

EFFECT OF N-POWER PROGRAMMES ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN NIGER STATE

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Abstract

One of the greatest challenges facing Nigerian economy today is poverty. The menacing of social and economic problem of poverty in Nigeria like many developing countries past governments to introduced N-power programme aimed at reducing poverty in Nigeria particularly State. The study examines the effect of N-power programmes in reducing poverty in Niger State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with the population of 1612 beneficiaries benefited from N-power programmes. To determine the sample size, Taro Yamane formula was adopted where the study arrived at 377. The study reveals that N-power programmes enhanced socio-economic development for the fact that N-Teach, N-Health, N-Agro and N-Vaids programmes has reduces poverty in Niger State. The study further reveals that skills development, increased beneficiaries' income, employment generation, increased food availability amongst many others. The study however, recommends amongst other that The N-Power programmes such as N-

Teach, N-Health, N-Agro and N-Vaids should be evaluated prior to implementation. An assessment would ensure an identification of the operational problems inherent in a proposed programmes and early resolution of such problems. Considering the short life span of the scheme, government should look at the possibility of engaging and absorbing outstanding beneficiaries into the civil service either at state or federal level. This will encourage hard work and enhance effective participation in the scheme.

Key Words: N-power, Poverty, and N-power Strategies

Introduction

One of the greatest challenges facing Nigerian economy today is poverty. Poverty in Nigeria, as in other developing countries of the world, has been one of the most menacing social and economic problems which Nigeria has to contend with. Hardly can one find a family in which nobody is either unemployed or threatened by unemployment. Its effect on social and political stability cannot be over emphasized. The consequences of poverty on Nigeria economy are so numerous as can be seen in high rate of brain drain and social vices such as armed robbery, destitution, economic crises, political thuggery, widening income disparity, dependency, and health related problem in addition to host of other vices (Isah, 2016).

Indeed, the menacing of social and economic problem of poverty in Nigeria like many developing countries led successive governments to introduce a numbers of programmes such as Directorate for Food and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI, 1986), National Directorate of Employment (NDE, 1986), Better Life for Rural Women (1987), Community Bank (CB, 1991), Family Economic Advancement Programmes (FEAP, 1996), National Poverty Eradication Programmes (NAPEP, 2001), Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES, 2004) and Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programmes (Sure-P, 2012), and National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) consisting of N-Power Programme, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) and Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF). These programmes were established in the year 2016 by President Muhammadu Buhari administration, and they were targeted towards reducing poverty in Nigeria. But in spite of these laudable programmes, the menace is on the increase as a result of corruption, exclusion of the target beneficiaries in the development agenda, misplacement of policy priorities among others. The issue of poverty reduction has also been given significant attention by successive governments in Nigeria. Many plans, policies, programs, and strategies have been carried out by past governments in Nigeria to alleviate poverty especially in rural areas where poverty is dominated. It is against the background that this study is intends to examine the impact of N power programmes on poverty reduction in Niger State.

Research Questions

1. To what extent does N-power programmes reduce poverty in Niger State?
2. How effective are those programmes put in place by N-power in reducing poverty in Niger State?

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the extent to which N-power programmes reduced poverty in Niger State.
2. To determine the effectiveness of those programmes put in place by N-power on reducing poverty in Niger State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Poverty

Like any other concept, poverty has been debated by many scholars in various ways. According to Usman (2015), poverty is defined as an individual's inability to live a simple and comfortable life due to a lack of access to basic means of daily survival. Food, shelter, a steady income, clothing, education, and other necessities are examples of such basics. According to Garba (2006), poverty is defined as a lack of command over basic consumption needs, which results in insufficient food, clothing, and/or shelter, as well as a lack of certain capacities, such as the ability to participate in society with dignity. Similarly, the World Bank defined poverty as the inability to meet a basic standard of living (World Bank Report, 2008). Dangiwa and Tukura (2014) stressed that poverty has a devastating effect on people which create an imbalance in the social system. They added that poverty can lead to crime, such as kidnapping, prostitution, armed robbery, social unrest and other social vices in society. They noted that poverty decreases the potentials of people thereby making them more voiceless especially in decision making. They also opined that, at the level of nations, poverty reduces competition among the nations especially in the areas of a bilateral agreement on international trade, power-sharing and global issues that affect countries.

In 2005 World Bank introduced a comprehensive definition for the people living in extreme poverty when they earn less than \$1.25 per day and those living in moderate poverty when they earn between \$1.25 and \$2.00 per day (Slikkerveer, 2019). This definition had been reviewed after recoding a great feat in the fight against extreme global poverty in 2015 when the World Bank redefines extreme poverty as the situation in which people live below \$1.9 per day. Despite this review, several criticisms were labelled against the yardstick adopted by the World Bank in defining poverty, because the definition perceives poverty from a single dimension of purchasing power parity only.

In reality, poverty must be seen from multiple dimensions. Adeleke (2012), for example, defines poverty as a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs such as food, sanitation, education, information, a lack of income, and productive resources. This definition provides a clearer understanding of the concept of poverty. Poverty, according to Mustapha (2014), is a social condition characterized by insufficient access to basic human needs (food and non-food) for the maintenance of a socially acceptable minimum standard of living in a given society. According to Taiwo and Agwu (2016), poverty is defined as a situation in which people live below a certain minimum income level and are unable to provide the necessities of life required for an acceptable standard of living. Poverty, to them, is a stain that affects people all over the world, despite being widely regarded as one of the manifestations of underdevelopment. Abang (2015) noted that discourse on the measurement of poverty carries along with it the interpretation of the danger of poverty in what may look like attempting a further explanation of the concept of poverty itself. According to Ponmuthusaravanan and Ravi (2014), Poverty has been defined in income or expenditure terms and measured in absolute or in relative terms. Absolute poverty refers to a set standard that is consistent over time and between countries. On the other hand, relative poverty is the condition of having fewer resources or less income than others within a society or country or compared to worldwide averages. Relative poverty views poverty as socially defined and dependent on social context. Hence, relative poverty is a measure of income inequality. Base on the above definition it can be deduce that poverty can be seen as a situation in which an individual is unable to provide himself and his family the basic necessities of life, due to economic, social, political and psychological incapacitation.

Concept of N-power

N-Power is a scheme under the National Social Investments Programme of the Nigerian federal government geared towards job creation; alleviate poverty and empowerment initiatives through volunteering services. It is also aimed at imbuing on Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 (FGN, 2018).

According to Olawole (2018), the goals of the programme includes; reducing the rate of unemployment in the country, facilitate the transfer of entrepreneurial, technical skills and employability ability and to bring solution active public service and government diversification policy. The programme is divided in to three components viz, n-tech, n-health, and n-agro as well as other subsidiary non-graduate scheme as n-build, n-knowledge and n-teach respectively.

N-Power Programme: Worried by the seemingly recalcitrance of the youth

unemployment challenge, the current change administration of President Muhammadu Buhari pledged to tackle the menace head-on. Hence, on 8 June, 2016 the Federal Government of Nigeria launched the N-Power Programme as a job creation and empowerment initiative of the Social Investment Programme to drastically reduce youth unemployment and poverty in the country. The focus is to provide young graduates and non-graduates with the skills, tools and livelihood to enable them advance from unemployment to employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The first phase of N-Power is targeted at Nigeria's critical needs in education, agriculture, technology, creativity, construction and artisans industries. N-Power is also meant to prepare Nigeria for a global outsourcing push where young Nigerians can export their services to work on global projects that earn Nigeria foreign exchange.

The N-Power Volunteer Corps is expected to engage and train 500,000 young unemployed graduates. It is a paid volunteering programme of a two-year duration. Participants will provide teaching, instructional, and advisory solutions in 4 key areas namely, agriculture, health, power-tech and community education (FGN, 2018).

The programme is carefully designed in such a manner that if well implemented, can help in further addressing the challenges of unemployment and subsequently, reduce poverty among the Nigerian youths. The question is would this programme be free from the pangs of those factors that militated against the efficacy of the past poverty reduction programmes? This question must be well addressed if the government indeed, wants to tackle the challenges of unemployment and subsequently, reduce poverty in the Nigerian society (Analysts).

N-Power is a scheme under the National Social Investments Programme of the Nigerian Federal Government geared towards job creation; alleviate poverty and empowerment initiatives through volunteering services. It is also aimed at imbuing on Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 (FGN, 2018).

The programme has the following categories; a. Graduate Category which comprises N-Power Volunteer Corps, b. Non-Graduate Category comprising N-Power Knowledge and N-Power Build.

The Goals of the programme are;

- a. To intervene thereby directly improve the livelihood of the young unemployed Nigerians.

- b. To develop a qualitative system that is capable of transferring employability, entrepreneurial and technical skills.
- c. To create an ecosystem of solutions for the ailing public service, and diversify government policies.
- d. To develop a knowledge base economy for Nigeria.

Key areas of the N-Power volunteer corps under the graduate category are:

N-Teach: - Beneficiaries under this sub scheme will serve in public schools as auxiliary teachers for a period not less than two years subject to modification by the appropriate authority. The aim is to help the beneficiaries gain relevant work experience and mould the better for further challenges as may be determine by the political and economic climate.

N-Health: - Volunteers under this group will be deployed to serve as public health assistants in government owned health facilities as well as provide basic health diagnostic services in the area of primary assignment.

Under the N-Power Health strand of the programme, N-Power Health beneficiaries are required to assist in improving and promoting preventive healthcare in their communities to vulnerable members of the society including pregnant women and children and families and individuals. This area is reserved for those who read health and medical-related courses at certificate course and diploma levels (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2017).

N-Agro:-The youths deployed under this group will serve as researchers and the local farmers in a bit to educate them on contemporary farming techniques and innovation to boost agricultural productivity thereby achieving the objective of food sufficiency.

The Voluntary Asset and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS):-VAIDS seeks to encourage non-compliant and partially compliant taxpayers to voluntarily declare their correct income and assets and pay the appropriate tax due to the government. The N-Power VAIDS volunteers are expected to function as community tax liaison officers and have the following key responsibilities which included tax promotion, document review, record keeping, answering online inquiries, customer management, report writing, amongst others. This key area engaged youth with post tertiary qualification in computer and information science related courses (N-Power Information guide, 2017).

Empirical Studies

Few studies have investigated the impact of N-Power programme in poverty reduction

in Nigeria. A study by Abin (2018) examined the impact of N-Power Programme on socio-economic lives of beneficiaries in Akwanga Metropolis of Nasarawa state. The study showed that the programme improved socio-economic lives of the beneficiaries by contributing immensely to their financial, material, social well-being. The study also indicated overwhelming satisfaction with the programme by the beneficiaries. It can be deduced that since empowerment entails ability to make choices and have control over one's life, the programme could be seen to have impacted on youth empowerment. This is because in Nigeria, financial independence seems to give people considerable ability to make choices and also control on their lives.

Odey and Sambe,(2019) examine on Assessment of the Contribution of N-Power Programme to Youth Empowerment in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study adopted cross sectional survey design while cluster random sampling was used to select beneficiaries. Questionnaires were used to collect data as Key Informant Interview was also used to compliment Questionnaire. Furthermore, the study used percentages for analysis of data. The study discovered that the beneficiaries of N-Power programme were mostly composed of N-Teach strand of the programme, followed by N-Health strand, N-Agro and Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS) strands respectively. The study also found that N-Power contributed to empowerment of youth through poverty reduction, proficiency skills in ICT, financial empowerment, on the job experience and investment in small scale businesses. However, there were challenges faced by the programme in empowerment of youth which included delay in payment of allowance, unpaid allowances, distance to working places and teacher training for most of N-Teach beneficiaries. The study therefore recommended for prompt and timely payment of the stipends to beneficiaries of the programme by Federal government, timely sorting of problems of unpaid allowances, posting nearest to place of residence and teacher education for N-Teach categories.

Another study was conducted by Okoro and Bassey (2018) also investigated N-Power teacher's competence and resource utilization: implication for effective and efficient teaching in Nigerian primary and post primary schools. The study was only focused on N-Teach aspect of the programme and hinged on competence of the beneficiaries in terms of teacher education. This study also ignored contribution of the programme to socioeconomic development which is another vacuum the study aims to close.

Bison (2019) examine on the Impact Assessment of the N-power Scheme: A Study of Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. The research design adopted for this study was the survey design. The researcher adopted the purposive sampling technique in selecting sample from the population of study. A sample size of two

hundred and fifty respondents was selected for study. The researcher utilized the questionnaire in gathering quantitative data for the study. The hypotheses that were stated for study were tested using Pearson's product moment correlation. The analysis was run on the Statistical Package for social science (SPSS). The results of the study indicated that there is a positive significant relationship between the N-power scheme and the following variables, economic wellbeing, job skill enhancement and employment generation. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that Government should introduce mandatory training and workshops in areas such as ICT and agriculture for volunteers to increase their employability after the expiration of the scheme. It was also recommended that Government should provide interest free loans to interested volunteers to start up their small or medium scale enterprises. This can be conveniently deducted from their monthly stipends.

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Adeyanju (2019) investigated young graduates' perception of the N- Power programme and poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The populations for this study comprised of 150,000 selected graduates employed in 2016 from which the 36 states including the Federal Capital territory were stratified into four zones, while random sampling technique was adopted to select 1000 research participants. Questionnaire and interview were the major instruments used for data collection. Percentage and Mean were used in analyzing the data. The result of the study suggests a significant reduction in graduate's poverty level. It further shows that N-power has positively impacted on the male and female beneficiaries. The study recommends an increase in the amount of stipends paid to beneficiaries and granting of loan facilities to them to enable them to venture into businesses aside the N-power work. It further recommends the effective monitoring of volunteers while on duty to get the best out of them.

Abada et al. (2019) investigated social intervention scheme and poverty alleviation among Nigerian youths. They employ a quantitative method to generate data for their analysis. The outcome of their study shows that the Social Intervention

Programme of the federal government has significantly alleviated poverty among youths. They recommend the need for the executive to strengthen their capacity and institution for better service delivery. BisonG (2019) examined the impact of the N-power scheme in employment generation, economic wellbeing of beneficiaries and job skills enhancement of beneficiaries in the Cross River south senatorial district. Adopting a survey design, the results of the study indicated that there is a positive significant relationship between the N-power scheme and the following variables, economic wellbeing, job skill enhancement and employment generation. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that the Government should introduce mandatory training and workshops in areas such as ICT and agriculture for volunteers to increase their employability after the expiration of the scheme. It was also recommended that the Government should provide interest-free loans to interested volunteers to start up their small or medium scale enterprises which can be conveniently deducted from their monthly stipends

Alalade, Oluwatosin, James-ojibo & Awoyemi..(2020), **Perceived Effect Of N-Power Scheme On Poverty Reduction Among Graduate Youths In Kwara State, Nigeria** it was concluded that N-power scheme has contributed to poverty reduction hence improved livelihood condition in the area. The scheme has helped in skill development, increased beneficiaries' income, employment generation, increased food availability amongst many others. Notable among the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries are: late payment of stipends; insufficient information; short life span of the scheme; political interference as well as website and internet hiccups.

Abubakar, Emmanuel and Mohammed (2020) examined on Review of the Contribution of N-Power Programme to Poverty Reduction and Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. Drawing from extant literature, the study found that N-power has contributed to poverty reduction in Nigeria in that it has provided jobs for young graduates and non-graduates. It has a good geographical spread devoid of political influence, and has also made volunteers to acquire work experience and ICT skills which are germane to today's working environment.

Alalade,, James, Asiyebi,, Awoyemi.(2021) N-power scheme has contributed to poverty reduction in the study area in that scheme has helped in skill development, increased beneficiaries' income, employment generation, increased food availability. In the same vein Ade (2020) affirmed that N-Power programme has enhanced youth skills acquisition and development, hence, empowered them.

Abubakar , Emmanuel and Mohammed (2020) study found that N-power has

contributed to poverty reduction in Nigeria in that it has provided jobs for young graduates and non-graduates. It has a good geographical spread devoid of political influence, and has also made volunteers to acquire work experience and ICT skills which are germane to today's working environment.

Onah & Ugwuibe (2022), Investigates **N-Power Programmes and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: Enugu State Experience**. The study adopted survey research design. The study was anchored on the Elite theory. Findings include that N-Power programmes were poorly implemented in Enugu State. Furthermore, these N-Power programmes have no significant impact on the reduction of poverty among the youths in Enugu State. The study recommended among others that federal government should review the structure and strategies of N-power programmes in Nigeria, to make it more implementable and inclusive.

Yakubu, Nuhu, Musa & Rufai (2023), examined on An Application of Multiple Linear Regression Model to the Impact of N-Power Program on Poverty Reduction among Youths in Gassol Local Government Area, Taraba state, Nigeria. The population of the study is 550 out of which 232 respondents were sampled. The study adopted a self-developed questionnaire for data collection. Two hundred and thirty-two (232) copies of questionnaires were administered all were retrieved, making 100% return rate. The study employed inferential statistics (Multiple linear regression analysis) for data analysis. The results were presented in tables and discussed according to the objective. The study revealed a significant effect of N-Power on poverty reduction among youths in Gassol Local Government Area ($p < \alpha$). The study recommended that Federal Government should create more empowerment programmes that will expose youths to entrepreneurial skills and make them self-employed and self-reliance.

However, study reviewed the existing knowledge or literature on N-power and poverty reduction and identifies the gaps left by past research and publications. The literature reviewed involves previous research publications and documentations. It is discovered that, findings in this area are still inconclusive or mixed. Some studies revealed positive effect on N-power programmes in reducing poverty while others revealed negative effect poverty. These mixed results exposed the area to further study.

Theoretical Framework

The study anchored David Easton 1965 system theory in his book title World Politics Volume ix as a framework to this study. It is an approach that sees an organization or society as a dynamic open system or as an entity consisting of a set of elements in interaction with one another which maintains itself in a state of relatively stable

equilibrium by experiencing a dynamic and constant interchange of energy and information with its environment. Systems theory views social organizations as a complex set of dynamically intertwined and interconnected elements. Every system includes inputs, processes, outputs, feedback and the environment in which it operates and with which it continuously interacts.

In relating this theory to this study, it views government as a system with input coming from the masses in the form of demands for empowerment scheme for poverty reduction and increases in income status as well as empowered peoples by the government for the overall benefit of the beneficiaries. The government (N-Power) serves as the processing unit which takes inputs in form of demands from the people for poverty reduction scheme, processes them and sent out outputs which are the N-Power scheme geared towards poverty reduction among the youth. The theory shows how the government reacts to people's plight in terms of the provision of the necessities of life. The theory highlights hoe demands of the peoples as presented to government, government actions on the said demands and the output is the program that will reduce poverty among the well-being of the peoples.

Methodology

The study used descriptive survey research design with the population which covered the entire beneficiaries of N-Power in Niger State. However, a total of 6,427 unemployed have benefited from the N-Power programmes comprising 3550 under N-Teach Programmes, 1050 under N-Health programme, 1,000 under N-Agro programme, and 827 under Voluntary Asset and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS) programme. To determine the sample size of this study, Taro Yamane formula (1964) was used.

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

$$n = \frac{6,427}{1 + 6,427(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{6,427}{17.0675}$$

$$n = 377$$

In determining the sample size for each component of the population, Bowley s proportionate allocation formula was used. This is given as follows:

$$nh = \frac{Nhn}{N}$$

Where:

n_h = Sample size allocated to each component unit

N_h = Population size of each unit n = Total sample size

N = Total population size

Therefore, the sample allocation to each unit of the sample was determined and presented on the table below:

Table 1: Sample Size Determination

Beneficiaries Programmes	Proportionate Sample Size	Total
N- Teach Programme	208	208
N-Health Programme	62	62
N-Agro Programme	59	59
N Vaid Programme	48	48
Total	377	377

Source: NOA, Minna, 2023

Stratified sampling techniques were used to give each of beneficiaries from each of the N Power programmes an equal representation based on their population. Again, the researcher adopted this technique to draw the number of respondents from the three zones that make up Niger State. From each of the zone, simple random techniques were used to select two local governments from each zone. The researcher selected the local government as follows: **Niger North:** Kontagora – 63, Mariga – 63, **Niger East:** Suleja – 63, Bosso -63 and **Niger South:** Bida – 63, Makwa – 62.

Structure questionnaire was used to elicit information from the target respondents through the of Five point Likert scale and analysis of data was based on the response from the questionnaire, using frequency distribution tables, simple percentage.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Based on the sample size 377 questionnaires were administered to the respective respondents, out of which, 327 were duly filled and returned for analysis while, the remaining 50 were not duly filled. Therefore, analysis was based on the returned 327 questionnaire for the purpose of data presentation and analysis.

Table 2: Distribution of returned Questionnaire

Local Government Areas in Niger State	No. of questionnaire that were administered	No. of Respondents who did not return questionnaires	No. of Respondents who returned questionnaires	Percentage (%)
Kontagora	63	7	56	17.1
Mariga	63	11	52	15.9
Suleja	63	8	55	16.8
Bosso	63	10	53	16.2
Bida	63	7	56	17.1
Makwa	62	7	55	16.8
Total	377	50	327	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

From the above table, the questionnaire administered to the respondents in various local government areas in Niger State were returned and it indicates that Kontagora local Government Area returned 56 (17.1%) of the administered copies of questionnaire, Mariga local Government Area returned 52 (15.9%) of the administered copies of questionnaire, Suleja local Government Area returned 55 (16.8%) of the administered copies of questionnaire, Bosso local Government Area returned 53 (16.2%) of the administered copies of questionnaire Bida local Government Area returned 56 (17.1%) of the administered copies of questionnaire and Makwa local Government Area returned 55 (16.8%) of the administered copies of questionnaire. However, out of 377 copies of questionnaire distributed, 327 were returned as correctly filled. This represents 327 (81%) response rates which is quite high and was informed by the method of distribution adopted by the researcher.

Table 3: Distribution of beneficiaries from N-Power programmes between

2016-2021 Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
2016	98	29.9
2017	84	25.9
2018	50	15.3
2019	47	14.4
2020	29	8.8
2021	19	5.7
Total	327	100

Source: Field work, 2023

The table above indicates that 98 (29.9%) of respondents were benefited from N-power programmes between January-December, 2016, 89 (25.9%) of respondents have benefited from N-power programmes between January-December, 2017, 50 (15.3%) of the respondents have benefited from N-power programmes between January-December, 2018, 47 (14.4%) of respondents have benefited from N-power

programmes between January-December, 2019, 29 (8.8%) of respondents have benefited from N-power programmes between January-December, 2020. While only 19 (5.7%) of respondents have benefited from N-power programmes between January-December, 2021. This indicates that majority of respondents have benefited from N-power programmes in year 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Table 4: Beneficiaries based on the Programmes Benefited

Local Government	N- Teach programme	N-Health programme	N-Agro programme	N-Vaid Programme	Total
Kontagora	-	16	14	13	43
Mariga	16	-	5	5	26
Suleja	16	16	15	22	69
Bosso	13	13	17	17	60
Bida	20	17	20	17	74
Makwa	17	20	10	8	55
Total	82	82	81	82	327

Source: Field work, 2023.

The table above showed the various beneficiaries of the N-power programmes within the studied local governments in Niger State; Kotongora Local Government has 43 beneficiaries, Mariga Local Government has 26 Beneficiaries while Suleja Local Government has 69 beneficiaries. Bosso Local Governemnt, Bida local Government has 74 beneficiaries and Mokwa local Government has 55 beneficiaries respectively.

Research Question One: To what extent does N-power programmes reduced poverty in Niger State?

Table 5:

Variable	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Undecided		Strongly Disagreed		Disagreed	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
N-Teach Programme	11	13.4	32	39	8	9.8	11	13.4	20	24.4
N-Health programme	13	15.9	21	25.6	10	12.2	20	24.4	18	21.9
N-Agro Programme	11	13.4	32	39	8	9.8	11	13.4	20	24.4
N-Vaid Programme	13	15.9	21	25.6	10	12.2	20	24.4	18	21.9
Total										328

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agree that N-Teach programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 32 respondents (39%) agreed that N-Teach programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 8 respondents (8%) undecided that N-Teach programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agreed that N-Teach programme reduced poverty in Niger State while only 20 respondents (24.4%) disagree that N-Teach programme reduced poverty in

Niger State.

Another table above shows that 13 respondents (15.9%) strongly agree that N-Health programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 21 respondents (25.6%) agreed that N-Health programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Health programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Health programme reduced poverty in Niger State while only 18 respondents (21.9%) disagree that N-Health programme reduced poverty in Niger State.

Again, table above shows that 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agree that N-Agro programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 32 respondents (39%) agreed that N-Agro programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 8 respondents (8%) undecided that N-Agro programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agreed that N-Agro programme reduced poverty in Niger State while only 20 respondents (24.4%) disagree that N-Agro programme reduced poverty in Niger State.

Lastly, table above shows that 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agree that short life span of the table above shows that 13 respondents (15.9%) strongly agree that N-Vaid programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 21 respondents (25.6%) agreed that N-Vaid programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Vaid programme reduced poverty in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Vaid programme reduced poverty in Niger State while only 18 respondents (21.9%) disagree that N-Vaid programme reduced poverty in Niger State.

Research Question One: How effective are does programmes put in place by N-power Reduced poverty in Niger State?

Table 7:

Variable	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Undecided		Strongly Disagreed		Disagreed	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
N-Teach Programme	13	15.9	21	25.6	10	12.2	20	24.4	18	21.9
N-Health programme	11	13.4	32	39	8	9.8	11	13.4	20	24.4
N-Agro Programme	13	15.9	21	25.6	10	12.2	20	24.4	18	21.9
N-Vaid Programme	13	15.9	21	25.6	10	12.2	20	24.4	18	21.9
Total										328

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 13 respondents (15.9%) strongly agree that N-Teach increase skills of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 21 respondents (25.6%) agreed that

N-Teach increase skills of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Teach increase skills of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Teach increase skills of the Beneficiaries in Niger State while only 18 respondents (12.9%) disagree that N-Teach increase skills of the Beneficiaries in Niger State.

Again, table above shows that 11 respondents (13.4%) strongly agree that N-Health programme improve access to medical facilities in Niger State, 32 respondents (39%) agreed that N-Health programme improve access to medical facilities in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Health programme improve access to medical facilities in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Health programme improve access to medical facilities in Niger State while only 18 respondents (21.9%) disagree that N-Health programme improve access to medical facilities in Niger State.

Furthermore, table above shows that 13 respondents (15.9%) strongly agree that N-Agro programme increase food availability of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 21 respondents (25.6%) agreed that N-Agro programme increase food availability of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Agro programme increase food availability of the Beneficiaries in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Agro programme increase food availability of the Beneficiaries in Niger State while only 18 respondents (21.9%) disagree that N-Agro programme increase food availability of the Beneficiaries in Niger State.

Lastly, table above shows that 13 respondents (15.9%) strongly agree that N-Vaid programme increase income in Niger State, 21 respondents (25.6%) agreed that N-Vaid programme increase income in Niger State, 10 respondents (12.2%) undecided that N-Vaid programme increase income in Niger State, 20 respondents (24.4%) strongly agreed that N-Vaid programme increase income in Niger State while only 18 respondents (21.9%) disagree that N-Vaid programme increase income in Niger State.

Discussion and Implications of Findings

Base on the above data interpreted above, the major summary of findings was: the study reveals that N-power programmes enhanced socio-economic development for the fact that N-Teach, N-Health, N-Agro and N-Vaids programmes has reduces poverty in Niger State. However, the above finding are in agreement with the finding of Abin (2018) which showed that the programmes improved socio-economic lives of the beneficiaries by contributing immensely to their financial, material, social well-being. The study also indicated overwhelming satisfaction with the programme by the

beneficiaries. It can be deduced that since empowerment entails ability to make choices and have control over one's life, the programme could be seen to have impacted on youth empowerment.

It also study reveals that from the data obtained and presented, the study reveals that majority of the respondents strongly agree that the programme put in place by N-Power were effective in reducing poverty in Niger State for the fact that scheme has contributed to poverty reduction hence improved livelihood condition in the area. The scheme has helped in skill development, increased beneficiaries' income, employment generation, increased food availability amongst many others. The study therefore is in agreement with the study conducted by Biston (2019) which indicated that there is a positive significant relationship between the N-power scheme and the following variables, economic wellbeing, job skill enhancement and employment generation.

Conclusion

The Study concluded that N-power programmes reduced poverty for the fact that N-Teach, N-Health, N-Agro and N-Vaids programmes reduced poverty in Niger State. Also the study concluded that the programme put in place by N-Power were effective in reducing poverty in Niger State in the sense that scheme has helped in skill development, increased beneficiaries' income, employment generation, and increased food availability amongst others.

Recommendations

In view of the above finding and conclusion, the study here recommends the following:

1. The N-Power programmes such as N-Teach, N-Health, N-Agro and N-Vaids should be evaluated prior to implementation. An assessment would ensure an identification of the operational problems inherent in a proposed programmes and early resolution of such problems.
2. Considering the short life span of the scheme, government should look at the possibility of engaging and absorbing outstanding beneficiaries into the civil service either at state or federal level. This will encourage hard work and enhance effective participation in the scheme.
3. Effort should be made by the Federal government to reduce political interference in the scheme. This will go a long way in ensuring that the right set of people benefits from the scheme.
4. It is pertinent for government to promote rural development through N-Power programmes. This is because rural development is seen as the key for poverty alleviation of the rural dwellers that constitute the large portion of the nation's population

5. Though the programmes are geared toward enhancing socio-economic development, the N-Power programmes are effective in meeting the set goals and objectives hence proper emphasis should be given to all the programmes Niger State in order to attain its goals of reducing poverty.

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