

Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Programme on Agricultural Production and Literacy among Adults in Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria

Samaila Mohammed Tomsu¹, Dr. Abba Aji Abubakar², Idris Mu'azu^{3*}

¹Department of Investment and Public, Private Partnership, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

²Department of Continuing Education and Extension Service University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

³Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

***Corresponding author**
Idris Mu'azu

Article History

Received: 16.12.2018

Accepted: 26.12.2018

Published: 30.12.2018

DOI:

10.21276/sjhss.2018.3.12.16



Abstract: The study assessed the impact of poverty alleviation programme on Agricultural Production and Literacy Among Adults in Damaturu Yobe state. The Objectives of the study is to assess the impact of poverty alleviation on Agricultural production and Literacy among Adults. And the beneficiaries of this study are the Yobe State Agency for Community and Social Development, Ministry of Sport and Youth Empowerment, Non-Governmental Organization Eradicating Poverty, Youths/Adult, Farmers and School Dropout. A survey research design was used for the study. The target population of the study was comprise of 300 beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes in Damaturu Local Government Area, one hundred and sixty nine (169) was selected as sample through simple random sampling techniques. The instrument used for this study was questionnaire tagged Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Adults Economic in Empowerment in Damaturu, Yobe State (APAPAEED). In analyzing the data descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage, mean and Ranks was used. The study reveals that Poverty Alleviation Programmes has positive impacts on Agricultural Production and Literacy programme in Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Poverty alleviation, Programme, Agricultural Production and Literacy.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty has diverse economic and social dimensions that explain its manifestations in lack of income and insufficient productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihood Poverty indicators include: hunger and malnutrition, limited or lack of access to quality education and basic services, increased morbidity, mortality which occur as result of illness, inadequate housing, homelessness, unsafe environment, and social discrimination [1].

The economy of Yobe is basically agrarian, with most of the people living in squalor and very poor level of living, low education background which is attributed to poverty [2]. Poverty is an economic and social problem, most especially in the third world countries. Successful administrations in Nigeria have attempted to solve the problem through several efforts without meaningful progress.

The National Poverty Eradication Council of Nigeria cited in Afolabi, Adeshina and Ajagun [3], defined poverty as a condition in which a person or group of persons are unable to satisfy their most basic and elementary requirements of human survival in terms of good nutrition, clothing, shelter, health, education and recreation.

This has retarded economic growth and development of Yobe State in particular and resulted in high rate of crime. Poverty has been identified as the

greatest enemy to human development worldwide. Although economic activities around the world differ, there is hardly any nation or country without the trace of poverty, the difference remained largely that magnitude ranging from rural urban to developing-developed countries. There has been renewed call for the enabling environment to allow active participation of private sector. Ajayi [2], states that, poverty amidst plenty is the world's greatest challenge and it is expected to be fought with passion. In a related report, poverty in Nigeria is assuming a worrisome dimension as empirical studies have shown Nigeria; a sub Saharan African country has at least half of its population in abject poverty [4]. Thereby living at the mercy of essential activities to the opportune few who can afford hence, making life unbearable to the densely populated city, during this, period most of the local cottage industries do not function properly. The rainfall within state is too short, even when it comes, it is usually accompanied by a poor distribution that only short

duration crops could thrive there, this contribute to seasonal unemployment to the large influx of people trooping to the metropolis because farming activities is not much lucrative in the rural areas, thus affecting the income level of people within the metropolis negatively.

Despite the various poverty alleviation programmes by successive governments, and the huge budgeting outlays attached to these programmes, the rural areas and the people have remained poor. Some of the features of this poverty are lack of basic social amenities, functional education and morthan Agricultural inputs and machines. It is argued that all these problems resulting from policy inconsistencies, lack of political will, bureaucratic red tape, lack of transparency in business of government, lack of consumer oriented consultations in policy initiation or formulation, lack of capacity for policy implementation, obstacles arising from political and social considerations, poor leadership, inadequate support institutions and resources for policy implementation; all these are exacerbated by political instability and social crises.

The Yobe State Government has over the years been developing and implementing various project and programmes in its development plans, rolling plans and Budget aimed at meeting the needs of citizenry and therefore reducing poverty. With the this score card that this study sets out to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programme on adult economic empowerment among the residence of Damaturu metropolitan Yobe State, Nigeria. The Babangida lead Administration creates Yobe State in 1992, most of the indigenes from Borno and other neighboring states returned home, and within short- time there was population explosion, with many kind of challenges this include high level of unemployment, deinstitution and general sense of hopelessness and other social values, which make their live very difficult and worrisome.

Agriculturally, Yobe state is endowed with many potentials, as about 70% of the population are engage in farming as their source of income, government have come up with a programmes to provide self employment for unemployed youths and adults in the state. Agricultural Development programmes which assist adults and youth engaged in farming and other agricultural work who can benefit from new ideas, information, innovations, techniques and equipments. In an effort to achieve result, the participants are trained in agricultural related skills aim at enhancing their economic status, at the end of the training participants are provided with farm inputs such as seedlings, pesticides, fertilizers and a loan package in cash and kind to increase their yield. There are three major government programmes related to poverty in

agricultural sector for developing and empowering people. These include:

Livestock Development

- Calf, crop production for meat and diary
- Animal traditional development (draught and animal power)
- Rabbury, poultry, livestock farming
- Training and leather working

Agronomy and seed development

- Rain-fed crops: maze, corn., rice, millet, beans, and cassava, among others.
- Irrigated crops: wheat, rice, pepper, vegetables and fruits.

Fisheries Development

- Lakes and river fishing
- Aquaculture fish development.

Yobe state government under these different programmes has designed different programmes to provide self-employment in agriculture for unemployed youths and women farmers, school leavers, and graduates, retired but not tired in agriculture or related disciplines. The state and local government provide farmlands training and logistics, a loan package in kind and cash, supply, improved seeds, pesticides fertilizers, storage cribs. This is to improve the output and self-sufficiency for those going into livestock or fish farming. Loan is paid in two to three instalments. The first one covers the cost of erecting simple buildings, sinking of boreholes and fencing. The second instalment covers the cost of purchasing feeds, foundations stocks, labour cost and the stipend payable to the participants. Both the livestock and crop loans are payable in 3 years, with one year moratorium and 7% interest rate.

Adekola and Oladeji [5] reported that access to poverty alleviation programmes improve socioeconomic status of youths, adults and promote their economic independence in Agricultural and Education, in a study on impact of government poverty alleviation programmes on the socioeconomic status of youths in Ibadan metropolis of Nigeria.

Akpoko *et al.*, [6], in a study of impact of a non-governmental agricultural extension training programme, reported a significant impact on the farmer's livelihood in terms of ownership of commercial vehicles, motor-cycles, bicycles, clothing, food crops and food consumption as a result of their participation in the programme.

Another study by Toluwa [7] on National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Agricultural Development Programme in alleviating poverty among

small scale food crop farmers in Ekiti State indicates that the programme has positive impact on the beneficiaries of the programme.

It is also established by the Yobe state government that, inadequate level of literacy pose a challenge not only to the poverty eradication drive, but the desired cultural change towards self employment and income generation will not be realised within shortest possible time, hence the need for sustained efforts in the provision of basic literacy in alleviating poverty in the state became a necessity, Literacy is a dynamic concept formally understood as just reading, writing and numeracy: the concept has been enlarged to encompass a whole range of more complex and diverse skills and understanding [8]. The literacy for empowerment is a process of providing learning activities for youth and adults which focuses on assisting people to acquire relevant knowledge and skills needed for professional development in the contemporary society so as to improve efficiency and productivity.

Literacy is a dynamic concept formally understood as just reading, writing and numeracy: the concept has been enlarged to encompass a whole range of more complex and diverse skills and understanding [8]. The literacy for empowerment is a process of providing learning activities for youth and adults which focuses on assisting people to acquire relevant knowledge and skills needed for professional development in the contemporary society so as to improve efficiency and productivity. It is realized that in Nigeria, that illiteracy is a serious obstacle to development and sets the eradication of illiteracy as a priority and this led to the establishment of literacy programmes. The National Commission for Mass Literacy Adult and Non-formal Education, This commission has since its creation taken charge of mass literacy promotion in Nigeria at the Federal level and mass literacy was established in each state of the federation.

World Bank research in 2000 revealed that only 50% of Nigerian population has access to safe drinking water, about 38% of the population does not have access to the primary education healthcare, and most Nigerians consume less than 1/3 of the minimum required protein and vitamins, due to low purchasing power [9].

In another paper by Ucha [10], Unemployment, corruption, and poor education system can be considered to be some of the key factors contributing to poverty in Nigeria. Similarly Obadan [11]. Observed that despite the introduction of the Poverty Alleviation Program, poverty incidence in Nigeria remained perpetually high. Following the ineffectiveness of the program, less concern on

Education, this hinders the government to came up with the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) in 2001 [12, 13]. Achebe [14], in his paper Nigeria on Economic Empowerment through basic literacy programme. It was found that education need with a particular reform to the acquisition of reading, writing and numerical skills are met and they have been satisfied economically for self reliance.

Adult Basic literacy programmes is the major programme of the Yobe state Agency for mass literacy.

The objectives of Adult Basic Literacy Programme in Yobe State are based on the edict setting up the Yobe State Agency for Mass Literacy specifically.

The general objectives are:

- Provide functional education to enable the rural people use newly acquired literacy skills for the enhancement of relevant skills related to their economic activities, thus, making them more productive and self-reliant.
- Enable people to relate to newly acquired literacy to their civic, political and cultural activities and to help them fulfill their roles as members of their respective communities and citizens of Nigeria.
- Substantially reduce if not eradicate illiteracy from Yobe state of Nigeria within a given period of time.
- Develop desirable attitudes to work and inculcate good social habits conducive to good living through cooperative, civic and community health educations.
- Improve the quality of life of rural dwellers.

The target groups of adult basic literacy programme are all illiterate adults especially farmers who constitute the vast majority of people in the state, women, nomads, skilled village crafts men and artisans, and aged. The adult basic literacy programme loves core subject areas such as basic literacy, numeracy, civic, moral, political and socio-cultural education.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In other to reduce this problem Yobe state Government created Ministry of Youth, Sport and Social Development and Agency for Community and Social Development, are charged with the responsibility of addressing unemployment and wide spread of poverty through programmes that targeted employment generation, functional education, agriculture and empowerment of youth and adults. Since the creation of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Social Development and the implementation of its poverty alleviation and empowerment programmes in the area stated above, there has been an outcry by the citizenry and public of no effort to reduce poverty by ministry. Therefore, it is against this background that the researcher assessed the

impact of poverty alleviation programme on economic empowerment of adults in Yobe state.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The stud assessed the impact of poverty alleviation programme on agricultural development. The study also assessed poverty alleviation programme on reducing rate of illiteracyin Damaturu Local Government

METHODOLOGY

A survey research design was used for the study. The target population of the study comprised of 300 beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes in Damaturu Local Government Area, One hundred and sixty nine (169) beneficiaries were selected as sample

through simple random sampling techniques base on Kreicie & Morgan [15] sample size estimation formula.

The researcher used a self designed questionnaire validated by expert and tagged “Assessment of Poverty Alleviation programme on Adult Economic Empowerment Questionnaire (APAPAEEQ). The reliability of the instrument was done using test-retest. The result was coefficient. The retrieved questionnaires were analysed using descriptive statistics, frequency, and percentage, mean and Ranks

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Question 1: What is Impact on poverty alleviation programme on Agricultural Development?

Table-1: Distribution of Responses on Impact on Agricultural Development

S/N	Items/variables	SA Freq.(%)	A Freq.(%)	D Freq.(%)	SD Freq.(%)	Total Freq.(%)	Mean	Rank
1.	I now cultivate bigger of land than before joining poverty alleviation programme (PAP)	39(23.0)	60(35.5)	50(29.5)	20(11.8)	169(100)	2.69	5
2.	I now use modern farm tools, implement and machines as result of employment with PAP	101(59.7)	43(25.4)	21(12.4)	4(2.3)	169(100)	3.42	1
3.	I now harvest more yields per land than before engaging in the PAP	89(52.6)	60(35.5)	18 (10.6)	2(1.1)	169(100)	3.39	2
4.	I now encounter lower post harvesting loss than before engaging in the PAP	75(44.3)	80(47.3)	13(7.6)	2(1.1)	169(100)	3.36	3
5.	I now make more money/sales from my agricultural production than before engaging in the PAP	59 (34.9)	99 (58.5)	9(5.3)	2(1.1)	169 (100)	3.27	4
	Total	363	342	111	30	845		
	Overall mean						3.23	

Source: Field Survey (2018)
Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

The data in table-1 shows the impact of PAP on agricultural development. Item one (1) in the table, the respondents were asked if they cultivate bigger land before join PAP, ninety nine (99) of the respondents representing fifty eight point five (58.5) agreed with the statement, while and seventy (70) out of the one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondents representing forty one point one (41.1%) percent disagreed with the statement. In item 2, the respondent were asked if they use modern farm tools and implement as a result of PAP. Out of one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondent, one hundred and forty four (144) respondents representing eighty five point two (85.2) percent agreed with the statement while twenty five (25) respondent representing fourteen point seven (14.7%) percent disagreed with the statement. In item 3, the respondent were asked whether they cultivate more yields per land than before engaging in PAP. Out of one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondent, one hundred and forty nine (149) respondent representing eighty eight point one (88.1%) percent agreed with the

statement while twenty (20) respondent representing eleven point eight (11.8%) percent disagreed with the statement. In item four (4) the respondent were asked if they now encounter low post harvest loss than before as a result of PAP, out of one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondent one hundred and fifty five (155) respondents representing nine one point seven (91.7%) percent agreed with statement while fourteen (14) of the respondent representing eight point two (8.2%) percent disagreed with the statement.

In item five (5) the respondent were asked if they make more money/sales from the agricultural production as a result of PAP. Out of one hundred sixty nine (169) respondents one hundred and fifty eight (158) respondents representing ninety three point four (93.4%) percent agreed with the statement while eleven (11) respondent representing six point five (6.5%) percent disagreed with the statement, and the overall mean is 3.23.

Therefore poverty alleviation programme on agricultural development has impacted to the adults and farms of Damaturu, Yobe state.

Research question 2: What is Impact of poverty alleviation programme on Literacy Programme?

Table-2: Distribution of Responses on Impact on Literacy Programme

S/N	Items/variables	SA Freq.(%)	A Freq.(%)	D Freq.(%)	SD Freq.(%)	Total Freq.(%)	Mean	Rank
1.	I can now read simple stories, letters and signpost as a result of the basic literacy programme	58 (34.3)	47(27.8)	48(28.4)	16 (9.4)	169(100)	2.86	5
2.	I can now write a letter and short stories as a result of the basic literacy programme	73(43.3)	58(34.3)	33(19.5)	5(2.9)	169(100)	3.17	3
3.	I can now do simple calculations relevant to my everyday life as a result of basic literacy programme	57 (33.7)	98(57.9)	11(6.5)	3(1.7)	169(100)	3.23	1
4.	I can now speak confidently as a result of the basic literacy programme	47(27.8)	115(68.0)	6(3.5)	1(0.5)	169(100)	3.25	3
5.	My handwriting is now legible as a result of the basic literacy programme	47(27.8)	100(59.1)	15(8.8)	7(4.1)	169(100)	3.28	4
	Total	282	418	113	32	845		
	Overall mean						3.16	

Source: Field Survey (2018)
 Figures in parenthesis are the percentages

The data in table-2 shows that the impact of poverty alleviation programme on literacy in Damaturu. In item (1) in the table the respondents were asked if they can now read simple stories, letters and signpost as a result of PAP out of the one hundred and sixty nine respondent, one hundred and five (105) representing sixty two point one (62.1%) percent agreed with the statement while sixty four (64) respondents representing thirty seven point eight (37.8%) percent disagreed with the statement. In item 2 in the table the respondents were asked if they can now write a letter and short stories as a result of out of one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondents one hundred and thirty one (131) respondent representing seventy seven point five (77.5%) percent agreed with the statement while thirty eight (38) of the respondent representing twenty two point four (22.4%) percent disagreed with the statement.

In item three (3) the respondents were asked whether they can now do simple calculations relevant to their day to day activities, out of one hundred and fifty five (155) respondent representing ninety nine point seven (99.7%) agreed with the statement while fourteen (14) respondent representing eight point two (8.2%) percent disagreed with the statement.

In item four (4) the respondents were asked if they can now speak confidently as a result of basic literacy programme, one hundred and sixty two (162) respondents representing nine five point eight (95.8%) percent agreed with statement while seven (7) of the respondents representing four point one (4.1%) percent disagreed with the statement. In item five (5) the respondent were asked whether their handwriting is

legible as a result of basic literacy programme, out of one hundred and sixty nine (169) respondents, one hundred and forty five (145) respondents representing eighty six point nine (86.9%) percent agreed with the statement while twenty two (22) respond representing thirteen (13%) percent disagreed with the statement, and the overall mean is 3.16.

Therefore, poverty alleviation programme (PAP) on literacy programme has impacted to the adults and school dropout of Damaturu, Yobe state.

DISCUSSION

The first findings on agricultural development shows 83.4% total mean percentage of respondents agreed that government has provide modern agricultural inputs, loan/credits facilities, supply improved seeds and seedlings while 16.6% disagreed. The reasons for this findings is not for fetched conceding the fact that Yobe state government has invested lot of money in the area of agricultural development to reduce poverty. The study confirms Toluwa [7] on National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Agricultural Development Programme in alleviating poverty among small scale food crop farmers in Ekiti State. The findings of the study show who do not benefit from any of the government poverty alleviation programmes have been the highest vulnerability to poverty, also the overall mean shows the findings is within the range.

The findings on the impact of literacy programme in Yobe state indicated that 82.8% of the total mean percentage of the respondents agreed that through poverty alleviation programme government has

provide literacy programmes. The beneficiaries can now read simple statement/letter, they can now water storms and to simple calculate relevant to their business. Also their economic status were increased and can now participate in politics, while 17.2% disagreed. This findings agreed with the work of Achebe [14], Nigeria on Economic Empowerment through basic literacy programme. It was found that education need with a particular reform to the acquisition of reading, writing and numerical skills are met and they have been satisfied economically for self reliance. The overall mean is 3.16 this shows the findings has positive impact on the beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

Poverty alleviation programmes has impacted positively and reduce poverty based on the major findings of the study. It was concluded that, the identified poverty alleviation programmes have reduced poverty. This implies that poverty alleviation programmes on youth and economic empowerment have improved the living standard of the beneficiaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government and stakeholders should expand production capacity in the area of agricultural inputs, preservations, storage and marketing of agricultural products and agricultural loan/credits.
- Literacy Education centres most be given more priority and attention by equipping them with modern technology and qualify staff and establish more literacy centres in the state.

REFERENCES

1. Agumagu, A. C. (2000). Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: Can Agricultural Extension help?.
2. Ajayi, A. R. (2009). The role expectation of agricultural extension in poverty alleviation in a democratic and deregulated economy. *Eds. Agbamu JU Perspectives in agricultural extension and rural development*, 87-90.
3. Idogho, P., & Ainabor, A. E. (2005). The Imperative of Poverty Alleviation for Socio-economic Development in Nigeria.
4. Ojo, A. (2008). An Assessment of impact of poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria.
5. Adekola, G., & Olajide, O. E. (2007). Impact of government poverty alleviation programmes on the socio-economic status of youths in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria. *IFE Psychologia: An International Journal*, 15(2), 124-131.
6. Akpoko, J. G., Auta, S. J., & Arokoyo, J. T. (1998). The Impact of Non-Governmental Agricultural Extension Training programmes: A Case study of the Nigerian Tobacco Company, Zaria. Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 97-110.
7. Owolabi, A. (2004). *Development of an integrated product information management system* (Doctoral dissertation).
8. UNESCO. (2006). Eradicating Poverty: An Information sheet of public Information Developed during the 7th Week of the 60th Anniversary life summary. Paris.
9. World Bank. (2000). World Bank Reaserch report. Washington DC.
10. Ucha, C. (2011). Poverty in Nigeria: Some Dimensions and Contributing Factors. *Global Majority E-Journal*, 1(1): 46 – 56.
11. Obadan, M. I. (2001). Poverty reduction in Nigeria: The way forward. *CBN Economic and Financial Review*, 39(4), 159-188.
12. Omotola, J. S. (2008). Combating poverty for sustainable human development in Nigeria: The continuing struggle. *Journal of poverty*, 12(4), 496-517.
13. Omotola, J. S. (2009). ‘Garrison’ democracy in Nigeria: The 2007 general elections and the prospects of democratic consolidation. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 47(2), 194-220.
14. Achebe, A. (2004). Empowerment Programmes through basic literacy in South East zone of Nigeria.
15. Kreicie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (2006). Determining Sample size for Research activities. Educational and Psychological Measurement, obtained from <http://www.fns.usda.gov>