



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT (NDE) PROGRAMME ON RURAL LIVELIHOOD IN TWO SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This study examined the impact assessment of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Programme on rural livelihood in Kaduna State. A total of 72 participants and 72 non-participants which served as control group were randomly selected from three (3) senatorial districts in the State. The data were obtained through the use of structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and Double Difference Estimation (DDE). The study revealed that the major sources of information about NDE programme were through its officials (94.4%), extension agents (90.3%), radio (84.0%) and television (65.3%). The data assessment of NDE on the participants' income increased by a mean of ₦45, 670 (42%) while the non-participants' income increased by a mean of ₦27, 784 (27%) after. This depicts that the programme has impacted positively on the beneficiaries. The level of living of the participants after NDE increased by a mean of 162930.96 (697.3%), whereas level of living of non-participants rose with 7,298.96 (31.4%). Major constraints of participants were insufficient credits (88.9%), inadequate training (84.7%), inadequate inputs (77.8%) and inadequate land (47.2%). It was therefore recommended that the participants should organize themselves into cooperatives by contributing money together to eradicate their major problems so that the programme would make more significance on them.

Keywords: Impact Assessment; NDE; Rural livelihood; Kaduna State.

Introduction

Nigeria's agriculture suffers greatly from low capitalization. It is dominated by small-scale farmers who are predominantly subsistence in nature (Fasina, 2009). Therefore, any crucial development policy aimed at poverty alleviation should concentrate on farming activities which is the main occupation of the poor who produce primarily for consumption so that the nation's agricultural potentials for food security and sustainable economic development can fully be realized. The underdevelopment of agriculture is indeed worrisome, given the fact that the country is naturally and agriculturally endowed. This is because, the crop sales of resource-poor farmers are usually to generate income to meet other family expenses or to purchase other goods that they do not directly produce. But their ability to accumulate sufficient capital for new and costly investment is rather limited. Thus, outside financial help is required to induce more capital

investment in the agricultural sector (Ater, *et al.*, 2009). Therefore, one of the government policies in addressing poor farmers' problem is the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) since 1986. The NDE has remained relevant in supporting farmers in Nigeria (NDE, 1992). The aim of the NDE in agriculture is to generate employment in farming activities. This is done by the provision of farm lands, fertilizers, improved seedlings, hand tools, pesticides, credit and training of farmers in modern agricultural practices. Credit is one of the most potent instruments for alleviating poverty and can be made viable, sustainable and effective if appropriately delivered by programmes that are well designed and managed like NDE (Obike, *et al.*, 2007).

National programmes intervention for entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation assist millions of young Nigerian men and women graduates from secondary schools, universities and other institutions of higher learning to be employed. Worst still are those who are not educated. Unemployment among the youths has become a source of sustained social and political instability, increased in drug abuse and violence against women. Many of the youths are now being used as thugs to hunt down political opponents. Religious harmony has also been seriously affected with ethnic conflicts which continue to puncture holes at the unity of the country and its political stability (Akanya, 2008). Ugwoke, *et al.* (2005), summed it up when they said, "current level of unemployment among young men and women in West Africa including Nigeria is a ticking time bomb in the region and beyond". The absence of employment opportunities limits the options of young people in life, predisposing them to serious dangers. For example, many girls have become sex workers in a desperate effort to earn a living. Some have gone to their early graves, having contacted HIV/AIDS. Also, unemployment today, is one of the greatest threats to democracy in Nigeria, because democracy means little to a hungry citizen. Therefore, the nation and governments are being called upon to make drastic decisions to scale up and monitor effective public policies and programmes such as NDE with the aim of reducing the rate of unemployment especially among young graduates.

Hence, a significant literature gap has been created which this study intends to fill by assessing the impact of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) programme on rural livelihood of two selected local government areas in Kaduna state, Nigeria by addressing the following research aims.

Purpose of the Study

These are to:

- i. identify the sources of information on the participant's knowledge about NDE programme
- ii. determine impact of NDE programme on the income level of participants and non-participants
- iii. determine impact of NDE programme on the level of living of participants and non-participants
- iv. identify the participants' constraints in participating in NDE programme.

Methodology

The study was conducted in two (2) Local Government Areas (Chukun and Sanon-Gari) of Kaduna State. The State occupies a major position in the agricultural economy of Northern

Nigeria (KADP, 2011). The State is located between latitudes 9°N and 12°N and longitudes 6°E and 9°E of the prime meridian. The estimated population of the State is eight million, nine hundred and sixty-six thousand, eight hundred and sixty-two (8,966,862) (NPC, 2006) and a projected population of eight million, nine hundred and ninety four thousand, two hundred and fifty (8,994,250) in 2019. The State has a total land area of 46,0616km² (NPC, 2006). Kaduna State share boundaries with Kastina and Kano States to the North, Plateau State to the North East, Nassarawa State and Abuja to the south, Niger and Zamfara States to the west (KADP, 2007). Sabon-gari has a population of two hundred and twelve thousand, six hundred and seventy-one (212,671) in 2006 census, while the projected figure for 2019 is seven hundred and ninety-six thousand, eight hundred and forty-six (796,846). The population of Chukun L.G.A in 2006 census is one hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred and thirty-six (199,536), while its projected population in 2019 is eight hundred and eighty-seven thousand, one hundred and twenty-six (887,126). The reason for have purposively selected the two LGAs was because of their higher involvement in NDE programme.

A list of registered NDE participants was collected from Kaduna State Agricultural Development Programme (KADP). A reconnaissance conducted revealed about 715 registered participants in the study area. Using simple random sampling technique, 10% of the NDE participants were selected from the two LGAs to make a sample size of 72 participants and 72 non-participants chosen as a control group making a total of 144 respondents used for the study. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency distribution, percentages and ranking) and Double Difference Estimation (DDE). The double difference estimator is defined as the difference in average outcome in the treatment group before and after treatment minus the difference in average outcome in the control group before and after treatment. It is literally a “difference of differences”. The DDE analysis formular is as follows:

$$DDE = \bar{Y}_1^T - \bar{Y}_0^T - (\bar{Y}_1^C - \bar{Y}_0^C)$$

Difference in Difference Estimator can also be expressed as:

Treatment (T) =		Pre		Post		Post – Pre Difference
		\bar{Y}_0^T		\bar{Y}_1^T		$\bar{Y}_1^T - \bar{Y}_0^T$
Control (C) =	\bar{Y}_0^C	\bar{Y}_1^C	$\bar{Y}_1^C - \bar{Y}_0^C$			
T C	$\bar{Y}_0^T - \bar{Y}_0^C$	$\bar{Y}_1^T - \bar{Y}_1^C$	$\bar{Y}_1^T - \bar{Y}_1^C - (\bar{Y}_0^T - \bar{Y}_0^C)$			

Where:

DDE = Double difference estimator

\bar{Y}_1^T = Average income of the respondents after the treatment

\bar{Y}_0^T = Average income of the respondents before the treatment

\bar{Y}_1^C = Average income of the respondents after the control

\bar{Y}_0^c = Average income of the respondents before the control

Results and discussion

The result of the study in Table 1 revealed that, the respondents got their information about NDE activities through NDE officials (94.4%), extension agents (90.3%), radio (84.0%), television (65.3%), neighbours (34.7%) and friends (24.3%).

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' source of information about NDE

SOURCE OF INFORMATION	PERCENTAGE	RANKING
NDE officials	94.4	1 st
Extension agents	90.3	2 nd
Radio	84.0	3 rd
Television	65.3	4 rd
Neighbours	34.7	5 th
Friends	24.3	6 th

Table 2 revealed the impact of NDE programme on income of participants after the programme as shown by the DDE result was a mean of ₦119,529 compared to their mean income of ₦73,859 before the programme implementation showing an increase of ₦45,670 (42%). This implies that the difference in income of the participants after NDE intervention has increased. However, the mean income of the non-participants after the programme was ₦123,110 while the mean income before ₦95,326 showing an increase of ₦27,784 (27%) after. This implies that, the increase in income for the participants was higher than that of the non-participants ($P < 0.01$).

Table 2: Result of DDE showing impact assessment of NDE on mean income (₦) of the respondents in the study area.

RESPONDENTS	BEFORE	AFTER	SD	DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE
Participants' mean income	72,859	119,529	43384.66	45,670	42
Non-participants' mean income	95,326	123,110	26924.12	27,784	27

Similarly, the DDE result of the impact of NDE on the participants and non-participants' level of living was revealed in Table 3 which Shows that the participants' level of living before NDE was lower with a mean of 50,612 as compared to the participants' level of living after the programme which was a mean of 213,543 showing an increase of 162930.96 (697%) while the non-

participants' level of living before the programme implementation was a mean of 79,231 and 85,504 after the programme with an increase of 7,298 (31.4%). This implies that the increase in the level of living for the participants in NDE was also higher than that of non-participants in the area. This result is in agreement with the finding of Idi *et al.* (2006) on impact of non-governmental agricultural extension training on farmers in Zaria, Kaduna State. They reported that the farmers' level of living significantly increased as a result of the training. This result also agrees with that of Abudu *et al.* (2014), who reported in their study of impact of National Poverty of Eradication Project (NAPEP) that the programme had positive impact on the participants' income and level of living. The result also agreed with Akanya (2008) who reported that majority (70%) of the NAPEP participants had higher level of living than the non-participants.

Table 3: Result of DDE showing the impact assessment of NDE on mean level of living of the respondents in the study area.

RESPONDENTS	BEFORE	AFTER	SD	DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE
Participants' level of living	33,925.04	196,856	123,577.9	162930.96	697.3
Non-participants' level of living	29,526.05	36,825.01	5,413.6	7298.96	31.4

The result in Table 4 revealed that insufficient credit facilities was the major (89%) constraint to participants in NDE which was ranked first followed by inadequate training (85%) of the participants by the NDE officials and was ranked second. Other constraints to the participants of NDE in the study area include inadequate farm inputs (78%) and inadequate land (47%) were ranked third and fourth respectively.

Table 4: Constraints to participants of NDE in the study area

PARTICIPANTS' CONSTRAINTS	PERCENTAGE	RANKING
Insufficient credit	88.9	1 th
Inadequate training	84.7	2 nd
Inadequate farm inputs	77.8	3 rd
Inadequate land for expansion	47.2	4 th
Lack of storage & processing facilities	37.5	5 th
Inadequate technical know-how of NDE officials	31.9	6 th

*Multiple response allowed

Conclusion

The findings portrayed that participants were stable than their non-participants because the income of participants was higher than that of the non-participants after the programme. This marked an immense acceleration in the development of the participants in terms of level of living. This result implies that the participants were more comfortable as they had more household basic needs, assets and means of transportation which reduced drudgery in farming. Therefore, the programme has made considerable impact on the lives of the participants in the study area, even though some constraints were encountered. In order to ensure sustained income generation and better level of living among the NDE participants, it is therefore recommended that NDE should be well funded so that sufficient farm inputs, credit and land would be provided.

Recommendations

- i. Since credits given to the participants are insufficient, it is therefore necessary for the participants to organize themselves into groups by contributing money together to assist themselves individually.
- ii. Government should train and re-train the NDE officials so that they can extend adequate training to participants.
- iii. Also, since participants suffer insufficient land, they should be encouraged to practice mixed cropping system or crop rotation.

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