

## **Assessing N-Health and N-Teach Components of the N-Power Program On Youth Empowerment in Bauchi State**

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### **Abstract**

The study assess the impact of the N-Health and N-Teach Component of the N-Power in Bauchi State, the objective of the study is to assess the impact of N-Health component of the N-Power on youth empowerment, assess the impact of N-Teach component of N-power on youth empowerment. This study employed the Survey research design which is a quantitative. A structured questionnaire was used to collect information from the selected respondents within Bauchi State. The population for the study comprise of the total N-Power Beneficiaries in Bauchi State, the total Population of the Study therefore is Fifteen thousand and thirty-three (15,033), (N-Power Guide, 2017). 389 sample was selected using probability sampling, in which simple random sampling technique will be used, Descriptive method of data analyses was use to analyze the data for this research, The findings of the study revealed that the N-power Teach Programme was found to have reduced unemployment and poverty level among the youth because it has created job opportunity to the youth across Bauchi. The study concluded that N-Power Health had improve the capacity of Youths to engage in Pharmaceuticals business. Also N-Teach beneficiaries of the N-Power were also empowered to engaged in entrepreneurial activities and to some extent took a carrier in the Teaching profession. nevertheless the N-Health program had opened opportunities for youth to create job for their selves by engaging in farming activities. based on this the study recciomended the following; Government, at the various levels (federal, state and local) should give priority to youth empowerment and stop paying lip service to youth empowerment. Youth empowerment programmes, projects and policies must be based on scientific studies and not by rule of thumb. This will enable the schemes to have predetermined and measuring goals as outcomes. There is need to urgently review the educational sector/system to enhance the national and global competitiveness of our youths who are products of the educational system of the country.

**Keywords;** Empowerment, N-Health, N-Teach, Youth

## **1.1 Introduction**

Globally, youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability to decide for their selves and the power to implement the needed changes in their lives and the people around them, (Ifeanyi & Ifeanyi, 2013). Empowerment of youth is broadly addressed as a key to achieving an everlasting equity, civil engagements and development of democracy. (Ifeanyi & Ifeanyi, 2013). Empowerment of youth equally means creating an enabling environment under which youth can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others (Branson, 2015). For instance, The Brazilian government in the year 2003 set up the Bolsa familia program which is a conditional cash program for families living in poverty, the Bolsa familia program had lifted many people out of poverty, the program had faced some Operational difficulties at implementation Stage. Similarly, the year 2002 saw the establishment of empowerment program in Argentina called 'Empower Argentina' which seeks to address the pressing challenges of poor education, low level of income, pressing health problems and abject poverty among Argentinians, Empower provide funding for education and the improvement of livelihood. However, "Empower" couldn't last on the stage because of their inability to sustainably maintain the empowerment program. More so, in 2014 the youth development programme of the African Union Congress (AUC) was established as a cross cutting division to drive the AUC's youth empowerment agenda for the continent. African Union (AU) Heads of states and Government endorsed the African Youth Charter (AYC) in July, 2020 and it entered into force on 8 Augusts, 2009 (African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE,

2019). The charter as a right framework reinforces provision contained in the Universal declaration of human rights to promote and protects young people. The plan is expected to serve as a paradigm shift in the definition of youth and their contribution to Africa's development as well as improve the situation of African Youth (UN, 2020). Equally, in 2020 Executive councils decision proclaimed and instituted 1 November as Africa Youth Day (UN, 2020).

Furthermore, in Nigeria there are various forms of youth empowerment programmes that aim at creating opportunity for young people in their various fields of specialization as well as in their communities as a whole (Jegade, 2019). Government of Nigeria through the Central Bank of Nigeria developed Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs), launched the NYSC training on sensitization and Venture Prize Competition Programs, to immensely aid in the empowerment of youths. This had resulted to indulgement, in the following programs; Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P), Youth Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria (YISA) as well as the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) among those is the development of N-Power social investment Program (Omeji & Ugwu, 2020). More importantly empowerment of youths does not only include the government agencies alone but also involves Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Agencies, Educational Institutions, Intergovernmental Organizations, Public Sectors, Family Sponsors, and Civil Society Organizations (Odeh & Okoye). The aforementioned bodies were cited as Key indicators of Youth Empowerment Programs (Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, 2017).

Therefore, N-Power as a job creation and empowerment program of the National Social

Investment Program (NSIP) of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) designed to help young Nigerians acquire and develop lifelong skills to become self-empowered. For instance Nigeria in the year (2016), had successfully engages 200,000 graduates through the N-Power social investment scheme to teach primary schools belonging to public, community healthcare facilities in their respective locals (N-Power Information Guide, 2015). This initiatives was perhaps the biggestt graduates' trainee program in African continent. Around the year 2017, N-Power volunteer corps amounting to 300,000 beneficiaries making it to total number of about 500,000 N-Power Volunteers. Basically, it is an empowerment program aimed at imbibing the learn-work-entrepreneurship culture in youth between the ages of 18 and 35 (Nwaobi, 2019). Indeed, the FGN aggressive investment in youth development targets some of the perennial inadequacies in public services such as low teacher to Pupil ratio in public primary schools; high rate of preventable disease and lack of taxable persons within the tax net (Chukwunonye, 2019). And using N-POWER, the Nigeria government aims at utilizing a large volunteer work-force to fix some of the problems in public services as well as stimulating the larger economy (Aderonmu, 2017). It also focuses on providing non-graduates with relevant technical and business skills that enhance their work outlook (livelihood).

However, the level of youth unemployment is worrisome in Bauchi State and therefore need consideration from policy makers, that several programmes for youth empowerment such as Bauchi Sustainable Women Economic Empowerment and Peace initiative (B-SWEEP), were created to reduce the level of youth unemployment in the state. it is with this in mind, that the past Administration of Bauchi State through 10 man committee set up in 2017 assess the level of unemployment in Bauchi State and to

come up with ways to reduce the problem to barest minimum. This led to the creation of Bauchi State, agency for Youth and Women rehabilitation and development (BAYWARD), the sole aim of the program was to provide employment, create wealth and expand the educational opportunities for the teaming youth and women of Bauchi State. Furthermore, the present Governor of Bauchi State Senator Bala Mohammed Kauran Bauchi, after banning the commercial motorcycles commonly known as "Achaba" to ameliorate the suffering caused by "achaba" wasted no time in committing the total sum of N500 million to the purchases of tricycles or 'Keke' and Cars in order to make up or cover the lost job oppurtunities (Mustapha & Sabo 2018).

Similarly, the N-power scheme in Bauchi has recorded significant prospects in uplifting the beneficiaries' income, lifestyles, skills and other benefits. However, despite the effort made by the Federal Government in providing job Oppurtunities, poverty alleviation programmes and numerous skills acquisition project, still there is high level of unemployment and poverty among youth in the country. Bauchi State had experienced so many challenges in terms of youth empowerment programme. In line with this, therefore, this study sought to assess the economic impacts of the current empowerment Programme on Youth in Bauchi State.

## **2.0 Methodology**

This study will employ the Survey research design which is a quantitative. Under Survey approach questionnaire will be used to collect information from the selected respondents within Bauchi State. The population for the study will comprise of the total N-Power Beneficiaries in Bauchi State, the total Population of the Study therefore is Fifteen thousand and thirty-three (15,033), (N-Power Guide, 2017). 389 sample size will be selected using probability sampling,

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in which simple random sampling technique will be used, Descriptive method of data analyses will be use to analyze the data for this research, the

statistical packages for Social Science will be use to analyze the data collected for the sake of this research.

### 3.0 Results

Table 3.1 The N-Health and Youth Empowerment in Bauchi State.

S/N	STATEMENT	A	SA	N	D	SD	TOTAL
1	The training I learnt in N-Power Health had reduces poverty and improve my standard of living	35 (9%)	179 (46%)	4 (1%)	82 (21%)	89 (23%)	389 (100%)
2	N-Power Health had increase the medical staff capacity in Hospitals in Bauchi State (in terms of human resource development).	62 (16%)	156 (40%)	51 (13%)	66 (17%)	54 (14%)	389 (100%)
3	N-Power Health had improve the working experience of Youth within Bauchi	54 (13.9%)	114 (29.3%)	6 (1.5%)	54 (13.9%)	161 (41.4%)	389 (100%)
4	N-Power Health had encourage Youth to start up pharmaceutical business (who doesn't earn a penny before and now ends an average of 30,000 naira).	82 (21.0%)	102 (26.3%)	3 (0.8%)	88 (22.6%)	114 (29.3%)	389 (100%)

Source: Field 2022

The table 3.1, above in category 1 show 46% of the respondents as the majority of the samples

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confirmed that N-Power Health had reduces poverty and improve youth standard of living. This authenticate, Buhari (2016) assertion that N-Power trains youth in relation to Health.

The table 3.1 above in category 2 revealed that 46% of the respondents as the majority of the samples confirmed that N-Power Health had increase the medical staff capacity in Bauchi Hospitals.

However, the table 3.1 above in category 3 revealed that 13.9% and 36% of the respondents as the majority confirmed the strong disagreement that N-Power Health had improve the working experience of Youth within Bauchi.

On the other hand, the table 3.1 above in category 4 show that 22.6% and 29.3% of the respondents as the majority confirmed the strong disagreement that N-Power Health had encourage Youth to start up pharmaceutical business. Therefore, the beneficiaries of N-Power Health has asserted the reduction of poverty and improve youth standard of living, and had increase the medical staff capacity in Bauchi Hospitals through the scheme. Even though, it was found that N-Power Health has not improve the working experience as well as Youth to start up pharmaceutical business within Bauchi.

Table 3.2 N-Teach and Youth Empowerment in Bauchi State

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	N-Power teach had contributed to the reduction of poverty level among the youth in Bauchi State (in the areas of income improvement).	150 (38.6%)	114 (29.3%)	10 (2.3%)	61 (15.8%)	54 (14%)	389 (100%)
2	N-Power teach had been able to reduce the level of unemployment among the youth	111 (28.6%)	75 (19.4%)	35 (9%)	54 (14%)	113 (29%)	389 (100%)
3	N-Power teach had been effective in creating job (before and after)	110 (28.3%)	105 (26.9%)	9 (2.3%)	110 (28.2%)	56 (14.3%)	389 (100%)
4	N-power Teach had improve the skills of youth to take Teaching Job after N-power lapses	54 (14%)	114 (29.3%)	6 (1.5%)	54 (14%)	140 (36.0%)	389 (100%)

**Source:** Field 2022

The table 3.2, above in category 1 show 38.6% of the respondents as the majority of the samples confirmed that N-Power teach had contributed to the reduction of poverty level among the youth in Bauchi State.

The table 3.2 above in category 2 revealed that 29% of the respondents as the majority of the samples disagreed that N-Power teach had been able to reduce the level of unemployment among the youth.

However, the table 3.2 above in category 3 revealed that 28.3% and 26.9% of the respondents as the majority confirmed that N-Power teach had been effective in creating job (before and after)

On the other hand, the table 3.2 above in category 4 show that 36% and 14% of the respondents as the majority confirmed the strong disagreement that N-power Teach had improve the skills of youth to take Teaching Job after N-power lapses. Therefore, the beneficiaries of N-Power Teach has asserted the reduction of poverty, unemployment and job creation among youth in Bauchi State. Even though, it was found that N-Power Teach has not improve the skills of youth to take Teaching Job within Bauchi.

#### **4. Discussion**

The assessment of the N power program on youth empowerment in Bauchi was found to impact on the youth across Bauchi State area through the enrollment into the various N-Power scheme categories which beneficiaries were exposed to skills acquisition training such as in Health assistants and pharmaceutical investment skills on N-Power Health program. As in Table 3.1 .above .This corroborated Durosaro and Nuhum (2016) found that the federal government have provided skills acquisition training to Youth.

Similarly, the N-power Teach Programme was found to have reduced unemployment and poverty level among the youth because it has created job opportunity to the youth across Bauchi, as in Table 3.2. This concur to Singh (2008) that empowerment of youth reduced unemployment in the society. The findings of this study confirm the assertion of the empowerment theory, where Reischl et al. (2011) states that empowerment and entrepreneurship development relies heavily on series of actions that make people/youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities, improve their quality control of decisions, and bring about circumstances/opportunities where learning, practice, and skills of youths could be enhanced, N-Power had open doors of opportunities to Youths within Bauchi to improve their professional skills, engaged in entrepreneurial skills and create job for their self, therefore it is no doubt that empowerment theory and the impact of N-Power on youth empowerment are related. The theory further posits that making youths to indulge in pro-social, worthwhile, and community-based activities established and controlled by the youths enables them to acquire important skills, abilities, and confidence that would help them to be more productive, healthy, and independent (Reischl et al., 2011), in line with the provisions of this theory this study confirm that the N-Health and N-Teach aspects of the N-Power had improve the living standard of living of the youths in Bauchi by giving them the opportunity to acquire teaching skills, pharmaceuticals and farming skills.

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

The study concluded that N-Power Health had improve the capacity of Youths to engage in Pharmaceuticals business. Also N-Teach

beneficiaries of the N-Power were also empowered to engaged in entrepreneurial activities and to some extent took a carrier in the Teaching profession. nevertheless the N-Health program had opened opportunities for youth to create job for their selves by engaging in farming activities. Therefore this study concluded that N-Power had a significant impact on the empowerment of youths in Bauchi.

## 5.2 Recommendation

The following recommendations are considered apposite;

Government, at the various levels (federal, state and local) should give priority to youth empowerment and stop paying lip service to youth empowerment.

Youth empowerment programmes, projects and policies must be based on scientific studies and not by rule of thumb. This will enable the schemes to have predetermined and measuring goals as outcomes.

There is need to urgently review the educational sector/system to enhance the national and global competitiveness of our youths who are products of the educational system of the country.

Youths should be empowerment to the level that they will be able to take responsibilities in their communities and the nation at large; youths should be trained with utilitarian and functional skills and other requirements so as to make them self-employed and employers of labour in the country.

There is the need for the reorientation, sustained enlightenment, education and conscientization of the youths on core national policies, especially unity in diversity and cultural integration.

## References

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