

An Evaluation of Impact of N-Power Programme among Youth in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: This study investigated an evaluation of impact of N-Power programme amongst youth in Nigeria. The purpose of the study was also to determine the influence of N-Power programme on youth productivity and empowerment amongst youth in Nigeria. The research design adopted descriptive research design of the survey type. This is chosen because it permits the use of inductive approach, where sample sizes are used to make generalization about the population. The population consists of all youth in Nigeria and the sample for this study was 400 youths which was selected through multi- sampling procedure. The study made use of a research instrument tagged “Impact of N-Power Programme Amongst Youth questionnaire (INPSAY)”. The questionnaire was a self-designed which comprised of two sections; Section A and B. Section A deals with background information or bio-data of the respondents while section B consists of 20 items to assess information on Impact of N-power programme amongst youth. Face and content validities of the instrument were established by the experts in economics, entrepreneur, tests, measurement and evaluation both within and outside Ekiti State. Test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument with correlation coefficient of 0.84. The data generated was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the two research questions were answered. The result showed that there is no significant influence of N-Power programme on empowerment and productivity among youth in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that N-Power programme has been viewed in this study as not a sufficient veritable antidote to the endemic problem of unemployment and unproductivity among Nigerian youths. It was therefore recommended that the Economic policies of governments should be geared towards the creation of jobs also that the Federal Government should ensure prompt and timely payment of the stipends to beneficiaries of the programme and create means of assessing loan for them in order for them to be empowered permanently.

KEYWORDS: N-Power Programme, Youth, Empowered, Productivity and Unemployment

I. INTRODUCTION

The description of Nigeria as a country endowed with great natural resources that a country could be search for such as human resources, agricultural, petroleum, gas, and large untapped solid mineral resources, World Bank (2018). But this seems to contradict the official statistics in the government circle and other non-governmental organizations that Nigeria is bedeviled with a lot of economic problems such as experiencing high inflation and mal-administration of resources. The report by the global development institution shows that the human capital spending in Nigeria is among the worst in the world after overtaking India to assume the inglorious position of the “poverty capital” of the world. Unemployment is one of the major developmental issues confronting developing societies such as Nigeria (Kayode, 2014). Nigeria has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world (70-85%) (Report of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Productivity, 2018). These are mainly young adults graduating from universities and polytechnics or higher education institutions. According to available estimates, about 1.6 million people, mostly young adults, graduate each year. In addition to this number, about 3.8 million are young graduates who have not completed formal education, who have completed elementary or high school education, or who have dropped out of higher education, all of whom are enrolled annually in an already saturated labor market (Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Report on Work and Productivity, 2018). Many young people are not productive and have been reduced to small traders and smugglers; in many cases, the growing phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and child labor can be attributed to poverty and youth unemployment. For some who may find a way out of the country to work in other countries, their departure has contributed to depleting the quality of the country's human capital resources (Oviawe, 2015). This study is a wake-up call to the relevant authorities to consider improving the Sure-P and N-Power programs to address the problem of unemployment in Nigeria. There are so many programmes and schemes organized by different regimes in Nigeria such as during the regime of President Olusegun Obasanjo initiated the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) which was established

in 2010 as the primary agency of the federal government to eradicate extreme hunger, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. In 2011, the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme - (SURE -P) was birthed by the government led by president GoodluckEbeleAzikiwe Jonathanas social intervention scheme aimed at providing employments for unemployed graduates through internship programs. The Administration of President MuhammaduBuhari “designed and implemented the current National Social Investments Programme (N-SIP) as strategy for combating poverty and unemployment. The N-SIP scheme was created to enable citizens exit from the twin evils of poverty and unemployment through capacity building, investment and direct financial support (Abin, 2018). The programme consists of four major components include the Job Creation and Youth Empowerment (N- Power), National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP), National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP) and Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), (Abin, 2018).

N-power is a National Social Investment Programme initiated by the Federal Government of Nigeria aimed specifically to create job for teeming population of unemployed youth in Nigeria through human capital development. In essence, one of the objectives of the programme was to boost the human capital of the Nigerian labour force (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). The human capital boost appears to be in area of youth employment which was intended to be addressed through youth empowerment. Youth empowerment was to be ensured through skill acquisition and development of youth in critical sectors such as education, health and agriculture. The core objective of the programme seem to hinge on skills acquisition and development of the Nigerian youth, both educated and non-educated, who had minimal hope of securing jobs, even at the minimum level needed to survive or raise a family (Okoro and Basse, 2018; N-Power Information Guide 2017). In addition, the programme was designed to fill the unemployment gaps in the teaching profession in primary schools and to assist in taking basic education to children in remote areas, especially the marginalized communities. Furthermore, the programme was also created to provide manpower to primary health care centers in communities that appear to be under staffed while also providing manpower in the area of agricultural business (Okoro and Basse, 2018).

Few researchers have conducted studies to assess the impact of the programme on youth empowerment. A Study by Abin (2018) centered on N-Power Programme Implementation Process and contribution of the programme to socio-economic wellbeing of beneficiaries in Akwanga Metropolis of Nasarawa State. A study conducted by Okoro and Basse (2018) also investigated N-Power teachers competence and resource utilization: implication for effective and efficient teaching in Nigerian primary and post primary schools. It seems that the scheme is not providing permanent solution to the current high level of unemployment ravaging the economy of Nigeria. With the statistics of unemployment just taken recently which points that the level of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria is increasing without any effect of any scheme or programme to ameliorate its effect on both the economy and among the youth in general. This study is necessary at this time to fill the gap and to really show the product and outcome of this scheme by conducting this research in order to evaluate N-power scheme amongst youth in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem: Poverty and unemployment remains one of the biggest social problems in Nigeria today. Available data from NBS (2010) shows that more than half of Nigerians population is currently living in squalid livelihood and has consistently remained a worrisome phenomenon demanding urgent national attention (Obadan, 2017) especially among youth in Nigeria. Efforts by successive governments to combat this social malady toward alleviating the precarious situation surrounding the Nigerian youths and to enhance the quality of life had ended in fiasco, as a consequence of abysmal and porous implementation of the said programme. The aim of this study is to evaluate the impact of N-power scheme among youth in Nigeria.

Significant of the Study: The finding of this study may be of enormous benefit to various categories of people such as students, the lecturers, administrators, the government and other researchers. To the students, the findings of the study will bring them more insight that empowerment programme is vehicle to ride off the endemic problem of poverty, hunger and unemployment. Also, from the results of this study, students may detect what could make them more apt to embark on how to become beneficiary of the N-power programme.

Delimitation of the Study: The study was delimited to an evaluation of impact of n-power programme amongst youth in Nigeria. The study only covered youth in Ekiti State as the sample of the study.

Objective of the study: The main objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of N-Power programme among youth in Nigeria.

Specifically, the objective of this study is to:

- i) Investigate the influence of N-Power programme on youth productivity amongst youth in Nigeria
- ii) Determine whether N-Power programme will enhance youth empowerment

Research question

Two research questions were raised to direct this study.

- 1) Will N-Power programme have impact on youth productivity?
- 2) Will N-Power programme enhance youth empowerment?

II. METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted descriptive research design of the survey type. This is chosen because it permits the use of inductive approach, where sample sizes are used to make generalization about the population. The population consists of all youth in Nigeria and the sample for this study was 400 youths which was selected through multi- sampling procedure in which at the first stage four Local Government Areas were selected through simple random sampling technique. Stage two involved the use of random sampling technique to select five towns from each of the five Local Government Areas selected making 20 towns and purposive random sampling technique was used to select 20 youths from each of the towns making 400 youths altogether. The study made use of a research instrument tagged “Impact of N-Power Programme Amongst Youth Questionnaire(INPSAY)”.The questionnaire was a self-designed which comprised of two sections; Section A and B. Section A deals with background information or bio-data of the respondents while section B consists of 20 items to assess information on impact of N-Power programme amongst youth. Face and content validities of the instrument were established by the experts in economics, entrepreneur, tests, measurement and evaluation both within and outside Ekiti State. The experts reviewed and based on their comments, recommendations and modifications, the instrument was restructured and corrected to be the final version. Test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument by administering the instrument twice to twenty youths outside Ekiti State with two weeks interval. The scores from the two set of responses were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis and correlation coefficient of 0.84 was obtained. The final version of the instrument was administered with the help of research assistance in each of the towns selected. Data collected for the study was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1

Will N-Power programme enhance youth empowerment?

In answering the question, scores relating to N-Power programme of section B of the questionnaire and that of youth productivity were computed and subjected to statistical analysis involving Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Pearson Correlation of N-Power Programme and youth productivity among Youth in Nigeria

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	P value
N-Power Programme	300	3.68	.327	-.129	0.025
youth productivity	300	4.03	.547		

Table 1 showed that there is no significant relationship between N-Power Programme and youth productivity among youths in Nigeria. (r (300)= -0.129. p> 0.000).

Research Question 2

Will N-Power programme enhance youth empowerment?

In answering the question, scores relating to N-Power programme of section B of the questionnaire and that of youth empowerment were computed and subjected to statistical analysis involving Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Pearson Correlation of N-Power Programme and youth empowerment among Youth in Nigeria

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	P value
N-Power Programme	300	3.68	.327	.200	0.001
Youth Empowerment	300	3.69	.712		

Table 2 showed that there is no significant relationship between N-Power Programme and youth empowerment among youths in Nigeria. ($r(300) = -0.129$, $p > 0.000$). Therefore, This implies that there is no significant relationship between N-Power Programme and youth empowerment among youths in Nigeria.

IV. DISCUSSION

This study showed that there is no significant influence of N-Power Programme on youth productivity and empowerment among youths in Nigeria. This result negates the most prominent objective of establishing N-power programme which is to create temporary jobs to the unemployed graduates for two years and provide access to soft loans to the indigents. However, finding from the data analysis revealed that this aims has not been adequately met looking at the responses from the respondents. This might be due to the limited two years mandate which cannot sufficiently sustain the said youths through their future. Lack of access to loan is a dominating constraint to paucity of jobs in the economy as proven by the findings of this study. This is in line with Onuoha et al (2019) that the luxury of concentrating on long-term job growth and labour supply strategies is not an immediate choice for countries emerging from recession.

V. CONCLUSION

It be concluded that N-Power programme has been viewed in this study as not a sufficient veritable antidote to the endemic problem of unemployment and unproductivity among Nigerian youths.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of this study, it is therefore recommended that;

1. The Economic policies of governments should be geared towards the creation of jobs.
2. Federal Government should ensure prompt and timely payment of the stipends to beneficiaries of the programme and create means of assessing loan for them in order for them to be empowered permanently.
3. The youth should shun joblessness and criminality through being committed to the N-power programme and acquisition of relevant skills that will launch them into enterprise greatness and economic independence.

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