

INFLUENCE OF SKILLS ACQUISITION ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN GUSAU TOWN

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Abstract

The study intends to examine the Influence of skills acquisition on youth Development in Gusau, Zamfara state. The objective of this study is to specifically examine the extent of the influence of skills acquisition on youth self-reliance and development rate in the state. Data were obtained through the use of five point Likert scale with two items structured questionnaire. Questionnaire were distributed to 60 youth's respondents, although only 50 questionnaires were returned successful. The study also made recommendation that the establishing of skills acquisition in every nook and cranny of the state will enhanced the level of youth self-reliance and will also increase the rate of employability.

Key words: Skills Acquisition, Youth Development, self-reliance, employability

INTRODUCTION

Skills acquisition can be referred to as a form of training for individuals or group of individuals that can lead to acquiring certain type of knowledge, competencies for self-sustenance. It involves the training of people in different fields of trade under a legal agreement between the trainers and the trainees for certain duration and under certain conditions. skills acquisition is seen as the ability to do or perform an activity that is related to some meaningful exercise, work or job. He maintains that for skills to be acquired, appropriate knowledge, attitudes, habits of thought and qualities of character are learnt to enable the acquirer develop intellectual, emotional and moral character which prepares him or her for a brighter future. Similarly, Donli (2004) is of the view that skills acquisition is the manifestation of idea and knowledge through training which is gear red towards instilling in individuals, the spirit of entrepreneurship needed for meaningful development. He stressed that if individuals are given the opportunity to acquire relevant skills s needed for self-sustenance in the economy, it will promote their charisma in any work environment. He further maintained that skills acquisition increases competition and cooperation among people. Youth empowerment can also be seen as a means of exposing the youths into skills or training that makes them productive. It encompasses different ways youth can be exposed into different trades that may help them to engage in sustainable wage and/or self-employment. The **purpose** of skills

acquisition programme is to serve as a means of youth empowerment. According to Ogundowolo (1998) is to prepare and equip the youths with appropriate skills that can be beneficial to them in future. He maintained that ideal skills acquisition is capable of ensuring value re-orientation among the youths and transforming them into creators of wealth and employment instead of seekers. Basically, the creation of wealth and employment will lead to poverty reduction and increase of welfare status of individuals in the country.

Statement of the Problem

The population of Nigeria is increasing every day. Today Nigeria is about two hundred and thirty-two million based on World meter's elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Majority of the people are youths who have graduated from the secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities, majority of them are staying idle without jobs or skills acquired which is advantage to the economy. The question as well as the problem statement is can skills acquisition and youth empowerment guarantee increase in youth employment.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do skills acquisition increase youth development rate in Gusau town?
2. To what extent do skills acquisition enhance youth self-reliance in Gusau town?

Research Objectives

1. To determine the influence of skills acquisition on youth development rate in Gusau town.
2. To examine the influence of skills acquisition on youth self-reliance in Gusau town

Research Hypothesis

1. Skills acquisition has no relationship with youth development in Gusau town.
2. Skills acquisition has no impact on youth self-reliance in Gusau town.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITRETURE

Conceptual framework

Skill is defined as the ability to do something well. It also means competence or expertise in doing something. Thus, according to Omene (2021), skill is defined as the ability to do something well, usually gained through training or experience. From the above skills acquisition According to Ochiagha (2004), is seen as the ability to do or perform an activity that is related to some meaningful exercise, work or job. Skills acquisition refers as form of training giving to an individuals or group of individuals in other to acquire certain type of knowledge, competencies for self sustainance. According to speelman skills acquisition is the ability to learn or acquire skills which involves development of a new skills or practice the way of doing things.

Omene (2021), in writing about skill acquisition and its importance in employment generation and empowerment of citizens contended that skill acquisition helps in the transformation of knowledge and skills into creative venture; that the main aim of skill acquisition is to fight against unemployment among youths. Emeka (2011), in support of the above views stated that skills acquisition are what people can do to impact their generation; that it is not left for the poor and middle-class people, but it is for career and/or professionals who desire to make their lives multifaceted, adaptable, self-sustaining and independent.

On the other hand, Ogide and Ogide (2020), observed that skills acquisition is the act of getting skill and knowledge which enables individuals to do something well; usually achieved through teaching, training, retraining, practical experience and on the-job-training.

Youth empowerment is a multi-dimensional process by which the youths can be induced,

motivated and made to embrace positive changes, particularly, in their economic life styles and thereby improve the economy. According to Jimba (2006), youth empowerment involves different ways the youth can be facilitated to cause changes in their life style. Youth empowerment can also be seen as a means of exposing the youths into skills or training that makes them productive. It encompasses different ways youth can be exposed into different trades that may help them to engage in sustainable paid and self-employment. To actualize this, a lot of programmes and policies which encourage youth empowerment such as skill acquisition programmes have been launched as a means of youth empowerment. This is the reason why skill acquisition according to Ogundowolo (1998) is to prepare and equip the youths with appropriate skills that can be beneficial to them in future. He maintained that ideal skill acquisition is capable of ensuring value re-orientation among the youths and transforming them into creators of wealth and employment instead of seekers. Obviously, the creation of wealth and employment will lead to poverty reduction and increase of welfare status of individuals in the society.

Empirical review

Skills increase employment opportunities, youth active involvement in economic productivity and crime reduction in societies. Skills help people to have better resources and financial management, improved strategic planning and curtailing crises in organizations due to experiences garnered. In order to reduce the rate of unemployment and total reliance on government, in 1987 the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was established; the directorate was mandated to deal with rising trend of unemployment through the training of people in various skills. Recently, also, various other programmes and policies have also been rolled out to fight the same mayhem of unemployment. But whether, these programmes and policies of government have been able to address the problem of unemployment is better imagined that explained, as the rate of unemployment has continued to increase geometrically. It is therefore, expected that students' enrollment in skills while undergoing their studies would reduce the problem of unemployment and the burdens which parents bear on the course of the children's sponsorship and further sponsorship even after graduation.

Theoretical framework

The study of youth empowerment and skills acquisition programme in GusauZamfara State should be studied with the systems approach. This theory offers a fruitful approach to the study because of its input-output conversion mode. Input in the form of demands and support are received from the environment and output in the form of programmes, policies, and laws which intends to bring about changes in the environment are injected into the society (system) after that. This theory will help us in understanding how the skills acquisition and youth empowerment programmes are made and implemented through the input, processes and output analysis of the systems theory as the theory is used in analyzing policy processes in public administration and social sciences in general. The Zamfara State government stands as the system while the State which comprises of the youth, ministries, departments and others stands as the environment. The problem posed by youth employment, crime and the desire to provide jobs for the youth stands as an input or demands from the environment on the political system and after the demands passed through the political system, the skills acquisition programme which stands as an output was introduced in the environment as a programme of government to empower youth in the domain. After implementing the programme, feedback was also generated and that in turn serve as another form of demands on the government

which might form the basis for the institution of another youth empowerment programme later in the future.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in GusauZamfara State, sample population under this study are three thousand (3000) comprised the youth empowered and other beneficiaries from the NDE skills acquisition programme, the trainers and coordinating members of staff from the Organization, says a total number of 3000 youth had benefitted from the programme between 2010 to 2024;the instruments use for the study was questionnaires, titled “Skills acquisition and youth empowerment in GusauZamfara stateState. Questionnaire” structured in the pattern of Likert 5-point rating scale of agreement.Sixty (60) copies of questionnaire were administered to the youth empowered/beneficiaries from NDE skills acquisition programme, while 50 copies were returned. The data collected through primary data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The sample size of the study is sixty (60) which consists of the trainees/beneficiaries of the national directorate of employment in GusauZamfara state office.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

This section of the study assesses the impact of the skills acquisition and youth empowerment in Gusau, Zamfara State. It asses the level on impact of skills acquisition and youth empowerment. To achieve this, data presentation. A total number of seventy (60) questionnaires were distributed and only 50 copies were returned and completed.

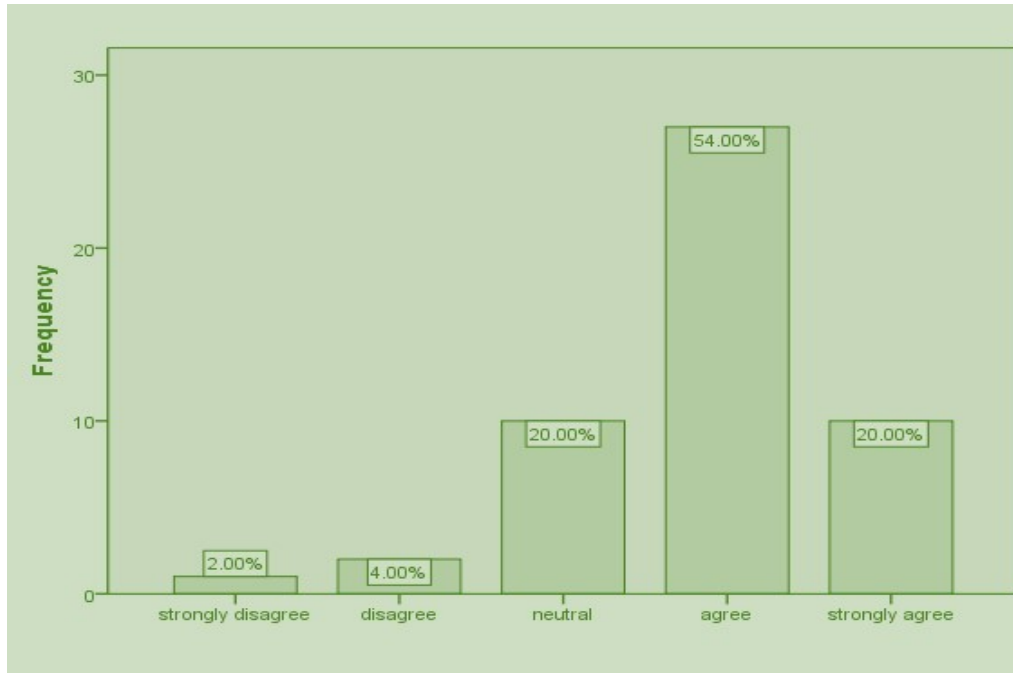
Respondents were asked to respond on two 2 items agree, neutral and disagree based of assessment made by the researcher on the contribution of the skills acquisition and youth empowerment in zamfara state. This analysis based on the answers from the questionnaire collected back whose percentages is 83% returned and 17% not returned.

Below reveals the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents on the Impact of the skills acquisition on youth empowerment and its values/responses are organized using Likert scale of measurements, such as: Strongly agree, Agree, neutral, Disagree and Strongly Disagree.

Table 1.1: Assessment on the Influence of Skills Acquisition on Youth development in Zamfara State.

Assertion	Responses	Frequency	Percentage%	Cumulative %
Skills acquisition can increase employment rate of youth in Gusau town	Strongly agree	10	20%	20%
	Agree	27	54%	74%
	Neutral	10	20%	94%
	Disagree	2	4%	98%
	Strongly disagree	1	2%	100%
	Total	50	100%	100%

Source: field survey, 2025



From the above table 1.1: shows that 37 or 74%, agreed that skills acquisition and youth empowerment can increase employment in GusauZamfara State and 10 or 20% are neutral while 3 or 6% of the respondents said it can't increase employment. Therefore, the youth empowerment can bring employment.

Table 1.2: Assessment of the Impact of the Skills Acquisition on Youth empowerment in Zamfara State.

Assertions	Responses	Frequency	Percentage %	Cumulative %
Skills acquisition enhanced self-reliance of youth in Gusau town	Strongly agree	15	30%	30%
	Agree	23	46%	76%
	Neutral	7	14%	90%
	Disagree	3	6%	96%
	Strongly disagree	2	4%	100%
	Total	50	100%	100%

Source:fieldsurvey,2024

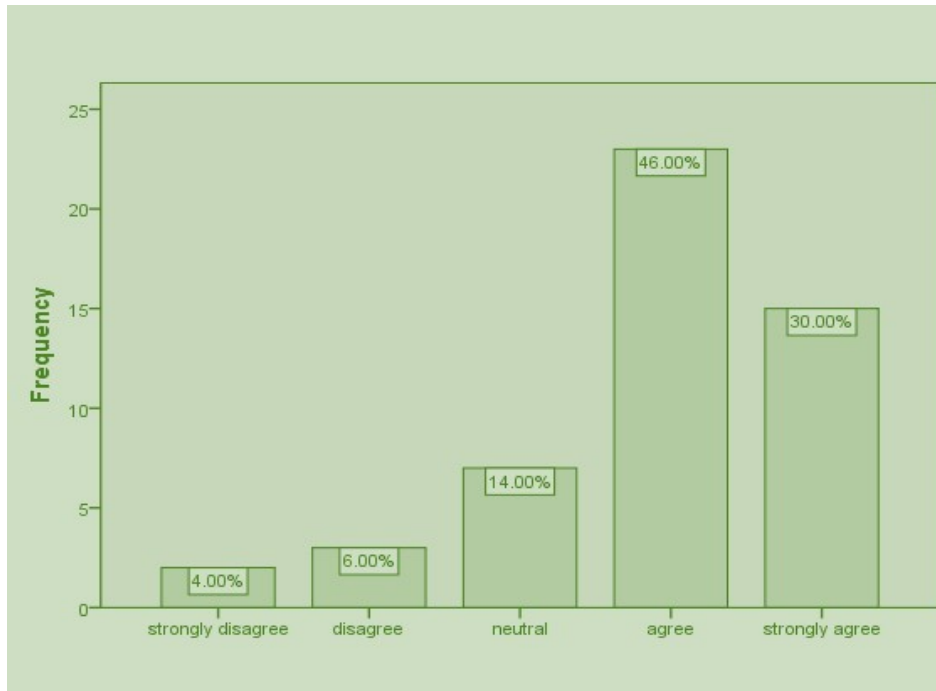


Table 1.2: Assessment of the Influence of the Skills Acquisition on Youth development in Zamfara State.

From The above table 1.2: shows that 38 or 76% of the respondents agree skills s acquisition on youth development enhanced self-reliance of youth in Gusau town Zamfara state, and 7 or 14% of the respondents shows neutral from the question. 5 or 10% of the respondents said that skills s acquisition on youth empowerment has no impact on youth self-reliance in Gusau, Zamfara state. Therefore, skills acquisition has a strong influence on youth development and can enhance self-reliance.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concluded that, skills s acquisition influenced youth development in zamfara state through increase employment and it also enhance self-reliance in GusauZamfara State. Government alone will not be sufficient when compared with the magnitude of unemployment rate in the state. This justifies that there is needs to increase skills acquisition training center so that the unemployment rate can be reduce to the minimum and youth can have steady growth in development.

Skills acquisition in Gusau, based on the findings from the study is to a reasonable extent, alleviated the problems confronting youth in the State and skills acquisition programme will helped to improve the lives of youth participants. in the sense that many of them are now engaged in gainful activities and, consequently, they can cater for their needs and even that of their families. It is believed that training through skills acquisition programmes will enhance the sustainability of the youths in different fields of trade. This is possible when the culture of creative ideas is instilled in youths to make them productive.This is very important because as Olaitan (2000) rightly stated, skills acquisition is meant for those who need it, want it, and can profit from it.

The study recommended that Money and startup-kits should be made available to each participant in these schemes promptly to start and set up their own business after graduation. `Finally, the rural areas of the country should not be discriminated against, in the implementation of the youth

development programmes. All the youths in the rural areas who are unemployed should be identified and encouraged to bridge the gap of inequality between the rural and urban centers in the country. This can be achieved through rural based empowerment programmes. The issue of considering urban centers alone for the programme should be discouraged.

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