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Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management Sciences University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria Email: ijad@unilorin.edu.ng
samolaoyedele@gmail.com

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Request for permission should be directed to the: Editor-in-Chief
Department of Public Administration University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.
Email: ijad@unilorin.edu.ng
samolaoyedele@gmail.com
+2348130573557

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Contents

Editorial Board	ii
Instruction to Contributors	iii
Editorial Comments	iv - v
Contents	vi - vii
Managing Rewards in the Civil Service:- Implication for Employee's Performance in Lagos State, Nigeria **Benson, Sehinde Kunle, Ph.D** **Lasisi, Idris Olukayode.**	1 - 12
Effect of Salary/Wage Administration and Incentives offer on Employee's Performance in the Lower Niger River Basin Development Authority, Ilorin, Niger. **Dunmade, Emmanuel Olaniyi Ph.D** **Kadiri Ismaila Bolarinwa Ph.D** **Yahaya Idowu Jamiu.**	13 - 20
Community Develoipment Strategies in Lagos State, Nigeria:- An Overview **Irene, Oseremen Felix Ph.D**	21 - 39
Socio-Economic and Political Implications of Boko Haram Uprising on Nigeria **Sanni, Umar Ibrahim** **Bello Adamu Hotoro**	42 - 54
Governance, Migration Trends and Security Challenges in Nigeria **Egugbo, Chuks Cletus** **Oikhala, Gabriel Izokpu Ph.D** **Osungboye, Biola Muhibat**	55 - 65
Assessment of Capacity Acquisition Programmes on Poverty Reduction in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria **Ochigbo Henrry** **Umar Yaru Abubakar** **Bello Mohammed Lawan**	66 - 83

The Relevance of Traditional Rulership in the contemporary Local Government Administration in Nigeria
Mohammed Ndejikko Mohammed 84 - 102

New Public Management and Public Sector Reforms in Nigeria.
Irene, Oseremen Felix Ph.D 103 - 117

Political Institutions and Development in Africa
Muraina, Mujeeb Opeyemi
Adefeso Hammed Adetola Ph.D 118 - 131

Ethics, Good Governance and National Development in Nigeria
Adegbami Adeleke
Osungboye, Biola Muibat 132 - 146

Assesment of Legislative Turnover in Nigeria (2003 to 2019)
Abioye Wasiu Olatunji
Amin, Amin. 147- 165

Public Service Delivery and the Looming Epidemic of Unreached Women Living at the Edge of the Society:- Can open and Distance Education Help
Ogunlela I. Yemisi Ph.D 166 - 183

Assessment of Capacity Acquisition Programmes on Poverty Reduction in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria

Ochigbo Henry
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Administration,Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
henriochi@gmail.com
Umar Yaru Abubakar
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management sciences,University of Ilorin, Ilorin
abubakarumar410@gmail.com
Bello, Mohammed Lawan
Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management sciences,University of Ilorin, Ilorin
ariyo2009@gmail.com

Abstract
Poverty remains one of the most daunting challenges facing Nigeria and has continually remained an issue of public concern. The Federal Government of Nigeria established the National Poverty Eradication Programme to fight poverty. Despite this, poverty is still on the increase. Thispaper assessed Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on poverty reduction in Okpokwu local government area of Benue State from 2008-2014. Specifically, the paper aimed to ascertain the extent to which the implementation of CAP has led to poverty reduction in the area. Both primary and secondary data were sourced. Data collected through questionnaire were analysed using descriptive statistics while qualitative data from interview as well as International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, National Bureau of Statistics, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report and World Bank report were analysed using content analysis. The hypothesis postulated was tested using the Chi-square. The paper revealed that CAP of NAPEP has not effectively reduced poverty in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state. The study concluded that CAP of NAPEP in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state is constrained by poor coordination of material resources, inadequate investment inducement seminars, inadequate micro-credit loans, lack of transparency and accountability, poor participation of beneficiaries and inadequate funding. The paper recommended that there should be effective implementation of CAP of NAPEP through adequate investment inducement seminars, access to micro-credit loans, and proper coordination of resources. The paper also recommends that, there should be adequate funding by government in order to ensure success. It is only then that effective and sustainable implementation of CAP of NAPEP in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State can be achieved.
Keywords: NAPEP, Capacity acquisition programme, Poverty, Poverty reduction.

Introduction

In every country of the world today poverty exists. However, reducing poverty has been an issue of concern to most countries, especially developing countries. Persistent increase in poverty could be worrisome. Poverty manifest itself in various forms, it affects people physically, mentally, socially and, of course, economically.

To many nations, poverty reduction is central to the attainment of development. However, statistics shows that Nigeria has been struggling to achieve sustainable progress in her fight to eradicate poverty. The World Bank (2012) report shows that Nigeria ranked among the 20th poorest countries that started its independence nationhood with poverty level of barely 15% of its population in 1960. But today Nigeria is struggling to bring her ranking down from about 71% of its current teeming population of about 162million people.

Oluwole, (2014) posited that going by the World Bank ranking, Nigeria is one of the top five countries that have the largest number of poor people. India has 33% of the world's poor, China ranks second with 13%, and then Nigeria where 7% of the world's poor live. Bangladesh has 6%, while the Democratic Republic of Congo has 5%. The 'big five' are home to 760 million of the World's poor. The 2010 poverty index indicated that about 112 million representing 67% of the country's 167 million people are living below poverty line in 2013, and presently about 70% of the total population of Nigeria are poor while about 4.6m people of the entire population are unemployed (NBS, 2015). Most of these poor people reside in the rural areas.

In January 2001, President Obasanjo's regime came up with National Poverty Eradication Programme focusing on the provision of strategies for the eradication of absolute poverty in Nigeria (FRN,2001:3). The programme is also complemented by the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) which is to coordinate poverty-reduction related activities of all the relevant Ministries, Parastatals and Agencies. The programme adopted a four-scheme strategy for implementation. These are, Rural Infrastructure Development Strategy (RIDS), Social Welfare Schemes (SOWESS), National Resource Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS) and Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) under which it has CAP of NAPEP which is aimed at providing sustainable employment opportunities for citizens to be self-reliant and develop entrepreneurship skills and to boost economic activities. The programme is geared towards developing targeted skills, promote entrepreneurship and grassroots economic activities, and create wealth through micro-credit loan.

Statement of Research Problem

In the face of endemic poverty, hunger, unemployment and progressive disempowerment of a large chunk of the population, the prospect of escaping life threatening situations and achieving sustainable growth and development is therefore linked to the establishment of NAPEP in Nigeria (Edoh 2003).The harmonized Nigerian living standard survey (2010) released by the National Bureau of Statistics puts Nigeria's poverty incidence at 69% or 112.47 million people. In 2013, the National Poverty level was put at 70%.

To tackle the rise in poverty trend, NAPEP was introduced in 2001. In Benue State, several strategies of NAPEP were put in place in the quest to reduce poverty. To enable participants, acquire new skills under the Capacity Acquisition Programme, 3000 beneficiaries were trained in welding, carpentry, hairdressing, food processing and preservation, snack making,

cosmetology, etc between 2010 and 2014 (NAPEP-Benue, 2014). NAPEP has received the sum of #129,803,316 between 2009 and 2012 for multi-partnership programmes in Benue state. Despite these huge financial investments, between 2000-2002, poverty incidence rose to 53.3% and between 2003 – 2004, absolute poverty stood at 68%. The period 2009 to 2010 witnessed an increase in poverty. Between these periods, absolute poverty stood at 79%. 62.9% of households do not have access to primary education, 76% of the entire populace in the state lack access to any source of power in 2010, 78.1% of the entire populace are living in poverty in 2013(NBS: 2012). NBS further revealed that 96.5% of people have access to firewood, another 2.8% have access to kerosene as their major source of cooking between the same periods (NBS, 2012). From the above stated problem, the question is what went wrong with the implementation of CAP in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State viewing the rising incidence of poverty. The objective of this paper is to ascertain the extent to which the implementation of CAP has affected poverty reduction in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State from 2008-2014. The hypothesis to be tested is; the level of implementation of capacity acquisition programme of NAPEP is not a constraint to poverty reduction in Okpokwu local government area of Benue State.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Conceptualization Clarification

Poverty

Eze (2009:446) submits that there is plethora of literatures on the concept of poverty. Quite several works have been done on the concept of poverty but rather than reaching a consensus on its meaning, scholarly works have proliferated alternative poverty concepts and indicators. This condition explains the complexity involved in the conceptual analysis and dissection of poverty. Ajakaiye (2000:28) is of the view that poverty is a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his or her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. Such an individual is unable to meet social and economic obligations; he is unemployed; lacks skills, assets and self-esteem; has little or no access to social and economic infrastructure to include portable water and sanitation, education, health; little or no access to good living and consequently, no access of advancing his or her welfare to his or her capabilities. Poverty could also mean the denial or deprivation of material resources. It also includes the need for basic necessities of life which need to be provided by the community in order to prevent her members from falling into poverty. There is the need for employment generation as well as participation in economic and social activities leading to human development.

Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction means lack of basic necessities of life of an individual or community. It has to do with improving the living standard of mass of the low-income populace residing especially in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining (Obadan, 2009). It is also the creation of general condition of living where individuals can cater for his/her basic necessities of life to include food, clothing and shelter through training in various skills such as welding, plumbing, painting, mechanic, carpentering, volcanizing, fashion designing, interior decoration, tailoring, investment inducement seminars, and as well have access to loans. These can lead to increase of the individual income and by so

doing, reducing the level of need or want of basic necessities of life, create employment and by extension increase in income.

Incidence of Poverty in Nigeria

Considering the wealth and natural endowment of the nation, high rate of poverty in Nigeria is quite ironic, pathetic and absurd when compared with other less endowed developing countries in Africa and other parts of third world countries, although poverty level has been declining in Sub-Saharan Africa on the average. The incidence of poverty in the country using US $1 per day increased from 28.1% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985 and later decline to 42.7% in 1992. However, the figure rose to 66% in 1996 and to about 70% in 2000. Contrary to the first report of the National Planning Commission (NPC), this report clearly indicates that poverty has reduced to about 54.4% in 2004 (Igbuzor 2006), it further rose to 79% in 2010 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012). In fact, the United Nations (UN) Human Development Reports (HDR) of 2006 rated Nigeria's poverty rate between 1990 to 2005 to be 70.8% of the populace. This trend is far above the sub-Saharan Africa average of 41.1% in 2004. Furthermore, the 2009 Human Development Index (HDI) of the UN revealed that using $1.25 as poverty line, the Nigerian poverty rate between 2000 and 2007 was set at 64.4% of the entire populace. If estimated at $2, the percentage would be 83.9%. This of course, shows the severity of the incidence of poverty in the country.

Ironically, Nigeria is richly endowed with arable land and natural resources, it also occupied 13th position in the World and the largest producer of petroleum and 6th largest in OPEC as at 2002. Early in 2006, the country was rated as the 8th highest producer of petroleum in the world, with production capacity of 2.1million barrels of petroleum per day at an average price of US$50-60 per barrel (BBC World news, 16th January 2006). The country has an estimated proven reserve of 32 billion barrels-sufficient for 37 years at the then prevailing rate of production. The gas reserve if fully exploited would place her in the world's top ten gas producers as the estimated gas reserves were 174 million cubic feet and would last for 110 years at the then prevailing rate of production (IMF,2002).

The severity of poverty in Nigeria is equally glaring when other indicators of services and development are considered. Looking at the vision 2010 Committee Report, 50% of Nigerians live below the poverty line, only 40% have access to safe drinking water, about 85% of the urban population lives in single houses with more than 7 occupants on the average. 62% of Nigerians have access to primary health care, in terms of feeding, most Nigerians take less than one-third of the minimum required protein and vitamins (Report 2010 Committee; Edoh 2003:71). Poverty in Nigeria is all encompassing. The scourge has also shown a rising tendency in the past couple of decades accounting for the nation's low development indicators and its ranking alongside the poorest nations in the world.

Empirical Studies

This study tries to review scholarly works conducted by other writers in similar areas of research in order to extract from their own experiences and findings and to ascertain whether, they relate to the findings of this study. Nnamdi (2006) carried out a study on the Impact of NAPEP on Socio-economic Development of the Rural Populace in Oshimili North Local Government area of Delta State. The study limits itself to Primary data and

focused attention on issues relating to employment, microfinance, agriculture and rural transportation. It was discovered that implementation of NAPEP programme in the study area was not followed, skill acquisition programme failed in providing self-employment to beneficiaries of NAPEP after the training, agricultural activities was not boosted, social infrastructures which the programme targeted were lacking.

Asaju (2011) conducted a study on assessment of poverty eradication programme in Nigeria with particular reference to NAPEP activities in Kogi and Katsina states, the study clearly revealed that though the programme claimed to have adopted participatory (bottom-top) approach, but in reality, that was not the case as major stakeholders were not allowed to participate in the policy making and implementation of the programme. The study found out that in terms of selection of beneficiaries of NAPEP, there was lack of fairness in the selection and distribution of application forms. The study went further to say that service delivery by NAPEP was insignificant due to poor implementation. Both primary and secondary data was utilized, and the population of the study comprises of both the beneficiaries of NAPEP as well as staff of NAPEP in the study area.

The researcher may be said to have succeeded in assessing the strategies and mode of implementing NAPEP in two states, it failed to address the issue of coordination of the programme with poverty eradication agencies in the country. The research was also unable to address the issue of the claim of ownership of the programme by the beneficiaries which might have led to commitment to the programme.

Furthermore, Samuel (2011) carried out a study on the role of NAPEP in capacity enhancement in Enugu state and found out that the role of NAPEP in capacity enhancement of micro-credit scheme and examination of its effect on capacity enhancement and the living condition of the poor in Enugu State was not significant. The research was a survey research and it utilized both primary and secondary data, the study succeeded in assessing the strategies and modalities of implementing NAPEP in the state, it however, failed to tackle the issue of weaknesses in implementation of NAPEP programme.

Finally, Joseph (2005) carried out a study titled "Assessment of Impact of Poverty Reduction Programmes in Nigeria as a Development Strategy, 1970-2005". The study found out that poverty eradication programmes of successive governments in Nigeria from 1970 neither made significant impact on the living condition of the poor nor led to the eradication of poverty in the country. The researcher suggested that the poor were more likely to associate with poverty reduction programmes if they could participate in the initial policy design of such programmes. He went further to say that poverty reduction programmes should be properly packaged in such a way that government would go into partnership with the people in order to make implementation smooth and successful.

Theoretical Framework.

The theoretical framework for this study is the System Theory propounded by David Easton (1979). According to the system theory, all units or parts that make-up the system are very relevant, and no part should be altered or left to function on its own without necessary relating and interacting with other parts which make up the system. However, a system has input transformation mechanisms i.e., it possesses the quality of transforming inputs into outputs. The central guiding principle of the system approach is the assumption of

equilibrium. This can best be achieved when all other parts which make up the system cooperate, understand and relate with one another.

The system theory propounded by David Easton gives an insight on how organizations, programmes and policies should operate. System theory is found worthy to this study as the theoretical framework because effective implementation of CAP of NAPEP requires inter-relationship and effective coordination between and among the various activities and stakeholders of NAPEP. In this case, the elements of the system theory (Input, Process, Output and Environment) are not clearly aligned, and one element may likely undermine the effort of the others. This contributes to the ineffectiveness of CAP on poverty reduction in Okpokwu Local Government area of Benue.

The Input element of the system theory consists of policies and programmes of government to include: CAP, as well as staff of NAPEP, material and financial resources which are highly relevant in reducing poverty. The through put or the process stage has to do with apprenticeship and job training in various skills in their respective areas of specialisation and, creating opportunity for women and youths, giving them access to loans, increasing their income, and reducing their poverty level.

Again, the Output element is manifested in the area of self-employment of beneficiaries, increase in their production and income level, which in turn reduces their poverty level. And finally, the last element of the system theory is environment. This has to do with the activities and efforts of government geared towards poverty reduction. Government initiated different policies and programmes as in the case of CAP and as well make funds available for these programmes to address and meet the needs of the people in the society. The system theory is a vicious cycle. When there is a break in the vicious cycle of a system, the result will in-turn be negative. Meaning that poverty will be on the increase because the system has been disrupted. But on the contrary, when there is smooth flow of the vicious cycle, the result will be positive and by implication, there will be poverty reduction.

Methodology

The study adopts the survey method of research, which deals with the use of questionnaire and interview methods. The total population for this study is 115, comprising the State coordinator of NAPEP, the Desk officer, the Community Development Officer in the local government and a total of 112 beneficiaries of CAP of NAPEP in the study area. Using Krejci and Morgan (1970), the sample size for the study is 92. A total of 92 copies of questionnaires were administered to the beneficiaries of CAP of NAPEP and 81 copies of questionnaires were dully filled and returned.

The Level of Implementation of Capacity Acquisition Programme of NAPEP is not a constraint to Poverty Reduction in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State.

CAP is a skill acquisition programme that is directed towards rural populace in the study area with the aim of empowering both skilled and unskilled participants through training on creative activities and services.

Table 4.1 Investment inducement seminars organised for the implementation of CAP is effective.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	10	12
Agree Undecided	5	6
Undecided	9	11
Disagree	25	31
Strongly Disagree	32	40
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.1. indicates the responses of respondents on the effectiveness of investment inducement seminars organised for the implementation of CAP. 40% and 31% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively with the claim that investment inducement seminars organised for the implementation of CAP were effective. 12% and 6% of respondents, however, strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the claim that investment inducement seminars organised for the implementation of CAP had been effective. Meanwhile 11% of respondents were undecided. What this information show is that, majority of the respondents were not satisfied with the efforts made at reducing poverty through investment inducement seminars.

Table 4.2: Do you agree that trained beneficiaries of CAP were settled with a micro-credit loan?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	13	9
Agree Undecided	9	25
Undecided	1	2
Disagree	28	31
Strongly Disagree	30	33
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.2. presents opinions of respondents whether beneficiaries of CAP were dully settled after training through micro-credit loan. 33% and 31% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively with the assertion that they were settled through micro-credit loan 9% and 25% of respondents, however, agreed and strongly agreed respectively

that they were dully settled. The remaining 2% were undecided. The data in the Table reveal that, beneficiaries of CAP were not given full opportunities in accessing start up micro- credit loan.

Table 4.3: The micro-credit loan to set up and sustain your enterprise is adequate?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	20	25
Agree Undecided	10	12
Undecided	----	-----
Disagree	21	26
Strongly Disagree	30	37
Total	81	100

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.3. Present opinion in terms of adequacy of the micro-credit loan to set up and sustain their enterprise, 37% and 26% of respondent strongly disagreed and disagreed that the micro-credit loan was adequate to set up and sustain their enterprise. In contrary 25% and 12% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the micro-credit loan was adequate to set up and sustain their own enterprise. Thus, from the responses of majority, we shall say that the kind of micro-credit loan given was such that could not adequately meet beneficiaries' satisfaction.

Table 4.4: Do you agree that there is coordination of material resources in the implementation of CAP?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	16	20
Agree Undecided	11	14
Undecided	8	10
Disagree	19	24
Strongly Disagree	27	32
Total	81	100

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Also, responding to the extent to which the trainers of CAP are organised, majority of respondents representing 32% and 24% strongly disagreed and disagreed that the extent to which the trainers of CAP are organised is highly satisfactory. While 20% and 14% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the extent to which the trainers of CAP are organised is highly satisfactory. 10% of respondents were undecided. Thus, we can deduce

here, that, the beneficiaries were not actually satisfied with the trainer the way they organised the implementation of CAP

Table 4.5: The level of coordination of material resources in the implementation of CAP is satisfactory?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	18	22
Agree Undecided	9	12
Undecided	1	1
Disagree	23	28
Strongly Disagree	30	37
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Finally, the opinion of respondents was sought on the extent to which material resources are coordinated in the implementation of CAP, 37% and 28% strongly disagreed and disagreed that the extent to which material resources are coordinated in the implementation of CAP is highly satisfactory. However, 22% and 12% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed with this assertion, another 1% of respondent were undecided. The respondent's views reveal that, majority of them were dissatisfied with the manner material resources were coordinated in the implementation of CAP.

Table 4.6: CAP of NAPEP has made you self-employed?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	11	14
Agree	8	10
Undecided	1	1
Disagree	31	37
Strongly Disagree	30	38
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.6. present effectiveness of the implementation of CAP of NAPEP on poverty reduction in Okpokwu local government, the above table clearly indicates that 37% and 38% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the claim, another contrary view indicates that 14% and 10% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, however, 1 of respondent was undecided. One can deduce from the data here that many of the respondents still lack necessity of life i.e. poverty level is still at height point

Table 4.7: CAP of NAPEP has given you easy access to health care services?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	9	11
Agree	2	2
Undecided	5	7
Disagree	29	36
Strongly Disagree	36	44
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.7. Opinion was sought on easy access to health care services, and it was gathered that 44% and 36% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the assertion that CAP of NAPEP has given them easy access to health care services, contrary 11% and 2% of respondents strongly agreed ad agreed with the above assertion, while 7% of respondents were undecided. Data contained in this table is an evidence that the beneficiaries cannot easily access health care services despite their participation in the CAP programme. By implication the programme had not yielded positive result in term of health care service.

Table 4.8: With CAP of NAPEP, you can afford three square meals per- day?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	13	16
Agree	5	6
Undecided	2	3
Disagree	36	44
Strongly Disagree	25	31
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.8 above clearly indicates that majority of respondents representing 44% and 31% strongly disagreed and disagreed that with CAP of NAPEP, they can now afford three square meals per- day; another contrary view indicates that 16% and 6% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the above assertion, while 3% of respondents were undecided. The patterns of the responses indicate that, majority of the respondents cannot still afford three square meal despite them participated in CAP. This simply means the participants are still living within the poverty circle.

Table 4.9: With CAP of NAPEP, you can now afford a shelter?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	12	15
Agree	8	10
Undecided	---	---
Disagree	26	32
Strongly Disagree	35	43
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

In table 4.9, 43% and 32% of respondents are in disagreement with the claim that with CAP of NAPEP, they can now afford shelter, another contrary view posits that 15% and 10% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that with CAP of NAPEP, they can now afford shelter. From the responses above it clearly deduce that majority respondents cannot still afford shelter for themselves.

TABLE 4.10: CAP of NAPEP has drastically reduced your poverty level through income generation?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	10	13
Agree	7	7
Undecided	5	7
Disagree	28	35
Strongly Disagree	31	38
Total	**81**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.10 present , 38% and 38% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the claim that CAP of NAPEP has increased their level of income, another 13% and 7% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed with the claim that CAP of NAPEP has increased their level of income, while, 7% of respondents were undecided on the subject matter. The views of majority shows that despite the existent of the CAP the poverty level is at alarming rate.

Interview Report on Assessment of CAP of NAPEP in Okpokwu Local Government

In an interview with the Desk Officer of NAPEP, it was revealed that investment inducement seminars were organised for the implementation of capacity acquisition programme of NAPEP before embarking on training. However, the Community Development Officer (CDO) confessed that the investment seminars are not frequently organised. In most cases, just a formal orientation is given before embarking on training. The CDO confessed that the investment inducement seminars are of great relevance to the beneficiaries of NAPEP. These he said prepare the minds of the beneficiaries as well as educating them of what is expected

of them during and after the training. In a bid to ascertain whether trained beneficiaries are settled through micro-credit scheme, the Desk Officer revealed that beneficiaries of CAP of NAPEP were settled through micro-credit scheme. But again, the CDO confessed that there is delay in giving out micro-credit loans to beneficiaries of CAP of NAPEP. The Desk Officer asserted that the major source of funding of NAPEP at Local Government level is directly from the state treasury. Whenever there is shortage of funds or delay of funds, it would affect the activities of NAPEP. While the Desk Officer of NAPEP revealed that every beneficiary of CAP of NAPEP is been paid stipend during training and as well have access to micro-credit loan as soon as funds are made available for its activities. The CDO went further to reveal that not every beneficiary has access to micro-credit loan of NAPEP even if funds are readily available. When asked to generally rate the effectiveness of the implementation of CAP of NAPEP, the Desk Officer asserted that CAP of NAPEP has attain certain level of successes and has greatly impacted on the lives of beneficiaries. The CDO revealed that CAP of NAPEP is not very effective, transparency and accountability is lacking which in turn affects the strategy employed. They both belief that NAPEP has a uniform structure capable of yielding result, but again attitudinal disposition of the Desk Officer, trainers of CAP of NAPEP affects the implementation of CAP according to the CDO. The CDO further revealed that corruption affects the implementation of CAP of NAPEP.

In an interview with the State coordinator of NAPEP in Benue State, the State Coordinator was asked whether the effectiveness of the implementation of CAP of NAPEP in the State has so far been effective, He went ahead to reveal that NAPEP is a fantastic programme geared towards development. During Magnus Kpako under the Obasanjo administration, the implementation of the programme was effective. It used to be very effective before but now to some extent not effective because there is no political will on the part of political office holders. Again, regarding the issue of transparency and accountability, the State Coordinator of NAPEP affirmed that as it is now, transparency and accountability is lacking, those at the helm of affairs hijacked the proceeds meant for NAPEP. It was workable at the beginning and very fantastic. By now, we are supposed to be reaping the benefit of NAPEP despite adequate structures on ground to support effective implementation of the programme. Furthermore, when asked whether the strategy employed by NAPEP is effective, the State Coordinator further revealed that the strategy adopted is very effective.

Discussion

It was proposed that CAP in NAPEP being implemented by the LG have not empowered the beneficiaries in the area to alleviate poverty. Efforts to generate data needed to test this proposition revealed that the programs have not appreciably empowerment Citizens in the LGA. Table 4.1 through to 4.10 contain these data. Despite the existent of the programs, the level of income of beneficiaries has not risen visibly and they cannot afford basic necessities such as food and clothing; afford to acquire basic household items; and also afford to visit health centres for treatment when the need arises without the support family member.

Interview response revealed that the execution of the programs has been marred by several obstacles. These challenges include poor and untimely release of funds; shortage of technical personnel to coordinate and supervise the programs; shortage of materials and working tools resulting from poor funding; nonchalant attitude of beneficiaries; dearth of professional

trainers; poorly equipped state; and lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Test of Hypothesis

Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses earlier postulated. This is to test the validity of the hypotheses, using some of the data collected.

$$X^2=\sum\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$$

Where:

X^2 = chi-square

Fo = Observed frequency

Fe = Expected frequency

$\sum$ = Summation

To calculate the expected frequency, we multiply the column total by the row total and divide the result by the grand total for each cell.

$$FE=\frac{CT \times RT}{GT}$$

The degree of freedom is the number of freely varying scores within the sample. The difference is always one less than the sample size and is given as:

$$Df=N-1$$

The level of significance refers to the maximum probability with which we could be willing to risk. It could equally be referred to as probability of making type one error designated as alpha. That is rejecting a false hypothesis that is in fact true. For the study, the level of significance to be used is 0.05. Based on the statistical analysis the decision rule for the study will be as follows:

Decision Rule

The study shall reject the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance if the X2 value (i.e. Calculated value) exceeds the critical value. On the other hand, if the critical value exceeds the calculated value the study shall accept the hypothesis.

Test of Hypothesis (HO): The Level of Implementation of Capacity Acquisition Programme of NAPEP is not a Constraint to Poverty Reduction in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue state.

CAP has drastically reduced your poverty level through income generation (Dependent Variable) * CAP has been effective in addressing skills acquisition (Independent variable) Cross tabulation

			CAP has been effective in addressing skills acquisition	
			Undecided	Agree
CAP has drastically reduced your poverty level through income generation	Strongly Disagree	Count	0	0
		Expected Count	3.1	4.2
		Std. Residual	-1.7	-2.1
	Disagree	Count	8	5
		Expected Count	2.8	3.8
		Std. Residual	3.1	.6
	Undecided	Count	0	5
		Expected Count	.5	.7
		Std. Residual	-.7	5.2
	Agree	Count	0	1
		Expected Count	.7	1.0
		Std. Residual	-.8	.1
	Strongly Agree	Count	0	0
		Expected Count	1.0	1.4
		Std. Residual	-1.0	-1.2
Total		Count	8	11
		Expected Count	8.0	11.0

			CAP has been effective in addressing skills acquisition	Total
			Strongly Agree	
CAP has drastically reduced your poverty level through income generation	Strongly Disagree	Count	0	31
		Expected Count	6.1	31.0
		Std. Residual	-2.5	
	Disagree	Count	0	28
		Expected Count	5.5	28.0
		Std. Residual	-2.4	
	Undecided	Count	0	5
		Expected Count	1.0	5.0
		Std. Residual	-1.0	
	Agree	Count	6	7
		Expected Count	1.4	7.0
		Std. Residual	3.9	
	Strongly Agree	Count	10	10
		Expected Count	2.0	10.0
		Std. Residual	5.7	
Total		Count	16	81
		Expected Count	16.0	81.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2 - sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	170.255[a]	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	161.709	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	67.703	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	81		

a. 19 cells (76.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .49.

Decision

To investigate whether CAP has been effective in reducing poverty in Okpokwu Local Government area of Benue State or not, a Chi-square statistic was used. Table 5.1 shows the Cross-tabulation results and indicates that there is a statistical significance between CAP and poverty reduction in Okpokwu Local Government area of Benue State. It implies that there is significant evidence against the null hypothesis which states that the level of implementation of CAP is not a limitation to poverty reduction in Okpokwu Local Government area of Benue State. $X^2 = 170.225$, df= 16, N=81, $P < .000$. Therefore, the Ho is rejected because $P < \alpha$, thus the level of implementation of CAP is a limitation to poverty reduction in Okpokwu Local Government area of Benue State.

Summary of Findings

The results obtained from the analyses of the effectiveness of CAP of NAPEP on poverty reduction in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state and the test of hypothesis for this study revealed that poor coordination/organisation of the activities of NAPEP, inadequate/delay of funds, not involving the CDOs in most cases in the activities of NAPEP are constraints to effectiveness of CAP of NAPEP on poverty reduction in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state.

Furthermore, interview sources revealed that there was abuse of office by NAPEP officials, attitudinal disposition of CDOs as well as beneficiaries is disheartening, corruption leading to lack of transparency and accountability, attitudinal disposition of trainers and trainees are constraints to the effectiveness of CAP of NAPEP on poverty reduction. NAPEP officials used their influence to approve for themselves directly or through their cronies amounts which they used with no intention to repay.

It further revealed that cases of funds approved for certain beneficiaries were diverted to different beneficiaries thus making it impossible for such funds to be recovered. There were number of instances whereby monies approved for certain projects were partially given to beneficiaries. Daily Trust of Friday, 15 January 2010 further revealed that in some state, NAPEP officials released part of the approved monies to their contractors to undertake projects on behalf of beneficiaries, thereby surcharging the actual beneficiaries. It is noted that in most states, NAPEP funds were used for politicking as the monies were given out as succour to loyal party members with no plans for recovery which is in line with the findings of this study.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident from the research findings that CAP of NAPEP has not effectively reduced poverty among beneficiaries of Okpokwu local government area of Benue state. This is envisaged in poor coordination of material resources, inadequate investment inducement seminars, inadequate funding, lack of transparency and accountability, poor participation of beneficiaries as well as the CDO etc.

In view of the above conclusion, the following recommendations are hereby made;

1. There should be an effective implementation of CAP through adequate investment inducement seminars, access to micro credit loans, proper coordination of resources etc.
2. There should be transparency and accountability in the implementation of CAP of

NAPEP in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state.

3. There should be adequate funding in order to ensure success in the implementation of CAP of NAPEP in Okpokwu local government area of Benue state.

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