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Exploring the contributions of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) on poverty reduction in Nigeria: a focus on the n-power beneficiaries' perspectives in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the contributions of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) on sustainable youth empowerment and poverty Reduction in Nigeria, focusing on the perspectives of the N-Power beneficiaries residing in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria. There is not enough data to determine whether beneficiaries of the NSIP, particularly, the N-power empowerment programme are sustainably exiting poverty or falling back into poverty, if at all the intervention had previously lifted them out of poverty. Thus, this study was conducted through the lens of the Sustainable Livelihood Approach. Employing the qualitative approach, by means of the multiple case study design, the study recruited ten participants using the purposive sampling technique. Two of the participants withdrew from the study, and eight were engaged on a one-on-one- interview to gain deeper insight into their experiences. Thematic analysis was employed to identify, record, and analyse emanating themes and subthemes from the qualitative data. Participants' responses indicated that Participants had expected an exit package, in form of a financial settlement, or permanent employment before being exited from the programme; N-Power encouraged participants to diversify their income in Agriculture; and the lack of leadership and poor management of N-Power impedes N-Powers capability to improve livelihood sustainably. The study therefore recommended an improvement in the leadership and management of N-Power, to enable improved training and welfare for beneficiaries, and enhance its potential for sustainable livelihood improvement. Private sector partnership should also be encouraged to expand opportunities and make N-power transformative by linking beneficiaries to economic opportunities.

Keywords: National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), N-power, Poverty reduction, Nigeria, Sustainability, Empowerment, Sustainable Livelihood Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods Framework.