the smugglers, as Obembe (1982) observes, no trade is more profitable as smuggling; it is quick to riches and since it involves selling and buying, it is a legitimate venture.

Ntuli (2000) in his study of Somopho region of South Africa, found out that the Somopho area is fraught with problems of high unemployment levels and lack of physical infrastructure. These have affected the level of criminality in this area and have affected also community development. The high level of unemployment and poverty provide the basis and excuse for the youth to take to drugs and other crimes in the society. Ntuli (2000) point was echoed by Demombynes and Ozler (2002) both of whom maintained that the growing level of criminality in South Africa may in future likely discourage investment and stifle long term growth and economic development. The concern is that there are so many socio-economic problems such as poverty and inequality, corruption and high level of crimes in the society, these have the tendency of impacting negatively on South Africa's economy.

Similarly, Kalu (2010) contended that developing countries, especially in Africa, present a peculiar dimension in security demands as a result of poverty, unemployment, hunger, and increased belligerency among component entities that make up the continent. The activities of rebel groups, trans-border criminals, kidnappers, smugglers, arm-smugglers, cultists and other social misfits add up to the tension that has characterized life on the continent and specifically the West African sub-region. The situation has become more eerie when the issue of demented persons such as serial killers, rapists, drug-abusers, child-kidnappers, prostitutes, ritual killers and pedophiles are taken into consideration. This wide range of crimes constitute social nuisance to the West African sub-region and indeed Africa. Arising from the argument above, issues of applying creativity along the paths of defense and security are salient to sustainable development and national survival. Creating national security awareness has been identified as a new policy initiative to address the diverse nature of instability and insecurity in Nigeria and the West African sub-region (Akinsanmi, 2007).

Also, Jobe (2010) identified the youths as persons that are at the centre of criminality in the region. The ECOWAS stakeholders' forum on youth policy was seen as a step in the right direction. The forum was on building capacity of youth stakeholders, particularly youth organizations on the implementation of the ECOWAS youth policy on creativity, innovation

and self-development. Young people have the potentials which should be channel or harnessed more appropriately toward productive ventures instead of engaging in smuggling, criminality or criminal activities. The argument is that a well equipped, knowledgeable, disciplined and sophisticated crop of young people in our countries and the sub-region will not only guarantee sustained socio- economic development but will also assured us that the desires of the founders of ECOWAS on the ideals of sub-regional integration can be achieved with time.

The Honing Theory of Creativity

Central to the honing theory of creativity is the notion of a worldview, by which we mean one's internal model of the world, as well as one's values, attitudes, predispositions, and habitual patterns of response (Gabora, 1997). Honing theory posits that creativity arises due to the self-organizing, self-mending nature of a worldview, and that it is by way of the creative process the individual hones (and re-hones) an integrated worldview. Honing theory places equal emphasis on the externally visible creative outcome and the internal cognitive restructuring brought about by the creative process. Indeed one factor that distinguishes it from other theories of creativity is that it focuses on not just restructuring as it pertains to the conception of the task, but as it pertains to the worldview as a whole. When faced with a creatively demanding task, there is an interaction between the conception of the task and the worldview. The conception of the task changes through interaction with the worldview, and the worldview changes through interaction with the task. This interaction is reiterated until the task is complete, at which point not only is the task conceived of differently, but the worldview is subtly or drastically transformed. Thus one distinguishing feature of honing theory is that the creative process reflects the natural tendency of a worldview to seek integration or consistency amongst both its pre-existing and newly-added components, whether they be ideas, attitudes, or bits of knowledge; it mends itself as does a body when injured.

The Recognizability of Creative Style

Theories of creativity based on heuristic search, the acquisition of expertise, or chance, random processes, give no reason to expect that the act of creation leads to a clearer or more integrated sense of self, or that the works of a particular creator should exhibit a unique and recognizable style. This is particularly so if, as is often claimed, creativity is strongly domain-specific (Gabora & Saab, 2011). If creativity is limited to a particular domain then why should it result in a global sense of wellbeing or integration? Claims about the domain-specificity of creativity are based largely on findings that correlations amongst alternative measures of creativity are small, and expertise or eminence with respect to one creative endeavour is rarely associated with expertise or eminence with respect to another (Gabora & Saab, 2011).

Thus, for example, creative scientists rarely become famous artists or dancers. The focus of these studies is squarely on expertise or eminence as evidence of creative achievement. Findings of domain-specificity in creativity may have more to do with the fact that we focus on creative achievement at a level that takes a decade or more to obtain (Gabora & Saab, 2011) as opposed to looking for evidence that creative potential and personal style transcends particular domains. In other words, looking for evidence of exceptional creativity in multiple domains is not the only or necessarily even the best way to address the question of whether creativity is domain-specific.

Theoretical Framework

This work is anchored on Honing theory posits that creativity arises due to the self-organizing, self-mending nature of a worldview, and that it is by way of the creative process the individual hones (and re-hones) an integrated worldview. Honing theory places equal emphasis on the externally visible creative outcome and the internal cognitive restructuring brought about by the creative process. Indeed one factor that distinguishes it from other theories of creativity is that it focuses on not just restructuring as it pertains to the conception of the task, but as it pertains to the worldview as a whole. When faced with a creatively demanding task, there is an interaction between the conception of the task and the worldview (Gabora & Saab, 2011). The conception of the task changes through interaction with the worldview, and the worldview changes through interaction with the task. This interaction is reiterated until the task is complete, at which point not only is the task conceived of differently, but the worldview is subtly or drastically transformed. Thus another distinguishing feature of honing theory is that the creative process reflects the natural tendency of a worldview to attempt to resolve dissonance and seek internal consistency amongst its components, whether they be ideas, attitudes, or bits of knowledge; it mends itself as does a body when it has been injured (Gabora & Saab, 2011).

Yet another central, distinguishing feature of honing theory is the notion of a potentiality state. Honing theory posits that creative thought proceeds not by searching through and randomly ‘mutating’ predefined possibilities, but by drawing upon associations that exist due to overlap in the distributed neural cell assemblies that participate in the encoding of experiences in memory. Midway through the creative process one may have made associations between the current task and previous experiences, but not yet disambiguated which aspects of those previous experiences are relevant to the current task. Thus the creative idea may feel ‘half-baked’. It is at that point that it can be said to be in a potentiality state, because how it will actualize depends on the different internally or externally generated contexts it interacts with (Markman, Klein & Suhr, 2009).

Honing theory can account for many phenomena that are not readily explained by other theories of creativity. For example, creativity was commonly thought to be fostered by a supportive, nurturing, trustworthy environment conducive to self-actualization. However, research shows that creativity is actually associated with childhood adversity, which would stimulate honing. Honing theory also makes several predictions that differ from what would be predicted by other theories. For example, empirical support has been obtained using analogy problem solving experiments for the proposal that midway through the creative process one's mind is in a potentiality state. Other experiments show that different works by the same creator exhibit a recognizable style or 'voice', and that this same recognizable quality even comes through in different creative outlets. This is not predicted by theories of creativity that emphasize chance processes or the accumulation of expertise, but it is predicted by honing theory, according to which personal style reflects the creator's uniquely structured worldview. This theory has been developed by Liane Gabora (Gabora & Saab, 2011).

Research Questions

The following research questions will be answered in the study:

1. To what extent could all the independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment) predict the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)?
2. What is the composite effect of the independent variables on the creative ability of youths?
3. What is the relative contribution of each of the independent variables on the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between smuggling and the creative ability of youths
2. There is no significant relationship between bad character and the creative ability of youths
3. There is no significant relationship between negative self-compartment and the creative ability of youths.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a descriptive survey research method in which the researcher did not manipulate any of the variables. The participants for the study were all youths residing in Shaki a border town with Benin Republic between ages (20-35yrs) (mean age: 27.5 years).

Population

The population of the study consists of youths residing in Shaki town in Oyo state Nigeria, a border town with Benin Republic.

Sample

The samples for the study were two hundred youths residing in Shaki town in Oyo state Nigeria, a border town with Benin Republic.

Sampling technique

Simple random sampling technique was used to select two hundred youths between ages (20-35yrs) for the study.

Instrument

Bad Character was measured using the Bad Character Scale by Animasahun (2007). This scale is embedded in the Academic Success Barrier Battery (ASB²) which has fourteen scales in all. For example it has items such as: I may be rude at times; I fight often; People say that I am naturally lazy, etc. The Academic Success Barrier Battery (ASB²) is a standardized instrument.

Negative Self-Compartment was measured using the Negative Self-Component Scale by Animasahun (2007). This scale is embedded in the Academic Success Barrier Battery (ASB²) which has fourteen scales in all. For example it has items such as: I am anxious to get things

done quickly; I may be confrontational on certain issues; I can attack anybody that displeases me, etc. The Academic Success Barrier Battery (ASB²) is a standardized instrument.

Creativity Assessment Scale: This instrument is designed by the researchers and it was used to measure the positive creative intension of participants for the study. It adopted the modified Likert's type of scale for self-rating. Responses were rated on a 4-point likert scale ranging from 1-4 where: 4=Strongly Agreed, 3=Agreed, 2=Stronly Disagreed, and 1=Disagree. The instrument has ten items. For example it has items such as: I have the desire to develop a product; Creative ideas could change our society for good; Lack of money killed my creative desire, etc. The reliability of the instrument was calculated using a (test-re-test) method by administering the questionnaire twice (within a two-week interval). The Coefficient Alpha is .86,

Cross Boarder Business Activity Assessment Scale: This instrument is designed by the researchers and it was used to measure smuggling intension of participants used for the study. It adopted the modified Likert's type of scale for self-rating. Responses were rated on a 4-point likert scale ranging from 1-4 where: 4=Strongly Agreed, 3=Agreed, 2=Stronly Disagreed, and 1=Disagree. The instrument has ten items. For example it has items such as: Trading across the border would make me rich quickly; I make would make more money carrying my goods through bush paths across the border to sell in neighbouring country; Pay duties on my goods would reduce my profit, etc. The reliability of the instrument was calculated using a (test-re-test) method by administering the questionnaire twice (within a two-week interval). The Coefficient Alpha is .72.

Administration of the instrument

The researchers personally distributed and collected the completed questionnaire from the respondents. Permission was obtained from significant authorities to facilitate the process. The Participants were adequately informed of the adherence to confidentiality and the need to be precise and truthful in filling the questionnaire. Two hundred questionnaires were administered (200) and successfully collected back by the researchers.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple regression analysis statistical tools. Multiple regression was used to find out the combined and relative contributions of the three independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment) on the dependent variable (creative ability of youths). PPMC was used to determine if the level of relationship between the variables was statistically significant to warrant rejection or acceptance of the hypothesis.

RESULTS

The results of the moderating effect of smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment on the creative ability of youths in shaki boarder town is presented as thus:

Research question 1: To what extend could all the independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment) predict the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)?

Table 1: Moderating effect of smuggling, bad character and negative self-comportment on the creative ability of youths. Descriptive Statistics and Correlation Matrix of Relationship between variables.

Variables	N	Mean	Std Dev	1	2	3	4
creative ability of youths	200	61.35	10.45	1.000			
smuggling	200	35.03	6.08	.293	1.000		
bad character	200	63.42	12.46	.669	.504	1.000	
negative self-comportment	200	62.19	11.21	.475	.411	.575	1.000

Table 1 gives description of measures of association between the variables identified in this study. The scores indicate significant relationship between the variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-comportment). The table shows that bad character has the highest correlation with creative ability of youths ($r=.669$, $p<0.05$)

Research question 2: What is the composite effect of the independent variables on the creative ability of youths?

Table 2. Regression summary table showing the joint effect of the independent variables on creative ability of youths

R= .703					
R ² = .565					
Adj R ² = .531					
Std Error= 7.112					
Source	Df	Sum squares(ss)	Mean square	F-Ratio	Sig
Regression	3	16464.214	5488.07	57.09	.000
Residual	196	18842.121	96.13		
Total	199	35306.34			

Based on the result presented in table 2, the three independent variables made a joint contribution of 53% on the creative ability of youths. The composite effect of the independent variables as jointly contributive on the creative ability of youths are revealed as thus, $R= .703$, $R^S= .565$, $Adj. R^S= .531$ and Std. error of estimate 7.112. The result of the multiple regression analysis produced an F-ratio $(3/196) = 57.09$ which is significant at $p<0.05$ alpha level.

Research question 3: What is the relative contribution of each of the independent variables on the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)?

Table 3. Relative contribution of the independent variables on the creative ability of youths

Variables	B	Std.Error	Beta	T	Sig
Smuggling	.442	.046	.441	6.270	.000
Bad Character	.461	.049	.496	9.716	.000
Negative Self-Comportment	.416	.044	.394	4.754	.000

Table 3 highlights the relative effects of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The table reveals that the independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-comportment) made significant contributive effect on the creative ability of youths. As displayed on the table bad character has a higher significant contributing effect to the creative ability of youths, followed by smuggling and negative self-comportment. The t-observed for each of the variables attest to this fact.

Ho1: There will be no significant relationship between smuggling and the creative ability of youths?

Table 4: PPMC summary table showing significant relationship between smuggling and the creative ability of youths

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	Df	P
Creative ability of youths	200	61.35	10.45	.293	198	Sig
Smuggling	200	35.03	6.08			

The table shows that the variable smuggling significantly correlates with the creative ability of youths. $r(198) = .293$, $p < .05$. The mean and standard deviation for smuggling is 35.03 and 6.08 respectively. With this result the Ho: is thus, rejected. This implies that smuggling affects the ability of youths to be productively creative.

Ho2: There will be no significant relationship between bad character and the creative ability of youths?

Table 5: PPMC summary table showing significant relationship between bad character and the creative ability of youths

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	Df	P
Creative ability of youths	200	61.35	10.45	.669	198	Sig
Bad Character	200	63.42	12.46			

The table shows that the variable bad character positively and significantly correlates with the creative ability of youths. $r(198) = .669$, $p < .05$. The mean and standard deviation for bad character is 63.42 and 12.46 respectively. With this result the Ho: is thus, rejected. This implies that expressed bad character affects the ability of youths to be productively creative.

Ho3: There will be no significant relationship between negative self-comportment and the creative ability of youths?

Table 6: PPMC summary table showing significant relationship between negative self-compartment and the creative ability of youths.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	Df	P
Creative ability of youths.	200	61.35	10.45	.475	198	Sig
Negative self-compartment	200	62.19	11.21			

The table shows that the variable negative self-compartment correlates significantly with the creative ability of youths $r(198) = .475, p < .05$. The mean and standard deviation for negative self-compartment is 62.19 and 11.21 respectively. With this result the H_0 : is thus, rejected. This implies that negative self-compartment affects the ability of youths to be productively creative.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question One

To what extent could all the independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-compartment) predict the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)? The result of the study indicates that the independent variables have significant predictive influence on the dependent variable. The reason for this can be premised on the fact that the pace of economic growth and development of a country is determined, among other things, by the depth of resources endowment of the country, and proper harness and utilization of these resources. As observed in Nigeria, both natural and human resources are inefficiently utilized as a result of wastage, due to or human factor. This development has in most situations led some able bodied youths, men and women to express negative self conduct and be involved in smuggling activities in most part of Nigeria for which Shaki boarder town is no exception. This supports the Kalu, (2010) report that as experienced in Nigeria, despite the abundant natural and human resources which could have served as a source of power for international relations, it remain characterized by poverty, corruption, conflicts, hopelessness and under development that have remained a constant issue even as the 21st century experiences huge technological advancements and globalization.

Research Question Two

What is the composite effect of the independent variables on the creative ability of youths? The result of the study indicates that the three independent variables made a joint contribution of 53% on the creative ability of youths. The composite effect of the independent variables as jointly contributive on the creative ability of youths are revealed as thus, $R = .703, R^2 = .565, \text{Adj. } R^2 = .531$ and Std. error of estimate 7.112. The result of the multiple regression analysis produced an F-ratio $(3/196) = 57.09$ which is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level. This implies that probably, the poor economic situation in the country has negatively impaired on the creative potential and ability of youths. This has made youths expressed bad character, negative self-compartment and smuggling act to make ends meet. This supports the contention that creativity is possible base on positive interaction among "aptitude, process, and environment" (Plucker, Beghetto & Dow, 2004). Thus, Sternberg and Lubart (1995) proposed six resources that nurture creativity: intelligence, knowledge, thinking style, personality, motivation, and environment. With the exception of environment, the other five resources belong to the category of creative person.

Research Question Three

What is the relative contribution of each of the independent variables on the dependent variable (creative ability of youths)? The result of the study reveals that the independent variables (smuggling, bad character and negative self-comportment) made significant contributive effect on the creative ability of youths. In order of magnitude, bad character has a higher significant contributing effect to the creative ability of youths, followed by smuggling and negative self-comportment. The t-observed for each of the variables attest to this fact. The reason for this development could be attributed to the fact that over the years, the case of Nigeria has become very instructive; Nigeria consistently gets mentioned on the wrong side of human development indicators of various international agencies. For instance, Nigeria is almost always ranked low in indexes such as poverty reduction, capacity building and human capacity development. Also, Ortuno (2009) affirmed that the dimensions and momentum of trans-border smuggling and criminal activities have increased with the emergence of globalization. The phenomenon of globalization encompasses the growing internationalization of financial, industrial and commercial capital, but it also makes threats transnational and heightens the feeling of insecurity of the planets inhabitation.

Hypothesis one: There is no significant relationship between smuggling and the creative ability of youths. The result shows that smuggling significantly correlates with the creative ability of youths. $r(198) = .293, p < .05$. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. The reason for this development can be adduced to the fact that most youths see smuggling as a profitable venture as such, they get involved. With reference to Nigeria, Akano (1986) pointed out that smuggling is one of the commonest crimes across Nigerian borders and that it is rampant in the West-Africa sub region. Akano (1986) identified two causes of smuggling, especially since 1974, namely; the protectionist policies of successive Nigerian governments and the over active import demand preferences, especially of the middle class elites, which have provided a congenial atmosphere for illegal commodity trade to blossom over the year. In Nigeria, the trade protectionist policies of successive Nigerian governments have resulted in either a total ban or a restriction of the volume of trade flows to levels, which are below their natural equilibrium. The protective measures could have been motivated by a variety of needs such as revenue raising, conservation of foreign exchange, restoration of balance in the external payment accounts and protection of local infant industries. Nevertheless, they are inducement to smuggling activities.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between bad character and the creative ability of youths. The result of the study shows that the variable bad character positively and significantly correlates with the creative ability of youths $r(198) = .669, p < .05$. With this result the H_0 : is thus, rejected. This implies that expressed bad character affects the ability of youths to be productively creative. The reason for this could be unemployment and lack of basic infrastructure for youths to thrive positively. These have affected the level of criminality in this area and have affected also community development. The high level of unemployment and poverty provide the basis and excuse for the youth to take to drugs and other crimes in the society. Consistent with this point of view is Obembe (1982) assertion that the indiscriminate importations of arms and ammunitions and drugs into the country have contributed largely to increased rates of armed robbery and other social crimes. In the light of this development, some people have got their health impaired through the use of dangerous drugs.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between negative self-comportment and the creative ability of youths. The result of the study shows that the variable negative self-comportment correlates significantly with the creative ability of youths $r(198) = .475$, $p < .05$. With this result the H_0 is thus, rejected. This implies that negative self-comportment affects the ability of youths to be productively creative. The reason for this could be attributed to the fact that wide range of crimes among youths constitute social nuisance to the West African sub-region and indeed Africa. In congruence, Jobe (2010) identified the youths as persons that are at the centre of criminality in the region. Jobe (2010) further stated that young people have the potentials which should be channel or harnessed more appropriately toward productive ventures instead of engaging in smuggling, criminality or criminal activities. The argument is that a well equipped, knowledgeable, disciplined and sophisticated crop of young people in our countries and the sub-region will not only guarantee sustained socio- economic development but will also assured us that the desires of the founders of ECOWAS on the ideals of sub-regional integration can be achieved with time.

Implication of the findings

The pace of economic growth and development of a country is determined, among other things, by the depth of resources endowment of the country, and proper harness and utilization of these resources. In view of this fact, every society faces constraints imposed either by nature or by man. This tends to create disparity in terms of growth between an economy with surplus and the other with limited resources. This development has in most situations led some able bodied youths, men and women to express negative self conduct and be involved in smuggling activities in most countries in the world for which Nigeria is no exception. As experienced in Nigeria, despite the abundant natural and human resources which could have served as a source of power for international relations, it remain characterized by poverty, corruption, conflicts, hopelessness and under development that have remained a constant issue even as the 21st century experiences huge technological advancements and globalization (NewsAfrica, 2008). Thus, over the years, the case of Nigeria has become very instructive; Nigeria consistently gets mentioned on the wrong side of human development indicators of various international agencies. This implies that for Nigeria to get it right as regards development in all ramifications, it needs to take positive responsibility in the path of developing the creative and entrepreneur skills and potentials of its citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The government, school and significant others should take time to appreciate and understand the career developmental task of children so as to device appropriate measure on how best to understand, relate, maintain and sustain their interest in creative activities as to facilitate permissible environment where they can express themselves freely and show case their creative potentials.

Children should be made to understand and appreciate the need for them to develop their creative skills as to meet with the challenges of the 21st century.

CONCLUSION

The dominant factors that foster creativity in diverse individuals are usually identified as "the four Ps" - process, product, person and place. Also, a focus on process is shown in cognitive approaches that try to describe thought mechanisms and techniques for creative thinking. In view of this context, creativity potentials could be developed from the credo if school curriculum is design to project and facilitate this core aspect of human development.

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