GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

ASSESSMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME AS VIABLE POLICY FOR RURAL AGRARIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

M. Y. Abdullahi[1], B. I. Balogun[2] and A. Jibrin[3]
Division of Agricultural Colleges, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.[1&2]
Federal College of Education, Zaria.[3]
Correspondence address: malamingona@gmail.com 08066664898

Abstract

Youth Empowerment is a systematic process/policy for rural agrarian community development in Nigeria. Katsina State was purposively chosen. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select 190 respondents each from participating trainee on dyeing, pottery, catering, welding and blacksmithing and non-participating farmers to assess the impact of the programme in community development. Information was obtained by the use of structured questionnaires guided by trained enumerators. Descriptive statistics, foster-greer-thorbecke (FGT) index, propensity score marching (PSM) were used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, measure their poverty status and the impact as a result of participation in the programme respectively. The results revealed that majority respondents were agile and fell between age bracket of 26 and 27 with higher percentage of male (76 and 75), with a good number marked (64% and 63%), and a higher proportion of educationally advantage (88% and 87%) of both the participant and non-participant. Similarly, the poverty depth index were 0.326 and 0.412, which showed higher poverty among non-participant (0.412) of the programme. The result further indicated the average programme effect on poverty status, test index of youth participating is between 5.9 to 7.2% higher than the non-participant which makes it significant at 1% level of probability and has impacted on poverty status of the participant. Therefore, among the recommendation were advocating for both Government and Non-governmental organization to facilitate community driven development through empowerment programmes for sustainable development.

Keywords: Youth Empowerment Programme, Community Development, Katsina State.

INTRODUCTION

According to Ibeneme, (2012) Youth empowerment is a process of increasing the assets and contribution of youth as individual and as group to make a purposive choice and transform the choice into desired outcome and action. It equally means improving the social, economic, political and legal strengths of youth to ensure equal right with all citizens and make them confident enough to claim their rights, Such as free living with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.

Youth empowerments simply mean the granting of political, social and economic power to their youth to have complete control of their lives to enable them make their own choices and decisions (Florence, 2016). This is because empowering youth means empowering nation due to their vital role in agricultural sector and food security. According to Adams, (2008) empowerment occurs through improvement of conditions, standards, events and a global perspective of life, he further looks at empowerment as capacity of an of individuals, groups to take

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

control of communities to take their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals. It gives opportunity to be involved in all aspect of life, like marketing of agricultural products, education, decision taking, politics, opinion leadership and most especially skill acquisition (Melanne, 2012; Adebayo, 2014).

The concept of empowerment is the idea of power, is a process of change, and becomes more meaningful as a result of power. It is found in giving a voice to the weak, and marginalized to have access to the tools and materials they needed to forge their possibility of becoming the produce of their own welfare. Empowerment through skills acquisition will improve resource poor farmers living which will make them to have access to portable water health care facilities and electricity, the implication would reduce people's migration and enhances efficient production.

Over 50 percent of the world population are youth estimated at about 1.2 billion of age between 15 and 24 years (Fent, 2008) and World Bank, 2010, UNESCO, 2013, world youth report, 2018), about one billion live in developing countries alone. The above statistics indicated that youth constitute a serious development opportunity as well as a challenge particularly in developing economies.

FAO defines youth as the age range between 15-35 years. Onnekwusi, (2015). On the other hand, posited based on his field experience that youth age is from 18-40 years. Youth in Nigeria may be categorized as young men and women between the age of 13 and 30 years (NYP, 2019).

World Bank (2006) estimates that about 55 percent of youths, reside in rural areas but this figure is up to as 70 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Over the years there has been advocacy campaign to get the youth's more involved in agriculture production beyond Subsistence level. Incorporating youths into skill acquisition programmes will facilitate capacity building and empowering them for agriculture; hence the introduction of Katsina Youth Craft Village (KYC) Programmes.

The Katsina Youth Craft Village (KYC) is one of the major skill acquisition programmes which was established in 2001 to provide the youth in the state with a source of livelihood and put them on a sound path towards self-sustenance and self-actualization (Adelekan and Dansu, 2016). The programme provides self-employment opportunity to over 2000 youth annually (KYC, 2019). As at June 2016, 11,800 youth were trained in different agric related skills with different duration as follows;

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Skills	Duration
GSM Repairs	6 Months
Tie and Dye	::
Pottery	::
Furniture Making	::
Catering Services	::
Tailoring and Fashion Design	::
Leather works and shoe making	3 Months
Film and Photography	::
Beauty Saloon	::
Auto-mechanic, Wheel balancing/Alignment	12 Months
Welding Fabrication and Blacksmith	::
Carpentry	::

Source: KYC, 2016.

The participants are enrolled through Local Gov't committee with male and female having equal opportunity to apply.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Youth empowerment has become a critical focus in Nigeria's development agenda as the country grapples with the challenges of youth unemployment and underemployment. This literature review explores existing research on youth empowerment in Nigeria and its impact on employment and economic growth. According to the World Bank, Nigeria has one of the largest youth populations globally, with about 60% of its population under the age of 25 (World Bank, 2021). This demographic presents both opportunities and challenges for the country's economic development. Empowering the youth with the right skills, training, and resources is vital to harness their potential and drive economic growth.

Several studies highlight the importance of youth empowerment in addressing the issue of unemployment in Nigeria. A study by Farouk (2017); another one by Okorie and Onyeike (2018) emphasizes that empowering young people with relevant skills and knowledge can significantly enhance their employability and reduce unemployment rates (Sule, 2013); Ado, *et al.,* 2017). Skill development and vocational training programmes have shown promising results in equipping the youth with skills that align with the demands of the labour market (ILO, 2020). Moreover, youth empowerment programmes can also foster entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities, which are crucial for creating jobs and driving economic growth Nmeregini, *et al*., (2020).

A study by Adekunle *et al*. (2019) found that empowering young entrepreneurs through access to finance, mentorship, and business development services led to the establishment of viable start-ups,

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

contributing to job creation and innovation. Youth empowerment also has social implications. Research by Okeke (2019) indicates that empowering young people can lead to positive changes in their attitudes and behaviours, reducing engagement in social vices and criminal activities. A sense of purpose and inclusion in productive activities can positively impact societal well-being.

However, despite the potential benefits, challenges persist in effectively implementing youth empowerment initiatives in Nigeria (Adedeji *et al.*, 2018). Inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, and policy gaps can hinder the scalability and sustainability of such programs (Adekunle *et al.*, 2019). Furthermore, regional disparities and unequal access to opportunities can exacerbate the issue of youth unemployment. As such, youth empowerment plays a vital role in addressing youth unemployment and driving economic growth in Nigeria (Fadeyi *et al.*, 2015; Abomaye *et al.*, 2018). Skill development, entrepreneurship support, and social empowerment programs have demonstrated their potential in equipping young people for the job market and fostering economic inclusion (Nwachukwu, 2008). Continued efforts, collaboration between stakeholders, and targeted policies are essential to maximize the benefits of youth empowerment and leverage Nigeria's demographic dividend for sustainable economic development.

METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Katsina state, Nigeria which is located between Sahel Savannah region of northern Nigeria between Latitudes 11°05' north of the Equator and Longitude 7°08′ east of the Green Which Meridian. The study area is bordered by Sokoto and Zamfara States to the west, Jigawa and Kano to the east, Kaduna State to the South and Maradi and Damagaran in Niger Republic cover the east and North-east boundary respectively.

The population of the State is estimated at 5.8 million people in the 2006 population census which is now projected at 7.56 million people in 2020 at 0.032 percent growth rate (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The State is predominantly occupied by Fulanis and Hausas. However, there is significant number of other tribes occupying some pocket areas.

Due to its vast arable land, the people of the State engage in commodity and food production, as crops are grown during both dry and rainy seasons. Major crops include cotton, groundnut, millet, guinea-corn, maize, beans and rice. The Fulanis are noted for their animal husbandry and do engage in seasonal migration with their cattle, goats, sheep and donkey. The Hausas also engage in animal rearing but mostly occupied with sedentary agriculture. In addition, the study employed a multi-stage sampling procedure for data collection. Katsina State has 34 Local Government Areas (LGAs) which are divided into three senatorial zones namely; Katsina Central Senatorial Zone (Katsina Zone), Katsina Northern Senatorial Zone (Daura Zone) and Katsina South Senatorial Zone (Funtua Zone). Daura zone has 12 LGAs while Katsina and Funtua zones have 11 LGAs each. Three LGAs considered being relatively safe from banditry and other in

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

security challenges was purposively selected from each of the three senatorial zones in the State (Table 1). The study was conducted in September 2022.

Table 1: Local Government Areas (LGAs) Selected from each zone

S/N	Zone	Funtua Zone	Sample Frame	Sample Size
1	Daura	Daura LGA	67	20
		Dutsi LGA	58	20
		Kankia LGA	54	20
2	Funtua	Funtua LGA	72	20
		Kafur LGA		
		Malumfashi LGA		
3	Katsina	Batagarawa LGA		
		Dutsen-ma LGA		
		Katsina LGA		
		Total		20

Source: Survey, 2022

Slovin's Formula was used to calculate the sample size for this study as given below:

$n = \frac{N}{1+ Ne^2}$

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Total population = 599

e = Error tolerance (confidence level) = 0.0038

$n = \frac{599}{[1+(599*0.0038)]} = 182.83$

This figure was rounded down to the nearest 10 and the sample size becomes 180 graduated participants. A list of beneficiaries who trained in tie and dye, pottery, catering services, welding fabrication and blacksmith was considered and hence the list was obtained from all the LGAs of KYCV headquarters and participants from the 9 selected LGAs were randomly selected to be the respondents. In order to measure the impact of the programme on participants, an equal number of non-participants were randomly selected from the three selected LGAs of each of the senatorial zones to be our control group.

Data Collection/Analytical Technique

Primary data was used for this study. Data was collected by using structured questionnaires which were administered through scheduled interview. Descriptive statistics, Foster Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) poverty measures, Average treatment effects were used to analysed the data. The household expenditure of each youth was estimated and was normalized to per capita expenditure per day.

The Foster, Greer and the Thorbecke Model (FGT2)

The model had been previously used by Baba (2020); it grew from a mathematical model developed by (Alkire & Foster, 2014), known as the FGT2 model of poverty decomposition. This model was adopted in this study to determine the incidences, the depth and the severity of poverty in the study area. The poverty line was calculated based on mean and median of the data on composite index generated from multidimensional poverty indicators.

Poverty Status: The poverty status of the youth in the study area (was determine using the FGT index) the index is classed into two categories: the 'Poor', and Non-

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

poor'. The poverty status was regarded as the position of the household's $\frac{2}{3}$ of mean and median household expenditure score at the poverty threshold (poverty line). The respondents' FGT values were used in classifying them into the poverty status as earlier shown.

- Non-poor: These are youth whose FGT value was above two-third value of total value of household expenditure thus the poverty line i.e. NP> $\frac{2}{3}$ of the mean values of household expenditure score.
- Poor: These are farmers whose FGT values of household expenditure score were below one-third of the mean values poverty line i.e. P< $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mean values

The poverty lines were set at $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mean and median values in line with the World Bank (2000) recommendations.

In this study, the generalized form of FGT is express as:

$$P_i P_i = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(z - a)^n \dots\dots\dots\

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

plugging comparing the effect of treatment on control and made it possible to use in propensity score matching for comparison in propensity score estimates. Consequently, it was easy to see the causal effect of YEP among the interviewed youth; other prognosis factors like age, education level marital status etc. were used to control bias inherent in the two groups, this measure has been developed by Heckman. The outcome of the propensity score was used to estimate the average treatment effect between the groups so as to determine the effect of the programme on poverty (Baba, 2020). The PSM is based on the following logit model:

$Y_i =$

$ln\left(\frac{P_{ij}}{1-P_{ij}}\right)$……

……...

Given as; $Y_i = \theta_o + \theta_1 x_{1ij} + \theta_2 x_{2ij} + \theta_3 x_{3ij} + \theta_4 x_{4ij} +$

$\cdots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots . + e_{ij}.$

Where the outcome variable is

$Q_i =$

$\begin{cases} -x, < 0 = \text{ not participated} \\ x, \ 1 = \text{xA1 = participated} \end{cases}$ …….....

.....

Q = Poverty index

Z_1= Household size (number of people providing unpaid family labour)

Z_2= Age of the farmer (years)

Z_3= Group membership (years of membership)

Z_4 = Education level

Z_5 = Amount of credit access

Z_6 = Years of practice

Z_7= Proximity to market

Z_8= Political affiliation

**Z_9= experience of COVID-19 pandemic

**Z_{10}= Experience of Insecurity

**Z_{11}= Sex

** For these variables, anyone with an outcome of (Q_i) was removed.

$\theta_0 - \theta_7 =$ parameters to be estimated

$e_i =$ disturbance term

$i =$ farm household

Further, the propensity score matching-based nearest neighbour and other matching algorithm was specified as:

The average treatment effect

$$ATT_1 = \frac{1}{N_T}\left[\sum_{i\epsilon T} Y^t{}_i - \sum_{j\epsilon c(i)} \omega_{ij} Y^c{}_j\right] \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots$$

where,

ATT_1 = Average treatment effect for those treated on poverty, respectively.

$N_T =$ number of farmers in the treated groups

$C(i)$ = Set of controls matched to treated units i

$\omega_{ij} = \frac{1}{N_i{}^c}$ if $j\epsilon c(1)$; 0, otherwise $i = i^{th}$ farm household

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of participants and non- participants of youth entrepreneurs which include age, sex, marital status, household size, educational level, years of practicing experiences, membership of co-operative society and access to credit is presented.

Table 2: revealed that majority (58%) of the participants and (56%) non- participants were between the ages of 20-29 years. The

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

mean ages for participants and non-participants of KYCV were 26 and 27 years respectively. This implies that majority of respondents were still within a productive and active working age range, hence participate, produce to earn some income from KYCV activities. This finding concurred with the findings of Farouk (2017) who reported that the dominance of the youth within the age group of 20-29 years are more active in entrepreneurship because they have the desire to get out of poverty and unemployment. Also, the sex distribution revealed that 76% of the participants and 75% of non- participants were male showing that there are more males involved in the empowerment activities than females. The dominance of the male in the study implies that they are at the forefront of the fight against poverty. Male youth's domination in KYCV is in line with findings by Fadeyi *et al.* (2015) Abomaye *et al.* (2018) who opined that female youths find it difficult to cope up with the tedious activities of entrepreneurship. The findings showed that 64% of the participants and 63% of the non-participants were single, while 33% and 36% were married, as indicated in the Table. The implication drawn from this result is that young and agile people have indicated interest in empowerments activities. This variable is very important because it helps us to track youth's source of motivation or disincentives in engaging in the programme. The result further revealed that majority (67%) of the participants and (76%) of non-participants had between 1-3 household sizes. The mean household size for participants and non- participants of KYCV is 3. This showed that there is no much difference in the household size among the two categories of the respondents. Thus, young people can participate in programme with the assurance that they will get help in terms of labour from their household members. While with respect to educational level, it was found that about 24% of the participants and 26% of the non-participants had secondary education, about 23% of the participants and 27% of the non-participants had adult education. Also 19% of the participants and 17% of the non-participants had post-secondary education. Majority (88%) of the participants and the non- participants (87%) had some form of formal educational qualification. This implies that majority of the youths are educated, this is an added advantage for the youths to be able to make use of innovations in KYCV activities. Education helps to arm young people with an understanding of some skills necessary for entrepreneurship to improve on their living standard.

With regard to years of experience**,** it was also found that about 46% of the participants and 39% of non- participants had between 1-3 years of established practices. The mean experience for participants and non-participants of KYCV is 5 years. This showed that there is no much difference in the years of experience among the two categories of the respondents. Practicing and or experience is used as a measure of managerial ability, the more experience a person is, the more his ability to make rational decision. The number of years of experience possess by the respondents implies that such people are likely to make decisions that would grow

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

their businesses. This finding is in tandem with the findings by Farouk (2017) who reported that the dominance of the youth with business experience of 2-4 years implies that most of them have just benefited from entrepreneurship education that inspired them to start small businesses. Membership of Cooperative Society was found to be (36%) of the participants and (35%) of non-participants, while most (64%) of the participants and (65%) of the non-participants are not member of any cooperative society. It showed that majority of the respondents do not belong to any cooperative society. Membership of an association will provide opportunities for higher exposure to various kinds of information, exchange of ideas and consequently enhance utilization of information for successful business ventures.

Access to credit indicated that most (66%) of the participants and 73% of non-participants had no access to credit while about 34% of the participants and 27% of non-participants had access to credit. This implies that respondents are faced with financial impediments associated with financing an agribusiness as well as the opportunities to diversify their income sources. Access to credit facilitates the acquisition of productive resources needed for agribusiness. This finding agrees with Sule, (2013); Adelekan and Dansu, (2016); Ado, *et al* (2017); Adedeji *et al.* (2018) who assessed the influence of credit on youth engagement in agribusinesses.

Table 2. Socio-economic characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Participant		Non-Participant		Total
	Freq.	**Percent**	**Freq.**	**Percent**	
Age					
< 20 years	34	18.9	32	17.8	121
20 – 29 years	105	58.3	101	56.1	56
30 – 39 years	41	22.8	47	26.1	3
Total	**180**	**100**	**180**	**100**	**180**
Mean	**25.82**		**27.11**		**2.79**
Standard Deviation	**4.636**		**4.888**		**1.489**
Sex					
Male	137	76.1	135	75.0	21
Female	43	23.9	45	25.0	41
Total	**180**	**100**	**180**	**100**	
Marital Status					
Single					116
Married					60
Widower					3
Divorced					1
Total					**180**
Household Size					
1-3 persons					121
4-6 persons					56
7-9 persons					3
Total					**180**
Mean					**2.79**
Standard Deviation					**1.489**
Educational Level					
No formal education					21
Adult education					41

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Quranic education	23	7-9 years	12.8	8	4.4	31
Primary education	19	Total	10.6	24	13.3	**180**
Secondary education	43	*Non-membership	23.9	47	26.1	116
Post-secondary education	33	Total	18.3	30	16.7	**180**
Total	**180**	**Access to credit**	**100**	**180**	**100**	
Years of Experiences		Access				62
No experiences		No access		43	23.9	118
1-3 years	82	Total	45.6	71	39.4	**180**
4-6 years	67		37.2	28	15.6	

Source: Survey, 2022

4.2 Poverty Status of Participants and Non-Participants of Youth Empowerment.

The study established poverty thresholds based on the $^{2}/_{3}$ mean per household expenditure (MPCHE) for participants and non-participants of youth entrepreneurs. It was found that about 33% and 23% of the participants and non-participants fell under the non-poor category while, about (67%) and (77%) of the participants and non-participants fell under poor category.

It was established that 59% and 73% of the participants and non-participants of KYCV programme were considered as poor. This shows that larger percentages of non-participants were considered poor as compared to the participants of youth entrepreneurs in the study area. The implication is that there is a reduction in poverty among the participants of youth entrepreneurs; this could be due to participants' access to support from KYCV programme.

Similarly, the poverty depth index for participants and non-participants were 0.326 and 0.412, respectively. This showed that non-participants had greater poverty depth index than the participants which means that the degree of poverty among non-participants was more compared with the participants. The implication is that respondents among the participants need about 32% which translates into N19,141.47 while the non-participants need about 41%which translates into N24,525.01 annually in addition to their MPCHE to attain the poverty line. Finally, it was found that the non-participants had a poverty severity index of 0.282 while the participants had a poverty severity index of 0.223 respectively. It indicated that the non-participants had higher percentage about 28% of the poorest while the participants had lower percentage about 22% of the poorest. Although, poverty is severe among the respondents but is more severe among the non-participants. This implies that about 22% and 28% of the participants and non- participants constitute the poorest among the respondents. This is supported by the finding of Nwachukwu (2008), who reported that youth participate in empowerment programmes to earn more income thereby reducing their poverty.

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Table 3: Estimation of the Poverty Status of Participants and Non-participants

Poverty Status	Participants		Non-participant	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Poor	121	67	138	77
Non-poor	59	33	42	23
Total	**120**	**100**	**120**	**100**

Source: Survey, 2022

The hypothesis which stated that the poverty status of youth in the entrepreneurial programme is low was tested using result from Table 3. It was found that the poverty status of respondents in the study area was high 67% and 77% for participants and non-participants, respectively. The hypothesis which stated that the poverty status of youth in the entrepreneurial programme is low is rejected and the alternative was accepted.

4.3 Impact of Youth Participation on their Poverty Status

In estimating propensity score matching, the samples of participants and non-participants were pooled, and then participation equation was estimated on all the observed covariates X in the data that are likely to determine participation (Ebenehi, 2012). Accordingly, we first fitted all data collected on the covariates into logit model and gradually reduced its number until we get the desired good match. Finally, we have maintained those influential covariates determining the programme participation. These covariates included marital status, educational level, years of membership, amount of credit, years of practices and insecurity. Table 4 presents the logit estimates of the youth programme participation equation.

Table 4: Estimation of Propensity Score: Dependent Variable (Youth Participation in KYCV)

Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Z	P>z	95% Conf. Interval	
Age	-0.04163	0.021212*	-1.96	0.05	-0.083207	5.17E-05
M Status	0.321399	0.187212*	1.72	0.086	-0.04535	0.688147
Household Size	-0.08605	0.071348	-1.21	0.228	-0.225893	0.053793
Education Level;	0.01655	0.052365	0.32	0.752	-0.086178	0.119278
Membership	0.089626	0.043495**	2.06	0.039	0.004377	0.174875
Amount of Credit	2.06E-06	2.42E-06	0.85	0.394	-2.68E-06	6.80E-06
Years of Practice	0.03525	0.036564	0.96	0.335	-0.036788	0.107288
Proximity	-0.05297	0.225788	-0.23	0.815	-0.495497	0.389557
Political Affiliation	-0.13956	0.114603	-1.22	0.223	-0.364178	0.085058
Covid-19 Pandemic	-0.04535	0.088327	-0.51	0.608	-0.218467	0.127767
Insecurity	-0.22589	0.056089	-4.03	0	-0.335823	-0.11596
Constant	-0.06678	0.197183	-0.34	0.735	-0.453247	0.319687

Note: ** and * significant at 5% and 10% levels of probability Source: Survey, 2022

It showed that some covariates such as age, marital status and years of membership were significantly associated with youth programme participation. Furthermore, marital status, educational level, years of membership, amount of credit, years of practices and insecurity were positively associated with youth programme participation. In the contrary, such covariates as age, household size, proximity, political affiliation and Covid-19 pandemic were negatively associated

Poverty Incidences	
P_0	0.592
P_1	0.326
P_2	0.223
Poverty lines MPCHE	
⅔ * MPCHE	N89,725
4.2.1 Hypothesis one	N59,817

GUSAU JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (GUJEDS)
ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

with the youth programme participation. The younger the household head, the more likely she/he is better educated and hence has more chance of being selected into the training programme. These findings are consistent with the stated criteria of selecting youths for programme participation as it was designed to train few affluent households, who are supposed to be easily trained to train others. This result also indicates that participation in the KYCV programme was mainly influenced by observable covariates and hence hidden covariates played very little role which, in turn, imply that the results of programme assessment using PSM approach were unbiased and consistent.

As the main purpose of the propensity score estimation was to balance the observed distributions of covariates across two youth's groups, it was established that there is sufficient common support region for the two groups of youths. There is also need to be sure that the differences in the covariates in the matched two groups have been eliminated. These two requirements are the necessary preconditions for the reliability of the subsequent estimations of the programme impacts.

The common support region was satisfied in the range of 0.0030751 to 0.8782346 with only 8 losses of observations (one from those participants and from those non- participants). Figure 1 below shows the regions of common support for the two groups of youths.

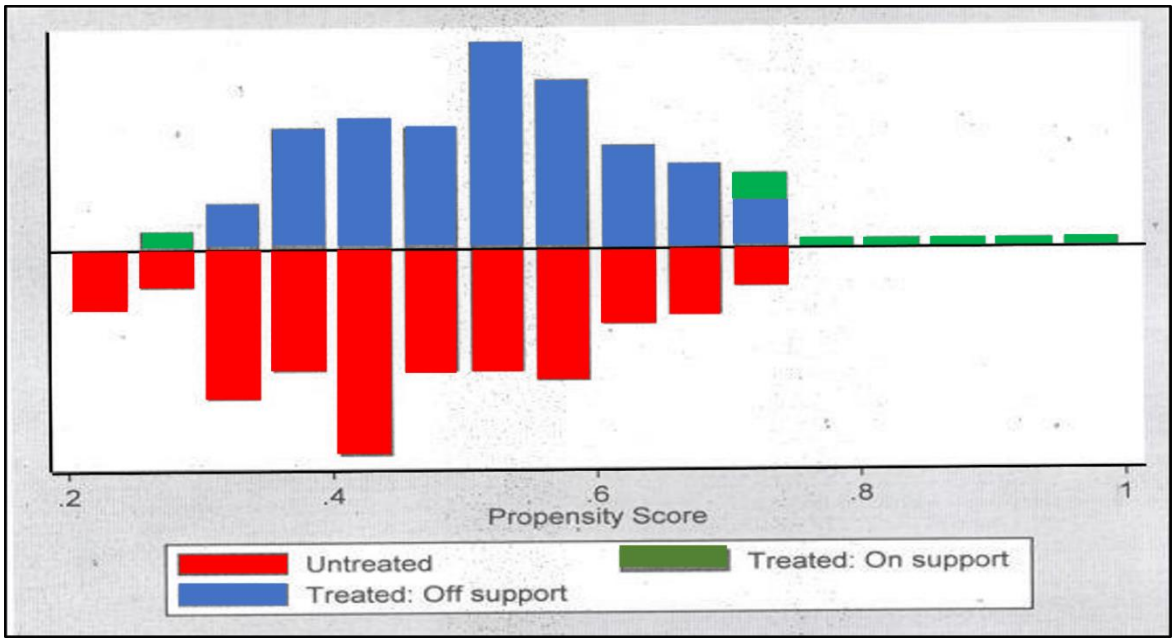


Figure 1: Overlap graph for common support in Propensity score Distribution
Key: Horizontal axis-propensity score; Vertical axis-frequency of propensity score.
Source: Survey, 2022.

Note that untreated off support indicates those observations in the non-participants that do not have suitable comparison from participant and hence excluded from analysis while untreated on support indicates those observations in the non-

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

participant that do not have suitable comparison from the participant and used in the analysis. Thus the graph clearly reveals that there is considerable overlap in the predicted propensity score of the two

Across Youth Groups

graphs clearly reveals that there is considerable overlap in the predicted propensity scores of the two graphs.

Table 6: Poverty Status Test Index

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Algorithms	Participant	Non-Participant	ATT	Std. Err	t-value
Attnd	180	137	0.0593	0.0240	2.475**
Attr (0.01)	144	131	0.0489	0.0140	3.566***
Attk (0.05)	105	128	0.0981	0.0420	2.336**

Source: Survey, 2022

Note: Attnd stands for nearest neighbour matching; attr for radius matching and attk for kernel matching algorithm. *** significant at 1%, ** significant at 5%, * significant at 10%.

The result in table 6 under column ATT showed that estimated average programme effect on Poverty Status Test Index of those youth participant is between 5.9 and 7.2% higher than the non-participant youths and this finding is statistically significant. The result is also consistent with other previous studies (Pufahl, and Weiss, 2009); Umar, *et al* (2014). Thus, it can be concluded that participation in KYCV programme significantly impacted on poverty status of the participants at 1% level of probability.

The study has found a significant impact of youth participation in the entrepreneurial programme on their poverty status as reported result from table. As such participation in KYCV programme significantly impacted on poverty status of the participants at 1% level of probability. Therefore, to address the issue of poverty it become imperatives to empower our youth with the necessary skills to alleviate poverty among youth in order to stem youth restiveness in Northern Nigeria.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth participation in entrepreneurship programme has been able to achieve some of its stated objectives. It has shown that the participating youth in the study area can come out of poverty through increased mean per capita household expenditure by 32% which translates into N19,141.47 annually.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

i. Since the years of membership of an association had a significant influence on poverty incidence and participation in entrepreneurship programme. It is recommended that cooperative society should source more loans and make it available to members, so that youths could expand their businesses; this would further improve their living standard and help combat poverty.

ii. Efforts should be made by non-governmental organization and local government council in the areas to boost the empowerment practices of youths through provision of infrastructure especially feeder roads to reduce the level of risk which tends to increase with increase in distance. This could enhance the level of enterprise activities that could generate more income for the

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

youths and thereby help to combat poverty among the respondents.

REFERENCES

Abomaye, N. and Williams, A. S. (2018). The Socio-economic and Pathological Effects of Youth Unemployment in Ogu/Bolo Local Government Authority area of Rivers state, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: e-Economics, 18(3):8-32.*

Adams, R. (2016) In: Corporate Social Responsibility and community Development; proceedings of the conference by SCCDR. Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, 16 – 18 August, 2016. PP. 291 – 298.

Adedeji, A. S., Ayodele, M. S. and Olalekan, O. A. (2018). Impact of Entrepreneurship Development Programme on Economic Development of Lagos State, Nigeria. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management* (IOSR-JBM), 20(9):74-81.

Adekunle, Y. R., Owolabi, S. A., & Ojo, A. A. (2019). Entrepreneurial Empowerment and Youth Employment in Nigeria. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Business Development* 7(2): 53-67.

Adelekan, S. A., and Dansu, O. O. (2016). Impact of Entrepreneurship Ventures on Development of Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria; a case study of three territorial district in Osun state, Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management, 6(9):423-441.*

Ado, B. K. and Ibrahim, K. M. (2017). Impact of Training and Financial Support on the Performance of the Participants of Katsina Youth Craft Village (KYCV) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes. *Bayero Journal of African Entrepreneurship Studies Maiden Edition, 1(1):1-8.*

Ebenehi, O. (2012). Impact Assessment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) On Rural Livelihood in Kogi State, Nigeria. A Thesis Submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in Partial Fulfilments of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology.

Fadeyi O., Oke A. O., Ajagbe M. A., Isiavwe D. T. and Adegbuyi A. (2015). Impact of youth entrepreneurship in nation building. *International Journal of Academic Research in Public Policy and Governance* 2(1):27-40.

Farouk, A. (2017). Youth Entrepreneurship and Poverty Reduction in Tudun Wada Local Government Area of Kano State, Nigeria. MSc Dissertation Submitted to Kampala International University, Gambia.

Fent, T. (2008). Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population

ISSN: 2786-9695 Vol. 3(1) July 2023
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Age Structures: New York, 2007, 386 pp.

Florence, U. (2016) in: Corporate Social Responsibility and community Development; proceedings of the conference by SCCDR. Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, 16-18 August, 2016. PP. 291-298.

Ibenem, T. O. (2012). Relevance of Vocational Technical Education to Youth Empowerment of Nigeria. *Journal of Nigeria Association of Teachers of Technology, JONATT 7 (3):*

International Labour Organization (ILO). (2020). Nigeria: Youth Employment and Empowerment. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abuja/documents/publication/wcms_755131.pdf

Katsina Youth Craft Village (KYCV) (2019). Katsina State skills acquisition/youth empowerment programmes. Handbook of Katsina Youth Craft Village.

Melanne, V. (2012) Gender Equity and Sustainable Development: Prioritizing Actions to achieve Results: Retrieved 14th April, 2023. From www.unece.org/gender

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), (2020). Labourrate https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/uploads/LaborQ32018.pngmarket unemployment

National Youth Policy (NYP) (2019). Enhancing Youth Development and Participation in the context of Sustainable Development. Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development 2019 Edition.

Nwachukwu, I. (2008). Planning and Evaluation of Agriculture and Rural Development Projects. Lamb-House Publishers, Umuahia, PP. 1-74.

Nmeregini, D. C., Onuekwusi, G. C., Ekweanya, N. M., & Elezue, C. S. (2020). Factors influencing involvement of youth in poultry production in Abia State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension 24*(4): 161-170.

Okeke, A. C. (2019). Youth Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. *European Journal of Business and Management Research* 4(1): 12-21.

Pufahl, A. and Weiss, C. (2009). Evaluating the effects of farm programme: results from propensity score matching. *European Review of Agricultural Economics*. 36(1): 79-101.

Sule, M. (2013). The role of entrepreneurship education on job creation among youths in Nigeria. *International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences* 15(4): 87-96.

Umaru, D. M. and Obeleagu-nzelibe, C. G. (2014). Entrepreneurship skills and profitability of small and medium enterprises (SMES): resource acquisition strategies for new ventures in Nigeria, Proceeding of 25th International Business Research Conference, 13-14 January, 2014, Taj

ISSN: 2786-9695 **Vol. 3(1) July 2023**
DOI: https://10.57233/gujeds.v3i1.11

Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa. 1-12.

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2018). *World youth report: Youth and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. New York: United Nations Publications.

United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2013) Strategy on African Youth Bangkok, Thailand.

World Bank. (2021). Nigeria Overview. Retrieved from https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview

World Bank. (2010). The changing wealth of nations: measuring sustainable development in the new millennium. The World Bank.

World Bank Group. (2016). World development report 2016: Digital dividends. World Bank Publications.