

The impact of poverty alleviation programmes in the areas of agricultural development and job creation for unemployed youth in Borno state

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Abstract

Poverty situation has worsened despite the huge human and material resources that have been devoted to poverty reduction by successive government in Nigeria with no substantial success achieved from such efforts. Nonetheless, since poverty remains a development issue, it has continued to capture the attention of both national government and international development agencies, for several decades; this necessitates the study which tends to examine the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in Borno state, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in the areas of agricultural development and Job creation for unemployed youth in Borno State, Nigeria. The researcher used survey design. The target population of the study comprised of 460 staff of ministry of poverty alleviation and youth empowerment Maiduguri, Borno state, 1900 beneficiaries of the programme were used as the sample space. The research instrument used for this was questionnaire, The findings of the study revealed that; with the aid of this programme, modern agricultural technology and inputs were provided to the people in the state; Jobs opportunity were created for unemployed youth in the state. The impact of this programme was found out to be statistically significant at $p > 0.05$. Conclusively, Poverty Alleviation Programme have immensely impact a positively to the people of Borno State.

Key word: Impact of Poverty Alleviation in the area of Agriculture, Borno State.

Introduction

In a related report, poverty in Nigeria is assuming a worrisome dimension as empirical studies have shown Nigeria, a sub-Saharan African country has at least half of its populations living in abject poverty (Ojo 2008). Similarly, the publication of the Federal Office of Statistics (1996) reveals that poverty has been massive, pervasive and engulfs a large proportion of the Nigeria society. Abiola and Olaopa(2008), state that the scourge of poverty in Nigeria is a incontrovertible fact which results in hunger, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, poor access to credit facilities and low life expectancy as well as a general level of human hopelessness. This study examines the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in Borno state, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in the area of agricultural development ; the impact of poverty alleviation programmes on job creation for unemployed youth ; the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in reducing the rate of illiteracy in the state ; the impact of capacity acquisition programmes on the beneficiaries ; the impact of mandatory

attachment programmers on the beneficiaries ; the impact of empowerment programmes on the beneficiaries; and the impact of self-help programmes on the beneficiaries Seven research questions were raised in line with the objectives. The researcher used survey design. The target population of the study comprised of 460 staff of ministry of poverty alleviation and youth empowerment Maiduguri, Borno state, and 1900 beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes in Maiduguri; Metropolitan Council, Gubio and Gwoza local Government Area. Multi-stage sampling were used in this study. First stage is the purposive selection of senatorial zones and second stage is purposive selection of local Government Areas. 30% (138) of staff of ministry of poverty alleviation and youth empowerment and 30% (570) beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes were used as sample of the study. The research instrument used for this was questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by the researched tagged "Assigning of Poverty Alleviation Questionnaire" (APAPQ). The questionnaires comprised of 35 items. The researcher with three research assistance administered the instrument. Frequency count, percentages and standard deviation were used in analyzing the data .The findings of the study revealed that; Government has provided modern agricultural technology and inputs to the people in the state ;Government has created job opportunity for unemployed youth ; capacity acquisition programmes, mandatory attachment programmes and self-help programme have impacted positively on the beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes. Therefore, the following recommendation were made for improvement. Government should expand production capacity in the area of agricultural inputs, preservation, storage and marketing agricultural products and agricultural credits; Government should established more vocational training centres and provide sufficient poverty reduction package that will be efficient as to increase employment opportunities; Literacy education centres should be given more attention by establishing more literacy centres and recruiting more man power; There is need to create awareness for youth in the area of wealth creation, skill acquisition and employment opportunities. Government should continue to produce a strong basis for micro-finance and micro-credit for income expansion and poverty reduction, government should designed and provide empowerment programmes to alleviate the poverty situation in the state government, Individuals, Religious bodies and Non-governmental Organization should embark on more self-help projects to improve the living standard of the people in the state.

The description of Nigeria as a paradox by world Bank (1996) has continued to be confirmed by events and official statistics in the country. To date, poverty situation in Nigeria remains a paradox, at least from two perspectives. Firstly, poverty in Nigeria is a paradox because the poverty level appears as a contradiction considering the country's immense wealth. Secondly, poverty situation has worsened despite the huge human and material resources that have been devoted to poverty reduction by successive government in Nigeria with no substantial success achieved from such efforts. Nonetheless, since poverty remains a development issue, it has continued to capture the attention of both national government and international development agencies, for several decades.

In line with recent finding, available statistics reveals that the poverty incidence in Nigeria has been on the increase since the 1980s. As reported by the (UNDP,2010), between 1980 and 1996 the percentages of the core poor rose from 6.2 percent to 29.3 percent and declined to 22.0 percent in 2004. According to Omotola (2004), about 70% of the population now live in abject poverty. According to Aigbokhan (2000), poverty is higher in the rural area than in urban area. In 2004, the urban population with access to water was 67%, while it was 31% service in the rural areas. In terms of sanitation services, 53% of the urban population had access to sanitation services, and 36% in rural area. This is worse than the situation in Cameroon, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (World Bank 2008)

In terms of human development index, Nigeria is ranked 158th of the 159th countries surveyed in 2005 (CIA 2009). Using the selected world development indicators, the life expectancy at birth in 2006 for male and female in Nigeria was 46 and 47 years respectively. Between 2000 and 2007, 27.2% of children under five were malnourished. This is alarming compared to 3.7% between same periods in Brazil. Furthermore, The United Nations report of (1999) Nigeria's Human Poverty Index (HPI) placed the country among the 25 poorest nation of the world. The HPI for other countries are Zimbabwe (17.39%), Botswana (22.9%) Kenya (26.1%), Burkina Faso (58.3%) and Nigeria (66.0 %). Similarly, Human Poverty Index (2004) ranks Nigeria 151 out of 177 countries and 22 out of 45 African countries.

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered:

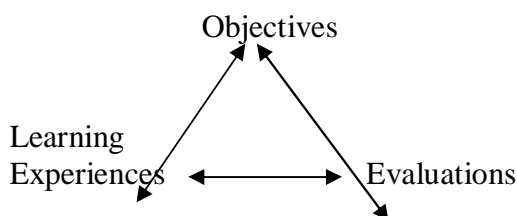
1. What is the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in the area of agricultural development?
2. What is the impact of poverty alleviation programs on job creation for unemployed youth?

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will benefit the following groups of people; state administrators, adult educators, bodies and organizations with responsibilities for delivery on poverty alleviation, Banking institutions, advisors on poverty alleviation programmes, evaluators on achievement on programmes, investors' beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes and researcher.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study was based on Tyler's Goal Evaluation Model (1949). Tyler's rationale consists of three major elements: a) Objectives b) Learning experiences, and c) evaluation.



Representation of Tyler's Rationale

Tyler's evaluation model according to Wolf (1991), is recognized as goal evaluation while Mc Namara (1999) stated that goal evaluation is also known as goal based evaluation because the programmes are often described in the original plans.

Olactari and Ali (1997) maintained that the main purpose of goal evaluation is to provide feedback on the extent to which the set objectives of programme project being achieved.

Therefore, Tyler's Goal Evaluation model (1949) provides frame upon which the achievement of programmes can be weighted. It requires that the evaluator's activity should be guided by the objectives or goals for which the programme was established. In other words the success or failure of a programme may only be determined through the goals. Goal model evaluation is related to this study in the sense that objectives refer to one intention for an educational background. They represent the desired performance that beneficiaries are to acquire as a result of going through the programme. Objectives can range from acquisition of specific skills to

the development of new ways of thinking and feeling. While the term “learning experiences” refers to those activities undergo in order to acquire the desired performance and behaviors. Learning experiences include both individuals and group activities that are carried on both in and out of class for the purpose of programme and evaluations are activities undertaken to determine the extent to which the objectives of the programme are being attained. Evaluation information can furnish information that may result in the modification of some objectives, learning experiences and possible elimination of others.

In a related report, Omolewa (1992) stated that design deals with the content of the learning experiences and involves the selection of specific materials to be used. Omolewa further stressed that among other things, the programme must organize learners involved, their experiences, his educational background, their present skills and the expected objectives of the learning experiences. Thus, to him, the learner must be the main focus of any design.

Impact of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the area of Agricultural Development.

Agriculture is a productive sector of national economy, which cannot be neglected prior to independence and oil discovery, Agriculture was the role revenue earner and sustenance of human life in Nigeria.

Borno state being part of this nation, Nigeria, it is one of the states, which is unindustrialized and depends solely on agricultural sector for its economic empowerment and development.

There are three major government programmes related to poverty in agricultural sector for developing and empowering people. These include:

- i. Agronomy and seed development
 - i) rain-fed crops: maze, corn,, rice, millet, beans, and cassava, among others.
 - ii) Irrigated crops: wheat, rice, pepper, vegetables and fruits.
- ii. Livestock Development
 - ✓ Calf, crop production for meat and diary
 - ✓ Animal traditional development (draught and animal power)
 - ✓ Rabbury, poultry, livestock farming.
 - ✓ Training and leather working
- iii. Fisheries Development
 - ✓ Lakes and river fishing
 - ✓ Aquaculture fish development (BOSEEDS, 2005).

Borno state government under these different programmes has designed different programmes to provide self-employment in agriculture for unemployed youths and women farmers, school leavers, and graduates in agriculture or related disciplines. The state and local government provide farmlands, a loan package in kind and cash, supply, improved seeds, pesticides fertilizers, storage cribs. This is to improve the output and self sufficiency for those going into livestock or fish farming. Loan is paid in two installments. The first one covers the cost of erecting simple buildings, sinking of boreholes and fencing. The second installment covers the cost of purchasing feeds, foundations stocks, labour cost and the stipend payable to the participants. Both the livestock and crop loans are payable in 5 years, with one year period grace and 9% interest rate. To further boost the agricultural sector of the state, youth with prior training in various disciplines of agriculture have successfully undergone four months intensive training in agriculture in Thailand. The trainees were engaged as agricultural extension workers across the state. Similarly, youth were trained at the Sabore farm in Yola, Adamawa state, where they underwent intensive training in agriculture to boost food production and to improve condition of living of people and to be self-employed. Hundreds of people have benefited from the programmes mentioned above. (Ministry of Poverty

Alleviation & Youth Empowerment). Akpama and Andenz (2008) reported that women in Yumbe District Uganda were trained on animal husbandry and food production through efficient traditional and cost-effective methods. The report indicated that the attitude of women towards the project was encouraging. Thus women had much to eat and feed their families and some were sold to bring income.

The report concluded that the living standard of the beneficiaries had improved. Finally the report stated that the funds they got were used to buy cassava sticks, different varieties which were resistant to cassava mosaic which had wiped out local variety. The multiplication of these varieties was meant to help produce mosaic resistant species.

The Impact of Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Job creation for unemployed Youths.

Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the future leaders, they are potentially and actually the greatest investment for a country's development. The extent of their volatility, responsible conduct and role in the society is positively correlated with the development. Borno state's population is predominantly young. Therefore, the government have given due consideration of youth in socio-economic and political development. The focus therefore, is to generate maximum expression of youthful creativity and productivity ingenuity and freedom in the context of an appropriate environment for self-expression, self-sustenance and self-actualization and empowerment by the youth. (Borno State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (BOSEEDS 2005 Zero Draft Document).

One of the core mandates of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment is the training of youths in various trade through the skills acquisition centres spread across the state under the skills acquisition programmes, the ministry has in the last years trained hundred youths in various trade with the view to making them self-reliant and employers of labour by engaging other apprentices. Recently youths in two batches have undergone training in different trades at the Katsina craft village on the invitation of the Katsina State government. Similarly, youths have undergone training in the art of inter-locks and hydrotone making programmes. All these programmes are meant to create gainful employment for youth and to uplift their living standard. The achievement of the ministry under the period in review is the establishment of North East Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Maiduguri jointly funded by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Borno State Government. Trainees were drawn from all the local government areas and it was in batches. The youths and unemployed graduates were trained to retool themselves with various entrepreneurship skills with the view of becoming employers of labourers and contributors to the socioeconomic development of the state and indeed the national loans were given to graduates of the centre to set up their own business.

In the same vein, Borno state government through the ministry collaborated with the Industrial Training Fund and embarked on intensive training on welding and fabrication, garment making (Tailoring) and furniture making. Youths were drawn from all the local government areas in the state and were trained in Maiduguri. Like other trainees, grandaunts were empowered with various tools to set up their businesses.

Funmilola (2002-2009) studied the impact of youth empowerment scheme on poverty alleviation in Borno state. A total of 1220 respondents were used for the study. Data collected were analysed using mean, frequency count and percentage. The finding of the study revealed that youth empowerment scheme (YES) had made significant contributions towards improving the standard of living of the respondents.

Research Design

A survey design was used for the study. The survey design is chosen because of the need to describe, explain and establish the occurrence of the variables under study. Osuala (2001), maintain that survey design studies both large and small population by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative evidence, distribution and interrelations of sociological and psychological variables.

In the same vain, Leedy (1989) observed that survey design is used to analyse statistics from a large population so that the meaning could be inferred on data or phenomenon. In the same vain Dlakwa (2003), maintained that the survey design is applied when the unit analysis is individual either alone or as a member of group. Hence this study used survey design to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in Borno State.

Population and Sample

The target population for the study comprised of 460 staff of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment, 1900 beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, Gubio and Gwoza Local Government Areas, Multi-stage sampling techniques was used in this study. First stage was purposive selection of senatorial zones, and second stage was purposive selection of Local Government Areas. 138(30%) of staff of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment, and 570 (30%) beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes, were used as sample of the study. A total of 138 and 570 making the total 708 respondents. According to Anderson (1981), thirty percent is an appropriate sample size of survey research. This process will allow every staff and beneficiaries to have equal chance of being selected as a sample of the study.

Population and Sample distribution

Departments	No. of staff	Sample size
Administration and Supply	257	77
Planning and Statistics	12	4
Finance and Supply	13	4
Community Development	64	19
Youth	56	17
Cooperative	58	17
Total	460	138

Source: Ministry of poverty alleviation and youth empowerment

Beneficiaries of Poverty Alleviation Programme

Senatorial district	Selected LGA	No. of beneficiaries	Sample Size
Borno Central	Maiduguri Metropolitan Council	1000	300
Borno North	Gubio	400	120
Borno South	Gwoza	500	150
Total		1900	570

Source: Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used for this study was questionnaire. The questionnaires were developed by the researcher tagged "Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Questionnaires (APAPQ). Aina (2002), stated that questionnaires are commonly used instrument for collecting data basically to seek opinion of individuals in a sample of population on issue directed to the objectives of the study. Similarly, Ojobo defines questionnaire as a device for getting answers to questions by using forms which is filled by the respondents.

The instrument has two major sections. Section one solicit for bio-data from the respondents, while section two requires information assessment and impact of poverty alleviation programmes, section two was further sub-divided into sections A, B, C, for Ministry of Poverty alleviation and youth empowerment, while sections D, E, F, G was designed for beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes. The questionnaire comprised of 35 items and on five point likert scale. Strongly Agreed (5 points), Agreed (4 points), Undecided (3 points), Strongly disagreed (2 points), Disagreed (1 point) respectively. On the validation of the instrument, copies of questionnaires were given to professors, readers, supervisors and experts in the field of community development in University of Maiduguri for vetting. While in terms of reliability, test-retest reliability were used to ascertain their reliabilities. Their corrections, suggestions and modifications were incorporated into the final version of the instrument.

Procedure for Data Collection

The research obtained a letter of introduction from the Head of Department Continuing education and Extension Service, University of Maiduguri, addressed to Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth empowerment programme and to various respondents seeking for permission to carry out the study. The researcher obtained a register of those who have benefited from the poverty alleviation programmes and located them through their addresses, telephone numbers and administered the questionnaire. Due to the sparsely distribution to the communities in the area of study, the researcher recruited and trained three research assistants in each senatorial district. The research assistants were trained on how to interact with the respondents, distribution, and collection of the instrument to the respondents. The period allocated for distributing the questionnaires was three weeks (3wks). The researcher went round the three senatorial zones to monitor the distribution, administration and retrieval of the complete instrument.

Method of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data collected, descriptive statistics, frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used and the results were presented in tables. Akuezuiko and Agu (2004) stated that descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages exist to describe characteristics of a group or groups.

Results

Research question 1: What is the impact of poverty alleviation programme in the area of agricultural development? Answer to this question is provided through the information and data provided by the respondents on impact of agricultural development.

Table 4.1: Frequency distribution of respondents on impact of agricultural development

ITEM	Statistics	Responses (count & %)					Total	Mean \pm SD
		SA	A	U	DA	SD		
Government provides tractors and fertilizers to the farmer	%,Count	50(36.23)	46(33.33)	9(6.52)	21(15.22)	12(8.70)	138	27.6 \pm 3.06
	X	10.0	9.2	1.8	4.2	2.4		
	SD	1.09	0.98	0.07	0.83	0.09		
Government provides loans/credit facilities to farmers	%	51(31.16)	45(32.61)	2(1.45)	29(21.01)	11(7.97)	138	27.7 \pm 3.45
	X	10.2	9.0	0.4	5.8	2.20		
	SD	1.076	1.210	0.072	1.025	0.062		
Government creates awareness of food preservation, storage, marketing agriculture product and price subsidization	%,Count	43 (36.96)	46 (32.61)	6 (1.45)	26 (21.01)	17 (7.97)	138	26.8 \pm 3.13
	X	8.60	9.20	1.20	5.20	3.40		
	SD	0.82	0.88	0.03	0.65	0.75		
Government has trained people on programs that cover modern agriculture practices in the area of live stork management and other agro- allied ventures	%,Count	52(37.68)	50(36.23)	2(1.45)	27(19.57)	14(12.32)	138	24.00 \pm 3.72
	X	10.4	5.0	0.4	5.4	2.8		
	SD	1.081	1.023	0.033	0.821	0.762		
Government supply improved seed to the farmers	%,Count	46(33.33)	50(36.23)	5(3.62)	27(19.57)	10(7.25)	138	22.6 \pm 2.84
	X	4.2	10.0	1.00	5.4	2.00		
	SD	0.83	1.09	0.02	0.821	0.081		
Total count		242	237	24	130	64		
Mean Percentage			69.02%	3.04%		28.01%		
Between Mean			85.8	4.80		38.8		
Between Standard deviation			10.08	0.225		5.89		

Table 4.1 titled “Provision of agricultural Development” is a statistical descriptive table which addressed question raised in research question 1. From this result, frequencies (count), percentages, mean and standard deviation were statistical obtained and displayed. The mean (\bar{X}) helps in finding out the differences in the distribution of the respondents responses in regards to their different opinion on each item asked. The count (frequency) shows the level of majority or number of times the value (option) occurs, while the standard deviation (SD) shows the level of variance deviation either negatively or positively. The table display column wise and row wise statistics. The grand total or total mean, standard deviation and frequencies were the only parameters interpreted. The remaining statistics row wise are left only for verification (inquiries). The results in this table shows that out of the 138 respondents who responded to this, 69.02% of the total respondents agreed that yes Poverty Alleviation have provided Agricultural Development in Borno state as verify by the Mean and Standard deviation of 85.08 ± 10.08 , while 28.01% disagreed to that as the mean and standard deviation 38.8 ± 5.89 supported it. The remaining statistics described each variable accordingly.

Research question 2: What is the impact of poverty alleviation programme on job creation for unemployed youth? Answer to this question is provided through the information and data provided by respondents on provision of job creation for unemployed youths.

Table 4.2: Frequency distribution of respondents on the impact of poverty alleviation on job creation for unemployed youths

ITEM	Statistics	Responses (count & %)					Total	Mean \pm SD
		SA	A	U	D	SD		
Vocation skills development has greatly reduced number of youth depending on government work	% ,Count	49(35.51)	45(32.61)	3(0.53)	29(5.09)	12(2.11)	138	27.6 + 3.08
	X	9.8	9.0	0.6	5.8	2.4		
	SD	1.024	1.002	0.002	0.971	0.082		
Government has established many vocational training centres in the state	% ,count	48(34.76)	45(32.61)	7(5.07)	28(2.29)	10(5.72)	138	27.6 + 2.13
	X	9.6	9.0	1.40	5.6	2.0		
	SD	0.541	0.537	0.096	0.761	0.201		
Government provides loans/ credit facilities to graduates of vocational training centres	% ,Count	50(36.23)	40(28.99)	8(5.80)	28(20.29)	12(8.70)	138	26.7 + 2.83
	X	10.0	8.0	1.6	5.6	2.4		
	SD	1.083	1.027	0.032	0.641	0.051		
Government training youth in different trades to enable them be self reliant	% ,Count	55(39.86)	40(28.99)	4(2.90)	21(15.22)	18(13.04)	138	27.6 + 3.14
	X	11.0	8.0	0.8	4.2	3.6		
	SD	1.098	1.012	0.006	0.971	0.0560		
Non-governmental organization support development for employment in to various sector of the economy	% ,Count	58(42.03)	43(31.16)	5(3.62)	15(10.87)	17(12.32)	138	27.6 + 3.93
	X	11.6	8.6	1.0	3.0	3.4		
	SD	1.045	1.061	0.007	0.905	0.915		
Total		260	213	27	121	69		
Mean Percentage			68.55%	3.91%		27.54%		
Between Mean			18.92	1.08		7.60		
Between Standard deviation			1.89	0.029		1.111		

Table 4.2 above tagged “Provision of job creation for unemployed youth” helps in answering research question 2. Issues regarding job creation, vocational skills, loans, training, and non – governmental support in development of economy were raised and the statistical analysis as presented in the tables shows that majority of the respondents accept that poverty alleviation programme have contributed positively toward the provision of the said services as detailed below.

The table display column wise and row wise statistics. The grand totals were the only parameters interpreted. The remaining statistics row wise are left only for verification (inquiries). The results in this table shows that out of the 138 respondents who responded to this, 68.55% of the total respondents agreed that yes Poverty Alleviation have provided Job Creation for Unemployed Youth in Borno state as verify by the Mean and Standard deviation of 18.92 ± 1.89 , while 27.54% disagreed to that as the mean and standard deviation 7.60 ± 1.111 supported it. The remaining statistics described each variable accordingly. For further verification, each variable (question) raised for this research question to be answered was statistically describe in the given table above.

Discussion.

The study was designed to assess the impact of poverty alleviation in Borno state. The first finding on impact of agricultural development showed 69.02% total mean percentage of respondents agreed that government has provided modern agricultural inputs, loan/credit facilities, supply improved seeds while 28.01 disagreed. The reason for this finding is not for fetched considering the fact that Borno state government has invested a lot of money in the area of agriculture to reduce poverty. The finding confirms Toluwa (2004), on National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the Agricultural Development Programmes in alleviating poverty among small scale food crop farmers in Ekiti state. The finding of the study showed that those who do not benefit from any of the government poverty alleviation programmes have the highest vulnerability to poverty.

The finding was also reveals that the impact of job creation for unemployed youth have reduce poverty. This was because the respondents greed with 68.55% of total mean percentage while 27.55 disagreed. This implies that many youth have been trained in various skills and are empowered to set up their business. This findings coincides with Funmilola (2009), studied on the impact of youth empowerment scheme (YES) on poverty alleviation in Borno state. The study revealed that youth empowerment scheme have made significant contributions towards improving the standard of the beneficiaries.

Conclusion

The study is titled Assessment of poverty alleviation progmmes in Borno state. Based on the major findings of the study, it was concluded that, the identified poverty alleviation programmes have reduced poverty. This implies that poverty alleviation programmes have improved the living standard of the beneficiaries.

5.3 Recommendations

Although this study showed positive result but the society still had a lot of unemployed youth outside roaming the street, government need to do more in the area of agricultural development, job creation for unemployed youth literacy programme, capacity acquisition programme, mandatory attachment programme, empowerment programmes, and self-help programmes. Therefore, the following recommendations were made for improvement.

1. Government and Stake holders should expand production capacity in the area of agricultural inputs, preservation, storage and marketing of agricultural products and agricultural credits.

2. Government should establish more vocational training centres and provide sufficient poverty reduction package that will be efficient as to increase employment opportunity.
3. Education attainments is one of the major determinants of escaping from poverty. Literacy education centres must be given more attention by establishing more literacy centers in the state.
4. There is the need to encourage and create more awareness of employment opportunities, wealth creation and skill acquisition for youth.
5. Government should continue to produce a strong basis for micro-finance and micro-credit for income expansion and poverty reduction.
6. Government should design and provide more empowerment programmes as to alleviate the poverty situation in the state completely.
7. Government, Individuals and Non-governmental Organizations should embark on more self-help projects to improve the living standard of the people in the state.

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