

INFLUENCE OF HOME ECONOMICS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND CURBING INSECURITY IN YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

By

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Abstract

The study investigated the perceived influence of Home Economics education an antidote on poverty alleviation and curbing insecurity in Yobe state, Nigeria. The study had two objectives and two null hypotheses. Descriptive survey research was used for the study. The population of the study was 313 students from three tertiary institutions offering home economics in Yobe state. The population was 313 student and used as Sample of 313 students were used for the study. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire adapted from Adamu (2016) titled Home Economics the Solution to Poverty and National Development (HESPND). The instrument was validated by experts and pilot tested. A reliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The researcher assisted with one research assistant administered the questionnaire using direct contact approach. Data collected from the respondents were analyzed using logistic regression to test the null hypotheses at the significant level of 0.05. The result indicated that the knowledge and skills acquired from home economics have the potentials of making students to be employed which will help to boost their income generation and addressing insecurity in Yobe state. It was concluded that, implementation of home economics curriculum will help to reduce the rate of poverty in Yobe state which will enhance the national development. The study recommended amongst others that government should create Home Economics Training Centres that will provide youths and internal displaced persons with skills for self-reliance.

Keywords: Unemployment, Insecurity, Development, Opportunities

Introduction

The problem of unemployment is a threat to global security. The GENEVA (ILO) in Economic Development Report (2018) disclosed that nearly one billion people around the world, approximately 30% of the entire global work force, are unemployed or underemployed in industrialized and developing countries

alike, says a new report by the International Labour Office (ILO). The ILO warns that the growing numbers of "working poor" risk aggravating the social and economic ills caused by high jobless rates. The report of United Nations labour (2018) stated that the total number of unemployed people will likely remain high

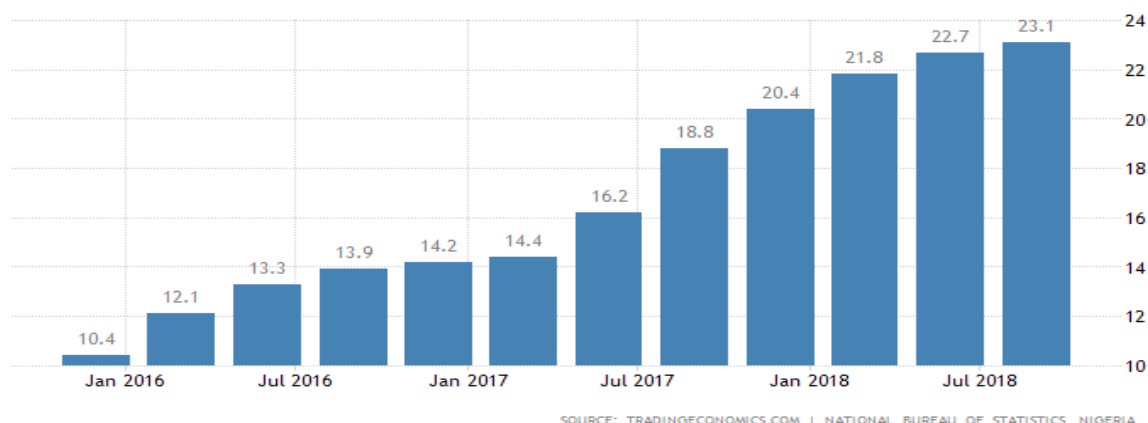
in 2018 was 192 million. In Nigeria, the study conducted by the National Directorate of Employment (NDE 2007) shows that the number of unemployed youths in Nigeria was 54%. In 2008, the study conducted by Federal Ministry of Education shows that 71% of university graduates were unemployed. Similarly, the study conducted by Kabir, Adamu and Magnus (2019) reported that 80% of Nigerian graduates annually find it difficult to secure gainful employment. This explained why Adamu and Amoor (2009) reported that the rate of unemployment among the school leavers in Nigeria was alarming and threatening the peace of the country.

The problem of unemployment in the country led the government to introduce vocational training centers in various places, entrepreneurship education at tertiary institutions and trade subjects at secondary schools level. The philosophy behind the initiative was to provide recipients with knowledge and skills that will enable them to turn ideas into action, promote their creativity, innovation and risk taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage business for their self reliance. Adamu, Sara and Sagir (2019) described these initiatives as the process of providing learners with skills and knowledge to recognize commercial opportunities and the knowledge, skills and attitudes to act on them for their self reliance.

Specifically, home economics as one of the vocational subjects introduced at vocational training centers and trade subject at secondary school level is recognized as the most important

precondition for families and households that improves their lives and to prevent poverty. Home economics has the potentials of equipping students with the balance of merging theoretical understandings and addressing practical everyday problems. Adamu and Abdul (2015) argued that, vocational educations (Home economics inclusive) are the only course of skill that focused on family well-being, income generation, job creation and job enhancement. Similarly, the authors added that vocational education has persistently identified itself as the right step in the right direction. IFHE (2012) stated that Home economics can improve the skills and competencies of families and individuals in a changing world for self reliance. This therefore indicated that the integration of Home economics into vocational training centers and secondary school curriculum is well deserved.

Despite the effort to tackle the issue of unemployment and scourge of poverty by different approaches, the goal of abundant wealth creation and youth employment still remains elusive (Adamu & Magnus, 2018, Kabir, Adamu & Magnus, 2019). The study conducted by National Bureau of Statistics (2017) in Nigeria indicated that unemployment among school graduates is increasing every year. Similarly, the report of National Bureau of Statistics (2018) further indicated that there is increase in the rate of unemployment in the country. The increase in the rate of unemployment in the country as reported by Bureau is as presented in figure 1.



From the chart, the unemployment among the school graduates has increase from 10.4% to 23.1% from January 2016 to July 2018. The report is an indicator that the lofty idea of introducing entrepreneurship education at tertiary institutions in the country has not yielded the desired objective of addressing the rate of unemployment among the students.

Earlier, Obioma (2010) reported that the quest for technological breakthroughs, industrialization and economic development is slow and unimpressive as evidenced by the increasing rates of unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria. Scholars reported that insecurity is a problem of the whole world, both developed and developing nations. Adamu and Usman (2014) attributed insecurity to high level of unemployment, poverty and economic meltdown. The authors observed that 70% of Nigerians live below poverty line and survive on less than 1dollar a day In view of the above definitions; poverty is a major problem that should be reduced, alleviated or eradicated completely by any concerned government. These therefore indicated that

the rate of unemployment in the country is increasing.

The persistent increase in the rate of unemployment in the country has led to high rates of social insecurities such as robbery, kidnapping, hunger, child trafficking, child abuse and prostitution and recently in militancy and religion insurgences in the country. This was affirmed by the study conducted by Ali and Ajibola (2015) who reported that there is strong relationship among unemployment, poverty, hunger and insecurity. Similarly, Adamu and Usman (2014) reported that more than 80 percent of conflict-related deaths occurred in less economic advantage states. Based on the foregoing, the study specifically determine the: (1) influence of home Economics on poverty alleviation in Yobe State, Nigeria; and (2) influence of Home Economics oncurbing insecurity in Yobe State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following Null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

1. Home Economics has no significant influence on poverty alleviation in Yobe State, Nigeria.
2. Home Economics has no significant influence on curbing insecurity Yobe State, Nigeria.

Methodology

The design for this study was a survey research design employing the use of questionnaire and generate data from respondents. According to Ary, Adamu and Sani (2017), descriptive research design should be used when study involve the use of instruments such as questionnaires and interviews to gather information from groups of individuals. The population of the study comprised 313

students, 101 made students of Home Suleman College of Education Gashua, and 104 Students in Federal University Gashua, The population was not large, and therefore used as sample for the study. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire adapted from Adamu (2016) titled the solution to Home Economics the Solution to Poverty Alleviation and National Development. The instrument was validated by experts and pilot tested. Areliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The researcher was assisted with one research assistant the questionnaire using logistic regression at the significant level of 0.05.

Results of the Study

Hypothesis One:

Home economics has no significant influence on poverty alleviation in Yobe state, Nigeria

Table 1: Regression analysis of influence of home economics on poverty alleviation in Yobe state, Nigeria

Model	Standardized coefficients	T	Sig.	R	R ²	Adj R ²
	Beta					
(Constant)		-2.991	.003	.642	.412	.394
1Home Economics	.922					

The regression analysis in Table 1 indicates that the extent regression model predicts the dependent variable was significant. The regression model revealed the $p < 0.05$ which indicated that home economics has influence on poverty alleviation in Yobe state. The R -value of

.642 was obtained with R^2 of .412. The R^2 value of .412 obtained indicated home economics has 41.2% influence on addressing poverty alleviation in Yobe state. The hypothesis was therefore rejected.

Hypothesis Two:

Home economics has no significant influence on curbing insecurity Yobe state, Nigeria

Table 2: Regression analysis of influence of home economics on curbing insecurity in Yobe state, Nigeria

Model	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	R	R ²	Adj. R ²
(Constant)						
1 Home economics	-.191	18.170	.000	.669	.448	.410

The regression analysis used test null hypothesis presented in Table 2. From the Table, the value of R-value was .669 and R² was .448, which means that home economics has 44.8% influenced on addressing the problem of insecurity in Yobe state. The p-value of .000 obtained suggested that the influence on independent variable on dependent variable was significant. The result therefore rejected the null hypothesis.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of hypothesis one indicated that home economics has significant influence on poverty alleviation in Yobe state. The respondents indicated home economics provides them with skills, knowledge, competencies and understanding for self reliance. The finding of the study agreed with the earlier submission of the Olabanji and Ese (2014) states that vocational and entrepreneurship education is not just about teaching someone to run a business, it also encourages creative thinking and promoting a strong sense of self-worth and empowerment for self reliance and poverty alleviation. Similarly, Ibrahim & Bossa (2009); Ibrahim (2010); Adamu, Umar, Amoor and Magaji (2012), and Lawal (2018) all opined that, when students/learners are sufficiently trained and motivated to have high need for achievement in life through

entrepreneurship education, there is the greater tendency for them to set up their own businesses after graduation and improve on their economic.

Sánchez, (2010) opined that vocational and entrepreneurship education provides graduates with a sense of independence and self-confidence, makes them to be aware of alternative career choices and provide them with knowledge that can be used by individuals to develop new entrepreneurial opportunities for self reliance and economic growth. In the same lane, study conducted by Mauchi Karambakuwa, Gopo, Kosmas, Mangwende, & Gombarume (2011) further affirmed that technical and vocational education provides learners with skills and knowledge to recognize commercial opportunities and the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for self reliance in income generation.

The result of research hypothesis two shows that home economics has significant influence on addressing insecurity in Yobe state. The respondents reported that the root cause of insecurity in unemployment and poverty among youths. The result of the study was in line with the study conducted by Adamu and Usman (2014) who observed that Nigeria is witnessing a high level of insecurity such as inter and intra-communal crises, ethnic clashes and

ethno-religious violence, robbery, assassination, murder and bomb explosion as a result of unemployment. The authors added that, providing the youths with vocational skills will help to address the security. The submission of Adamu, Adamu and Bashir (2012) showed that the rate of unemployment in country as a result of skills gap is a threat to security of the nation. The author maintained that, youth restiveness, gansterism, militancy, cultism, armed robbery and other forms of anti-social activities are all factors associated with unemployment.

Similarly, Okebukola (2012) reported that most graduates go into kidnapping business probably because they lack basic skills to set up legitimate business. In addition, Adamu and Usman (2014) added that the rate of unemployment leads to state of insecurity in the country. The author added that jobless youths in Nigeria see atrocities as more profitable than anything else. From the foregoing, it therefore means that the strategies development by government and communities to ensured peace and security in the country depends providing youths with skills for self reliance.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of this study it can be concluded that:

Government and the private sector should take very seriously investment in skill acquisition as no nation can complete favorably in the emerging global market with poorly educated and unskilled workers. The leading factors of production in the emerging global economy and said to the technical knowledge, Creativity, and

innovation. It was also concluded that, implementation of Home Economics curriculum will help in reduce the rate of poverty in the state which will enhance the national development.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made:

- (1) The home economics curriculum should be enriched with more practical that will further provide students with skills needed for self reliance
- (2) The study also recommended that Government should create Home Economics training centers that would provide youths and internal displaced persons with the skills for self-reliance.

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