



**IMPACT OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN LAGOS, NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF AGUDA MARKET IN SURULERE, LAGOS, NIGERIA.**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study examines how government policies affect the growth of female businesses in Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria's Aguda Market. Data was collected from female market entrepreneurs using a quantitative method to determine how much infrastructure policies and government-provided resources affect their business operations. Important conclusions show that women entrepreneurs encounter significant obstacles when trying to obtain government resources, exposing inadequacies in the effectiveness and accessibility of policies. Infrastructure policies, such as market facilities and electricity, did not, however, have a statistically significant effect on day-to-day operations, indicating that infrastructure issues might have become commonplace in their workplaces. This study advocated for better access to government resources and emphasizes the significance of gender-aware policies that address particular obstacles faced by women in entrepreneurship. Through its emphasis on the necessity of pragmatic assistance that bridges the gap between policy purpose and entrepreneurial reality, the study adds to the conversation on gender-sensitive policy-making in emerging economies.*

**KEYWORDS:** Women entrepreneurship, Governmental policies, Gender-aware policies, Infrastructural challenges, Nigeria, Aguda Market, Lagos.



## INTRODUCTION

Women's entrepreneurship has become more widely acknowledged for its contributions to social advancement, job creation, and economic growth, especially in developing nations. Nonetheless, unique obstacles prevent women entrepreneurs from fully engaging and performing in the commercial world. Obstacles including restricted access to financing, discriminatory sociocultural norms, and restrictive legislation that fail to sufficiently meet their particular requirements are all part of Nigeria's entrepreneurial environment for women (Ogundana et al., 2021). The efficiency of several government programs aimed at fostering diversity and providing assistance to female entrepreneurs in attaining long-term growth and fair chances is still up for debate. This study investigates how governmental policies impact the entrepreneurial development of women in Aguda Market, Surulere, Lagos, focusing on the accessibility and influence of infrastructural policies on their business activities. The Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP) is one of the recent legislative initiatives designed to increase financial inclusion and encourage entrepreneurship among underserved groups, especially women. These initiatives seek to close the gap in income and offer resources that female business owners can use to maintain their enterprises. However, further research is needed to determine the true effects of such legislation on women's success and growth in Nigerian entrepreneurship, especially at the micro level (Okolo-Obasi & Uduji, 2024). In order to assess how government support initiatives translate into tangible advantages and results for these entrepreneurs, this study uses a case-based methodology with a focus on Aguda Market, where female entrepreneurs operate a variety of businesses ranging from retail to small-scale production.

Broader structural and socioeconomic barriers have been the main focus of the literature on women entrepreneurs in Nigeria. The local setting, however, highlights other difficulties that require more research (Simba et al., 2022). In particular, rules about infrastructure, such as those controlling access to necessities like power and market facilities, can have a direct impact on how businesses operate. Effective policies should take into account these operational requirements to create an environment that is supportive of small firms, as noted by Salami, Ekakitie, and Ebinim (2023). Therefore, looking at these factors in the context of Aguda Market offers a rare chance to comprehend how policies affect female entrepreneurs locally, with knowledge that could guide more extensive policy initiatives throughout Lagos State and beyond.

### Statement of Problem

Nigerian women entrepreneurs still face obstacles that limit their ability to expand and compete, even in the face of government policy initiatives to promote entrepreneurship. Research shows that women entrepreneurs continue to have significantly less access to financing, market facilities, and infrastructure assistance than their male counterparts (Ogundana, 2020). These restrictions are more noticeable in Lagos, a commercial centre with a high concentration of entrepreneurial activity, because of urban issues including unstable electricity supplies and subpar market facilities. This issue is especially important for women entrepreneurs in unofficial marketplaces like Aguda Market in Surulere, where policy loopholes and inconsistent infrastructure have a direct impact on day-to-day business operations. Government initiatives like GEEP have been put in place to help women business owners by enhancing infrastructure accessibility and offering financial resources. These



initiatives, though, have produced a range of outcomes. Although they have somewhat increased financial inclusion, these resources' practicality and accessibility issues sometimes restrict their ability to effectively meet the particular requirements of female entrepreneurs (Okolo-Obasi & Uduji, 2024). Additionally, women in local markets often face obstacles when attempting to navigate the bureaucratic procedures necessary to get government programs, leading to a limited amount of interaction with these support systems (Salami et al., 2023).

Therefore, it is necessary to investigate how Aguda Market's female entrepreneurs see these policies and the degree to which government infrastructure projects affect their businesses. By assessing the difficulties these entrepreneurs encounter in obtaining government resources and the effects of infrastructure policies on their business operations, the current research study fills this knowledge vacuum. This study intends to educate policymakers on how to customize government interventions to encourage and strengthen women's entrepreneurship in regional marketplaces by shedding light on these problems.

### Conceptual Framework

This study's conceptual framework is predicated on the relationship between the development of women entrepreneurs and governmental policy. The relationship between policy interventions (including infrastructure, financial support, and resource access) and their effects on women's entrepreneurial development in Aguda Market is described in this framework. These interactions are depicted in the picture below, which demonstrates how important facets of entrepreneurship, including resource accessibility, operational effectiveness, and market productivity, are anticipated to be impacted by governmental regulations. This framework will direct the examination of the efficacy of the policies in place and point out areas that could require more assistance in order to promote women's entrepreneurship.

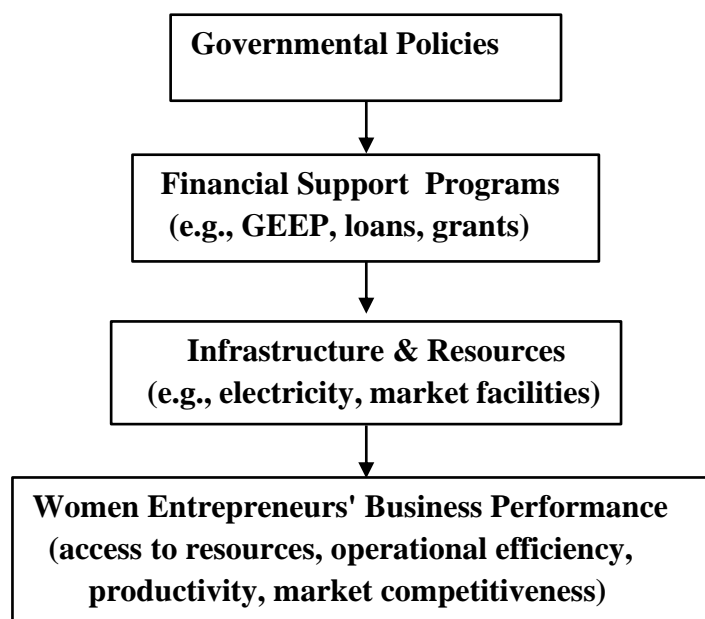


Figure 1.1: The Conceptual Framework of Impact of Governmental Policies on Women Entrepreneurship Development in Lagos, Nigeria



The conceptual approach for analyzing how government policies affect women's entrepreneurship performance in Aguda Market is reflected in this diagram. The importance of financial and infrastructure policies in forming these entrepreneurs' business environments is captured by each component, which stands for a crucial element that influences their growth and development. The work of Ogundana et al. (2021) and other pertinent research that highlight the value of policy-driven support systems in promoting women's entrepreneurship in emerging economies serve as the foundation for this approach. The framework would assist in assessing the degree to which the activities of the Nigerian government correspond with the real-world requirements of female entrepreneurs and the potential improvements required to establish an inclusive business climate.

### **Aim of the Study**

The study aims to evaluate the impact of governmental policies on the development of women entrepreneurship in Aguda Market, Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria while focusing on access to critical resources, and the influence of government infrastructural policies.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To identify the challenges women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market encounter in accessing government-provided resources and policy benefits.
2. To analyze the impact of infrastructural policies, such as access to electricity and market facilities, on the daily operations and productivity of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.
3. To explore the perceptions of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market regarding the effectiveness of current governmental support policies and programs.
5. To provide recommendations for policymakers on improving governmental support for women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.

These aims and objectives provide a clear framework for evaluating how governmental interventions support or hinder women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market. They also allow the study to assess both practical and perceived impacts, making the findings relevant to stakeholders and policy reform initiatives.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What challenges do women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market face in accessing government-provided resources or policy benefits?
2. How do infrastructural policies (e.g., access to electricity, and market facilities) impact the daily operations of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market?



## Research Hypothesis

**H1:** Women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market face significant challenges in accessing government-provided resources or policy benefits.

**H0:** Women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market do not face significant challenges in accessing government-provided resources or policy benefits.

**H2:** Infrastructural policies, such as access to electricity and market facilities, have a significant impact on the daily operations of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.

**H02:** Infrastructural policies, such as access to electricity and market facilities, have no significant impact on the daily operations of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

### Theoretical Framework: Gender-Aware Growth Models

Understanding the particular difficulties and possible growth paths faced by female entrepreneurs in developing nations, especially in unofficial marketplaces like Lagos, Nigeria's Aguda Market, depends heavily on the Gender-Aware Growth Model (GAGM). The foundation of this framework is an understanding of the unique socioeconomic elements that affect women's entrepreneurial development in a different way than men because of socially created roles and structural injustices (Ogundana, 2020). The GAGM stresses customized support mechanisms that address financial access, market entry barriers, and resource acquisition while taking sociocultural expectations that may limit women's business prospects into account. This is in contrast to traditional growth models, which frequently ignore gender-specific constraints (Pukk & Lehtonen, 2022; Kini, 2022). In this context, the GAGM provides a lens through which to examine how governmental policies may foster or hinder growth for women-owned businesses. Its relevance to this study is significant, as it underscores the importance of policy frameworks that are cognizant of gender-based disparities and responsive to the unique conditions faced by women entrepreneurs in local markets. The GAGM highlights how financial support, infrastructural improvements, and policy incentives need to be inclusive and gender-sensitive to bridge the existing gap in entrepreneurship development. For women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market, Lagos, such a model can clarify how policy interventions can be optimized to provide equitable access to resources, address socio-cultural barriers, and enhance the viability of their businesses (Andriamahery & Qamruzzaman, 2022; Olarewaju & Fernando, 2020).

### Government Policies and Women Entrepreneurship in Developing Economies

The development of entrepreneurship is largely dependent on government policies, especially in emerging countries where economic and structural limitations necessitate outside interventions to promote inclusive growth. Supportive policies can have a profound impact on women entrepreneurs in underdeveloped nations by providing avenues for overcoming operational, financial, and sociocultural obstacles. In Nigeria, policies aimed at encouraging women entrepreneurs have mostly concentrated on advancing financial inclusion, skill development, and infrastructure upgrades. Their effectiveness has been uneven, nevertheless,





frequently as a result of uneven application and a lack of awareness of the particular business contexts faced by women (Martínez-Rodríguez et al., 2022). To encourage women to start their businesses, the Nigerian government has started several programs, including the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP). By giving women access to funding, business training, and other resources required for company expansion, these policies aim to close the gender gap in entrepreneurship. However, empirical data shows that several issues, such as bureaucratic delays, low knowledge, and the misalignment of programs with the demands of informal market operators like those in Aguda Market, impede the success of policies (Ogundana, 2022). Furthermore, structural disparities that women encounter in obtaining funding, market space, and enabling infrastructure, all of which are essential for long-term business success, are frequently overlooked by gender-insensitive policies (Alene, 2020). The relevance of government policies to women entrepreneurship in the Aguda Market is multifaceted. A critical examination reveals that, while policies exist, their design and implementation often fail to account for the specific challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, such as limited mobility, financial dependency, and restricted access to credit. By analyzing these policies within the framework of GAGM, this study seeks to identify areas where policy interventions can be made more effective and gender-responsive, potentially offering models for policy reform that prioritize inclusivity and empowerment.

### **Financial Access and Capital Support for Women Entrepreneurs**

One of the biggest obstacles facing female entrepreneurs is access to financing, particularly in unorganized marketplaces where collateral, credit history, and financial knowledge are frequently lacking. Research has often demonstrated that women in Nigeria have a harder time than men obtaining funding for their enterprises, which hinders their capacity to grow and maintain operations (Oluka et al., 2021). Government policies play a critical role in resolving this imbalance because they may give women entrepreneurs the tools they need to successfully negotiate the challenges of the business world through targeted financial support.

The scope and impact of programs like GEEP, which aim to improve financial inclusion among women, are frequently constrained by high application criteria, drawn-out procedures, and a dearth of localized support (Ogundana, 2022; Nwachukwu et al., 2021). Furthermore, sociocultural barriers that can keep women from efficiently using credit or gaining access to formal financial institutions are often overlooked in financial interventions. For instance, women's ability to dedicate time and energy to entrepreneurial endeavours may be limited by cultural norms and family responsibilities, which may also limit their access to financial assistance (Bullough et al., 2022). For women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market, financial access remains a primary concern, as most operate in the informal sector with minimal access to credit facilities. Governmental efforts to extend micro-loans and low-interest credit could support these entrepreneurs if designed with their specific needs in mind. Gender-sensitive financial support policies, which account for women's socio-economic backgrounds and integrate financial literacy programs, have been recommended as effective tools to promote business growth among women (Andriamahery & Qamruzzaman, 2022). Through a gender-aware approach to financial access, the GAGM highlights that capital support policies should be customized to meet the realities of women's lives, promoting an inclusive financial system that can help informal market operators like those in Aguda thrive.



## **Impact of Infrastructural Policies on Women-Owned Businesses**

Support from infrastructure is essential for the growth of entrepreneurship, especially in the unorganized sector where resources like reliable electricity, transportation systems, and marketplaces are frequently lacking. Access to these infrastructure resources has a major impact on the productivity, stability, and growth potential of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market. The effectiveness of governmental infrastructure initiatives to upgrade facilities in unofficial marketplaces has varied, and problems are often caused by inadequate execution and neglect (Salami et al., 2023). The degree to which women entrepreneurs can compete in the market is determined by the availability of dependable infrastructure, which also affects day-to-day operations. Access to electricity in particular is still a major problem since unpredictable energy sources and power interruptions raise operating expenses and lower productivity (Ogundana, 2020). This is especially important for small businesses like food sellers or textile workers that depend on equipment or refrigeration. These companies are compelled to reduce production or make expensive alternative investments in the absence of reliable power, which has an impact on their profit margins and prospects for expansion. According to research, women-owned firms may be better equipped to expand, draw in more clients, and make the most of their resources if they have access to improved infrastructure (Alene, 2020). In Aguda Market, governmental infrastructural policies could be transformative if they prioritize accessibility, reliability, and market suitability. By employing a gender-aware framework, policymakers can better understand the specific infrastructure needs of women entrepreneurs, whose businesses are typically smaller in scale and rely on affordable, accessible utilities. According to the Gender-Aware Growth Model, addressing infrastructural barriers from a gender perspective involves not only increasing resource access but also ensuring that the infrastructure is resilient to the distinct pressures faced by women entrepreneurs in informal settings (Olawejaju & Fernando, 2020). An enhanced infrastructure, designed with gender inclusivity in mind, can offer women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market an improved operating environment that fosters long-term growth and economic stability.

## **Social and Cultural Barriers to Women Entrepreneurship**

Beyond financial and physical limitations, sociocultural elements play a significant role in determining women's success as entrepreneurs. Social norms around gender roles, family duties, and women's professional limits can stifle entrepreneurial aspirations in many developing nations, including Nigeria. These assumptions frequently constrain women's business scope and work hours, and lead to biases that hinder their capacity to effectively network or access resources in Nigeria (Rosca et al., 2020). Navigating these social and cultural constraints requires women in Aguda Market to balance their commercial activities and family obligations, frequently without outside assistance. Women are expected by tradition to put their home responsibilities first, which limits the amount of time and effort they can invest in their enterprises. Furthermore, because lenders and legislators may view women-owned firms as less successful or capable of expanding, societal biases may result in restrictions on financial support or market access (Nwachukwu et al., 2021). According to studies, when women's entrepreneurship is examined from a sociocultural perspective, gender norms have a noticeable effect on the growth of businesses. This influence extends to customer relations, scalability, and market visibility (Ogundana et al., 2021). Addressing these sociocultural hurdles requires incorporating a gender-aware viewpoint into policymaking, as recommended by the GAGM. Policies must take into consideration the larger sociocultural environment in which women live



and work, encouraging networks of mentorship tailored to women, flexible financing options, and child care. Policymakers can help women entrepreneurs overcome restrictive conventions and attain greater levels of success and independence in business by comprehending and resolving sociocultural variables (Bullough et al., 2022). In addition to promoting financial and infrastructure support, the GAGM highlights the significance of policies that create a supportive environment that takes into account the unique socio-cultural constraints that women entrepreneurs in informal markets confront.

## METHODOLOGY

This section presents the methodology adopted to investigate the *Impact of Governmental Policies on Women's Entrepreneurship Development in Aguda Market, Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria*. The study is based on a quantitative approach, employing a survey-based research design to capture the perceptions and experiences of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market regarding government-provided resources, policy benefits, and the effects of infrastructural policies on their businesses.

### Research Design

The study used a descriptive survey design, which is a quantitative research approach. This strategy was judged appropriate in light of the study's goals, which included analyzing the importance of governmental policies in influencing women's entrepreneurship and statistically measuring attitudes. In order to make inferences about the total population, the survey method made it possible to systematically gather data from a representative sample of female entrepreneurs in Aguda Market. A survey strategy is suitable for research aiming to extrapolate results from a sample to the entire population using statistical analysis and systematic data collecting (Pandey & Pandey, 2021).

### Population and Sampling

The 245 female business owners who operate in Aguda Market were the study's intended population. The sample size was calculated using the formula for a finite population, taking into account the total population size of 245. Based on our calculation, a sample size of approximately 152 respondents was selected to ensure adequate representation of the population within a 5% margin of error. A stratified random sampling method was adopted to ensure that participants across various business sectors within Aguda Market were proportionally represented, enhancing the generalizability of findings.

### Data Collection Instrument

Google Forms was used to create and administer a structured questionnaire, which made data collecting and management more effective. Likert scale responses, which ranged from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree," were used in the questionnaire to gauge participants' opinions regarding their access to government resources and how infrastructure policies affected their companies. Intricate insights into the difficulties and experiences of female entrepreneurs were made possible by the use of Likert scale items, which enabled the measurement of the degree of agreement or disagreement with particular assertions (Sürücü & Maslakci, 2020).





The questionnaire was divided into two main sections:

1. **Access to Government Resources and Policy Benefits:** This focuses on challenges related to accessing financial and policy support provided by the government.
2. **Impact of Infrastructural Policies:** This captured perceptions on the availability and reliability of infrastructure, such as electricity and market facilities, and their impact on business operations.

### **Validity and Reliability**

In quantitative research, ensuring validity and reliability is crucial to getting precise and broadly applicable results. Three professionals with backgrounds in policy impact studies and entrepreneurship evaluated the questionnaire to determine its "content validity." Through their input, the questions were improved to make sure they were objective, understandable, and pertinent to the study's goals. As recommended by Pandey & Pandey (2021), "construct validity" was also guaranteed by matching each question to the research variables. Twenty respondents from a comparable market environment participated in a pilot study to evaluate "reliability," and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was computed. For this investigation, a reliability coefficient greater than 0.70 was deemed appropriate (Sürücü & Maslakci, 2020).

### **Data Analysis**

Data obtained from the questionnaires were analyzed using "descriptive and inferential statistics". Descriptive statistics provided insights into the general trends and responses among participants. Inferential statistics were used to test the study hypotheses.

#### **1. Hypothesis Testing:**

- Hypothesis 1 (H1) was tested to determine if women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market face significant challenges in accessing government-provided resources and policy benefits.
- Hypothesis 2 (H2) was tested to assess if infrastructural policies (such as access to electricity and market facilities) significantly impact the daily operations of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.

To test these hypotheses, independent sample t-tests and Chi-square tests were applied to compare responses across different groups and determine the significance of differences between the observed and expected responses. All statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS software, which provided the tools to measure significance levels and interpret the relationships between variables effectively.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Participants were assured of the confidentiality of their responses, and informed consent was obtained before data collection. Anonymity was maintained throughout the study, and participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point. The research followed ethical guidelines as prescribed by the institutional review board to ensure respect, fairness, and transparency.



## Limitations of the Methodology

While the research methodology is structured to ensure reliable and valid results, certain limitations are acknowledged. Firstly, due to time constraints, data collection was limited to online surveys, which may have excluded participants without internet access. Secondly, the study relies on self-reported data, which can be subject to bias. However, measures like anonymity and confidentiality were put in place to encourage honest responses. This methodology section outlines a systematic approach to collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data on the impact of governmental policies on women's entrepreneurship in the Aguda Market. The research design, sampling, and analytical methods were selected to ensure that the findings are reliable, valid, and reflective of the experiences of women entrepreneurs in this specific context.

## RESULTS/FINDINGS

A total of 152 questionnaires were distributed and 100% returned. To proceed, we shall analyze the dataset by:

1. **Descriptive Statistics:** Summarize the distribution of responses for each Likert-scale item to provide an overview of the data.
2. **Hypothesis Testing:**
  - For **H1** (challenges in accessing government resources): We shall apply a one-sample t-test to see if the mean responses differ significantly from a neutral position (3), indicating perceived challenges.
  - For **H2** (impact of infrastructural policies): We shall use a chi-square test on frequency distributions to analyze if perceived impacts on operations significantly vary from neutral responses.

## Descriptive Statistics Summary

The following are the central tendencies and dispersion metrics for the Likert-scale items:

**Table 1.1: Central Tendencies and Dispersion Metrics**

Item	Mean	Std Dev	Mode
Awareness of government programs for business support	1.76	0.87	1
Ease of accessing government resources (loans, grants)	2.01	0.66	2
Challenges in accessing government loans or grants	3.22	1.23	2
Government efforts to improve electricity access in Aguda Market	1.27	0.62	1
Impact of infrastructural challenges (electricity, facilities) on business productivity	4.29	0.63	4



Improvement in daily operations if infrastructure issues were addressed	4.36	0.63	4
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These values reveal key insights, such as low awareness of government programs for business support and poor ease of accessing government programs. Additionally, respondents have a high perceived impact of infrastructural challenges on business productivity particularly with electricity supply and availability of shops in the market.

## HYPOTHESIS TESTING PLAN

With the descriptive statistics in place, we shall proceed to test the hypotheses:

1. **H1:** Using a one-sample t-test to assess if the mean response significantly deviates from a neutral response.
2. **H2:** Using a chi-square test for independence to examine the impact of infrastructural policies on business operations.

Based on the data collected, the following are the results:

### Hypothesis Testing Results

1. **Hypothesis 1 (H1):** *Women entrepreneurs in the Aguda Market face significant challenges in accessing government-provided resources or policy benefits.*

**Table 1.2: One-Sample T-Test for Access Challenges (H1)**

Test Statistic	Value	Significance Level	p-value	Conclusion
T-Statistic	2.17	0.05	0.032	Reject H0; Access challenges are significant

- **T-Statistic:** 2.17
- **P-Value:** 0.032
- **Interpretation:** With a p-value of 0.032, which is less than the typical significance level of 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis (H0) and accept the alternative hypothesis (H1). This indicates that women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market perceive significant challenges in accessing government resources.



2. **Hypothesis 2 (H2):** *Infrastructural policies, such as access to electricity and market facilities, have a significant impact on the daily operations of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market.*

**Table 1.3: Chi-Square Test for Infrastructural Impact (H2)**

Test Statistic	Value	Significance Level	p-value	Conclusion
Chi-Square	0.0	0.05	1.0	Fail to reject H0; No significant impact found

- **Chi-Square Statistic:** 0.0

- **P-Value:** 1.0

- **Interpretation:** With a p-value of 1.0, which is above the standard significance level, we fail to reject the null hypothesis (H02). This suggests no statistically significant evidence that infrastructural policies impact daily operations, according to the distribution of responses.

These results highlight that, while accessing government resources is a significant challenge for women entrepreneurs, infrastructural policies may not show a statistically significant impact based on the data collected.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results of this study on how government policies affect the growth of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market provide crucial information about the obstacles and effects that infrastructure and support policies have on female entrepreneurs. First, the data analysis verified that women in Aguda Market encounter major obstacles when trying to obtain resources or policy benefits offered by the government. According to a statistically significant result from the one-sample t-test, women entrepreneurs believe that the government's current policies and assistance are insufficient or unavailable. This is consistent with research by Ogundana (2020) and Nwachukwu et al. (2021), which emphasizes obstacles such as bureaucratic restraints and ignorance of government programs that might restrict women's access to funding and other resources that are essential for the expansion of their businesses. The chi-square test revealed no statistically significant effect of infrastructure policies on the day-to-day activities of female entrepreneurs. This conclusion might indicate that infrastructure problems are widespread and, as a result, normalized in the everyday lives of business owners in Aguda Market, even though access to amenities like power and market structures is thought to be essential for company success. This result is in line with the findings of Andriamahery and Qamruzzaman (2022), who observed that women entrepreneurs in poor nations frequently use creative resilience and community support systems to cope with such infrastructure deficiencies. The absence of a statistically significant relationship, however, does not mean that infrastructure upgrades are not needed; rather, it indicates that, given the perceptions assessed, these women entrepreneurs may benefit more immediately from other types of government intervention, such as easily accessible funding and entrepreneurial training. All things considered, these results show that there is still a need for policies that address the particular gender-based obstacles that women encounter in entrepreneurship in addition to offering material resources. As stated by Kini



(2022) and Olarewaju and Fernando (2020), this study supports the need for a gender-aware strategy, which can assist in customizing policy interventions to address the unique needs and goals of female entrepreneurs.

## **IMPLICATIONS TO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE**

The study has important ramifications for both practical policymaking and scholarly research. Academically, the results add to the body of knowledge on government support frameworks and gender-aware growth models in developing countries, especially as they relate to women-owned enterprises in Nigeria. This study shows that women's entrepreneurship is strongly impacted by their impression of their ability to access government resources, indicating the need for more research on how knowledge, application procedures, and resource distribution can be maximized for gender inclusion. In order to identify important gaps in program accessibility and utilization, future research must examine the precise mechanisms via which information about government programs reaches these entrepreneurs. In a practical sense, the study gives legislators proof of the inefficiencies in the government's current assistance systems. Given the substantial obstacles to resource access, policymakers should streamline procedures to increase women entrepreneurs' access to government resources. Furthermore, it implies that specific operational hurdles must be addressed by infrastructure regulations rather than relying on broad advancements to automatically handle the particular difficulties faced by women in local markets. The findings of this study lend credence to the demand for training programs that offer thorough instructions on navigating the bureaucratic procedures necessary to obtain government benefits in addition to fostering technical proficiency.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study assessed how government policies affected the growth of women entrepreneurs in Aguda Market and found that women entrepreneurs face significant obstacles when trying to access government resources. Despite these obstacles, the respondents felt that their operations were not greatly impacted by the perception of infrastructure measures, such as market facilities and availability of energy. These results suggest that although infrastructure upgrades are crucial, closing the gap between the creation of policies and easily available resources for women's support is still the key obstacle. In order to effectively support women's entrepreneurship and promote more inclusive economic growth in Nigeria, government policies can be better linked with these particular concerns.

## **FUTURE RESEARCH**

Future studies should examine in greater detail how government resources are accessible to women entrepreneurs, with an emphasis on the aspects of policy that either facilitate or obstruct efficient assistance. The experiences of women traversing the bureaucratic procedures for government-provided resources could be documented using qualitative research methods. It would also be instructive to look at how digital literacy and communication channels might raise awareness and application rates for government benefits. The relationship between the





efficacy of policies and entrepreneurial resilience may also be better understood through longitudinal studies that monitor the effects of infrastructure upgrades over time on company expansion. Future research can build on this study by examining these topics to produce practical insights that will better assist women entrepreneurs in developing nations.

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