

N-POWER SCHEME AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AMONG YOUTHS IN AKOKO SOUTH WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract: Government at different point in time has introduced different types of scheme aimed at alleviating the teeming youths out of poverty. Yet, poverty is still on the increase among the youths and this is an indicator that some of these schemes have not been successfully implemented and it has not met the need of the targeted population. This study therefore assess the impact of N-Power scheme on employment generation among youths, in Akoko Southwest Local Government Area of Ondo State. This study adopted a survey research design. A structured questionnaire was administered on one hundred and thirty (130) respondents who were selected through snow-balling sampling technique. The data collected were analysed using frequency distribution, while chi-square was employed to test the relationship between the monthly stipend and efforts put in place by the participants. Results of the study showed that there is a significant relationship between N-power scheme and socio-economic wellbeing of the participants. This finding negates the formulated null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between the monthly stipend and efforts put in place by the participants, since the calculated X^2 is greater than the tabulated value. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected, meaning that N-power has been able to provide temporary employment for youths in Akoko Southwest. The study therefore concluded that, N-power scheme has helped in reducing level of unemployment among the youths in Akoko Southwest L.G.A., of Ondo State. Based on these findings, it was therefore recommended that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should expand the scope of N-power so as to accommodate more youths. The monthly stipend paid to N-power participants should be reviewed upwardly by the FGN so as to meet the current economic situation.

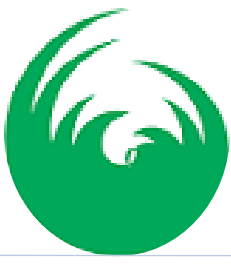
Key words: N-power, youth, socio-economic empowerment, skill, poverty alleviation.

Background of the Study

N-Power scheme is a youth empowerment programme sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), and the scheme addresses the challenges of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large-scale and relevant work skill acquisition and development (Okoro and Basse, 2018; Bisong, 2019). N-Power scheme is to provide a platform where most Nigerian youths between the ages of 18-35 can access skills acquisition and development. The modules operandi of the programme is to equip most participants with the necessary skills required to create self-employed job for themselves and services to the society instead of waiting for the inadequate

and unavailable public service employment (Okoro and Basse, 2018; Bisong, 2019).

Nigeria, being a society with large population of young people, needs to prepare and equip this category of her population with the required knowledge that will promote their creative and productive benefit towards themselves and the nation's economy. However, most Nigerian youths both in urban and rural areas are either unemployed or underemployed as a result of inadequate or inappropriate skill, lack of interest in farming and other apprentices skill but with more interested in white and blue collar job (Anyebe, 2016; Longe, 2017). Thus, the rate at which most youths in the rural areas are migrating to urban centres in



search of greener pasture is alarming (Owagbemi, 2014). This is not only creating an imbalance between the rural and urban population but making some of the available opportunities in the rural area untapped while the urban centre is over-crowded and this pattern of migration is prevailing in most developing countries, and Nigeria inclusive. This trend can be attributed to factors such as; high level of youth unemployment, poverty, lack of social infrastructure and industries etc. in the rural areas (Owagbemi, 2014; Oduwole,2015).

Over the years, the FGN has made concerted efforts towards ameliorating youth unemployment and poverty level by locating, training, empowering and employing most youths into public services in most rural areas. This is surmised as a strategy to making most rural area more attractive, conducive and comfortable and thereby, discouraging most youths from migrating at every available opportunity (Salami, 2013; Anyebe, 2016). Some of these efforts are; National Directorate of Employment (NDE) which was established in 1987 with the effort to reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria particularly among youth. NDE programme was created to providing vocational training to the Nigerian youths in the following areas such as Vocational skills Development (VSD), Small Scale and medium Enterprise (SSME), Special Public Works (SPW), and Rural Employment Promotion (REP). However, REP was targeted at empowering most rural areas youth in agricultural development.

President Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo in a bid to reduce youth unemployment and poverty initiated the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) to alleviate poverty among most Nigerian youths between 1999-2007, however, NAPEP was fully established in 2010 as the primary agency of the FGN to eradicate extreme poverty in Nigeria (Anyebe, 2016). The core programme under the scheme includes the Youth Empowerment Scheme and National Resource development and Conservation Scheme. Youth Employment in Agriculture Program (YEAP) was also inaugurated in 2014 in collaboration with the technical arm of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The programme was setup by the government with the aim of creating job opportunities for 758,500 youths between 18 and 35 years of age through engagement in agriculture

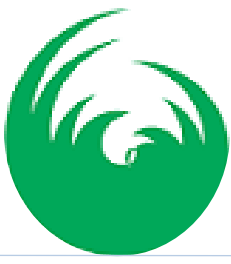
in order to boost agricultural productivity. 740,000 jobs out of the 758,500 was to be ‘market-oriented producers’ for young agricultural producers, while the remaining 18,500 jobs was to be for university graduates, named ‘nagropreneurs’ (Adesugba and Mavrotas, 2016).

The Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari equally designed and implemented the ongoing National Social Investment Scheme (NSIP) as a strategy to combat poverty and youth unemployment. The NSIP scheme was created to enable most Nigerian youths exit from unemployment and poverty. However, these jobs are created in the rural area to curtail and control rural-urban migration. The programme consists of four major components which includes, 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). NSIP general aimed is to reduce poverty and unemployed household and provide them access to targeted funds in order to improve their ability to access economic development.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is rising daily, as it has risen from 8.5% in 1985, to 21.4 % in 2010, and 23.9 % in 2013 (Nwogwugwu and Ikechukwu, 2015). Undoubtedly, those who feel the brunt of the unemployment crisis in Nigeria are mostly the youths. Oduwole (2016) reported that 54 % of Nigerian youths were unemployed and further reported that females unemployment stood at 15.9 % compared to their male counterpart with 48.1%. The survey classified youth in Nigeria to be those between ages of 15 and 35 and estimated them to be 64million. The youth unemployment crisis in Nigeria is so severe that over 100,000 youths sometimes jostle for 25 vacancies (Durotoye, 2014). Analysis of youth unemployment by geographical/settlement location (rural and urban areas) indicates that youth unemployment is mostly in rural areas (Durotoye,2014; Oduwole, 2016).

N-Power is a job creation and empowerment programme of the National Social Investment Programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The N-Power programme is for young Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 35. In 2016, through N-Power scheme the Federal Government



engaged and deployed 200,000 young Nigerians in public primary schools, primary healthcare centres and in agriculture development project centres in all the Local Government Areas in Nigeria. This seems to be the largest post-tertiary engagement of human resources in Africa. In 2017, the N-Power Volunteer Corps enlisted 300,000 more volunteers to bring the number to the promised 500,000 N-Power Volunteers. Entering first job is crucial for the young as it often determines the rest of one's life. If young person starts with higher or stable position in a career, he/she is likely to have better chances for further career steps. However, most youths who are out of labour force at the beginning of their working life, are likely to become desperate, idle and dysfunctional.

Government at all levels, most especially at the Federal and State level are mostly making attempts at putting in place some measures towards reducing the rate of unemployment and poverty among the youth through various poverty alleviation programmes. However, most of the FGN employment schemes programmes were particular to some specific administration and thus fade away as the administration relinquish power to another. This is not only increasing youth unemployment in Nigeria but also hindering the optimization of human capital development and thereby, resulting in low capacity utilization of scarce resources in Nigeria. Though, the pervasiveness of unemployment in Nigeria may be disturbing, but lack of effective schemes to address the issue of youth unemployment and poverty on a sustainable manner may be more frightening and dangerous due to the defect in most employment scheme programme put in place by the past and present government

However, researches carried out on employment schemes in Nigeria show relative results, for instance Ukoha, Osuji, Osuji and Ibeagwa (2014) examine the influence of the skill acquisition programme of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) on job creation in Abia State; Amupitan (2011) assess the role of the national directorate of employment (NDE) in reducing graduate unemployment in Kaduna State; Toluwalase and Omonijo (2013) examine the fundamental efforts of the NDE in using agricultural programme to combat poverty among small-scale food crop farmers in Ekiti State; Adebisi and Oni (2012) assess the operational schemes of the National

Directorate of Employment; Bisong (2019) assess the N-power scheme in Southern Senatorial district of Cross River State, Okoro and Bassey (2018) examine N-Power teachers competence and ICT utilization among the Primary and Post Primary schools teachers in Nigeria; Anyebe (2016) did an overview of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and its Mandate in Nigeria. These studies and more other show positive significant relationship between employment scheme and economic wellbeing, job skill enhancement and employment generation among the empowered youths, but it is quite unfortunate that some of these schemes did not live beyond the administration that put them in place, and the few that survived the change in administration were not given enough attention. by every successive government.

While the aforementioned schemes most of which were adopted by the past administrations in Nigeria have proved to be successive, although, with some shortcomings, among which are; lack of continuity, inability to concentrate on targeted population, insincerity on the part of government, and many more. The latest of these schemes is N-power scheme which covers: N-Power Teach; N-Power Health; N-Power Agro; N-Power VAIDS. This scheme has been on ground since the inception of the present Federal Government of Nigeria, with its four cardinal areas. The prominent one in Ondo State generally and Akoko in particular is N-Power Teach. Through N-power Teach, thousands of the unemployed graduates have been recruited into public primary and secondary schools in Ondo State. The programme has been on ground for some years now, and its assessment will go a long way in knowing how effective it has been in fulfilling the purpose of its establishment, it will also show if it has really impacted on the targeted unemployed youth, in Akoko Southwest LGA, and the society at large.

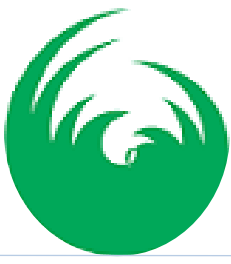
Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

- i. To examine the impact of N- Power scheme on employment generation in Akoko South West local government area, Ondo State.
- ii. To ascertain the impact of N-Power schemes on the economic wellbeing of beneficiaries.

Literature Review

N-Power Scheme in Nigeria.



The Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari designed and implemented the ongoing National Social Investment Scheme (NSIP) as strategy for combating poverty and unemployment in 2016. The NSIP scheme was created to enable citizens exit from the twin evils of poverty and unemployment as earlier mentioned through capacity building, investment and direct financial support. 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). NSIP generally aimed at increasing the poor and vulnerable household with access income/livelihood by providing access to targeted funds, thereby improving household ability to absorb economic shock. The N-Power scheme specifically is the employability and enhancement programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria, aimed at imbibing the learn- work enterprise culture in youth between the ages 18-34 (N-SIP 2018). The programme is available for graduate and non graduates. The graduate's category is further divided into three areas namely, the N –Teach, N –Health and N – Agro. For the non – graduates category, N – Build Scheme is geared towards equipping its beneficiaries with necessary and meaningful skills to be self-employed. Based on the foregoing, this paper is limited to the N – Power scheme with a view to accessing its impact in ameliorating youth employment and poverty respectively.

N-Power is a scheme under the National Social Investments Programme of the Nigerian to reduce most youth poverty and unemployment rate. Federal Government of Nigeria geared N-Power Scheme programme towards job creation; poverty alleviation and empowerment initiatives through volunteering services. The scheme programme is also aimed at imbibing on Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 (FGN., 2018).

According to Olawole (2018), the goals of the N-Power Scheme 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 into three

components such as, N-teach, N-health, and N-agro as well as other subsidiary such as Non-Graduate Scheme as N-tech, N-health, and N-agro.

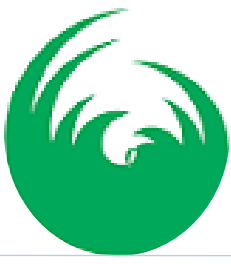
N- Teach Beneficiaries under this sub-scheme will serve in public schools as auxiliary teachers for a period not less than two years subject to modification by the appropriate authority. The aim of the N-Power scheme programme is to help the beneficiaries/recipients to gain relevant work experience and expertise that will in turn make them better prepared for further challenges as may be determine by the political and economic climate. N-Health beneficiaries under the scheme will be deployed to serve as public health assistants in government/public owned health facilities as well as provide basic health diagnostic services in the area of primary assignment

N-Agro beneficiaries, most youths under the scheme shall be trained and deployed to serve as researchers that will educate most local farmers on most contemporary farming techniques and innovation in other to boost the agricultural productivity and thereby achieving the objective of food sufficiency.

Impact of the N-Power Scheme

Poverty and unemployment are twin evils bedeviling the Nigeria state today. Reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2005) shows how the “population in poverty has maintain a steady increase from 17.7 million in 1988 to 66.7 million in 2004.” In 2010, the national Bureau of Statistics reported that 60.9% of Nigerians were living in poverty. Thus, Nigeria has assumed the ignoble position of being the poverty capital of the world after overtaking India, with about 86.9 million of her population living in extreme poverty (Bisong, 2019). To corroborate this assertion, the UNDP, (2016) and Anyebe, (2016) posited that more than half of the Nigerian youths population in the country are not just unemployed but are living in abject poverty.

Thus, Poverty and unemployment rate in Nigeria has continue to climb vertically, thereby, translating into various social problems of more monumental and complicating proportions and attempting to defy popular government interventions geared towards ameliorating them. Suffice to say that every government in Nigeria since 1999, has had their signature on poverty reduction or alleviation. The government of the then President



Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo (1999-2007) initiated the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) in 2010 to alleviate poverty. NAPEP was established in 2010 as the primary agency of the FGN to eradicate extreme poverty in Nigeria (Anyebe, 2016). The core programme under the scheme includes the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) and National Resource development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). Anyebe(2016) disclosed that despite the huge financial implication of the schemes, poverty and youth unemployment continued unabated. Another poverty eradication scheme was the Subsidy Reinvestment Scheme (SURE-P), designed and implemented by the then President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan administration (2012-2014). The core programme of SURE-P with regards to poverty reduction includes; the Mass Transit Scheme (MTS), Vocational Training Scheme and Community Service/ Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE). This initiative has been severally criticized for lack of transparency, and large scale corruption (Bisong, 2019). Abu (2015) in a study on SURE-P and Employment Generation in Nigeria (2012-2014) concluded that the programme has not led to any form of employment generation in Nigeria as youth unemployment and wide scale poverty in the country still remain high.

The N-Power scheme specifically is the employability and enhancement programme of the FGN, under President Muhammadu Buhari aimed at imbuing the learn-work enterprise culture in youth between the ages 18-34 (N-SIP 2018). The programme is available for graduate and non-graduates. The graduate's category is further divided into three areas namely, the N-Teach, N-Health and N-Agro while the non-graduates category, N-Build Scheme is geared towards equipping its beneficiaries with necessary and meaningful skills to be self-employed.

Theoretical Framework

Policy-Intervention Theory and N-power Scheme

Intervention theory is the analysis of decision making problems of intervening effectively in a situation in order to secure desired outcomes. Intervention theory addresses the question of when it is desirable not to intervene and when it is accurate to do so. It also examines the effectiveness of different types of interventions. The term is used across a range of social and medical practice,

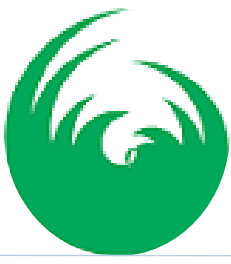
including health care, child protection and law enforcement. It is also used in business studies.

Within the theory of Nursing, intervention theory is included within the large scope of practised theory. Burns and Grove (2013) point out that intervention theory directs the implementation of a specific nursing intervention and provide theoretical explanations of how and why intervention is effective in addressing a particular patient care problem. These theories are tested through programmers of research to validate the effectiveness of the intervention in addressing the problem.

In intervention theory and method, Argyris (1970), in Bloch and Borges (2002) argues that in organisation development, effective intervention depend on appropriate and useful knowledge that offers a range of clearly defined choices and that the targets should be for as many people as possible to be committed to the option chosen and to feel responsibility for it. Overall, interventions should generate a situation in which actors believe that they are working to internal rather than external influences on decision.

Policy intervention is embedded in an interrelated set of theories that guide action and policy. Both scholars and practitioners use these theories, either explicitly or implicitly, to focus their attention and to reveal the important sources of leverage in a given complex situation. Any policy proposal to initiate change can be understood in the light of three interrelated theories: a theory of the problem, a theory of desired outcomes, and a theory of intervention (Weiss,1999). These distinct but interdependent theories offer an account of the phenomenon that policies makers are attempting to address, the outcomes they seek to produce, and the means of intervention that they intend to employ.

Any organisation can be seen as a network of authority relationships, in which some members are granted authority by others to control designated sectors of activity and resources. The Federal Government establishes N-power in Nigeria to achieve some specific goals, therefore, government asserts systems of authority over these organisations and citizens. A central feature of governmental authority is that, a government claims (without challenge from a rival claimant) authority for its orders over both organisations and citizens. Authority is therefore, the essential backdrop to all policy interventions.



Theories of intervention provide the logic for action within a context defined and constrained by the theory of the problem and the theory of desired outcome. Better understanding of the intervention theory is thus one step toward understanding when and why particular policies work the way they do. Theories of intervention therefore, can be used to explain the possible influences that the Federal Government poverty eradication programme (N-power) has/can exert on the behavior of individuals, groups, households, government agencies.

Method

The researcher adopted survey research for the purpose of this work. Through this, relevant information were elicited through the use of structured questionnaires. Non-probability sampling was chosen as sampling method due to the unavailability of the participants at their places of primary assignment as a result of first three batches of the N-Teach participants that were laid-off by the FGN. Snowball-sampling as part of a convenience sample was used as sampling technique. The snowball-sampling involved only few people who furthermore became multiplier and asked further people to join the sample. This first set of the respondents were linked up to from the purposively selected ten (10) public secondary and thirty (30) primary schools in both rural and urban communities in AKSWLGA., from where the researcher was referred to others who had participated in the N-Teach scheme, either by the school heads, teachers, N-Teach participants who have been absorbed by the Ondo State government(ODSG) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the students. The selected communities for this study included: Oka, Oba; Simerin; Uba; Supare; Ikun.

Structured questionnaire was used to obtain quantitative data from the respondents. These questions raised were in the order in which the objectives of the study were arranged. One hundred and thirty (130) copies of the questionnaire were administered to respondents who fell under our sample. The researcher also made use of

secondary data. The research work is a quantitative one, and the data collected were analysed using frequency distribution, under which, tabulations, cross tabulations, means, simple frequencies, percentages, and chi-square were employed to test the relationship between variables. In compliance with ethical standards on research work involving human subjects, pressure was not be exerted on any of the respondents and their identity as well as the information they supplied were kept strictly confidential.

FINDINGS

4.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

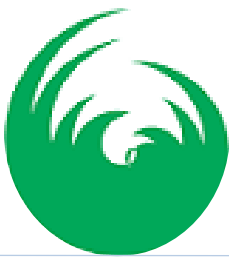
The findings on social demographic features of the respondents indicated that 48% of the samples were male, while 52% were female respondents. The age distribution showed that 0.7% were below 26 years of age, 24% were within the age ranges of 26 and 30 years, 60% were within the age ranges of 31 and 35 years, while 15.3% were above 35 years of age. The religion affiliation indicated that 68% of the sampled respondents were Christians, 31.3% were Muslims, while 0.7% were traditionalist. Base on religion, it was noted that 33.3% of the sample were single, 66% were married, while 0.7% were divorced. In terms of their highest educational qualification, it was observed that 22% of the respondents were educated to the level of NCE, 2.7% had ND, 13.3% had HND, while 62% attained first degree. The findings on respondents’ duration of service in their workplace shows that 0.7% had work experience of less than 2 years, 44.7% had work experience of 2 years, 12% had served the organisation for 3 years, while 42.7% had served for 4 years. Based on the observed distributions, it was clear that the sampled respondents covered major features surrounding the sampled distributions, thus negating any form of research bias that could be attributed to the sampled respondents.

Analyses on Objectives of the Study

Objective 1: The impact of N- Power scheme made on employment generation in Akoko South West local government area, Ondo State.

Table 1a. Friedman Test showing Frequencies, Percentages and Mean Ranking on statement regarding the impact of N- Power scheme on employment generation

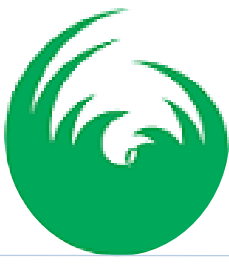
Items		Response						Mean Rank
		SA	A	U	D	SD	Total	
N-Teach has provided temporary employment for the youth in AKSWLGA	F	92	53	1	3	1	150	3.78
	%	61.3	35.3	.7	2.0	.7	100.0	



N-Power scheme (N-Teach) of the FGN is a right step towards alleviating youth from unemployment	F	64	62	-	18	6	150	3.25
	%	42.7	41.3	-	12.0	4.0	100.0	
N-Power scheme (N-Teach) has created teaching job for the youth in AKSWLGA	F	33	88	4	19	6	150	2.73
	%	22.0	58.7	2.7	12.7	4.0	100.0	
Through N-Power scheme (N-Teach), FGN has created employment for youth in AKSWLGA	F	25	99	-	19	7	150	2.62
	%	16.7	66.0	-	12.7	4.7	100.0	
Through N-Power scheme (N-Teach), FGN has directly intervene on youth unemployment in AKSWLGA	F	26	96	-	21	7	150	2.61
	%	17.3	64.0	-	14.0	4.7	100.0	
Averaged Total	F	48	80	1	16	5	150	
	%	32.0	53.3	.7	10.7	3.3	100.0	
Friedman Chi Square	X ²		136.695					
	df		4					
	p		< .05					

Test on statements related to the objective about the impact of N- Power scheme on employment generation was summarised in Table Ia. It was observed in Table 1a that the Friedman test conducted indicated a valid variance in the identified impacts of N-power on employment generation($X^2= 136.695$, $df=4$, $p < .05$). This means that the mean ranking showed in a descending order, the preference for the statements. The highest ranked based on mean value was the provision of temporary employment (Mean= 3.78). This was such that most of the respondents (96.6%) supported the idea that N-Teach has provided temporary employment for the youth in AKSWLGA, 0.7% were indecisive with their response, while 2.7% felt otherwise. With a mean value of 3.25, it was rated next and indicated that 84% of the respondents supported the statement that said N-Power scheme (N-Teach) of the FGN was a right step towards alleviating youth from unemployment, while 16% felt contrarily. This means that the scheme alleviated youth from unemployment. This was followed by the creation of teaching job for youth (Mean= 2.73). It was noted that 80.7% of the respondents affirmed that N-Power scheme (N-Teach) has created teaching job for the youth in AKSWLGA, 2.7% were inconclusive with their response, while 16.7% negated the statement. In a different form and with a mean value of 2.62, the creation of employment for youth was ranked next as the impact of

N-power. This was such that 82.7% of the respondents affirmed that through N-Power scheme (N-Teach), FGN has created employment for youth in AKSWLGA, however, 17.3% negated it. Lastly with a mean value of 2.61, the intervention on youth unemployment was perceived as the impact of N-power scheme. It was observed that a larger number of the respondents (81.3%) affirmed the statement that said through N-Power scheme (N-Teach), FGN has directly intervene on youth unemployment in AKSWLGA, while those that negated the statement were 18.7%. Averaging the scores, it was noted that a greater percentage of the respondents (85.3%) affirmed the identified impacts of N-power scheme on employment generation. Specifically, 32% strongly agreed with the identified factors, 53.3% agreed, 0.7% were undecided, 10.7% disagreed, 3.3% strongly disagreed. Observations from Table 1b revealed that 22.6% of the respondents were of the opinion that N-Power helps the youth to secure temporary employment and enables them to save money for a better life. Few of the respondents (11.3%) were of the opinion that N-Teach is a good initiative to improve youths capacity building towards support for students and shortage of staff in school. In another perspective, 16.7% of the respondents opined that N-power is a means of Employment. A good number of the respondents (40.7%) were of the view that they applauds



to the government of Nigeria as this is like a poverty alleviation program. Lastly, 8.7% of the respondents indicated that N-power reduce the rate of migration of our youths to urban centers to seeking jobs.

This corroborated earlier findings in Table 1a and confirmed the positive impacts

Table 1b. Frequencies and Percentages Summary showing assessment of N- Power scheme on employment generation

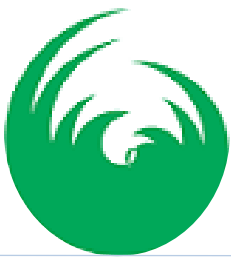
Factors	Options	Frequency	%
What is your assessment of N-Power (N-Teach) on employment generation in AKSWLGA?	N-Power helps the youth to secure temporary employment and enables them to save money for a better life	34	22.6
	N-Teach is a good initiative to improve youths capacity building towards support for students and shortage of staffs in school	17	11.3
	N-power is a means of Employment	25	16.7
	Applauds to the Government of Nigeria as this is like a poverty alleviation program	61	40.7
	N-power reduce the rate of migration of our youths to urban centers to seeking job	13	8.7
	Total		150

of N-power scheme. Conclusively, N-power scheme had impacted positively on employment generation in Akoko South-West Local Government Area, Ondo State. This was mostly felt as a source of temporal employment for youths and the alleviation of poverty in AKSWLGA.

Objective 2: The impact of N-power scheme on socio-economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries.

Table 3. Friedman Test showing Frequencies, Percentages and Mean Ranking on statement regarding the impact of N-Power scheme on socio-economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries.

Items		Response					Total	Mean Rank
		SA	A	U	D	SD		
N-Power scheme has helped in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country	F	57	69	1	15	8	150	5.72
	%	38.0	46.0	0.7	10.0	5.3	100.0	
It helps to facilitate the transfer of entrepreneurial skill	F	42	100	2	3	3	150	5.65
	%	28.0	66.7	1.3	2.0	2.0	100.0	
I have acquired/ gain some technical skills through the scheme programme	F	53	93	-	1	3	150	6.02
	%	35.3	62.0	-	.7	2.0	100.0	
The scheme has equipped me with some creativity and employable ability	F	49	92	1	4	4	150	5.82
	%	32.7	61.2	.7	2.7	2.7	100.0	
The scheme programme thought me how to bring active solution to public service	F	40	101	2	6	1	150	5.53
	%	26.7	67.3	1.3	4.0	.7	100.0	
The scheme has enabled me to improve my living standard	F	28	94	1	24	3	150	4.76
	%	18.7	62.7	.7	16.0	2.0	100.0	



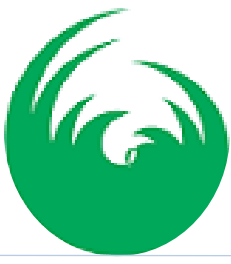
The scheme has helped to reduce rural-urban migration	F	20	74	22	29	5	150	3.88
	%	13.3	49.3	14.7	19.3	3.3	100.0	
The scheme has alleviated people out of poverty	F	9	83	15	37	6	150	3.47
	%	6.0	55.3	10.0	24.7	4.0	100.0	
With the aid of the scheme, I can now create employment instead of seeking for job	F	18	92	6	31	3	150	4.15
	%	12.0	61.3	4.0	20.7	2.0	100.0	
Averaged Total	F	35	88	6	17	4	150	
	%	23.3	58.7	4.0	11.3	2.7	100.0	
Friedman Chi Square	X ²		242.197					
	df		8					
	p		< .05					

The test on objective of study explaining the impact of N-power scheme on socio-economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries was presented in Table 3. It was indicated that the mean Ranking were valid to explain the statements based on relevance or preference of impact as perceived by the respondents ($X^2= 242.197$, $df=8$, $p < .05$). The highest rated impact on socio-economic wellbeing was the acquisition of technical skills (Mean= 6.02). This was such that 79.3% of the respondents supported the statement that said they had acquired or gain some technical skills through the scheme programme, while 2.7% said they did not. This was followed by the equipping of youths with some creativity and employable ability (Mean= 5.82). It was such that 93.9% of the respondents supported the statement that said the scheme has equipped them with some creativity and employable ability, 0.7% were indifferent, while 5.4% negated it. Rated next was reduction in unemployment (Mean= 5.72), and it was observed that 84% of the respondents affirmed the statement that said N-Power scheme has helped in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country, 0.7% remained undecided, while 15.3% did not support the statement. With a mean value of 5.65, the facilitation of entrepreneurial skill was ranked next in preference. This result was such that 94.7% of the respondents supported the statement that said the scheme was helpful to facilitate the transfer of entrepreneurial skill, 1.3% were undecided in response, while 4% felt contrarily.

Still based on ranking, the acquisition of knowledge on bringing active solution to public service was ranked next

(Mean= 5.53). This was such that 94% of the respondents affirmed the statement that said N-power scheme had thought them how to bring active solution to public service, 1.3% were indecisive, while 4.7% felt contrarily. The statement that said the scheme has enabled them to improve their living standard had a mean value of 4.76 and it was supported by 81.4% of the respondents, 0.7% were indifferent in response, while 18% negated it. With a mean value of 4.15, it was noted that 73.3% of the respondents affirmed the statement that said with the aid of the scheme, they can now create employment instead of seeking for jobs, 4% were indifferent, while 22.7% felt otherwise. The result also indicated with a mean value of 3.88 that 62.6% of the respondents affirmed the statement that said the scheme has helped to reduce rural-urban migration, 14.7% were indecisive, while 22.6% negated. Lastly rated on this was alleviating people out of poverty (Mean= 3.47). This was such that 61.3% affirmed the statement that said the scheme had alleviated people out of poverty, 10% were indecisive, while 28.7% said it was false.

Averagely, it was noted that most of the respondents (82%) were of the opinion that the N-power scheme had positive impact on socio-economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries. In detailed form, 25.3% strongly agreed with the views that the scheme impacted positively, 58.7% agreed with the view, 4% were indecisive, 11.3% disagreed, while 2.7% strongly disagreed. Conclusively the impact of N-power scheme on socio-economic wellbeing was very positive with the acquisition and gaining of technical skills as the most rated impact among individuals.



Discussion of Findings

This study finds out that the N-Power Scheme that is aim to alleviate poverty, improve youths' capacity building, support the public school staff and student teaching programme, reduce migration of most youths to urban centers for white collar job, facilitate the transfer of youth employable ability inform of entrepreneurial skill and technical creativity is an applauded or a welcome development. This correlate the postulations of Okoro and Bassey, (2018); Bisong, (2019) both authors noted N-Power scheme as a programme to equip necessary skill required to create self-employed job for youth and services to the society instead of waiting for the inadequate and unavailable public service employment.

N-Power Teach has been identified to serve as a means of providing temporary employment for the youths who engaged in it and this was supported by the respondents. It was also assessed to be a right step by the FGN towards alleviating youth from unemployment, and the youths attested to the fact that the scheme has alleviated youth from unemployment as it has created teaching job through which the participating youths have been able to save money for better life in AKSWLGA. This scheme was considered an intervention programme by FGN on youth unemployment and it has reduced the rate of rural-urban migration among the youths in AKSWLGA. N-Power scheme has equipped the participating youth with acquisition of technical skills, some creativity and employable ability. it has also been helpful to facilitating the transfer of entrepreneurial skill. The scheme has enabled the participants to improve their living standard and this has reflected positively on their socio-economic wellbeing.

Conclusion

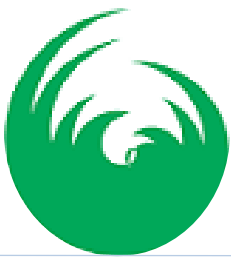
The paper therefore concludes that N-Power scheme of the FGN has impacted positively on the participants; it has served as a means of temporary employment for the youths in AKSWLGA., through this some of the participation youths has been able to acquire basic teaching skills needed for teaching profession, save money, and this has also translated to an improved standard of living among the participants.

Recommendation

Based on these findings, it was therefore recommended that the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should expand the scope of N-power so as to accommodate more youths. The monthly stipend paid to N-power participants should be reviewed upwardly by the FGN so as to meet the current economic situation. Poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria should be made continuum, so that when the government that instituted it leaves office, the successive government will take it from where they stopped.

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