

**INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES OF THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT ON REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL  
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**APRIL, 2020**

**APPROVAL PAGE**

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is eternally dedicated to God Almighty.

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## ABSTRACT

The study assessed the influence of social intervention programmes of the Federal Government on reducing unemployment in Edo State, Nigeria. Four research questions guided the study and two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study was 156 masters degree students from University of Benin and Ambrose Alli University in Edo State in 2018/2019 academic session. There was no sampling as the entire population was used for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three experts. Chronbach alpha statistics was used to compute the reliability of the instrument which yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.78. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation. The t-test was used to test the hypotheses. The study revealed that N-power, conditional cash transfer, homegrown school feeding and micro-credit scheme reduced unemployment in Edo State. It also revealed that male and female graduates did not differ significantly in their ratings on the extent social intervention programmes reduced unemployment in Edo State; same goes for young and old graduates hence the null hypotheses acceptance. From the results of the analysis, it was concluded that the extent of social intervention programmes such as N-power, conditional cash transfer, homegrown school feeding and micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) on reducing unemployment in Edo State was high. Consequently, it was recommended that a systematic approach should be developed for the transfer of N-power beneficiaries into the core public service at the end of their internship for programme employment sustainability. Furthermore, funding towards school feeding programme should be consistent and regular across the local governments so as impact on everyone on the value chain towards employment generation. Finally, recommendations were made for further studies such as determinants influencing the implementation of social intervention programmes in Nigeria.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background to the Study**

Nigeria's decentralised political system consists of a three-tiered government structure. Apart from the federal level, there are 36 states and 774 local governments, with the Federal Government responsible for designing policy but sub-national governments largely autonomous in terms of interpreting economic and social policies and setting up budget regimes and expenditure patterns. States and local government areas (LGAs) vary considerably in size, population, resources and capacity, resulting in significant differences in poverty and inequality between states.

With the recent economic or global recessions experienced at households and national levels, unemployment is no longer an alien word, as it has become part of everyday lexicon. Even the western world has for some years now experienced a notable rise in unemployment rate; Welle (2010) in his work Euro-Zone unemployment climbs to 10% high said the official unemployment rate in the 16 European countries that use the euro rose to 10% in December, 2009. Comments and characterization abound on the various dimensions of unemployment. To the International Labour Organisation (2002), unemployment can be said to occur when a person is available and willing to work but currently without work. One is forced to ask how many Nigerians are willing and available to work but are currently without job.

In most developing countries like Nigeria unemployment serves as a major yardstick for development as was rightly portrayed in Dudley Seers definition of development. Seers (1969) asserted that the questions to ask about a country's development are what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to inequality? What has been happening to unemployment? If

all three of these have declined from high level, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been worse especially if all three (poverty, inequality and unemployment), it would be strange to call the result “development” even if per capita income doubled. What then will one think of an able-bodied young men who are graduates and currently unemployed, with a lot of dependants waiting for survival, or a young family man was doing very well in a leading financial institution and was suddenly, laid off due to the economic recession? The right-sizing and downsizing in Federal Parastatals has also led to a considerable loss of job. Victims of all the aforementioned situations are likely to pass through psychological trauma due to job losses, that is, if they are strong enough to withstand the trauma of being laid off and subjected to subsequent unemployment.

In an analysis of unemployment problems in Nigeria, Onosode (2012) stated that economic development is about people and people are the most important resources required to bring a about development. When large numbers of people suffer hardship and deprivation because of inadequate opportunity in the national economy for gainful employment, whatever level of development is achieved becomes of questionable value. Besides, when able-bodied men and women are involuntarily unemployed, the nation is underutilizing its most important resources and realizing less than its full potential in development. Finally, when the rate of unemployment is intolerably high, it may be impossible to prevent the desperate unemployed from disrupting productive processes and thereby making the employed less productive apart from the threat it possess for the maintenance of law and order except perhaps under threat of grossly repressive laws. The effect of unemployment as noted by Onosode (2012), ranges from underutilization of human resources, economic hardship, social and civil unrest, pose as threats

to the much-desired development. According to Barrientos (2010), most social intervention structures conceptualize social intervention as an investment in human capital. Social intervention plays a role in human capital vis a vis providing food, skills and services, as well as providing access to finance, which empowers households to invest in their own development (Browne, 2015).

In a bid to address the menace of unemployment, various policies have been put in place by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The dawn of democratic governance in Nigeria in 1999 began a new chapter in the design and implementation of social intervention programmes. High poverty and unemployment, a collapsed economy, and infra-structural decay, incurred by prolonged military rule, prompted the Obasanjo administration to create the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) (Awojobi, 2014). Policy inconsistency has been a major problem in Nigeria. When the *Yar Adua administration* came into power in 2007, instead of consolidating and continuing NEEDS, the administration introduced the Seven-Point Agenda (Awojobi, 2014). The *Goodluck Jonathan Administration* however, based its social intervention scheme on investing in human capital such as graduate internship scheme and youth enterprise with innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN).

The present Federal Government has however embark on its own social intervention programmes in a bid to tackle unemployment and these are the N-power; conditional cash transfers; homegrown school feeding and government economic empowerment programme. N-Power is a youth empowerment scheme sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria. N-Power addresses 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. N-Power aspires to

provide a platform where most Nigerians can access skills acquisition and development. N-Power is designed for Nigerian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35. The modular programmes under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work.

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) program is a new type of social assistance programme that represents an innovative approach to the delivery of social services especially to the vulnerable and those in extreme poverty (Rawlings, 2004). Conditional cash transfers provides money to poor families conditional upon investments in human capital, usually sending children to school, bringing them to health centres on a regular basis and any other condition that may be prescribed by the institution offering it. The cash transfer is aimed at providing short-term financial assistance to families often in extreme poverty without the means to provide for adequate food consumption while the conditions are aimed at promoting longer term human capital investments, especially among the young (Rawlings, 2004).

The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme is aimed at providing a free nutritional meal for public primary pupils across Nigeria to improve school enrolment and completion as well as child nutrition and health. Government Economic Empowerment Programme (MarketMoni or TraderMoni) is a Federal Government Social Intervention Programme (SIP) that provides interest-free loans of N10,000 to N100,000 to microenterprises, the segments of society with the greatest difficulty accessing credit. The scheme, which is executed by Bank of Industry, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, directly impacts traders, market women, artisans, and farmers nationwide.

Unfortunately, the unemployment rates have been on the rise. In 2009 the unemployment rate as recorded by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was 11.9%, in 2010 14.6%, 2011

10.9% while as at December 2018 the NBS gave the unemployment rate as 19.7%. Influence of social intervention programmes of the Federal Government becomes imminent. The graduates as will be used in this study are those who have graduated from tertiary institutions in Edo State. They are either young (30 years below) or old (31 years above) and male or female.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The recent food, fuel and financial crises exacerbated many of the existing vulnerabilities facing the poor. Almost half the population of Nigeria works in the agriculture sector, which has poverty rate of 62.7% (Ode-Ojowu, Bulus & Omonona, 2007). Over 60% of the population is below 18 and children are represented disproportionately in poor households. Nigeria has a low ranking according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Institutions and Gender index (Sigi), which reflects inequalities in human capital, political representation and economic participation between women and men.

Consequently, the unemployment rates in Nigeria has been on the rise. In 2009 the unemployment rate as recorded by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was 11.9%, in 2010 14.6%, 2011 10.9% while as at March 2019 the Bureau of Statistics gave the unemployment rate as 26.5%. This definitely has an adverse effect on the economy, as many able bodied people out of frustration of no jobs and due to inadequate infrastructure may eventually resort to different vices witnessed in various parts of the country and also high level of poverty. Due to poor infrastructural facilities, unfavourable conditions of living and poverty youths have become restive. If unemployment rate remains unabated, there is likely to be increased in crime rate, poverty, and other social vices. With all these in mind, the Federal Government launched its social intervention programmes to combat unemployment in Nigeria. In spite of these intervention programmes by the Federal Government, it seems unemployment is still prevalent.

The worry of the researcher therefore was to find out the extent these interventions programmes have helped in reducing unemployment.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study was to assess the influence of social intervention programmes of the Federal Government on reducing unemployment in Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined the:

1. extent N-power programme is reducing unemployment.
2. extent Conditional Cash transfer programme is reducing unemployment.
3. extent homegrown school feeding programme is reducing unemployment.
4. extent micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) is reducing unemployment.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study.

1. To what extent does N-power programme reduce unemployment in Edo State?
2. To what extent does conditional cash transfer programme reduce unemployment in Edo State?
3. To what extent does homegrown school feeding programme reduce unemployment in Edo State?
4. To what extent does micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) reduce unemployment in Edo State?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- H<sub>01</sub> There is no significant difference between the ratings of male and female graduates on the extent social intervention programmes reduce unemployment in Edo State.

H<sub>02</sub> There is no significant difference between the ratings of young and old graduates on the extent social intervention programmes reduce unemployment in Edo State.

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study after publication in journals and other media will be of immense benefit to the policy makers, government, students, and researchers. The findings of the study will provide vital information on the social intervention programme of the Federal Government and Graduate Unemployment thereby helping policy makers who are charged with the task of making developmental policies to set their priorities right and implement accordingly.

The findings of the study will provide information on the activities of the various social intervention programmes as an awareness campaign to make the unemployed populace feel the impact of the programme especially the unemployed graduate. It re-examines already existing measures which can be improved upon or substituted with innovative ones.

The findings of the study will also bring to the government attention the need for adequate funding of the programme for it to fulfill the mandated objective of curbing unemployment. This can be achieved via seminars and symposia to concerned government agencies and budget thinkers.

The finding of the study will also serve as reference materials to students, researchers who will want embark their research on social intervention programme. The completed work will be published online and offline for intending users to have access to the material for their benefit.

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study covered the influence of social intervention programmes of the Federal Government on reducing unemployment in Nigeria. The content scope covers N-Power

programme, Conditional Cash transfer programme, homegrown school feeding programme and micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni).

The geographical scope covered Edo State and postgraduate students (Master's degree only) of Vocational and Technical Education Department from University of Benin and Ambrose Alli University in the 2018/2019 academic session.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter deals with the review of related literature and was discussed under the following headings.

- Theoretical Framework
- Concept of Employment
- Concept of Unemployment
- Mapping Social Intervention Programme in Nigeria
- N-Power and Unemployment Reduction
- Conditional Cash Transfer and Unemployment Reduction
- Home Grown School Feeding and Unemployment Reduction
- Micro-Credit Scheme and Unemployment Reduction
- Review of Related Empirical Studies
- Summary of Literature Reviewed

#### **Theoretical Framework**

Scholars have propounded various theories relating to employment, underemployment and unemployment. These include those of the Classical view who believe that full employment was a normal situation and any deviation from this was regarded as abnormal. Okun's law which was propounded by an American Economist named Arthur Okun (1926-1980).

Thus, for the purpose of this work the System theory is adopted. It was propounded by David Easton, a Canadian Political Scientist in 1965.

## The System Theory

The System Theory was propounded by David Easton in 1965. He was renowned for his application of System's to the study of Political Science. Easton (1965) proposed that a political system could be seen as a delimited (i.e. all political systems have precise boundaries) and fluid (changing) system of steps in decision making.

He illustrated the theory in the diagram as shown in fig. 1

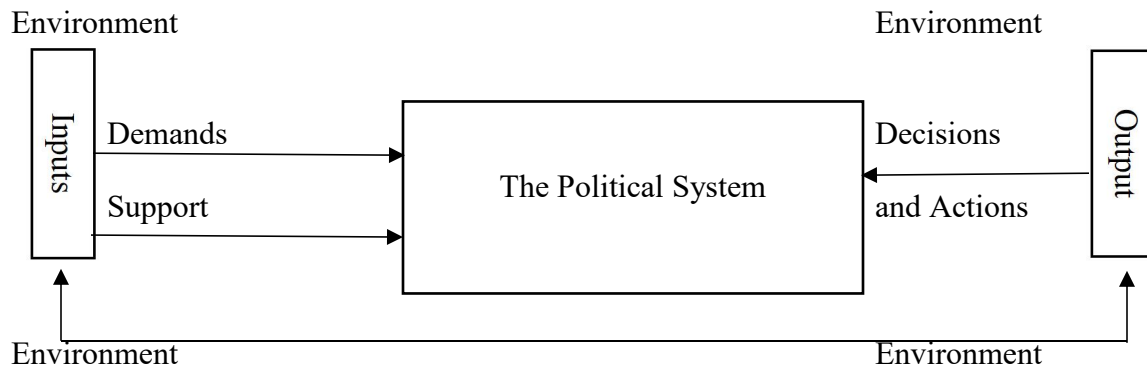


Fig. 1: An Analysis of Political Life

Source: Easton, (1965)

Step 1: Changes in the social or physical environment surrounding a political system produce “demands” and “supports” for action or the status quo directed as “inputs” towards the political system, through political behaviour.

Step 2: These demands and supporting groups stimulate competition in a political system leading to decisions or “outputs” directed at some aspect of the surrounding social and physical environment.

Step 3: After a decision or output is made (e.g. a specific policy), it interacts with its environment, and it produces change in the environment, there are “outcomes”.

Step 4: When a new policy interacts with its environment, outcomes may generate new demands or supports and groups in support or against the policy (“feedback”) or a new policy on some related matter

Step 5: Feedback leads back to Step 1; it’s a never ending story.

From the above a system is made up of elements or subsystems which are interdependent and must function effectively to make the system sustainable. Redundancy in any of the subsystems impinges on the ability of the whole (system) to operate effectively and efficiently. Easton points out that every political system has an environment and responds to it. The elements or sub-systems of the system are interrelated and the system can respond to forces in its environment, and will do so to preserve it.

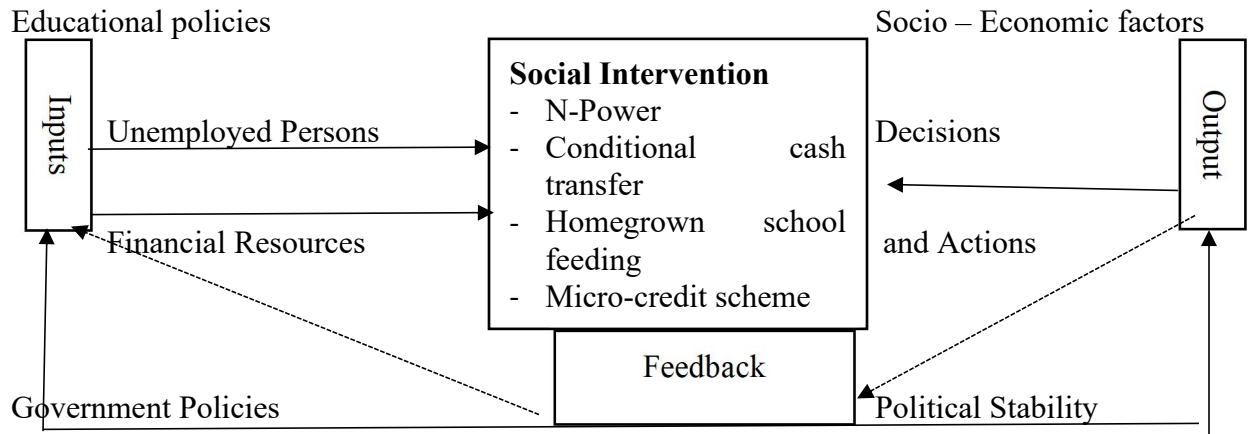
The systematic relationship among the major elements in the System Theory is quite apt. Inputs in form of demands and supports are sent into the political system from the environment. Once an input enters the political or conversion process, it undergoes transformation or refinement which translates to output. What happens in the political system as well as the input determines the output. The output is fed back into the environment and the feedback mechanism ensures that the system endures.

### **Applicability of the System’s theory to the Study**

As has been stated earlier, the Social Investment programmes were embarked on by the Federal Government to combat mass unemployment through skills acquisition. In simple terms, the unemployed (Graduate unemployed) form the “Input”, the National Social Intervention Programme; the “Political System” or “conversion Process”, employment creation and self-empowerment serves as the “output”. The higher institutions, government policies and business environment serve as the environments that influence the system.

This situation is illustrated in the diagram in fig. 2

System's Theory as Applied to the Study



Source: Adapted from Easton (1965)

Fig. 2: An Adapted Analysis of Political Life.

**Input:** Trainees' (Unemployed persons), budgetary allocations, and government policies constitute the input. They serve as raw materials infused into the system. The unemployed persons can also serve as the components of the social environment which form the inputs into the system. The beneficiaries who in this case are the unemployed persons serve as demand while budgetary allocations serve as support which enables the scheme to be effective. Finance which is also a crucial raw material is also injected into the system which serves as a lubricant for effective functioning of the system.

**Political System/Conversion Process:** The coordinators are responsible for the running of the social intervention programmes which is known as Nigeria Social Intervention Programme (NSIP). The decisions they make either make or mar the entire system. The various programmes such as the N-power, conditional cash transfer, homegrown school feeding and micro-credit scheme designed specifically for the unemployed serve as the conversion process. The coordinators make decisions; while the government makes available the necessary fund needed for the effective running of the scheme.

**Outputs:** The NSIP provides short-term employment in some cases but also creates support for self-employment through its programmes. Thus, the outputs of the system constitute “empowered” unemployed persons with the necessary assistance to create employment and been temporarily employed thereby becoming economically empowered. The Inputs and Conversion process determine the quality of the beneficiaries. The job placement and cash and credit given culminate to economic empowerment of the beneficiaries.

**Environment:** In this case, the environment includes the social, socio-economic, and political dynamics of the society. Examples of which are, the higher institutions of learning which produce the inputs, business environment such as economic stability, political, cultural and socio-cultural environment affect both the inputs and outputs. These to a large extent could determine the effectiveness of the output.

**Feedback:** This is meant to serve as a mechanism of knowing how the “outputs” are faring. That is, the NSIP getting informed of the effectiveness of scheme, the performance of beneficiaries, level of employment created through its programme and also areas of the programme that needs to be improved. The feedback mechanism creates an avenue for the NSIP to keep track of its activities.

According to Easton (1953) an obstruction or slack in one of the systems will lead to an impingement on the attainment of outputs. Thus, sub-systems must operate smoothly for the system to maintain a steady and effective state.

### **Concept of Employment**

The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2006) defined employment as “the situation in which people have work”. This definition clearly States that when a person has work doing he/she is employed but fails to specify if the person is being paid for the work or not.

Operationally, employment could be referred to the act of labour force being temporarily or fully occupied on either wages basis or interest basis for self-occupied work. This definition added a new dimension, in that employment could be work based on wages or mere self-interest either way, one is employed provided he/she is working. Robert and Bernard (2001) defined employment in terms of being employed. To them a person is employed if he or she worked full-time or part-time (even for a few hours) during the past week or is on vacation or sick-leave from a regular job.

Achegbolu (2008) avers that there are basically two domains of employment namely:

- 1) Public Sector Employment
- 2) Private Sector Employment

Public sector employment could be summarized as comprising employees/workers who are paid with public funds. They include workers at federal, State and local government levels, ministries, extraministerial departments or parastatals, agencies, commissions, boards, armed forces and paramilitary organizations, etc. The private sector equally consists of two variants; the organized private sectors and the non-organized private sectors. The organized private sectors are usually big/large business organizations and are incorporated as legal and corporate entities. The non-organized private sectors are usually in a nature of one-man business or sole proprietorship and partnership businesses which are relatively small in terms of size, paid up capital and workers employed.

It is worthy of note that all the aforementioned domains of employment are all employers of labour. In a nut-shell, an employed individual could be defined as a person who is currently working for wages or self-interest.

## **Labour Force**

Hailstones, Martin and Mastrianna (1970) define labour force “as the non-institutional population who are working or looking for work”. That is, it includes the unemployed, the employed, proprietors, the self-employed and members of the armed forces. To him, the labour force excludes all persons engaged exclusively in housework in the homes or attending school. Accordingly, a student, is not a member of the labour force unless he is working in addition to attending school (it is worthy of note that “non-institutional population” refers to all persons 16 years of age and older including members of the armed services but excluding persons in institutions). To Badamosi (1999) Labour force is “the totality of the employed, the self-employed and the unemployed”. That is, those who have a job plus those who are looking for work. The labour force according to Schiller (2004) “includes everyone age 16 and older who is actually working plus all those who aren’t working but are actively seeking employment.” Individuals who in a particular week fail to work due to vacation, illness or labour dispute are also counted as employed and so, they are referred to as “with a job but not at work”. People who are neither employed nor actively seeking work are not counted as part of the labour force; they are referred to as “non-participant”. As earlier reported “discouraged workers” (Job seekers who become frustrated after repeated rejections) are not counted as part of our unemployment problem because they are technically out of the labour force. However, within the Nigerian context this withdrawal posture is not applicable to the Nigerian environment.

## **Full Employment**

### **The Classical View**

The classical economists believed in the existence of full employment in the economy. Full employment to them was a normal situation and any deviation from this was regarded as

abnormal. To the classical economists; Unemployment resulted from the rigidity in the wage structure and interference in the working of free market system. This comes in the form of trade union legislation, minimum wage legislation etc. On the other hand, Full employment exists “when everybody who at the running rate of wages wishes to be employed. According to Pigou, those who are not prepared to work at the existing wage rate are not unemployed because they are voluntarily unemployed. To them, there should be no possibility of involuntary unemployment in the sense that, people are prepared to work but they do not find work. According to the classical economists, the above view only operates in an ideal economy. This far differs from the reality in which involuntary unemployment is prevalent.

### **The Keynesian View**

To Keynes (1936), full employment means the absence of involuntary unemployment. That is, full employment is a situation in which everybody who wants to work gets work. He assumes that “with a given organisation, equipment and technique, real wages and the volume of output are uniquely correlated so that, in general, an increase in employment can only occur to the accompaniment of a decline in the rate of wages”. In order to achieve full employment, Keynes advocates increases in effective demand to bring about reduction in real wages.

### **Concept of Unemployment**

Unemployment as defined by the International Labour Organisation (2002) “occurs when a person is available and willing to work but currently without work”. Thus, ILO agrees that only a person who is willing and available to work can be referred to as unemployed. This implies that not everybody who is not working is unemployed, To Colander (2001) unemployment occurs when people are looking for a job and cannot find one. This further concurs with the earlier definition where there is a conscious effort by the person or people seeking employment, but

fails to point out if the person or people in question have something doing or not, because some people who are working seek new jobs. From the foregoing definitions, one is forced to ask if anybody willing and available to work could be termed unemployed, evened if the person is a child. To this Robert and Bernanke (2001) defined unemployment as “adults not holding a job but looking for one.” Who then is an adult? An adult is one who is 18 years and above, therefore the definition could be said to be “Anyone who is 18 years and above who is not holding a job but looking for one could be termed unemployed. In line with the aforementioned, the Bureau of Labour Statistics USA considers a person who is 16 years or older who has not worked during the preceding week but made some effort to find work (for example, by going to a job interview) in the past four weeks as unemployed.

The above requirements further limit the definition of unemployment and makes it only applicable to the western world, because in a third world country like Nigeria a person who is actively seeking for job may not be called for any interview in four weeks, does that then remove him/her from the category of the unemployed? On the other hand, the US census Bureau considers a person who actively looked for work in the preceding four weeks, who is not employed but actively seeking a job to be unemployed. This consideration is more universally accepted because it States that a person who has actively looked for job in the preceding four weeks and has not attended interviews. Schiller (2004) defined unemployment using an illustration of a 37 years old man who has been doing very well at work enjoying bonuses and company-paid insurance and overnight the company closed, thus forcing him to be on the streets looking for job in the next few weeks. This continued for about 2 years and eventually found a job that paid only half as much as his previous job. This illustration not only shows the meaning of unemployment but attempts to explain the pain, frustration of employment and joblessness.

To Badamosi (1999), unemployment refers to the State whereby able bodied, qualified men and women are available for and are willing to work but get no job to do. This definition is more elaborate because it dealt with specific requirements. The existence of a large number of people who do not have work and are looking for it is the most obvious evidence of unemployment could be referred to as visible.

### **Unemployment in Nigeria**

Unemployment in Nigeria has actually become a menace, a vivid picture of which was painted by former executive secretary, National Manpower Board (NMB) Umo (1998) in The Guardian Newspaper of September 22, he said; the problem of unemployment amongst our tertiary graduates is of recent vintage, if situated in a historical perspective, it is not more than two decades since it started, but since then, it has become unabated and cumulative. To him many young graduates move from long spells of unemployment to high crimes including armed robbery while others have become handy tools for unscrupulous politicians.

The word unemployment connotes a situation in which persons who are actively seeking jobs are not able to secure them. Mustpaha in his work quoted Aigbokhan (1995) who argued that explaining unemployment in this way immediately throws up two problems of distinction. One is the distinction between joblessness and unemployment. To him, a jobless person may not necessarily be unemployed if he is not seeking job. Secondly, there is the distinction between seeking job and actively seeking a job because a “discouraged worker” or job seeker may be passively seeking job out of frustration from past search efforts. This is a good and important observation but either way, they are still without work and will be willing do one if they find.

To Korafor and Iwuj (2005) open unemployment exists when there are people who are able to work, wishing to work, dependent on work for a livelihood but unable to obtain

sustainable employment. It is worthy of note that Schiller (2003) noted that, when unemployment persists, job seekers become increasingly frustrated. After repeated rejections, job seekers often get so discouraged that they give up the search and turn to their families, friends or public welfare for income support, when they are asked whether they are actively seeking employment,. Such “discouraged workers” are apt to reply “No”. Yet they would like to be working, and they would probably be out looking for work if job prospects were better.

### **Types of Unemployment**

Economists have distinguished between various types of unemployment which include Cyclical Unemployment, Frictional Unemployment, Structural Unemployment and Classical Unemployment. The aforementioned types are the most widely accepted by scholars. Other additional types that are occasionally mentioned are Seasonal unemployment, Hardcore unemployment Migrated unemployment. Babatunde (1998) in the Guardian Newspapers of August 29 identified three major types of unemployment as primary, secondary and post-secondary unemployment. These are categories of the various types of unemployment. First, we shall consider those most widely accepted by renowned scholars. It is worthy of note that though there have been several definitions of voluntary and involuntary unemployment a simple distinction between them as given in the Wikipedia is that “voluntary unemployment is attributed to the individual’s decisions, whereas involuntary unemployment exists because of the socio-economic environment, which include the market, structure, government intervention and the level of aggregated demand in which individuals operate”.

### **Cyclical or Keynesian Unemployment**

Cyclical or Keynesian unemployment is also known as Demand Deficient Unemployment. It occurs when there is not enough aggregated demand in the economy. Cyclical

unemployment exists when the number of workers demanded falls short of the number of persons supplied (in the labour force) (Wikipedia, 2019). It gets its name because it varies with the business cycle which consists of alternating periods of booms and depressions. It is during the downsizing of the business cycle that income and output fall leading to widespread unemployment. This isn't a case of mobility between jobs or even job seekers skills, it is simply an inadequate level of demand for goods and services and thus for labour. Robert and Bernanke (2001) said it could be likened to the most familiar form of musical chairs, in which the number of chairs is always less than the number of players. The Great Depression of the 1930's is a striking example of cyclical unemployment. Another example can be found in the Nigerian economy where there are few available jobs for thousands of graduates produced by the various tertiary institutions in the country. Keynes (1936) argued that this type of unemployment exists due to inadequate effective aggregate demand. When Demand for most goods and services fall, less production is needed and consequently fewer workers are needed wages do not fall to meet the equilibrium level, and mass unemployment results.

### **Frictional Unemployment**

Frictional unemployment occurs when a worker moves from one job to another. The time period between jobs is considered "frictional unemployment" ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). Frictional unemployment is an example of a productive part of the economy, increasing both the worker's long term welfare and economic efficiency and is also a type of voluntary unemployment. In other words, short-term unemployment that is associated with the process of matching workers with jobs is called frictional unemployment. The function of the labour market is to match available jobs with available worker, if all jobs and workers were the same, or if the set of jobs and worker were static and unchanging, the matching process would be quick and easy. But the

real world is more complicated in that the jobs and workers are highly heterogeneous. Thus, because the labour market is heterogeneous and dynamic the process of matching jobs with workers often takes time. Frictional unemployment is always present in an economy, so the level of involuntary unemployment is probably the unemployment rate minus the rate of frictional unemployment, which means that increases or decreases in unemployment are normally under-represented in the simple statistics. To Schiller (2004) the three factors which distinguish frictional unemployment from other kinds of unemployment are as follows:

- 1) Enough jobs exist for those who are frictionally unemployed, that is, there is adequate demand for labour.
- 2) Those individuals who are frictionally unemployed have the skills required for available jobs.
- 3) The periods of job search are relatively short.

No one knows for sure just how much of our unemployment problem is frictional; however, most economists agree that friction alone is responsible for an unemployment rate of 2 to 3 percent.

### **Structural Unemployment**

Structural unemployment occurs when the numbers of jobs in a labour market are unable to provide substantial jobs for everyone who wants one, Hailstones (1970). For many job seekers, the period between are longer basically because they do not possess the skills that employers required. An example of this is the predicament that befell railway workers in Nigeria. During the 70's and 80's, the railway industry was a major means of transportation and employed various skilled and unskilled workers. Gradually, the industry came to a standstill, which led to the laying off of its workers and thousands of people lost their jobs. Most of these workers had a decade or more of experience and substantial skill, unfortunately, the skills they had perfected

were no longer in demand thereby making it difficult for them to fit in other organisations. These workers could be said to be victims of structural unemployment. In Nigeria, victims of rural-urban migration are more likely to suffer from structural unemployment in that most of these migrants are poor and have inadequate education, few job-related skills and little work experience. From their perspective, almost all decent jobs are “out of reach” as a result most of them remain unemployed for longer than can be explained by frictional forces. A major difference between structural and frictional unemployment according to Hailstone (1970) may also be encouraged to rise by persistent cyclical unemployment, that is, if an economy suffers from long-lasting low aggregate demand, it thereby leads to many unemployed becoming disheartened, while their skills including (job searching skills) becomes “old and obsolete”. Debts are likely to increase which eventually leads to a fall into the vicious circle of poverty. This means that they may not likely fit the job vacancies that are created when the economy recovers.

To Jhingan (2004), structural unemployment results from variety of causes, this range from lack of cooperate factors of production to changes in the economic structure of the society. To him the word “structural” implies that “the economic changes are massive, extensive, deep-seated, amounting to transformation of an economic structure and most specifically,” it refers to changes which are large in the particular area, industry or occupation.

Factors which contribute to structural unemployment include the following:

- 1) A lack of skills, language barriers or discrimination keeps some workers from finding stable, long-term jobs.
- 2) Economic changes sometimes create a long-term mismatch between the skills some workers have and the available jobs.

3) And finally, structural unemployment can result from structural features of the labour market that act as barriers to unemployment.

### **Classical Unemployment**

Classical or real-way unemployment occurs when real wages for a job are set above the market clearing level, causing the number of job-seekers to exceed the number of vacancies. To Hayek in the Constitution of Liberty, unemployment increases the more the government intervenes into the economy to try to improve the conditions of those with jobs. For example, minimum wage laws raise the cost of labourers with few skills to above the market equilibrium, resulting in people who wish to work at the going rate but cannot as wage enforced is greater than their value as workers becoming unemployed. Alain (2006) opined that they believed that laws restricting layoffs made businesses less likely to hire in the first place, as hiring becomes more risky, leaving many young people unemployed and unable to find work. Economists like Murray Ruthbard in the American Great Depression suggest that even social taboos can prevent wages from falling to the market clearing level. Some economists believe that this type of unemployment can be reduced by increasing the flexibility of wages (abolishing minimum wages or employee protection) to make the labour market more like a financial market. This suggestion unfortunately, will lead to massive exploitation on the part of employers most especially in developing countries.

### **Seasonal Unemployment**

Schiller (2003) is of the view that some joblessness is virtually inevitable as long as we continue to grow crops, build houses, or go skiing at certain seasons of the year. At the end of each season thousands of workers go searching for new jobs, thereby experiencing some seasonal unemployment in the process. Similarly in Nigeria, during the raining season, farmers

are actively employed to plough, make ridges, sow, cultivate and harvest crops. This includes both the aged and young it is very common to see rural-urban migrants, return to their rural villages to cultivate during the raining season. And once harvest is over they return to towns to search for menial jobs to cater for their needs.

### **Long-Term Unemployment**

The European Union Statistic defines long-term unemployment as “unemployment lasting for longer than one year”. Unfortunately, this situation is prevalent in developing countries like Nigeria.

### **Hidden Unemployment**

Hidden or covered unemployment is the unemployment of potential workers that is not reflected in official unemployment statistics due to the way the statistics are collected. In many countries only those who have no work but are actively looking for work (and/or qualifying for social security benefits) are counted as unemployed. Those who have given up looking for work (and sometimes those who are on government “retraining programmes) are not officially counted among the unemployed, even though they are not employed. Alain (2006). Also the statistics does not count those who are underdeveloped; those with part time or seasonal jobs would rather have full time jobs. Hence, as a result of this hidden unemployment, official statistics often underestimate unemployment rates.

### **Yardstick for Measuring Unemployment**

The measuring of unemployment in most places is done in line with the Bureau of Labour Statistics in the United States. Each month of BLS surveys about 60,000 randomly selected households; each person in those households who is 16 years or older is placed in one of three categories. They are as follows:

- 1) Employed: A person who has work full-time or part time (even for a few hours) during the past week or is on vacation or sick leave from a regular job.
- 2) Unemployed: A person who did not work during the preceding week but made some effort to find work in the past 4 weeks.
- 3) Out of the Labour Force: A person who did not work in the past week and did not look for work in the past 4 weeks. That is, a person who is neither employed nor unemployed (did look for work) are out of the “labour force”. Full time students, unpaid homemakers, retire and people unable to work because of disabilities are examples of people who are out of the labour force (Robert and Bernanke 2001).

In Nigeria, the Bureau of Statistics, defines an unemployed person as “an active person who did not work but looked for work in four week period preceding the survey”, National Bureau of Statistics (2008). The unemployment rate in Nigeria is defined as “the proportion of labour force that is available for work but did not work in the week preceding the survey period for at least 39 hours”. It is worthy of note that, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate is based on one hour. Also the total labour force in higher is made up of all persons aged 15-70 years excluding students, home keepers and persons unable to work or not interested in work, Richard (2007).

### **Costs of Unemployment**

The cost of unemployment in any nation cannot be overemphasized. Below are some of the costs identified by eminent scholars: individuals, economists, psychological, social socio-political.

## **Individual/Psychological Costs**

Unemployment which implies that the unemployed individuals are unable to earn money to meet financial obligations failure to pay mortgage payments or to pay rent may eventually lead to homelessness. It increases susceptibility to malnutrition, illness, mental stress, and loss of self-esteem (ego), leading to depression. This is further buttressed by a study published in social indicator research; it confirmed that even those who tend to be optimistic find it difficult to look on the right side of things when unemployed. Using interviews and data from German participants aged 16 to 94, including individuals coping with the stresses of real life and not just a volunteering student population. The researchers determined that even optimists struggled with being unemployed. William (1996) Another study conducted by Brenner (1979) on the “influence of social environment on psychology”, found that for every 10% increase in the number of unemployed there is an increase of 1.2% in total mortality, a 1.7% increase in cardiovascular disease, 1.3% more cirrhosis cases, 1.7% more suicides, 4.0% more arrests, and 0.8% more assaults reported by the police.

Another cost for the unemployment is that the combination of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and social responsibilities may push unemployed workers to take jobs that do not fit their skills or allow them to use their talents. Unemployment can cause underemployment and fear of job loss can spur psychological anxiety. Studies have shown that lengthy period of unemployment can lead to a loss of self-esteem, feelings of loss of control over one’s life, depression and even social disorderly behaviour.

Finally, the unemployed individual and family members are more likely to feel increase psychological stress compounded by the increasing economic difficulties created by the loss of income.

## **Economic Cost**

The first major cost of cyclical unemployment is the output cost because the economy is not at full employment. According to Okun's law, the economy loses about 2% of output for each 1% that the unemployment rate exceeds the natural rate. Thence, unemployment leads to a loss in output, which decreases the GDP and this in turn serves as a major deterrent to the much-desired development. This was rightly observed by Robert and Bernanke (2001) "that from an economic perspective, the main cost of unemployment is the output that is lost because the workforce is not fully utilized. Thus, unemployment has a major effect on the economic growth of any nation.

## **Social Costs**

The social costs of unemployment are a result of economic and psychological effects. People who have been unemployed for a while are in addition to facing severe financial difficulties, bound to feel anger, frustration and despair. Thus, increase in unemployment tend to be associated with increases in crime, domestic violence, alcoholism, drug abuses, youth restiveness, armed robbery, and other social problems. The costs created by these problems are borne not only by the unemployed but by the society in general, as more public resources must be spent to counteract these problems, e.g. hiring more police or even the army to control, crime. High unemployment can encourage xenophobia and protectionism as workers fear that foreigners are stealing their jobs. This was witnessed during the recent recession in the UK where placards were carried by indigenous workers, stressing that UK jobs should be reserve for indigenes. Also worthy of note is the recent tension in Spain, where immigrants are being blamed for their present economic woes, (Leopold, 2010). Thus, efforts to preserve existing jobs

of domestic and native workers include legal barriers against “outsiders” who want jobs, obstacles to immigration and/or tariffs and similar trade barriers against foreign competitors.

### **Socio-Political**

High Levels of unemployment can be caused of civil unrest, in some cases leading to revolution, and particularly, totalitarianism. The fall of Weimar Republic in 1933 and Adolf Hitler’s rise to power, which culminated in World War II and the deaths of tens of millions of people. The destruction of much of the physical capital of Europe is attributed to the poor economic conditions in Germany at the time, notably was the high unemployment rate of above 20%. Leopold (2010). This socio-political cost can also be seen in most of the “ethno-religious crises” in Northern Nigeria when poor unemployed youths play “thuggery” for greedy and self-centred politicians thereby claiming the lives of innocent and unsuspecting Nigerians.

### **Mapping Social Intervention Programme in Nigeria**

The government of Nigeria spends a relatively low proportion of its budget on the social sectors, compared to other sectors and countries, with education and health accounting for only 12% and 7% of expenditure, respectively (Hagen-Zanker and Tavakoli, 2011). Even within the social sectors, as in other key sectors such as the economic and agriculture sectors, there has been limited prioritization of the poor.

In recent years, however, the government has prioritized pro-poor expenditure, especially expenditure resulting from debt relief (Debt Relief Gain, DRG) – negotiated with the Paris Club in 2005. The DRG stipulated among its conditions that resources should be allocated to pro-poor financing of the social sector to address poverty and advance progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Resources from the fund have been allocated to government-led conditional cash transfer programmes (focusing on health, education and economic productivity)

and a maternal and child health fee-waiver programme, alongside supply-side interventions in health, education and water and sanitation. Despite this, however, overall expenditure on social protection remains low compared to other countries, at only 1.4% of government expenditure (Hagen-Zanker and Tavakoli, 2011), representing only 5% of the DRG fund at the federal level (Dijkstra et al., 2011).

Social protection policy has been on the agenda since 2004, when the National Planning Commission, supported by the international community, drafted a social protection strategy. More recently, the National Social Insurance Trust Fund drafted a social security strategy. However, neither strategy has generated sufficient political traction to progress past the draft stage, despite a chapter committed to social protection in Nigeria's most recent national policy implementation plan – the Vision 20: 2020.

The draft social protection policy approached social protection using a life-cycle and gender lens, recognising both economic and social risks, including, for example, job discrimination and harmful traditional practices. The policy was organised around four main themes: social assistance, social insurance, child protection and the labour market. However, only a few of the instruments of this approach were adopted in the national implementation plan, most notably the provision of specific and limited social assistance, social insurance (such as expanding national health insurance to the informal sector) and labour market programmes (such as developing labour-intensive programmes).

The lack of an overarching social protection policy or strategy at federal level is a key constraint to the implementation of social protection at state level. Moreover, in practice, programmes to date have been based on a narrow conceptualisation of social protection (focused largely on conditional cash transfers and two health financing mechanisms driven by the federal

government) and have taken the form of ad hoc, small-scale and state-led programmes, with little inter-sectoral or state-federal coordination.

A mapping of the current social protection landscape in Nigeria indicates that a significant number of actors are involved in funding and implementing social protection, including those from government, donors, international non-governmental organisations and civil society. Federal government-led social protection includes three main programmes: i) the conditional cash transfer In Care of the People (COPE) (funded initially through the DRG fund) targeted at households with specific social categories (those with children of school-going age that are female-headed or contain members who are elderly, physically challenged, or are fistula or HIV/AIDS patients; ii) the health fee waiver for pregnant women and children under five (financed through the DRG fund); and iii) the community-based health insurance scheme, which was redesigned in 2011 because the previous scheme had design challenges.

Other social assistance programmes are implemented in an ad hoc manner by various government ministries, departments and agencies at state level, and some are funded by international donors. These include conditional cash transfer programmes for girls' education (in three states), child savings accounts, disability grants, health waivers, education support (such as free uniforms) and nutrition support. HIV and AIDS programming at state level also tends to include social protection sub-components (although not as the primary objective), including nutrition, health and education support. Labour market programmes include federal- and state-level youth skills and employment programmes, and Nigeria also has agricultural subsidies/inputs – but neither of these are necessarily targeted at the poor.

Nigeria has ratified a number of key international social equity legislation instruments which form part of the transformative social protection agenda, including the Civil and Political

Rights Covenant, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, not all states have passed these, implementation is weak, and there is limited, if any, conceptual link between the broader regulatory policies of equality and rights and social protection policies.

### **Effectiveness of social protection**

In the context of high levels of poverty and inequality, the existing social protection approach is currently facing a number of challenges. The key ones include the low coverage of existing programmes, the implementation of only a narrow set of instruments, poor service delivery, and the fragmentation of approaches and projects across the country.

The scale of social protection programmes is extremely small. The federal government initially promoted the COPE programme as a pilot and now aims to expand coverage and ensure sustainability (given that the DRG fund is limited to an MDG life-span) through state-level financing. To this end, states have been given the responsibility for COPE expansion through a mechanism called the Conditional Grant Scheme – a financing mechanism which requires states to match federal expenditure. However, only one-third of all states have committed to co-funding COPE, and coverage is estimated at less than 0.001% of the poor.

Low coverage is only one of the challenges facing the COPE programme, however. The monthly grant ranges from \$10 to \$33, depending on the number of children in the household (up to a maximum of five). This is low in relation to household need, especially in large households (particularly in the north, where polygamy is common), and the decreasing purchasing power of the Naira, Nigeria's currency, due to food and fuel price inflation. The grant is conditional on children attending school and health checkups (although compliance monitoring has not been

implemented), and the household receives a lump sum payment (up to \$560) to be invested in income-generating activities at the end of the programme period as well as receiving training on basic business skills and entrepreneurship. Participation is limited to one year, however, which restricts the potential effectiveness of the programme to address poverty and vulnerability in a sustainable way.

Discussion on the appropriateness of different types of social protection programmes has been limited. As cash transfers and health fee waivers remain the main instruments, only a narrow set of risks and target groups is addressed. In the case of COPE, while the objectives are multiple (the promotion of health, education and investment), the design – in terms of the focus on rapidly acquiring skills and investing in income-generating activities – is not necessarily well suited to the needs of all poor households, especially those with only limited labour (such as households living with HIV or single-headed households) or those less willing to take risks on economic activities. Moreover, despite a conceptual approach to gender- and child-sensitive social protection in some programmes (for instance a focus on maternal health care and cash transfers for girls' education), a concerted approach to addressing equity across all social protection instruments is missing.

Concerns over basic service delivery and the accessibility of other infrastructure (such as banking for the poor) are also key challenges. While the need for social protection to support the demand for basic services is strong, especially in terms of the direct and indirect costs associated with accessing health and education for instance, poor service delivery also needs to be addressed. The health sector, for example, is characterised by low efficiency and effectiveness in terms of poor budgetary allocations; ineffective use of system financing; and the inequitable distribution of resources (skilled personnel, health care providers, etc.), largely in favour of

urban elites (National Health Insurance Scheme, 2010). Improving the quantity and quality of service delivery requires addressing a range of institutional, financing and governance constraints. Given the inter-linkages between social protection and other services, there is a need to promote improved institutional coordination and efficiency among a variety of actors and programmes.

### **N-Power and Unemployment Reduction**

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development of any great nation. Despite the current high level of unemployment, harnessing Nigeria's young demography through appropriate skill development efforts provides an opportunity to achieve inclusion and productivity within the country. Large-scale skill development is the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme. N-Power is a youth empowerment scheme sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria. N-Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large-scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy.

N-Power aspires to provide a platform where most Nigerians can access skills acquisition and development. N-Power is designed for Nigerian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35. The modular programmes under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. The N-Power programmes are broadly categorized into two broad categories, N-Power Graduate Categories and N-Power Non-Graduate Categories.

#### ***N-Power Graduate Categories.***

The N-Power Graduate category also known as N-Power Volunteer Corps is the post-tertiary engagement initiative for Nigerians between 18 and 35. It is a paid volunteering programme of a 2-year duration. The graduates will undertake their primary tasks in identified public services within their proximate communities. All N-Power Volunteers are entitled to computing devices that will contain information necessary for their specific engagement, as well as information for their continuous training and development. N-Power volunteers will provide teaching, instructional, and advisory solutions in 4 key areas which include;

- **N-Power Agro:** N-Power Agro Volunteers will provide advisory services to farmers across the country. They will disseminate the knowledge that has been aggregated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the area of extension services.
- **N-Power Health:** N-Power Health Volunteers will help improve and promote preventive healthcare in their communities to vulnerable members of the society including pregnant women and children and to families and individuals.
- **N-Power Teach:** N-Power Teach Volunteers will help improve basic education delivery in Nigeria. N-Power Teach Volunteers will be deployed as teacher assistants in primary schools around Nigeria.
- **N-Power Tax:** N-Power volunteers will be selected to work as Community Tax Liaison Officers to work in their states of residence with the state's tax authorities. The N-Power community tax liaison officers will have responsibilities which will include answering online inquiries, customer management, creating awareness of tax compliance.

#### ***N-Power Non-Graduate Categories.***

The N-Power Non-Graduate category is designed to train and empower non-graduates with skills that they can use for the betterment of themselves and the economy at large. The programme offers training and certification programme for all successful candidates. The N-Power Non-Graduate category will provide training and certifications in 2 key areas which include;

- **N-Power Knowledge:** The N-Power Knowledge programme is the Federal Government's first step towards diversifying to a knowledge economy. This programme will work alongside the planned eight innovation hubs across the country to provide incubation and acceleration of the technology and creative industries. The programme is a 'Training to Jobs' initiative, essentially ensuring that participants can get engaged in the marketplace in an outsourcing capacity, as freelancers, as employees, and as entrepreneurs.
- **N-Power Build:** N-Power Build is an accelerated training and certification (Skills to Job) programme that will engage and train 75,000 young unemployed Nigerians in order to build a new crop of a skilled and highly competent workforce of technicians, artisans and service professionals.

### **Conditional Cash Transfer and Unemployment Reduction**

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) program is a new type of social assistance program that represents an innovative approach to the delivery of social services especially to the vulnerable and those in extreme poverty (Rawlings, 2004). Conditional cash transfers provides money to poor families conditional upon investments in human capital, usually sending children to school, bringing them to health centres on a regular basis and any other condition that may be prescribed by the institution offering it. The cash transfer is aimed at providing short-term financial

assistance to families often in extreme poverty without the means to provide for adequate food consumption while the conditions are aimed at promoting longer term human capital investments, especially among the young (Rawlings, 2004).

The CCT originated from Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2002, Mexico's CCT program reached more than four million families, representing 20 percent of the Mexican population, and commanded an annual budget was around Mex\$18 billion (US\$1.8 billion equivalent to approximately 0.32% of GDP). Rawlings, (2004) reported that in Jamaica, Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) is introduced as a national program to replace three major income transfer programs, while improving targeting and cost-effectiveness. Fiszbein and Schady, (2009) estimated that at least 29 developing countries have a CCT programme. In many countries, including Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico, the CCT is the largest social assistance program, covering millions of households, and accounting for as much as 0.5% of GDP (Filmer and Schady, 2012).

There is currently much discussion about whether conditionality, or conditions for the cash transfer, is necessary or important to a cash transfer program. Research, such as the pilot conditional cash transfer program in Indonesia called *Generasi*, examined the importance of conditionality. Brauw and Hoddinott, (2010) report considered data from Mexico's Oportunidades/Progresas program, which looked at families who accidentally did not receive forms that monitored school attendance and therefore received unconditional cash transfers. It then compared them with those households that did receive the forms. The report discovered that conditionality had the strongest impact on children's attendance to secondary school, as enrolment rates in secondary school were higher for those that received the forms.

According to De Janvry and Sadoulet, (2004) efficiency gains from CCTs can be enhanced by adjusting transfers for increased participation, and by reducing leakages by focusing on cases where the conditionality will be most effective in altering behaviour. This implies that the tighter the program's budget constrains in selecting among qualifying beneficiaries, the larger the potential efficiency gains from selection of beneficiaries and calibration of transfers.

Despite strong economic growth and having the highest GDP in Africa in 2012, 54% of Nigeria's population lives in poverty (Holmes, Samson, Magoronga, Akinrimisi and Morgan, 2012). According to World Bank Report (2014), Nigeria has one of the highest economic growth rate in the world, averaging 7.4%. While recent forecasts suggest that poverty may be reducing slightly, of most concern is the fact that the poverty rate has doubled in the past 20 years. Nigeria is also highly unequal: the GINI coefficient was 48.8 as of 2013 (UNDP, 2013).

Studies has shown that majority of the Nigerian population lives below the poverty line, despite the numerous wealth in the country (Holmes *et al.*, 2012). Despite indications that poverty may be declining (AfDB et al., 2009; NPC, 2010), of significant concern is that, between 1980 and 2004, both rural and urban poverty was on the high, from 28.3% to 63.3% in rural areas and from 17.2% to 43.2% in urban areas (UNDP, 2009). Nigeria's national poverty line states that 54% of the 140 million population lives in poverty (approximately 75 million people) (NPC, 2010), of whom 22% were defined as 'core poor', i.e. extremely poor in 2004 (UNDP, 2009). This is a huge challenge in terms of development and poverty reduction.

The key drivers of poverty, vulnerability and inequality in Nigeria includes inequality in income and asset distribution, unequal access to basic infrastructure and services and social-cultural (UNDP, 2009). Nigeria has one of the most unequal societies in the world (AEO, 2010). According to (UNDP, 2009) report, inequality increased between 1985 and 2004 (from 0.43 to

0.49), although others suggest it has been decreasing (from 0.491 in 1990 to 0.438) (Ortiz and Cummins, 2011). However, generally, it remains high. When adjusted to reflect inequality, Nigeria's Human Development Index value drops significantly, from 0.423 to 0.246 (UNDP, 2010).

In a multi-cultural state like Nigeria, the issue of conditionality should be examined carefully as conditionality in cash transfers is often an area of contentious debate. In our study of countries with CT programme, almost all the cash transfer programmes initiated by government are with conditions, which ranges from school attendance, living below poverty line, poor families in rural areas and regular medical check-ups. There are advantages and disadvantages to attaching conditions to transfers. Proponents of CCTs argued that conditions increase health and education outcomes for poor children; strengthen state–citizen accountability relations through the use of co-responsibilities and improve institutional coordination of the supply side of services (Holmes, et al., 2012). Critics also argued that it is the regularity and predictability of transfers and not the conditions attached to the cash transfer that are important to support human development outcomes; that conditions are paternalistic; and that they add a further complex administrative and financial layer for countries with often limited institutional capacity (Holmes, et al., 2012).

The Federal Government established the National Social Investments Programmes (NSIP) in 2016 to tackle poverty and hunger across the country. NSIP focuses on ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations, including children, youth and women. One of such programmes is the National Cash Transfer (NCT) programme of the Federal Government, which is a social safety net that gives N5,000 monthly to the poorest and most vulnerable in the society paid as a collective sum of N10,000 every two months. An

additional N5,000 is given monthly to households with pregnant women, nursing mothers, or girl children of school age. It directly supports those within the lowest poverty bracket by improving nutrition, increasing household consumption and supporting the development of human capital through cash benefits to various categories of the poor and vulnerable.

The support is conditioned on fulfilling soft and hard co-responsibilities that enable recipients improve their standard of living. This programme has gone a long way to help many poor families cater for their basic needs. If you go around the over twenty-six States of the Federation where the NCT programme is present, testimonies abound of the impact this programme has made in the lives of several families. The projection is to reach one million households with 80 beneficiaries coming from each ward of the 774 Local Government Areas of the country but presently about 400,000 households have been reached, and being paid the sum of N5, 000 monthly. The households are also trained with the aim of building their capacity to be able to do business. They get both financial and technical support for starting their small business; for the essence of the programme is to assist them to establish a livelihood that would facilitate their graduation from the programme. The programme is funded from the N500 billion Social Investment Programmes captured in the Federal Government budget since 2016.

The success of the Social Investment Programmes is particularly laudable because despite the limited budgetary releases, the impact is still widely felt in the Nation. While N500 Billion was appropriated in each of the 2016 and 2017 budgets respectively, including the N100 Billion for the Family Housing Fund in the 2017 budget, only about N220 Billion has so far been released since the commencement of the programme. All states are eligible to participate in the programme upon fulfilling some conditions which include providing the programme with an

office, staff and equipment while the Federal Government trains the personnel on the implementation of the programme.

The beneficiaries of the cash transfer programme are households contained in the National Social Register which is developed by the National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO) in collaboration with and support from the World Bank. This register is built employing three targeted mechanisms to identify poor and vulnerable people across the country. The beneficiaries are selected from the National Social Register. The community-based targeting team at the Local Government level move from one community to another to identify the poorest set of Nigerians through the help of members of those communities. All political wards in every state would have the same number of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will be on it for three years; after which their conditions would be reviewed. To ensure transparency and accountability in the scheme, it is being implemented in a participatory manner where community members are involved along with the Local, State and Federal Government.

There are monitoring organisations including the Civil Society Organisations and the World Bank. The monitoring movement has an electronic audit trail, trailing the money as it moves from the CBN to the beneficiaries. The recently recovered \$332 million Sani Abacha loot would go into the Programme. This is an outcome of the process that enabled the repatriation of the funds in the first place. The Court Order in Switzerland that commenced the repatriation process was made conditional on the involvement of the World Bank in supervising the use of the funds to prevent their mismanagement and re-looting, as has been the case in the past.

To enable the mandatory involvement of the World Bank in the process, the Bank indicated that the money be used in one of its subsisting programmes in Nigeria to enable it to use its existing monitoring and broader institutional resources to monitor the use of the funds.

Since the Bank was already collaborating with the Federal Government in a social investment programme running in the country, the decision was taken to channel the funds to the cash transfer programme. This would ensure that the funds are used for the benefit of the people of Nigeria. This would enable the Bank make use of its existing resources to monitor the disbursement of the funds to the appropriate recipients. Social safety-net programmes like National Cash Transfers have proven to raise people out of poverty and positively impact the lives of poor people in other parts of the world.

### **Home Grown School Feeding and Unemployment Reduction**

School feeding programmes constitute critical interventions that have been introduced in many developed and developing countries of the world to address the issue of poverty, stimulate school enrolment and enhance pupils' performance. In developing countries, almost 60million children go to school hungry everyday and about 40 percent of them are from Africa. Providing school meals is therefore vital in nourishing children. Parents are motivated to send their children to school instead of keeping them at home to work or care for siblings (Akanbi, 2013).The introduction of the school feeding is traced to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initiative and several conferences held thereafter by African leaders which aimed to tackle issues, such as peace, security, good economic, political and corporate governance and to make the continent an attractive destination for foreign investment. Some of these developments include the 'New Partnership for African Development' which according to the blueprint is a pledge by African leaders, based on common vision and a firm and shared conviction, to eradicate poverty and to place their countries on the path of sustainable growth and development and, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and politics. Also, the 'Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme' and the 'Millennium Hunger Task Force'

amongst others were initiatives which were designed to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally produced food (Bundy et al, 2009).

Nigeria happened to be one of twelve (12) pilot countries invited to implement the programme. So far, Nigeria, Cote d'ivore, Ghana, Kenya and Mali commenced the implementation of the school feeding programme. As a result, the Federal Government came up with the Universal Basic Education Act in 2004, which provided the enabling legislative backing for the execution of the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme. Towards the realization of the objectives of the Universal Basic Education programme and the central role of nutrition, the Federal Ministry of Education launched the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme in 2005. The overall goal of the School Feeding Programme in Nigeria is to reduce hunger and malnutrition among school children and enhance the achievement of Universal Basic Education.

School feeding is simply the provision of food to children through schools. According to Oyefade (2014), different countries have one or a combination of the two feeding modalities in place for various objectives. However, they can be grouped into two broad categories: in-school meals and take-home rations where families are given food if their children attend school. Historically, in-school meals have been the most popular modality of school feeding interventions. The school feeding can be in turn grouped into two common categories: programme that provides meals and programme that provides high-energy biscuits or snacks to generate greater impacts on school enrolment, retention rates, and reduce gender or social gaps (Akanbi, 2013). Uduku, (2011) contended that there are indications of a significant swing in thinking about school feeding and many elements of this new thinking are being promoted keenly under the rubric of "home grown school feeding". Tomlinson (2007) traced the

emergence of school feeding programme to the 1930s in the United Kingdom and the United States of America with a focus on improving the growth of children. In 1900 Netherlands became the first country to move the programme to a new level of incorporating school meals into a national legislation. By the 1930s, the United Kingdom and the United States had also instituted the school feeding programme as part of their national programmes.

A further account indicates that school feeding initiatives have been in existence since the late 1700's and originated as projects of donors in Europe. The United States of America began the practice of initiating school feeding programmes in Austria as an act of international aid focused on combating the severe malnutrition of children in the 1940s after the Second World War. Since then, school feeding programmes have become a key part of food assistance, relief emergency and development programmes. School Feeding Programme is a social safety net for children and as part of the national development goals. It provides an important new opportunity to assist poor families and feed hungry children. It provides incentive for poor families to send their children to school and keep them there.

In order to improve the nutritional status of school children, the Federal Government of Nigeria launched the Home-Grown School Feeding and Health Programme in September, 2005 under the coordination of the Federal Ministry of Education. The programme aimed to provide pupils with adequate meal during the school day (FME, 2007). The scheme, officially known as Home Grown School Feeding Programme insisted on buying the foodstuffs from the local farmers. It therefore reduced the rate of malnutrition while it also provided the local farmers the opportunity to sell their produce to participating schools. According to the Federal Government's directive, Federal, State and Local Governments were to fund the programme with the State and Local Governments providing the bulk.

## **Micro-Credit Scheme and Unemployment Reduction**

TraderMoni is a loan programme of the Federal Government, created specifically for petty traders and artisans across Nigeria. It is a part of the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) scheme of the Federal Government, being executed by the Bank of Industry. With TraderMoni, you can receive interest-free loans starting from N10,000 and growing all the way to N100,000 as you pay back. You get N10,000 as the first loan. When you pay back the first loan, you immediately qualify for a second loan of N15,000. After payback of the second loan, you qualify for a N20,000 loan, and then N50,000, and then N100,000. With TraderMoni, the Federal Government wants to change your level by providing continuous loans for your petty business, making each loan bigger to enable you to grow.

Trader Moni is the latest strain of the Federal Government's Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), targeted at the economically most vulnerable, to combat mass poverty. *Trader Moni* was launched on August 14, 2016 in five markets in Lagos. According to Laolu Akande, chief spokesperson to Acting President Yemi Osinbajo, *Trader Moni* would grant a minimum of 30, 000 loans in each of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Abuja.

Also, according to him, the scheme has taken off in Lagos, Kano and Abia states. Every state would have 30, 000 beneficiaries. However, Lagos and Kano, being the most populous of the 36 states, are each likely to get more than 30, 000 beneficiaries. If well implemented, with zero tolerance for abuse and corruption, *Trader Moni* stands becoming the most radical pro-poor financial infrastructure, aimed at tackling mass poverty, by boosting all cadres of enterprise. With a Nigerian population of around 186 million, giving soft loans to only two million could appear rather puny. Yet, it is doubtful if ever before the poverty question had been this

systematically approached, targeted at expanding existing enterprises, no matter how small the scale. Yes, there had been pro-poor efforts before — what past governments called poverty alleviation programmes (PAP). That swirled mainly around pooling funds to buy bikes and tricycles; and give these machines to citizens to operate, more or less on wet lease basis, after depositing a percentage deposit. Though these past schemes somewhat served their purposes — of alleviating poverty — they were most times driven by party patronage. That often led to abuses, and huge corruption; since many times, those who needed the help were not those that got it.

It is rather exciting that *Trader Moni* goes directly to enumerated traders, and the loan is administered by the Bank of Industry (BOI). That means, other things being equal, you don't need to have any political affiliation before accessing the loan. It is also reassuring that in the pilot states of Lagos, Kano and Abia, BOI officials had already enumerated no less than 500, 000 traders; and schemed for the loan. That the group of traders belong to some trader cooperatives, is additional pillar to ensure the loans revolve, even as some cadre of traders become eligible for higher loans, after paying off current ones.

Perhaps another long-term advantage of *Trader Moni* would be gradually drawing the huge but mainly informal petty trading sub-sector, into the formal banking system. Eventually, that could help to expand the tax base, and increase government revenue that accrues from tax. Tax-driven revenue always boosts citizens' say in how the polity is run. That can only deepen Nigeria's democracy. Still, as promising as *Trader Moni* looks, abuse and corruption would send it crashing down, thus becoming another forlorn hope. That should be avoided at all cost. The good thing though is that, should there be any abuse, those traders now singing its praise would be the first to nail it with equal vehemence. That is why the Federal Government, and BOI, the

implementing agency, have the bounden duty to ensure this scheme is not only run with fiscal discipline and integrity, but is also institutionalised and made bigger. At full steam, *Trader Moni* could serve as both a systemic and systematic weapon to lift, from poverty, millions of honest and hardworking Nigerian traders; making them to thrive, regardless of the modest scale of their enterprises.

The Executive Director, Micro Enterprises, Bank of Industry (BoI), Mrs. Toyin Adeniji, disclosed that total sum of N12 billion had been disbursed to traders across the country under the federal government's TraderMoni initiative. She added that the scheme had also assisted 1.2 million small businesses. Speaking during an interactive session with journalists over the weekend, she said the loan disbursement was part of President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to empower over two million petty traders across the country. Each state of the federation is expected to have a minimum of 30,000 beneficiaries under the programme. The scheme, which is being implemented by the bank of industry (BoI) allows each beneficiary to get an interest free loan of between N10,000 to N15,000. Adeniji (2019) however, insisted that the initiative is not a vote-buying strategy by Buhari administration to woo the sympathy of beneficiaries ahead of the 2019 general election.

According to her, there was no way the programme could have been set up primarily to secure votes as alleged in some quarters as it represented one of the components of the federal government's Enterprises and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) which commenced in 2016. She said: "Trader-Moni is a microcredit loan for petty traders designed to meet the need of the larger population of Nigerian micro-enterprises who do not meet the more stringent starting requirements of BVN, bank accounts. "Qualified petty traders start at N10,000, they progress to N15,000, N20,000, N50,000 and then N100,000. As they pay back the preceding amount, they

automatically qualify for the next loan. Over 1.2 million petty traders have benefitted till date and we have disbursed about N12 billion.” She said the need to come up with the GEEP initiative was borne out of the realisation that out of all bank loans given in the last five years in the country, less than one per cent had gone for small scale business owners. According to her: “GEEP has two primary goals, access to finance and financial inclusion. We need to provide capital to these groups in a highly methodical manner. This is access to finance. “GEEP results to date have been encouraging.

Since launching the programme, we have provided these loans to over 1.5 million Nigerians in over 2,600 markets and clusters across the 36 states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory with over 4,000 agents. “About 53 per cent of our beneficiaries on the GEEP programme are female and 46 per cent of our beneficiaries are below the age of 35.” She added: “GEEP leverages on a private-sector-driven agent network that is spread across the 36 states to enumerate beneficiaries. “Agents are prohibited from requesting for any information not listed in the criteria for each facility. Under no circumstance is a Permanent Voters Card or any political consideration.” Nonetheless, she pointed out that there had been an impressive compliance rate by beneficiaries. Adeniji said: “We have seen a high uptake in repayments since we commenced a push and provided a wide array of options as our beneficiaries want to stay on the journey to higher loans by repaying.

The Trader-Moni is currently one of the social investment programmes of the Federal Government which is currently being undertaken by the Bank of Industry. It provides an opportunity for petty traders.

*10 components of the programme for traders to understand better.*

1. Trader Moni is a collateral-free loan that ranges from N10,000 to N50,000 depending on your repayment.
2. All petty traders and artisans in Nigeria are eligible to access the loan.
3. Traders do not need Permanent Voters Card (PVC) to access the loan but must have a means of identification like the National Identity card or drivers licence.
4. The first loan of N10,000 can be accessed without Bank Verification Number (BVN), but will subsequently require a BVN and a bank account for higher loans up till N 50,000
5. Forms to access the social intervention programme is free as a trader only requires a valid phone number.
6. Strategic banks have been designated to repay the loans which are GTB, UBA, Ecobank, Union Bank, Union bank, Stanbic, Sterling, Wema, Fidelity, Heritage and Jaiz Bank.
7. Trader moni loan can be registered through a Trader Moni enumerator (also called “agent” in your area where they are strategically located to identify and register traders.
8. The Trader Moni will cover all the 36 states and the FCT.
9. Trader Moni has so far been launched in the states of Lagos, Kano, Abia, AkwaIbom, Katsina, Osun, FCT, Cross River and Oyo
10. Over N20million worth of loans will be disbursed in the first phase of the programme.

The Bank of Industry (BoI) disburses of N15, 000 TraderMoni loans to beneficiaries who have successfully paid back their first N10, 000 loans. According to the bank, the disbursement was in response to the increasing beneficiary repayments recorded under the scheme. Through a flexible weekly loan repayment plan of N430 per week paid over six months, the bank recorded high repayment of loans.

## **Review of Related Empirical Studies**

Bosah, Bosah and Obumneke-Okeke (2019) examined the impact of National Home School Feeding Programme on enrolment and academic performance of primary school pupils. The extent this programme has impacted school enrolment and pupils academic performance in Primary schools in Nnewi North LGA becomes the worry of this study. The findings of the study among others will give evaluative tips to the initiators and implementers of the programme on the extent HSFP has impacted enrolment and academic performance of the pupils as targeted for possible corrections. Descriptive survey design was used for the study and guided by 3 research questions. Random sampling technique was used to select 80 head teachers and teachers of primary 1-3 classes from the 47 primary schools in the LGA under study as respondents. The instrument used for collection of data was a 27structured questionnaire and an oral interview with cooks randomly selected. The researchers found out that in primary schools under study home school feeding program boosted the enrolment of the schools through increase in school population, daily attendance to school, and increase in punctuality, and continuous stay in the school among others.

The findings also showed that the HSFP has great impact on the academic performance of the pupils through, high scores in class tests, term exams, class assignments, taking part in class discussions, among others. Some challenges Such as lack of supervision of the activities of the cooks due to exclusion of head teachers and teachers from the implementation of the program ,not providing food rich in quality and quantity to the pupils due to insufficient fund for teeming population, delay in release of fund to the cooks, and other problems are some of the challenges facing the new program. The researchers therefore concluded that for this program to be sustained to achieve the expected purpose of education for all come 2020 through increasing

pupils school enrolment and improving on quality of education at the primary schools, all the stakeholders in education must as a matter of urgency put into action the recommendations suggested in this research to address the challenges and move the programme forward. The present study seeks to ascertain the influence of school feeding programme on unemployment reduction rather than pupils' enrolment and retention.

Akujuru (2019) examined the effect of Public Policy on Economic Empowerment – A study of Tradermoni Scheme of Buhari Administration. The survey design was used in this study to generate data. The population of the study consists of all the 87 million people in extreme poverty in Nigeria. The sample selection of the people recognized by our population definition was done randomly. The key instrument used to elicit data in this study was questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse data in this study. The study found that the major activities of Trader Moni towards Poverty alleviation in Nigeria include: N10,000 loan, N15,000 loan, N20,000 loan, N50,000 loan, N100,000 loan, N150,000 loan and N300,000 loan. The study found that Trader Moni generates empowerment for petty traders in Nigeria. The study found that the major factors affecting the implementation of Trader Moni towards poverty alleviation in Nigeria include: Insufficient information, non-payment of stipend to participants as at when due, bribery and corruption, wrong bank verification number (BVN), overbearing hands of politicians in the programme, high transportation fare paid by the participants to work, website and internet hiccups, poor funding of the programme. Conclusively, economic empowerment and poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria have since the 20th and 21st centuries been in the increase. This study is related to the present study as micro-credit scheme (tradermoni)r is a variable under study.

Akujuru (2019) examined the impact of N-Power programmes on poverty alleviation in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State. Survey design was used in this study to generate data. A sample of 400 respondent youths was studied. After going through them 381 copies (i.e. 95.25% response rate) were found useful for the data analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse data in this study. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient ( $r$ ) was used to test the hypotheses. The study found that the major N-Power programmes used towards Poverty alleviation in Rivers State included: N-Power Teach, N-Power Build, N-Power Creative, N-Power Agro, N-Power Tech Software N-Power Tax, N-Power Health and N-Power Tech Hardware. The study revealed that N-Power Programmes' beneficiaries were mainly university and polytechnic graduates. The study found that the major factors that affected the implementation of N-Power programmes included: Insufficient information, non-payment of stipend to participants as at when due, bribery and corruption, wrong bank verification number (BVN), overbearing hands of politicians in the programme etc. It is evident and conclusive that: There is significant relationship between N-Power programmes and poverty alleviation in Rivers State and there is significant relationship between N-Power programmes and empowerment of the youths in Rivers State. The study therefore recommends that the authorities concerned should promote rural development through N-Power programmes. Also, government at all levels should reactivate moribund industries and enterprises and expand the horizon of N-Power programmes in that direction. This study is related to the present study as N-power is a variable under study.

Taylor and Ogbogu (2016) examined the effects of school feeding programme on enrolment and performance of public elementary school pupils in Osun State, Nigeria. The study assessed the School Feeding Programme of public elementary school pupils in Osun State, Nigeria. It was done with a view to determine its effects on school enrolment, retention, and

academic performance of the pupils. It also elicited the challenges encountered in the implementation of the programme. The study adopted the survey research design and obtained its data from primary and secondary sources. The primary data were obtained through a structured questionnaire administered on 116 respondents in 10 randomly selected public elementary schools in Osun State. The questionnaire was complemented by in-depth interview of 23 purposively selected officers involved in the implementation and monitoring of the school feeding programme. The retrieved data were analysed using descriptive statistics.

The results showed that pupils are fed daily through the school feeding programme (87%), which is funded through cost sharing between the State and local governments (78%). It was also found that the school feeding programme in Osun State has resulted in an increase in pupils' enrolment (78.4%), retention (44.8%), as well as regularity (58.6%) and punctuality (69%) in school attendance. It has also enhanced the pupils' performance in curricular and extracurricular activities (55.2%). The major challenges were found to be insufficient funding (62.2%), insufficient classrooms and furniture to cope with increase in enrolment (60.86%), heavy workload for teachers (60.86%) and lack of effective monitoring and evaluation system (60.86%). The study concluded that the School Feeding Programme in Osun State has increased the enrolment and improved the performance of elementary school pupils in the State. The present study seeks to ascertain the influence of school feeding programme on unemployment reduction rather than pupils' enrolment and performance.

Okoli, Morris, Oshin, Pate, Aigbe and Muhammad (2014) examined conditional cash transfer schemes in Nigeria: potential gains for maternal and child health service uptake in a national pilot programme. The study described use of a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme to encourage use of critical maternal newborn and child health (MNCH) services

among rural women in Nigeria. The CCT programme was first implemented as a pilot in 37 primary health care facilities (PHCs), in nine Nigerian states. The programme entitles women using these facilities up to N5,000 (approximately US\$30) if they attend antenatal care (ANC), skilled delivery, and postnatal care. There are 88 other PHCs from these nine states included in this study, which implemented a standard package of supply upgrades without the CCT. Data on monthly service uptake throughout the continuum of care was collected at 124 facilities during quarterly monitoring visits. An interrupted time series using segmented linear regression was applied to estimate separately the effects of the CCT programme and supply package on service uptake.

Results showed that from April 2013-March 2014, 20,133 women enrolled in the CCT. Sixty-four percent of beneficiaries returned at least once after registration, and 80% of women delivering with skilled attendance returned after delivery. The CCT intervention is associated with a statistically significant increase in the monthly number of women attending four or more ANC visits (increase of 15.12 visits per 100,000 catchment population,  $p < 0.01$ ; 95% confidence interval 7.38 to 22.85), despite a negative level effect immediately after the intervention began (-45.53/100,000 catchment population;  $p < 0.05$ ; 95% CI -82.71 to -8.36). A statistically significant increase was also observed in the monthly number of women receiving two or more Tetanus toxoid doses during pregnancy (21.65/100,000 catchment population;  $p < 0.01$ ; 95% CI 9.23 to 34.08). Changes for other outcomes with the CCT intervention (number of women attending first ANC visit; number of deliveries with skilled attendance; number of neonates receiving OPV at birth) were not found to be statistically significant. The study concluded that the CCT intervention is capable of significant effects on service uptake, although results for several outcomes of interest were inconclusive. Key lessons learnt from the pilot

phase of implementation include a need to track beneficiary retention throughout the continuum of care as closely as possible, and avert loss to follow-up. The present study seeks to ascertain the influence of conditional cash transfer as variable on unemployment reduction rather than maternal and child health services.

### **Summary of Literature Reviewed**

The System Theory as propounded by David Easton in 1965 was the theoretical framework of this study. He was renowned for his application of System's to the study of Political Science. Easton proposed that a political system could be seen as a delimited (i.e. all political systems have precise boundaries) and fluid (changing) system of steps in decision making.

The government of Nigeria spends a relatively low proportion of its budget on the social sectors, compared to other sectors and countries, with education and health accounting for only 12% and 7% of expenditure, respectively. Even within the social sectors, as in other key sectors such as the economic and agriculture sectors, there has been limited prioritization of the poor. The current social interventions schemes were discussed in relation to employment creation.

Several empirical studies were reviewed for this study. To the knowledge of the researcher, there has not been a holistic approach in assessing the various social intervention programmes of the Federal government in unemployment reduction in Edo State. This is the gap this study filled.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter deals with procedures or methods used under the following sub-heads.

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Instrumentation
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

#### **Design of the Study**

The study utilized descriptive survey research design. A survey research method involves surveying people and recording their responses for analysis. This is in agreement with Nworgu as cited in Omoroguiwa (2006) that a survey research is one in which a group of people or items is studied by collection and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire population. Thus, the justification for the adoption of this design is hinged on its ability to generate required data from the sampled respondents for analysis.

#### **Population of the Study**

The population of the study comprised all Masters' Degree students in Vocational and Technical Education Department in University of Benin and Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in the 2018/2019 academic session. Table 1 shows the breakdown

**Table 1: Population of Students**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>No. of Students</b>
1	University of Benin	89
2	Ambrose Alli University	67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>

**Source:** HOD's office of various schools, 2020

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

There was no sampling as the entire population was used for the study.

### **Instrumentation**

The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire titled "Questionnaire on Social Intervention Programmes on Unemployment Reduction (QSIPUR). The instrument had two sections - A and B. Section A contains personal information such as sex and age of respondents. Section B consists of a 33 items pertaining to the research questions as follows, Research question 1 had items 1-8, Research question 2 had items 9-17, Research question 3 had items 18-24 and Research question 4 had items 25-33. A 4-point rating scale was used as indicated

<b>Response Category</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Very High Extent (VHE)	4
High Extent (HE)	3
Low Extent (LE)	2
Very Low Extent (VLE)	1

### **Validity of the Instrument**

The instrument for data collection was subjected to face validity by the researcher's supervisor and two other lecturers in Vocational and Technical Education Department, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City. Their corrections and suggestions were

incorporated into the final instrument. Their suggestions enabled the researcher to increase the questionnaire items from 21 to 33.

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

The reliability of the instrument was determined through split-half method. The instrument was administered to a sample of 20 master's degree students of vocational and technical education at Delta State University. The Cronbach's alpha statistics was used to measure the degree of consistency. The r value yielded 0.78.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher with the help of a research assistant who assisted in administering the questionnaire which lasted for a week. The completed copies of questionnaire were retrieved from the respondents after their responses.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The research questions were answered using mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) and standard deviation (SD). The value of 2.50 was considered as the mean criterion. Therefore, a calculated mean that is equal or greater than 2.50 was regarded as high extent of the statement of the items by the respondents while the calculated mean below 2.50 was low extent. The hypotheses were tested using t-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. The decision for the hypothesis is based on the probability (P) value such that when the P value is less than or equal to 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected; otherwise accepted.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

In this chapter, the results of the study obtained from analysis of data are presented under the following sections:

- A. Demographic Information.
- B. Analysis of Research Questions.
- C. Testing of Hypotheses.
- D. Discussion of Findings.

#### Demographic information

**Table 2: Gender of Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	67	42.95
Female	89	57.05
Total	156	100.00

Field Study, 2020

**Table 3: Age of Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Young	47	30.13
Old	109	69.87
Total	156	100.0

Field Study, 2020

## Analysis of Research Questions

### Research Question 1

To what extent does N-power programme reduce unemployment?

The data collected in respect of research question one is presented in Table 4

**Table 4: Mean extent of N-power on reducing unemployment.**

S/N	Item Statement	Mean(x)	SD	Remarks
1	Has N-power programme reduced unemployment rate	2.89	1.13	High Extent
2	Are you aware of N-power programme for youth employment	2.77	2.02	High Extent
3	Is large-scale skill development the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme for unemployment reduction	2.99	1.16	High Extent
4	Does N-power provide relevant work skills acquisition for revitalization of inadequate public service	2.93	1.18	High Extent
5	Does not sustainability of the N-power programme hinder unemployment reduction	2.91	1.01	High Extent
6	Does N-power provide teaching assistants jobs for youth unemployment reduction	3.12	0.97	High Extent
7	Has irregularity in the stipends payments hindered N-power effectiveness on unemployment reduction	3.08	0.88	High Extent
8	Does public perception of lack of continuity in government policy hampered N-power scheme for unemployment reduction	3.19	0.79	High Extent
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.99</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

Source: Field Study, 2020

Data shown in Table 4 reveal that mean ratings of the respondents range from 2.77 to 3.19. The Table shows that all the variables (1-8) are rated high extent. The result shows that N-power programme reduces unemployment to a high extent in Edo State.

### Research Question 2

To what extent does conditional cash transfer programme reduce unemployment?

The data collected in respect of research question one is presented in Table 5

**Table 5: Mean extent of conditional cash transfer programme on reducing unemployment.**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Item Statement</b>	<b>Mean(x)</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
9	Has CCT delivered social services especially to the vulnerable and those in extreme poverty in Nigeria	2.97	0.88	High Extent
10	Are you aware of CCT scheme in your locality for poverty and unemployment reduction	2.99	1.00	High Extent
11	Has your family/relative benefited from the CCT scheme	2.59	2.01	High Extent
12	Has CCT tackle the inequality in income and asset distribution, unequal access to basic infrastructure and services and social-cultural division for unemployment reduction	3.21	0.92	High Extent
13	Has funding prevented CCT in poverty and unemployment reduction	3.18	0.89	High Extent
14	Has CCT ensured a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations, including children, youth and women	3.12	0.97	High Extent
15	Has CCT improved nutrition, increased household consumption and supporting the development of human capital through cash benefits to the poor and vulnerable	2.89	0.88	High Extent
16	Has CCT provide financial and technical support for starting small business for unemployment reduction	3.21	0.82	High Extent
17	Does inequality in the compilation of the national social register hinders equitable participation among states of the federation	3.08	0.94	High Extent
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.03</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

Source: Field Study, 2020

Data shown in Table 5 reveal that mean ratings of the respondents range from 2.59 to 3.21. The Table shows that all the variables (9-17) are rated high extent. The result shows that conditional cash transfer programme reduces unemployment to a high extent in Edo State.

### **Research Question 3**

To what extent does homegrown school feeding programme reduce unemployment?

The data collected in respect of research question one is presented in Table 6

**Table 6: Mean extent of homegrown school feeding on reducing unemployment.**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Item Statement</b>	<b>Mean(x)</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
18	Does HGSF provide school meals regularly for unemployment reduction	3.02	1.01	High Extent
19	Are you aware of the HGSF programme in promoting employment generation	3.08	0.71	High Extent
20	Does HGSF engineer entrepreneurship amongst the cooks for self-reliance	2.82	1.14	High Extent
21	Has HGSF programme provided employment by purchasing the foodstuffs from the local farmers	3.02	0.87	High Extent
22	Has funding hindered HGSF in disbursing cash to everybody on the value chain for unemployment reduction	2.99	0.91	High Extent
23	Has public perception and criticism of HGSF overshadowed its effectiveness in unemployment reduction	3.33	0.88	High Extent
24	Has inconsistency in HGSF programme implementation affected its unemployment reduction potentials	3.18	0.92	High Extent
25	Is HGSF scheme helped in unemployment reduction due to policy summersault of successive governments	2.94	0.87	High Extent
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.05</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

Source: Field Study, 2020

Data shown in Table 6 reveal that mean ratings of the respondents range from 2.82 to 3.33. The Table shows that all the variables (18-25) are rated high extent. The result shows that homegrown school feeding programme reduces unemployment to a high extent in Edo State.

#### **Research Question 4**

To what extent does micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) reduce unemployment?

The data collected in respect of research question one is presented in Table 7

**Table 7: Mean extent of micro-credit scheme on reducing unemployment.**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Item Statement</b>	<b>Mean(x)</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
26	Do micro-credit schemes provide loans to traders for unemployment reduction	2.85	0.78	High Extent
27	Are you aware of micro-credit scheme loans disbursement to petty traders for unemployment reduction	2.93	0.88	High Extent
28	Has <i>tradermoni</i> engender pro-poor financial infrastructure aimed at tackling mass poverty by boosting all cadres of enterprise	3.01	0.92	High Extent
29	Does <i>tradermoni</i> go directly to enumerated traders, as the loan is administered by the Bank of Industry (BOI) for unemployment reduction	2.99	1.02	High Extent
30	Have cooperatives societies engender the transparent disbursement of <i>tradermoni</i> to petty traders for unemployment reduction	3.02	0.86	High Extent
31	Has public perception of being a political vote buying tool hinder <i>tradermoni</i> implementation for unemployment reduction	3.17	0.94	High Extent
32	Has <i>tradermoni</i> serve as both a systemic and systematic weapon to lift millions of Nigerian traders from poverty	2.81	0.83	High Extent
33	Has repayment of initial loan qualify the trader for higher loans make <i>tradermoni</i> an effective way of funding small scale business for unemployment reduction	3.03	0.98	High Extent
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.98</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

Source: Field Study, 2020

Data shown in Table 7 reveal that mean ratings of the respondents range from 2.81 to 3.17. The Table shows that all the variables (26-33) are rated high extent. The result shows that micro-credit scheme (market/*tradermoni*) reduces unemployment to a high extent in Edo State.

### **Hypotheses Testing**

Two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance to provide useful information for the study.

#### **Hypothesis 1**

There is no significant difference between male and female graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State.

The data meant to test the hypothesis 1 are summarized in Table 8.

**Table 8: T test result of the difference between the Mean Ratings of male and female graduates on social intervention programmes on reducing unemployment.**

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t value	Df	P	Remark
Male	67	101.04	9.75	-0.404	154	0.531	Accepted
Female	89	103.32	10.20				

Source: Field Study, 2020

Results of t-test in Table 8 indicate that the P value indicates 0.531. The t- value showed -0.404. The mean ratings for male and female graduates indicate 101.04 and 103.32 respectively. The standard deviation for male graduates shows 9.75 while that of female graduates indicate 10.20. The degree of freedom showed 154. The number of male graduates was 67 while the female respondents were 89. Therefore null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between male and female graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State is accepted as  $p > 0.05$ .

## **Hypothesis 2**

There is no significant difference between young and old graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State.

The data meant to test the hypothesis 2 are summarized in Table 9.

**Table 9: T test result of the difference between the Mean Ratings of young and old graduates on social intervention programmes on reducing unemployment**

Age	N	Mean	SD	t value	Df	P	Remark
Young	47	105.32	10.80	-0.124	154	0.186	Accepted
Old	109	107.20	8.43				

Source: Field Study, 2020

Results of t-test in Table 9 indicate that the P value indicate 0.186. The t- value showed -0.124. The mean ratings for young and old graduates indicated 105.32 and 107.20 respectively. The standard deviation for young graduates showed 10.80 while that of old graduates indicated 8.43. The degree of freedom showed 154. The number of young respondents was 47 while the old respondents were 109. Therefore null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between young and old graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State is accepted as  $p > 0.05$ .

### **Discussion of Findings**

In view of the results obtained from the presentation and analysis of data, the discussions of the major findings of the study are as follows:

The result of the findings of research question one in Table 4 revealed that respondents in Edo State rated N-power programme to a high extent in reducing unemployment. Akujuru (2019) in their study examined the impact of N-Power programmes on poverty alleviation in Nigeria, a cast of River State established that there is significant relationship between N-Power programmes and poverty alleviation in Rivers State and there is significant relationship between N-Power programmes and empowerment (employment) of the youths in Rivers State. This findings is in consonance with the findings of this study.

The result of the findings of research question two in Table 5 revealed that respondents in Edo State rated conditional cash transfer programme to a high extent in reducing unemployment.

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) program is a new type of social assistance program that represents an innovative approach to the delivery of social services especially to the vulnerable and those in extreme poverty (Rawlings, 2004). Okoli, Morris, Oshin, Pate, Aigbe and Muhammad (2014) also found out that CCT intervention is capable of significant effects on service uptake, maternal and child care as well as promoting empowerment. These assertions are in consonance with the findings of this study.

The result of the findings of research question three in Table 6 revealed that respondents in Edo State rated homegrown school feeding programme to a high extent in reducing unemployment. Bosah, Bosah and Obumneke-Okeke (2019) found out that home school feeding program boosted the enrolment of the schools through increase in school population, daily attendance to school, and increase in punctuality, and continuous stay in the school while also providing employment opportunities to the caterers among others. Taylor and Ogbogu (2016) also found out that School Feeding Programme in Osun State has increased the enrolment and improved the performance of elementary school pupils in the State with attendant employment for its administrators. These assertions are in consonance with the findings of this study.

The result of the findings of research question four in Table 7 revealed that respondents in Edo State rated micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) to a high extent in reducing unemployment. *Trader Moni* stands becoming the most radical pro-poor financial infrastructure, aimed at tackling mass poverty, by boosting all cadres of enterprise (Adeniji, 2019). Akujuru (2019) examined the effect of Public Policy on Economic Empowerment – A study of Tradermoni Scheme of Buhari Administration and found that Trader Moni generates empowerment for petty traders in Nigeria. These findings are in consonance with the findings of this study.

The result of the t-test analysis showed that the two group of respondents (male & female and young & old) with regards to hypothesis one and two did not differ significantly in their rating on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State hence the null hypotheses acceptance. This implies that the moderating variables of gender and age does not significantly determined the outcome of social intervention programmes in Edo State.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion and recommendation.

#### **Summary**

The main purpose of this study was to assess the influence of social intervention programmes of the Federal Government on reducing unemployment in Nigeria. It covered areas such as N-power programme, conditional cash transfer programme, homegrown school feeding programme and micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni). The research design adopted for the study was descriptive survey. The population of the study was made of one hundred and fifty-six masters degree students in the 2018/2019 academic session from the Department of Vocational and Technical Education in University of Benin and Ambrose Alli University both of Edo State. There was no sampling as the entire population was used for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. In order to determine the validity, the instrument was given to the research's supervisor and two lecturers in the Department of Vocational Technical Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City. In order to also determine the reliability of the instrument, the data was analysed using Chronbach alpha statistics with split half method after administering the questionnaire and it yielded a reliability

coefficient of 0.78. The data collected from the field were analyzed using mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) and Standard Deviation (SD) statistics for the research questions while the t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance.

The findings of this study are outlined below:

1. N-power programme reduces unemployment in Edo State to a high extent.
2. Conditional cash transfer programme reduces unemployment in Edo State to a high extent.
3. Homegrown school feeding programme reduces unemployment in Edo State to a high extent.
4. Micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) reduced unemployment in Edo State to a high extent.
5. There is no significant difference between male and female graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State.
6. There is no significant difference between young and old graduates on the extent social intervention programmes are reducing unemployment in Edo State.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that the extent of social intervention programmes such as N-power, conditional cash transfer, homegrown school feeding and micro-credit scheme (market/tradermoni) on reducing unemployment in Edo State is high. This implies that these intervention programmes should be strictly implemented devoid of corruption for increased employment.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. A systematic approach should be developed for the transfer of N-power beneficiaries into the core public service at the end of their internship for programme employment sustainability.
2. The national social register should be updated so as to capture more beneficiaries of CCT for increased empowerment. This will give a wider spread to the programme to affect the livelihoods of large number of Nigerians.
3. Funding towards school feeding programme should be consistent and regular across the local governments so as impact on everyone on the value chain towards employment generation.
4. A consistent approach should be deploy for the disbursement of tradermoni across the state so as not to be politicized.

### **Suggestions for Further Studies**

The following suggestions are made for further studies by other researchers.

1. Determinants influencing the implementation of social intervention programmes in Nigeria.
2. Social intervention programme: A ruse taking too far.
3. The study should be replicated involving other states in Nigeria to create room for wider geo-political area to allow for full representation of the entire country.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES ON UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**REDUCTION IN EDO STATE**

Dept. of Voc. and Tech. Edu.,  
University of Benin,  
Benin City.

Dear Sir/ Ma,

LETTER TO RESPONDENT

I am a postgraduate student of the above named institution and I am carrying out a study on influence of social intervention programmes on unemployment reduction in Edo State.

I humbly request you to please answer my instrument which is attached below,

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours Faithfully

Researcher

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON SOCIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES ON  
UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION (QSIPUR).**

**SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA**

Please tick (✓) the appropriate response that pertains to you.

1. Gender: Male  Female
2. Age: 30 years below  31 years above

**SECTION B**

Please, read the statements carefully and tick in the appropriate column to decide your option.

Rating Scale

- Very High Extent (VHE) 4
- High Extent (HE) 3
- Low Extent (LE) 2
- Very Low Extent (VLE) 1

S/N	N-power on unemployment reduction To what extent:	VHE	HE	LE	VLE
1	Has N-power programme reduced unemployment rate				
2	Are you aware of N-power programme for youth employment				
3	Is large-scale skill development the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme for unemployment reduction				
4	Does N-power provide relevant work skills acquisition for revitalization of inadequate public service				
5	Does not sustainability of the N-power programme hinder unemployment reduction				
6	Does N-power provide teaching assistants jobs for youth unemployment reduction				
7	Has irregularity in the stipends payments hindered N-power effectiveness on unemployment reduction				
8	Does public perception of lack of continuity in government policy hampered N-power scheme for unemployment reduction				
	<b>Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) on Unemployment reduction To what extent:</b>				
9	Has CCT delivered social services especially to the vulnerable and those in extreme poverty in Nigeria				

10	Are you aware of CCT scheme in your locality for poverty and unemployment reduction				
11	Has your family/relative benefited from the CCT scheme				
12	Has CCT tackle the inequality in income and asset distribution, unequal access to basic infrastructure and services and social-cultural division for unemployment reduction				
13	Has funding prevented CCT in poverty and unemployment reduction				
14	Has CCT ensured a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations, including children, youth and women				
15	Has CCT improved nutrition, increased household consumption and supporting the development of human capital through cash benefits to the poor and vulnerable				
16	Has CCT provide financial and technical support for starting small business for unemployment reduction				
17	Does inequality in the compilation of the national social register hinders equitable participation among states of the federation				
	<b>Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme on Unemployment Reduction</b> <b>To what extent:</b>				
18	Does HGSF provide school meals regularly for unemployment reduction				
19	Are you aware of the HGSF programme in promoting employment generation				
20	Does HGSF engineer entrepreneurship amongst the cooks for self-reliance				
21	Has HGSF programme provided employment by purchasing the foodstuffs from the local farmers				
22	Has funding hindered HGSF in disbursing cash to everybody on the value chain for unemployment reduction				
23	Has public perception and criticism of HGSF overshadowed its effectiveness in unemployment reduction				
24	Has inconsistency in HGSF programme implementation affected its unemployment reduction potentials				
25	Is HGSF scheme helped in unemployment reduction due to policy summersault of successive governments				
	<b>Micro-Credit Scheme (<i>tradermoni</i>) on Unemployment reduction</b> <b>To what extent:</b>				
26	Do micro-credit schemes provide loans to traders for unemployment reduction				
27	Are you aware of micro-credit scheme loans disbursement to petty traders for unemployment reduction				
28	Has <i>tradermoni</i> engender pro-poor financial infrastructure aimed at tackling mass poverty by boosting all cadres of enterprise				

29	Does <i>tradermoni</i> go directly to enumerated traders, as the loan is administered by the Bank of Industry (BOI) for unemployment reduction				
30	Have cooperatives societies engender the transparent disbursement of <i>tradermoni</i> to petty traders for unemployment reduction				
31	Has public perception of being a political vote buying tool hinder <i>tradermoni</i> implementation for unemployment reduction				
32	Has <i>tradermoni</i> serve as both a systemic and systematic weapon to lift millions of Nigerian traders from poverty				
33	Has repayment of initial loan qualify the trader for higher loans make <i>tradermoni</i> an effective way of funding small scale business for unemployment reduction				

## APPENDIC C

### Reliability

#### Scale: ALL VARIABLES

**Case Processing Summary**

		N	%
Cases	Valid	20	100.0
	Excluded <sup>a</sup>	0	.0
	Total	20	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.779	33

Reliability is 0.78