

**Socio-Economic Characteristics of Rural Youth in
Leadership Development in South Western Nigeria:
Entrepreneurship Implications**

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ABSTRACT This study was carried out to determine the socio-economic characteristics of youth participating in leadership development activities significant to entrepreneurship in Ogun State, Southwestern Nigeria. Pre-tested and structured interview schedule was used to elicit information from 558 rural youths between the age group of 13 and 30 years that were randomly selected using multi stage and random sampling techniques. Descriptive statistics like frequency counts and percentage were used to analyze the data, while the Pearson's correlation analysis was used to determine the relationship between the variables investigated. Co-efficient of determination was used to establish the percentage contribution of each variable to level of participation. The study shows that age, level of education, marital status, membership of association and income have significant and positive relationship with level of participation, while sex and level of youth on their parents had negative but significant relationship. Among the implications drawn were the utilization of their leadership potentials and the dissipation of such potentials in performing different entrepreneurial roles.

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