

N-power and youth empowerment in Anambra State, Nigeria (2016-2024)

Nonso Sunday Okoye*, Victor Benjamine Anaekwe, Ifeanyi Ositadinma Onuigbo

Chukwuemeka Odumewu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria

*Corresponding author, email: ns.okoye@coou.edu.ng

Article History

Received: 11 January 2026

Revised: 20 February 2026

Accepted: 9 March 2026

Keywords

Entrepreneurship

N-Power

Skill acquisition

Unemployment

Youth empowerment

Abstract

The study examined N-Power and Youth Empowerment in Anambra State, 2016-2022. The problem associated with the study include but not limited to high rate of poverty and unemployment among youths in Anambra State. To tackle this problem, successive governments have implemented a range of measures, including NAPEP, SURE-P and currently the N-power. The N-power initiative which is the job creation component of the policy aims at reducing unemployment and is targeted at the Nigerian youths. Specifically, the study examined the extent to which N-Power has improved the job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State. A sample of 343 was drawn based on the Taro Yamane's formula sample size technique, from a population of 2412 of purposively selected six local government areas in Anambra State. A structured Likert-type questionnaire was developed for data collection, and found reliable at Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.80. The econometric technique including Descriptive statistics, Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was used to test the hypothesis. The result of the study revealed that there is significant relationship between N-Power and job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State. The study therefore concludes that N-Power had significant relationship with youth empowerment in Anambra State. Amongst the recommendation is that government should encourage the strengthening of the capability for employed rural and urban dwellers.

1. Introduction

Unemployment and poverty are major developmental issues confronting Nigeria. Generally, unemployment in Nigeria appears to be on consistent rise and is seen to prevail among the working population which comprised of a significant proportion of the youth who also constitute more than half of population of the country. Before independence in 1960, Nigeria had a comparatively low rate of poverty in the years after gaining independence. The Cable News (2024) reports that the poverty rate in Nigeria is predicted to increase to 38.8 by the end of 2024, more than double what it was in the years immediately after independence. According to National Bureau of Statistics (2024), 131 million Nigerians are classified as multidimensional poor, and 71 million live in extreme poverty. More so, scholars such as Khan and Cheri (2016) and Nambiappan et al. (2018) argues that the nation is the fourth-largest producer and exporter of palm oil worldwide in addition to being one of Africa's top producers of crude oil. Nigeria undoubtedly has a wealth of resources at its disposal, including a very fertile area that is ideal for agriculture as well as minerals like limestone, iron ore, columbine, gypsum, and kaolin, to name a few. However, the presence of abundant natural and human resources does not necessarily translate into national development when key sectors such as education experience systemic decline and fail to adequately prepare citizens for productive engagement in the economy (Olorunmota, 2025). Regardless of all the plentiful human and mineral resources in Nigeria, there is the prevalence of high rate of poverty in the country, where over one hundred million of its population is living in abject poverty.

In a bid to address the poverty crisis in Nigeria, many poverty reduction program strategies have been initiated and implemented by both past and present leaders (Al-Hussaini et al., 2014). These strategies were executed through the adoption of different administrative plans which were categorized into three phases: the Pre-SAP era, the SAP era, and the democratic era (During the pre-SAP era, many efforts were put by the Nigerian government or in collaboration with some international donor agencies. These programs include Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Green Revolution (GR), Agricultural Development Programs

(ADPs), and National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) (Antia-Obong & Otung, 2019). Although there is a degree of success achieved by some of the Pre-SAP era programs, most of them lacked sustainability and were diverted from their original focus, as a result leading to their failure. In addition, weak policy implementation and challenges in managing human resources within institutions often undermine the effectiveness of development programs and public sector initiatives in Nigeria (Eboh et al., 2026).

The 1980s saw a severe rise in poverty, which made living in the nation extremely challenging. This caused the government to try to control the situation by implementing SAP; nevertheless, this did not satisfy the desires of a large number of Nigerians (Ogbuke et al., 2023). During the SAP era, numerous initiatives were created and put into action, including as the Family Support Program (FSP), Better Life Program (BLP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), and Directorate for Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRFRI) (Al-Hussaini, 2014). Notwithstanding the different poverty reduction programs initiated in the country, poverty continues to raise its ugly head, and this can be traced to corruption, program inconsistency, lack of political will, corruption and poor implementation, deterioration in fiscal discipline, weak monitoring and evaluation, lack of focus, and lack of sustainability of the programs (Rabiu, 2022).

There were great hopes for the country's progress out of poverty when the democratic system was restored in 1999. Various initiatives were put into place, including the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP), and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). Many programs, such as the Social Investment Program (SIP), the N-Power volunteer corps scheme, the National Homegrown School Feeding Program, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), the Micro Credit Scheme (MCS), and the Trader Moni scheme/initiatives, were introduced during the Buhari administration in an effort to lessen the widespread poverty (Abubakar et al, 2019). However, many social analyst and scholars alike posits that efforts to reduce poverty in Nigeria lack sincere commitment in identifying the poor and the multidimensional nature of poverty in the country. Therefore, most of the efforts being made are not even targeting the actual poor but are used as an avenue for the elites to accumulate materialistic resources to themselves.

The majority of both the past and current government expenditures are devoted to these initiatives aimed at raising the average citizen's standard of living while maintaining the impoverished population's status quo. According to Yusuf et al (2020), the Nigerian Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs was given N258.4 billion between January and September 2020; of that amount, N96.3 billion was expended during that time. The tragedy is not unrelated to the widespread corruption and robbery of public funds by Nigerian political leaders, which is one of the main reasons that all the programs started and intended to lower poverty among the general populace in the nation have not been executed effectively (Momoh & Attah, 2018).

On assumption of office, former President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, set up N-Power in 2016, to address the issues of youth unemployment and help increase social development. N-Power, a program designed to provide a structure for extensive skill acquisition and development, aims to address inadequacies in public services and invigorate the broader economy. It aspires to create a platform where the majority of Nigerian citizens aged 18 to 35 can access skill development opportunities. According to Omilana's benchmark in 2018, the program intends to engage beneficiaries in various areas of public service, including education (N-Teach), healthcare (N-Health), agriculture (N-Agro), and building/construction (N-Build). It is against this background that this study examined the impact of N-Power on youth empowerment in Anambra State, 2016-2024.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine N-Power and Youth Empowerment in Anambra (2016-2022). Specifically, the study seeks: To examine the extent to which N-Power has improved the job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State.

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis was raised for the purpose of this study: (H1) There is significant relationship between N-Power and job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State.

(Ho) There is no significant relationship between N-Power and job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1. Conceptual Clarification

2.1.1. N-Power

N-Power is a youth empowerment initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria aimed at tackling unemployment through large-scale skills acquisition and public service engagement (FGN, 2018). Targeting Nigerians aged 18–35, the programme links human capital development with improved public service delivery and economic stimulation. It is divided into Graduate and Non-Graduate categories. The Graduate component, known as the N-Power Volunteer Corps, is a two-year paid volunteering scheme where participants serve in public sectors such as agriculture, health, education, and taxation (FGN, 2016). Volunteers under N-Power Agro, Health, Teach, and Tax provide extension services, promote preventive healthcare, support basic education, and enhance tax compliance, respectively (FGN, 2016). The Non-Graduate category focuses on vocational training through N-Power Knowledge and N-Power Build, equipping youths with technical and entrepreneurial skills for employment and self-reliance (FGN, 2016). The programme primarily seeks to enhance youth employability and address manpower gaps in schools, health centers, and agriculture (Okoro & Bassey, 2018; N-Power Information Guide, 2017). Given persistent youth unemployment and its social consequences (Akintola & Akintola, 2015; Oviawe, 2015), N-Power represents a strategic intervention similar to earlier schemes such as NAPEP and SURE-P.

2.1.2. Youth Empowerment

A youth is defined as an individual between 18 and 35 years, regardless of gender (Okoye, 2012). Youth empowerment refers to processes that enable young people to gain the ability, authority, and confidence to make decisions and effect change in their own lives and communities. It goes beyond financial or skill-based support to include attitudinal, structural, and cultural transformation. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2006–2015) emphasizes engaging young people to contribute meaningfully to economic, social, and cultural development. Empowerment involves informed decision-making, responsibility, and enabling conditions such as political will, resource allocation, equality, and access to knowledge (Enyioko, 2006; Aderonmu, 2017). At both individual and organizational levels, empowerment fosters skill development, critical awareness, and participatory opportunities (Abadua, 2012). Given Nigeria's large youth population and high unemployment rate, effective empowerment programmes are crucial for poverty reduction, governance, and national growth. Empowerment enhances control over life determinants and expands choices, particularly for the disadvantaged (Bailey, 1992; Kabeer, 2003). Studies show that youth empowerment policies positively influence poverty alleviation, though challenges such as political bias persist.

2.2. Extant Literature

2.2.1. N-Power and Job prospects & employment rates of youths in Anambra State

Although today's youth are generally more educated, healthier, and wealthier than previous generations, they face evolving labour market risks characterized by job instability, declining traditional employment pathways, and the constant need for new skills (Marshall & Butzboch, 2003). Education and relevant training therefore remain critical safeguards against social exclusion. The International Labour Organization reports that unemployment rates among youths aged 15–24 are significantly higher than among adults, with rates worsening in the 1990s compared to the 1980s (International Labour Organization, 1996). Prolonged unemployment damages future productivity, delays transition to adulthood, and increases health risks, including anxiety and depression. Structural factors such as weak aggregate demand, rising demand for skilled labour, and increased female labour participation further intensify youth unemployment (ILO, 2000). Hence, employability depends not only on economic growth but also on effective education systems, school-to-work transition mechanisms, and social safety nets (ILO, 2000).

Training and empowerment programmes are therefore designed to enhance human capital, improve employability, and facilitate labour market integration (ILO, 2000). In Nigeria, the N-Power Scheme under the National Social Investment Programme aims to address youth unemployment through structured skills acquisition and public service engagement (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). It focuses on human capital development for youths aged 18–35, targeting both graduates and non-graduates (Okoro & Bassey, 2018). The programme seeks to reduce unemployment, strengthen public services, and promote economic diversification.

Despite government efforts since independence, structural economic shifts have not generated sustainable employment for youths (Okafor, 2017). Given youths' central role in nation-building, empowerment initiatives are essential for fostering self-employment and entrepreneurship. Globally, labour markets have been reshaped by technological advancement and globalization, increasing competitive pressures on firms (Maduabuchi, 2023). Sustainable growth, estimated at 2–3% annually, is vital for job creation, with small businesses playing a significant role. Employment is thus fundamental to economic performance and living standards. Effective implementation of policies such as NEP (2002), NAPEC, NYP (2009), and NPE is crucial to tackling unemployment. Employment creation stimulates growth, reduces poverty and crime, and enhances economic stability (Maduabuchi, 2023; Morka, 2019).

2.3. Empirical literature

Technical Skills Acquisition Programmes (TSAP) can reduce unemployment by equipping youths with practical skills, promoting entrepreneurship, and supporting poverty reduction (Bashir et al., 2017). They recommended strong legal frameworks and adequate funding. Similarly, Ekong and Ekong (2016) reported that NDE skills programmes reduced unemployment in Akwa Ibom State and advised expanding training centres across all local government areas.

The impact of the N-Power scheme in Cross River South was examined using a survey of 250 respondents (Bisong, 2019). Employing Pearson Product Moment Correlation, the study found a significant relationship between N-Power participation and employment creation, job skill enhancement, and improved economic wellbeing. The findings suggest that N-Power positively influences beneficiaries' livelihoods and employability.

Akujuru and Enyioko (2019) assessed N-Power's role in poverty alleviation in Rivers State using survey data from 381 respondents. They identified multiple programme strands contributing to poverty reduction, particularly among graduates. However, implementation challenges included delayed stipends, corruption, insufficient information, and political interference, which limited the programme's overall effectiveness.

Odey and Sambe (2019) evaluated N-Power's contribution to youth empowerment in Cross River State using survey and interview methods. They found that N-Teach and N-Health had the highest participation rates and improved ICT skills, financial capacity, and small business investment. However, delayed payments and logistical issues hindered effectiveness. They recommended prompt stipends and better beneficiary placement.

Effiong (2019) compared unemployment rates in Akwa Ibom before and during N-Power implementation. Findings showed unemployment increased from 22.23% to 33.45%, with no significant statistical difference between periods. The study concluded that short-term empowerment schemes are insufficient and recommended long-term employment strategies and extended programme duration for beneficiaries.

2.4. Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on David Easton's Systems Theory (1953), which conceptualizes politics as a system of interactions through which authoritative decisions and public policies are made. Easton argued that political systems receive inputs—demands and supports—from the environment and convert them into outputs in the form of policies. These outputs subsequently generate feedback, influencing new demands and sustaining systemic equilibrium. The theory, rooted in behaviouralism, emphasizes systemization, verification, quantification, and integration as key analytical tools.

Within this framework, demands constitute the raw materials of policy-making, while supports provide the energy required for decision-making. The political system relies on subsystems and gatekeeping structures such as political parties and pressure groups to filter excessive demands and prevent systemic overload. Feedback mechanisms enable adjustment and adaptation, although persistent stress may result in systemic breakdown. Despite its relevance, the theory has been criticized for inadequately explaining the “black box” conversion process and for overlooking elite dominance in policy outcomes.

Applied to this study, Systems Theory views government as an open system responding to youth demands for employment and empowerment. Public demands for job creation serve as inputs, while programmes such as N-Power represent outputs aimed at poverty reduction and skill acquisition. Feedback from implementation informs future policy adjustments, illustrating the dynamic interaction between government and society.

3. Method

3.1. Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The descriptive survey research design is one which permits the use of structured questionnaire to obtain information from the respondents. Nwachukwu, (2014) noted that studies of this nature use descriptive survey research design to look for information on facts, practice, attitude, belief system, opinion and other behavioural manifestation. This method was chosen because it enables the researcher to solicit for information that might not be available on the pages of the text books or journals.

3.2. Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of the N-Power beneficiaries in Dunukofia local government Areas, Idemili North local government Areas, Orumba North local government Areas, Ekwusigo local government Areas, Onitsha South local government Areas and Anambra East local government of Anambra State. This includes all the male and females from 18 to 35 years of age who are beneficiaries of N-Power Scheme in selected local governments Areas. Distribution of population by selected local government areas can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of Population by Selected Local Government Areas

S/N	Local Government Areas	Population
1	Dunukofia	352
2	Idemili North	520
3	Orumba North	393
4	Ekwusigo	410
5	Onitsha South	400
6	Anambra East	337
	Total	2412

Source: National Social Register, 2024.

Therefore, the population of the study is 2412, as represented above.

3.3. Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample is a small group of elements or subjects drawn through a definite procedure from a specified population. Samples are meant to represent population when the entire population cannot be studied. In determining the sample size, the researcher used Taro Yamane’s formula with 95% confidence level to determine the sample size from the population. The mathematical Equation (1) for the sampling size are given below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} \tag{1}$$

Where, n = Sample size
 N = Population Figure
 e = Error Margin (0.05)
 1 = Constant figure

Substituting the population variables of this study into the formula above, the sample size can be neatly computed as follows:

$$n = \frac{2412}{1 + 2412(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{2412}{1 + 2412(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{2412}{1 + 6.03}$$

$$n = \frac{2412}{7.03}$$

$$n = 343$$

Bowley's proportional allocation formula was used to allocated the questionnaire to the participant in order to reflect the population size of the autonomous quarters. The Equation (2) is given below:

$$n = \frac{nN_h}{N} \tag{2}$$

Where, n = Total sample size
 N_h = No. of items in each stratum in the population
 N = Population size

The distribution of the sample across the selected local government areas was determined proportionately based on their population sizes, as presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Proportionate Allocation of Sample Size Across Selected Local Government Areas

S/N	Local Government Area	Population	Sample Size Calculation	Sample Size
1	Dunukofia	352	352 / 2412 × 343	51
2	Idemili North	520	520 / 2412 × 343	73
3	Orumba North	393	393 / 2412 × 343	55
4	Ekwusigo	410	410 / 2412 × 343	59
5	Onitsha South	400	400 / 2412 × 343	57
6	Anambra East	337	337 / 2412 × 343	48
	Total	2412		343

The purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents which the questionnaires were administered. Similarly, the research was conducted in six selected local government areas in Anambra State. Two local government areas were chosen from each of the three senatorial zones of Anambra State.

3.4. Method of Data Collection

The instrument used in the study was a structured questionnaire. A cover letter was attached to the questionnaire to introduce the researcher and provide respondents with information on the study. The questionnaires contain two sections: A. and B. Section A seeks the demographic features of the respondents like sex. Section B contains closed-ended questions that have been constructed to address the research objectives. The items are placed on 5-point scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (UD), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The range of scores for the items was 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The structured questions are asked to minimize response variability while scaled questions will be used to rank the response.

3.5. Method of Data Analysis

The data gathered from the survey was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. The level of significance used was 5 percent interval reliability. The test of hypothesis was addressed through the application of Pearson Product - Moment Correlation

analysis. A 5-point Likert scale assigned numerical values of Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (3), Strongly Disagree (2) and Undecided (1) were used.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Result

Research Question: To what extent has N-Power improved the job prospects and employment rates of youths in Anambra State? The Respondents' responses to issues in the first research question can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Respondents' responses to issues in the first research question N=256

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	U (%)	Total
1	The programme creates job opportunities for teeming youths	60 (23)	85 (33)	35 (14)	35 (14)	41 (16)	256 (100)
2	With the establishment of the programme it has reduce unemployment	108 (42)	115 (45)	-	-	33 (13)	256 (100)
3	Introduction of the programme help to curtail the incidence of poverty	90 (35)	120 (47)	20 (8)	10 (4)	16 (6)	256 (100)
4	Necessary thing to be done to improve the lives is by creating more jobs opportunities for youths	120 (47)	108 (42)	15 (6)	10 (4)	3 (1)	256 (100)
5	Necessary thing to be done to improve the lives is by advance training and enlightenment to youth	40 (16)	30 (12)	87 (34)	88 (34)	11 (4)	256 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Figures from Table 3 above deals on issues relating to the first specific objective and research question, which is to examine the extent to which N-Power has improved the job prospects and employment rates of young Nigerians. From the responses, 23 percent of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion that the programme creates job opportunities for teeming youth. 33 percent agreed, 14 percent disagreed, another 14 percent strongly disagreed and 16 percent of the respondents were undecided. Also, 42 percent of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion that with the establishment of the programme it has reduced unemployment. 45 percent agreed, none of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the assertion, while 13 percent of the respondents were undecided. This shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents agreed to the first two statements.

Also from Table 3, figures show that 35 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that the introduction of the programme help to curtail the incidence of poverty. 47 percent agreed, 8 percent disagreed, 4 percent strongly disagreed and 6 percent of the respondents were undecided. The idea in the fourth statement that the necessary thing to be done to improve the lives is by creating more jobs opportunities for youth, received the following strand of responses from the respondents; 47 percent strongly agreed, 42 percent agreed, 6 percent disagreed, 4 percent strongly disagreed and 1 percent of the respondents were undecided. The last statement in table 3 showed that, 16 percent of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that necessary thing to be done to improve the lives is by advance training and enlightenment to youth. 12 percent agreed, 34 percent disagreed, another 34 percent strongly disagreed and 4 percent of the respondents were undecided.

Hypothesis

H1: N-Power has significantly improved the job prospects and employment rates among youth in Anambra State.

Ho: N-Power has no significantly improved the job prospects and job prospects and employment rates among youth in Anambra State.

The Table 4, it shows that the probability value (0.003) is less than the alpha value (0.05), as a result, the researcher accepts null hypothesis and concludes that N-Power has significantly improved the job prospects and employment rates among youth in Anambra State

Table 4. Correlations

		N- Power	Job prospect and employment
N- Power	Pearson Correlation	1	.235**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	256	256
Job prospect and Employment	Pearson Correlation	.235**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N	256	256

** . Correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.2. Discussion

The result on objective one revealed that N-Power has improved the job prospects and employment rates of youth in Anambra State, the implication is that improving government investment in N-Power will improve job prospects and employment rates of youth in Anambra State. This finding supports a study conducted by Enyioko (2020) on the impact of N-Power programme on poverty alleviation in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State. Survey design was used in this study to generate data. The study population comprised the youth in all the twenty-three Local Government Areas of Rivers State. A sample of 400 respondents from the Rivers State youths was studied. The study found that N-Power programme generate empowerment for the youths in Rivers State. The study revealed that N-Power programme beneficiaries are mainly university and polytechnic graduates. N-Power aspires to provide a platform where most Nigerians can access skills acquisition and development. N-Power is also linked to the Federal Government's policies in the economic, empowerment and social development arenas. From the test of the hypotheses, it is evident that: There is significant relationship between N-Power programme and poverty alleviation in Rivers State and there is significant relationship between N-Power programme and empowerment of the youths in Rivers State.

The findings in Table 3 indicate that a substantial majority of respondents perceive N-Power as positively influencing youth employment prospects in Anambra State. Specifically, 56% (23% strongly agreed; 33% agreed) affirmed that the programme creates job opportunities, while 87% agreed that it has reduced unemployment. This strong endorsement aligns with the view that structured empowerment and skill-based initiatives enhance employability and labour market participation. For instance, Oguejiofor and Onyiorah (2022) emphasized that entrepreneurship education strengthens employability and global competitiveness, suggesting that programmes like N-Power can effectively bridge employment gaps. Furthermore, 82% of respondents agreed that N-Power helps curtail poverty, reinforcing the linkage between employment generation and poverty reduction. This outcome supports the argument of Onyiorah (2021) and Yazali (2024) that innovative and practical skill-oriented strategies enhance socio-economic outcomes. Employment opportunities not only provide income but also foster economic stability and self-reliance among youths.

The fourth item recorded 89% agreement that creating more job opportunities remains essential for improving youths' lives. This finding corroborates Okoro et al (2025) and Anaekwe et al (2025), who found that acquisition of market-relevant skills enhances self-employment and manpower prospects and economic empowerment. However, responses to advanced training and enlightenment were largely negative (68% disagreement), suggesting dissatisfaction with the depth or quality of training components. This resonates with Oguejiofor, C. S. and Onyiorah, B. O. (2021), who observed that effective utilization of technology and structured training significantly influence educational and employment outcomes. The results demonstrate that while N-Power contributes to job creation, digital technology and poverty reduction, strengthening its training dimension could further enhance its impact (Okoye et al, 2023).

5. Conclusion

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development. Despite the current high level of youth unemployment and other social problems, affecting Nigerian development, different regimes of Nigerian governments have demonstrated the importance of the youth to national development through empowerment programmes. Large-scale skill development is the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme. N-Power is a Federal Government's policy in the economic, employment and social development arenas established to address the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition

and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended that the government should encourage the strengthening of the capability for employed rural and urban dwellers. Since unemployed youths constitute an increasing portion of the rural dwellers, economic policies should aim at enhancing their youth empowerment and poverty alleviation in Anambra State.

Author Contributions

All authors have equal contributions to the paper. All the authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

No funding support was received.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/ or publication of this article.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during and/ or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declaration on AI Use

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence (AI) or AI-assisted tools were used in the preparation of this manuscript.

References

- Abadua, C. J. (2012). Empowering the Niger Delta youths: Workshop on youth development. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences (IJRSS)*, 4(2).
- Abubakar, A. M., Elrehail, H., Alatailat, M. A., & Elçi, A. (2019). Knowledge management, decision-making style, and organizational performance. *Journal of Innovation & Knowledge*, 4(2), 104–114. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jik.2017.07.003>
- Aderonmu, J. A. (2017). Local government and poverty eradication in rural Nigeria. *Canadian Social Science*.
- Akintola, O. O., & Akintola, O. (2015). West Africans in the informal economy of South Africa: The case of low-skilled Nigerian migrants. *Review of Black Political Economy*, 42(4), 379–398. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12114-015-9213-3>
- Akujuru, C. A., & Enyioko, N. C. (2019). The impact of N-Power programmes on poverty alleviation in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State. *Global Journal of Political Science and Administration*, 7(3), 29–50.
- Al-Hussaini, M., Mustafa, S., & Ali, S. (2014). Self-medication among undergraduate medical students in Kuwait with reference to the role of the pharmacist. *Journal of Research in Pharmacy Practice*, 3(1), 23–27. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2279-042X.132706>
- Anaekwe, V. B., Okoye, N. S., Okoye, E., & Ohanyere, C. P. (2025). Manpower planning and organizational performance: A study of Anambra State Ministry of Environment, 2018–2022. *Humanities Horizon*, 2(3), 143–155.
- Antia-Obong, E. A., & Otung, I. A. (2019). Growth rate analysis for domestic production and import of barley beer in Nigeria. *Middle East Journal of Agriculture Research*, 8(1), 21–27.
- Bailey, D. (1992). Using participatory research in community consortia development and evaluation: Lessons from the beginning of a story. *The American Sociologist*, 23(4), 71–82.
- Bashir, M., John, C. A., & Mbagi, E. V. (2017). Bridging the gap of unemployment through technical skills acquisition programme (TSAP) for national security in Nigeria. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Science, Technology and Vocational Education*, 2(2).
- Bisong, D. B. (2019). Impact assessment of the N-Power scheme: A study of the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. *Journal of Public Administration and Social Welfare Research*, 4(1).
- Easton, D. (1953). *The political system: An inquiry into the state of political science*. Alfred A. Knopf.
- Eboh, O. S., Ezeanolue, E. T., Ohanyere, C. P., & Anaekwe, V. B. (2026). Effectiveness of human resource policies and challenges in managing office politics in Nigeria. *Journal of Human, Culture, Society, and Education*, 2(2), 7–12. <https://doi.org/10.62672/hucse.v2i2.29>
- Effiong, U. M. (2019). N-Power programme and unemployment in Akwa Ibom State: A comparative analysis. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Conflict Management*, 4(3).

- Ekong, U. M., & Ekong, C. (2016). Skills acquisition and unemployment reduction in Nigeria: A case study of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Akwa Ibom State. *International Journal of Economics and Management Sciences*, 5(2).
- Enyioko, N. C. (2020). The impact of N-Power programmes on poverty alleviation in Rivers State, Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 7(2).
- International Labour Organization. (2000). *Employing youth: Promoting employment-intensive growth*. Report of the ILO Interregional Symposium, December 13–14.
- Kabeer, N. (2003). *Gender mainstreaming in poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals: A handbook for policy-makers and other stakeholders*. Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Khan, A., & Cheri, L. (2016). An examination of poverty as the foundation of crisis in Northern Nigeria. *Insight on Africa*, 8(1), 59–71. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0975087815612282>
- Maduabuchi, A. C. (2023). Effect of N-Power on employment creation in Enugu State, 2016–2019. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation*, 4(1), 198–204.
- Marshall, K., & Butzbach, O. (2003). *New social policy agendas for Europe and Asia: Challenges, experience, and lessons*. World Bank.
- Momoh, Z., & Attah, P. J. (2018). Corruption and the paradox of poverty in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Applied, Management and Social Sciences*, 15, 140–148.
- Morka, A. (2019). Assessing the effects of Higher Diploma Program (HDP) training on the teaching–learning process in Assosa University.
- Nambiappan, B., Ismail, A., Hashim, N., Ismail, N., Shahari, D. N., Idris, N. A. N., Omar, N., Salleh, K. M., Hassan, N. A. M., & Kushairi, A. (2018). Malaysia: 100 years of resilient palm oil economic performance. *Journal of Oil Palm Research*, 30(1), 13–25. <https://doi.org/10.21894/jopr.2018.0002>
- Nwachukwu, A. A. (2014). Assessment of passenger satisfaction with intra-city public bus transport services in Abuja, Nigeria. *Journal of Public Transportation*, 17(1), 99–119. <https://doi.org/10.5038/2375-0901.17.1.6>
- Odey, S. A., & Sambe, N. (2019). Assessment of the contribution of N-Power programme to youth empowerment in Cross River State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology Research*, 5(4).
- Ogbuke, N., Yusuf, Y. Y., Gunasekaran, A., Colton, N., & Kovvuri, D. (2023). Data-driven technologies for global healthcare practices and COVID-19: Opportunities and challenges. *Annals of Operations Research*, 326, 1–36. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-021-03945-y>
- Oguejiofor, C. S., & Onyiorah, B. O. (2021). Extent of utilization of internet technologies by teachers of business subjects in senior secondary schools in Ogidi Educational Zone of Anambra State. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Vocational Education & Research*, 4(1), 79–87.
- Oguejiofor, C. S., Nzeribe, P. U., & Onyiorah, B. O. (2022). Entrepreneurship education for employability and global competitiveness in the new normal. *COOU Journal of Educational Research*, 7(1), 233–240.
- Okafor, G. (2017). The determinants of firm performance and bribery: Evidence from manufacturing firms in Nigeria. *International Economic Journal*, 31(4), 647–669. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10168737.2017.1360298>
- Okoro, F. A., Onyiorah, B. O., & Emeasoba, N. C. (2025). Business educators' perception of search engine and email marketing skills required for self-employment by business education students in South-South Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Entrepreneurship Education*, 2(2), 90–100.
- Okoro, S. N., & Basse, U. E. (2018). N-Power teachers' competence and resource utilization: Implication for effective and efficient teaching in Nigerian primary and post-primary schools. *International Journal of Education and Evaluation*, 4(1).
- Okoye, N. S., Uchenna, T. U., & Okechukwu, I. E. (2023). Addressing digital technology gap challenges: The Nigerian experience. *NG Journal of Social Development*, 11(1), 95–100.
- Okoye, U. O. (2012). Family caregiving for ageing parents in Nigeria: Gender differences, cultural imperatives and the role of education. *International Journal of Education and Ageing*, 2(2), 139–154. https://doi.org/10.1386/ijea.2.2.139_1
- Olorunmota, O. M. (2025). A philosophical analysis of educational decline in Nigeria. *Journal of Human, Culture, Society, and Education*, 2(2), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.62672/hucse.v2i2.31>
- Omilana, T. (2018, May 31). Buhari signs 'Not Too Young to Run' bill into law. *The Guardian Nigeria*. <https://guardian.ng/news/buhari-signs-not-too-young-to-run-bill-into-law/>
- Onyiorah, B. O. (2021). Innovative strategies for enhancing the teaching and learning of business education. *Global Journal of Education, Humanities and Management Sciences*, 3(1), 60–71.
- Oviawe, R. D. (2015). A cross-disciplinary exploration of empowerment research. *Journal of Social Science*, 6(5).
- Rabiu, S. A. (2023). *Financial risk management and financial performance of microfinance banks in Nigeria* (Master's thesis, Kwara State University, Nigeria).
- Yazali, J. (2024). Skill-oriented education for a liberalised economy: The case for India. *Journal Academic Marketing Mysticism Online (JAMMO)*, 15(54), 864–878.

Yusuf, S., Joseph, P., Rangarajan, S., Islam, S., Mente, A., Hystad, P., Brauer, M., Kutty, V. R., Gupta, R., Wielgosz, A., & AlHabib, K. F. (2020). Modifiable risk factors, cardiovascular disease, and mortality in 155,722 individuals from 21 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries (PURE): A prospective cohort study. *The Lancet*, 395(10226), 795-808. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32008-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32008-2)