

EFFECT OF NAPEP SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMMES ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN KWALI AREA COUNCIL, FCT ABUJA, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) skill acquisition programmes on poverty reduction in the Kwali Area Council, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nigeria. The study was motivated by the persistent increase in poverty, unemployment, and economic vulnerability among youth and women despite several government poverty alleviation initiatives. Specifically, the study investigated the extent to which NAPEP carpentry skill acquisition and solar/renewable energy training programmes contributed to income generation, employment opportunities, and poverty reduction among beneficiaries in the study area. The study adopted the Basic Needs Theory as propounded by Maslow (1973) and Burton (1990) as its theoretical framework. A mixed-methods research design involving survey and documentary approaches was employed. The population of the study comprised 3,840 beneficiaries of NAPEP programmes across the ten wards in the Kwali Area Council, while a sample size of 362 respondents was determined using the Yamane sampling formula. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and relevant documentary sources. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used for data analysis. Findings revealed that NAPEP skill acquisition programmes had a positive effect on poverty reduction, employability, and income-generation opportunities among beneficiaries. The study further showed that the solar/renewable energy training programme significantly improved beneficiaries' income opportunities, while empowerment tools provided under the programme were generally affordable and accessible. However, the study found that the programme had limited success in creating sustainable employment opportunities for all beneficiaries. The study concluded that NAPEP skill acquisition initiatives contributed positively to poverty reduction in the Kwali Area Council. The study recommended continuous monitoring and evaluation of the programme, improved access to post-training financial support, and stronger collaboration between

government agencies and private-sector stakeholders to ensure sustainable job creation and long-term poverty reduction.

Keywords: Skill Acquisition, Poverty Reduction, NAPEP, Empowerment, Poverty

Introduction

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) operates skill acquisition schemes aimed at fostering self-reliance among Nigerians, particularly youth, women and vulnerable groups. The scheme capacity building programme which provides vocational skills like fashion design and tailoring, hair dressing, catering and baking, soap making, make-up, digital literacy, poultry farming, decoration, bead making and embroidery, while technical training skills includes automobile repairs, electrical works, welding and fabrication, plumbing, tiling, carpentry, and sola/renewable energy installation in various trades to enhance employability and entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment, has adopted some sustainable development strategies for rural development and poverty reduction that are in line with development planning documents of UN policies, environmental, and other policies, strategic national and regional development documents, and sectorial policies and programmes (Kamruzzaman, 2024). The National Poverty Eradication Programme has an overarching plan for future progress and equally partners with NGOs in FCT to achieve this purpose, a set of top objectives for development, and some ideas on how to achieve the goals. The targets are designed to spur action over many years in crucial areas for human and environmental well-being (UN, 2025). Poverty remains a significant challenge in Nigeria, particularly in urban areas, including the Kwali Area Council. It is essential to explore the potential of the NAPEP in addressing this issue and improving the well-being of vulnerable populations.

The study examines the effect of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP's) skill acquisition programme in the Kwali Area Council of FCT, Abuja, Nigeria, has contributed to poverty reduction. It was also examined the inter-linkages between different NAPEPs programmes and how progress in one goal can positively or negatively affect other

related goals. The Nigerian government at all levels made several policies and programmes to address the problems of poverty and inequality. Despite these efforts, the rise in the standard of living noticed in the advanced world has not trickled down favourably to the developing countries as a gap still exists between the haves and the have-nots, (Uwaoma, 2020). This phenomenon has led to a constant review of approaches to poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria.

One of the major poverty reduction programmes is the NAPEPs' Social Support Operation and NAPEPs' technical skills acquisition training programmes, a World Bank-funded project implemented by the Nigerian government to reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities for youth in Abuja and other states in Nigeria, the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), a comprehensive social protection programme aimed at reducing poverty and improving the welfare of vulnerable groups in Nigeria, including children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, and the Anchor Borrowers Programme, the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative, and the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme, among others. Thus, this study seeks to assess the effect of National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) skill acquisition on poverty reduction in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja Nigeria.

In Nigeria, NAPEPs policies were strengthened by the appointment of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on poverty reduction, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with a wide array of stakeholders that included line Ministries, Civil Society Organizations; organized Private Sector, the Academia; Development Partners; youth groups; women's organizations; persons with disabilities, as well as, Media Organizations (Oleribe, 2022). Although some of the activities of NAPEPs exist, the efficiency of NAPEP in enhancing poverty reduction and rural development in Kwali area council from 2015-2025 has not been empirically examined and documented.

Despite the adoption of NAPEP and the subsequent commitment of Nigeria to its implementation, the effectiveness of NAPEPs initiatives in alleviating

poverty in Kwali Area Councils, of FCT, Abuja remains uncertain. Therefore, there is need to examine the specific effect of these skill acquisition on Poverty Reduction in Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja like the youth skill empowerment program. Against this background, this study seeks to assess the effect of National Poverty Eradication Programmes technical skill acquisition on Poverty Reduction in Kwali Area Council Abuja Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. Does NAPEPs carpentry skill acquisition programme impact on the poverty reduction of beneficiaries?
2. Does NAPEP solar/renewable energy training programme significantly increase the income opportunities of beneficiaries in the Kwali Area Council?
3. How affordable are the NAPEP empowerment tools to beneficiaries in the Kwali Area Council?

Objectives of the Study

1. To determine whether the carpentry skill acquisition actually has impact on poverty reduction.
2. To ascertain if NAPEPs training on solar/renewable energy has impact on beneficiaries income.
3. To determine the extent of affordability of the empowerment tools to beneficiaries.

Conceptual Issues

Poverty

The term poverty is a description of detestable life which is in need of urgent change. Haralambos and Heald (2020) identified poverty to be relative, subjective or absolute. Relative poverty is measured by what members of the society consider desirable and acceptable standard of living within the context of their situations, circumstances, environment and culture. Subjective poverty on the other hand refers to individual or group subjective feeling of being poor. Under subjective poverty, poverty is not

measured by the level of income or living standard but by individuals feeling of contentment and sense of fulfilment in life. In absolute terms the definition of poverty is concern with drawing a poverty line below which begins and above which it ends. The line drawn for poverty universally is those spending below \$2 (₦3,000) daily, for an extreme poverty those spending less than \$1 (₦1,500 officially exchange rate daily (UNDP, 2024). Poverty describes a wide range of circumstances associated with need, hardship and lack of resources. It is a relative term depicting deprivations, which result from improper or unbalanced distribution of resources Okeke (2021). The deprivation could be of essential goods and services or a lack of wealth (usually understood as capital, money, material goods and resources).

Poverty is a global phenomenon which is a major policy concern at both domestic and international level. It is a form of deprivation that creates inequality and which requires an address urgently because it is possible to do so with sincerity of purpose. The increasing level of poverty and inequality particularly in the developing world compelled for researches by scholars and international agencies on how to resolve the menace. There is an increasing concern that economic growth is not leading to declining poverty and inequality in most developing countries and the gap between the rich and poor countries is widening (Sachs, 2024).

Empowerment

There are no universally accepted definitions of empowerment in the literature. In some of these definitions empowerment is seen as a goal, and in some as a means (Per-Anders, 2020). Per-Anders (2020) defined empowerment as an increase in the person's control over the determinants of their quality of life, through (necessarily) an increase in either health (e.g. through self-confidence, self-esteem, self-efficacy, autonomy), or knowledge (self-knowledge, consciousness raising, skills development, competence), or freedom (or positive). Kabeer (2023) defined empowerment as an ability to make choices. To be disempowered means to be denied choice, while empowerment refers to the processes by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such

ability. Kabeer (2023) however noted that, certain conditions are necessary for choice to happen: a. Alternatives must exist. This entails the ability to have different choices. As such Poverty and disempowerment generally go hand in hand, because they limit people's ability to meet their basic needs, hence dependence on others which rules out the capacity for meaningful choice, b. Alternatives must not only exist, they must also be seen to exist. Power relations are most effective when they are not perceived as such. These forms of behaviour could be said to reflect 'choice', but are really based on the denial of choice. Kabeer (2023) adds that the concept of empowerment can be explored through three closely interrelated dimensions: agency, resources, and achievements. Agency represents the processes by which choices are made and put into effect. It is hence central to the concept of empowerment. Resources are the medium through which agency is exercised; and achievements refer to the outcomes of agency. Each of these dimensions is interrelated. For the purpose of the study, Per Anders (2021) definition was adopted.

Poverty Reduction

Poverty alleviation means making poverty more bearable. It serves as a pain reliever. However, poverty reduction means making poverty less prevalent (Ike, 2020). It means removal of the causes of the pain. Many past regimes pursued poverty alleviation programmes at the utter neglect of poverty reduction. This is giving a man fish-in-order for him to survive.

This is because policy initiators viewed poverty simply as deprivation of essential goods and services. Thus attacking it, the attention of government had focused on helping the materially deprived (the poor) to alleviate his/her condition. We do not condemn alleviation but reduction would be more sustainable measure to fight poverty. From the foregoing, it becomes imperative that to reduce poverty, wealth has to be created. Wealth creation is all encompassing, and should be for every home, family community and every local government. Mofuoa (2020) stressed that successful poverty reduction requires sustained wealth creation.

NAPEP

The rationale behind the conception and eventual establishment of NAPEP stemmed from the failures of the successive colonial and post-colonial poverty alleviation programmes to achieve the set targets. The NAPEP was therefore, established in 2001, by the Obasanjo civilian Administration, as a corrective likewise alternative poverty alleviation programme, which was aimed essentially at enhancing the living conditions of the Nigerian populace, including especially the poor and unemployed youth as could be seen in both the urban and rural areas in Nigeria. Furthermore, NAPEP was equally aimed at addressing the aspects of absolute poverty in the country and to eradicate them. The stakeholders recognized that certain fundamental reasons were responsible for the inadequacy of anti-poverty measures over the years, which include inadequate involvement of stakeholders, poor management and implementation arrangements and lack of proper coordination. All these seemed to have received attention in designing NAPEP and to make it different from all past efforts. The mandate is to monitor and coordinate all poverty eradication efforts in order to harmonize and ensure better delivery, maximum impact and effective utilization of available resources (Okoye & Onyukwu, 2021).

Skill Acquisition

The structured, systematic process of learning, practicing and mastering of new abilities through training or experiences both technical and interpersonal to achieve proficiency, improve performance and enhance self-reliance. Skill Acquisition transforms knowledge into competence through training and experience, enabling individuals to perform tasks efficiently, often for employment or personal development.

Empirical Review

Empirical review refers to a systematic and comprehensive examination of existing empirical research studies conducted on a particular topic or research question. It involves the process of collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing the findings of multiple empirical studies to gain a deeper understanding of a specific area of study.

NAPEPs Technical Skill Acquisition Training Programme

Ossai (2024) The NAPEPs programs are meant to be achieved over a lengthy period of time, which places heavy demands on the long-term viability of linked policies and initiatives. Our research shows that the federal government requires a broader understanding of sustainable development before it can take effective action. Poverty has remained a pervasive problem in Nigerian society, with a much more devastating dimension in the North where unemployment, underdevelopment, and squalor are realities of daily living for most people. This development gap has led to the reliance on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other large indigenous business firms to complement the efforts of the government in enhancing their well-being (Uzor, 2024). In regions with stronger economic foundations, goals related to human well-being take precedence, while in places with poorer foundations, goals related to fundamental economic development, infrastructure, and industrialization are prioritised.

One possible criticism of this study is that the use of textual analysis alone may not provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex interrelationships between NAPEP and Brazil's National Sustainable Communities (BNSCs) program. While textual analysis is a useful tool to identify patterns and themes in large bodies of text, it may not capture the full extent of the program's impact on the NAPEPs or account for other factors that may influence the prioritization of certain goals over others.

Additionally, the study's focus on regional economic foundations as a determining factor in the prioritization of NAPEP may oversimplify the complex interplay of social, economic, and political factors that affect sustainable development outcomes in different regions. Other factors such as political will, institutional capacity, and community participation could also play important roles in shaping the implementation and success of the NAPEPs program in achieving poverty reduction.

Olofu, (2024) found that vocational education is essential to the success of the NAPEP because of the positive effects it has on youth development, including increased employability and the development of important life skills. Undoubtedly, bettering vocational education will aid in the

realization of the NAPEPs goals. It has been discovered that among Multinational Corporations (MNCs) vocational training interventions are career counseling sessions, which give students a chance to learn about career options they may choose as they move on to higher education institutions; this includes the Adopt a School programme, STEM camps for girls, and other similar initiatives.

The MNCs infrastructure and educational outputs have both benefited from its implementation. The NAPEP serve as the basis for all of these efforts. This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the role that non-state actors play, in particular MNCs, play in advancing Nigeria's educational system and in achieving global sustainable development goals.

NAPEPs Youth Employment and Social Support Operation

Abdulkhakim (2023), assessed the impact of youth employment and social support operation programmes on poverty reduction among Skills for Job beneficiaries in Adamawa State. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The study was conducted in Yola North and Yola South Local Government Areas of Adamawa State. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Data were collected with the instrument from 199 sampled respondents. Three experts validated the instrument, and the instrument was trial-tested using the test-retest method of estimating reliability; its reliability coefficient was found to be 0.84. The mean was used to answer the research questions. The findings of the study revealed the following: The first-level training was implemented satisfactorily. The second beneficiaries feeding programme was done successfully. The monthly stipends paid to the second beneficiaries influenced their livelihood positively, and the trainees acquired the required skills for poverty reduction during the internship. In Nigeria these days, human battle to make cash every day and in the method a number of crimes are devoted. This phenomenon has risen to an alarming share. It's more common in recent times to Nigerians, especially youths, who want to have all the material comforts within the complete global without being geared up to paintings at all (Uzoh, 2023). Recommendations made among others include: first-level training should be sustained in subsequent skill

acquisition projects, and since the NAPEP programme is still on, the government should come up with more programme that would support NAPEP.

Temitope (2020), evaluates Nigeria's poverty alleviation strategies and sustainable development. These strategies and initiatives were introduced by both the present and past governments of Nigeria with the aim of reducing poverty to a minimum level. Nigeria's poverty situation has made the country one of the poorest countries in the world, with its citizens surviving on less than \$2 per day because efforts to reduce the poverty level over the years have not been successful. The survey method was employed, and primary and secondary data were used through a review of related literature. These initiatives are judged to be unsatisfactory and poorly implemented in meeting the number one sustainable development goal (SDG) by the year 2030 if not properly adjusted. The government needs to come up with ideas and policies to address all the obstacles hindering the success of the various strategy programmes. More so, the government should pursue aggressive diversification of the economy to include non-oil sectors like the agricultural sector so as to address poverty in rural communities.

Ominyi et al. (2024) reassessed sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria, covering the period of 2019-2023. The data utilized was sourced from the World Bank's Development Indicators (2022). The study relied on Oscar's (2022) Individual Deficiencies theoretical postulations to provide insights on the significance of sustainable development towards poverty reduction. To undertake the empirical analysis, the study applied the Vector Error Correction Method (VECM). The VECM results revealed that per capita income, life expectancy rate, literacy rate, and GDP growth rate exerted a positive and significant effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria. However, the elasticity of the series is less than proportional, indicating a minimal effect and calling for an all-inclusive approach. The study concluded that improvements in the series have the capacity to reduce poverty levels in Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the government should ensure sustainable development in various socio-economic activities that can increase and

sustain per capita income towards a better standard of living for the populace, which can result in poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Gaps in Literature

While some studies mentioned the use of qualitative research methods, such as focus groups and interviews, most of the studies relied heavily on quantitative analysis. This suggests a potential gap in the literature regarding in-depth qualitative studies that can provide deeper insights and understanding of the complexities and subtle differences of poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Some studies relied solely on data analysis and did not incorporate the perspectives of key stakeholders, such as the beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs or local communities. Incorporating these perspectives can provide valuable insights and help inform the design and implementation of more effective poverty reduction strategies. Antonio (2022) study does not provide a detailed description of the High Value Agriculture Project (HVAP) itself, including its specific interventions, methodologies, and implementation strategies. The analysis does not delve into the specific challenges and limitations faced during the implementation of the HVAP. The study lacks quantitative data or statistical analysis to support the findings and claims made regarding the positive effects on household living conditions. Uwaoma et al. (2020) The study does not provide a comprehensive analysis of the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) in AMAC, Abuja, including its specific interventions and outcomes. While the study acknowledges the impact of poverty on rural communities, it does not provide a detailed exploration of the underlying causes and factors contributing to poverty in the specific context of Abuja. The study does not offer specific policy recommendations or actionable strategies to address the identified issues and challenges. The study focuses solely on the gendered perspective of cassava processing in North central Nigeria, limiting the generalizability of the findings to other regions or crops. The sample size of 250 cassava growers may not be representative of the entire population, raising concerns about the generalizability of the results.

The study lacks a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by female cassava growers and strategies to overcome these challenges. The study does not provide concrete policy recommendations to support women's participation in agricultural value chains.

Theoretical Framework

Basic Needs Theory

The study adopted Maslow's (1973) and Burton's (1990) Basic Needs Theories. The basis for the adoption of human needs theories is that all humans have certain basic universal needs and that when these needs are not met, conflict is likely to occur. Maslow (1973) proposed a hierarchy of needs beginning with the need for food, water, and shelter, followed by the need for safety and security, then belonging or love, self-esteem, and, finally, personal fulfillment and self-actualization. Later in his life, Maslow (1973) proposed self-transcendence as a need above self-actualization in the hierarchy of needs.

Burton (1990) also identifies a set of needs, which he considers to be universal in their occurrence but with no hierarchical significance. His list of needs includes distributive justice, safety and security, belongingness, self-esteem, personal fulfillment, identity, cultural security, and freedom. While Maslow and Burton emphasize human biological, psychological, and social needs, Marshall Rosenberg introduces a new set of needs that could best be categorised as psycho-spiritual in nature, among them the need for "love integrity," "celebration and mourning," and "spiritual communion (Danesh, 2011)." Likewise, Max-Neef and his colleagues added their own uniquely understood human needs, including the need for "creation" and "leisure and idleness." (For a comparative review of these theories, see Kok, 2020). Hertnon (2025) proposes the Theory of Universal Human Needs based on just two needs: survival and betterment. Under survival needs, he identifies physical and mental well-being, respect from others, and self-esteem (all required for happiness), a safe and healthy environment, logical reproductive practices, appreciation of life, and doing good things (all required for contentment).

Relevance of the Theory to the Study

The Basic Needs Theory on the study of the assessing the effect of NAPEPs skill acquisition program on poverty reduction in the Kwali Area Council is interconnected and relevant in multiple ways. The Basic Needs Theory focuses on identifying and fulfilling the essential requirements for human well-being, such as food, shelter, healthcare, education, and employment. By applying this theory to the study of NAPEP in the Kwali Area Council of the FCT, researchers can gain insights into the specific needs of the local population living in poverty and assess the effectiveness of NAPEP interventions in meeting these needs.

NAPEP's objectives aim to reduce poverty and ensure access to basic necessities for all individuals. Poverty is a pervasive problem in Nigeria. It manifests in the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Other features are hunger and malnutrition, lack of employment opportunities, limited access to health care, education, and other basic services, social discrimination, and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making" (Uzoh, 2024). The Basic Needs Theory provides a framework for assessing the effect of NAPEPs implementation of skill acquisition on poverty reduction. Researchers can examine whether NAPEP address the basic needs of the impoverished population in the Kawli Area Council and evaluate the success of interventions in improving their well-being. The Basic Needs Theory can inform policy and intervention design to address poverty in the Area council and Nigeria as a whole by identifying the basic needs of the local population, policymakers and stakeholders can tailor NAPEPs implementation strategies to effectively meet those needs. This approach ensures that interventions are targeted and impactful, leading to better poverty reduction outcomes. The Basic Needs Theory provides a basis for monitoring and evaluating the effect of NAPEPs implementation on poverty reduction in the Kwali Area Council of FCT Abuja. By using indicators related to essential needs (e.g., access to education, healthcare, clean water), researchers can assess whether the interventions are effectively improving living conditions, reducing poverty rates, and enhancing the well-being of the population. Finally, the Basic Needs Theory is relevant to the study as it helps in understanding poverty,

guiding policy design, monitoring progress, and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions in meeting the basic needs of the local population.

Methodology

For the purpose of this study, mix research methods were adopted. This consists of survey and documentary research design. It involves using questionnaires to collect data from the respondents and reviewing relevant documents to complement the questionnaire. The survey design was used in this study to determine the relationships between the independent variables (implementation of NAPEPs technical skill acquisition) and its effect on the dependent variable (poverty reduction in Kwali). This study therefore focuses on getting information on the NAPEPs youth skill acquisition and how it has impacted the achievement of poverty reduction. The research relied heavily on both primary and secondary sources of data, as data gotten first hand serves as primary sources, while using the scholarly view of other scholars regarding NAPEPs goal. Secondary sources and documents from the NAPEPs office on the implementation of poverty reduction programmes within the period under review were consulted. The beneficiaries of NAPEP skill acquisition is 362.

The population of this study is 3,840 drawn from the 10 geo-political wards in Kwali Area Council ie kwali central, yebu, yangoji, pai, ashara, dafa, kundu, wako, gumbo, kilankwa and this was obtained from NAPEPs office Abuja. This group is particularly relevant as they are often among the most impoverished in the region and are more likely to be impacted by poverty reduction interventions.

The most appropriate sampling technique for this study is the combinations of the following sampling techniques Stratified sampling: the population of the study were divided into subgroups (strata) based on relevant characteristics, such as socioeconomic status, gender, or location, and then randomly selecting a sample from each stratum. This approach ensures that the sample is representative of the diversity of the population and provides more accurate estimates of the relationships between NAPEP and poverty

reduction across different subgroups. Purposive sampling was used to select participants from the selected communities based on specific characteristics. This method is useful because the researcher cannot access all the communities in Kwali. Purposive sampling, which is a non-probability sampling technique, was adopted. This means the procedure of selection was deliberately chosen by the researcher. The study employs purposive sampling techniques whereby the researcher issue questionnaires to those who benefited from poverty reduction programmes in the Kwali Area Council within 2015 – 2025 and the administrators of NAPEP in Abuja.

Using the Yamani (1967) formula, a sample size of 362 respondents was chosen for the study, which is a fair representation of the total number. This is because, the population of the study is known therefore, the Yamani (1973) was used to determine the sample size for the study as follows;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample
Size

N = Total Population

e = Margin of error (0.05) ²

1 = Constant

N = 3,840

e = (0.05) ²

1 = Constant

$$\frac{3,840}{1 + (3,840 \times 0.0025)} n =$$

$$\frac{3,840}{1 + 9.6} n =$$

$$\frac{3,840}{10.6} n =$$

$$n = 362$$

Data Presentation

Table 1: Was your income before the training able to meet your family basic needs?

Variables Percent	Frequency (Beneficiaries)
Yes 11.3	41
No 88.7	321
100	362

Source: Field Survey 2026

The table above shows that the income of 41 beneficiaries, representing 11.3% before the skill acquisition were able to sustain their family while 321 of beneficiaries representing 88.7% were affected by poverty as their income before the program was not meeting their family needs. This indicates that the National Poverty Eradication Program Skill Acquisition training program in apt in the Area Council.

Table 2: How long did the training program last?

Variables Percent (Months) %	Frequency (Beneficiaries) Duration of program
1-12 18.2	66
13-24 47.0	170
25-36 19.3	70
36+ 15.5	56
100	362

Source: Field Survey 2026

From the above table 66 respondents representing 18.2% were trained within one year, 170 beneficiaries representing 47% were trained for two years, 70 respondents, representing 19.3% had their training in three years, while 56 respondents representing 15.5% was trained over three years. This

indicates that at the period of two years beneficiaries are adequately knowledgeable of the program and can be independent.

Table 3: Does NAPEPs carpentry skill acquisition programme impact on the poverty reduction of Beneficiaries?

Variables Percent	Frequency (Beneficiaries)	
Strongly Agreed 49.7		180
Agreed	85	23.5
Disagreed 12.7		46
Strongly Disagreed 11.3		41
Undecided 2.8		10
100		362

Source: Field Survey 2026

The table above interprets that 180 majority of respondents representing (49.7%) strongly agreed that NAPEP programs have an impact on the poverty reduction of beneficiaries. This is supported by the fact that 23.5% agreed with this statement. On the other hand, a significant portion of 46 respondents disagreed, 41 respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, indicating that they do not believe that the programs have a significant effect on poverty reduction, while 10 respondents which is smaller proportion representing (2.8%) remained undecided on the effect of the programs on poverty reduction. Overall, it can be concluded that while there is a significant portion of respondents who believe in the effect of NAPEPs programs, there is also a considerable number who do not believe in its effectiveness.

Table 4: Does NAPEPs solar/renewable energy training programmes significantly increase the income opportunities of beneficiaries in the Kwali Area Council.

Variables Percent	Frequency (Beneficiaries)	
Strongly Agreed 51.7		187
Agreed		81

22.3	
Disagreed	56
15.5	
Strongly Disagreed	30
8.3	
Undecided	8
2.2	
	362
100	

Source: Field Survey 2026

Based on the data provided, the table interprets the following regarding the NAPEP programme and its impact on poverty reduction: Out of the total respondents, 187 of them representing 51.7% strongly agreed that the NAPEP solar/renewable energy training programme significantly increases the income of beneficiaries thereby reducing poverty of youths in the Area. Additionally, 81 respondents representing 22.3% of the respondents agreed with this statement. On the other hand, 56 respondents representing 15.5% of the respondents disagreed that the NAPEP programme has a significant impact on poverty reduction. Furthermore, 30 representing 8.3% strongly disagreed with this statement. Only a small percentage of 8 respondents, representing 2.2%, were undecided regarding the impact of the NAPEP solar/renewable energy training programme on poverty reduction in the Kwali Area Council.

Table 5: How affordable can beneficiaries access empowerment tools.

Variables Percent	Frequency (Beneficiaries)
Affordable	57
15.7	
Very Affordable	243
67.1	
Expensive	22
6.1	
Very Expensive	30
8.3	
Undecided	10
2.8	
	362
100	

Source: Field Survey 2026

Based on respondents' responses, the table shows that NAPEP empowerment tools are very affordable to beneficiaries who require them for their daily work: Out of the total respondents, 15.7% responded to its affordability, 67.1% of the 243 respondents agreed with the statement that it is very affordable. On the other hand 22 respondents, representing 6.1% are of the opinion that NAPEP empowerment tools are expensive to afford which and this has effect on poverty reduction.

Discussion of Findings

The finding from the study provides substantial evidence to support the notion that NAPEP program have a significant positive impact on the poverty reduction of beneficiaries. The results indicate that the implementation of these programs has been successful, effectively improving the lives of individuals and potentially opening doors to enhanced employability and income-generation opportunities.

With the world rapidly advancing towards a technology-driven era, possessing relevant empowerment program tools no matter how small has become increasingly vital for individuals seeking to thrive in the job market.

The finding demonstrates the significant positive impact of the NAPEPs programmes on the skill development of beneficiaries. The successful implementation of these programs enhances the technical competencies of individuals, potentially leading to improved employability and income generation opportunities. These findings underscore the importance of continued investment on empowerment initiatives to foster sustainable development, reduce poverty, and empower individuals to thrive in an ever-changing global job market.

These findings suggest that the implementation of NAPEPs skill acquisition programs may indeed have a statistically significant positive effect on the development of beneficiaries, thereby contributing to enhanced employability and income-generation opportunities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the NAPEPs skill acquisition programs that lead to poverty reduction have proven to be successful in developing the skills of the beneficiaries. This indicates that the implementation of these programs has effectively enhanced the abilities of women and youth, potentially leading to increased employability and income generation opportunities. However, it is important to note that the NAPEP skill acquisition and Poverty Reduction program did not effectively enhance employment generation in the area council. This suggests that the implementation of the NAPEP program faced challenges or limitations in its design or execution, resulting in a lack of sustainable job options and limited support for individuals in the area councils.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the effectiveness of the programs by NAPEP.

Youth Empowerment Programs: The finding that NAPEP empowerment programs have a statistically significant positive effect on women and youth development is encouraging. To maximize the impact of these programs, efforts should be made to ensure that enough empowerment programs are provided to align with the market demand and tailored to the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Regular evaluations should be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the skills and identify areas for improvement.

NAPEP Poverty Reduction Program: The finding that the NAPEP program did not reduce the poverty of women and youth in the area councils suggests the need for comprehensive reassessment and redesign of the program. It is essential to identify the underlying factors contributing to the lack of poverty reduction in the area and address them accordingly. This may involve revisiting the program's objectives, improving coordination with other relevant stakeholders like NGOs, Federal Capital Administration, and incorporating entrepreneurship development components to promote sustainable job creation as the number of youth are on the increase.

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