

# **Ethnicity and Entrepreneurial Participation in Education: Perception of Women entrepreneurs in Sokoto and Kebbi States, Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

This study investigates the influence of ethnicity on women's entrepreneurial participation in education. 500 respondents were drawn from Sokoto and Kebbi States, North-western Nigeria. Primary data were obtained with the aid of a structured questionnaire and analysed using binary logistic regression. Out of the five (5) ethnicity variables investigated, only two were found to have influence on women entrepreneurial participation in education in Kebbi and Sokoto States. These are  $X_3$  = my ethnicity is more entrepreneurial than any other,  $X_5$  = my culture encourage entrepreneurial activities, whereas, the other three factors namely  $X_1$ = my ethnic group affect my entrepreneurial activities positively,  $X_2$  = my culture limit my business opportunity, and  $X_4$  = my culture recognize entrepreneurial success were not found to have influence on women entrepreneurial participation in Kebbi and Sokoto States. Findings suggest that government programmes on entrepreneurship and poverty reduction should, therefore, target women of Hausa/Fulani extraction in Kebbi and Sokoto states, Nigeria with the support of religious and traditional leaders. This would enhance their ability to engage in more income-generating activities, thereby increasing their income as well as reducing poverty particularly in the rural areas. To achieve this recommendation, religious institutions should contribute in encouraging women to diversify their entrepreneurial activities, especially in the rural areas, beyond farming. The study found the perception of respondents about ethnicity factors to be negatively correlated with women entrepreneurial participation in education sector. This strengthens the need for the involvement of religious leaders and traditional institutions to brainstorm on how to overcome this perception that limits women entrepreneurial participation in education.

**Keywords:** Ethnicity Factors; Women; Entrepreneurs; Logistic Regression; Participation