

## Impact Assessment of Government Empowerment Programmes on Youths Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities in Adamawa State-Nigeria

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### Abstract

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Entrepreneurial activities have the potentials of stimulating economic growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation. To this end, governments at different levels and time in Nigeria came up with different programmes aimed at supporting the youth's segment of the population to participate in different entrepreneurial activities for self-reliance. Thus, this study assessed the extent of Youth's involvement in entrepreneurial activities as a result of the numerous government programmes on youth's empowerment in Adamawa State. Data were gathered from a sample of 384 respondents, using Policy Performance Evaluation Questionnaire (PPEQ). The questionnaires were administered through participatory rural appraisal technique. Out of the 384 questionnaires administered, 376 were duly completed and returned for analysis. Tables, frequency distribution, simple percentage and Pearson product correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) were employed to analyse the data collected. From the analysis, it was found that the government youths empowerment programmes, have at different times supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities.  $R^2$  of 0.5813 and  $F$ -statistics of 8.2242, indicates that the implementation of government youths' empowerment programmes had positive impact on youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities in the study area. The study also found some of the challenges of government programmes on youth's empowerment in the study area to include lack of involvement of social partners and stakeholders; corruption; policy inconsistency; poor governance. In order to enhance the performance of the programmes, it was recommended that the Government should come up with holistic approach to fight corruption in the country through adequate legislation which can empower the existing corruption related agencies to perform independently. The Local Government Councils as the third tier of government operating at the grass-root level be involved in the planning and implementation stages of all poverty related programmes in the Country.

**Keywords:** *Government, Empowerment, Programmes, Youths participation, Entrepreneurial activities,*

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### **Background to the Study**

Youth particularly in the developing countries, are the driving force for economic development. They possess the potentials which if properly harness promotes economic, cultural, social and political values of a society (Usman, 2015). To Gwary, Kwaghe, Ja'afar-Furo, & Dennis(2011), youths are the young people in a society who are characterized by ample ideas, energy and new ways to seek life and face problems. The educated youths in particular, are more likely to adopt new innovations if they are involved in an activity. Isah(2015) opened that the youths are a cross-section of the country's population with abundant energy that needs proper channelling and harnessing for increase productivity. Empowerment in a nutshell is about creating/provision of condition conducive to enhance through motivation the performance of a person(s) (Jimoh, 2014). It is geared toward developing person's sense of self determination and enhancing his/her belief in self-efficiency. Thus, youths empowerment through participation in entrepreneurial activities will not only create carrier opportunities for the teaming youths, but reduce insecurity and other related social violence that are associated with unemployment in the country. Anyadike, Emeh, & Ukah(2012) posits that entrepreneurial activities have been found to be capable of making positive impact on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people involved. Empirical records revealed positive relationship with stimulation of economic growth, employment generation and empowerment of the disadvantaged segment of the population which include the youths. In line with this notion, Adejo (2012) posit that government, Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs) and international bodies seeking to improve youths livelihood through empowerment for self-sustenance, could best pursue their empowerment intents by tapping into the potentials of entrepreneurial activities. According to Usman (2015), entrepreneurial activity is an act of entrepreneurship that is concern with the capacity and attitude of a person or group of persons to involve in a venture with the probability of success or failure.

Nigeria, with a population of over 180million, experiences a rising rate of unemployment and attendant poverty particularly among the youths (Hassan, 2014). According to Suleiman (2014), the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2011 stated that the universities and other tertiary institutions in the country produce an average of 225,000 graduates each year while another 700,000 school leavers or college graduates are turned out each year, without the hope of any job. This situation resulted to different forms of social, economic, political and psychological consequences such as armed robbery; oil bourn-cry/pipe vandalism, Militancy and Kidnapping, Boko-Haram/ cattle theft, political doggeries, advance fee fraud (419), prostitution, cultism and many others (Odeh and Okoye, 2014). The youths being the strength of any nation are not opportune to be engaged into any gainful activity. NBS (2011) revealed that the Nigerian youth's population is about 90million, representing 54.51% of the county's population, out of this, 64million are unemployed while 1.6million are under-employed. This phenomenon becomes a threat to the country's pursue for economic development. The scenario is paradoxical with the country' immense wealth of abundant, vibrant and dynamic human and natural resources. Records revealed that despite all the potentials; the country has the highest rates of youth's unemployment in the Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Odeh and Okoye, (2014), rather than record remarkable progress in national socio-economic development due to her

enormous wealth, Nigeria retrogressed to become the 25<sup>th</sup> poorest country at the threshold of twenty-first century. And it remains the only member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that is categorized among the world's poorest twenty countries (Gbenyi, 2013). This misery and frustration of the citizenry foisted a state of hopelessness and majority of the youths have resorted to any means including crime to succeed in life.

Thus, In-line with institutional and political constraints models on economic development, which emphasized the need for government to put in place major opportunities and new policies to eradicate poverty and provide more diversified employment opportunities and to reduce income inequalities, the successive governments in the country have at different times, come up with some specialized programmes, schemes and policies that are meant to develop the potentials among the teeming youths of the country (Jimoh, 2014). Among the Central government programmes identified in the study area includes National Youths Policy of Nigeria (NYPN), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP); National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) under which there were Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)' Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP)' Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP), Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Micro-Credit Programme (MCP). Others are State/local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS/LEEDS); Fadama II, III; the Seven -Point Agenda and the present administration Youths Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (YISDA), Youths Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOU-WIN) and Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) of the transformation agenda. The SURE-P which provide a whole range of activities and programmatic schemes, such as Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Community Services Scheme (CSS), Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), and Community Services, Women and Youth Empowerment (CSWYE). (Ogwumike, 2002; Gwaryet'al, 2011; Oba, 2012; Dauda, 2014; Akande, 2014). Each of these programmes, aimed at empowering the youths and other disadvantage segment of the population as explained in the aforementioned paradigm shift of the models adopted for the study.

In Adamawa State, Achor, George, Mathias, Muazum, & Elazeh(2011) noted that the Governor Murtala Hamman-Yero Nyako government (2007 - 2014), in an effort to work with the strategic principles of the National Policies and programmes in promoting entrepreneurial activities particularly among the youths in the state, came up with a comprehensive measures to curb the menace of unemployment. These approaches were in three (3) phases under the Skill Acquisition Programme. Phase 1: a graduate cadre. Here unemployed graduates are enrolled into a six months vocational training programme during which they are stipends to start their business at the end. The second phase is the technical training programme, which is sub-divided into vocational, technical professional technical training and specialized works technical trainings. Unemployed youths are enrolled into a three year training programme. The third phase is the local apprenticeship skills meant only for the illiterates. They are trained in automobile repairs, tailoring and generator repairs among others. All the canters are expected to produce 2,300 technicians yearly. Other strategy in the state is in the area of agriculture. The state

has a programme called Farming Skills Acquisition Programme (FSAP) which entails establishing in each of the twenty one (21) local government areas of the state, a farming skill acquisition centre where world best practices in agricultural production are impacted. All these efforts were geared toward self-sustainability, self-help, self-participatory, and equality within the context of community development as explained in the concept of empowerment (Jimoh, 2014).

Based on these efforts by the governments in empowering the youths, it has become imperative to assess the performance of the programmes in supporting youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities in the country and Adamawa State in particular. It is against this background that this study was undertaken to assess the impact of the various government -empowerment programmes on youths participation in entrepreneurial activities in Adamawa state, specifically in Maiha, Hong and Numan local government areas, with the view to ascertain the extent to which the government programmes on youths empowerment in Adamawa State, supported the youths segment of the population to participate in entrepreneurial activities.

Other specific objectives include:

- i. To examine the demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study area
- ii. To examine the extent of youths participation in entrepreneurial activities as a result of government empowerment programmes in the study area
- iii. To analyze the major challenges of Government Programmes on Youths empowerment in the Study area.

#### **Hypothesis:**

$H_0$  : The various governmental empowerment programmes did not have significant impact on Youths participation in entrepreneurial activities in Adamawa State.

#### **Methodology**

##### **Study Area**

The research was conducted in three (3) Local Government Areas each selected from the three senatorial districts of Adamawa state, namely Maiha in the northern senatorial district; Hong in the Central Senatorial district and Numan in the Southern Senatorial district. Adamawa state is one of the thirty six (36) states that made up the Federal Republic of Nigeria located in the North – eastern part of the country. The state lies on the coordinates  $9^{\circ}20''$  North and  $12^{\circ}30''$  East and was created from the former Gongola State in 1991 with headquarters in Yola. Adamawa state is one of the largest states in the country, occupies about  $36,917\text{km}^2$  and population of 3, 727,223 based on the 2006 National population Census. The State is bordered by the states of Borno to the northwest, Gombe to the west and Taraba to the southwest. The eastern borders form the national eastern border with the republic of Cameroon. Topographically, Adamawa state is a mountainous land crossed by the large river valley of Benue, Gongola and Yedsarem and has two (2) major vegetation zones: Sub-Sudan and Northern Guinea Savannah.

The State and the local governments in particular have a mean annual temperature of 37°C and mean annual rainfall of 1380mm. The soil in the areas is rich with organic minerals which favours the growths of crops such as maize, guinea-corn, groundnut, rice, cassava, beans, sweet-potato's, among others. The dwellers in the study areas are mainly farmers with few engage in trading, fishing and livestock production for livelihood.

### **Design of the Study**

Ex-post-facto design was adopted for the study. The design according to Eteng & Esu (2013) is a systematic empirical inquiry in which the investigator does not have direct control of the independent variables because their manifestations have already occurred. The design was deemed appropriate because the study aimed at describing, analyzing and reporting conditions that already occurred as it is.

### **Study Population, Sample and Sampling Technique**

The population of the study consist of all male and female within the age range of 15 to 35 years, in the three local government areas selected in Adamawa State. The choice of the youth's age bracket was informed by the classification of the National Population Commission in 2013. Based on records, the youth 's population in the three local government areas was 137,478.

From the total population, sample of 384 respondents were determined using Cochran (1977) model specified as

$$n_0 = \frac{(t)^2 * (p)(q)}{(d)^2} \text{-----} 1$$

Where:  $n_0$  = the required sample size,  $t$  = the value for the selected alpha ( $\alpha$ ) level at 95% confidence level with value 1.96,  $p$  = the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population (50%),  $q = 1 - 0.5 (0.5)$ ,  $(p)(q)$  is the estimate of variance (.0.25),  $d$  = the accepted margin of error for the population proportion being estimated (5%).

The sample size determined (384), were drawn through purposive sampling of 8 council wards in each of the three local government areas, totaling 24 wards. In each of the wards, 2 villages were purposively selected, totalling 48 villages, and in each of the 48 villages, 8 youths were randomly selected, totalling 384 youths which made-up the sample size.

### **Sources of Data Collection**

The data collected were aimed at achieving the set objectives of the study. The data were obtained on demographic characteristics of the respondents, Government programmes and its impact on empowering the teaming youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities, and the challenges of entrepreneurial activities in the study area. The data were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source provides mainly quantitative data (primary data). The secondary source on the other hand, provides information mainly from existing data through review of literature. The data from the secondary source provided theoretical background and pertinent experiences of other authors in the problem related area.

### **Instruments for Data Collection**

Field survey was conducted using the Policy Performance Evaluation Questionnaire (PPEQ) as a major instrument to gather the primary data. Other methods used in collecting data for the study were oral interview and group focus discussions. The questionnaire was designed to gather data for the assessment of the extent to which the various government programmes supported the participation of Youths in entrepreneurial activities in the study area. The questionnaire adopted the three (3) point likert type summation scale Agreed (A), Disagreed (DA), and Undecided (UD). The instrument was validated by some test and measurement experts, and necessary adjustments were made before final administration.

### **Administration of the Instrument**

The questionnaires were administered through participatory rural appraisal method to the 384 respondents, but 376 representing 97.9% were duly completed and returned for analysis. This method was adopted to ensure maximum return rate and offer explanation to the respondents where required. In the same vein, oral interview and group focus discussions were also conducted by the researcher. The information obtained was used to argue the data collected through the questionnaire. The data were collected between May and September, 2016

### **Data Analysis Technique**

The data collected, were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools. The descriptive tools used are tables, frequency distribution, and percentage while inferential statistics employed the least square regression model. The least square regression model was used to test the impact of the various government empowerment programmes on the teaming youths in terms of supporting them to participate in gainful entrepreneurial activity.

### **Model Specification**

The regression model for the study was implicitly specified as:

$$Y = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, U) \text{-----}2$$

Where: Y = Perceived effect of government empowerment programmes on youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities

$X_1 - X_7$  = The various government empowerment programmes (variables of the model)

U = Error term

However, the explicit model is presented in relation to the programmes as specified below:

$$Y = b_0 + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5 + b_6X_6 + b_7X_7 + U \text{-----}3$$

Where:

$b_0$  = Regression intercept

$b_1$ - $b_7$  = Parameters of the independent variables

$U$  = Error term

$X_1$  = Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP): *(NO benefited from the programmes)*

$X_2$  = National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP): *(NO Trained and supported)*

$X_3$  = National Economic Empowerment Programme (NEEDS): *(NO benefited from the Programmes)*

$X_4$  = 7-Point Agenda, *(NO benefited from the programmes)*

$X_5$  = You-WIN, *(NO benefited from the programmes)*

$X_6$  = SURE-P, *(NO benefited from the programmes)*

$X_7$  = State Govt. Skills Acquisition Programmes. And other related Schemes, *(NO Trained and supported)*

### Results and Discussion

In Table 1, demographic characteristics of the respondents were analysed. The result shows that 196(52.1%) of the respondents fell within an age bracket of 21-30 Years. While 134(35.6%) were between 31-35 years, and 46(12.3%) were between 15-20 years. On a whole, majority; 330(87.8%) of the respondents were over 21 years of age. The results also shows that 316(84%) of the respondents were males and only 60(16%) were females. On marital status, it was found that 211(56.1%) of the respondents were married, 132(35.1%) were single while 24(6.4%) and 9(2.4%) were divorced and widows respectively. This implies that youth in the study area marry at younger age there by assuming responsibilities at early stage of their life. The table further shows that 339(90.2%) of the respondents had less or exactly 4 persons in the family, 37(9.8%) had between 5-8 persons. However, none of the respondents had more than 9 persons in the family. This means that about two third (2/3) of the respondents had a manageable family size. On educational qualifications, it was revealed that 182(48.4%) of the respondents had secondary education, 91(24.2%) had primary education while 66(17.6.3%) had no formal education and 37(9.8%) had Tertiary education. This indicates that majority; 310(82.4%) of the respondents had undergone one form of formal education or the other and can quickly understand and adopt new innovations for better performance in the study area.

**Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by their Demographic Characteristics**  
N=376

Characteristics	Frequencies	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Age			
15-20	46	12.3	12.3
21-30	196	52.1	64.4
31-35	134	35.6	100
Greater than 35	-	-	
Gender			
Male	316	84	84
Female	69	16	100
Marital Status			
Single	132	35.1	35.1
Married	211	56.1	91.2
Divorced	24	6.4	97.6
Widow	9	2.4	100
Family Size			
Less(=) 4	339	90.2	90.2
5-8	37	9.8	100
9 and above	-	-	
Educational Qualification			
No formal education	66	17.6	17.6
Primary education	91	24.2	41.8
Secondary education	182	48.4	90.2
Tertiary education	37	9.8	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

### **Impact of Empowerment Programmes on Youths Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities in the Study Area**

Tables 2 and 3 below, examined the contribution of government empowerment programmes to youths participation in entrepreneurial activities in Adamawa state



**Table 2: Government Empowerment Programmes and Youth Participation in Entrepreneurial Activities N=376**

Item Statement	RESPONSES		
	Agreed	Disagreed	Undecided
Government empowerment programmes are implemented in your area	347 (92.3%)	21 (5.6%)	8 (2.1%)
The programmes implemented focused on the target audience (Youths)	291 (77.4%)	66 (17.6%)	19 (5%)
The activities of both state and National empowerment programmes supported the youths to participate in entrepreneurial venture	266 (70.7%)	86 (22.9%)	24 (6.4)
The implementation of the programmes assisted you to own an entrepreneurial venture	305 (81.1%)	71 (18.9%)	-
Many youths are better off in-term of income earning than before the implementation of the programmes	344 (91.5%)	32 (8.5)	-
Generally, the implementation of the various programmes have helped the youths to involve in most sustainable entrepreneurial ventures	316 (84%)	48 (12.8%)	12 (3.2%)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016

Table 2 revealed insight information on the performance of government in empowering youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities. It shows that 347(92.3%) of the respondents are aware of the existence of the government empowerment programmes, 21(5.5%) disagreed while 8(2.1%) are uncertain. The result further shows that 291(77.4%) of the respondents confirmed that the programmes implementation focused on the youth, 66(17.6%) disagreed while 19(5%) are not sure of the answer. It was also revealed that 266(70.7%) of the respondents were convinced that the empowerment programmes of the government collectively supported youth to participate in entrepreneurial activities in the study area, 86(22.9%) disagreed and 24(6.4%) were uncertain. The analysis also shows that 305(81.1%) of the respondents are into entrepreneurial activities, 71(18.9%) are not into any form of entrepreneurial activity. Also that 344(91.5%) of the respondents agreed that youths in the study area are better off now in-terms of income than before the implementation of the government programmes while only 32(8.5%) are not. The result further revealed that 316(84%) of the respondents re-affirmed that the programmes supported the youth to participate in most sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

This finding implies that the various government empowerment programmes were implemented in the rural areas of the three local governments of Adamawa state and have

collectively impacted positively on the youth by empowering them to participate in gainful entrepreneurial ventures.

**Table 3: Specific Programme Performance Assessments from 2000 to 2015**  
N=376

Programmes	Agreed	Disagreed	Undecided
Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) was implemented and supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities	113 (30%)	221 (58.8%)	42 (11.2%)
NAPEP Youths related programmes such as YES, CAP, MAP, Keke and Micro-Credit Program supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities within its period of operation	324 (86.1%)	46 (12.1%)	7 (1.8%)
SEEDS and LEEDS supported youth participation in entrepreneurial ventures	191 (50.8%)	172 (45.7%)	13 (3.5%)
The youth related programmes of the 7-point agenda in areas of Agriculture, transportation, wealth creation and insecurity supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities	136 (36.1%)	214 (56.9%)	27 (7%)
YOU-WIN of the Youths Initiative for sustainable Agriculture of the Goodluck transformation agenda supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities	323 (85.9%)	29 (7.7%)	24 (6.4%)
SURE-P and its associated schemes (GIS; CSWYE; VTS and CSS) assisted the youths to engage in entrepreneurial activities	336 (89.4%)	31 (8.2%)	9 (2.4%)
The State government Skill Acquisition Programme and other programmes on youths empowerment supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities	341 (90.7%)	16 (4.3%)	19 (5%)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016

Table 3 above shows that 113(30%) of the respondents agreed that PAP was implemented and supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities, 221(58.8%) disagreed while 42(11.2%) were not sure of the whether or not the programme supported the youth. On National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) youths related programmes, table 3 shows that 324 (86.1%) of the respondents agreed that the Youths Empowerment Scheme (YES); Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP); Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP); Micro-Credit Programme and Keke-NAPEP tricycle loan supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities, 46(12.1%) disagreed while only 7(1.8%) were undecided. The result on National (State/Local) Economic Empowerment

Development Scheme (NEEDS, SEEDS, LEEDS) related to youths empowerment, shows 191 (50.8%) of the respondents agreed that the programmes supported youth participation in entrepreneurial activities, 172(45.7%) disagreed while 13(3.5%) were uncertain. It was also shown that the youths related programmes of the seven point agenda of late Yar'adua particularly in areas of agriculture, transportation, wealth creation shows that 136(36.1%) of the respondents agreed that the programmes supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities, 214(56.9%) disagreed and 27(7%) were undecided. On You-WIN, and the Youth Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture of the Good-luck administration, the result shows that 347(92.3%) of the respondents agreed that these programmes supported youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities, 29(7.7%) disagreed. This finding implies that the present government have supported the youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities. On the state government designed programmes, the results shows that 336(89.4%) of the respondents agreed that the state owned programmes supported youths participation in entrepreneurial activities, 31(8.2%) disagreed while 9(2.4%) were undecided.

On a whole, the findings implies that collectively and at different times, NAPEP youths related programmes (CAP, MAP, YES, Micro-Credit Programme and Keke); SEEDS, LEEDS; You-WIN; SURE-P; Youths Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture and the State owned youths empowerment programmes impacted positively on the life of the youths through participation in entrepreneurial activities while PAP and the Seven point agenda could not have much impact on Youths participation in entrepreneurial activities in the study area.

#### **Test of Hypothesis ( $H_{01}$ )**

Regression analysis was used to determine the impact of the various government empowerment programmes on youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities using the ordinary least square estimates. The analysis considered three (3) functional forms namely; linear, semi-log, and double-log functions. The test was conducted at 5% level of significance. and result is presented in table 4 below

**Table 4: Regression analysis for Impact of Government programmes on Youths participation in Entrepreneurial Activities**

Variables	Linear	Semi-log	Double-log
Constant	24.433	1.974	0.9334
X <sub>1</sub> (PAP)	1.214	0.733	0.8421
X <sub>2</sub> (NAPEP)	0.979	1.256	0.6113*
X <sub>3</sub> (SEEDS/LEED)	0.532	1.164	0.5981*
X <sub>4</sub> (7-PA)	0.962	0.776	0.3833
X <sub>5</sub> (You-WIN)	0.741	0.573	0.5141*
X <sub>6</sub> (SURE-P)	1.766	0.718	0.6112*
X <sub>7</sub> (SGSAP)	0.528	0.877	0.5643*
R <sup>2</sup>	= 0.5813		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	= 0.4221		
F-Statistics	= 8.2242*		
Durbin Watson	= 3.691		

**Source:** Field Survey. \* **Significant at 5%**

Thus, after satisfying the economic, statistical and econometric criteria, the result shows that all the variables X<sub>1</sub> to X<sub>7</sub>, were found to be positively related to the extent of youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities in the study area. This implies that an increase in the disbursement of fund and training by the programmes, will translates to an increase in the number of youths that will be supported to go into viable entrepreneurial venture in the study area.

In consonant with the lead equation (double-log), the R<sup>2</sup> was 0.5813. This suggests that 58.1% of the variation in youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities is explained by the explanatory variables (implementation of government empowerment programmes). The F=statistics of 8.2242, was statistically significant at 5% level of probability. This indicates that government empowerment programmes had good impact on the level of youth's participation in entrepreneurial activities in the study areas.

**Table 6: Distribution of Respondents views on Challenges of Government Youths Empowerment Programmes in Maiha, Hong and Numan Local government Areas**

S/N0	Challenges	Frequency	Percentage	Ranking
1	Policy Inconsistency	372	98.9	4 <sup>th</sup>
2	Unwieldy Scope of Programmes	306	81.4	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	Lack of involvement of social partners And stakeholders	376	100	1 <sup>st</sup>
4	Poor human Capital Development	356	94.7	5 <sup>th</sup>
5	Inadequate funding	254	67.6	8 <sup>th</sup>
6	Poor Governance	376	100	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	Lack of adequate youths development programme	298	79.3	7 <sup>th</sup>
8	Corruption	374	99.5	3 <sup>rd</sup>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016

Respondents were allowed to tick more than one option

Table 6 above, analysed the challenges of government programmes on youths empowerment in the study area. The result revealed that lack of involvement of social partners and stakeholders; corruption; policy inconsistency; poor governance were the major challenges of government youths empowerment programmes in the study area. Others include poor human capital development; inadequate funding; lack of adequate youth's development programme and unwieldy scope of the programmes which led to thinly spread of resources among projects.

### **Findings**

The study assessed the impact of government empowerment programmes on the extent of youths participation in entrepreneurial activities in Adamawa state; Maiha, Hong and Numan local government areas in particular. The study revealed the following findings:

1. Majority of the respondents were married males with mostly 4 or less persons in a family who are within an age bracket of 21-35 years, and obtained formal education.
2. The government empowerment programmes, were implemented and focused on the target audience (Youths segment of the population) in the study area.
3. The youths in the study area were supported by the collective efforts of the various government empowerment programmes to engage in entrepreneurial activities
4. Collectively and at different times, the following programmes: NAPEP youth related programmes (CAP, MAP, YES, Micro-Credit Programme and Keke); The NEEDS, SEEDS, LEEDS; You-WIN; SURE-P; Youths Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture and the State owned youths empowerment programmes were the specific programmes that impacted positively on youths participation in entrepreneurial activities.
5. Though the programmes to an extent achieved some of their objectives, they also face some challenges such as lack of involvement of social partners and stakeholders; high level of corruption, policy inconsistency; poor governance.

### **Conclusion**

It is apparent from the findings that both the central and state government youths empowerment programmes operated in Adamawa State, have collectively and at different time achieved some of their goals of supporting youths participation in entrepreneurial activities, particularly in Maiha, Hong and Numan local government areas.

### **Recommendations**

The ultimate goal of the Government Programmes in the Country is to provide a permanent care for the extreme hunger and poverty necessitated by unemployment particularly among the teeming youths. The prospect of enhancing the programmes performance is real, if the challenges facing the Programmes in the Country and the study area in particular are resolve through the following recommendations:

1. The Government should come up with holistic approach to fight corruption in the country through adequate legislation which can empower the existing corruption related agencies to perform independently.

2. The Local Government Councils as the third tier of government operating at the grass-root level be involved in the planning and implementation stages of all poverty related programmes in the Country.
3. There is need for our political class to have the country at heart and develop the attitude of policy continuity rather than pursue selfish projects/programmes
4. The Government should ensure that adequate resources are allocated for human development which is a critical component of national development

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