

Impact of N-Power Programme on Employment Creation in Nasarawa State, 2016 – 2022.

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Abstract

This study attempts to provide valuable data on the impact of the National N-Power scheme on youth employment in Nasarawa state, 2016 – 2022. Two research questions were raised to guide the study and two research propositions were formulated for the study. To facilitate the study, literature relevant to this topic was reviewed. This helps to establish the gap that fills the study. The design of the study was a descriptive survey. The population used was 25,688 comprising teachers and beneficiaries of N-Power programme from some selected local government in Nasarawa State. The sample size of the study stood at 295, which was determined using purposive sampling techniques. Data from questionnaire was analyzed quantitatively using simple percentages and while data from the secondary sources were analyzed using content analysis. The findings of the study revealed that N-Power programme has significantly improved employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State. It was also revealed that N-Power programme has impacted unemployment rate in Nasarawa State. Based on these findings the study recommends amongst others that there is a need to create an enabling environment that will encourage private investments in the scheme, since the government cannot bear the unemployment burden of the State and other locality in Nigeria alone. There is also the need to improve the take home package of beneficiaries.

Keywords: Employment creation, Economic policy, N-Power, Poverty reduction, Unemployment,

Introduction

The responsibility of governments globally is to provide paid employment, for her active population especially the virile and virulent youth segment of the society, remains not just a huge challenge, but also a policy issue in discourse. In Nigeria, at present and more than any other time in the history of the nation, unemployment seems to have escalated beyond manageable limit (Asaju, Arome&Anyio, 2016). Accordingly, The National Bureau of Statistics (2019) maintains that youth unemployment stands at 36.50% as at second quarter of 2018 while the youth population within the same period stood at 42.54% with a dependency ratio of 88.2% per a 100 non dependents. Granted the current situation, it is no wonder at all, that the social crime rate in Nigeria is on the rise as evident in kidnapping, armed robbery, ritual killings, drug abuse, internet scam, Ponzi scheme, prostitution and more (Ukwayi, Angioha&Ojong-Ejoh, 2018)

However, government awareness of the current youth unemployment in Nasarawa State and Nigeria, and the fact that successive government efforts on youth employment programs such as; the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP). The National Economic Empowerment and Development

Strategy (NEEDS) seem to have yielded marginal result. Consequently, the present government of Buhari has evolved a new paradigm to curb unemployment and reduce social crime as well as boost economic development in the country (Eze, 2019). The high and increasing poverty incidence in Nigeria has made poverty alleviation programmes and strategies a major focus in policy formulation by different governments. Poverty alleviation strategies are usually measures put in place by government with the sole aim of raising the welfare or well-being of the poor. It aimed at enabling the poor to create wealth. Since the Mid-1980s when the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was adopted in managing the economy, poverty alleviation programmes (PAPs) have multiplied. As at 2014, over 30 different PAPs have been experimented with. This number does not include the several initiatives at the state and local government levels (Umo, 2012)

In Nigeria, government had purposively designed series of social investment programmes in the time past with a view to solving the incessant problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality. In some point in times, it is categorically geared towards reducing the rate of youth restiveness in volatile areas and states of the federation. The Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari “designed and implemented the current National Social Investments Programme (N-SIP) as strategy for combating poverty and unemployment. The N-SIP scheme was created to enable citizen’s exit from the twin evils of poverty and unemployment through capacity building, investment and direct financial support (Abin, 2018). 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 income/livelihood by providing access to targeted funds, thereby improving household ability to absorb economic shock (Abin, 2018).

The programme is available for graduate and non-graduates. It is aimed at inculcating in Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 (FGN 2018). According to Kabeer (2018), the goals of the programme include; reducing the rate of unemployment in the country, facilitating the transfer of entrepreneurial, technical skills and employability ability and bringing solution to active public service and government diversification policy. In essence, one of the objectives of the programme was to boost the human capital of the Nigerian labour force (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). The N-Power programme is envisaged to address a range of social problems such as curbing the incidence of poverty, teeming youth unemployment, entrepreneurship orientation and increasing school enrolment (Akujuru, 2019). The N-power initiative, which is the job creation component of the policy aims at reducing poverty and unemployment and is targeted at the Nigerian youths.

However, creating a policy and its implementation to achieve set goals appear to be mutually exclusive in the Nigerian context. Efforts by successive governments to combat the excruciating poverty and monumental unemployment as well as other initiatives geared toward alleviating the precarious situation surrounding the Nigerian youths and to enhance the quality of life had ended in fiasco, as a consequence of abysmal and porous implementation of the said programmes. The N-power initiative, which is the job creation component of the policy aims at reducing poverty and unemployment and is targeted at the Nigerian youths. However, creating a policy and its implementation to achieve set goals appear to be mutually exclusive in the Nigerian context

Statement of the Problem According to National Bureau of Statistics (2018), the N-power assessment report revealed that in 2017, 200,000 youths were engaged in the n-power scheme, and it crashed youth unemployment from 23.6 per cent to 16.6 per cent and in 2018 another 300,000 was engaged thus further reducing unemployment from 32.45 to 29.75 per cent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). Akujuru&Enyoko (2019) corroborating this assertion states that beyond the Npower benefits, youths also have the N-build and N-tech of the N-SIP program to enhance their capacities. Furthermore, the implication of the report of the (500,000) five hundred thousand beneficiaries of the N-power is that youths Nasarawa State are integral parts of the stock of beneficiaries and therefore characteristics of delinquency and other social ills among the youths should be reasonably in check or greatly reduced.

However, a study on youth restiveness and cult activities in the Nasarawa State, where youths are still highly akin to restiveness due to correlating factors such as poverty, idleness lack of active engagement in entrepreneurial activities. Judging from the above, it remains to prove whether the N-power pilot program in Nasarawa State has significantly impacted the youths and fulfilled the obligation for its establishment or it is a fluke and political rhetoric with government circle, as usual. It is against this background that the researcher intends to assess the impact of N-power scheme on employment creation in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Research Questions The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:(a) What is the importance of N-Power programme on employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State? (b) Has the N-Power programme impacted unemployment rate in Nasarawa State?

Objective of the Study The broad objective of the N-Power programme on employment creation in Nasarawa State, specifically, the study sought: (a) To find out the importance of N-Power programme on employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State (b) To determine the impact of N-Power programme on unemployment rate in Nasarawa State

Research Propositions The following propositions were formulated to guide the study; (a)The N-Power programme has significantly improved employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State(b)The N-Power programme has significantly impacted unemployment rate in Nasarawa State

Conceptualizing of N-Power

The Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari “designed and implemented the current National Social Investments Programme (N-SIP) as strategy for combating poverty and unemployment. The N-SIP scheme was created to enable citizen’s exit from the twin evils of poverty and unemployment through capacity building, investment and direct financial support (Abin, 2018). 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 income/livelihood by providing access to targeted funds, thereby improving household ability to absorb economic shock (Abin, 2018)

N-Power is a scheme under the National Social Investments Programme of the Nigerian Federal Government geared towards graduate’s job creation; poverty alleviation and

empowerment initiatives through volunteering services. The programme is available for graduate and non-graduates. It is aimed at inculcating in Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 (FGN 2018). Generally, selection is based: On one's expression of a genuine interest in whichever area you decide; passing the relevant tests; willingness to push beyond comfort zone; and ability to show a flair to develop all the skills you need to be the best you can be (Aderonmu, 2017). While there are fixed requirements along the way, we will be relying on you to take ownership of the process and take the lead in shaping your route, by making the most of the training that you will receive. For the purposes of N-Power, Graduate means any post-tertiary qualification including an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) or Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) or as may be specified by the programme (Obadan, 200). The key N-Power Programmes include: N-Power Agro, N-Power Tax, N-Power Build, N-Power Creative, N-Power Health, N-Power Teach, N-Power Tech Hardware and N-Power Tech Software

The N-Power Volunteer Corps is the post-tertiary engagement initiative for Nigerians between 18 and 35. It is a paid volunteering programme of 2-year duration. The graduates will undertake their primary tasks in identified public services within their proximate communities. All N-Power Volunteers are entitled to computing devices that will contain information necessary for their specific engagement, as well as information for their continuous training and development. In 2016, the Federal Government engaged 200,000 N-Power Volunteers. In 2017, the Federal Government is enlisting 300,000 more. The June 2017 Application is only open to the Graduate Category- the N-Power Volunteer Corps. N-Power volunteers provide teaching, instructional, and advisory solutions in 4 key areas (Bennel, 2017)

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development. Despite the current high level of unemployment, harnessing Nigeria's young demography through appropriate skill development efforts provides an opportunity to achieve inclusion and productivity within the country. Large-scale skill development is the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme. N-Power is also linked to the Federal Government's policies in the economic, empowerment and social development arenas. N-Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. The modular programmes under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. N-Power is also a platform for diversifying the economy. N-Power is preparing young Nigerians for a knowledge economy where, equipped with world-class skills and certification, they become innovators and movers in the domestic and global markets. Nigeria will have a pool of software developers, hardware service professionals, animators, graphic artists, building services, Professionals, artisans and others. N-Power also focuses on providing our non-graduates with relevant technical and business skills that enhance their work outlook and livelihood

By deploying a force of 500,000 trained graduated in their communities, the N-Power Programme is a community-sourced solution to the nation's under-developed public services like education, healthcare, and civic engagement (N-Power, 2017). The Programme is built to prepare young Nigerians for a modern, globalized economy by helping equip youths with skills and certifications for emerging global markets. Nigeria is

looking to increase its already bustling technology sector by supporting a talent pool of software developers, hardware professionals, and other tech based skills such as animators and digital artists. The programme is divided into the following categories; (a) Graduate Category which comprised of N-Power Volunteer Corps (b) Non-Graduate Category comprising of N-Power Knowledge and N-Power Build. 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

Key Areas of N-Power According to Kabeer (2018), the goals of the programme include; reducing the rate of unemployment in the country, facilitating the transfer of entrepreneurial, technical skills and employability ability and bringing solution to active public service and government diversification policy. The graduate's category is further divided into three areas namely, the N-Teach, N-Health and N-Agro.

N-Power Teach: This category of beneficiaries is expected to help improve basic education delivery in Nigeria. N-Power Teach Volunteers are deployed as teacher assistants in primary schools that appear to be understaffed in Nigeria. They are not expected to replace the current teachers, but to work as support teachers across the country, assisting with teaching, school management and other functions within the schools. Where possible, they are also required to assist in taking basic education to children in marginalized communities (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). N-Power Teach (STEM) is also a component of the N-Power Teach programme. Through this programme, young graduates with the skills and interest in computer programming and other related fields are required to assist in the implementation of the Federal Government's STEM Programme for primary and secondary schools in the country (N-Power Information guide, 2017).

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

N-Power Agro: N-Power Agro beneficiaries are intended to provide advisory services to farmers across the country. They are expected to disseminate the knowledge that has been amassed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the area of extension services. They are also required to gather data of Nigeria's agriculture assets. This area is meant for youth who were educated in agricultural related courses (N-Power Information Guide, 2017).

Importance of N-Power Programme on Employment Expansion of the Beneficiaries in Nasarawa State

The Nigeria economy have recovered impressively and growing after the 2016 economic recession, but one problem that the government has failed to find a solution to is unemployment (Onoyabe, 2019). The World Bank (2019) reported that out of the 5 million Nigerian graduates that enter the labor market 2018, only 450,000 are currently employed. The Nigerian economic update (2019) in its figure of 2019, maintained that unemployment stood at 23 per cent. This figure is supported by the National Bureau of Statistics (2019) in

its 2019 report maintain that unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2019 stood at 23.1 per cent. The report holds that out of the 20.9 million Nigerians that were unemployed as at the third quarter of 2018, 11.1 million were underemployed this figure supported other evidence that unemployment is at its highest ratio in the history of the nation. In the country's banking sector, on the average, up to 18 bankers lost their job everyday between January and September 2019 (Andrew, 2019). As if the situation is not bad enough, it is projected that the unemployment rate is expected to grow to 33.5 per cent by the year 2020 (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2017). The rate of unemployment has had a concomitant effect on the country's development

In reaction to the continuing growth of poverty and unemployment the federal government under the National Social Investment Scheme (N-Sip), introduce the N-power program with the specific objective of youth empowerment and job creation in Nigeria (N-power information guide, 2017). The program was specifically designed to help Nigerian youth develop and acquire practical skills that will allow them to make meaningful impact in their community as well as become innovative players in both global and domestic market (N-power information guide, 2017). The graduate program is further divided into N-agro, N-health, N-teach and N-tax. The graduate program deployed 500,000 graduates to support specific identified sectors of the Nigerian economic. The graduate are deployed and paid 30,000 naira monthly with various devices that will help them carryout the task in the sphere of activity. The non-graduate program is aimed at preparing young Nigerian youth wit knowledge that will equip them with world class skills and certification (N-power information guide, 2017)

Impact of N-Power programme on Unemployment Rate in Nasarawa State

In making the social and economic impacts of Nasarawa State graduate stable and healthy, N-power programme came on board to address such public issues of concern through the adoption and implementation of desired goals and objectives. Abbas (2013) thus observes that, since poverty generally permeates social, economic and political activities of every society, the phenomenon remains a concern that must be checked and addressed by all critical stakeholders.

According to the Usman Jibrin (2021), In Nasarawa State funds were provided to the state for selected aggregators and 2,768 vendors and to feed 194,649 pupils, in 745 schools across the 13 Local Government Areas. In that value chain alone hundreds of jobs are created every day and people are earning. The Focal Person, NSIP, Nasarawa State, Usman (2021), explained that the programme started in Nasarawa in 2019 with a total number of 1,200 cooks and 86,329 pupils. At present, we have a total number of 2,768 cooks and 194,649 pupils benefitting from the programme. A total amount N1.498bn was expended in Nasarawa under the programme from January 2019 to October 2021. The fund was provided by the Federal Government, adding that it had positively impacted on the lives of all beneficiaries in the value chain ranging from the vendors, suppliers, cooks and pupils (Usman, 2021)

In buttressing this, evidenced from N-Power Programme (2017) confirmed that no fewer than 26,762 residents of Nasarawa state have been financially empowered by the Federal Government of Nigeria in its bid to eradicate poverty in the state. While 6.8 million Nigerians out of the projected 10 million have benefited from N-Power, among other National Social Investment Programme of the Buhari Government. As noted in the write up of Jude (2017), the figure represents nearly 70 per cent success rate in the implementation of the programme. He added that besides the 6.8 million direct

beneficiaries, 1.75 million persons comprising cooks, farmers, poor and vulnerable household members, have also been impacted as secondary

Adetayo (2017) notes that the volunteers are being engaged for N-Agro, the agricultural component of the scheme, N-Tax, designed to support the Federal Inland Revenue Service, (FIRS), N-Health and the N-Teach. He adds that N-Build can boast of 10,000 artisans who were verified, supplied with toolboxes for three months training and assigned to 160 skills centres in 22 states. Adetayo (2017) concludes that no fewer than 20,000 persons had been considered for taking part in hardware, creativity and software category training. In addition, the cost-benefit analysis of the programme indicates that a careful implementation of the programmes would deliver a positive return to the country's GDP both in the short and long terms.

This N-Power job creation initiative if executed properly will be one of the best things this present administration will have put in place. Jude (2017) affirms that the newly launched jobs portal of the Federal Government "npower.gov.ng," has recorded over 400,000 successful registrations since it opened for submissions at on Sunday, June 12, 2016. He commends the efforts of the government as well as the social media for the tremendous power of accountability and the successful registration of registrants.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the empowerment theory propounded by Barbara Bryant Solomon in 1976. According to this theory, personal, interpersonal and environmental resources are needed to update the skills, knowledge, and motivation of people to achieve valid social roles. It relates that people contribute their quota to the development of any society if they are given the needed conducive environment. This theory as noted by Okala and Ijeoma (2014) sees "the empowerment theory helps to enhance citizen participation." It is in the light of this theory citizens who are lacking could be empowered so that they can play their social roles and render their obligations to the society.

The central assumption of this theory is that personal, interpersonal and environmental resources are needed to update the skills, knowledge and motivation of people to achieve valid social roles and activities aimed at improving their living conditions. Therefore, the inability to use these resources and support to achieve collective goals results in powerlessness and sense of hopelessness (Solomon, 1976). This theory states that people have the right to power, ability, and authority to achieve self-determination. The emphasis here is that empowerment resides with the person that needs the help, and not the helper. This being the case, it is believed that the unemployed youths should be empowered to take advantage of policies and programmes meant for them to benefit and improve their lives by encouraging and educating them to access and utilize the services of N-Power. In other words, the beneficiary should be encouraged to participate in the formulation and implementation of various programmes of N-Power that are aimed at reducing their poverty level and turning around their lives. According to Aliyu (2012), experiences from the past poverty reduction programmes showed the inability to involve the people in their planning and implementation which probably led to their failure. Yet, one of the main features of N-Power is built to address the issue of youth unemployment and help increase social development which aimed at empowering the Nigeria youths prosperity, give opportunity develop relevant skills. Therefore, by empowering the people especially the poor, the beneficiaries will be lifted out of poverty thereby reducing poverty level in Nigeria in general.

Research Methodology

The research design used for this study is descriptive survey design. The main aim of the survey research design is to understand the research problem. Descriptive research helps a researcher gain a deeper knowledge of the research problem. The population used was 25,688 comprising teachers and beneficiaries of N-Power programme from some selected local government in Nasarawa State. The sample size of the study stood at 295, which was determined using purposive sampling techniques. A simple random sampling technique was used for the study to avoid biased. The instrument used for this study is structured questionnaire titled: Impact of N-POWER Programme on Employment Creation in Nasarawa State(INPECQ). The methods of data collection in this research are both primary and secondary methods. A modified five point Likert Scale with the response mode of; strongly agree (SA), agree (A-), disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD) and Undecided (U) respectively was used. For the qualitative secondary data are journals, articles and magazines periodicals and policy documents on impact of N-Power programme on employment creation in Nigeria were sourced. Data from questionnaire was analyzed quantitatively using simple percentages and while data from the secondary sources were analyzed using content analysis

Table 1: POPULATION OF TEACHERS AND BENEFICIARIES OF N-POWER PROGRAMME IN THREE SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN NASARAWA STATE

S/N	Local Governments	N-Health	N-Teach	N-Agro	Teachers	Total
1	Keffi	1232	3345	489	1025	6091
2	Nasarawa Eggon	1897	4231	568	1289	7985
3	Lafia	2314	5439	1098	2761	11612
	Total	5443	13015	2155	5075	25,688

Sources: Nasarawa State N-Power Guide, (2017)

Data Analysis and Presentation of Results

The data analysis of the question on the importance of N-Power programme on employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State, the data supplied by respondents show that the majority of one hundred and fourteen (114) or thirty-nine (39) percent strongly agreed while one hundred and three (103) respondents or thirty-five (35) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are thirty-seven (37) or thirteen (14) percent; twenty-eight (28) respondents or nine (9) percent strongly disagreed. Those who are undecided are thirteen (13) accounting for four (4) percent. From the analysis above, it was discovered that N-Power programme has significantly improved employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State.

TABLE 2; THE N-POWER PROGRAMME HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT EXPANSION OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN NASARAWA STATE

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	114	39%
Agree	103	35%
Disagree	37	13%
Strongly Disagree	28	9%
Undecided	13	4%
Total	295	100%

Field Work, 2023

In line with Bisong (2019) examined the impact of N-power scheme on employment creation, job skill enhancement and the economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries in Nigeria. The study revealed that a significant relationship exist between the N-power and employment creation, job still enhancement and economic wellbeing in Nigeria. Similarly, Odey and Sambe (2019) examined the impact of N-power on youth empowerment in Cross River State, Nigeria found that the N-power scheme significantly contribute to poverty reduction, financial empowerment and skill development.

TABLE 3; N-POWER PROGRAMME HAS IMPACTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NASARAWA STATE

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	66	22%
Agree	90	30%
Disagree	70	24%
Strongly Disagree	61	21%
Undecided	8	3%
Total	295	100%

Field Work, 2023

For the question on whether N-Power programme has impacted unemployment rate in Nasarawa State, data supplied show that sixty-six respondents (66) representing twenty - two (22) percent strongly agreed while seventy-one (90) respondents accounting for thirty (30) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are eighty-nine (70) respondents or twenty four (24) percent while sixty-one (61) respondents representing twenty-one (21) percent strongly disagreed. Eight (8) respondents or three (3) percent are undecided. This agreed with evidenced from N-Power Programme (2017) confirmed that no fewer than 26,762 residents of Nasarawa state have been financially empowered by the Federal Government of Nigeria in its bid to eradicate poverty in the state. While 6.8 million Nigerians out of the projected 10 million have benefited from N-Power, among other National Social Investment Programme of the Buhari Government. According to the Usman Jibrin (2021), In Nasarawa State funds were provided to the state for selected aggregators and 2,768 vendors and to feed 194,649 pupils, in 745 schools across the 13 Local Government Areas.

Although, Onoyabe (2019) noted that Nigeria economy have recovered impressively and growing after the 2016 economic recession, but one problem that the government has failed to find a solution to is unemployment. The World Bank (2019) reported that out of the 5 million Nigerian graduates that enter the labor market 2018, only 450,000 are currently employed. The Nigerian economic update (2019) in its figure of 2019, maintained that unemployment stood at 23 per cent. This figure is supported by the National Bureau of Statistics (2019) in its 2019 report maintain that unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2019 stood at 23.1 per cent. The report holds that out of the 20.9 million Nigerians that were unemployed as at the third quarter of 2018, 11.1 million were under underemployed this figure supported other evidence that unemployment is at its highest ratio in the history of the nation

Discussion of Findings

The findings showed that that N-Power programme has significantly improved employment expansion of the beneficiaries in Nasarawa State. In line with Bisong (2019) examined the impact of N-power scheme on employment creation, job skill enhancement and the economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries in Nigeria.

Second finding show that N-Power programme has impacted or reduced unemployment rate in Nasarawa State. Because the policy was not sustained, years after the policy, unemployment rate skyrocketed. The Nigerian economic update (2019) in its figure of 2019, maintained that unemployment stood at 23 per cent. This figure is supported by the National Bureau of Statistics (2019) in its 2019 report maintain that unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2019 stood at 23.1 per cent.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study has provided reliable data on the impact the National N-Power program has had on youth employment in Nasarawa State. This study reviews the contribution of N-power programme to employment creation and achievement of sustainable development goal in Nigeria. N-power is one of the components of the Social Investment Programme (SIP) of the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. The study found that N-power has contributed to employment expansion in Nigeria within the period of implementation but the programme was not sustainable. It has a good geographical spread devoid of political influence as most of the volunteers got their engagement without knowing anyone at the top. The application was done using ICT without having contact with the employers. In the last 5years of the scheme, the volunteers have worked and earned a monthly stipend of N30,000 across the 774 local Government areas in Nigeria which has lifted them above the poverty line as defined by the United Nation in 2015a which measured poverty as people living on less than \$1.25 a day. It is believed if N-power programme together with the other components of SIP is sustained, not only would it reduce the poverty level in Nigeria it can also lead to sustainable development in Nigeria.

Based on the findings and conclusions made above, the following recommendations are hereby proffered: The following recommendations were made: (a)The Government should ensure synergy between N-Power and the other components of NSIP, this will further help to reduce the unemployment rate in various states of the federation. (b) The government also needs to create an enabling environment that will encourage private investments in the scheme, since the government cannot bear the unemployment burden of the State and other locality in Nigeria alone. There is also the need to improve the take

home package of beneficiaries.(c) To sustain the gain of the N-power programme, there is a need for the federal government to create an enabling environment through its various policies so that the beneficiaries can put the experience gained into use. For example, N-Agro components can go into farming to support the government in achieving the food security policy. The N-teach can also operate private schools in their various communities, while the N-health can equally operate some healthcare services. All these can only be actualized if the government can provide microcredit to the beneficiaries in the form of exit package upon expiration of their tenure in the programme which they will use to set up their businesses. At the end, if these businesses are run successfully, they can create jobs for other youths thereby lifting the burden of unemployment from the government

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