

Assessment of the Effectiveness of N-Power Towards Curbing Youth Unemployment in Nsukka Local Government Area

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Article DOI:

10.48028/iiprds/ijdshms.v14.i1.22

Keywords:

Effectiveness,
Assessment, N-
Power,
Unemployment,
Youth, Nsukka LGA

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Abstract

This study examines the assessment of the effectiveness of N-Power towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka Local Government Area. Youth unemployment is a global phenomenon and entering the labour market poses major challenges to young people in many countries, taking for example the youth unemployment rate moreover is outrageous and that prompted the government to come up with the N-power initiative to tackle such menace. N-power programme is a federal government initiative of the Muhamadu Buhari led administration in combating youth unemployment and empowering the youths. The objective of this study is to access the effectiveness of the N-power programme to ascertain the extent it has helped in curbing youth unemployment, in Nigeria using Nsukka local government as a case study. This study adopted cross sectional survey research design. The instruments for data collection were questionnaire and In-dept Interview Guide (IDI). A sample size of 204 was statistically determined for the study using Taro Yamane (1967) formula for sample size determination. The data generated was analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The findings revealed that majority of the respondents were of the view that N-power programme or initiative was not effective. The study therefore recommended that government programmes should be designed to open up equal possibilities for young men and women, also that N-power initiative should be reviewed to examine whether or not they provide the necessary services needed by the youth and adequate sensitization of the youth on the gains of N-power. Also, government and social workers should help in creating awareness of the existence of such programme so that the youth will make use of the welfare package.

Background to the Study

Globally, youth unemployment is a phenomenon and entering the labour market poses major challenges for young people in many countries. Youth tend to face particular difficulties in entering the labour market. In general, young people are in a more vulnerable position than prime-age members of the labour force, and they are more severely affected by economic fluctuations (World Development Report, 2013). Youths occupy a prominent place in any society. They are one of the greatest assets any nation can have. Apart from being the leaders of tomorrow, they out-number the middle-aged and the aged (Onyekpe, 2007). The National Youth Development Policy (2001) asserts that the youth are the foundation of a society; their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation. Through their creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides. The youth are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, active and the most productive phase of life as citizens. The youth are also most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of social-economic, emotion and other aspects (Anasi, 2010).

The National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people aged between 18 and 35. They constitute about 40 percent of the more than 140 million people of Nigeria. The Nigeria's unemployment rate is projected at over 11 percent compared to the average rate of 9.5 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2004), young people aged between 15 and 24 years account for 52.9 percent of unemployed people while those aged between 25 and 44 years accounted for 41.1 percent. Therefore, those in age bracket of 15 and 44 years account for 94 percent of the total unemployed persons in Nigeria (Osibanjo, 2006).

According to International Labour Organisation {ILO} (2018), the global unemployment rate has been stabilizing after a rise in 2016. It is expected to have reached 5.6 per cent in 2017, with the total number of unemployed exceeding 192 million persons. As the long-term global economic outlook remains modest despite stronger than expected growth in 2017, the report attributes the positive trend between 2017 and 2018 mainly to the strong performance of labour markets in developed countries, where the unemployment rate is projected to fall by an additional 0.2 percentage points in 2018 to reach 5.5 per cent, a rate below pre-crisis levels. According to Amadeo (2019), Unemployment as defined by Bureau of Labour Statistics may be seen as people who do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and are currently available for work. Also, people who were temporarily laid off and were waiting to be called back to that job are included in the unemployment statistics. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment has increased, widen, and has become ramified, engulfing and overwhelming majority of the population (Achinulo, 2015). Countries in sub-Saharan Africa such as Kenya, Ghana, Togo, Niger, Nigeria among others are currently with the highest rate of unemployment/poverty and consequently with the lowest level of socio- economic development, violence, corruption, unrest and generally unacceptable low standard of living (Innocent, Eikojonwa & Enojo, 2014).

In Nigeria, it has become one of the most serious socio-economic problems confronting the country. The magnitude of this can be appreciated if accurate statistics could be obtained from the Federal Bureau of Statistics on the number of unemployed youths roaming the streets of Nigerian cities (Ajufo, 2013). Youth unemployment poses a risk to the Nigerian society. The consequence of this problem, if no major corrective initiatives are taken, could be disastrous for the nation (World Bank, 2013). Unemployment has become a major problem bedevilling the lives of Nigerian youth causing frustration, dejection and dependency on family members and friends, who also have their own problems to contend with (Ajufo, 2013). In recent times, there have been notable adverse social, economic and political developments in Nigeria, a consequence of youth unemployment and underemployment, particularly exemplified by increasing militancy, violent crimes, kidnapping, restiveness and political instability (Fanimu and Olayinka, 2009).

Regrettably, unemployment rate in Nigeria has been on the increase since the economic crisis in the year of 2014. Numerically, the trend of unemployment in Nigeria between 2011 and 2015 that remained below 30% during most of the period, suddenly increased sharply from 25.1% in 2014 to 36% in 2015 (UNDP, 2017). In fact, the national youth survey conducted in 2012 indicates that the proportion of youth (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training was 20.5%. Similarly, the multiple indicators cluster survey showed that 14.7% of Nigerian children aged 5-17 years were engaged in child labour during the same period (NBS, 2011). However, more recently, of the 20.9 million persons classified as unemployed as of 2018, 11.1 million did some form of work but for few hours a week to be officially classified as employed, while 9.7 million did nothing. Then of these 9.7 million that were employed, 35% have been unemployed for less than one year, 17.2% for a year, 15.7% unemployed with no alternative for two years while the balance 32.1% unemployed doing nothing for three and above years (NBS, 2018).

Clearly, for the latest period (2018) the unemployment rate for young people (15-35 years) declined to 29.7% from 30.5% in 2018. However, there was an increase given the rate of 2015 (13.7%) 2016 (19.1%), and 2017 (25.5%). However, underemployment within the youth population (15-35years) during the same quarter declined from 27.2% (2017) to 25.7% in 2018Q3. Therefore, as of 2018, 55.7% of young people were either underemployed or unemployed (doing nothing) compared to 52.6% in the same period of 2017 (NBS, 2018).

Despite high spirited efforts of the government to reduce unemployment by creating policies and supportive programmes such as N-Power that enhances job creation and entrepreneurial development, unemployment rate has remained high, with youth unemployment put at over 50% (IMF, 2013; Risenetworks, 2013). This raises concern on how effective this government programme is aimed at creating jobs and entrepreneurial culture in Nigeria (Goodluck & Eromonsele, 2018). It is also worthy to note that for this policies and supportive programme to be effective, social workers should be consulted for transparent rendering of social work services and also be involved in the policy

formulation and implementation. These social work services include creation of job awareness about the existing programmes such as N-Power from the government to curb youth unemployment.

According to Uzuegbu (2004), social work is a profession that helps people as individuals, groups, organisation and communities to solve problems that they encounter in life. Thus, it is basically aimed at assisting youths who have difficulty in coping with unemployment problems as members of a communities. Social workers assist people to reflect on their aspirations, interests, competencies, personal attributes, qualification and abilities to match these with available training and employment opportunities. They play key roles in helping labour market work and education systems meet their goals. For this reason, social workers are needed to tackle the problems of youth unemployment in Nigeria (The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2004). It is vital that social workers play crucial role by sensitizing the masses in general and Nsukka people in particular on the programme by government initiative (Uzuegbu, 2004). It is obvious that the effectiveness of the government initiative (N-Power) towards curbing youth unemployment are not adequately felt. This is because the N-Power programme by the Federal Government of Nigeria provides employment opportunities for 20% of the unemployed youths which is regarded as a subset of the whole population (Goodluck & Eromonsele, 2018). Several studies have been carried out as regards to unemployment and its alleviation. Adamu and Inuwa (2016) observed that efforts were made by current government in Nigeria headed by Mohammedu Buhari through the initiation of N-Power that will at least reduce youth unemployment level to all form of ramification.

Agbara (2016) observed that youth unemployment programme such N-Power has not impacted significantly on unemployment reduction in Nigeria. All these studies were done in Nigeria, but none has been carried out in Nsukka LGA which is aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the N-Power programme in curbing youth unemployment. Based on the foregoing, this study therefore aims at assessing the effectiveness of N-Power towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA.

The general objective of the study is to examine the assessment of the effectiveness of N-Power towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA. Specifically,

1. To find out the knowledge of Nsukka youth on the available N-Power programme in Nsukka LGA?
2. To determine the effectiveness of N-Power programme towards curbing youth's unemployment in Nsukka LGA?
3. To ascertain the challenges of N-Power programme in curbing youth's unemployment in Nsukka LGA?
4. To find the roles do social workers play in enhancing the effectiveness of N-Power towards curbing the youth unemployment?

Methodology

This study was conducted in Nsukka LGA and it adopted the cross-sectional survey research design. This design was used for the study because it permitted the researcher to obtain useful data in a short period of time from a sample. Nsukka has a population of 309,633 people comprising 149,241 male and 160,392 females (National Bureau of Statistics, 2010) and after projection to 2023, has 204,500 number of youths currently. The area of study consists of seventeen (17) communities among which were: Alor-uno, Ede-oballa, Edem, Eha-alumona, Ibagwa-ani, Lejja, Obimo, Obukpa, Okpaligbo, Okpuje, Okutu, Opi, Anuka, Nsukka, and Eha-ndiagu, Ibagwa agu, and Umabor (Enugu State Government, 2015). The only instrument adopted was quantitative method of data collection which involved the use of questionnaires with population size of 204. The study went through three stages before the relevance data were collected. Firstly, three communities were selected. They are Edem, Nru and Nsukka. Nsukka town was purposively selected because it is the only urban town. Secondly, from the three communities, two villages will be further selected from each community Edem, Nru and Nsukka. The names of the villages were written and placed in a basket and two (2) villages were randomly picked making a total of six (6) villages. Edem is made up of three autonomous villages which are Edem-ani, Akpa-edem and Ozi-edem. Out of these villages, two will be selected and they are Edem-ani, and Akpa-edem. Nru community comprises of the following villages: Amora, Umakashi, Umu-ugwoye, Amaukpocha and umudinkwo.

Out of these six villages, two villages were randomly selected and they were Amora and Umakashi. Also, in Nsukka which comprises of Amukwa, Amaofia, Umuchiru, Umudiaka, Mbuke among others, two villages were selected namely: Amukwa and Umudiaka for the study. Thirdly, the individuals were selected using availability sampling technique. The researcher visited the villages and, in each village, households will be randomly selected. Thirty-four (34) households were selected from each village. From the selected households, the researcher picked the first available thirty-four (34) youths making it a total of two hundred and four (204) youths for the study.

Data collected with the instrument was edited to ensure accuracy. The quantitative data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 20. Statistical means such as percentages, frequency tables, among others were used to reduce the raw data into manageable proportions. Also, the study hypotheses were tested using chi-square (χ^2). Therefore, conclusion was drawn based on the result of the tested hypothesis. Thematic analysis was used for the qualitative analysis. Thematic analysis entailed categorizing the variable into themes and using direct quotes to bring out exactly what the respondents said.

Results

This section dealt with the analysis, presentation and interpretation of data collected in the field. Data collected were analyzed using frequency distribution tables. It is made up of two (2) sections. Section one (1) discussed the socio-demographic characteristics of the

respondents. Section two (2) presented the discussion on the substantial issues of the study. It is important to note that the process of data collection had 97% return rate. Out of the 204 questionnaire that was distributed 197 were filled and returned, the remaining questionnaire not accounted for here were either wrongly filled or lost in the field.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	75	38.1
Female	122	61.9
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the percentage distribution of the respondents by sex. Out of total of 197 respondents, 38.1% of the respondents were male, while 61.9% were female. The shows that majority of the respondents were female.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by place of Residence

Place of residence	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	139	70.6
Rural	58	29.4
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024.

The table above shows the percentage distribution of the respondents by place of residence. Out of total of 197 respondents, 70.6% of the respondents were from residence urban area while 29.4% resided in rural area. It can be observed that majority of the respondents resides in urban area.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
16-25 years	173	87.8
26-35 years	24	12.2
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the percentage distribution of the respondents by age. Out of total of 197 respondents, 87.8% of the respondents were between the age ranges of 16-25 years, while 12.2% of the respondents were between the age ranges of 26-35 years. This showed that majority of the respondents were between the age ranges of 16 to 25 years.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	180	91.4
Married	14	7.1
Divorced	3	1.5
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by marital status. Out of total of 197 respondents, 91.4% of respondents were single, 7.1% were married, and 1.5% were divorced. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were single.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Religious Affiliation

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	192	97.5
Islam	1	.5
African Traditional Religion	4	2.0
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by religious affiliation. Out of total of 197 respondents, 97.5% of the respondents were Christians, 0.5% of the respondents were Islam, and 2.0% of the respondents practice African Traditional Religion. This showed that majority of the respondent were Christians.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	4	2.0
FSLC	5	2.5
WAEC/GCE	93	47.2
OND/NCE	14	7.1
HND/B.Sc	77	39.1
M.Sc	4	2.0
Total	197	100.0

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by place of residence. Out of total of 200 respondents, 2.0% of the respondents had not formal education, 2.5% had First School Living Certificate, 47.2% of the respondents had WAEC/GCE certification, 7.1% had OND/NCE certification, 39.1% of the respondents had HND/B.Sc certification, and 2.0% of the respondents Masters of Science certification. It can be observed that majority of the respondents had WAEC certification.

Specific Issues of the Research

Table 7: Percentage distribution of respondents by awareness of any government initiative programme in their environment.

Awareness	Frequency	Percent
Yes	197	100
No	00	00
Total	197	100.0

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by awareness of any government initiative programme in their environments. Out of total of 197 respondents, 89.8% of the respondent were aware of government initiative programme in their community, while 10.2% were not aware. This showed that 89.8% of the respondents were aware of government initiative programme in their community.

Table 8: If yes to above Question, what are the Government Initiative Programmes

Government initiative Programmes	Frequency	Percentage
N-Power Programme	94	53.1
Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank Loan	15	8.5
National Poverty Eradication Programmes	5	2.8
Youth Empowerment Scheme	28	15.8
Roads and Rural Infrastructure	15	8.5
All of the above	5	2.8
None of the above	15	8.5
Total	197	100

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows that 47.7% of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme in their community was N-Power programme, 7.6% indicated Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank Loan, 2.5% indicated National Poverty Eradication Programmes, 14.2% indicated Youth Empowerment Scheme, 7.6% indicated Roads and Rural Infrastructure, 2.5% indicated all of the above and 7.6% indicated none of the above. In addition, 10.2% of the respondents designated as not applicable are those respondents who are not aware of any government initiative programme. Hence are not in the position to answer the questions. It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme in their community was the N-Power Programme.

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by whether these programmes made Available in your Community.

Programmes available in the community	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	117	66.1
No	30	16.9
Don't know	30	16.9
Total	197	100

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by whether these programmes made available in your community. Out of total of 197 respondents, 59.4% of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme was available in their community, while 15.2% were of the view that they are not available, and 15.2% indicated that they don't know. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme was available in their community.

Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by which of the Government Initiative programmes have you engaged/benefited from

	Frequency	Percentage
N-Power Programme	50	28.2
Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank Loan	17	9.6
National Poverty Eradication Programmes	8	4.5
Youth Empowerment Scheme	48	27.1
Human Capital Development	9	5.1
Roads and Rural Infrastructure	15	8.5
All of the above	5	2.8
None	25	14.1
Total	197	100

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by which of the government initiative programmes have you engaged/benefited from. Out of total of 197 respondents, 25.4% of the respondents were of the view that the government initiatives programme they have benefited from was N-Power Programme, 8.6% indicated Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank Loan, 4.1% indicated National Poverty Eradication Programmes, 24.4% indicated Youth Empowerment Scheme, 4.6% indicated Human Capital Development, 7.6% indicated Roads and Rural Infrastructure, 2.5% indicated all of the above, and 12.7% indicated that they have not benefited from any of the government initiative programme. In addition, 10.2% of the respondents designated as not applicable are those respondents who are not aware of any government initiative programme. Hence are not in the position to answer the questions. It can be observed that

greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme they have benefited from was N-Power programme.

Table 11: Percentage distribution of respondents by whether they are aware of a programme called N-Power from the recent government.

Awareness of N-power programme	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	177	89.8
No	20	10.2
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by whether they are aware of a programme called N-Power from the recent government. Out of total of 197 respondents, 89.8% of the respondents were of the view that they are aware of government initiative programme called N-Power, while 10.2% were not aware. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were aware of government initiative programme called N-Power.

Table 12: Percentage Distribution of Respondents on if they are among the Beneficiary of N-Power Programmes.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	25.4
No	102	51.8
Don't know	25	12.7
Not applicable	20	10.2
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by place of residence. Out of total of 197 respondents, 25.4% of the respondents were of the view that they are among the beneficiary of N-Power, while 51.8% were of the view that they are not beneficiary, and 12.7% indicated that they don't know. However, it can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that they are among the beneficiary of N-Power.

Table 13: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by what is the Assessment of the N-Power Programme in your Community.

Assessment of N-power in the community	Frequency	Percentage
Effective	75	38.9
Not effective	102	51.8
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by what is the assessment of the N-Power programme in your community. Out of total of 197 respondents, 38.1% of the respondents indicated that N-Power programme in their community is effective, while 51.8% indicated that the N-Power programme is not effective. It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the N-Power programme is not effective. The information from the IDI supported this finding, a respondents indicated thus:

There are some graduates being rewarded by the N-Power but there impact are not felt in the community because most of them end up going to collect their salary where as they don't discharge their community developmental duties that they are bound to render to the community but due to the high degree of corruption in the country no body check mates and so on, that is just the situation we found ourselves, it is not effective, the impact is not felt, it created an avenue for the graduate B.Sc holders who are jobless courtesy of unemployment to get monthly allowance that could sustain you tend to shy away from community nuisance in the society. (Male N-Power beneficiary, Nsukka urban).

Table 14: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Whether there are Challenges faced by (N-Power) Programme in Curbing Youth Unemployment in your community.

Are there challenges faced by N-power	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	133	67.5
No	10	5.1
Don't know	34	17.3
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by whether there are challenges faced by (N-Power) programme in curbing youth unemployment in your community. Out of total of 197 respondents, 67.5% of the respondents were of the view that there were challenges faced by N-Power programme in curbing youth unemployment in their community, while 5.1% indicated that there were no challenges faced by N-Power programme in curbing youth unemployment in their community. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that there were challenges faced by N-Power programme in curbing youth unemployment.

Table 16: Percentage Distribution of Respondents on Challenges Faced by (N-Power) Programme in Curbing Youth Unemployment in your Community.

The challenges faced by N-power	Frequency	Percentage
Corrupt recruitment process	69	51.9
Lack of proper coordination	44	33.1
None payment of salary	5	3.8
Inaccessibility of the programmes	5	3.8
All of the above	10	7.5
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows that 51.9% of the respondent were of the view that the challenges faced by N-power programme was corrupt recruitment process, 33.1% indicated lack of proper coordination, 3.8% indicated none payment of salary, 3.8% indicated Inaccessibility of the programmes, and 7.5% indicated all of the above. It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the challenges faced by N-power programme was corrupt recruitment process.

Table 17: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by what is your Assessment of Youth Unemployment in Nsukka LGA

Assessment of youth unemployment in Nsukka	Frequency	Percentage
High	155	78.7
Low	42	21.3
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by what is your assessment of youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA. Out of total of 197 respondents, 78.7% of the respondents were of the view that youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA was high, while 21.3% indicated that it was low. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA was high.

Table 18: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by what are the Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria.

Causes of youth employment in Nigeria	Frequency	Percentage
Corruption and lack of purposive leadership	54	27.4
Poor governance	58	29.4
Unavailability of jobs	10	5.1
Lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute	5	2.5
All of the above	70	35.5
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by what are the causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Out of total of 197 respondents, 27.4% of the respondents were of the view that corruption and lack of purposive leadership was the cause of youth unemployment in Nigeria, 29.4% indicated poor governance, 5.1% indicated Unavailability of jobs, 2.5% indicated lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute, and 35.5% indicated all of the above (corruption and lack of purposive leadership, poor governance, Unavailability of jobs, and lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute). It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the following were the causes of unemployment: Corruption and lack of purposive leadership; poor governance; Unavailability of jobs; and lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute. Information from IDI also disagreed with this finding, a participants stated that:

The problem is that is not all that beneficial like it just like few people, it does not comprise majority of people because of that qualification so it will now make it to suite in a specific area like the educated ones, leaving the non-educated ones. (Male graduate, Opi).

Table 19: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by has the Government Initiative programme (N-Power) in your Community Curbed Youth Unemployment Problem in Nigeria.

Government initiatives to curb youth unemployment in my community	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	84	42.6
No	113	57.4
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by has the government initiative programme (N-Power) in your community curbed youth unemployment problem in Nigeria. Out of total of 197 respondents, 42.6% of the respondents were of the view that N-power programme has curbed unemployment in Nigeria, while 57.4% indicated that the N-power programme has not curbed unemployment in Nigeria. It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that N-power programme has not curbed unemployment in Nigeria.

Table 20: Percentage Distribution of Respondents on how N-Power Programmes has helped Curbed Youth Unemployment problem

Has N-power curb youth unemployment problem	Frequency	Percentage
Increased income	39	46.4
Improved skills	18	21.4
Good farming incentives and techniques	5	6.0
Employment to the youth	22	26.2
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows that 48.2% of the respondents were of the view that N-power programme has curbed youth unemployment problem by increasing youths' income level, 34.5% indicated improved skills, 7.1% indicated good farming incentives and techniques, 5.1% indicated. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that N-power programme has curbed youth unemployment problem by increasing youths' income level and creation of employment to the youths.

Table 21: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by to what extent does Political Instability and Absence of good Governance affect the N-Power programme in Nsukka L.G.A

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
To a very high extent	95	48.2
To a high extent	68	34.5
To a low extent	14	7.1
To a very low extent	10	5.1
Not at all	10	5.1
Total	197	100.0

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by to what extent does political instability and absence of good governance affect the N-Power programme in Nsukka L.G.A. Out of total of 197 respondents, 48, 2% of the respondents were of the view that political instability and absence of good governance affect the N-power programme in Nsukka LGA to a very high extent, 34.5% indicated to a high extent, 7.1% indicated to low extent, 5.1% indicated to a very low extent, and 5.1% indicated that political instability and absence of good governance does not affect the N-power programme in Nsukka LGA. It can be observed that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that political instability and absence of good governance affect the N-power programme in Nsukka LGA to a very high extent.

Table 22: Percentage distribution of respondents by what roles should social workers play in enhancing the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) to curb youth unemployment in your community.

Roles of social worker in enhancing effectiveness of government initiative programmes	Frequency	Percentage
Sensitization programmes	24	12.2
Radio Jingles	25	12.7
Mass mobilization	29	14.7
Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes	24	12.2
Positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes	10	5.1
All of the above	80	40.6
Don't know	5	2.5
Total	197	100.0

Source: Field work, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by what roles should social workers play in enhancing the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) to curb youth unemployment in your community. Out of total of 197 respondents, 12.2% of the respondents were of the view that social workers carry out sensitization programmes in enhancing the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) to curb youth unemployment in your community, 12.7% indicated radio jingles, 14.7% indicated mass mobilization, 12.2% indicated Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, 5.1% indicated positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes, and 40.6% indicated all of the above (sensitization programmes, radio Jingles, mass mobilization, Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, and Positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes). It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that social workers carry out the following roles to enhance the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) in curbing youth unemployment in their community. The information from the IDI supported this finding, a respondent stated that:

From the knowledge I have about social work is about speaking for people, helping people, something like that and when you help people and you see that they are in problem, it is your duty bound to help the people and you hear about their issues, the place of the people, what you should do is perhaps talk to the government about it or advocate on their behalf something like that, I don't really know but I think it is something of that nature. (Female Graduate, Obukpa).

Discussion of Findings

N-power programme is a government initiative programmes that is meant to empower the youth and reduce the level of poverty among youths in Nigeria. This study provided significance findings for instance, in the demographical data of the respondents, the findings reveal that female respondents (61.9%) while male respondents (38.1%) were used for the study. The findings also reveal that majority of the respondents (87.8%) are within the age range of 16 to 25 years. Furthermore, the finding shows that majority of the respondents (47.2%) completed their secondary education as they have GCE/SSCE. Also, the findings reveal that the majority of the respondents (97.5%) are Christians.

Pertaining the substantive issues of the study, which is to find out the effectiveness of government initiative (N-Power) towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA, the findings reveal that majority (89.8%) of the respondents were aware of government initiative programme in their community. Also, the findings reveal that greater proportion of the respondents (47.7%) were of the view that the government initiative programme in their community was the N-Power Programme. This disagrees with the findings of Ayebe (2016) who stated that National Poverty Eradication Programmes (NAPEP) was the major government initiative programme in Nigeria.

The findings also showed that the majority of the respondents (51.8%) indicated that the N-Power programme is not effective. This also disagrees with the work of Nwaobi (2019) which states that N-Power has been able tackle some of the unemployment problem in Nigeria especially in Nsukka. In other words, it was viewed as very effective in Nigeria. In conclusion, it can be observed that greater percentage (35.5%) of the respondents were of the view that the following were the causes of unemployment: Corruption and lack of purposive leadership; poor governance; Unavailability of jobs; and lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute. The findings also revealed that social workers can play significant roles in managing the unemployment situation. In table 21, (12.2%) of the respondents were of the view that social workers carry out sensitization programmes in enhancing the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) to curb youth unemployment in your community, (12.7%) indicated radio jingles, (14.7%) indicated mass mobilization, (12.2%) indicated Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, 5.1% indicated positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes, and (40.6%) indicated all of the above (sensitization programmes, radio Jingles, mass mobilization, Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, and Positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes).

Summary of Findings

The study examines the effectiveness of government initiative (N-Power) towards curbing youth unemployment in Nigeria using Nsukka LGA as a case study. The findings also reveal that majority of the respondents (87.8%) are within the age range of 16 to 25 years. Furthermore, the finding shows that majority of the respondents (47.2%) completed their secondary education as they have GCE/SSCE. Also, the findings reveal

that the majority of the respondents (97.5%) are Christians. The findings reveal that majority (89.8%) of the respondents were aware of government initiative programme in their community. Also, the findings reveal that greater proportion of the respondents were of the view that the government initiative programme in their community was the N-Power Programme.

The findings also showed that the majority of the respondents (51.8%) indicated that the N-Power programme is not effective. In conclusion, it can be observed that the causes of unemployment in Nigeria includes corruption and lack of purposive leadership; poor governance, unavailability of jobs; and lack of clear vision and proper policy to execute. The findings also revealed that social workers can play significant roles in managing the unemployment situation. In table 21, (12.2%) of the respondents were of the view that social workers carry out sensitization programmes in enhancing the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) to curb youth unemployment in your community, (12.7%) indicated radio jingles, (14.7%) indicated mass mobilization, (12.2%) indicated Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, 5.1% indicated positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes, and (40.6%) indicated all of the above (sensitization programmes, radio Jingles, mass mobilization, Counselling people on the need to utilize poverty alleviation programmes, and Positioning the mind-set of people towards poverty alleviation programmes). It can be observed that majority of the respondents were of the view that social workers carry out the following roles to enhance the effectiveness of government initiative programme (N-Power) in curbing youth unemployment in their community.

Limitations of the Study

In the course of this research, the researcher was faced with number of challenges such as inadequate time frame to carry out the research and finance. Also, in administering the questionnaire, some of the respondents were not literate enough; therefore, it took the researcher time in explaining the context of the questionnaire to the respondents. Also, the researcher administered (204) questionnaires but only (197) were returned. This posed a threat to the actualization of the research work. But the researcher intensified efforts and ensured that the work was done well and completed in good time.

Conclusion

This study examined the assessment of the effectiveness of government initiative (n-power) towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA. It described unemployment as global phenomenon and one of the most serious problems facing humanity in recent times. There have been several efforts made by governments in Nigeria to curb the menace of unemployment and despite all these efforts, unemployment in all its senses still remains a common sight in Nigeria. However, most of these government initiative programmes are not made available to communities in Nsukka LGA, and even when available, very few of such programme is utilized. In Nsukka LGA, there is poor awareness of N-Power which has resulted to poor utilization by the youth and this poor utilization of this programme was attributed to the

mismanagement of the programme, inaccessibility of the programme, corruption and lack of seriousness on the part of the beneficiary, misinformation among others.

For the N-Power programme to be effective, it should be thoroughly monitored, good policies that will ensure sustainability of the programme should be enacted and youth should be informed to key into the N-Power programmes. Social workers can contribute their own quota towards enhancing the availability and utilization of this programme through radio jingles, mass mobilization, counselling the youth on the need to engage in N-Power programme and positioning the mindset of the people towards unemployment alleviation.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher proposes the following recommendations to guild the government, organisations, social workers and general public on the issue of unemployment. The following recommendation thus:

1. Existing and potential policies and programmes of government should be designed to open up equality possibilities for young men and women (youth) rather than widening the yawning gap of social inequality between both sexes.
2. The N-Power programme should be reviewed to examine whether or not they provide the necessary services needed by the youth.
3. Policy-makers in Nigeria should abide by the principle of social justice and practice it by equally involving all the youth in making policies that concern their welfare.
4. Policy makers should be more innovative such that new and existing policy options can blend especially where such approach will be beneficial to both young men and women (youth) equitably.
5. Adequate sensitization of youth on the gains of N-Power should be carried out by government and non-government agencies in every community.
6. Government should provide the entire infrastructure needed for the social workers to introduce jingles and talk shows on the importance of assessing of effectiveness of government initiative (n-power) towards curbing youth unemployment in Nsukka LGA through the media to cover a wider population of the country to secure the future of the youth for a better tomorrow.

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