



Impact of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation Programmes on Poverty Reduction Among Skills for Job Beneficiaries in Adamawa State of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the Impact of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation Programmes on Poverty Reduction among Skills for Job beneficiaries in Adamawa State. The study employed descriptive survey design. The study was conducted in Yola North and Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa state. The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire. Data were collected with the instrument from 199 sampled respondents. Three experts validated the instrument and the instrument was trial tested using test-retest method of estimating reliability, its reliability coefficient was found to be 0.84. Mean was used to answer the research questions. Findings of the study revealed the following: The First level training was implemented satisfactorily. The S4J beneficiaries` feeding programme was done successfully. The monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries influenced their livelihood positively, and the trainees acquired the required skills for poverty reduction during the internship. Recommendation made among others include: First level training should be sustained in subsequent skill acquisition project, and since YESSO programme has ended, government should come up with another programme that would succeed YESSO.

Keywords: Impact, Skills for Job, Poverty Reduction

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria obtained a financial assistance from World Bank to support the implementation of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO). YESSO was designed in close partnership with Federal Government and States Government with objective of reducing the menace of unemployment among youths and vulnerable in Nigeria. This objective is in line with the World Bank commitment on job creation and poverty reduction. According to YESSO Monitoring and Evaluation Manual (M&EM 2019), YESSO is designed to support an existing institution and also help in strengthening the capacities of the institutions for job creation and poverty reduction. The main development objective of YESSO was to increase access of the poor and vulnerable to youth employment opportunities, social services, and strengthen safety net system in participating states (YESSO, 2019). For the successful implementation of YESSO activities, the programme was grouped into four components, these include:

1. Public Workfare (PWF)
2. Skills for Job (S4J)
3. Targeted Grand Transfer (TGT)
4. IDP's in the six North-East state.

Skills for Job (S4J) is the Second component of YESSO, which was aimed at equipping unemployed youth with Marketable and salable Skills for poverty reduction and self-employment. The target groups considered for S4J components of YESSO include extremely poor households, physically challenged; semi-skilled and unskilled unemployed youths aged 18-35 years (YESSO, 2019). According to National Directorate of Employment (NDE, 2019) the track records of NDE in creating employment opportunities in various sectors of economic moved the World Bank to believed in the capability of Management of NDE and gave the Directorate the mandate of implementing the Skills for Job (S4J) component of YESSO in Nigeria. NDE has the mandates of designing and implementing skills acquisition programmes to curb the menace of unemployment in our society. Adamawa State is one of the Nine S4J incoming states. The S4J Training was launched in Adamawa state for the first time on Friday 27th September, 2019 (NDE, 2019). The S4J training was grouped in to two categories as follows:

1. First Level Training
2. The Internship

According to YESSO, (2019) The First Level training is designed to run for 55 working days, which is equivalent to 3 months, which comprises the followings activities:

- I. Orientation for 3 working days
- II. Life skill training for 10 working days
- III. Sector specific training for 20 working days
- IV. Entrepreneurship training for 20 working days
- V. Deployment interview 2 working days (YESSO, 2019)

The Orientation aimed at informing and educating the beneficiaries with do and don't during the training. Details information about the training are expected to be made during the orientation. The Life Skills Training is the second segment of S4J First level training. The training is aimed at changing the value expectations and attitudes of the participants, towards entrepreneurial thinking, living and behaviour. The Life Skills Training manual covered behaviour modification of youths' cognitive operations and psychomotor skills that should turn them into job creators and wealth generators, rather than job seekers. The beneficiaries will be trained in Decision Making, Problem Solving, Creative and Critical Thinking, Effective Communication, Social and Emotional Intelligence, Time and Stress Management as well as Self-Control and The Power to Face Realities (YESSO, 2019).

Sector specific training according to NDE, (2019) is the third segment of S4J First level training, the training is aimed at equipping the beneficiaries with good knowledge, attitude and psychomotor competencies required in Skills of their choice among the various demand driven sectors of the economy. The training reflected high standards of work and best operational practices. Entrepreneurship Training is the third section of Skills for Job (S4J) First Level Training, the entrepreneurship training is aimed at preparing the beneficiaries with requisite knowledge, required skills and inculcate in them the entrepreneurship spirit to start a business. The training will focus on Motive for Entrepreneurship, How to generate business idea, Causes of business failure, Legal responsibilities and Costing of products and services, among others. Similarly, according to NDE, (2016) Complementary Based Economies Through Formation of Enterprises (CEFE) approach should be used during Entrepreneurship training to boost the effectiveness of the training. The CEFE training is a practical oriented methodology used in depicting the entrepreneur training in to real life situation. Deployment interview is the last segment of First level training which involve interviewing and interacting with the interns before deployment for internship.

During the First level training according to NDE, (2019) the trainees are to be served with one good meal daily, they would also be paid monthly stipend. The amount to be paid would be calculated based on the numbers of days they attended the training. Each trainee is required to attend training for 20 working days to get the maximum monthly stipend of 7,500.00. The payment process is also same during internship.

The Internship according to YESSO, (2019) is the second aspect of S4J Scheme, where the trainees would be attached to well establish Trainers to undergo Six (6) months intensive and rigorous training on their selected skills. By the end of the internship, the beneficiaries are expected to sit for NABTEB Modular

Trade Examination for Certification. According to YESSO, (2019) after completion of both First level training and Internship the beneficiaries are expected to be empowered with starter parks, as a start-up packages for them to establish their own business and also employ other to reduce poverty among teeming unemployed youth.

Poverty is state of being extreme poor. It is also considered as state of individual who lacks a normal or social acceptable of money or material possessions (Medugu & Hassan, 2017). In order hand, poverty occurs when a person cannot meet a minimum level of living standards, compared to others in the same time and place. Poverty is one social problem faced in Nigeria. According to Aljazeera new of 4th May, 2020 Forty percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line. According to National Bureau of statistics (NBS), in a report about poverty and inequality from September 2018 to October 2019 said 40 percent of people in the continent`s most populous country lived below its poverty line of 137,430 Naira (381.75) a year, it said it represent 82.9 million people.

This is serious, its required urgent attention. Therefore, in the effort of Federal Government of Nigeria to curb the menace of poverty in Nigeria, many intervention programmes were established and implemented for both graduates and non-graduates unemployed youth, including the S4J component of YESSO which is in form of vocational and Technical skills. According to Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) in National Policy on Education, (2016) eighty percent of the jobs undertaken by people require technical and vocational skills.

Vocational and technical education is designed for the acquisition of occupational skills. It gives individuals the skills to live, learn and work as a productive citizen in a global society (Okoro, 2006). According to Hassan, (2015) there are three (3) major objectives of technical and vocational education as follows:

- I. The acquisition of relevant knowledge, practical skills and attitude for gainful employment opportunities.
- II. Flexibility, adaptability and life-long learning, and
- III. Developing technical and vocational education as a vehicle for rapid industrialization, as well as economic empowerment and social mobility of the individual

To determine the success of the Skills for Job (S4J) of YESSO in Adamawa state there is need of determining the impact of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation on Poverty reduction among S4J beneficiaries.

Statement of the Problem

Lack of employable skills and entrepreneurship competencies are the major factors contributing to increase in poverty and unemployment in the world and Nigeria in Particular. According to Medugu, Hassan and Bashir (2017) the restiveness of Nigerian youth has gone beyond control levels, quite a number of school dropout are with no define skills that can enable them to earn a living. Medugu and Hassan, (2016), attributed the current social vices faced by youth in our society to poverty and unemployment. In the effort of Federal Government to reduce the rate of poverty and also to curtail the alarming rate of unemployment in Nigeria, so many intervention programmes has been designed and implemented, S4J inclusive. It is against the above reason that the study attempted to determine the impact of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation on poverty reduction among S4J beneficiaries in Adamawa state.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the study are to determine the impact of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) programme in poverty reduction among Skills for Job (S4J) beneficiaries in Adamawa state of Nigeria. Particularly the study tends to find the followings:

1. To assess the implementation of First Level S4J training for poverty reduction in Adamawa state.
2. To assess the implementation of S4J beneficiaries` feeding during the first level training for poverty reduction in Adamawa state.

3. To assess the effect of the monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries for poverty reduction in Adamawa state.
4. To determine the level of skills acquired during internship for poverty reduction in Adamawa state.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of implementation of First level S4J training for poverty reduction?
2. What is the level of implementation of S4J beneficiaries' feeding during the First level training for poverty reduction?
3. What is the effect of monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries for poverty reduction in Adamawa state?
4. What is the level of skills acquired by S4J beneficiaries during internship for poverty reduction in Adamawa state?

METHODOLOGY

The design for this study was descriptive survey research design. The study covered the two Local government from where the list of S4J beneficiaries were mined. These local governments include Yola North and Yola south of Adamawa state. The population of the study was the 396 beneficiaries who participated in S4J training in Adamawa state. Taro Yamane method of determining sample size was used to sample 199 S4J beneficiaries using stratified sampling techniques. The instruments used for data collection was structured questionnaire which was developed by the researcher and named Instrument for Assessing impact of YESSO (IAIY).

The instrument was validated by 3 specialists in Vocational and Technical Education, two from the Department of Technology Education, Modibbo Adama University of Technology Yola, and one lecturer from Federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe. To obtain reliability of the instrument, the validated copy was trial tested, using test-retest method of estimating reliability on selected S4J beneficiaries in Gombe state, which does not form part of the study area, but run similar S4J training with the study area. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was found to be 0.84, which is reliable. The data collected was analyzed using mean to answer the research questions. For decision taking, mean of 3.00 and above ($X = \geq 3.00$) was considered Agree. Any opinion with a mean of less than 3.00 was considered Disagree.

RESULTS

Research question one

What is the level of implementation of First level S4J training for poverty reduction?

Table 1: Mean Responses of S4J Beneficiaries on level of implementation of First level training for poverty reduction

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	Lectures delivered during orientation are relevant to the training	3.51	Agree
2	Three (3) days allotted for orientation are sufficient	3.67	Agree
3	The training facilities at training institution Selected for first level training are standard	3.80	Agree
4	The Life skills training changed the mind –set of S4J beneficiaries toward skills and work based	4.00	Agree
5	The numbers of days allotted to Life skills training are appropriate	3.98	Agree
6	The resource persons engaged during the Life skills training are professionals	3.76	Agree
7	The technical skills acquired during sector specific training are relevant to emerging skills within society.	4.01	Agree
8	The Skills- set available at the training institution are among demand driven skills	.359	Agree
9	The training institution has modern training tools and equipment	3.76	Agree
10	The numbers of days allotted to sector specific training are appropriate	3.98	Agree
11	The entrepreneurship training equipped S4J beneficiaries with business skills and knowledge	4.35	Agree
12	The CEFE approach used during the entrepreneurship training depicted the business training in to real life business.	4.00	Agree
13	The instructional materials provided by NDE during the Entrepreneurship training are very reach in content.	3.65	Agree

Table 1 shows the result of analysis of research question one. The result revealed that the respondents agree with all the items, their mean responses range between 3.51-4.35, this implies that the first level training was implemented in line with the implementation guideline outlined by YESSO.

Research question two

What is the level of implementation of S4J beneficiaries` feeding during First level training for poverty reduction?

Table 2: Mean Responses of S4J Beneficiaries on level of implementation of S4J Beneficiaries` Feeding during the First level Training

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	One good meal was served daily during the First level training	4.23	Agree
2	The meal served during the First level training was very reach in vitamins	4.00	Agree
3	The quantity of meal served was up to a normal plate	3.87	Agree
4	The meal served during the First level training was adequate	4.00	Agree
5	The meal served during the First level training was supplied timely	3.56	Agree
6	The meal served during First level training encouraged the beneficiaries to attend training regularly	3.00	Agree
7	The meal served during the first level training encouraged the beneficiaries to attend training promptly	4.23	Agree

Table 2 shows the analysis of research question two, the result revealed that the respondents agree with all the items, their mean responses range between 3.00 to 4.23, it implies that the beneficiaries were satisfied with the way the S4J beneficiaries` feeding programmed was implemented.

Research Question Three

What is the effect of monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries for poverty reduction in Adamawa state?

Table 3: Mean Responses of S4J Beneficiaries on Effects of Monthly Stipends Paid to S4J Beneficiaries

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	The beneficiaries are satisfied with ₦7,500 Paid as monthly Stipend	3.98	Agree
2	The stipends are paid promptly	4.20	Agree
3	Relating the amount of stipends to be paid to attendance improved the beneficiaries` participation.	3.89	Agree
4	The Paid stipends reduces poverty among the S4J beneficiaries	4.50	Agree
5	Some certain amount from the paid stipends were saved by beneficiaries to use as start-up capital before provision of starter parks by the Bank	3.65	Agree
6	Lack of usage of Commercial banks for stipend payment discourages some beneficiaries from developing habit of personal savings.	3.87	Agree
7	Because of the effects of Convid-19 pandemic that raged the world and hit economy badly there in need of upward review of the monthly stipend.	3.90	Agree

Table 3 shows the analysis of research question three, the result revealed that, the mean responses ranged between 3.65 to 4.5, this implies that the monthly stipends paid to beneficiaries helped them during the training and it also improved the participation.

Research Question Four

What is the level of skills acquired by S4J beneficiaries during internship for poverty reduction in Adamawa state?

Table 4: Mean Responses of S4J Beneficiaries on the Level of Skills Acquired During Internship

S/N	Items	Mean	Decision
1	The skills acquired during the internship are adequate enough to start up a business	4.34	Agree
2	The S4J beneficiaries were trained on modern equipment	3.78	Agree
3	The S4J beneficiaries were exposed to ethics related to their chosen skills.	3.98	Agree
4	The duration of the internship is enough for the interns to acquire skills for self-employment	4.22	Agree
5	The skills acquired during the internship is enough for the interns to sit and pass NABTEB Modular Trade Certificate Examination	3.78	Agree
6	Graduates of S4J scheme can be employed as Trainer.	3.00	Agree

Table 4 shows the analysis of research question four; the table revealed that, the respondents agree with all the items with mean of 3.00 to 4.34. This implies that the respondents` agreed that the required skills for self-employment and poverty reduction were acquired during the internship.

Findings of the Study

The findings of the study are presented below, based on the research questions that guided the study.

1. The S4J First level training was implemented satisfactory in Adamawa state, the mean rating of the respondents were above the cut-off point (3.00)

2. The respondents were satisfied with level of implementation of S4J beneficiaries` feeding programme during first level training.
3. The respondent also agreed that the monthly stipends paid to the beneficiaries impacted their livelihood positively
4. The respondents agreed that, the required skills were acquired during the internship.

DISCUSSION

Finding from research question one revealed that the First level training was implemented satisfactorily which is in line with requirements outlined by YESSO that the first level training is to prepare the trainees for world of work and equip them with knowledge, attitude and skills relating to their skills. The findings also agree with work of Adebisi and Oni (2012) who confirmed that orientation is mandatory before commencement of any NDE skills acquisition programmes. Findings on research two revealed that, the respondents were satisfied with level of implementation of S4J beneficiaries` feeding programmes this also agree with the implementation guideline outlined by YESSO that one good meal should be served daily during the first level training.

Finding on research question three revealed that, the monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries impacted their livelihood positively, this is in agreement with work of Adebisi and Oni (2012) who found out that the monthly stipends paid to B-NOAS beneficiaries of NDE encouraged them and improved their attendance. Finding on research question four revealed that, the S4J beneficiaries acquired the required skills that could enable them to be self-employed during internship, this is in agreement with findings of Hassan, (2015) who opined that the level of skills acquired by graduates of NDE Skills acquisition centres can grantee them employment. And employment opportunities are available for them to reduce poverty and create job opportunities.

CONCLUSION

For the desire to produce competent skilled individual through S4J component of YESSO to succeed as indicated in the development objectives of the S4J scheme, all hands must be on desk and all the stakeholders involved most play their role in accordance to the objectives of the intervention project. The findings of the study form the basis for drawing the following conclusions: The first level training was implemented successfully and the internship helped the trainees to acquire the required skills that would enable them be employed and create opportunities for poverty reduction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were proffered based on the findings of the study:

1. The numbers of days allotted to the first level training should be sustained, as the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction on level of implementation of first level training.
2. One good meal served during the first level training may be increased to two good meal
3. Call for sustaining the monthly stipends paid to beneficiaries and upward review may be considered based on state of the economy.
4. Since the required skills for poverty reduction were acquired and the YESSO programme has ended, Government may come up with another Empowerment project that would succeed the YESSO project.

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