

Effect of Sustainable Development Goal's Social Support Operation (YESSO) Programme on Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation in Kwali Area Council, Abuja-Nigeria

¹Nyangwae Nuvalga Audu, ²David C. Nwogbo, ³Harrison Ataide & ⁴Musa Zakari

^{1,2&4}*National Open University of Nigeria, FCT Abuja*

³*University of Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State*

Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/ijarppads.v6.i1.18

Abstract

This study examined the effect of Sustainable Development Goal's Social Support Operation (Yesso) Programme on Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation in Kwali Area Council, Abuja-Nigeria. The implementation of the SDGs has been a global endeavor to address various socio-economic challenges, including poverty and inequality. The research adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive analysis. Data were collected from relevant sources, including governmental reports and surveys, with key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the SDGs in FCT, Abuja. The study adopted Basic Needs Theory as developed by Maslow's (1973) and John Burton's (1990) as theoretical framework. The finding further revealed that the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs have a statistically significant positive effect on the skill development of beneficiaries. This suggests that the implementation of these programs has been successful in enhancing the technical skills of individuals, potentially leading to increased employability and income generation opportunities. It was also revealed that SDGs' Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) program did not enhance employment generation in the area councils. This suggests that the implementation of the YESSO program has led to a decrease in employment opportunities in the area councils, potentially indicating some challenges or limitations in its design or execution. This indicates that the program did not successfully create sustainable job options and supporting entrepreneurship in the area councils thereby potentially contributing to weakening the government in poverty alleviation efforts. The study recommends the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the targeted households are receiving adequate support. Additionally, efforts should be made to strengthen the accountability and transparency mechanisms of the program to prevent leakage and ensure the funds are reaching the intended beneficiaries. The program should focus on providing farmers with necessary resources, such as infrastructure, training, and technology, to improve the quality and quantity of their produce. Furthermore, targeted interventions should be implemented to address specific challenges faced by farmers, such as limited access to credit or lack of market information.

Keywords: *Sustainable Development Goal, Social Support Operation (YESSO), employment generation, Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria*

Corresponding Author: Musa Zakari

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals Agency has adopted some sustainable development strategies for rural development and poverty alleviation that are in line with territorial development planning documents of UN policies, EU sustainable development, environmental, and other policies, strategic national and regional development documents, and sectoral policies and programmes (Kamruzzaman, 2016). The Sustainable Development Goals Agency's strategies are grounded in a long-term plan with the end goal of achieving the SDGs by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals Agency has an overarching plan for future progress, a set of top objectives for development, and some ideas on how to best achieve that plan's goals. The targets are designed to spur action over the next 15 years in crucial areas for human and environmental well-being (UN, 2015). Poverty remains a significant challenge in Nigeria, particularly in urban areas, including the FCT. It is essential to explore the potential of the SDGs in addressing this issue and improving the well-being of vulnerable populations.

The study examines the extent to which the implementation of specific Effect of Sustainable Development Goal's Social Support Operation (YESSO) on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria has contributed to poverty alleviation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils. It will also examine the inter-linkages between different SDGs and how progress in one goal can positively or negatively impact other related goals. The Nigerian government at all levels made several policies and programmes to address the problems of poverty and inequality. Despite these efforts, the rise in the standard of living noticed in the advanced world has not trickled down favourably to the developing countries, as a gap still exists between the haves and the have-nots, (Uwaoma, 2020). This phenomenon has led to a constant review of approaches to poverty alleviation programmes in the country. One of the major poverty alleviation programmes is the SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes, a World Bank-funded project implemented by the Nigerian government to reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities for youth in Abuja and other states in Nigeria, the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), a comprehensive social protection programme aimed at reducing poverty and improving the welfare of vulnerable groups in Nigeria, including children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, and the Anchor Borrowers Programme, the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative, and the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme, among others. Thus, this study seeks to evaluate the effect of SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, SDGs policies were strengthened by the appointment of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with a wide array of stakeholders that included line Ministries, Civil Society Organizations; organized Private Sector, the Academia; Development Partners; youth groups; women's organizations; persons with

disabilities, as well as, Media Organizations (Oleribe, 2016). Though some of the activities of SDGs exist, the efficiency of SDGs in enhancing poverty reduction and rural development in Nigeria from 2015-2020 has not been empirically examined and documented. In Nigeria, SDG policies and programmes were strengthened by the appointment of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with a wide array of stakeholders that included line ministries, civil society organisations, the organised private sector, academia, development partners, youth groups, women's organisations, persons with disabilities, as well as media organisations (Oleribe, 2016).

Though some of the activities of the SDGs exist, but the evaluate the effect of SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria. Despite the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the subsequent commitment of Nigeria to their implementation, the effectiveness of SDG initiatives in alleviating poverty in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils, FCT, Abuja remains uncertain. Therefore, there is a need to examine the specific effect of SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria in the selected Area councils. Against this backdrop, this study seeks to evaluate the effect of SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria in AMAC Bwari, Kuje Area Councils, and Nigeria.

The broad objective of this study is to examine the evaluate the effect of SDGs' Social Support Operation (YESSO) and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on employment generation in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria. The specific objectives are to: Examine the effect of SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes on poverty alleviation in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils. Find out how the effect of the implementation of the Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) on employment generation in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje area councils.

This study seeks to answer the following research questions;

1. How has the implementation of the SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes improved the skill development of the beneficiaries?
2. Has the implementation of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) programme of the SDGs facilitated employment generation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje area councils?

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study;

H₀₁: The implementation of technical skills acquisition training programmes of SDGs has no significant relationship with skill development of beneficiaries.

H₀₂: The implementation of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) programme of the SDG has no significant relationship with employment generation in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari area councils.

Conceptual Clarification

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development entails striking a delicate balance between human needs to improve lifestyle and well-being on the one hand and preserving natural resources and ecosystems on the other so that future generations' needs are not jeopardised. It can be defined as a form of development that ensures meeting the aspirations or needs of the present and also ensures that future generations are secured by preserving those natural resources and the ecosystem needed for further development. It implies economic growth together with the protection of environmental quality, each reinforcing the other. The objective or focus of sustainable development, therefore, is a stable relationship between human activities and the natural world that does not diminish the prospects for future generations to enjoy a quality life like the present generation.

Barbosa, Drach, & Corbella (2014), underscore the origin and concept of sustainability in this context. They point out, however, that the first definition came in the First World War, as described by Lester Brown in the mid-1980s in the Brundtland report. The idea of sustainable development was initially defined to include a sustainable society that can satisfy her needs without compromising future generations' chances of survival (Brown, 2011). It is understood that, in this context, society does not reach human civilization alone but with its whole set of complex environmental, social, and economic aspects.

In analyzing the definition of sustainable development, it is understood that it does not present a "magic recipe" solution to save the environment from degradation and depletion but rather suggests a change in humanity's behaviour. Moreover, this concept does not only mean saving the environment or some particular species, but human survival as well (Barter & Russell, 2012). These scholars also point to a clear statement that the human environmental system makes up a single, indivisible system, since by mentioning "generations," it refers to generations, past, present, and future and related to the human environment, since they are inseparable. This idea is corroborated by Weiss (1992), when he emphasizes that intergenerational equity corresponds to maintaining the planet's natural resources we share with other species and humans in past, present, and future generations. As stated by Barter and Russell (2012), the definition of sustainable development does not refer to saving nature but to the internalization of strategies and thus adding new resources to enable economic growth and prosperity to be shared by all. This term, sustainable development also refers to a series of processes and practices involving actions focusing on the improvement of human life (Blewitt, 2008; United Nations Secretary Generals High Level Panel on Global Sustainability (UNSGHLPS) 2012), providing a long-term vision "to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, make growth inclusive, and turn production and consumption more sustainable" (UNSGHLPS, 2012). The term "action" or "act" indicates that the survival of the human race cannot be outsourced; that is, the strategic attitudes that aid in our survival must start from humanity itself. It is important to note the importance given to the strategic issue, especially in relation to corporations, which are seen as essential actors in the face of innovations, practices, and technologies that can help generate sustainable results (Barter and Russell, 2012).

Overview of Sustainable Development Goals Global Indicator Framework

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) global Indicator Framework is a comprehensive framework developed by the United Nations (UN) to measure and monitor progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of addressing various social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world.

According to World Bank (2022), report the SDGs Indicator Framework consists of a set of globally agreed-upon indicators that provide a standardized and consistent way to track progress towards each goal and its targets. The framework includes a total of 231 unique indicators, covering a wide range of social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These indicators help policymakers, governments, and other stakeholders assess the implementation of the SDGs at the global, regional, and national levels. Each SDG has a set of specific targets, and the indicator framework provides a means to measure progress towards these targets. The indicators are designed to be universally applicable and adaptable to different national contexts, ensuring comparability of data across countries. They are also intended to be relevant, accurate, and easy to understand, allowing for effective monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.

Abdullahi (2018), The SDG Indicator Framework covers a broad spectrum of issues, including poverty eradication, health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace and justice, and partnerships for the goals. National statistical agencies are primarily responsible for collecting and reporting data on the SDG indicators. The data collected contributes to the annual progress reports produced by the UN, highlighting achievements, challenges, and areas requiring more attention and resources.

The SDG Indicator Framework plays a crucial role in promoting accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making. By tracking progress using the globally agreed indicators, policymakers and stakeholders can identify gaps, measure the impact of policies and interventions, and make informed decisions to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. Overall, the SDGs global Indicator Framework serves as a vital tool for assessing the world's progress towards sustainable development, promoting data-driven decision-making, and ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future (UN Sustainable Development, 2015).

Theoretical Framework

Basic Needs Theory

The study adopted Maslow's (1973) and John Burton's (1990) Basic Needs Theories. The basis for the adoption of human needs theories is that all humans have certain basic

universal needs and that when these needs are not met, conflict is likely to occur. Maslow (1973) proposed a hierarchy of needs beginning with the need for food, water, and shelter, followed by the need for safety and security, then belonging or love, self-esteem, and, finally, personal fulfilment and self-actualization. Later in his life, Maslow (1973) proposed self-transcendence as a need above self-actualization in the hierarchy of needs.

John Burton (1990) also identifies a set of needs, which he considers to be universal in their occurrence but with no hierarchical significance. His list of needs includes distributive justice, safety and security, belongingness, self-esteem, personal fulfilment, identity, cultural security, and freedom. While Maslow and Burton emphasize human biological, psychological, and social needs, Marshall Rosenberg introduces a new set of needs that could best be categorised as psycho-spiritual in nature, among them the need for "love integrity," "celebration and mourning," and "spiritual communion (Danesh, 2011)." Likewise, Max-Neef and his colleagues added their own uniquely understood human needs, including the need for "creation" and "leisure and idleness." (For a comparative review of these theories, see Kok, 2007). Simon Hertnon (2005) proposes the Theory of Universal Human Needs based on just two needs: survival and betterment. Under survival needs, he identifies physical and mental well-being, respect from others, and self-esteem (all required for happiness), a safe and healthy environment, logical reproductive practices, appreciation of life, and doing good things (all required for contentment).

Relevance of the Theory to the Study

The Basic Needs Theory and the study of the effect of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty alleviation in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils are interconnected and relevant in multiple ways. The Basic Needs Theory focuses on identifying and fulfilling the essential requirements for human well-being, such as food, shelter, healthcare, education, and employment. By applying this theory to the study of SDGs in the selected Area Councils of the FCT, researchers can gain insights into the specific needs of the local population living in poverty and assess the effectiveness of SDG interventions in meeting these needs.

The SDGs, including Goal 1: No Poverty, aim to reduce poverty and ensure access to basic necessities for all individuals. "Poverty is a pervasive problem in Nigeria. It manifests in the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Other features are hunger and malnutrition, lack of employment opportunities, limited access to health care, education, and other basic services, social discrimination, and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making" (Uzoh, 2024, p.128). The Basic Needs Theory provides a framework for assessing the impact of SDG implementation on poverty alleviation. Researchers can examine whether the SDGs address the basic needs of the impoverished population in these selected Area Councils and evaluate the success of interventions in improving their well-being. The Basic Needs Theory can inform policy and intervention design to address poverty in the selected Area councils and Nigeria as a whole by identifying the specific basic needs of the local population, policymakers and

stakeholders can tailor SDG implementation strategies to effectively meet those needs. This approach ensures that interventions are targeted and impactful, leading to better poverty alleviation outcomes. The Basic Needs Theory provides a basis for monitoring and evaluating the effect of SDG implementation on poverty alleviation in the area councils in FCT. By using indicators related to essential needs (e.g., access to education, healthcare, clean water), researchers can assess whether the interventions are effectively improving living conditions, reducing poverty rates, and enhancing the well-being of the population. Finally, the Basic Needs Theory is relevant to the study of the effect of SDGs on poverty alleviation in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje area councils in the FCT as it helps in understanding poverty, guiding policy design, monitoring progress, and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in meeting the basic needs of the local population.

Empirical Review

Empirical review refers to a systematic and comprehensive examination of existing empirical research studies conducted on a particular topic or research question. It involves the process of collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing the findings of multiple empirical studies to gain a deeper understanding of a specific area of study.

Research Objective I: SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes on poverty alleviation

Wang, Zhang, Wang, Chang, Fang, Yang, and Sun (2021) "The SDGs are meant to be achieved over a lengthy period of time, which places heavy demands on the long-term viability of linked policies and initiatives. We use a textual analysis approach to examine the implications of China's National Sustainable Communities (CNSCs) programme, which has been in place for 30 years, on the Sustainable Development Goals. Our research shows that the federal government requires a broader understanding of sustainable development before it can take effective action. "Poverty has remained a pervasive problem in Nigerian society, with a much more devastating dimension in the Niger Delta region where unemployment, underdevelopment, and squalor are realities of daily living for most people. This development gap has led to the reliance on multinational companies (MNCs) and other large indigenous business firms by host communities to complement the efforts of the government in enhancing their well-being" (Uzor, 2024, p.128). In regions with stronger economic foundations, goals related to human well-being take precedence, while in places with poorer foundations, goals related to fundamental economic development, infrastructure, and industrialization are prioritised.

One possible criticism of this study is that the use of textual analysis alone may not provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex interrelationships between China's National Sustainable Communities (CNSCs) program and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While textual analysis is a useful tool to identify patterns and themes in large bodies of text, it may not capture the full extent of the program's impact on the SDGs or account for other factors that may influence the prioritization of certain goals over others.

Additionally, the study's focus on regional economic foundations as a determining factor in the prioritization of SDGs may oversimplify the complex interplay of social, economic, and political factors that affect sustainable development outcomes in different regions. Other factors such as political will, institutional capacity, and community participation could also play important roles in shaping the implementation and success of the CNSCs program in achieving the SDGs.

Ismail, et al. (2020) "found that the post-basic education sector is essential to the success of the SDGs because of the positive effects it has on youth development, including increased employability and the development of important life skills. Undoubtedly, bettering post-basic education will aid in the realisation of the SDG's seventeen goals. It has been discovered that among Etisalat's postsecondary education interventions are career counselling sessions, which give students a chance to learn about career options they may choose as they move on to higher education institutions; this includes the Adopt a School programme, STEM camps for girls, and other similar initiatives. The post-basic sector's infrastructure and educational outputs have both benefited from its implementation. The SDGs serve as the basis for all of these efforts. This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the role that non-state actors, in particular MNCs, play in advancing the country of Nigeria's educational system and in achieving global sustainable development goals.

Fagbemi (2021) appraised the emanating effect of COVID-19 on sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Nigeria through the systematic illustration of the prevailing incidents. It was affirmed that the preoccupation with the COVID-19 cases caused many other critical socioeconomic issues (like education, infrastructure development, and employment) to suffer from negligence or be overlooked. Like other developing countries, Nigeria could become poorer due to the increased unemployment rate and the anticipated difficulty in servicing debt resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. Hence, festering challenges, including poverty, limited access to health care, low education quality, and poor road networks, among others, could be further entrenched. These incidents could be detrimental to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda. The current crisis, therefore, poses a threat to Nigeria's development prospects as it may take more time to recover, especially in the post-COVID-19 era. Thus, it is critical to recognise the significance of securing a strong institutional regulatory setup and the resources (including financial and material resources) needed to facilitate sustainable change in the economy.

Research Objective II: SDGs Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)

Abdulhakim (2021), assessed the impact of youth employment and social support operation programmes on poverty reduction among Skills for Job beneficiaries in Adamawa State. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The study was conducted in Yola North and Yola South Local Government Areas of Adamawa State. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Data were

collected with the instrument from 199 sampled respondents. Three experts validated the instrument, and the instrument was trial-tested using the test-retest method of estimating reliability; its reliability coefficient was found to be 0.84. The mean was used to answer the research questions. The findings of the study revealed the following: The first-level training was implemented satisfactorily. The S4J beneficiaries' feeding programme was done successfully. The monthly stipends paid to S4J beneficiaries influenced their livelihood positively, and the trainees acquired the required skills for poverty reduction during the internship. "In Nigeria these days, human battle to make cash every day and in the method a number of crimes are devoted. This phenomenon has risen to an alarming share. It's more common in recent times to Nigerians, especially youths, who want to have all the material comforts within the complete global without being geared up to paintings at all" (Uzoh, 2019, p.281). Recommendations made among others include: first-level training should be sustained in subsequent skill acquisition projects, and since the YESSO programme has ended, the government should come up with another programme that would succeed YESSO.

Temitope (2020), evaluates Nigeria's poverty alleviation strategies and sustainable development. These strategies and initiatives were introduced by both the present and past governments of Nigeria with the aim of reducing poverty to a minimum level. Nigeria's poverty situation has made the country one of the poorest countries in the world, with its citizens surviving on less than \$2 per day because efforts to reduce the poverty level over the years have not been successful. The survey method was employed, and primary and secondary data were used through a review of related literature. These initiatives are judged to be unsatisfactory and poorly implemented in meeting the number one sustainable development goal (SDG) by the year 2030 if not properly adjusted. The government needs to come up with ideas and policies to address all the obstacles hindering the success of the various strategy programmes. More so, the government should pursue aggressive diversification of the economy to include non-oil sectors like the agricultural sector so as to address poverty in rural communities.

Ominyi, Sule, and Salifu (2020) reassessed sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria, covering the period of 1986–2018. The data utilised was sourced from the World Bank's Development Indicators (2018). The study relied on Oscar's (1966) Individual Deficiencies theoretical postulations to provide insights on the significance of sustainable development towards poverty reduction. To undertake the empirical analysis, the study applied the Vector Error Correction Method (VECM). The VECM results revealed that per capita income, life expectancy rate, literacy rate, and GDP growth rate exerted a positive and significant effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria. However, the elasticity of the series is less than proportional, indicating a minimal effect and calling for an all-inclusive approach. The study concluded that improvements in the series have the capacity to reduce poverty levels in Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the government should ensure sustainable development in various socio-economic activities that can increase and sustain per capita income towards a better standard of living for the populace, which can result in poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Gap in Literature

While some studies mentioned the use of qualitative research methods, such as focus groups and interviews, most of the studies relied heavily on quantitative analysis. This suggests a potential gap in the literature regarding in-depth qualitative studies that can provide deeper insights and understanding of the complexities and nuances of poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Some studies relied solely on data analysis and did not incorporate the perspectives of key stakeholders, such as the beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs or local communities. Incorporating these perspectives can provide valuable insights and help inform the design and implementation of more effective poverty reduction strategies. Antonio (2020) study does not provide a detailed description of the High Value Agriculture Project (HVAP) itself, including its specific interventions, methodologies, and implementation strategies. The analysis does not delve into the specific challenges and limitations faced during the implementation of the HVAP. The study lacks quantitative data or statistical analysis to support the findings and claims made regarding the positive effects on household living conditions. Uwaoma et al. (2020) The study does not provide a comprehensive analysis of the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) in Abia State, Nigeria, including its specific interventions and outcomes. While the study acknowledges the impact of poverty on rural communities, it does not provide a detailed exploration of the underlying causes and factors contributing to poverty in the specific context of Abia State. The study does not offer specific policy recommendations or actionable strategies to address the identified issues and challenges. The study focuses solely on the gendered perspective of cassava processing in southwest Nigeria, limiting the generalizability of the findings to other regions or crops. The sample size of 250 cassava growers may not be representative of the entire population, raising concerns about the generalizability of the results.

The study lacks a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by female cassava growers and strategies to overcome these challenges. The study does not provide concrete policy recommendations to support women's participation in agricultural value chains. Fagbemi (2021) the study primarily focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, but it does not provide a detailed analysis of the specific effects on each SDG or their interrelationships. The study lacks quantitative data or statistical analysis to support the claims made regarding the impact of COVID-19 on socioeconomic issues and development prospects in Nigeria. While the study acknowledges the importance of a strong institutional regulatory setup and resources for sustainable change, it does not provide specific recommendations on how to achieve this in the context of Nigeria. Overall, these identified gaps suggest the need for more qualitative research, contextual analysis, comprehensive measurements, updated theoretical frameworks, stakeholder engagement, and transparent discussions of limitations and biases in future studies on poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Method and Material

For the purpose of this study, mix research methods were adopted. This consists of survey and documentary research design. It involves using questionnaires to collect data from the respondents and reviewing relevant documents to complement the questionnaire. The survey design was used in this study to determine the relationships between the independent variables (implementation of SDGs) and how they influence or impact on the dependent variable (poverty alleviation in FCT). This study therefore focuses on getting information on the implementation of SDGs and how they impact the achievement of poverty alleviation. The research relied heavily on both primary and secondary sources of data, as data gotten firsthand serves as primary sources, while using the scholarly view of other scholars regarding SDGs goal one. Secondary sources and documents from the SDGs office on the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes within the period under review were consulted.

The population of this study consists of rural households in FCT, Abuja: This group is particularly relevant as they are often among the most impoverished in the region and are more likely to be impacted by poverty reduction interventions. Women and youth in FCT, Abuja: These groups are disproportionately affected by poverty and have specific needs and challenges that need to be addressed. Beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs in FCT, Abuja: These groups provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of these programs and identify areas for improvement.

The most appropriate sampling technique for a study examining the effect of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty alleviation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja is the combinations of the following sampling techniques Stratified sampling: the population of the study were divided into subgroups (strata) based on relevant characteristics, such as socioeconomic status, gender, or location, and then randomly selecting a sample from each stratum. This approach ensures that the sample is representative of the diversity of the population and provides more accurate estimates of the relationships between SDGs and poverty alleviation across different subgroups. Purposive sampling was used to select participants from the selected communities. This method is useful because the researcher cannot access all the communities in FCT. Purposive sampling, which is a non-probability sampling technique, was adopted. This means the procedure of selection was deliberately chosen by the researcher. The study employs purposive sampling techniques whereby the researcher issue questionnaires to those who benefited from poverty alleviation programmes in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils Abuja within 2016 – 2022 and the administrators of SDGs in FCT.

A total number of four hundred (400) samples will be taken from the entire populations of the beneficiaries and implementers as well as other stakeholders in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils and selected staff of the Sustainable Development Goals Agency in Federal Capital Territory Using the Yamane (1967) formula, a sample size of 400 respondents were chosen for the study, which is a fair representation of the total number. This is because, the population of the study is known therefore, the Yamane (1973) was used to determine the sample size for the study as follows;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample Size

N = Total Population

e = Error Term

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 3,840 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 3,840 (0.0025)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 9.6}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{9,600} \quad n = 400 \text{ Sample size}$$

Data for this study were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were sourced from sampled population in the AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils. While secondary data were sourced from the textbooks and published journals on the subject matter.

Descriptive analysis using measures of central tendency and dispersion measures was used to present and analyse quantitative data. The researcher calculated the mean for the data in order to rank factors that Organization considers in choosing the strategies to be adopted. Standard deviation is the most widely used measure of dispersion. It used to measure the amount of variation of a set data of values. The result of this analysis was presented using tables. In order to perform all these analyses, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was utilized.

The multiple linear regressions model was to be used as indicated below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon$$

Where;

Y= poverty reduction

β_1 to β_3 are the regression coefficients.

β_0 = Constant Term

X1= SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes

X2= Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)

E=Error term

The test will be made at 5% error or level of significance. The decision rule to be adopted in this study is when the computed X^2 , is less than the critical X^2 the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted. If otherwise, H_0 is rejected while the alternative Hypothesis (H_i) is accepted.

The strength of the relationship between the categorical variable were estimated to ascertain the level of relationship between the variables that may be needed from the computed chi-square (X2).

The data Content analysis method of data analysis was used to analyse all the related literature on the subject matter.

Data Presentation
Research Question I

Table 1: Does SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes impact the skill development of Beneficiaries?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agreed	21	5.8	5.8	5.8
Valid Agreed	170	46.8	46.8	52.6
Valid Disagreed	74	20.4	20.4	73.0
Valid Strongly Disagreed	56	15.4	15.4	88.4
Valid Undecided	42	11.6	11.6	100.0
Total	363	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2024

Based on the data provided, it can be interpreted that the majority of respondents (52.6%) agreed that SDG's technical skills acquisition training programs have an impact on the skill development of beneficiaries. This is supported by the fact that 5.8% strongly agreed and 46.8% agreed with this statement. On the other hand, a significant portion of respondents (73%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, indicating that they do not believe that the training programs have a significant impact on skill development. This is further supported by the fact that 20.4% disagreed and 15.4% strongly disagreed.

A smaller proportion of respondents (11.6%) remained undecided on the impact of the training programs on skill development. Overall, it can be concluded that while there is a significant portion of respondents who believe in the impact of SDG's technical skills acquisition training programs, there is also a considerable number who do not believe in its effectiveness. The undecided group represents those who are unsure about the impact.

Research Question II

Table 2: Does the SDGs' YESSO programme significantly increased employment opportunities by creating sustainable job options, supporting entrepreneurship

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	30	8.3	8.3	8.3
Agreed	188	51.8	51.8	60.1
Disagreed	56	15.4	15.4	75.5
Valid Strongly Disagreed	81	22.3	22.3	97.8
Undecided	8	2.2	2.2	100.0
Total	363	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2024

Based on the data provided, the table interprets the following regarding the SDGs' YESSO programme and its impact on employment opportunities: Out of the total respondents, 8.3% strongly agreed that the YESSO programme significantly increases employment opportunities by creating sustainable job options and supporting entrepreneurship. Additionally, 51.8% of the respondents agreed with this statement.

On the other hand, 15.4% of the respondents disagreed that the YESSO programme has a significant impact on employment opportunities. Furthermore, 22.3% strongly disagreed with this statement. Only a small percentage of respondents, 2.2%, were undecided regarding the impact of the YESSO programme on employment opportunities. It is important to note that these findings represent the opinions of the respondents and may not reflect the actual impact of the YESSO programme on employment opportunities. Further analysis and research may be required to draw more conclusive results.

Data Analysis

Test of Hypotheses

Table 3: Test^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	175.549	5	35.110	53.764	.000 ^b
Residual	233.134	357	.653		
Total	408.683	362			

a. Dependent Variable: Empowerment and Employment generation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Does the SDGs' YESSO programme significantly increased employment opportunities by creating sustainable job options, supporting entrepreneurship, Does SDGs implement its technical skills acquisition training programmes for skill development of beneficiaries?

Source: SPSS Version 20.0 Output

The findings presented in the table represent the results of an ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) analysis conducted to examine the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their impact on poverty alleviation in FCT, Abuja.

5. F: The F-statistic is calculated by dividing the mean square of the regression model by the mean square of the residual. It is a measure of the significance of the regression model in explaining the variation in the data. In this case, the F-statistic is 53.764, indicating that the regression model is statistically significant.

6. Sig.: The significance level, also known as p-value, represents the probability of observing the results given that the null hypothesis is true. In this analysis, the p-value for the regression model is 0.000, which is less than the conventional threshold of 0.05. This suggests strong evidence for rejecting the null hypothesis and concluding that there is a significant relationship between the SDGs and poverty alleviation.

Additionally, the table provides information about the predictors included in the regression model. These include variables related to the implementation of various SDGs programs, such as employment opportunities, skill development, support for entrepreneurship, and access to markets for small-scale farmers. Overall, the findings of this ANOVA analysis indicate that the SDGs, as represented by the predictors in the regression model, have a significant impact on poverty alleviation in FCT, Abuja.

Table 4: Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Does SDGs implement its technical skills acquisition training programmes for skill development of beneficiaries?	.169	.067	.104	2.539	.012
Does the implement of the SDGs' Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) Programme enhanced employment generation in AMAC, Kuje, and Bwari area councils?	-.484	.043	-.464	-11.162	.000
Does the SDGs' YESSO programme significantly increased employment opportunities by creating sustainable job options, supporting entrepreneurship	.183	.045	.172	4.067	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Empowerment and Employment generation

Source: SPSS Version 20.0 Output

In the First model, the coefficient value of 0.169 ($B = 0.169$) with a standard error of 0.067 indicates that the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs have a statistically significant positive effect on the skill development of beneficiaries ($t = 2.539$, $p = 0.012$). This suggests that the implementation of these programs has been successful in enhancing the technical skills of individuals, potentially leading to increased employability and income generation opportunities.

The second model highlights the impact of the SDGs' Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) program on employment generation in the area councils. The coefficient value of -0.484 ($B = -0.484$) with a standard error of 0.043 indicates a statistically significant negative effect on employment generation ($t = -11.162$, $p < 0.001$). This suggests that the implementation of the YESSO program has led to a decrease in employment opportunities in the area councils, potentially indicating some challenges or limitations in its design or execution.

Lastly, the third model examines the impact of the SDGs' YESSO program on employment opportunities and entrepreneurship. The coefficient value of 0.183 ($B = 0.183$) with a standard error of 0.045 suggests a statistically significant positive effect on employment opportunities and entrepreneurship ($t = 4.067$, $p < 0.001$). This indicates that the program has been successful in creating sustainable job options and supporting entrepreneurship in the area councils, potentially contributing to poverty alleviation efforts. Overall, these findings provide evidence for the effectiveness of certain SDGs' programs in poverty alleviation, skill development, and employment generation in the FCT, Abuja. However, some programs may require further attention and improvement to maximize their impact. It is important for policymakers and stakeholders to consider these findings when designing and implementing future interventions to address poverty and promote sustainable development in the region.

Discussion of Findings

Research objective I

The findings from the study provide substantial evidence to support the notion that the technical skills acquisition training programmes associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a significant positive impact on the skill development of beneficiaries. The results indicate that the implementation of these programs has been successful, effectively improving the technical competencies of individuals and potentially opening doors to enhanced employability and income-generation opportunities.

With the world rapidly advancing towards a technology-driven era, possessing relevant technical skills has become increasingly vital for individuals seeking to thrive in the job market.

In conclusion, the findings of this study demonstrate the significant positive impact of the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programmes on the skill development of

beneficiaries. The successful implementation of these programs enhances the technical competencies of individuals, potentially leading to improved employability and income-generation opportunities. These findings underscore the importance of continued investment in such initiatives to foster sustainable development, reduce poverty, and empower individuals to thrive in an ever-changing global job market.

The finding is supported a study by Franco et al. (2018) who emphasizes the proactive efforts of higher education institutions in actioning the SDGs in policy, curriculum, and practice, indicating a growing focus on integrating sustainable development into educational initiatives (Franco et al., 2018). These findings suggest that the implementation of SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs may indeed have a statistically significant positive effect on the skill development of beneficiaries, thereby contributing to enhanced employability and income-generation opportunities.

Research Objective II

The findings of this study revealed YESSO program did not succeed in enhancing employment opportunities in the area councils as anticipated. Instead, it seems that the implementation of the program has inadvertently contributed to a decrease in job prospects for the youth, thus hinting at possible challenges or limitations in its design or execution. The YESSO program, initiated with the noble goal of addressing the issue of youth unemployment and providing social support, was anticipated to act as a catalyst for employment generation. However, the study's findings suggest that the program fell short of achieving its intended outcomes, thereby raising questions about its effectiveness and efficiency.

Empirical evidence of various related studies contradicts this finding. For instance, The Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) program, aimed at enhancing employment generation in the FCT area councils, has been the subject of several studies (Khan et al., 2022) conducted research on income and employment generation activities among farmer beneficiaries through a crop-based module of the Farmer First Programme. The study aimed to determine the impact of the program on the farming community in terms of income and employment generation. The findings of this study are relevant as they provide insights into the potential for employment generation through targeted programs such as YESSO (Khan et al., 2022).

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs have proven to be successful in developing the skills of the beneficiaries. This indicates that the implementation of these programs has effectively enhanced the technical abilities of individuals, potentially leading to increased employability and income generation opportunities. However, it is important to note that the SDGs' Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) program did not effectively enhance employment generation in the area councils. This suggests that the implementation of the YESSO program faced challenges or limitations in its design or execution, resulting in a lack of

sustainable job options and limited support for entrepreneurship in the area councils. This, in turn, may weaken the government's efforts in poverty alleviation. Overall, this study highlights the successes and areas for improvement in the implementation of various SDGs programs in the area councils. It emphasizes the need for continued evaluation and targeted interventions to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of poverty alleviation efforts.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the effectiveness of the implemented programs by the SDGs in poverty alleviation and skill development efforts.

1. **Technical Skills Acquisition Training Programs:** The finding that the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs have a statistically significant positive effect on skill development is encouraging. To maximize the impact of these programs, efforts should be made to ensure the training provided is aligned with the market demand and tailored to the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Regular evaluations should be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the training and identify areas for improvement.
2. **Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) Program:** The finding that the YESSO program did not enhance employment generation in the area councils suggests the need for comprehensive reassessment and redesign of the program. It is essential to identify the underlying factors contributing to the lack of employment opportunities and address them accordingly. This may involve revisiting the program's objectives, improving coordination with other relevant stakeholders, and incorporating entrepreneurship development components to promote sustainable job creation.

Contribution to Knowledge

1. **Employment Generation Metrics:** To assess the impact of programs like YESSO and SDGs' technical skills acquisition training, researchers often look at employment generation metrics. This involves tracking the number of individuals who have gained employment directly or indirectly through the program.
2. **Income Levels:** Researchers may also examine changes in income levels among program participants compared to a control group. This helps in understanding whether the program has contributed to improved financial stability for individuals and families.
3. **Entrepreneurship Development:** Programs that offer technical skills training often aim to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment. Evaluations may focus on the number of businesses started by program participants, their sustainability, and their contribution to the local economy.
4. **Community-Level Impact:** Researchers may also assess the broader impact of these programs on the community, including changes in social cohesion, access to services, and overall development indicators.

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