

Government Social Intervention and Job Creation in Nigeria: A Study of SURE-P and N-POWER Programmes, 2012-2018

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Received: 8 December 2018 Accepted: 31 December 2018 Published: 15 January 2019

Abstract

One of the foremost challenges facing the Nigerian state today is the problem of unemployment among Nigerian youths and this problem has contributed to lot of social vices among Nigerian graduates, such as robbery, prostitution, cybercrimes, hoodlums, political thuggery, etc. This paper aims at investigating Government Social Intervention Schemes and Job Creation in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on former President Good luck Ebele Jonathan social intervention program (SURE-P) and President Muhammadu Buhari social intervention program (N-POWER). This is because the high rate of unemployment among Nigerian graduates is now becoming alarming on daily basis. The paper will therefore examine the extent to which these Governments social programmes have created job opportunities among Nigerian graduates, and also to ascertain whether the rate of unemployed graduates has hindered the Government in creation of jobs in Nigeria.

Index terms— government, social intervention, job creation, SURE-P, N-POWER.

1 I. Introduction

umanity from time immemorial has been sustained by the economic components of the society in which it exists. These economic components satiates the primary, secondary and tertiary needs of man when it is in adequate supply, but when it is in short supply, the reverse is the case. Hence, human beings are seen scampering and seeking for the economic resources that would increase their welfare from any means possible both positive and negative.

In contemporary times, human needs to a great extent are satisfied by earnings derived from many divergent sources such as entrepreneurship, employment and even thievery and other illegal sources.

Author: Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria. e-mail: ezkie4jesus@gmail.com It is in a bid to curtail and prohibit the indulgence of people into illicit means of earning a living that the government is seen embarking on social intervention programmes to economically empower the citizens with veritable sources of living especially through employment creation. In the words of Alemu (2015), despite the structural transformation and growth of the Nigerian economy from 2000 to 2011 (only plundering into recession in 2016), this growth isn't translated into the reduction of unemployment in Nigeria as unemployment surged from 11% in 2000 to 23% in 2011. According to ??salor (2012), Nigerian tertiary institutions graduate a minimum of 300,000 students every year and this number grows arithmetically if not geometrically, and translates into more unemployed people that roam the streets of Nigerian cities. The implication of this mass unemployment in the Nigerian society is not farfetched as it is nothing but poverty which is a negative force that drives people into illegal ventures to earn and sustain their living. As a matter of fact, the world poverty clock in 2018 stated that Nigeria assumed the ignoble position of being the poverty capital of the world after overtaking India, with about 86.9 million of her population in extreme poverty ??Vanguard, 2019). To corroborate this assertion, the National Bureau of Statistics in the 2012 National Baseline Survey, stated that more than half of the Nigerian youths population in the country are unemployed.

2 II. CONCEPTUAL OPERATIONALIZATION OF TERMS

44 Unemployment seems to account for most of the social crimes perpetrated by graduates in the Nigerian
45 society today. The accelerating level of prostitution, armed robbery, oil bunkering, cyber-crimes, drug addiction,
46 trafficking, rape, kidnapping and all facets of social vices can be largely attributed to the incidence of
47 unemployment (Okeke and Ngonadi, 2017). An examination of most of the apprehended criminals seems to signify
48 that a large number of Nigerian graduates that engage in criminal activities are those without gainful employment.
49 Some of these criminals are people who have the potentials for gainful employment but have been deprived such
50 opportunities. Job creation in Nigeria is a responsibility that is carried out by both the private and public
51 sectors of an economy. However, it is worthy to note that it is a more integral duty of the government forming
52 part of their constitutional obligations to the citizens (FRN Constitution, 1999). Job creation which entails
53 the creation or establishment of new jobs in such a way that no economic activity is displaced is undoubtedly,
54 a means through which the government of the federation intervenes in the socio-economic plights of its citizens.
55 Onuoha and Woghiren (2019) noted that with the worrisome nature of unemployment in the Nigerian society,
56 the government of Nigeria has been seen putting up many different policy measures over the years to reverse
57 this unwanted societal phenomenon. Among the policy measures adopted to tackle the hydra-headed malaise of
58 unemployment in Nigeria through job creation as social intervention effort of the Nigerian government include
59 the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) adopted in 2003; Vision 20:2020 of
60 2009 which later inspired successive national development plans and the Transformational Agenda of 2011-2015
61 thereby making job creation an integral part of sector level reform; the Youth Enterprise With Innovation in
62 Nigeria (You-WIN); Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and more recently, the
63 National Social Investment Programme (N-SIP) popularly known as N-Power programme.

64 The SURE-P and N-Power programmes are two programmes that can never be trivially considered in the
65 light of government social intervention and job creation in Nigeria in recent times. Whereas the former was a
66 conscious effort of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's regime to provide employment to graduates through reinvesting
67 money derived from fuel subsidy removal in job creation for the Nigerian citizens. The latter was a social
68 intervention programme of the President Muhammadu Buhari led-administration geared towards combating the
69 twin socio-economic demons of poverty and unemployment especially among youths between age 18 and 35 years
70 (N-SIP, 2018). These two social intervention programmes of recent governments which are geared towards job
71 creation and amelioration of the menace of unemployment in Nigeria constitute the focus of this paper.

72 It is crystal clear that from the motive of initiating the SURE-P and N-Power programmes as succinctly
73 enunciated above, that the programmes are laudable in purpose and are keys to closing the doors of unemployment
74 problems in Nigeria. However, the problems of unemployment persist within the Nigerian social environment and
75 are even tremendously increasing despite the existence of these programmes; thus, leaving all beholder with the
76 question of how and why is this possible. It is in a bid to answer this overlying question that this research paper
77 was undertaken to ascertain the extent to which these programmes have solved the problems of unemployment in
78 Nigeria through job creation and to determine the factor responsible for the persistent unemployment in Nigeria
79 in the face of the existence of these programmes.

80 2 II. Conceptual Operationalization of Terms

81 The thrust of this paper hinges on quite a number of terminologies having wide varieties of meanings to different
82 persons and in different contexts. Therefore, to consummate the achievement of the purpose of this paper
83 and ensure comprehensive clarifications and understanding, this paper attempts a succinct scholarly review of
84 terminological concepts within the context of this discourse. The concepts reviewed and operationalized include:
85 Social intervention, Job creation, Unemployment, SURE-P and N-Power. Social Intervention: Social intervention
86 as a term does not enjoy consensual definition as it has been approached from different standpoints and purviews.
87 In the words of Onnie (2006), it is the activities by the government, social agencies and volunteers designed
88 to change and improve social situations of individuals, groups and communities, strengthen their social bonds
89 and encourage internalization of social control. This is in no way false, as social intervention is concerned with
90 enhancement of existing social status-quo and social order within a defined society or territory. However, this
91 is definition is not operationally generic as it only reflects sociological perspective to the concept. According to
92 Adu (2018), it is the provision of effective and appropriate means of alleviating social and economic difficulties
93 being faced by people. This definition is multidisciplinary suffice-able as it does not view social intervention from
94 the school of thought of one discipline, rather from a generic purview. For the purpose of this discourse however,
95 social intervention is seen as any conscious effort of anybody or institution (be it government or otherwise) that
96 is geared towards providing solutions to existing societal problem of general or particularistic nature, which is
97 bedeviling the members of the society from any aspect of life.

98 Job Creation: Job creation according to James clement (2014) is nothing but the increment in the number of
99 employment in an economy. This is outrightly correct since job creation literally is concerned with establishing
100 more employment opportunities to augment the existing ones. According to the online Investopedia (Business
101 encyclopedia), it is a political rhetoric that indicates that jobs are created in response to some sort of events or
102 situations. This is of the notion that job creation is not only an activity but one with a purpose. It holds that
103 job creation is the establishment of jobs as a result of certain identifiable situations in the society that has a need
104 for jobs to be established. In cognizance of the aforesaid, contextually operational within this paper is that job

105 creation is nothing more than the provision of Year 2019 new jobs or expansion of existing ones in such a way as
106 to accommodate more unemployed persons, usually for socio-economic purposes.

107 Unemployment: According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (9 th Ed.), unemployment refers to the
108 fact of having no job as well as the number of people in a country who do not have a job. In the words of James
109 clement (2016), it is nothing but the difference between available workforce and productive workforce within an
110 economy. Unemployment in the context of this discourse is seen as a socio-economic problem which arises as a
111 result of having no regular paid work and consequently leading to poor standard of living and in extreme cases
112 poverty. SURE-P: SURE-P is simply an acronym which stands for Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment
113 programme. This programme according to Nwosu and Ugwuerua (2014) is a making of the Nigerian national
114 government aimed at ensuring that part of its savings from fuel subsidy removal or reduction is applied to critical
115 mitigate the spate of youth unemployment in the country through the re-investment of the subsidy funds. In a
116 nutshell, it is a public policy instituted by the federal government of Nigeria as a social intervention programme to
117 fight against poverty and unemployment by re-investing the profit that it made from the removal of fuel subsidy
118 into citizens' empowerment schemes.

119 N-Power: According to Voice Nigeria (2019), N-Power is a youth empowerment scheme sponsored by the
120 federal government of Nigeria which addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure
121 for large-scale and relevant work skill acquisition and development, while linking its core and outcomes to fixing
122 inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. It is a well articulated policy effort of the
123 present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari that is aimed at combating the twin evils of poverty
124 and unemployment among Nigerian youths of age bracket 18-35years through capacity building, investment and
125 direct financial support by the federal government of the Nigeria.

126 **3 III. Theoretical Foundation**

127 There's no scintilla of doubt in the fact that any idea not subjected to a theoretical support is a disgrace to
128 philosophical truth (Nwafor-Orizu, Okolo and Eze, 2019). In cognizance of this, unemployment in Nigeria has
129 been an inter-decadal issue that its trend might not be outweighed if nothing is done. With the Nigerian national
130 government's attempt to curtail this through social intervention programmes like SURE-P and N-Power being
131 the focus of this paper, there is need to underpin the correlation justifying the reason for the continual existence
132 of unemployment in the face of these programmes with a theoretical framework. Sequel to this, this paper adopts
133 the employment theory to underpin the thrust of the discourse.

134 The employment theory which exists in two perspectives -sociological and economic perspective, is a theory that
135 establishes the position and functions of institutions in relation to employment while instituting the mechanism
136 through which these institutions will achieve optimal employment creation.

137 The sociological perspective to this theory was enunciated by Emile Durkheim in his book "The Division of
138 Labour" in the year 1893 and is referred to as the functionalist employment theory. The Functionalist employment
139 theory posits that function is an unclear term which defines the logical and social place of roles, institutions and
140 structures in terms of the production and reproduction of a society as a social system (Bessant and Watts, 1999).
141 The proponents of this theory believe that everything serves a specific function in the society and these functions
142 need to be understood. They assume that balance and societal functionality is attained if all societal actors
143 diligently perform their various functions and the reverse is the case when they do not. In this regard, both the
144 citizens and the government have well defined roles to play within the society. In the words of ??nyaele (2002),
145 one basic role of the government is to ensure that the welfare of their citizens is catered for. Anikeze (2018) in the
146 analysis of social welfare indicators of development stated that one of the parameters for measuring social welfare
147 of the citizens is employment rate. This implies job creation within the society is a function of government while
148 efficient job performance is the function of the citizens. Since imbalance and societal dysfunctionality or problem
149 is created when an actor does not perform his function, it then means that government utilizes job creation as a
150 social intervention scheme to keep the parlance of societal orderliness.

151 The economic perspective to the employment theory was modeled by a renowned English economist -John
152 Maynard Keynes in the year 1936. This perspective which could be best described as the Keynesian theory of
153 employment determination posits that supply creates its own demand. Hence, so far that government uses its
154 available fund to embark on social intervention programmes (no matter in what dimension) as facilitated by the
155 multiplier effect of demand by the citizens, the resultant effect is a high tendency of creating employment and a
156 moderate tendency of increasing investment and profitability. The theory holds that effective demand equals total
157 expenditure which is equivalent to national income and national output especially in a short run where factors
158 of production and distribution remain unchanged while determining the level of employment. The implicit of
159 this is that the level of employment is dependent on national income and output. Thus, an increase in national
160 income is followed proportionately by an increase in unemployment and vice versa.

161 **4 IV. Government Social Intervention**

162 and Job Creation in Nigeria: A Theoretical Nexus

163 One very categorization of the content of this work is the attempt to explain the theory that links government
164 social intervention and job creation in Nigeria. As earlier pointed out in the conceptualization of key components

165 or terms, government social intervention is a consequent of government's attempt to solve or resolve any social
166 problem bedeviling the social population within that period in time. This attempt manifests itself in differing
167 forms as schemes, programmes and even grants etc. Job creation on the other hand is simply the provision of
168 employment opportunities for the teeming unemployed or underemployed populace.

169 From an economic perspective, public expenditure is an exogenous factor which can be utilized as a policy
170 instrument to promote economic growth. In the words of J.M. Keynes (1936), a foremost economist in exposing
171 public expenditure and economic growth, he opined that an increase in the expenditure of government is likely
172 to lead to an increase in employment, profitability and investment through multiplier effects on total demand.
173 Consequent upon this, government social intervention which could be any of public expenditure, government
174 social investment or even transfer of payment adopted to solve a social problem, can lead to job creation in
175 Nigeria. Hence, we could posit by theoretical evidence that the nexus between government social intervention
176 and job creation is positive.

177 V. Historical Perspectives to Sure-P and N-Power Programmes in Nigeria

178 For every human inclination whether it concerns the government or not, concerns the general society or a
179 particular segment, there is an origin and a known history. In fact, the society and human organization itself
180 follows a historical and histographic antecedent. Subject to this, government programmes are no sacred cow as
181 they tow this line of existence.

182 Having said this, it is worthwhile to have an indwelling exploration of the historical line of the two government
183 social intervention programmes under study -SURE-P and N-Power; and this are presented below:

184 5 a) The History of SURE-P in Nigeria

185 The establishment of SURE-P can be traced back to the deliberations of the Economic Management Team chaired
186 by the then Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in the last quarter of 2011 on phasing out the oil
187 subsidy. According to Okonjo-Iweala (2018), the debate took place in early December 2011 and it was agreed
188 that there would be further debates and communications with the public, with a tentative implementation of the
189 subsidy phase out in April 2012. Albeit such was the expectation, the President Goodluck Jonathan announced
190 the subsidy phase out on January 1, 2012. This created social turbulence in Nigeria, nationwide strikes and
191 massive extremely well organized demonstrations with Lagos being the epicenter of the public agitations. The
192 tense situation led the President to call for negotiations with labour and civil society and as part of their demands;
193 a program which would be known as the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) was to
194 be established, which would comprise a committee headed by an eminent and trusted Nigerian including labour,
195 civil society and a cross-section of Nigerians who would oversee and manage the subsidy funds.

196 By 16 th January, 2012, after the labour called off the nationwide strike on subsidy removal, SURE-P was
197 established, having Dr. Christopher Kolade as its pioneer chairman. The scheme became one of the pivots of the
198 Transformation Agenda of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's led-administration after being inaugurated on the 13 th
199 of February, 2012.

200 6 b) The History of N-Power Programme in Nigeria

201 Following the quest to combat wide-scale poverty, high crime rate and increasing rate of unemployment, the
202 civilian administration of President Muhammadu Buhari designed and implemented its own strategy as National
203 Social Investment Programme (N-SIP). This programme consists of four major components, one of which was job
204 creation and empowerment initiative otherwise known as N-Power. The N-Power programme was the job creation
205 and youth empowerment initiative of the National Social Investments Programme of the Federal Government of
206 Nigeria designed to help young Nigerians acquire and develop life-long skills to become solution providers in their
207 communities and to become players in the domestic and global markets ??NSIP, 2016).

208 As captured in the N-Power selection and deployment plan in NSIP (2016), the whole idea of N-Power was
209 to ensure that young Nigerians will be empowered with the necessary tools to go on and create, develop, build,
210 fix and work on exceptional ideas, projects and enterprises that will change our communities, our economy and
211 our nation. Hence, the N-Power establishment committee strategically designed the programme for all eligible
212 Nigerians looking to work gainfully. This was however after the initial programmes have been designed for young
213 Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 35 before being implemented.

214 The implementation of N-Power was marked with the launching of the programme on June 12, 2016 when its
215 application process commenced through an online process and closed on August 31, 2016. By December 1, 2016,
216 all successful applicants of the N-Power scheme were engaged and the scheme began its operations fully.

217 7 b) An Analysis of N-Power

218 Objective of establishment: The specific objectives of Npower are:-? To help young Nigerians acquire and develop
219 lifelong skills to become solution providers in their communities and to become players in the domestic and global
220 markets.

221 ? To empower young Nigerians with the necessary tools to go on and create, develop, build, fix and work on
222 exceptional ideas, projects and enterprises that will change our economy and our Nation.

Duration of Operation: N-power is a paid volunteering programme with a 2-year duration. However fitting its commencement of operations was in December 2016, and it lasted for over 2years and some months.

Social Impact Assessment: N-power impact assessment cuts across 3 main segments; N-Power Volunteer corps, N-power Knowledge and N-power Build. These segments dovetailed into different components and sectors such as N-Tech, N-Health, N-Agro, N-Teach and community etc. ? On N-Power Health: 20,000 health applicants were selected into the scheme. The NPHCDA (National Primary Health Care Development Agency was saddled with the responsibility of executing specific capacity building exercises within the states. ? On N-Power Agro: N-power Agro applicants of 23,201 were selected nationally and a total number of 6,799 residue of specific crop, fish and livestock based targets were applied by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Development. ? On N-Power Teach & Community: Initially a total of 140,992 applicants were selected nationally. However there was a special additional consideration of 4800 for the North East States (Borno-1200, Adamawa-800, Yobe-800,Taraba-800, Bauchi-600, Gombe-600) And also an additional consideration of 4,208 applicants were selected to bolster specific states with paltry application numbers such as Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara. ? On N-Power Knowledge: There is no specific published data at the moment regarding selection of applicants into the N-power knowledge yet it is undeniable that a lot of Nigerians benefited from the scheme.

In general, the Federal government spends over N15 billion monthly as stipends on 500,000 volunteers of the N-power scheme.

Shortcomings: As has been the tradition of malady in Nigeria, corruption eats deep into the fabrics of the economy and it has manifested itself in various forms affecting N-power. Some of these evils are: ? Ghost workers who get paid all to the coffers of some top officials. ? Beneficiaries who get paid regularly without reporting for work ? Massive fraud with regards to impersonation and fraudulent practices by officials handling the programme. ? Poor Management with specific emphasis on the owing of beneficiaries.

Having under-studied the both schemes across similar frontiers, we could infer that although both schemes are of different administrative epochs, they are geared towards the achievement of similar goal. Also deducible is that their shortcomings are relatively similar.

VII. Sure-P, N-Power and Job Creation in Nigeria: A Retrospective Watch (2012) (2013) (2014) (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018) There has been a plethora of government social intervention schemes in Nigeria which were geared towards job creation over the years. Unarguably, with the growth pace of unemployment which marred the economy of Nigeria despite their existence, these schemes can best be described as colossal failures as they were unable to achieve the objective for which they were fashioned.

However, with the introduction and implementation of SURE-P and N-Power as recent social intervention programmes geared towards job creation in Nigeria for over some period of time, there is need to assess these two programmes to ascertain the extent to which they have achieved their objectives. This retrospective assessment is done under the headings below:

8 a) An Assessment of SURE-P from 2012 till expiration in 2015

February 13, 2012 marked a memorable day in the history of Nigerian social intervention following the inauguration of SURE-P committee by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. This committee whose mandate was to ‘deliver service with integrity’ and ‘restore people’s confidence in the government expressed its utmost desire to ensure that the objectives of the programme will be achieved. To consummate the achievement of the objectives of SURE-P, the Federal Government of Nigeria also called for a public-private collaboration in addressing the unemployment situation in the country (SURE-P, 2012).

The SURE-P programme modeled out the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) in October 2012 under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance, as an instrument to facilitate the achievement of its goal. To this, the government collaborated with the universities in the country to provide attachment for internship for their graduated students who are to enjoy a monthly stipend of #18,000 (Nwosu and Ugwuera, 2014). This was geared towards providing working experience to graduates in order to enhance their employment opportunity.

In 2013, The Project Director of GIS, Mr. Peter Papka stated that the programme has had beneficiaries numbering 83,000 which was far beyond the 50,000 persons threshold allotted for the scheme in a given year. In 2014, the GIS facilitator Mr. Abubakar Orumah disclosed in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria that no fewer than 41,161 graduates have benefited from the scheme in that year, with 68% being males, 31% females and 1% vulnerable. He stated also that since inception of the policy in Nigeria, that over 35,000 have exited the scheme with thousands of them having secured jobs and others credit cards and grants to expand businesses they set up using GIS stipends (Premium times Editorial, September 18, 2014). According to the National Ministry of Planning (2015) in the statistic of employment report, SURE-P created 6,000 jobs for skilled labour and 1,000 jobs for technicians in 2015 before its expiration which augments it jobs created to be over 185,000 from the time of its initiation in 2012.

From state analysis, 3,000 jobs was created by SURE-P in Oyo state in 2013 as stated by the state coordinator Mr. Dare Adeleke; in Benue state, the first batch of job creation saw the employment of 3,000people from 23 local governments; Alh. Bode Oyedele the Lagos state coordinator also noted that 5,000 jobs were created for

283 the first batch of SURE-P job creation in the state; 5,000 jobs in Ekiti according to Mr. Femi Akinyemi; 3,000 in
284 Yobe according to Mr. Muhammad Alka; 3,000 in Enugu according to Mr. Nnamdi Asomugha; amongst others.

285 According to Okeke and Ngonadi (2017), unemployment rate reduced in the first quarter of 2014 under the
286 implementation of SURE-P and in the first quarter of 2016, labour force population increased to 78.4 million from
287 769million seen in the 4 th quarter of 2015. This is a 1.99% increase in labour force amounting to an addition
288 of 1,528,647 economically active people into the labour force between January 1 and March 31, 2016 under the
289 implementation of SURE-P.

290 Financially, GIS under SURE-P was estimated to cost the federal government, #900million monthly amounting
291 to #10.8billion annually following the #18,000 stipend to be paid to about 50,000 graduates. However, complaints
292 abound over the non-reception of this stipend among the participants/beneficiaries. Whereas some say that the
293 programme was hijacked to favour their people, others like the current Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi
294 Osinbajo believe that it is nothing but a colossal failure.

295 **9 b) An Assessment of N-Power programme from 2016 to 2018**

296 According to FGN (2018), the N-power programme has provided a veritable platform for engaging unemployed
297 graduates. The scheme has engaged about five hundred thousand graduates in different sectors of the economy
298 such as education, agriculture and health. Interview with some beneficiaries of the scheme showed that they have
299 been engaged at their places of primary appointment in different capacities (Bisong, 2019).

300 The N-power programme which adopts integrative implementation approach is one that undertakes employ-
301 ment at each state in the federation in batches. Having started in 2016, it had a cumulative employment creation
302 of 200,000 jobs in the year with 150,000 being teachers, 30,000 being agricultural workers and 20,000 working
303 under healthcare delivery ??The Punch Newspaper -Olalekan Adetayo, p.3, November 21, 2016). In 2017, 300,000
304 jobs were created by N-Power and 500,000 in 2018.

305 Financially, the programme was allocated the sum of #1 trillion for year 2016 and 2017 (i.e. #500 billion for
306 each year) by the budget, but was only received #175 billion. In the year 2018, the NSIP generally was allocated
307 #350 billion of which N-Power was proportionately allocated 37%.

308 The N-power programme has also been acclaimed to be guilty of failed administrative practices ranging from
309 poor management, non-payment of salaries, lack-lustrous attitude of employees, poor funding to the politics of
310 political elite interference.

311 **10 VIII. Government Social Intervention**

312 and Job Creation in Nigeria: Deductive Challenges from Sure-P and N-Power

313 The analytical exposition above has proven beyond measure that there is a positive and significant relationship
314 between government social intervention programmes (SURE-P and N-Power) and job creation in Nigeria.
315 However, high unemployment problem still persist within the Nigerian societal milieu. The coexistence of
316 unemployment and these intervention programmes simply denotes that the extent to which these programmes
317 have created jobs in the country is not optimal, and as such there are defects hampering the functionality of the
318 government social intervention programmes in job creation.

319 This paper segment undertakes an exposition of the challenges bedeviling government social intervention
320 programmes in job creation in Nigeria as deduced from the analysis conducted in the prior segment of this
321 paper.

322 Uniformly, the SURE-P and N-Power programmes as well as other government social intervention programmes
323 aimed at mitigating unemployment in Nigeria have been faced by a series of challenges and among these challenges
324 include: ? Rise of Graduate Population: Nigeria produces at average a turnover of 300,000 graduates on yearly
325 basis. The constant cumulative of this outweighs the employment carrying capacity in job creation no matter the
326 nature of government intervention programme embarked upon. This is because since previous government could
327 not provide employment for existing unemployed people, their population tends to increase by accumulation
328 on yearly basis making it difficult for present government to employ them all at once since financing their
329 remuneration will bankrupt such government. Similarly, Okeke and Ngonadi (2017), noted that since the graduate
330 population rises on yearly basis, it will be impossible for government social intervention programme planners to
331 ascertain the correct size of the population that the programmes can cover.

332 From another perspective, the rate of creation and expansion of educational institutions outstrips the rate of
333 jobs created. The exacerbation point is that, these institutions are usually poorly equipped and under-staffed,
334 thus making them produce halfbaked graduates who are outrightly barons of incompetence in search of white-
335 collar job. The consequence of this is that these graduates become unemployable and as such cannot match
336 the employment criteria set by government social intervention programmes like SURE-P and N-Power. The
337 perceived challenges of the effort of the Nigerian government to rid it society of unemployment problems or
338 at least, drastically reduce it to the barest level through social intervention programmes such as N-Power and
339 SURE-P is one that needs an addressing touch if the country is to achieve its employment aim. To this end,
340 this paper segment recommends the underlying policy alternatives as the way forward to alleviate the observed
341 challenges.

342 1. Job creation programmes should be established subject to statistics of graduates provided by all tertiary
343 educational and technical institutions present within the country. To this, a law should be promulgated mandating
344 all of such institutions to submit the record of graduates to the government on yearly basis. 2. Programme
345 continuity should be ensured at all cost.

346 Every succeeding government should evaluate the social intervention programmes of the preceding government,
347 adopt, implement and sustain the positive impacting ones and abrogate the negative ones. 3. Investment enabling
348 environment should be created by the government to help bring in private sectors into job creation since it is
349 virtually impossible for the Nigerian government to create jobs for all unemployed people in Nigeria owing
350 to finance and population. 4. A policy/programme monitoring committee should be created by the Nigerian
351 government at each level of government to monitor all job creation programme and gather performance report.
352 5. Disciplinary measures such as compulsory dismissal from service should be adopted and implemented against
353 anyone whether within the programme implementation body or an employee or job seeker found wanting of
354 any corrupt practice within the government social intervention programme. This will deter people from corrupt
355 practices and ensure credibility within the framework. 6. The finance of government social intervention should
356 be consolidatedly issued into an account which can easily be accessed by them, but subject to the approval of
357 the president or vice president and the Minister in-charge of the controlling ministry of such programme.

358 Government social intervention programme undoubtedly is a sine-qua-non for job creation in Nigeria as it has
359 been evidently proven by SURE-P and N-Power that their activities has led the decrease in unemployment rate
360 in Nigeria. However, their performance has been hampered by certain maladroit eventualities culminating into
361 the rising of the rate of unemployment despite their existence. It is against this backdrop that this research
362 paper recommended the above policy alternatives as a panacea to the raging problem inhibiting the success of
363 government social intervention programmes on job creation. Therefore, urgent and responsible step should be
364 taken in the line of the above recommendation to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in job creation programme
systems within the Nigerian society. ¹

VI. Sure-P and N-Power Social Intervention Schemes:

A Comparative Analysis

SURE-P and N-Power are practical illustrations of social intervention schemes in Nigeria aimed at specific s

a) An Analysis of SURE-P Objective of establishment: Duration of Operation: SURE-P was short-lived with
expiration of former President Goodluck Jonathan's tenure. Its operation began on the 13 th of Feb. 2012 a

Also over the period 2012-2015, an additional

N205.5 billion naira was estimated to be invested in rural

water scheme, water supply scheme, irrigation scheme

and other water related projects from SURE-P (CP-

Africa, 2012). On the other hand, SURE-P equipped

young Nigerians with skills in three broad areas:

Vocational/technical skills, skills and

Figure 1:

365

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National Assembly to expedite action on the implementation of budgetary provision for SURE-P as some part of the fund allocated to it by the budget are yet to be made available for utilization.

This is capture in Premium Times Newspaper Editorial of March 18, 2013 as thus: "there is need to amend the budgetary provisions for the project? the financial requirement to sustain the project in terms of stipends payment, running cost to states, and project management for 2013 is #29 billion? the ministry only received #5billion which is grossly inadequate". ? Corruption: Corruption can be said to be the highest social problem in the Nigerian society. It is an anguis-inherba -a snake hidden in the grass of the Nigerian social scene. It has affected the government social intervention scheme from multidimensional ways. On the part of those in position of authority, corruption manifests itself in their attitude as they tend to see their assignment as an avenue to share national cake at the expense of the people. As a result the funds and other resources for job creation are embezzled by them.

Similarly, plethora is cases of bribery and insider-game manifesting as forms of nepotic corruption as

citizens seeking employment or even employees, corruption manifests itself in form of indiscipline, ghost worker syndrome and earning salaries without reporting to duty. The effect of this is the frustration of government social intervention efforts at job creation.

? Lack of Monitoring: This is another tantamount problem of government social intervention programmes in creating employment in Nigeria.

Nearly all government social programmes does not have progress evaluation report or programme monitoring committee. Hence, re-strategizing to adapt to social dynamics of the society seems impossible.

? Poor Management: This is practically a problem to most Nigerian government

programmes if not all. ? Continuity Deficiency Problem: This problem bedeviling the government social intervention programmes in Nigeria. The Nigerian

public policies and programmes are usually

deficient in continuity, this is as a result of change of

regimes, influence of strong individuals and

godfathers etc. IX. Government Social Intervention and Job Cr

Alternatives and Prospects

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