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**UNIVERSITY**

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# COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

## 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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**RT: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Firm Sustainability of Selected Manufacturing Smes in South West Nigeria**

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**AB:** The sustainability of manufacturing Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) is pivotal to the growth and development of every nation. There has been a decline in the sustainability of manufacturing SMEs despite Governments and other agencies support. This can be attributed to poor financial support, inadequate infrastructure, poor research and development and weak government policy. However, most of the existing studies on the sustainability of manufacturing SMEs have primarily focused on individual factors rather than considering the complex interplay of entrepreneurial ecosystem variables. This study therefore, focused on the effect of the entrepreneurial ecosystem on the sustainability of selected manufacturing Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in South-West, Nigeria.

The study adopted survey research design. The population consisted of 423 owner-managers of manufacturing SMEs within the six selected ecosystems in South-West, Nigeria. The total enumeration method was adopted. A structured and validated questionnaire was used for data collection. The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients of constructs ranged from 0.70 to 0.91. A response rate of 95.5% was recorded. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential (multiple linear and hierarchical regression) statistics.

The findings revealed that entrepreneurial ecosystem had significant effect on firm sustainability of selected manufacturing small and medium scale enterprises in South-West Nigeria ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.274$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 26.3384$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Specifically, entrepreneurial ecosystem had significant effect on waste reduction ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.289$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 28.342$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), energy efficiency

( $Adj.R^2 = 0.239$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 22.052$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), conservation ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.123$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 10.410$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), emission intensity ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.316$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 7.340$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), profitability ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.120$ ;  $F(6, 397) = 10.188$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and sales growth ( $Adj. R^2 = 0.069$ ,  $F(6, 397) = 5.967$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Entrepreneurial ecosystem had significant effect on firm sustainability as moderated by need for achievement ( $\beta = 0.437$ ,  $\Delta R^2 = 0.389$ ,  $\Delta F = 13.850$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), entrepreneurial ecosystem had insignificant effect on firm sustainability as moderated by self-efficacy ( $\beta = 0.149$ ,  $\Delta R^2 = 0.006$ ,  $\Delta F = 2.875$ ,  $p = 0.000$  ( $p > 0.05$ )). Also, entrepreneurial ecosystem had insignificant effect on firm sustainability when moderated by need for achievement and self-efficacy ( $\beta = 0.149$ ,  $\Delta R^2 = 0.001$ ,  $\Delta F = 0.397$ ,  $p = 0.529$  ( $p > 0.05$ )).

The study concluded that entrepreneurial ecosystem enhanced the sustainability of selected manufacturing small and medium scale enterprises in South-West, Nigeria. The study recommended that owner/managers of SMEs should foster a conducive entrepreneurial ecosystem by collaborating with relevant stakeholders, such as government agencies, industry associations, financial institutions, local communities to ensure long-term sustainability.

**Keyword:** Entrepreneurial ecosystem, Firm sustainability, Financial support, Networking, Need for achievement, Profitability, Waste reduction

**Word Count:** 428

**Abbreviations:** *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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