

**INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, MINDFULNESS AND SEX ON ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION AMONG YOUTH CORPS MEMBERS IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** This study examines influence of social support, emotional intelligence, mindfulness and sex on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. The study employed an Ex Post Facto research design among a sample of 365 participants made up of 220 (60.03%) males and 145 (39.07%) females with ages ranging from 19-30 years ( $SD=25$ ). Participants were drawn from the population of Youth Corps Members through a probability method of simple random sampling technique. Four standardized psychological instruments namely: Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support; Emotional Intelligence Scale; Mindfulness Attention Awareness Scale; Entrepreneurial Intention Scale and Demographic Information Questionnaire were used. Data collated were analysed using regression analysis and t-test. Results revealed that social support, emotional intelligence and mindfulness significantly and positively predicted entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State; There was no significant sex difference in terms of entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members. Study recommended amongst others that, Youth Corps Members should be provided with the necessary social support by the family, friends, significant others and Government to aid them start their own business; there is a dire need for youths to regulate, control and interpret their emotions accurately as these are keys to promote emotional growth and entrepreneurial intention.

**Keywords:** Social Support, Emotional Intelligence, Mindfulness, Sex. Entrepreneurial Intention, Corps Members

## **INTRODUCTION**

Entrepreneurial intention is one of the major contributing factors to the formation, growth, and development of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial intention is a strong indicator of entrepreneurship (Drost, 2015) and can be influenced by circumstantial reasons, personal interest and environmental factors that shape and control a person's thoughts and behaviour (Aliyu, 2013). Intention has been affirmed to be the best predictor of individual behaviours particularly when the behaviour is rare, hard to observe or involves unpredictable time lag, as the one of entrepreneurial intention (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005; Fini, Grimaldi, Marzocchi & Sobrero, 2009). Human beings do not engage in entrepreneurship by accident, they do it intentionally as a result of choice. Thus, entrepreneurial intention is about people, their choices, actions and attitude in starting a new business, creating wealth which is the major source of generating employment opportunities, economic growth, innovation, promotion of products, service, quality, competition, and economical flexibility of today's society (Hisrich, Langan-Fox & Grant, 2007). The role of intention has been acknowledged to be relevant in the field

of social sciences especially psychology and humanity due to its involvement in a company's strategic decision –making (Mortan, Ripoll, Carvoho & Bernal, 2014). Entrepreneurial intention is the process of conceiving an idea to create something new with value by devoting the necessary time and effort, assuming the accompanying financial, psychic, and social risks, and receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction and independence (Hisrich & Peters, 2002). In other words, entrepreneurial intention is a state of mind that focuses a person's attention, experience, and behaviour towards a specific object or a way of behaviour. It could also be viewed as a state of mind that guides individual actions in order to create and develop a new business or entrepreneurial activity. It is a valid tool for forecasting individual entrepreneurial behaviour and could be considered as intent of individuals to perform a planned risky behaviour that would yield a positive result in the course of establishing a new business (Heinonen, 2007; Wu & Wu, 2012).

For a youth to be an entrepreneur therefore, one may need support. The beliefs people hold regarding the level and quality of support from family, friends, and significant others play key roles in enhancing entrepreneurship. Social support is however, the comfort given to someone by families, friends, and significant others (Onyishi, Okongwu & Ugwu, 2012). This comfort can be in the form of money and other resources needed for actualizing youths' potentials in areas of entrepreneurship (Onyishi, et al., 2012). Social support can be financial, space or land for business, machines, or other instrument needed for the growth of a start-up business by youth in our contemporary society. Worthy of note in this research, is that, social support for Corps Members is conceptualised as help coming from four sources including family, friends, government and significant others (Edwards, 2004). These sources of support could help a Corps Member embark on entrepreneurial behaviour. Social support has been linked with overall entrepreneurial intention (Zhao, Seibert & Hills, 2000; Salleh, 2015). Perceived increase in social support has been associated with increase in overall entrepreneurial behaviour, while lower social support leads to a decrease in entrepreneurial activity (Shittu & Dosunmu, 2014; Susanj, Jakopec & Krecar, 2015).

Apart from social support, emotional intelligence is yet another predictive variable of interest to this research. Entrepreneurs are not moron nor mentally derailed individuals but people with high emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand, regulate and interpret one's emotions (Goleman, 2002). Youth who are able to regulate stress, depression, anger, and other predisposing emotional discomfort will stand a better chance to have a positive intention to start-up business. Conversely, someone who cannot understand, interpret and regulate his/her emotion in times of stress, disappointment, and other frustrating stimuli would not articulate a concise entrepreneurial intention. The ability to understand, interpret and regulate one's emotion is apparently a predisposing factor to entrepreneurial intention.

In other words, emotional intelligence is defined as a type of social and emotional intelligence involving the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information as a guide to one's thinking and actions (Salovey & Meyer, 1990). Goleman (1997) identified five main components of emotional intelligence to include: self-awareness, self –regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills. Self-awareness refers to the emotional awareness, accurate self-assessment and self-confidence; self- regulation is however associated with self-control, trustworthiness, conscientiousness, adaptability and innovation; motivation refers to individual achievement, commitment, initiative and optimism. Whereas, empathy is about understanding other people.

However, for the purpose of this research emotional intelligence has been operationalised to include only three main domains: self-awareness, motivation and social skills only while the two other components of self-regulation and empathy were excluded. The justification for this was due to the extant literature on emotional intelligence which revealed the three adopted dimensions are the most predisposing factors to entrepreneurship (Jekwu, 2016; Salovey, 1990). The researcher considers the components that are perceived to be the most suitable for eliciting entrepreneurial intention.

Emotional intelligence influences entrepreneurial intention in two ways: One is through evaluation of emotional efficacy- youth with high self- perceived emotional intelligence would exhibit high tolerance with stress and environmental stressors. Secondly, individuals with high emotional intelligence tend to have higher affectivity to business. Informing proactive and creative dispositions have positive intention to start up business (Dehkordi, Sasani, Fathi & Khanmohammadi, 2012).

Emotional intelligence dimensions such as self-awareness, motivation and social skills had been found to influence entrepreneurial intention (Salvador, 2008). Individuals with higher emotional intelligence tend to have higher sociability and are perceived as persons with more and better opportunities to take entrepreneurial activities. An individual who is motivated to achieving life satisfaction and self fulfilment will have more articulated intention in taking risk to start-up business and be more optimistic that his/her business will thrive than those who lack self-actualization skills (Salovey, Brackett & Mayer, 2004; Zampetaskis, Beldekos, & Moustakis, 2009). Similarly, an individual who scores higher on social skills will have more positive entrepreneurial intention. An individual who communicates and manages conflict better will minimise stress and articulates clearer entrepreneurial intention than those who could not handle stress and conflict prone situations (Goleman, 2002).

Mindfulness is also a variable of interest to this research. It is a state of consciousness often associated with meditation. Mindfulness has three components which include: firstly, a state of consciousness which some individuals may attain often more than others. Secondly, individuals with this state of consciousness concentrate on the present moment more and thirdly, the individual's attention is focused on internal and external stimuli (Dane, 2011). Mindfulness has a positive influence on emotions thereby improving the balance between positive and negative emotions which in turn affects entrepreneurial intention (Howell & Buro, 2010). It is conceived to reduce worry, fear and stress thereby enhancing innovation, risk taking and entrepreneurial intention. It helps decision- makers to reach positive conclusion and to assist in being proactive and identifying when a decision should be made (Jankowski & Holas, 2014).

In a similar vein, mindful Youth Corps Members who have a quest for establishing a new business would have a better conscious state of a planned behaviour to achieve their goal of entrepreneurship Apparently, .no youth can just wake up and start a business like that without first and foremost having a mindful thought to such business ideas, seeking relevant background information on the type of business to set up in the future is alluring. Thus, mindfulness helps individuals to identify whether an entrepreneurial intention is necessary. (Karelaia, 2016). In the same vein, a mindful individual who has an intention to start-up business usually takes longer time to arrive at in an unbiased way due to the limit of information under their consideration (Brown & Ryan, 2003).

Thus, for the purpose of this study, mindfulness- has been operationalized to mean a single construct; that is an individual can be mindful or mindless to entrepreneurial activity. It connotes remembering to be aware and pay attention highlighting the importance of entrepreneurial intention to be executed. Mindfulness to entrepreneurial intention encompasses being passively aware of the importance of entrepreneurship. (Schmidt, 2004).

Apart from the influence of social support, emotional intelligence and mindfulness on entrepreneurial intention among National Youth Corps Members in Benue State, sex is yet another variable of interest. A sex difference is perceived to be one of the factors influencing entrepreneurial intention. Globally, women were found to spend one to three hours more a day on household chores than entrepreneurial activity (Hobson & Goldin, 2015). Females are often discouraged by some norms and cultural practices from gaining financial independence, starting up businesses, employment opportunities, and so on thereby delimiting their chances of having a positive entrepreneurial intention and of course becoming an entrepreneur. Women seem to have limited consent in terms of starting-up business, employment opportunities, politics, and other aspects of life due to cultural norms and practices. More often than not, women are underrepresented in the scheme of entrepreneurial activities, politics and economic empowerments. (Hobson & Goldin, 2015).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Undoubtedly, there is high level of unemployment in Nigeria and youths in particular constitute a chunk of this population. To alleviate the bandwagon effect of high rate of unemployment among graduates, since the need for entrepreneurship. Thus, federal government of Nigeria through National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 2012 introduced an entrepreneurial department into the scheme known as Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SAED) with a view to encouraging massive youth participation in business (NYSC SAED, 2014). Other entrepreneurial schemes introduced by the Federal Government of Nigeria for youth includes: Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (YEDP); Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs); Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN); North-Central Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) amongst others, with a view to articulating intentions to start-up business among youth who are future entrepreneurs. Yet with these programmes is like a drop of water in the ocean vis a vis unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Thus, the National Youth Service Corps has packaged two phases of entrepreneurship training- the in-camp and post-camp training. The in-camp training affords Corps Members with the nitty-gritty for wealth creation within three weeks of induction/orientation Course. While the Post-camp training avails Corps members the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship skills after their orientation course while undergoing service year (NYSC, SAED, 2014). This has necessitated study of this nature considering high rate of youths' unemployment. Besides, a mere observation in recent times has shown that securing white collar jobs in Nigeria has been a major problem hence the need for alternative wealth creation in forms of entrepreneurship. This lack of entrepreneurial intention may be as a result of fear of failure, lack of social support and low emotional intelligence, low mindfulness behaviour amongst others. Similarly, individuals with low emotional intelligence and low mindfulness exhibit high tendency of intolerance in the face of risk taking and innovation for business ideas to thrive, thereby portraying negative intention to entrepreneurship. Thus, necessitated the research of this nature.

Furthermore, the establishment of Department of Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) by the Federal Government through NYSC was in recognition of the need to pragmatically tackle youth unemployment in Nigeria. Regrettably, these efforts have yielded a little progress in entrepreneurship. Thus, there is missing gaps in knowledge to be filled hence the need for the research; taking into cognizance Corps Members who may have a positive intention to start-up business and those who may opt for white collar-job in future forms the basis of this framework.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to examine the influence of social support, emotional intelligence, mindfulness and sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. Specifically, the study has the following objectives to accomplish:

- i. To examine influence of social support on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- ii. To investigate influence of emotional intelligence on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- iii. To ascertain the influence of mindfulness on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- iv. To explore influence of sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.

### **Research Questions**

This research sought to answer the following questions:

- i. Would social support influence entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State?
- ii. Would emotional intelligence influence entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State?
- iii. Will there be influence of mindfulness on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State?
- iv. Will there be sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State?

### **Empirical Literature**

#### **Social Support and Entrepreneurial Intention**

Shittu and Dosunmu (2014) study on family background and entrepreneurial intention of fresh graduates in Nigeria among 250 National Youth Corps Members, serving in Bayelsa state in 2013 using a simple random sampling technique. Findings revealed a statistical positive influence of family background on entrepreneurial intention among National Youth Corps Members serving in Bayelsa State at critical value of  $P < 0.01$  level of significance. This shows that social support by family background influences entrepreneurial intention directly.

Shiri, Mohammadi, and Hosseini (2012) study on Entrepreneurial Intention of Agricultural Students: Effects of role model, social support, social norms and perceived desirability among

100 undergraduates of University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran. A Correlation analysis showed a significant positive relationship between the variables of role model, social support and perceived desirability with entrepreneurial intentions of students.

Drennan, Kennedy and Renfrow (2005) asserted that social support influence entrepreneurial intention among youth via family background which is a source of prior exposure to family business that could be observed and modelled. Early exposure to entrepreneurship experience in the family circle business has great influence on the entire family members on their attitudes and intentions towards entrepreneurship. Similarly, Carr and Sequeira (2007) affirmed that family background plays a major role in shaping entrepreneurial intentions on youth especially when parents have business and youth assist them in the distribution and marketing aspect. Perceived family support in form of family business tradition (Altinay, Madanoglu, Daniele, & Lashley, 2012), family business experience (Wang & Wong, 2004), family transitions (Cramton, 1993) and family business ownership and parent work experience play an overlapping role- in influencing perception of youth on entrepreneurial intention (Turkur & Selcuk, 2009).

In a nutshell, social support to entrepreneurial intention is enormous, no man is an island on his/her own, we need certain information and perhaps assistance from family, friends and significant others in form of inquiry, financial assistance, informational, emotional and social support, as to what business can thrive and how best to make ends meet.

### **Emotional Intelligence and Entrepreneurial Intention**

Singh (2010) studied on the influence of emotional intelligence on entrepreneurial intention among 106 undergraduates, University Technology Sarawak, Samarahan. Findings revealed a positive significant relationship between emotional intelligence and entrepreneurial intention  $P < .05$ ;  $r = .443$ . Similarly, Zampetakis, Kafetsios, Bouranta, Dewett and Moustaki's (2009) study found out that emotional intelligence has precursory influence on the entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates. Those who score higher on emotional intelligence scale responded more positively on the intention to engage in new business firm than those who scored lesser on the emotional intelligence scale (Tolulope & Donald, 2015). An individual who knows how to stay motivated under stress, who is trustworthiness, who is good in conflict management and who manage complex interpersonal relationships with other are more likely to perceive entrepreneurial intention than those who do not possess higher emotional intelligence level (Goleman, 2005; Schimmack, Oishi, Furr & Funder, 2004). This result implied that emotional intelligence influence entrepreneurial intention among graduates in a positive direction.

The higher the emotional intelligence, the more likely one has to succeed in entrepreneurship, personal and professional relationships. Walter (1996) found a strong correlation between well-developed emotional intelligence on entrepreneurs and personal self-satisfaction and overall self-confidence. Having a good understanding of yourself, your strengths, and your weaknesses is essential to personal performance on the business or job. When your emotional intelligence is fully developed, it is easier to work well under constantly changing circumstances and to act on your ideas in ways that benefit the organization (Mayer and Salovey, 1997)

### **Mindfulness and Entrepreneurial Intention**

Shapiro. Carson, Astin and Freedman (2006) research on mechanisms of mindfulness and entrepreneurial intention posited that mindfulness exert a significant influence on individuals' entrepreneurial behaviour which can be seen in a segmented model comprise of three axioms – intention, attention and attitude that is the Axioms model of mindfulness. In an attempt to break mindfulness down into a simple, comprehensible construct, they reflected on the core components of the practice, the essential building block of mindfulness and examined the impact of it on entrepreneurial behaviour. An often cited definition of mindfulness is – paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally. Roche, Haar and Luthans (2014) study on the role of mindfulness and psychological capital on the Well-Being of Leaders and entrepreneurs utilizing 4 samples of Chief Executive Officers/presidents/top (n = 205), middle (n = 183), and junior (n = 202) managers, as well as 107 entrepreneurs in Hamilton, New Zealand using structural equation modelling and the result showed that, mindfulness was significantly related to Psychological capital for junior managers ( $\beta = .41, p < .01$ ), middle managers ( $\beta = .17, p < .05$ ), top managers ( $\beta = .69, p < .001$ ), and entrepreneurs ( $\beta = .19, p < .05$ ). This showed that indeed, mindfulness influence entrepreneurial intention.

Lindh (2013) studied on mindfulness also showed that mindfulness moderates stress management thereby enhancing the performance of managers in a workplace, leaders and entrepreneurs (Brown & Ryan, 2003). Specifically, a mindful person is one who has heightened awareness of the present reality and gives focal attention to living the moment of reality that spans on one's self actualization in life satisfaction through entrepreneurship. Yeganeh and Kolb (2009) opined that mindfulness increases the propensity of one becoming an entrepreneur. Mindfulness becomes important when we consider how we choose to process our life event and learn from our events in form of entrepreneurial activities by way of staying focus on the type of business intentions one intends to start up in a future. Having entrepreneurial intention determines the way one would be conscious of creating new business venture in the future which in turn determines the range of business choices and decisions we take.

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested for the study:

- i. Social support will have a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention among Corps Members in Benue State.
- ii. Emotional intelligence will have a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention among Corps Members in Benue State.
- iii. Mindfulness will have a significant influence on entrepreneurial intention among Corps members in Benue State.
- iv. There will be a Sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Corps Members in Benue State.

### **METHOD**

This study adopted an Ex Post Facto research design. The design examines whether one or more pre-existing conditions could possibly have influenced subsequent differences in groups of subjects for the study variables which cannot be directly manipulated. In this design the

dependent variable is entrepreneurial intention while the independent variables were: social support, emotional intelligent mindfulness and sex.

### **Study Population**

The population of the study consists of all Corps Members serving in Benue State in the year 2016- 2017 service year. Records from National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Benue State Headquarters revealed that there were 8325 Corps Members in the State during the period of study in 2016- 2017 for both Batch 'A' and 'B'. Batch 'A' were 4,256 and Batch 'B' comprised 4,069 totalling 8325.

### **Sampling Technique**

Considering the huge number (8325) of the population of Corps Members in Benue State, the study adopted a probability sampling technique of Simple random sampling to draw participants for the study.

### **Sample Size Determination**

In determining the sample size for the study, the researcher adopted "Taro Yamen's formula" (Yamen, 1976) was used to determine the sample size from homogeneous (multinomial) or heterogeneous population. The formula stated thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n=sample size required

N=population size

e=level of significance

1 and 2 are constant

Therefore, applying the Taro Yamen (1967) formula for sample size determination, 381 participants were used for the study.

### **Participants**

Participants for the study were 381 Youth Corps Members who were undergoing one-year mandatory clarion's call for the year 2016-2017 service year. However out of the 381 copies of questionnaire administered only 365 were returned and used for data analysis. Participants age bracket were from 19-30 years with average mean of 25 years. Their sex revealed that males were 220 (60.1%) while 145 (30.9%) were female.



## **Instruments**

Four instruments were used for the study to include: Multidimensional Scale of Social Support, Emotional Intelligence Scale, Mindfulness Scale, Entrepreneurial Intention Scale and demographic Information questionnaire.

### **Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support**

The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet & Farley, 1988) was used to assess perceived social support. The MSPSS has 16-item Scale structured in a 7-point Likert response comprising of (1) very strongly disagree to (7) very strongly agree, for a possible maximum score of 112 and minimum score of 16. The psychometric properties of the test showed reliability Coefficient for item-statistics ranging from .33 to .94. For the pilot study two items were deleted for lack of reliability coefficient of less than .30 as recommended.

### **Emotional Intelligence Scale**

Emotional Intelligence Scale (EIS) developed by Schutte, Malouff, Hall, Haggerty, Cooper, Golden & Dornheim, 1998) was used to measure emotional intelligence of respondents. Salovey and Mayer (1990), represented the three inter-related dimensions:

- i. Self awareness,
- ii. Motivation and
- iii. Social skills

Items are rated on a 5-point Likert scale comprising; 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Schutte, Malouff, Hall, Haggerty, Cooper, Golden and Dornheim (1998) revealed adequate internal reliability coefficients for the scale at .87. However due to validation of the instrument via pilot study, one item was deleted for lack of reliability coefficient of less than .30

### **The Mindfulness Attention Awareness Scale (MAAS)**

The Mindfulness Attention Awareness Scale (MAAS) was used to measure mindfulness. The Scale has 15-item designed to assess a core characteristic of mindfulness. The Scale uses Likert 6-points scale of measurement comprising: Almost Always (1) Very Frequently (2) Somewhat Frequently (3) Somewhat infrequently (4) Very infrequently (5) Somewhat Infrequently (6) Almost Never. Carlson and Brown (2005) demonstrated a high reliability level of Cronbach's alpha. 80 to .90. Pilot study demonstrated that all the 15 items were all retained for item-statistics.

### **Entrepreneurial Intention Scale**

Entrepreneurial intention scale was used to measure entrepreneurial intention with the eleven item scale developed by Linan and Chen (2006). The items were anchored on a five-point Likert scale, comprising: (5) total agree (1) total disagree.

Linan and Chen (2006); Delle and Amadu (2015) reported that the scale has a Cronbach alpha value of .96. Revalidation of the instrument via pilot study yielded internal consistency levels of Cronbach's alpha .92 and all items were returned.

### Procedure

The use of 84 participants for pilot study paved way for validation of research instrument to determine its reliability and validity for the main study. Two research assistants assigned to researcher were used and trained. During the 3 weeks Orientation course at NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Wannune, Benue State, the researcher with two research assistants completed the administration of copies of the questionnaire to 381 Corps Members. However, out of 381 copies of the questionnaires administered to Corps Members only 365 were returned and were computed for statistical analysis. The duration for administration of the questionnaires was 3 days and retrieval also lasted concurrently for the 3 days during Batch 'A' stream 1, 2017 Orientation camp exercise held at Wannune Permanent Orientation Camp, Benue State.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the five hypotheses tested were presented below:

**Hypothesis one** stated that social support will have significant influence on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State was tested using multiple linear regression analysis and the results are presented in table 1 below:

**Table 1: Multiple linear regression scores showing the influence of social support on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members**

Predictor variables	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	$\beta$	t	Sig
Family Support				.252	4.382	.001
Friends support				.225	4.132	.001
Significant others				.106	2.094	.037
Government support				.001	.025	.980
Constant	303	.092	9.095	-	14.388	.001

Criterion variable: Entrepreneurial intention

The results above showed that social support positively and significantly predicted entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State  $F(4,360)=9.095$ ;  $P<.01$ . This result implied that an increase in the level of social support by Youth Corps Member lead to a corresponding increase in the level of entrepreneurial intention. On the individual basis, government support did not predict entrepreneurial intention ( $\beta = .001$ ;  $P>.05$ ). Whereas family ( $\beta = .252$ ;  $P<.01$ ), friends, ( $\beta = 225$ ;  $P<.01$ ) and significant others ( $\beta = 101$ ;  $P<.05$ ) all predicted entrepreneurial intention. Based on the result, hypothesis one was confirmed.

**Hypothesis two** which sought to examine if emotional intelligence will significantly influence entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State was tested using multiple linear regression analysis and the results are presented in table 2 below:

**Table 2: Multiple linear regression scores showing the influence of emotional intelligence on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.**

Predictor variables	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	β	t	Sig
Self-awareness				.367	7.602	.001
Social skills				.151	3.141	.002
Motivation				.191	3.753	.007
Constant	.406	.165	23.719	-	14.418	.001

Criterion variable: Entrepreneurial Intention

Result above showed that emotional intelligence positively and significantly predicted entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State  $F(3,361) = 23.719$ ;  $P < .01$ . Meaning that as Youth Corps Member's level of emotional intelligence increase, entrepreneurial intention also increases significantly. Relatedly, on the individual basis, all the three dimension of emotional intelligence predicted entrepreneurial intention. Following the result, therefore, hypothesis two was confirmed.

**Hypothesis three** predicted that mindfulness will significantly influence entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. The hypothesis was tested using simple linear regression analysis and the results are presented in table 3 below:

**Table 3: Simple linear regression scores showing the influence of mindfulness on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.**

Predictor variables	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	β	t	Sig
Mindfulness	.423	.179	79.121	-	10.619	.001

Criterion variable: Entrepreneurial Intention

Result from table 3 revealed that mindfulness significantly predicted entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State  $F(1,363) = 79.121$ ;  $P < .01$ . This implied that mindfulness is influence entrepreneurial intention. Individuals who are mindful on entrepreneurial activities tend to have high intention to start-up business. Hypothesis three was confirmed.

**Hypothesis Four** which predicted that, there will be a significant sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State was tested using independent t-test and the result was presented in table 4 below:

**Table 4: Independent t-test scores showing influence of sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State**

<b>Predictor variables</b>						
<b>Sex difference</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>
Male	220	49.7	9.8	363	-1.48	.882
Female	145	49.9	10.8	363		

Table 4 revealed that there was no significant sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State  $t(df=363) = -1.48; P > .05$ . This implied that being male or female does not account for any significant difference in terms of entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. Findings from the table also revealed that male had a mean difference of 49.7 and standard deviation of 9.8 while their female counterpart had a mean difference of 49.9 and standard deviation of 10.842. Following the result therefore, the hypothesis four was not confirmed.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, we can conclude, thus:

- i. The overall social support was a predictor of entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- ii. Overall emotional intelligence was also a predictor of entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- iii. The study also concludes that mindfulness influences entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.
- iv. There was no significant sex difference on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Youth Corps Members in Benue State displayed high entrepreneurial intention when their perceived social support is available. The study therefore recommends that Youth Corps Members should be provided with the needed social support by the family, friends, and significant others. Government on her part should create enabling environment for entrepreneurial activities to thrive.
- ii. Youth Corps Members demonstrated high level of entrepreneurial intention when they perceived accurately, appraise and express emotion and thought processes. Therefore, the study recommends the dire need for Youth Corps Members to generate feelings and understand emotions to promote emotional and intellectual growth.
- iii. Mindfulness significantly and positively predicted entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. The study therefore, recommends that there is a dire need for Youth Corps Members to have deep remembrance of cognitive thought processes.

- iv. Sex difference was not significantly observed on entrepreneurial intention among Youth Corps Members in Benue State. Based on the finding therefore, the study recommends that both male and female Youth Corps Members should think and choose any business of their choice irrespective of sex difference.
- v. Industrial / Organisational Psychologists should come in and help Youth Corps Members in areas of entrepreneurial development. They should develop a suitable template for sensitisation and training of entrepreneurship programmes. Youth on their part should take entrepreneurship development programme seriously in the face of this gargantuan youth unemployment in Nigeria.

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