

Beneficiaries' Perception of Gains of the National Poverty Eradication Programme-Capacity Acquisition Scheme

Adebisi, T.T.

Department of Home and Hotel Management,
Olabisi Onabanjo University,
Yewa Campus, Ayetoro, Ogun State.

and

Ukpore, B.A

Department of Vocational Education
Delta State University,
Abraka, Delta State.

Abstract

The study focused on beneficiaries' perception of the gains of National Poverty Eradication Programme-Capacity Acquisition Scheme (NAPEP-CAS) in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship in Southwest, Nigeria. The study adopted an expo-facto research design. A purposive sample of 599 tailoring NAPEP - CAS beneficiaries were selected from two States (Ogun and Osun) Southwest, Nigeria. One Hundred and fifteen (115) beneficiaries were used for pilot study while four hundred and eighty four (484) beneficiaries were used for field survey using questionnaire to solicit information from them. The data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages and standard deviation. Findings show that NAPEP - CAS empowered their beneficiaries with tailoring skills for entrepreneurial activities in order to reduce poverty. Both male and female benefitted from the programme. The beneficiaries perceived that there are gains in NAPEP-CAS objectives.

Keywords:- National, Poverty, Eradication ,Programme, Tailoring, Beneficiaries.

Introduction

Nigeria is a great country that is blessed with many natural resources, despite this, the country is facing challenges of poverty in form of unemployment, food crisis, high crime rate, inflation, inequality, malnutrition to mention a few. The issue of poverty has been described as widespread and severe despite the country's vast resources (Central Bank of Nigeria (2006) and World Bank (2006).

There are many National Poverty Eradication Programmes initiated by different levels of governmental,

nongovernmental organization and international agencies. One of the most current Federal Government Programmes in improving the socio-economic status of the communities is the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) which is under the supervision of the Presidency. The organization was set up to solely to tackle the poverty problem in Nigeria. The most current schemes organized are the 'Keke NAPEP' and Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) which exist majorly in most state capitals. National Poverty Alleviation

Programme is one of the forefront agencies for poverty eradication in Nigeria.

The intervention mandate was to mobilize resources from all tiers of government throughout the country for economic empowerment. Resources generated are being used to spur economic activities at the grass root thereby promoting the wellbeing of the people and ensuring sustainability. This also will enable the poor to contribute their quota to the economic development process of Nigeria. In its operation, NAPEP adopted a catalytic strategy in fighting against poverty in order to achieve its goals in reducing poverty by half the population of Nigeria living in poverty. Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) is one of NAPEP designed Schemes to enable participants of different educational background to acquire skills and professional training in chosen trades. NAPEP selects, trains and empowers unemployed youths to give them the opportunity to play more productive and self-fulfilling roles in the process to enable them contribute to the development of the country regardless of their gender. The main focus of the scheme is to train unemployed youths in simple vocations and trades such as tailoring, hairdressing etc. The programme was designed and implemented on the following schemes since its inception in 2001

Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES): the beneficiaries are trained for a chosen trade of their choice. Equipment and money were given to them to start their own cottage industry.

KEKE NAPEP phase I, II and III: beneficiaries are trained to drive and maintain three wheel vehicles. The tricycles were aimed at providing

transportation to public at a moderate and affordable price.

Globacom Partnership Programme: beneficiaries are trained for repairs, sell of handset and rendering of phone call services to customers at a reduced price.

Microcredit Scheme:- this scheme was designed to assist small scale business through provision of funds for market and business development.

Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP): this was aimed to assist farmers in achieving their potentials for increased output, productivity and consequently their income on a sustainable basis.

Multi Partner Microfinance (MP-MF): this served as a catalytic tool for resource generation for grass root activities and mass participation in economic development process especially in promoting saving and the provision of credit facilities to the poor.

Promise keepers Programme(PKP):- aimed at creating a large pool of resources to empower the poor to undertake economic activities. It targeted the religious bodies or faith based organization such as mosques and churches.

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT):- stipulated amount of money were given to the core poor to care from themselves and train their children to school.

Village Economic Development Solution (VEDS):- this scheme was aimed at benefitting the masses in the rural areas through their cooperative societies.

The objectives of NAPEP are as follow:

Training of unemployed youths in entrepreneurial skills, payment of monthly allowance during training, provision of equipment to set-up cottage industry after completion, monitoring and co-ordinating the business for certain periods (NAPEP

Bulletin 2007, 2009 and 2010) . Several factors such as gender, location, educational level are expected to influence this programme, Many participants are also expected to have benefitted and to be self reliance.

Tailoring and Fashion Design is an aspect of Clothing and Textiles which is a skill oriented subject which was taught for capacity building. It is an area of competence which can equip individual with tailoring skill for setting up an enterprise for self employment. Arubayi (2004) emphasized that it is a field of study which combined both theoretical and practical knowledge from other subject areas such as Art and Social sciences on the use of apparel to create an acceptable illusion on the family and society. Ajala (2006) explained that tailoring is the ability to explore the available resources whereby the unlimited sophisticated and classical tailoring can work in collaboration with the arts of work. Dabiri (2005) stressed that tailoring is an act of cutting, tearing, hemming, stitching, felling, mending, repairing and sewing clothes of all kinds both old and new for human consumption. Historically, tailoring was first noticed with Adam and Eve in their bid to knit for themselves a net to cover their nakedness when they found themselves naked after they had contravened or circumvented God's injunctions by breaking God's commandment. Modern tailoring was originated and aggravated by white people as a result of the civilization that brought about development and advancement. However, Vanderhoff, Frank and Campbell (1983), Igbo (2003), Arubayi (2005) and Anyakoha (2011) identified different stages involved in tailoring skills and equipment needed that can produce

exact design, style and fitness of any garment of ones choice.

Arowomole and Oyedokun (2006), viewed entrepreneurship as an undertaking in which one is involved in the task of creating and managing an enterprise for a purpose. Oriazowanian and Jimoh-kadiri (2010), see entrepreneurship as the process of creating something new and assuming the risk and rewards thereof and also thought of as the art of managing both small and large organization with a view to creating satisfaction on both sides (Producers and Consumers). Opara (2006) and Olagunju (2008) viewed entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment in an environment and be able to establish and run it successfully based on the identified opportunity. To cap it up, entrepreneurship is the creation of new enterprise that gives value to humanity by filling neglected areas. That means the new enterprise created must give value to humanity or fill up yearning vacuum left unfilled. However, an entrepreneur is not a contractor but a pivot on which the economy of the nation rotates. A nation that has entrepreneurial deficiency will find it difficult to industrialize and grow economically [Joel (2011), Ezeoguine and Ukpore (2011) Onyeneke and Ochonogor (2009) and Adidu, and Olanya, (2006)].

In view of one of the threats poverty pose to individuals and to national development, many poor countries in the world have evolved various methods of combating poverty. This is not only to improve the living standard of the citizens but also to accelerate rapid economic development. From this end, skill acquisition in tailoring may be one of the means of reducing poverty to the minimal

level. If one knows how to design, draft, cut and sew various fabrics, the individual will be able to make garment for himself and others. The acquired skill will encourage and prompt individuals to set up a small cottage industry. This may help to improve the individual's economic status and provide a better chance for becoming a good citizen.

Also influence of gender in skill acquisition cannot be overemphasized. In fact, there is rising global consciousness at the grass root and policy level regarding the impact of gender issue in education and national development. According to Galst (2010) and Morgan (1992) they viewed that there is also the growing consciousness that both men and women constitute the driving forces for the national development. Thus they ought to participate equally in training for survival and economic stability. In addition Arubayi (2010) posited that tailoring skills are more appreciated among females because of their passion for good looks consciousness and patronage of fashion. Therefore they have more flair for wearing different outfits often.

It is on this premise that the study aimed at assessing beneficiaries' perception of gains of National Poverty Eradication Programme - Capacity Acquisition Scheme in Tailoring Skills for Entrepreneurship in Southwest, Nigeria. This study is significant in that by developing the people's creative ability through tailoring skills, they could be endowed with both employable and entrepreneurial skills that are needed to transform the people from the state of poverty to that of prosperity.

Purpose of the Study

The major purpose of the study was to assess the beneficiaries' gains of National Poverty Eradication Programme-Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship to eradicate poverty in South-West, Nigeria. Specifically the study determined:

- (1) The extent NAPEP-Capacity Scheme empowered her beneficiaries in tailoring skills for entrepreneurial activities in order to reduce poverty.
- (2) The influence of gender on beneficiaries of National Poverty Eradication Programme- Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship in the study areas.
- (3) The beneficiaries' perception on gains of the National Poverty Eradication Programme- Capacity Acquisition Scheme set up objectives in the study areas.

Methodology

Area and Design of the Study: This study adopted an ex-post-facto research design which was descriptive in nature. Ogun and Osun States were the areas of the study. There are three Senatorial districts in both states and twenty and thirty Local Government Areas (L.G.As) in Ogun and Osun respectively. The states embraced handcraft for culture, tourism and hospitality.

Population of the Study: The target population included all Ogun and Osun NAPEP beneficiaries of Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring for five years (2003 - 2007) when the Scheme was functional and viable in South-western geo-political zones of Nigeria. Only two states (Ogun and Osun) were examined during the period under review. In all, a total number of 2,396 beneficiaries were

involved in the training. From Ogun State, 1,327 beneficiaries and from Osun State, 1,069 benefitted from the programme. The total number of beneficiaries in the two states was 2,396.

Sample for the Study: five hundred and ninety-nine beneficiaries were randomly selected as the sample for this study. Three hundred and eleven (311) beneficiaries out of one thousand two hundred and forty four (1244) are selected randomly from twenty local Government Areas of Ogun state while two hundred and eighty eight (288) beneficiaries out of one thousand one hundred and fifty two (1152) are also selected from thirty local Governments Areas of Osun State. One hundred and fifteen (115) beneficiaries were used for pilot study while four hundred and eighty-four (484) beneficiaries were used for the field study. For data analysis, two hundred and eighty-five (285) female beneficiaries and one hundred and ninety-nine (199) male were used.

Instrument for Data Collection: Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. Primary data were collected from the graduates using 4-point scale questionnaire of Strongly Agree, (4 points) Agree (3 points), Disagree (2 points) and

Strongly Disagree (1 point). These scores were aggregated for each item and the mean score was obtained. Also, when the aggregate (4+3+2+1) were divided by 4, the mean value of 2.50 was obtained. Therefore, a score of 2.50 was used as a cut-off point or decision rule for agreeing and strongly agreed with the items. Any mean value below 2.50 was taken as disagreed and strongly disagreed. Secondary data were collected from Ogun, Osun NAPEP officers, NAPEP Bulletin and internet.

The research instrument was validated by two lecturers from Olabisi Onabanjo University in Home Economics (Clothing and Textiles option), two other lecturers in statistics department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and two Ogun and Osun Research Officers with National Poverty Eradication Programme.

Method of Data Collection and Analysis: four hundred and eighty four (484) copies of questionnaire were collected and analysed. Descriptive statistical tools like frequency count, mean and standard deviation were used.

Results

Table 1: The Extent NAPEP - Capacity Acquisition Scheme Empowered Beneficiaries in Tailoring Skills for Entrepreneurial Activities

		N = 484		
S/N	Empowerment indicators	\bar{x}	St.d	Decision
1.	Monthly allowance given to the trainee reduced the number of unemployed youths	3.33	0.87	Agree
2.	Prompt payment of allowance motivated the Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) graduates for sustainable entrepreneurship skill development.	2.79	0.79	Agree
3.	Payment of monthly allowance to the trainees during training period motivated the success of the graduates.	2.99	0.63	Agree
4.	Provision of equipment to the graduates to set up their business after completion of training assisted in reducing poverty.	2.46	0.51	Disagree

5.	Monitoring activities of the organizers of Capacity Acquisition Scheme assisted the graduates to sustain their business activities	2.59	0.61	Agree
6.	Proper coordination of NAPEP tailoring cottage industries has reduced unemployment rate.	2.35	0.49	Disagree
7.	The overall objectives of programme are attainable	2.62	0.77	Agree

Source: Field survey 2011

Table 1 shows that NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme impacted tailoring skills to the beneficiaries in seven ways as perceived by the respondents. This revealed that each of the five items indicated a mean score above 2.50 while two items indicated less than 2.50. It implied that the beneficiaries agreed with five empowerment indicators while they disagreed with only two.

Table 2: Gender influence on beneficiaries of NAPEP – Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship.

S/N	Gender Influence Indicators	Male = N = 199			Female = N =285		
		\bar{x}	St.d	Decision	\bar{x}	St.d	Decision
1	My gender (sex) had no influence in my enrolment for tailoring skills	3.40	0.74	Agree	3.58	0.49	Agree
2.	My gender gives me an advantage to perform better during the training	2.99	1.02	Agree	3.55	0.77	Agree
3.	Tailoring skills are meant for females only.	1.33	0.66	Disagree	1.48	0.70	Disagree
4.	Tailoring skills are meant for males only	1.56	1.11	Disagree	1.35	0.54	Disagree
5.	Males and Females are involved in tailoring Capacity Acquisition Scheme	3.68	0.84	Agree	3.53	0.98	Agree
6.	The course contents are more on specific gender.	1.47	0.50	Disagree	1.43	0.69	Disagree
7.	Gender disparities are well taken care of in the design of tailoring capacity acquisition scheme.	1.58	0.78	Disagree	1.70	0.81	Disagree
8.	Training skills in tailoring are gender sensitive.	1.72	0.89	Disagree	2.80	1.09	Disagree
9.	There is no gender bias in terms of scored, incentives available during the training.	3.52	0.60	Agree	3.51	0.61	Agree
10.	The duration of training did not consider gender	3.60	0.63	Agree	3.56	0.65	Agree
11.	My gender influences my performance during training.	2.14	0.41	Disagree	2.19	0.53	Disagree

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 2 shows the influence of gender (male and female) on NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship. Five items indicated have a mean score above 2.50 while seven items indicated less than 2.50. This implied that the beneficiaries

agreed with five indicators gender influence while the respondents disagreed with seven of them.

Table 3: Perception of the respondents on the gains of NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme set-up objectives.

N = 484				
S/N	Objectives Gains Indicators	\bar{x}	St.d	Decision
1	The training of unemployed youths in entrepreneurial skills has been achieved	3.64	0.77	Agree
2	Payment of monthly allowance during training was regular	2.91	0.36	Agree
3	Provision of equipment to set-up cottage industry after completion was implemented	2.93	0.38	Agree
4	Monitoring and coordinating of cottage industry for certain period was implemented	3.24	0.64	Agree
5	The NAPEP organizer fulfilled all the set-up objectives of the programme	3.00	0.49	Agree
6	The scheme enabled me to become productive and useful citizen	2.97	0.38	Agree

Source: Field survey 2011

Table 3 indicates perception of beneficiaries on the extent of gains of NAPEP- Capacity Acquisition Scheme set-up objectives. The objectives achievement indicators mean score was 2.50 cut-off point. This implied that the respondents agreed that NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme achieved their set-up objectives in study areas.

Discussion of the Findings

From Table 1, the beneficiaries agreed that they gained prompt monthly payment of allowances, monitoring of activities and proper co-ordination of NAPEP organizers. In addition, provision of equipment to set up their enterprises after completion were also experienced by the beneficiaries. The incentives put in place enabled the beneficiaries to have better understanding of tailoring skills. This is in line with Arubayi (2004) that viewed tailoring skill as a course that combined theoretical and practical knowledge from other subject areas in the use of apparel to

create an acceptable illusion in the family and society. In addition, the beneficiaries were empowered with tailoring skills that make them become entrepreneurs with sustainable livings with Opara (2006) and Olagunju (2008) that explained entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment in an environment and be able to establish and run the enterprise successfully based on the identified opportunity.

From the study, it was found in Table 2 that there is no gender influence on beneficiaries of NAPEP - Capacity Acquisition Scheme in tailoring skills for entrepreneurship. The course contents are not on gender disparities. This implied that there is a growing consciousness that both male and female contributed meaningfully since they both constitute driving forces for national development. In addition, Arubayi (2010) and Morgan (1992) affirmed that tailoring skill is also a vital tool in poverty reduction thereby creating

wealth for that oneself and improve the development of the nation NAPEP Bulletin (2007, 2009 and 2010) also confirmed that several factors were considered before putting up the programmes.

From the study on Table 3, it revealed the perception of the respondents on the gain of NAPEP - Capacity Acquisition Scheme set-up objectives. According to NAPEP bulletin 2009 and 2010 that stated NAPEP objectives as: training of unemployed youths in entrepreneurial skills, payment of allowance during training, provision of equipment to set up cottage industry after completion, monitoring and co-ordination of enterprises. The respondents perceived that all the stated objectives were benefitted. This implied that the resources generated by Federal Government to spur economic activities at the grassroot thereby promoting the wellbeing of the people and ensuring economic sustainability. In addition, it enables the poor to live a meaningful and sustainable lives and also enabled them to contribute their quota to the economic development process of Nigeria.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study has shown that the respondents participated and benefitted in NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme tailoring skills in order to reduce their poverty status and be economic viable. The programme involved both male and female without any sentiments attached to it. There is now rising global consciousness both at the grass roots and policy level regarding the impacts of gender issues in educational and national development. The respondents involved fully in the programme. Above all, Nigeria governmental and non-governmental

agencies should continue intensifying more efforts in training and skill development. The benefits of this cannot be over emphasized in raising the living standard of entrepreneurs for sustainable living.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made that:

1. The unemployed, unskilled and the impoverish participants (male and female) should appreciate the value of self empowerment, motivation to participation in practical, social and economic activities and skill-based income generating programme.
2. National poverty Eradication Programme-Capacity Acquisition Scheme should ensure adequate provision of training facilities, materials and in-built incentives to sustain the programmes.
3. The participants must appreciate the value of stimulus response approach (participation positive reinforcement and reward) to eradicate poverty.
4. The NAPEP organizers should encourage more male and female to participate in the scheme through adequate publicity.

References

- Adidu, F and Olanya, P (2006), *Basic Small Entrepreneurship- A modern approach*, Royal Pace Publication, Agbor 2-3 .
- Ajala, J (2006) *Re-conceptualizing the Home Economics Curriculum*, May Best Publication, Ibadan, 50-62.
- Anyakoha, E (2011), *Home Economics For Junior Secondary Schools*, Africana First Publisher PLC, Onisha, reprinted 108-119.
- Arowomole, A.M. & Oyedokun, J. (2006) *Entrepreneurship Structure and Practice*, Jodus Publisher, Ibadan. 1-2.

- Arubayi, D. O (2010) Importance of Proper Dressing in Modern Living Nigeria, *Academic Leadership Empirical Research, U.S.A* 8(1), 22-23.
- Arubayi, D.O. (2005) Problems confronting the Teaching of Clothing and Textiles in Tertiary Institutions, *Journal of Education Research and Development* 2, (1) 53-62.
- Arubayi, D.O. (2004) Problems confronting the Teaching of Clothing and Textiles in Tertiary Institutions, *Journal of Education Research and Development* . 2, (1) 53-62.
- Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN 2006), *Measuring and Monitoring Poverty in Nigeria*, Proceeding of the Seventh Annual Conference of Zonal Research Unit Research Department Abuja, 1-32
- Dabiri, A (2005), *Creative Trends in Visual Arts and Tailoring*, University Press, Ibadan, 1-17.
- Ezeoguine, J and Ukpore, B (2011), Developing Textile Skills Towards Poverty Alleviation Perception of students in Federal College of Education (Technical) Abraka, Lagos State in Salami (Edn) *Nigeria Journal of Home Economics* 2(1) 1-9.
- Galst, L., (2012), *Saving Lives, Promoting Democracy, alleviating Poverty, and Fighting AIDS: The case for Finding lesbian, gay, Bisexual and Transgender Population*" (March 2010), accessed at www.arcusfoundation.org/images/uploads/downloads/saving_lives_Report_Arclis_Galst_2010_pdt, on July 2014.
- Igbo, G.(2003), *Employment Opportunities in the Textile Industry For Senior Secondary Graduates* in Anyakoha (Edn), Research Imperative and challenges For Home Economics Research Association of Nigeria (HERSON) Nsukka, 105-114.
- Joel, B. (2011), *Eyeing Sustainable Development: Entrepreneurial Climate Must Change in Nigerian Universities* in Arubayi, Akpota and Oghuvbu (edn) in *Books of Readings: Education and Training for Entrepreneurship* 1(1) 8-19.
- Morgan, J. E (1992), *Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Students' Achievements* Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Alexandria XA 20-33.
- National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP Bulletin 2007), *Success Stories, National Poverty Eradication Programme, Concept and Production*, Abuja 1 – 42.
- National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP Bulletin 2009), *Annual Review of NAPEP in Nigeria* Lagos 10 – 15.
- National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP Bulletin 2010), *Development Cooperation in Nigeria, National Techniques Co-operation Assessment*, National Planning Commission, Abuja. 6 – 13.
- Olagunju, R.O. (2008), *Improving Infrastructural Facilities for the preparation and better performance of Home Economics Teachers in the 21st Century*, *The Asaba Educator*, Vol. 1, (1) . 32-36.
- Oriazowanian, A and Jimoh-kadiri, S.(2010), *Empowering Nigerian Women through entrepreneurship : The mandate of Business Education*, *Journal of Technical and Vocational Education*, University of Benin 2(1) 28-32.
- Onyeneke, D and Ochomogor, E (2009), *Appropriate technologies For improving Women Entrepreneurship For Rural Development* in Anyakoha E.U (edn), *Research Issues in Home Economics*, Nsukka, 152-163.
- Opara, C.C. (2006), *An Assessment of Humanistic Values Educational Through African Interactive in French and Some Selected Colleges of Education in Nigeria*, *Unpublished Ph.D Thesis*, Department of Adult Education University of Ibadan, Ibadan, 22-23.
- Vanderhoff, M., Frank, L and Campbell, L (1985), *Textile for Homes and People*, Ginn and Company, Lexington 401-429.
- World Bank (2006), *Nigeria's Development Prospects: Poverty Assessment and Alleviation Study*. Washington D.C 20433, The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development 60-67