

An Evaluation of the Government Programme on Investing in the People: A Stakeholder's Perspective

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Abstract

Human capital development and social inclusion have become central concerns for policymakers worldwide. These concerns arise from poor articulation and implementation of programmes targeted at enhancing investment in the people in many societies. Hence, human capital development and social inclusion have suffered setbacks in many countries. Over the years, Nigeria has not ranked well on human capital index and thus its poverty level has continued to rise. A major disconnect in analysing policy programmes in Nigeria is that the achievement of outcomes in this regard, are scarcely reviewed from stakeholders' perspectives. This study thus stands to fill this gap by examining the targets of the Federal Government Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) covering the 2017-2020 period and its performance in the first two years of implementation. Using a survey approach, the opinions of stakeholders across the five administrative divisions in Lagos State, namely; Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos and Epe were adopted and analysed. This provided a representative case for Nigeria in terms of ethnicity, social class, rural, semi-urban and urban population. Given that over 50 percent of commercial activities in Nigeria take place in Lagos with virtually every ethnic group in Nigeria represented in the state. The findings from the survey results shows that gaps in job creation increased from 1.5% in 2017 to 5.10 in 2020 with unemployment worsening and government unable to meet its targets on job creation and empowerment of its youthful population. In addition only 38.5% of repondents said that the social inclusion strategy through the "Trader money" scheme etc was well administered. The implementation of the ERGP thus failed to improve on the human capital contributions to the wide economy growth process. Also, the plan has not successfully been able to integrate the populace into the growth process of the nation. Therefore, functional education policy, robust and modern health facilities and programmes as well as

running an inclusive government should be made the priority of government priorities.

Keywords: *Economic Policy, ERGP, Human Capital Development, Economic Welfare*

JEL Classifications: *E61; O21; I25; I38*

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Introduction

Romer (1986) and Lucas (1988) have postulated overtime, the relevance of the human capital component in production process as other factors (capital and technological progress) are also relevant. Human capital is a key driver of sustainable and inclusive economic growth; this can be enhanced by massive investment in education, health and housing. The component of human capital in production process is embedded in the technical knowhow of the populace which are required in production process.

The various phases of industrial revolution suggest that economies, both developing and developed are moving to knowledge-based sectors (the development of technology for manufacturing, telecommunications, research and development) and as such, the constituent of the nation's human capital development becomes a central concern that, attention must be focused to ensure that the labour force can adapt to the changing environment in meeting the demands of the technological innovation (OECD, 1996; Adedokun, 2011). Thus, there is the need for continuous investment in human capital development, this increases the active participation of the populace in production and growth process through research and innovation.

The need for human capital development arises from poor articulation and implementation of programmes targeted at enhancing investment in the people in many societies. Thus, human capital development and social inclusion have suffered setbacks in many countries. As at 2018, Nigeria has been ranked among the seven worst countries in the World Bank's human capital index (152 out of 157 countries); these measures include survival, schooling and health (Punch,

*Ndubisi I. Nwokoma et al. * Government Programme on Investing in the People* 2018, October 11). A weak human capital stock leads to a rising level of unemployment, income loss, and a decline in national productivity. Also, weak human capital development has taken its toll on national security, thereby leaving the youths vulnerable to crime and other social vices. Some of the prevailing social vices in the country are cyber fraud, kidnapping, and robbery.

Considering the magnitude of the consequence of the state of the country's human capital base, the federal government authorities had enacted different policies to address the menace. Some of such policies are You-Win, YES- Youth Empowerment Scheme, and ERGP (Economic Recovery and Growth Plan) to mention a few. Despite the efforts of the government to strengthen its human capital base and promote social inclusiveness with these enacted policies, the outcome of the programs is rather disheartening as revealed earlier on the nation's human capital index. Equally, Nigeria as at 2019, has about 40.1% of its population (82 million people live below its poverty line of N137,430 per annum, an equivalent of \$381.75) in poverty (NBS, 2020).

The Nigerian government developed a short-term policy strategy that seeks for viable ways of investing in the people; this is contained in one of the broad objectives of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017 - 2020). The plan seeks to develop diversification strategies that would enhance social inclusion, job creation and youth empowerment between 2017 and 2020 (Ministry of Budget and National Planning, 2017), this is intended to be achieved through the development and execution of intervention programmes such as the N-Power programme. A major disconnect between the policy programs and its outcome is that most policy outcomes are reviewed without considering the perspectives of the stakeholders, such as for the YOU-WiN programme, this was rarely reviewed and thus, assessment of the effectiveness of the programme from the stakeholders could not be ascertained (Odiji, Nwoke & Adeseke, 2016). This study stands to fill this gap and thus examines the targets of the ERGP policy and its achievement in improving the human capital in the first two years of operation. Secondly, this study seeks the stakeholders' opinions on the successful delivery of the program. This study extends the frontier of knowledge by not only matching the projected macroeconomic targets of the ERGP against the actual indicators, but by also conducting a survey across all the relevant stakeholders to understand their perspective of the plan.

The remaining section of this paper are divided into four; subsequent to this introduction is the literature review and this is followed by the research methodology; results and findings; and conclusion and policy recommendation.

Literature Review

Theoretical and Conceptual Consideration

The human capital theory as developed by Becker (1962) emphasizes on the need to develop the educational and other frameworks that would enhance the productive capacity of the populace. The human capital theory stipulates that there is a need to develop plans and strategy that will improve the labour productivity of the people and as such, increase their contribution to growth and development. According to the theory, education would lead to increase in cognitive stock of economically productive human capability and employing the human capital increases economic growth. Thus, they opined that investment in human capital is worth more than investment in physical capital (Woodhall, 1997).

This theory thus provides a basis for the government to formulate a development plan that would increase investment in human capital (investing in the people) as this will astronomically lead to improvement in the productive sector of the economy. As explicit as this theory is on the need to improve the human capital, it has however been criticized as the third industrial revolution was based on digitization while the fourth industrial revolution builds on the digitization to create artificial intelligence and cyber physical systems. The two industrial revolutions have placed less emphasis on achieving substantial growth through investment in the people and as such, there might not be the need for massive investment in the people. A counter opinion to this however is the need to invest in the people as they are the ones to drive innovation in the technology that is needed for growth and development.

Investing in the people can be viewed from three perspectives; these are the development of strategies and resource mobilization to enhance literacy level (educational attainment), health status (wellbeing and other areas that enhances the health status of individuals-food security) and better housing facilities. One of the ways of increasing the investment on the people is through the execution of social protection programmes. Social protection intervention programmes help to mitigate the short-term risks associated with an unfavourable economic environment. The programme provides a short-term intervention in the areas of food and shelter to the vulnerable in the society. Another viable way of executing social intervention programme is by investing in the agricultural sector with the

*Ndubisi I. Nwokoma et al. * Government Programme on Investing in the People* aim of developing sustainable agricultural outputs that can create jobs and provide food for the growing population (Dethier & Effenberger, 2011; HLPE-High Level Panel of Experts, 2011).

Also, some social protection instruments such as cash transfers and/or productive safety nets can enable the small and medium scale entrepreneurs to increase their investments and this will increase their productive capacity which then translates into more outputs, employment generation and better food security (Slater & McCord, 2009; FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization, 2012; HLPE, 2012). Similarly, the various social protection programmes that can enhance the capacity of the people can also come in form of educating the populace on the nutritional values as nutrition education can help the households to better manage their scarce resources thereby increasing food consumption as well as the wellbeing of the populace.

Empirical Review

Centre for Democracy and Development (2019) assessed the effectiveness of various government policies (monetary and fiscal policies) and programmes (The ERGP) on economic growth and development between the periods 2015 and 2019 using an exploratory technique of investigation. The study noted that the monetary policies in operation within these periods have impacted on the outcomes of the fiscal policies. The monetary authorities were faced with massive inflationary pressures that arose due to infrastructure deficiencies, security and social unrest, excess liquidity and poor social investment programmes. The study further noted that other social investment programmes such as the National cash transfer, the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme all performed below expectation between the periods of 2017 and 2018. Further results revealed that in the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, the number of loans disbursed declined by 30% in 2017 and further deepened in 2018 by about 43%. The study noted that the targets set by the ERGP has been overtaken by the developments already in existence within the periods of study and thus recommends that the plan should be revised and further extended for five more years through a well-designed macroeconomic model that will capture the peculiarities of the economy.

Uche (2019) examined the impediments of development plans and policies in Nigeria with a view to recommend practical strategies of enhancing its applicability. The study noted that despite the various development plans since 1960, the widespread of poverty and unemployment still prevails in the economy and as such, the study recommended that for development programmes to be relevant, successive government must continue with the existing development policies already in place so that the long-term goals of those plans can be actualized. The study also recommended the development of development plans that has the local content in mind as this will enhance inclusive growth and job creation in the economy. In contrast, Ikeanyibe (2009) examined the effectiveness of development plans in Nigeria using the National Economic Empowerment and development Strategy (NEEDS). The study employed exploratory style of investigation and discovered that the actions and actual programmes of the government during the implementation of the NEEDS is not in *sine qua non* with the plans and this results into a huge divergence between the NEEDS set target and the actual performance of the economy. The study also alluded to the fact that the failure of continuity in implementation of government development plans is a major setback to towards the actualization of the set objectives.

Otinche (2018) stylized some critical issues relating to the implementation of the ERGP using exploratory technique of investigation. The study identified the extent of corruption as a major setback in implementing the plan. The study posited that for there to be substantial actualization of the plan, there is the need to have a reliable institutional framework and sound political system coupled with an ethical, social and political orientation of governance by the stakeholders. On the other hand, Esu and Udonwa (2015) examined the extent to which diversifying the economy in order for the firms to compete with the global counterpart can effectively enhance economic growth. The study employed the error correction model (ECM) between the periods of 1980 till 2011 and the result from the analysis revealed that Nigeria can substantially benefit from the untapped trade potentials that will enhance sustained gains. This can be enjoyed both in the short run and also in the long run and this can be done by developing policies that will improve large-scale industrialization of the real sector, stimulate technological innovation and promote investment climate. No study is known to have examined the stakeholders' perspective of the governments' economic recovery programme since 2015, hence the need for this study.

UNICEF (2020) assessed the joint and supported project they had with the federal government on water, sanitation and hygiene programmes that took place between

*Ndubisi I. Nwokoma et al. * Government Programme on Investing in the People* 2014 and 2017. The study employed trend analysis, descriptive and content analysis to examine the execution processes of the project as well as the impact of such project on the welfare of the citizens. The study found that through the programme, 68% of the Nigerian population now have access to the basic water supply while only 19% uses safely managed sanitation services. The study noted that despite these laudable efforts, Nigeria did not achieve the WASH millennium development goal. The study noted that the programme promoted low cost, community-based approaches to total sanitation and village level operations.

Opafunso and Okhankhuele (2014) examined the impact of various government intervention projects on poverty alleviation in Ekiti State. The study considered projects that have been executed in six local government areas in Ekiti State by administering questionnaires to 630 respondents. The data were analysed using chi-square estimation technique and the results from the study shows that the various projects were executed by both the state and local government while the projects had insignificant impact on the livelihoods of the residents. The study recommends that there is the need for the government to consider the interest of the community members in the conceptualization and execution of such intervention projects.

Babalola, Okoruwa, Omonona and Oni (2013) examined the impact of government intervention programme that is executed through the millennium village commission project on sugarcane production in Jigawa state. From the study, 120 farmers were surveyed to understand their perception on the benefits derived. The study was analysed using the logit regression and the result shows that the farmers who participated in the programme had significant increase in their income and thus, the study recommends that for a project to be effectively executed, there must be strict adherence to the regulations and conditions for participating in such programme.

From the literature reviewed, it can be seen that many empirical works on assessing plans and projects have only concentrated on analysing the possible changes in the outcome variables thereby comparing them with the targeted variables. However, very few studies actually examined the success of the programme in the light of engaging with the stakeholders. This study intends to

fill this gap in literature as it assesses the success of the programme through a well-represented stakeholders' engagement.

Research Methodology

This study adopts the ontology research philosophy to analyse the opinions of stakeholders in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the ERGP in promoting the investments in people and social inclusion. Ontology research philosophy appears to be the most suitable within the context of this research because it describes nature of reality and how people perceive the reality in relation to the impact of a phenomenon on the society (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2016). That said, this study employs a survey research strategy with a carefully structured questionnaire to assess the opinion of stakeholders in Lagos State. Lagos State was chosen as the population of the study because it is the economic nerve center of the country. It accounts for 80% of imports and 70% of exportation of goods in Nigeria. Furthermore, the state warehoused the headquarters of most of the financial institutions in Nigeria. The study population consists of all residents in the 20 local government area in the five geographical division in Lagos State. The geographical distributions are Ikeja, Badagry, Ikorodu, Lagos and Epe.

This study employs desk research and survey designs as its two data collection approaches. The desk research was used to gather data on ERGP targets and its outcome on the economic parameters. Therefore, a secondary data collection analysis was employed to extract financial information from the ERGP master-plan and from the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletins. The second data collection approach adopted by this study is the collection of data from the stakeholders' perspective through carefully administered questionnaires. The validity and reliability of the questionnaires were obtained through a pilot study constituting 20 respondents. The analysis of the response study during the pilot study indicated that the questions in the questionnaires are reliable and valid based on the reliability and validity scores.

In terms sample selection, the study adopted a multistage sampling to select 10 out of the 20 local governments in Lagos State based on their population concentration. In the next stage, the key stakeholders in each local government were identified. The stakeholders comprise of traditional leaders, academic institutions, public servants, informal and organized private sectors. In the overall, 900 stakeholders were selected based on the sample selection criteria proposed by Yamane (1967). This technique satisfies the rules of sampling in terms of statistical regularity, randomness in the selection of sample with regards to the

*Ndubisi I. Nwokoma et al. * Government Programme on Investing in the People* characteristics and composition of the population. Table 3 presents the sample selection of the key stakeholders from the study Area.

The study distributes a total of 900 carefully structured questionnaires to the target stakeholder for the period of 14 days between 4th and 22nd July 2019 through the assistance of 6 field officers and 2 supervisors. Out of the 900 administered questionnaires, 707 of them were returned. This indicated about 78.56% return rate. Table 1 presents the percentage return of the questionnaires across the different local governments within the administrative distribution in Lagos State.

Table 1: Sample Distribution

Reference Object	Parameters				
	Ikeja	Badagry	Ikorodu	Lagos	Epe
Administrative Divisions					
No. of L G A	8	4	1	5	2
Selected Local Government, criteria	Ikeja; Alimosho; Somolu Total = 3	Ojo; Ajeromi-Ifelodun Total = 2	Ikorodu Total = 1	Lagos Island; Lagos Mainland Total = 2	Epe; Ibeju-Lekki Total = 2
Academic institutions (Staff and Students)	Lagos City Computer College	LASU; Adeniran Ogunsanya COE	Lagos State Polytechnic	University of Lagos	Pan Atlantic University
Public/Civil Servants to survey	Staff of MDAs; LGs; NGOs	Staff of LGs	Staff of LGs; Staff of Sec. Schools (2)	Staff of Passport Office; State Liaison Offices; LGs	Staff of LGs; Staff of Sec. Schools (2)
Traditional Leaders Organized	Traditional Leaders 2	Traditional Leaders 1 Commercial Bank;	Traditional Leaders 1 Commercial Bank; NBFI (1)	Traditional Leaders 1	Traditional Leaders 1
Private Sector to Survey	Commercial Banks; NBFI (2)	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others
Informal Sector	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others	Market women/men; Transporters at Garages; Others
Questionnaires Administered	300	150	150	150	150
Questionnaires Completed and Returned	225	107	130	120	125

COE – College of Education; LGs–Local Governments; NBFI–Non-Bank Financial Institution

Source: Authors' Field study, 2019

Presentation and Analysis of Results

This study presents the analysis of findings in three distinct ways. The first is to evaluate variance in the ERGP's target and the actual performance as documented in the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics bulletin. Thereafter, the analysis of findings of the perception of the stakeholder will be presented.

Comparative analysis of ERGP's target on People's Investment and its Performance

The ERGP policy guideline stipulates that people's investment will take place in strategic areas such as the country's health, education and social inclusion. The policy blueprint indicates that a total number of 10, 000 primary healthcare centers will be revitalized. This plan is made so as to extend access to affordable or perhaps free health care services to the populace of Nigeria within the duration of the program. The initiative is expected to bring on positive contributions into the health outcomes of the country. However, the global statistics revealed that there appears to be marginal differences between the health outcomes before and during the implementation of ERGP plan (World Development Indicator, 2020). For instance, life expectancy at birth which was 53.54% in 2016 grew with about 0.38% to 54.33% at the end of 2018. Equally, maternal mortality ratio dropped from 931 to 917 deaths per 10, 000 between 2016 and 2017. More so, the infant mortality rate reduced from 0.787% of 1000 live births to 0.757% within the sample period. Similar trend was observed for the rate of fertility of females in the country. The number of births per woman fell from 5.59% to 5.39%.

The target of ERGP plan on education is to achieve an enrolment of 500, 000 students at the end of the plan. Therefore, considering the end of year target, the plan is expected to have enrolled 250, 000 student in the half- year assessment of their performance. Furthermore, the ERGP outlined strategies to increase social inclusion through the provision of conditional cash transfer and social safety net for the vulnerable regions in the country. The program also proposed to upscale the home-grown school feeding program to at least 6 million primary school children. This program is designed to give free meal to the targeted school children at least once daily. Also, the social inclusion strategy is also expected to initiate relief programs to the aged, disabled and other vulnerable groups.

In line with the outlined target of the ERGP plan, this study engaged key stakeholder in order to access their perception and opinion on the delivery of the ERGP targets since it began in implementation. The findings on the stakeholders' opinion are therefore presented as follows.

Stakeholder Assessment of the extent of ERGP implementation on Social inclusion

The demographic characteristics of the stakeholders are presented below. Out of the 900 questionnaires administered to the key stakeholders, 707 were completed and successfully returned. This indicated about 78.56% of the questionnaires are returned. Figure 1 shows the gender and marital distribution of the respondents. It was revealed that male participants accounted for 53.3% while their female counterparts accounted for 46.7%. From the analysis, it is evident that there are more men in terms of gender distribution of the respondents.

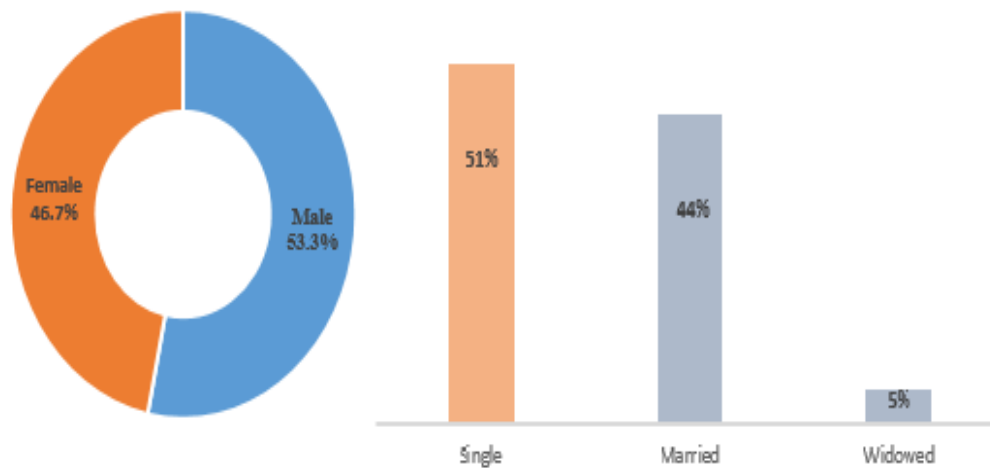


Figure 1: Gender and Marital Composition of the Respondents

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

In terms of the marital status of the respondents, it was revealed that 51% of the respondents are single and unmarried while those in the married and widowed categories accounted for 44% and 5% respectively. Although the findings revealed that the respondents in the single marital category have the highest participation, the figure is not too significant from those in the married category.

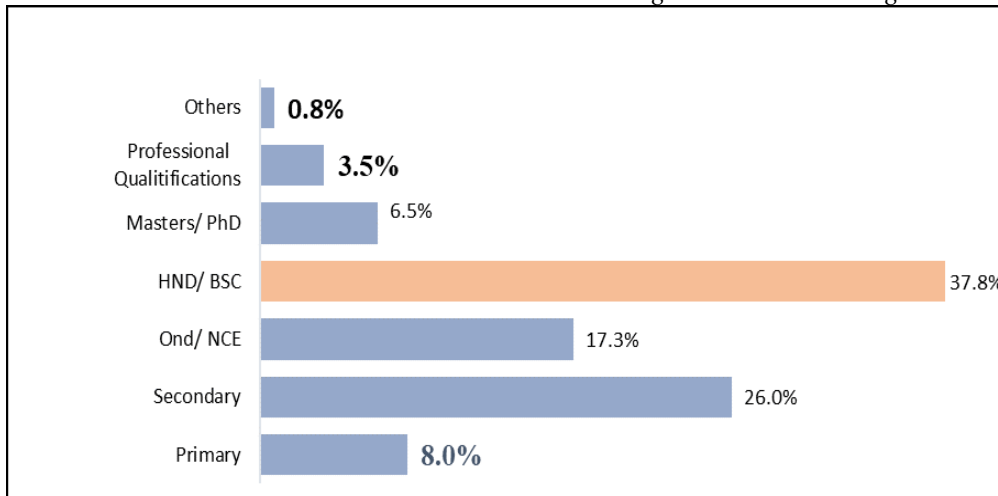


Figure 2: Educational attainment of the respondents

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

Figure 2 presents the analysis of the educational attainment of the respondents. From this analysis, it was revealed that 37.8% of the stakeholders have obtained a bachelor degree or a higher national diploma (HND) while 10% have gotten either a masters, doctorate or a professional degree. It was further revealed that 26% of the respondents had obtained a secondary school leaving certificate while 8.8% of them had either a primary education or other related certifications. Given the above analysis, it is observed that the first-degree holders dominated the distribution.

Table 2 and figure 3 presents the summary of the responses of the stakeholder on the performances of the Economic, Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) on investing in people between the year 2017 and 2019.

Table 2: Extent of ERGP’s Implementation of Social Inclusion

Statements	Responses in Percent				Descriptive Statistics			
	IDK	D	RTS	A	Mean	Std	Skew	Kurt
There are many poorer people and few richer people I know of in terms of average income earned.	10.6	28.4	5.9	55	5.107	2.24	-0.56	-1.30
The rate of kidnapping has reduced.	10.7	58	7.5	23.8	3.885	1.94	0.59	-0.84
The rate of reported rape cases has reduced.	9.6	52.8	10.9	26.7	4.095	1.98	0.40	-1.11
Extra-Judicial killings have reduced.	15.3	45	10.2	29.6	4.081	2.14	0.25	-1.29
People are still getting jobs in the public service	11.6	43.4	9.3	35.6	4.380	2.15	0.08	-1.44
Inputs by local people are neglected when formulating policies affecting them.	18.7	29.3	6.5	45.5	4.579	2.41	-0.23	-1.57
There are regular town hall meetings at the local government level on policies affecting the people	24.6	44.4	6.5	24.5	3.617	2.19	0.49	-1.08
Average	14.4	43.0	8.134.4	4.249				

Note: IDK = I don't Know; D = Disagree; RTS = Remain the same; A = Agree; Minimum value = 1, Maximum Value = 7, In SPSS coding, 1 = I don't know; 3 = Disagree; 5 = Remain the same; 7 = Agree

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

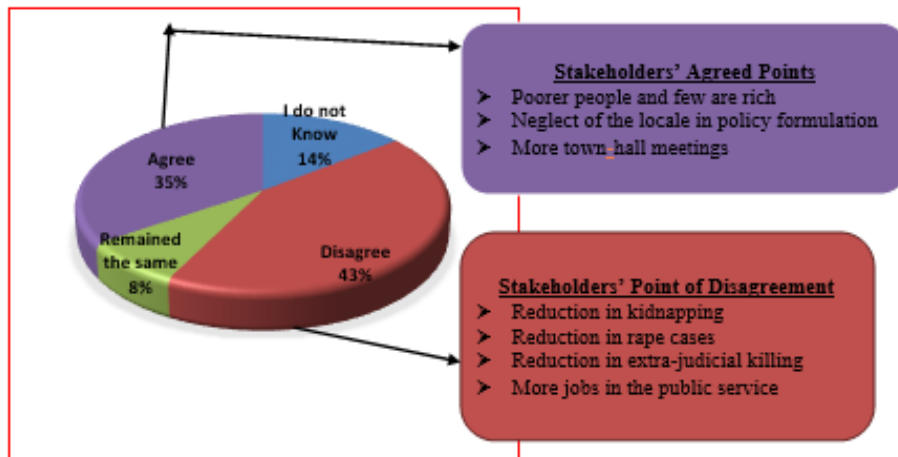


Figure 3: Summary of Stakeholders Opinion on Social Inclusion

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

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Figure 3 presents the snapshot of the responses of the respondents to the set of carefully structured questions. The responses which follow a 4- Likert style from table 2 revealed that 55% of the responded agree that there is an increase in the number of poor people and majority of the masses were not carried along in policy formulation as 44.4% agreed that they were not carried along in policy formulation. Also, 51.9% of them disagreed that kidnap, rape cases and extra-judicial killings reduced during the implementation of the plan. Only 11.9% of the stakeholder are either not aware of the current state of poverty, kidnap and rape cases in the country while 9.5% noted that the social vices have remained that same. It could therefore be inferred from the analysis that a larger percentage of the respondent alluded to the fact that poverty increased and there has been a neglect of the masses in policy formulation.

Table 3: Extent of ERGP’s Implementation on Job Creation and Youth Empowerment

Statements	Responses in Percent				Descriptive Statistics			
	IDK	D	RTS	A	Mean	Std	Skew	Kurt
I have directly benefitted from N-Power programme, one of government’s programmes on job creation and empowerment initiatives	16.8	43.8	6.4	33	4.109	2.23	0.21	-1.41
I know of more people enjoying the N-Power programme.	17.8	38.6	7.5	36.1	4.236	2.29	0.07	-1.50
I buy more of Nigeria made goods than the imported ones.	14.3	30.3	9.6	45.8	4.740	2.30	-0.31	-1.46
There are many software designed to aid businesses and other economic activities.	11.3	31	10	47.7	4.881	2.22	-0.38	-1.40
Some goods that are normally imported are now produced locally	8.5	38.8	6.5	46.3	4.810	2.17	-0.21	-1.54
I gained employment in the past two years.	9.2	45.7	11.5	33.7	4.392	2.07	0.13	-1.39
I know of someone that is now gainfully employed.	11.6	44.7	6.8	36.9	4.380	2.18	0.10	-1.48
The job I am doing suits my qualifications.	7.8	47.8	6.9	37.5	4.482	2.10	0.13	-1.51
Average	12.2	40.1	8.2	39.6	4.504			

Note: IDK = I don’t Know; D = Disagree; RTS = Remain the same; A = Agree; Minimum value = 1, Maximum Value = 7, In SPSS coding, 1 = I don’t know; 3 = Disagree; 5 = Remain the same; 7 = Agree

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

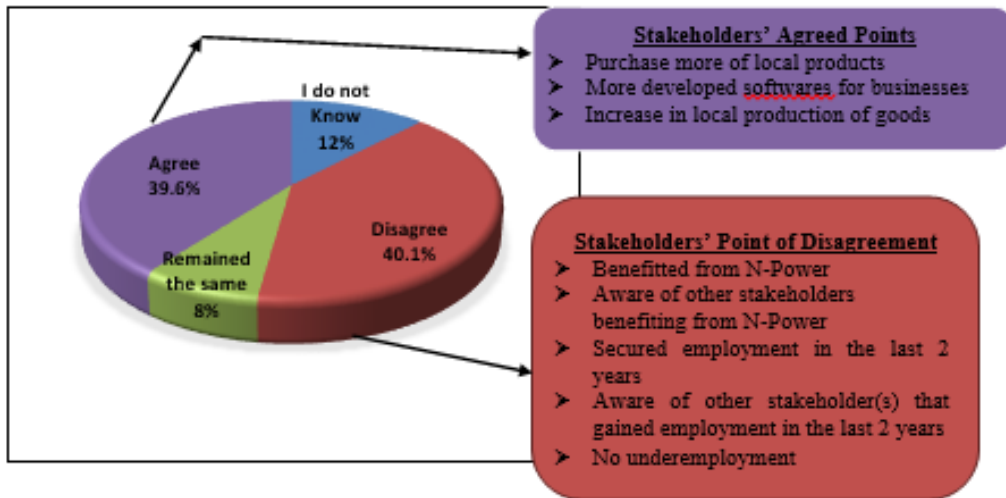


Figure 4: Summary of Stakeholder Perspective on Government’s efforts on Job Creation and Youth Empowerment

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

Equally, the opinion of the respondents on the performance of the plan on youth empowerment and job creation is presented in table 3 and figure 4. It was observed that 39.6% of the respondents agreed that local products received better patronage during the period of ERGP implementations. They also observed that more of the citizens’ embraced technological advancement through the use of software’s in their business. This indicated that more business are created for the software development experts. However, 40.1% of the respondents noted that they are not aware of anyone who had benefitted from the N-power scheme in their environment. The respondents also disagreed that a significant number of people in their communities were able to secure government jobs in their territory.

Table 4: Extent of ERGP's Implementation on Improving the Quality of Life

Statements	Responses in Percent				Descriptive Statistics			
	IDK	D	RTS	A	Mean	Std	Skew	Kurt
More doctors are in government hospitals	12.9	48.1	8.6	30.4	4.132	2.11	0.28	-1.29
Some drugs in government hospitals are now free	15.3	53.6	10	21.1	3.738	1.96	0.55	-0.77
The charges at general hospitals have reduced.	15.7	53.2	8.3	22.8	3.764	2.01	0.54	-0.86
I have more income to settle my hospital bills.	12.3	51.5	11.3	24.9	3.976	2.00	0.42	-1.03
There are free basic health care services to children and aged people in my area.	16.4	43.1	9.2	31.3	4.106	2.19	0.20	-1.36
NHIS gives holders of the policy access to free medical services.	17	41.4	11	30.6	4.103	2.19	0.18	-1.35
New government health centres are been built in my area of residence.	12.7	51.1	6.1	30.1	4.072	2.10	0.35	-1.25
I easily pay my children's school fees at the primary and/or secondary school levels.	13.3	55.9	8.1	22.8	3.806	1.96	0.57	-0.81
Free internet services exist in my school or work place.	9.8	58.4	7.8	24	3.922	1.92	0.59	-0.86
Textbooks for Pry. and Sec. schools are cheaper.	11.6	56.9	6.5	25	3.900	1.98	0.56	-0.93
Government pays for NECO/WAEC fees.	13.7	46.8	7.6	31.8	4.151	2.15	0.24	-1.35
There is a functional Library in my school/area of residence.	9.8	53	7.2	30	4.149	2.04	0.37	-1.24
Government skill acquisition centres are available at no cost.	13	44.1	8.6	34.2	4.281	2.17	0.14	-1.42
Averages	13.3	50.5	8.5	27.6	4.008			

Note: IDK = I don't Know; D = Disagree; RTS = Remain the same; A = Agree; Minimum value = 1, Maximum Value = 7, In SPSS coding, 1 = I don't know; 3 = Disagree; 5 = Remain the same; 7 = Agree

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

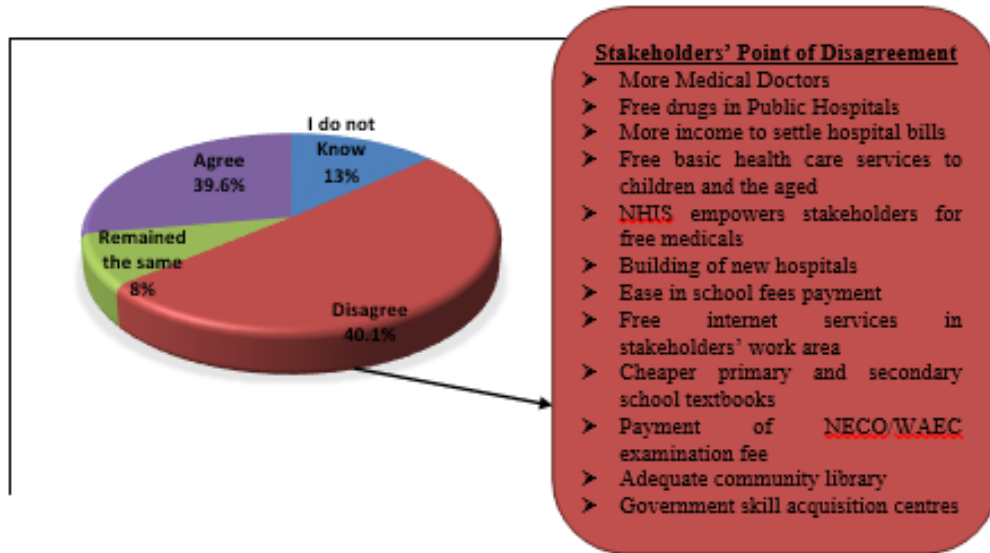


Figure 5: Summary of stakeholder perspective on government's efforts on improving quality of life of people

Source: Responses from field survey, 2019

Figure 5 and table 4 presents the snapshots of stakeholders' perspective on the performance of the ERGP on the improvement in the quality of life of people. The figure 5 showed that 40.5% of the respondents perceived that most of the hospitals did not have more doctors and medical personnel during the implementation of the policy. They further disagreed on the existence of free drugs and medications in public hospitals. It was also noted from the analysis that newly built hospitals are nearly non-existence in their environments. More so, majority of the respondents asserted that the National Health Insurance Scheme was not effective in empowering people to access free basic healthcare services in the country. This conforms to the study by Centre for Democracy and Development (2019) on similar welfare programmes. However, 39.6% of the respondents noted that the government was responsible for the payment of West African school leaving Examinations. They also alluded to the fact that government initiated new skill acquisition centers in the country. 13% of the respondents could not ascertain the impact of the programme on the quality of life of the citizens and 8% noted that there has been no significant change in the quality of life of people.

Table 5: One-Sample t- test on Stakeholders’ Perception about the performance of ERGP towards investing in the people

	Test Value = 0			95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
Stakeholders’ perception of ERGP in enhancing Social Inclusion	131.697	706	.000	2.97373	2.9294	3.0181
Stakeholders’ perception of ERGP in enhancing Job Creation	141.743	706	.000	3.07231	3.0298	3.1149
Stakeholders’ perception of ERGP in government improving quality of life	137.455	706	.000	2.92438	2.8826	2.9662

Predetermined Population Mean each for the 3 categories = 7 (Agreeing that ERGP enhanced Social Inclusion, job creation and quality of life respectively)

Sample means are 2.97, 3.07, 3.02 and 2.92 respectively

Sources: Construct form field Survey, 2019

Table 5 tests for the possibility of having a statistically significant mean difference of 2.97, 3.07 and 2.92 respectively from the predetermined mean of 7 each. The null hypothesis of the one-sample t-tests is that the mean differences of 2.97373, 3.07231 and 2.92438 respectively are statistically insignificant. As such, the sample means of 2.97, 3.07 and 2.92 respectively hold, implying that ERGP has not enhanced social inclusion, job creation and quality of life, respectively. The alternative hypothesis is that the mean differences of 2.97373, 3.07231 and 2.92438, respectively, are statistically significant. Thus, the sample means of 2.97, 3.07 and 2.92 do not hold but are actually 5.94, 6.14 and 5.85 respectively which are close to 7 thus agreeing that the ERGP has enhanced social inclusion, job creation and quality of life respectively. The t-statistics of 131.7, 141.7 and 137.5 respectively are statistically significant at 1%, thus, we reject the null hypothesis that the mean differences are not statistically significant and accept the alternative hypothesis. We conclude that the mean differences of 2.97373, 3.07231 and 2.92438 respectively are statistically significant and as such, the sample mean of 2.97, 3.07 and 2.92 do not hold thus agreeing that the ERGP has in a way enhanced social inclusion, job creation and quality of life respectively. In line with Uche (2019), these problems still loom in the country.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The achievement of the government on the implemented ERGP program has indicated that the plan was not efficiently delivered. It was noted that the rate of kidnap, extrajudicial killings and rape increased during the period under review. Also, the rate of poverty has not reduced during the period of implementing the plan. In terms of the conditional cash transfer, majority of the stakeholders are aware of the program but have not benefited or knew someone that has benefitted from the program. In essence, the program has not benefitted many people in the country, particularly in Lagos State.

Equally, there appears to be increase in the production, and consumption of locally produced goods during the implementation period of the ERGP. Also, numerous local companies engaged in technological driven approaches to drive their productivity and growth. This indicated that many jobs are created in the information and technology sector. However, many people have not benefitted from the N-Power scheme. In addition, significant growth was not witnessed in the area of employment into the public service. It is safe to conclude that the N-Power scheme has not really benefited the masses in terms of technical job creation or employment of staff into the civil service. These findings could be directly linked to the increase in the unemployment statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics (2018).

Further findings were revealed in the area of health care programs initiated by the plan. There appears to be no significant increase in the number of medical personnel within the period under review. Besides, there were no sufficient access to free medical services and medications. Many people were also not beneficiaries of the National Health Insurance scheme. Hence, the program is not effective. On the contrary, government helped some indigent persons in the payment of examination fees for the West African school leaving certificate. It was also noted that the primary school children had access to free education but the homegrown feeding program was not effective. These outcomes coincide with the World Bank Indicators (2018) which indicated a marginal increase in the health outcomes of the country during the period under review. Going forward it is pertinent that the government takes an appropriate survey of the society to tailor its policies in such a way that it will suit the larger populace, bolster inclusive growth and propel an increase in human capital development.

Due to poor working conditions, poor medical infrastructure and facilities as well as the poor structure of remunerations in the health sector in recent years, there

*Ndubisi I. Nwokoma et al. * Government Programme on Investing in the People* has been a mass exit of professional doctors from Nigeria, With the country's population projected at about 200million persons, the doctor to patient ratio of 1 doctor per 5000 persons in Nigeria is far below the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation of one doctor per 600 persons. Political instability, corruption, limited institutional capacity and an unstable economy are major factors responsible for the poor development of health services in Nigeria. Households and individuals in Nigeria bear the burden of a dysfunctional and inequitable health system –with delayed service provision or a preponderance of people having to pay out of pocket for health care services that are not affordable. It is expedient for the government to concentrate on creating enabling environments for the thriving of businesses, such as the provision of basic infrastructures such as electricity, good road networks, liberalisation of the economy to attract liquidity, encouragement of the youths to go into agriculture as well as the privatisation of government enterprises.

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