SUBSIDY RE-INVESTMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (SURE-P) AS A STRATEGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE (2012-2014)

BY

HOSSANA DANIEL SAIBI

P13ADLG8014

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATION
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA
NIGERIA

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Hossana Daniel SAIBI

P13ADLG8014

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NIGERIA

SEPTEMBER, 2016

DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation titled "Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme as a strategy for Poverty Reduction in selected Local Government Areas of Taraba State" has been carried out by me in the Department of Local Government and Development studies. The information derived from the literature has been dully acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this dissertation was previously presented for another degree or diploma at this or any institution.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Student	**Signature**	**Date**

CERTIFICATION

This Dissertation titled SUBSIDY REINVESTMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME AS A STRATEGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE by Hossana Daniel SAIBI meets the regulations governing the award of the Degree of Master of Science in Policy and Development Studies of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

_____ _____

Prof. Adejo Odoh Date
Chairman, Supervisory Committee

_____ _____

Dr. Muhammad Kabir Isa Date
Member, Supervisory Committee

_____ _____

Dr. Bashir Jumare Date
Head of Department

_____ _____

Prof. Kabiru Bala Date
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

DEDICATION

This Dissertation is dedicated to God Almighty, my loving-caring parents, Late Daniel Saibi and Mrs. Ruya Daniel and my ever lovely and caring Brethren Dickens Daniel, Minta Daniel and Tunani Daniel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With indisputable humility and sincerity, I appreciate and acknowledge God for His kind mercy and grace without which this work would have become a fruitless effort. My gratitude goes to the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee, Professor Adejo Odoh for his determined advice, constructive criticism, and diligent supervision of this work, at every stage to its completion which has improved significantly the quality of the work despite his very tight schedule and who acted not only as a supervisor but as a father; I am profoundly grateful and indebted. I would like to also specially appreciate my second Supervisor and the immediate past Head of Department Dr. M.K. Isa, the present HOD Dr. Bashir Jumare for their strong-minded support and encouragement towards academic excellence and your leadership role in ensuring speedy completion of this work your push has contributed immensely.

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ABSTRACT

Taraba State is characterized with alarming poverty/unemployment rate where 65.8% in every 4-6 persons and 81.5% in over 7 persons is said to be poor in 2009-2010, unemployment was at 26.8% in 2009, 24.7% in 2010 and 12.7 in 2011 respectively considering its high level of natural and human endowments. In many parts of the state most especially the selected local government areas, people cannot be able to provide for themselves foods, shelter, clothing which are the basic needs. They lack skills and self-esteem, have no access to social issues, economic infrastructure such as education, health, good water and sanitation etc; there is high level of illiteracy, crime rates, communal clashes leading to crisis and lack employment opportunities. The study aims at analyzing SURE-P in order to ascertain the contribution of the programme to the people of Taraba State as it affects their wellbeing in improving their standard of living vis-à-vis poverty reduction. It is to examine the efficacy of the Programme with the main objective to examine how it becomes an effective policy for empowerment leading to Poverty Reduction in Taraba State. Purposive and stratified random sampling was used to sample 240 respondents in the study area. Data were collected both from primary and secondary sources using structured questionnaire, structured and unstructured interview/focus group discussions guide and checklist of issues for observation. A total of 178 questionnaires were used for the analysis using both descriptive and inferential statistics, while Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) was used to test the hypotheses using IBM SPSS version 20. The study revealed that there is a positive relationship between Community Services Scheme at 95% level of significance as well as Vocational Skills Training Scheme, Graduate Internship Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' poverty level. This study further found that policy inconsistencies in regards to the scrapping of the programme due to the change in government have affected the last quarter of the programme. Cases of corruption and embezzlement in some LGs such as Karim-lamido, Ibi, Ardo-Kola and Wukari were found whereby the funds allocated for the programme were diverted for other purposes like renovation/fencing of their LG secretariat, buying of buses etc other than what is in the SURE-P project document. The study recommended for more Community Services Scheme, Vocational Skills Training Scheme and Graduate internship to be implemented by SURE-P in the state to improve the general welfare of the people. That government (present administration) should revamp the SURE-P programme since the beneficiaries were passionate, committed and much eager to continue with the programme implementation in the state, cases of corruption and embezzlement in some LGs should be dealt with; and also recommended for good policy atmosphere by the government to avoid policy inconsistencies.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SURE-P: - Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme

SSN: - Social Safety Net

NNPC: - Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation

CS/WYE: - Community Services, Women and Youth Employment

CSS: - Community Services Scheme

VSTS: - Vocational Skills Training Scheme

GIS: - Graduate Internship Scheme

SMEs: - Small and Medium scale Enterprises

FBOs: - Faith Based Organizations

CSOs: - Civil Society Organizations

CSO: - Community Services Officer

FCT: - Federal Capital Territory

NDE: - National Directorate of Employment

NAPEP: - National Poverty Eradication Programme

FEAP: - Family Economic and Advancement Programme

NEEDS: - National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

ZNCCS: - Zimbabwe National Committee on Community Services

ILO: - International Labour Organization

UNDP: - United Nations Development Programme

US: - United State

FOS: - Federal Office of Statistics

HDI: - Human Development Index

NAFPP: - National Accelerated Food Production Programme

NACB: - Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperation Bank

DFRRI: - Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructure

BLP: - Better Life Programme

FSP: - Family Support Programme

PAP: - Poverty Alleviation Programme

YES: - Youth Empowerment Scheme

RIDS: - Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme

SOWESS: - Social Welfare Services Scheme

NRDCS: - National Resources Development and Conservation Scheme

CAP: - Capacity Acquisition Programme

MAN: - Mandatory Attachment Programme

UN: - United Nations

PRSP: - Poverty Reduction Strategy Process

NALDA: - Nigeria Agricultural Land Development Authority

OFN: - Operation Feed the Nation

WAI: - War Against Indiscipline

MTP: - Mass Transit Programme

GWEP: - Guinea Worm Eradication Programme

PTF: - Petroleum (special) Trust Fund

NBS: - National Bureau of Statistics

NIYEAP: - Nigerian Youth Empowerment Action Plan

CAN: - Christian Association of Nigeria

LDCs: - Less Developed Countries

IT: - Institutional Theory

LG: - Local Government

FGDs: - Focus Group Discussions

LGA: - Local Government Area

IBM: - International Business Machine

SPSS: - Scientific Packages for Social Sciences

CME: - Coordinating Minister for the Economy

PMU: - Project Management Unit

PIU: - Project Implementation Unit

MOUs: - Memorandum of Understandings

FGN: - Federal Government of Nigeria

MDAs: - Ministries, Department and Agencies

CDAs: - Community Development Associations

PMS: - Premium Motor Spirit

M&E: - Monitoring and Evaluation

NYSC: - National Youth Service Corps

FMI: - Federal Ministry of Information

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

One of the key issues in development is how to deal with poverty. The challenges of poverty and youth unemployment in most regions of the world have been observed to be increasing sharply from the end of 2008. This scenario of rising global youth unemployment has been worsened by the world economic crisis that began in 2009, which eroded the gains recorded in the pre 2008 years. In this regard, the International Labour Organization (2012:11) has reported that:

> *The global youth unemployment rate has proved sticky, and remained close to its crisis peak. At 11.28 percent in 2011 and projected at 12.7 percent for 2012, the global youth unemployment rate remains at least a full percentage point above its level in 2007. Nearly 75 million youth are unemployed around the world, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007.*

The constraints to developing local areas as well as the problems of this critical sector have come to loom very large. Local areas present problems that are paradoxical of its natural resource endowment. Local communities are marginalized in terms of most basic elements of development. The inhabitants tend to live at the margin of existence and opportunities as most local communities lack portable water, food, electricity, health care, educational and recreational facilities and motorable roads.

Poverty reduction has become a major focus of economic policy, policy research and analysis and development management. The need becomes particularly compelling in developing countries where poverty is most dehumanizing (Obadan et al., 2003).

Attempts to put local areas on the course of development in Nigeria over the past decades have not yielded much impact. Conditions have continued to worsen and poverty has become a major issue in Taraba State and especially the selected Local Governments inspite of its potentials. A common thread that runs through the various perceptions of "poverty" connotes material and non-material deprivation and lack of control over resources to meet essential needs. If the incidence of poverty runs counter to the development aspirations, its alleviation or eradication becomes a worth-while Endeavour irrespective of ideology, structural and organizational arrangement.

The partial removal of the petroleum subsidy in Nigeria in a national broadcast of January 1, 2012 by President Goodluck Jonathan has made it possible for government to set out an important objective and channel much needed resources to investments in critical areas of need that will stimulate economic growth and citizen empowerment. In order to cushion the effect of the partial subsidy removal on Nigerians especially the poor, government initiated the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P). The programme has eight (8) components namely; the Social Safety Net (SSN), Niger Delta Development, Road Infrastructure, Rail Transport, Water and Agriculture, Selected Power Projects, Petroleum and NNPC Projects and Information and Communication Technology (National Planning Commission, 2011).

The Social Safety Net (SSN) Component of the SURE-P has three (3) sub-components, which are the Maternal and Child Health Services, Community Services, Women and Youth Employment and Urban Mass Transport (National Planning Commission, 2011). As part of the social safety net strategy, government has deliberately placed the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment (CS/WYE) component of the SURE-P on priority agenda due to the urgent need to engage the teeming unemployed women and youth in labour intensive services targeted at rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructures.

For the purpose of this study, emphasis is laid on the Community Services, Women and Youths Employment component of the Social Safety Net of SURE-P implemented in the selected LGs of Taraba State in the year 2012-2014; this is aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of poverty/unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations. In addition, it will help mitigate negative socio-economic consequences of unemployment.

The CS/WYE has three sub-components includes Community Services Scheme and are activities identified by communities, which are required or needed to improve access to public social infrastructures. These services will entail engagement of unemployed poor youths, on temporary basis, to provide needed labour for improvement of public services. Community Services categories and menu are to include infrastructure in health, education, water and sanitation, environment, water transport, infrastructure and construction and traffic control.

Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) is a programme advertised whereby companies (SMEs and Large organizations) were invited to participate in this voluntary programme. Under this programme, successful candidates were placed in eligible institutions where there is a need of

training for a period of one year. During this period, the programme pays a stipend to the candidate. The other advantage provided by the internship programme is the acquisitions of sufficient experience by the interns to enable them establish their own enterprises at the end of the internship, and form peer networks for empowering other unemployed graduates. Another gainful aspect of the graduate internship is the prospect for incentives to companies, in form of tax rebates especially the SMEs who will be willing to retain the interns after the period of internship. The short duration of the internship and the high prospects for job creation place it under short term measure.

Vocational Skills Training Scheme is targeted at the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled youths, who are willing to be trained in specific trades for a given period, to acquire sufficient skills for establishing their own enterprises, with prospects for employing others. Inventory of existing Skills Acquisition Centers set up by various organizations in the public and private sectors, including those owned by Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were used to cut down transportation cost. Where there are no Centers nearby, improvised Centers e.g. Town Hall, Village Square etc were used to enhance training across even the remotely located potential beneficiaries. Participants were guided in the choice of the skills to ensure interest in fast growing sectors. They were paid monthly stipends depending on their level of qualification. After the skills acquisition sessions, participants were further undergone training on fundamentals of enterprise management for sustainability (SURE Document, 2011).

The Community Services Scheme (CSS) of the CS/WYE has the goal to reduce women and youth unemployment and improve socio-economic infrastructures in rural communities for improved livelihood and economic growth. The overall objectives is to harness the potentials of

unemployed women and youth through engagement in labour intensive community services and to expose them to opportunities towards improved employability after the project life, while the specific objectives are: to create employment opportunities for up to 370,000 women and youth in the 36 states of the Federation including the FCT towards improving socio-economic infrastructures; to reduce the vulnerability of unskilled women and youth through exposure to income generation opportunities offered by the scheme; to create good value systems and self-actualization in women and youth through pre-engagement orientation sessions; to enhance societal access to quality social and economic infrastructure and services across the federation. The combination of the SURE-P programmes implemented in the selected LGs is meant to stimulate economic development, alleviate poverty through the engagement of women and youth in labour intensive community services thereby improving the general welfare of the citizens.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Poverty is the oldest and yet unresolved social problem which dates back to the formation of human society. The early societies were either stratified between the slaves and the slave owners, feudal lords and serfs, or the capitalists and the working class. These different forms of social division are simply translated into division between the “haves” and “have nots” or “rich” and “poor”. The rich are of course the better opportuned, privileged, educated and sheltered the healthier and secured social groups, while the poor are the complete opposite – deprived, depressed, dehumanized, traumatized, bastardized, downtrodden and diseased.

Taraba State has a population of 2,294,800 as at 1991-2006 and 2,652, 879 as at 2008-2011 respectively (National Population Commission, 2008-2011). The state recorded absolute poverty in 2009-2010 where in every 1-3 persons is said to be 78.1 non-poor and 21.9 poor, in every 4-6

persons 34.2 non-poor and 65.8 poor, in over 7 persons 18.5 non-poor and 81.5 poor all in percentages (National Bureau of Statistics, Harmonized Nigeria living standard 2009-2010). In the self-assessed poverty in 2009, 7.4 were said to be very poor, 57.3 poor, 33.6 moderately poor, 1.0 fairly rich and 0.7 said to be rich (National Bureau of Statistics, 2009). The unemployed rates as at 2007-2011 in Nigeria is: In 2007 Nigeria recorded about 12.7 unemployed persons, in 2008 it was 14.9, in 2009 19.7, in 2010 21.4 and 2011 was 23.9. In Taraba State it was 15.2 in 2007, 19.9 in 2008, augmented to 26.8 in 2009, dropped to 24.7 in 2010 and 12.7 in 2011 respectively. (National Bureau of Statistics, 2007-2011).

Poverty alleviation is one of the basic social policies of the past Government towards human developments, especially development of the poor, to create opportunities for them to take part in the socio-economic development, and to contribute to implementation of the objective of Wealthy population, powerful country, fair, democratic and civilized society.

Poverty alleviation gets the first priority in the planning and implementation of the socio-economic strategies in each period, yet there is persistence in the poverty level in Taraba state. The state was created in August 27, 1991 and is one of the states that are affected with poverty according to National Bureau of statistics (2007-2011). In many parts of the state, especially the selected LGs people cannot be able to provide for themselves food, shelter, clothing, which are the basic needs of life so as to meet up with their social and economic obligations. They lack skills and self esteem; have no access to social issues, economic infrastructures such as education, health, good water and sanitation that will catapult them into the chances of advancing their welfare with no limit to their capabilities as well as to the socio-economic development of the state and the country at large.

In the State, there is high level of illiteracy, crime rates, communal clashes leading to crisis, unemployment is of high standard simply because since the creation of the state, there is no mass employment that has ever taken place in the state; interviews were conducted and thrown into the dust bin, thereby leaving the youths and others to be easily manipulated into causing chaos and other social vices in the society.

In recognition of the devastating aftermaths of this unrelenting unemployment generally, youth unemployment and poverty reduction in particular, various levels of government in Nigeria have initiated multitudinous policies and programmes targeted at the reduction of the phenomenon of unemployment and poverty in the country. Some of these programmes and policies are the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) established 1986, the implementation of the 6-3-3-4 educational policy, the Better Life programme for rural women, the Family Support Programme, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) etc.

These policy measures seems to have achieved little or none, in spite of the implementation of some of these laudable programmes in Nigeria, it is disheartening to state that these catastrophic phenomena have continued unabated. Rather than youth unemployment reduction, there is upsurge in the levels and varieties of this social malaise. Dele, et al. (2009:2) in utter disappointment of this increasing unemployment in the country has averred that: Statistics has it that, the country records about 40 million unemployed people, majority of who are youths. To a responsive and focused government, the deteriorating unemployment situation in Nigeria should

be a source of worry, especially with the attendant social dislocation, exemplified by high crime rate, and youth restiveness.

Attempts have been made in order to ameliorate the poverty level in Taraba state in a research conducted by E.D. Oruonye (2010) titled "An Assessment of Fadama dry season farming through small scale Irrigation System in Jalingo LGA" but still poverty is on the increase. The study found out that 52.3% of the respondents are youths between the ages of 30-39 years, 26.7% are between the ages of 40-49 years who strongly rely on the irrigation farming as source of income. The study further buttressed that low level of education of the majority of the farmers makes them lack basic knowledge of crop water requirement, irrigation scheduling and skills in maintaining and operating irrigation system. Shawulu, Adebayo and Binbol (2008) carried out an empirical appraisal of the impact of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Jalingo Local Government Area of Taraba State; they concluded that beneficiaries' income after the intervention was significantly higher than what it was before the intervention.

Nigeria's existing development has been witnessing some form of transformation to reflect the new emphasis on employment generation through empowerment leading to Poverty Reduction. The transformation includes among others; the introduction of the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) to empower people and make them self-employed thereby leads to the reduction in poverty level. The study therefore seeks to examine and evaluate to what extent has SURE-P been able to empower people leading to Poverty Reduction in the State and particularly in the selected Local Government Areas?

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions were raised:

i. To what extent has Community Services Scheme of SURE-P improved access to social infrastructures which in turn lead to poverty reduction in Taraba State?
ii. To what extent has Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P empowered Women and Youths which in turn lead to poverty reduction in the State?
iii. To what extent has Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P empowered Youths and in turn reduced poverty in Taraba State?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study therefore is to examine how Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) contributed to people's empowerment leading to Poverty Reduction in Taraba State.

Specific objectives:

i. To ascertain the extent to which Community Services Scheme of SURE-P improved access to social infrastructures in turn lead to poverty reduction in Taraba State.
ii. To evaluate the extent to which Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P empowered Women and Youths in turn lead to poverty reduction in the State.
iii. To examine the extent to which Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P empowered Youths as well as reduced poverty in Taraba State.

1.5 Statement of Hypotheses

The hypotheses below are stated to test the adequacy of this study which will serve as an instrument towards the realisation of its stated objectives contained therein.

HO: There is no significant relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures and in turn poverty reduction in Taraba State.

HO: There is no significant relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in the State.

HO: There is no significant relationship between Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The phenomenon of Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programmes (SURE-P) as a Strategy for Poverty Reduction provides insight to the development of an economy. The programme harnessed the potentials of unemployed women and youth through engagement in labour intensive community services and exposed them to opportunities towards improved employability after the project life. This is aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations.

The study becomes important to the Taraba State Government if applied in strategic ways and means highlighted in the study, will help in fostering development in the state both humanly and materially; as well as other states with similar cases and the country at large. It is also of great

importance because of its used of more scientific research method and the detailed review of some literatures which also serves as the gap filling in this research work.

It is of paramount importance; the study enhances our knowledge of the prevalence of poverty ravaging people and the communities that impedes development in the state. The problem can make the state to witness development in a retrospective manner i.e. one step forward and ten steps backward and which is not a viable sign for development if the problem left unchecked with the attendant social dislocation, exemplified by high crime rates, youth restiveness as well as other social vices.

The study provide information on the immediate causes of poverty, possible guide as well as provide opportunity for government to accept and embrace the reality of poverty ravaging the populace; thereby channel its resources in order to expedite concrete action to check against its side effects of retarding development. It will also be of great used to the upcoming researchers in the field as source of data.

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Poverty reduction is multi-dimensional in which the economic growth strategy of government is combined with other government oriented programmes globally. This is to improve the living condition of the people and the supply of basic necessities of life which include adequate food supply, housing, Water, health care services as well as improved education, transportation and communication services.

The study is limited specifically to the activities of (SURE-P) programmes in Taraba State i.e. the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment component of Social Safety Net from

2012-2014 in the selected LGAs comprised of Jalingo from the northern zone of the state, Gassol from the central and Ussa representing the southern zone as means of employment generation through empowerments leading to poverty reduction as well as enhancement of socio-economic development in the state and the country.

The limitation of the study is that, some of the respondents are not well literates to decode meaning out of the questionnaires/focus group discussions held on their own unless it is interpreted to them and in doing so, serves as a kind of distortion to the study. Another limitation to the study is that; there are some other theories that can be well suited in explaining the topic but deemed right to stick to the institutional theory as one adopted for the study which also serve as a limitation in this work.

1.8 Operational Definition of Concepts

Poverty:- According to Marshal (1998:516), poverty is defined as "a state in which resources, usually material but sometimes cultural are lacking and could be delineated into two broad categories of "absolute and relative" terms. Absolute poverty refers to "a state in which an individual lacks the resources necessary for subsistence" while the relative definitions refers to the individual's or groups' lack of resources when compared with that of other members of the society" (Agbiokoro, 2010). However, poverty in this study is defined as:

i. The inability of one to meet his basic needs (food, clothing, shelter/protection)
ii. Lack of proper diets in one's meal (food calories)
iii. Lack of income generation by an individual
iv. Lack of access to education, health facilities and portable water
v. Prevalence of diseases/mortality

SURE-P: - This is a multi-sectoral programme of the Federal Government designed to tackle poverty/unemployment as well as improve the country's infrastructure financed from the proceeds of the partial removal of fuel subsidy (National Planning Commission 2011). Subsidy can be defined as any government programme that potentially permits the firms to increase its profits beyond what they would have been in the absence of the government programme Nwafor (2013).

However, SURE-P in this study refers to:

i. Community Services Scheme
ii. Graduate Internship Scheme and
iii. Vocational Skills Training Scheme

Socio-economic: - Social hierarchy, or stratification, appears to be intuitively recognized by most everyone everywhere (Smith et al. 2011). During social interactions various indicators are typically displayed or revealed in order to convey one's socioeconomic status to other members of the social group. Common indicators include professional titles, clothing, hairstyles, automobiles, residential addresses and so forth. All social animals, be they wolves, whales, monkeys, or humans, appear to appreciate, or at least recognize, social hierarchies and their position in them (Gesquiere et al. 2011; Sapolsky 2005).

Unemployment: Jhingan (2011) defines unemployment as an unacceptable idleness of a person willing to work at prevailing labour payment system but still unable to find one. In Jhingan's views, persons who reject certain work on the basis of low payment should not be regarded as unemployed.

For the International Labour Organization (2010), the issue of unemployment borders on the fact that a country's population consists of the economically active and inactive component. The economically active populations are those of working age group either working or seeking for paid working. Unemployment in the study refers to as:

i. Being without a job of any type
ii. Being available to start work in the next two weeks if offered employment, but yet seeking for one
iii. Being actively looking for work or have found one and is waiting to start it.

Community Services: According to Zimbabwe National Committee on Community Service (ZNCCS) during the introduction of the Community Service scheme in 1994 refers to Community service as an option the court may use when it has decided that a person's offending is serious and that he/she is suitable to make reparation by constructive unpaid work in the community (ZNCCS, 1994).

Community service should be physically and emotionally demanding of the offender in that it is a restriction of liberty, involves self-discipline and a respect for others and should engage the offender in tasks or situations that challenge his/her outlook, experience and ability.

Community service can therefore be a positive way of making an offender makes reparation for offences and it can encourage personal growth and self-respect. It shows the offender that the community is affected by criminality and the community can see that offenders can make a constructive rather than destructive contribution to the community (ZNCCS, 1994).

Community Services in this study refers to services rendered in areas like:

i. Education to includes rehabilitation and provision of some facilities to schools (primary and Secondary) such as construction of classrooms, staff rooms, teachers quarters, school sanitation etc.

ii. Health to include rehabilitation of hospitals, Primary Health Care centres and Clinics, revamping equipments such as beds and chairs etc.

Vocational Skills Training: According to (ILO 2012), refers to provision of better training for the informal sector as a core issue for many developing countries. In countries where traditional or informal apprenticeships are dominant, but mainly confined to traditional crafts, these apprenticeships should be articulated better with the schooling system and the formal sector. They should also be opened up to new technologies and occupational change. This, of course, requires some recognition of informal employment as part of the economic and social reality in many countries. Therefore, vocational training in this refers to:

i. Fashion Design and Tailoring

ii. Hair Dressing

iii. Carpentry

iv. Building

v. Electrical Installation etc

Graduate Internship Scheme: This is established as part of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and it seeks to provide graduates with quality temporary work experience to make them stronger candidates for job openings in the labour market as well as boosting their chances of becoming self-employed (SURE-P document 2012). Graduate Internship Scheme in the study refers to:

i. Attachment or placement of graduates in eligible institutions or companies.

ii. Payment of monthly stipends to graduates.

iii. Establishment of enterprises at the end of internship by the Graduates

iv. Retaining of the Graduates after the period of internship by the companies or institutions.

1.9 Organization of Chapters

This Dissertation is presented in six (6) chapters, covering the introduction, literature review, the research methodology, historical background of SURE-P, data presentation and analysis, summary, conclusion and recommendation.

Chapter one captures the Introduction and background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, statement of hypothesis, significance of the study, scope and limitation, operational definition of variables as well as the organization of chapters. Chapter two comprises of the literature review and the theoretical framework; conceptual issues on poverty, general poverty profile in Nigeria, causes of poverty, indicators of poverty, poverty reduction strategies, an overview of previous poverty alleviation policies and programmes in Nigeria, empirical studies on poverty, Youth unemployment situation in Nigeria, the potentials of SURE-P implementation in Youth unemployment and poverty reduction in Nigeria, SURE-P in Taraba State, theoretical framework and relevance of the theory. The chapter three of the work deals with the research methodology which includes introduction, research design, population and sample size of the study, sampling techniques, sources of data, administration of instrument and the methods of data analysis. Chapter four comprised the historical background of SURE-P, structural organization, powers and functions of SURE-P; Chapter five captures data presentation

and analysis while Chapter six being the last chapter encompasses summary of the work, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

In this study, a careful and systematic location, documentation, analysis and reporting of all available existing literature which are relevant and useful to this study have been explored. The review in this study therefore, is design to isolate the approaches, methodologies, analytical instruments and facts which previous studies contained that are not in agreement with this study.

However, the study covers the concept of Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Conceptual issues on poverty, general poverty profile in Nigeria, Causes of poverty, indicators of poverty, poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria, an overview of previous poverty alleviation policies and programmes in Nigeria, empirical studies, Youth unemployment and poverty situation in Nigeria, the potential of SURE-P programme implementation in youth unemployment and poverty reduction in Nigeria and the theoretical framework. It will retain the relevant information and discard facts not relevant to the context of this research work.

In view of the above, since the study is to examine SURE-P as a strategy for Poverty Reduction in Taraba State, it will focus specifically on one category of literature i.e Poverty Reduction Strategy. Hence, the views of experts, authors, institutions/organizations will be reviewed as well as materials from internet and other relevant sources.

2.2 Concept of SURE-P

The Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme SURE-P is a aimed at investing in the development of vocational and technical education in Nigeria with a goal to reduce poverty

and unemployment by empowering young Nigerians with adequate skills to take up existing job vacancies in both private and public sectors and/ or become entrepreneur of labour themselves. The scheme has the mandate to equip young Nigerians with skills in three broad areas: vocational/technical skills, life skills and entrepreneurship. It is targeted at bridging the demand gaps in eight industry areas: ICT/Telecoms, Creative (e.g. Movies, music, fashion, etc), Hospitality and Tourism, Agribusiness, Mass Housing/Construction Artisans, Marine, Oil and Gas, and Mechanical Fabrication/Woodwork. The training has been classified into two focus areas: Client-based and Citizen-based trainings (George et.al 2014).

According to Ogujiuba (2015), the programme is a 3-4 year programme and a subset of the Transformation Agenda designed to mitigate the immediate impact of the removal of fuel subsidy and accelerate economic growth through investments in critically-needed infrastructure. It is noteworthy that, while the 2012 budget allocated the best possible amounts to these critical projects, additional resources are allocated to the same projects in the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) to ensure that they are completed at faster rates than envisioned in the 2012 budget.

SURE-P is designed to mitigate the immediate impact of the removal of fuel subsidy and accelerate economic growth through investments in critically-needed infrastructure including investment in Human resources empowerment/development. The proponents of SURE-P said that the programme was basically a cushioning effect of the pains occasioned by the partial removal of subsidy in the downstream sector of the petroleum sub-sector, with a view to transferring the proceeds to more critical needs of Nigerians, especially the infrastructural needs (FMI, 2013). The above views of scholars are therefore ranked together.

Schrauk and keithly (1999) sees subsidy as a kind of employment strategy beneficial to the masses applied by government to reduce unemployment leading to poverty reduction, this can be through financial support by the government. Todaro & Smith (2009) referred to subsidy as an assistant given by government especially to industries in order to prevent the industries from falling. The views of the above Scholars is the cardinal point of this research where their definitions is in tandem with the policy of SURE-P simply because they were able to pinned down their definitions to reflects the one under study. Subsidy can tentatively be defined as any government programme that potentially permits the firms to increase its profits beyond what they would have been in the absence of the government programme Nwafor (2013). The view of Nwafor simply refers to the removal of oil subsidy which is taking away the money the Federal Government had hitherto paid in order to subsidize the prices of oil. According to (John, 2013) Subsidy has been a burning issue in the Nigerian economy as those who are supposed to benefit are only partially doing so while the major marketers who are not the actual targets have become major beneficiaries, I hereby concur with the view of John.

2.2.1 Poverty: Conceptual Issues

Despite the wide knowledge on the study of poverty, scholars and practitioners failed to bring out single universally accepted definition of poverty. Its definition is always based on the culture, norms, social milieu and discipline of the observer in any given society. We shall therefore, consider some of the attempts made by scholars and practitioners alike in this chapter, which could be related to the subject under study. We shall also look at some empirical studies of poverty.

According to (Ahmed, 1998) Poverty is defined as the state of being without having access to basic needs, often associated with need, hardship and lack of resources across a wide range of circumstances. To Corner (1997), he defined poverty as a state of being deprived of the essentials of well being such as adequate housing, food, sufficient income, employment, access to required social services and social status. The two definitions encapsulates all sort of the complex human needs and wellbeing as operationally defined, they did not pin down their definition to a particular discipline or sphere of life; thereby ends up describing the menace than defining, therefore their definitions is being criticized of non-directional. However, they are on the other hand being credited for recognizing some trivial issues regarded as poverty.

According to Gunnar (1968), the economies of developing countries are characterized by low income (productivity or output) leading to low savings and investment which is refers to as vicious circle of underdevelopment. Bardhan (1999) argues that even if the State allocates a significant part of its budget for poverty eradication programmes, it would not reach the real poor. He argued that the anomalies occur because there is no organized pressure from the intending beneficiaries, (the poor) and the programmes are administered by uncoordinated and corrupt bureaucrats who are unaccountable to the rural poor and insensitive to their needs. The two definitions above are ranked together; that is to say as argued by Bardhan, it is not the allocation of resources for poverty reduction that matters, but as argued by Gunnar it is because the economies of the developing countries are characterized with the vicious problem of poverty ranging from the low income to savings as in the definition of the variables which has affected investment negatively that equally affects whichever programme that is being design to fight the menace; until the problem is solved all efforts aims at poverty reduction will be a mirage simply because those in charge of the programme administration are not free from the poverty.

A poor man in a less developed country, his problems runs into millions suffers from poor nutrition. He is vulnerable to diseases, average life span is short, lives in huts and surrounded by squalor, suffering from illiteracy and does not get his meals regularly even if he does, he is haunted with the fear of where his next meal will come from; He is clad in rags if at all, walks without a pair of shoes. He lacks hygiene, minimal food, or contagious diseases have inflicted some scars on his body and lives mostly in villages – remote and inaccessible to the rest of the world or in slums or shanty towns. The water he drinks is neither safe nor clean, he is either unemployed or underemployed but when he is employed he is overworked and underpaid Adeyeye (1985).

Poor man suffers from apathy and ignominy, from birth he remains a destitute up to his death. Usually dies an infant, but if he does survive, dearth and want haunt him to his end. Flood, famine, drought and other natural disasters continually plague him and become landless if he is a villager; if he is a town-dweller, he rarely has a roof over his head. When price of goods and commodities goes up, the quality and quantity of his food goes down because his income can no longer buy him the food he needs, his wife if pregnant, can only have a worse fate. He cannot buy books for his children or pay their school fees, let alone the toolbox he would love to buy for them to make their ends meet. When he falls ill, he cannot pay bills to a doctor, nor can he buy the drugs for himself let alone getting better amenities of life on these crises. He can neither read nor afford to buy a newspaper; a radio transistor is a luxury to him, many of his kin never see a bicycle, starvation and death stare him at his face as in medieval times. Indeed for him, times have not changed since the Dark ages. When death comes to him finally, he seems to be happier than those he will be leaving behind Adeyeye (1985). In view of the above assertion by Adeyeye, he has been able to look at what poverty is in its real sense and as such, he is being credited for

that because his postulation is in tandem with that of the researcher as defined in the operational definition of poverty.

Poverty according to Ajakaiye et al (1999) is defined as "a living condition in which an entity is faced with economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental deprivations". In addition Amuguo (2003:1) "poverty is the deprivation of elements necessary for human survival". These include clean water, food, shelter, health, and self-dignity. Deprivation or self-dignity is simply the denial of individual liberty and property, natural rights, political liberty, civil liberty and property. In situations where these elements are far-fetched, the society is left with nothing but "poverty and underdevelopment". The above postulations are thereby being critique of inconsistencies lacking in some areas based on some false assumptions. However, Amuguo's view on the deprivation of elements such as portable water, food, shelter and health can be taking into cognisance because to some extent, his views was in line with that of the researcher.

On the other hand, Jumare (2013:92) was able to pin down his definition of the concept as: Poverty is a word which vividly describes the deplorable living conditions of an individual, groups and communities in a state of economic and social deprivation and destitution. Also Jumare (2011:7) view rural poverty as; the most valid generations about the poor are that they are disproportionately located in the rural areas that they are more likely to be women and children than adults males and that they often concentrated among minority ethnic groups and indigenous people.

However, poverty can no longer be defined in Trans of income alone because of its complexity. According to UNDP, poverty is distinguished between income poverty and human poverty. Income poverty to UNDP occurs when the income level of individual falls below a nationally

defined poverty line. Human poverty on the other hand is seen as denial or deprivation of opportunities and choices that would enable an individual to live a long health creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect for others. For the purpose of this work, emphasis is being given to the income poverty than the human poverty simply because for one to start thinking of freedom, dignity, self-respect etc must first of all feed himself or get satisfied so that he can able to think of prestige.

According to Englama and Bamidele (1997) as quoted in Onah (2006) see poverty as a state of an individual not being able to cater adequately for his/her basic needs of life like food, clothing and shelter…meeting social and economic objectives, lacks of gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem, education, health, portable water and sanitation which reduces the opportunity of advancing his/her wellbeing to the limit of his/her capability.

Also, in view of Balogun (1993), "poverty is defined as a situation where a population or section of the population is able to meet only its bare subsistence essential of food, clothing and shelter in order to maintain standard of living". To understand the concept well, this definition requires a yardstick to be set to determined who is poor and who is not. This led to the emergence of concept of poverty line based on the level of per capita income or consumption of individual or households within a region or country meaning the cut-off living standard level below which a person is classified as poor and counting the people whose income is below the line. E.g in 1990 world development report used upper poverty line of U.S $370 per capita as a cut-off for absolute poverty and below U.S $275 very poor. The above definitions are therefore being critique of repeating same variables in their definitions of the concept as if there are no other ways of defining the concept as rightly reacted to by Onah (2006) explaining that poverty is not only the inability of individuals to afford the basic needs of life, but reduces the strength and

prestige of such individuals to participate in any activity in the society taking for example prevalence of diseases and poor nutrition; explaining further, Onah view poverty in Nigeria as having denied some good numbers of citizens the prestige of citizenship.

Conversely, Nnoli (1989) defined poverty as a section of the population which has been crushed by the power of money. He divided the society into two; the bourgeoisie and the peasants, he described the bourgeoisie as the rich people who own and control the means of production and therefore enjoy the power of money and the peasants as the poor ones in the society who do not control or own the means of production and hence, they are the victims of the power of money.

In the same vein, Chambers (1995) sees poverty "as the lack of physical assets and income. Sen, (1981) related poverty to entitlements which are taken to be the various bundles of goods and services over which one has command, taking into cognizance the means by which such goods are acquired (money and coupons) and the availability of the needed goods. Yet, other experts see poverty in very broad terms such as being unable to meet "basic needs" physical; food, health care, education, shelter etc and non-physical; participation, identity, etc requirements for a meaningful life World Bank (1996).

A concise and universally accepted definition of poverty is elusive largely because it affects many aspects of human conditions, including physical, moral and psychological. Different criteria have been used to conceptualized poverty; most analysis follows the conventional views of poverty as a result of insufficient income for securing basic goods and services. The poor have also been conceptualized as the proportion of the population that is unable to meet basic nutritional needs Demery and Square (1996).

However, to the researcher, the views of (Ahmed, Englama and Bamidele, Corner, Demery and Square, Onah, Nnoli and World Bank) are the cardinal points around which all forms of approach to the definition of poverty centres; a critical look to the submissions above is the major concern of this study.

2.2.2 General Poverty Profile in Nigeria

Statistics on income and social indicators shows that, poverty in Nigeria is widespread and severe and certainly increasing. According to Federal Office of Statistics (FOS, 1997) and World Bank (1989), the population of the poor in Nigeria was 36.1million in 1985 and 34.7million in 1992, it has jumped to 55.8million in 1997 (Nigerian Human Development Report, 1998). The country thus became one of the poorest countries in the world, the calculation of the country human poverty index shows that it is 41.6% meaning people are extremely deprived, one in every two Nigerians is poor (Human Development Report, 1997). According to the World Bank Reports (1999) and Aliyu (2001), Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) was only 0.416 which placed the country among the 25^{th} poorest countries in the world. Furthermore, Nigeria's life expectancy at birth was 51years, literacy rate was 44% and 70% of the rural populations do not have access to portable water, health care facilities and electricity, the paradox about the poverty situation in Nigeria, however, is the fact that the poverty level contradicts the country's immense wealth consisting of human, agricultural, petroleum, gas and solid minerals (United Nations, 1996). It is worth noting that despite the fact that most of the above resources of the country have not been harnessed effectively, available evidence reveals that between 1970 and 2001, Nigeria has earned over $500billion from the export of petroleum products alone (Aliyu, 2001). Only few countries in the world have earned this kind of resources for the development of

its economy. That is to say, the case of poverty in Nigeria can be described as that of poverty amidst plenty.

2.2.3 Causes of Poverty

There is no one cause or determinant of poverty. On the contrary, the combination of several complex factors contributes to poverty. They include low or negative economic growth, inappropriate macroeconomic policies, deficiencies in the labour market resulting in limited job growth, low productivity and low wages in the informal sector and a lag in human resource development. Bad governance have contributed significantly to poverty in Nigeria, governance problems are widely thought to have been among the major reasons why past poverty alleviation programmes had little effects. Onah (2006:80) gave support to this when he said that "indeed, poor leadership of various civilian governments in Nigeria contributed to poverty in Nigeria". Achebe (1983) also stated clearly that "the trouble in Nigeria is purely the problem of leadership". Other factors which have contributed to a decline in living standards and are structural causes or determinants of poverty include increase in crime and violence, environmental degradation, retrenchment of workers, a fall in the real value of safety nets, and changes in family structures. Rural sector in Nigeria has been facing a relatively more serious poverty situation than the urban areas due to a variety of reasons which includes:

a. Sharp seasonality in the flow of production income and employment opportunities in the rural sector.
b. Relative shortage of social and economic infrastructure in the rural area as compared to the urban.

c. Migration of educated workforce to the urban areas and the consequent ageing of the rural population.

d. Low productivity in rural and especially agricultural production, due to limited access to credit, pesticides, extension services and modern technology for agricultural production, processing and preservation.

At the rural level the main causes of household poverty in Nigeria as highlighted by Onyeabor and Agwu (2004), include the following:

i. Inadequate physical assets such as land, capital and minimal access by the poor to credit facilities.

ii. Inadequate access to markets where the farmers can sell their products and buy inputs and services at beneficial rates.

iii. Rural underdevelopment is manifesting in abject lack of basic socio – economic infrastructures.

iv. The destruction of natural resources with its attendant consequence of environmental degradation reduced productivity.

v. Inadequate of assistance for those living at the margin and those victimized by transitory poverty due to natural disasters such as drought, flood and war and so on and so forth.

vi. Lack of participation that is failure to draw the poor into the plans and implementations of development programmes by policy makers.

vii. There is failure of research and extension programmes in order to transfer suitable and sustainable indigenous technologies to the farmers.

viii. The general limitation in technological and human capital development.

ix. Socio – cultural constraints and bias against women who constitutes the general workforce in the small scale farming enterprises.

x. Corruption and general unfaithfulness in implementing government policies on agriculture and rural development.

2.2.4 Indicators of Poverty

According to Abdullahi (1999), the criteria for measuring or assessing poverty vary from place to place according to the overall level of development of the people. In some part of Nigeria poverty is measured in terms of lack of ownership of fertile farmland, food, money and housing; some uses the lack of infrastructural facilities such as access roads, pipe borne water, schools, hospitals, electricity, telecommunication services as well as agricultural services. Instances like the total amount of earnings accruing to individual within a given period of time is another indicator of poverty, where he argues that in such a situation as we have in Nigeria, income particularly salaries and wages are not responsive to inflation may be grossly misleading. But, concluded that the purchasing power will be a better criterion in assessing poverty; it is referred to as the net income over a period of time normalized by the rate of inflation over the same period.

The standard of living is another important index employed in the distinction between the poor and non-poor; comprises the total household income and the social milieu in which the household is situated. Data on expenditure tend to be more reliable indicator of well being than income; these are complemented with social indicators like life expectancy, infant mortality, nutrition, literacy and access to primary education, health care and safe drinking water. However, due to problems aggregation and comparability, most poverty lines are based solely on income or consumption pattern (World Bank1993).

Another index for measuring poverty is the headcounts index which computes the percentage of household with consumption per capita below the poverty line. This index has the advantage of being easy to compute and interpret; it does not however provide much information about the depth or severity of poverty Ravallion and Bidani (1994).

2.2.5 Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria

Reducing poverty is regarded by many as the most important goal of human development. Indeed, it is widely believed that at its core, development must be about improvement of human wellbeing, removal of hunger, diseases and ignorance as well as productive employment for all. Its first goal must be to end poverty and satisfy the priority needs of all people in a way that will not jeopardize the opportunity for the future generations to attain the objective. More than forty years after independence, poverty remains one of the pressing issues in Nigerian development. It has not only become entrenched and multi-faceted over decades, but has continued to elude efforts made towards its eradication Ajakaiye (1987).

Poverty Reduction per se has in the recent time gained or attracted global attention and concern, resulting in the existence of varied themes on the subject and, of course, abundant literature. As Nkom (1990:43) observed, poverty is too complex to yield to any one dimensional policy solution. Since poverty is caused by multiplicity of factors, no single instrument can suffice to uproot it. The battle against poverty through alleviating mechanisms has to be simultaneously and subsequently, using different strategies and instruments.

Poverty Alleviation means all formal activities geared towards lowering the rate and prevalence of poverty in the country. Effective alleviation policies require a good knowledge of the characteristics and socio-economic conditions of the poor.

In most cases, there is mixed feelings on the effect of the policies, strategies and programmes designed to address poverty in Nigeria. The poverty situation in the country has been worsening. Recent studies on the subject and its reduction agencies as well as programmes indicated that considerable gap exists between the target objective – alleviating or eradicating poverty – and achievement. It seems that the efforts of various governments are ineffective and therefore not much has been done to actualize the benefit. For poverty reduction agencies, their results do not seem to justify the huge financial allocations to them.

The poor people's perception of most formal poverty alleviation institutions are largely that of ineffectiveness and irrelevance in their lives as government poverty reduction activities contribute little in their struggles to survive and rarely help them to escape poverty. This is compounded by the state of social infrastructure and amenities, which could have eased their poor state of livelihood.

The most disheartening and disturbing aspect is the fact that despite the colossal amount of resources committed to these programmes, the poverty situation aggravates, and more and more people fall into poverty region and condition instead of escaping. This can be attributed to the pattern of the policy put in place and their implementation. As Afonja (1996:35) pointed out:

> *Poverty is an issue, which has generated a lot of statements of intent and attracted policies targeting the poor, such statements are unwittingly populist in nature and due to lack of basic data and understanding of the issue, policies and programmes have been inappropriate or have ended up benefitted the elite rather than the poor.*

This makes Oyen (1999:459) to observe that in most cases policies and programmes on poverty reduction or eradication are political and in most cases when taken on their "face value, it is

almost a conscious deception. At best, it demonstrates ignorance of the process leading to poverty reduction".

These views explain largely the continuous state of poverty in Nigeria despite the various policies, programmes and strategies by various governments. This is demonstrated by the fact that the population of the poor, which was 36.1 million, in 1985 and 34.7 million in 1992 has jumped to 55.8 million in 1997. This shows an escalation by 61 percent in the country's poor population by 1997 (FOS and World Bank).

In 1988, just two years after the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme, the poverty situation in Nigeria rose to 51 percent. Moreover, by 1998, a decade after, according to the UNDP Human Development Report (1998), Nigeria has become one of the 25th poorest countries in the world, with more than one-third of the country's population not expected to survive up to the age of 40 years. The report shows that Nigeria's human poverty index is 41.6, meaning that the people are extremely deprived, with one in every two Nigerians being poor. In this regard, Nigeria, a sub-Saharan African country is being considered as "rich in poor people". As a means to eradicate poverty in the country, the 1996 national budget had as its major thrust "Poverty Alleviation". In addition, various workshops and seminars on poverty alleviation are being held in Nigeria. However, the poverty condition continues to worsen. This to Akerelodu-Ale (2000) is due to the "technocratic" perception and approach to poverty reduction in the country.

Besley (1997) categorizes approaches to poverty reduction into two alternatives; technocratic and institutional. The former emphasizes targeting and explores programme designs that try to direct limited resources to people with greatest need. The latter approach notes that the poor lack

political power and that administrative incompetence and corruption hinder service delivery of government. Poverty reduction therefore requires developing institutions, and changed political structures, improved governance and changed attitudes towards the poor. It requires enhance political power of the poor via increased participation. The UNDP has been able to grasp the functional definition of poverty, the strategies to eradicate poverty including instituting a framework that permits the establishment and sustainability of good economic policies.

Three main strategies are identifiable in the process of tackling poverty, namely:

(a) Exclusive reliance on the natural forces of economic growth;

(b) Specific programmes to increase earning opportunities for the poor; and

(c) Social programmes targeted at the poor (Psarcharopoulous, 1970). Each of these proposals holds varying prospects for poverty alleviation. Targeting the poor by means of social programmes is the most direct approach, followed by the consideration of specific programmes to enhance their earning capacity. These two are direct for immediate impact on poverty reduction. In practice, the problem with these strategies is that there is a possibility that the benefits may lead to unintended groups. Administratively, they could also be expensive to implement, inefficient in operation and outcome and lack sustainability. Furthermore, any distribution of income from the non-poor to the poor may be at some cost, for instance may result in a limitation on savings, which may lead to retarded economic growth (Onah, 1996).

The economic growth strategy is an indirect approach to poverty alleviation. It is aimed at achieving an untargeted general increase in incomes, which, it is believed, will invariably lift the average poor above the poverty line. In the short run, income distribution may be positively skewed, but the assumption is that in the long run, through trickledown effects, poverty reduction, both in absolute and relative sense, will be achieved. The approach is rooted in the

economic efficiency criterion and therefore has the possibility of sustainability. Also in as much as the reliance is on the natural forces of economic growth, the strategies can be said to be devoid of any extensive administrative machinery and would probably cost less to implement. Poverty alleviation through growth has been challenged as an effective means of tackling poverty both in the short and long run. The growth strategy, according to Onah (1996) would take more than three decades to achieve the intended objectives; a period considered too long and therefore, too expensive a policy option to be adopted by any government. In the 1970s when the basic needs approach held sway, there was wide spread disillusionment with the trickledown effects of growth on poverty; and since the second half of the 1980s, when most African countries here been implementing a growth centre macro-economic adjustment programme. It is generally believed that the programme disproportionately hurts the poor.

2.2.6 An Overview of Previous Poverty Alleviation Policies and Programmes in Nigeria

Past governments have failed of glorifying poverty alleviation on the pages of newspapers and news conference without the programmes being delivered (Anthony, 2004). Different strategies were employed by these governments to eradicate poverty from the face of the earth surface but none saw the light of the day, instead, every government policy seems to worsen the condition more and more, making the citizens lose confidence in their elected representatives (Ahmed, 1980).

The first was Gen. Yakubu Gowon's National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) and the Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB), entirely devoted to funding agriculture. The NAFPP turned out to be a colossal waste and nothing was achieved. There was the much publicized Operation Feed the Nation in 1976 by the then military Junta

Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, "which expended much money and effort in getting ill–prepared university undergraduates to go to the rural areas to teach the peasant farmers how to farm. A theoretical farming graduate teaching a farmer who makes his/her lives out of farming how to farm, what a paradox. The scheme's only success was in creating awareness of food shortage and the need to tackle the problem (Okeke, 1993).

The 1979 Shehu Shagari's Green Revolution Programme had the twin objectives of curtailing food importation while boosting crop and fibred production. The overall objectives were big (mechanized) farming. "Many Senior civil servants and military officers, both in and out of office, used their access to the state resources, the advantage of the wide range of facilities committed to the Green Revolution. Many private executives also joined these bureaucrats – cum – farmers. Some new breed – farmers were only interested in getting certificates of occupancy for large hectares of land. The lands can then be used for speculative motives, for example, as collateral for securing loans". When the programme ended in 1983, 2billion naira taxpayer's money was wasted. That is more than 2 hundred billion in today's exchange rate (Ojo, 1989).

Buhari's regime introduced the "Go Back to Land" programme with variation such as the former River State Governor, Fidelis Oyachilome's school to land programme and his Lagos State counterpart, Gbolahan Mudashiru's graduates farming scheme. Initially the Oyakhilome's scheme worked wonders in Rivers, made headline news in some newspapers. But like everything in Nigeria, it fizzled out and died. The major reasons for the failure of all these poverty reduction programmes were based on "faulty philosophy". Food programmes such as that of Gowon, Obasanjo, Shehu Shagari and Buhari "failed because of the far–fetched objectives of making farmers out of all Nigerians. And that no country attains self – sufficiency in food by seeking to

turn all its citizens into farmers rather farming should be left for those whose business is to farm".

Decree No 24 of October 19, 1986 established the NDE and according to Oyemoni (2003), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was established in October 19, 1986 and was basically meant to combat mass-unemployment and articulate policies aimed at promoting skills acquisition, self- employment and labour intensive potentials. NDE programme was not only on unemployment and vacancies but also engaged with designing employment programmes in the country such as vocational skills development, agriculture, small-scale enterprises and special public works. The directorate however suffers from poor funding and as such could not cope with the needs of the ever increasing number of job applicants in Nigeria. Despite all the problems enumerated above, NDE possesses great potential as an agency for the promotion of skills acquisition and self-employment schemes, of employment generating programmes.

In 1986, Gen. Babangida established the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) for rural development. This was meant to provide feeder roads, electricity and portable water as well as toilets facilities for the rural dwellers. The project gulped 1.9billion (about N80billion today's value) without Nigerians benefiting from them. Various projects were set up for poverty alleviation purposes; amongst them are the Peoples Bank of Nigeria and the Community Bank for Nigeria. Neither did these financial institutions live up to their expectations, nor did they actualize their aims and purposes. Babangida's wife Maryam also went into the business of caring for the Nigerian poor. She set up Better Life Programme for Rural Women and ended up making millions of naira out of the BLP officials and friends. The Better Life for Poor Rural Women became the better life for rich urban women. The Nigerian

poor did not know what hit them, before the poor could say "Food at Last", the food was taken away from them, and they were left gapping and hungry as usual.

Similarly, in 1993, Abacha and his wife found a gold mine in the business of pretending to care for the poor. The Family Support Programme (FSP) and the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) were set up. The Nigerian poor again, were taken for a ride. According to the Tell Magazine (1998) "FSP gulped over ₦10billion of taxpayers' money at a time her husband, Abacha was retrenching helpless civil servants nationwide".

Poverty Alleviation Programme PAP came as an interim measure initiated in 2000 at the wake of the present democratic dispensation to address the problems of rising unemployment, crime wave among the youths and also to increase the level of productivity. The target groups were the unemployed (young and old) and it provided job through public work system to some jobless citizen (Obadan, 2001:172-174). The programme was characterized by uncoordinated operation and politicization which stood on its success. However, the programme could not stand the test of time and had to give way to a more solid programme. The implementation of PAP generated public outcry and was accused of shoddiness and corruption. Subsequently, the government set up a panel committee headed by Prof. Ango Abdullahi to review the programme. Problems identified with the programme included over centralization, over politicization, irregular payment and uncoordinated management as well as high-level of corruption. The committee came up with the blueprint recommending National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) to come on board.

Taking cognisance of this, the present day democracy, which has its root from May 1999, poverty eradication was set out as one of the cardinal areas of focus, as revealed in the approved blueprint for the establishment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) a

central coordination point for all anti-poverty efforts from the local government level to the national level by which schemes would be executed with the sole purpose of eradicating absolute poverty.

This is the only government embarking on eradication; a shift from the traditional concept of alleviation. Such schemes already identified include: Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Rural Infrastructures Development Scheme (RIDS), Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) and Natural Resource Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS).

On the whole, these schemes were designed to spearhead government's ambitious programme of eradicating absolute poverty–a condition where a person or group of persons are unable to satisfy their most basic requirements for survival in terms of food, clothing, shelter, health, transport, education and recreation–amongst Nigerians. With a take-off grant of N6 billion approved for it in 2001, NAPEP has established structures at all levels nationwide. Under its Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), it trained 100,000 unemployed youths just as 5,000 others who received training as tailors and fashion designers, were resettled. A total of 50,000 unemployed graduates have also benefited from NAPEP's Mandatory Attachment Programme MAP, which is also an aspect of CAP.

The programme has also established a databank of all unemployed youths in all the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital territory (FCT). About 1.1 million youths have been registered. Such data could be used in targeting groups in any future poverty alleviation effort. The difference between NAPEP and past poverty reduction agencies is that it is not a sector project implementation agency but a coordination facility that ensures that the core poverty eradication Ministries were effective. It would only intervene when necessary, under its

secondary mandate which gives it the right to provide complementary assistance to the implementing ministries and parastatals nationwide.

Duplication of functions by an innumerable of agencies involved in anti-poverty schemes and programmes in the past had been blamed for their ineffectiveness and outright failure. Having subscribed to the UN-inspired Millennium goals of halving global poverty by 2015, Nigeria has embraced the process of outlining its own Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP) which will eventually bring its anti-poverty efforts into the mainstream of the new global thinking that fighting poverty needed to be driven by some acceptable principles. Experts have opined that given our miserable performance in the past, the PRSP holds some promise for success because "poverty programmes are to be derived in an integrated way from a sanitization of each aspect of poverty into its component parts. Government, the poor and stakeholders then work together, to develop an overall plan to make progress, with coordinated roles for sectoral ministries and other agencies".

The failure of the aforementioned programmes partly can be traced to lack of inclusion of the rural poor in all aspects of life development as indicated by World Bank report of Human Development Index 2000/2001. The report stated that "poverty in sub – Saharan Africa is traced to alienations of rural people". According to the report, failure to involve the rural poor who were the real targets in all aspects of development is responsible for the continued development of poverty and rural underdevelopment.

The report also noted that gender disparities contributed to some extent a significant proportion of poverty level in developing nation like Nigeria because they were closely associated with poverty, and that the gap between men and women in education and health sectors is greater in

developing countries than in developed countries. It is therefore, said that societies that discriminate between men and women pay a significant price in greater poverty, slower economic growth, weak governance and a lower equality of life (Dike, 2004).

Therefore, for poverty reduction to succeed in Nigeria, rural dwellers must be empowered, and the empowerment can only be attainable when rural poor men and women are carried along in all spheres of developmental projects at all levels (planning, implementation and evaluation). The contribution of poverty reduction programmes can be made pronounced when gap in access to resources and opportunities are reduced and have become minimal. To empower the rural poor, their practical and strategic needs must be met; these refers to demands for goods and services arising out of the socially acceptable roles in society; such as the need for health care, good drinking water supplies and strategic needs like equal employment opportunities, access to quality education and their production assets that would help them achieve greater equality relative to that of the elites by changing their position in the society.

2.2.7 Empirical Studies on previous Poverty Reduction Programmes in Nigeria

In order to complement the conceptual review, previous studies by other researchers are reviewed accordingly. Asaju (2011) conducted a study on assessment of poverty eradication programme in Nigeria with particular reference to NAPEP activities in Kogi and Katsina states, the study clearly revealed that though the programme claimed to have adopted participatory (bottom-up) approach, but in reality, that was not the case as major stakeholders were not allowed to participate in the policy making and implementation of the programme. The study found out that in terms of selection of beneficiaries of NAPEP, there was lack of fairness in the selection and distribution of application forms. The study went further to state that service

delivery by NAPEP was insignificant due to poor implementation. Both primary and secondary data was utilized and the population of the study comprises of both the beneficiaries of NAPEP as well as staff of NAPEP in the study area but failed to conduct FGDs with the beneficiaries to further ascertain the extent of the programme.

The researcher may be said to have succeeded in assessing the strategies and mode of implementing NAPEP in two states, it failed to address the issue of coordination of the programme with poverty eradication agencies in the Nigeria. The research was also unable to address the issue of the claim of ownership of the programme by the beneficiaries which might have led to commitment to the programme.

Again, Samuel (2011) carried out a study on the role of NAPEP in capacity enhancement in Enugu state and found out that the role of NAPEP in capacity enhancement of micro-credit scheme and examination of its effect on capacity enhancement and the living condition of the poor in Enugu State was not significant. The research was a survey research and it utilized both primary and secondary data, the study succeeded in assessing the strategies and modalities of implementing NAPEP in the state, it however, failed to tackle the issue of weaknesses in implementation of NAPEP programme.

Furthermore, Abdullahi (2008) carried out a study on implications of social policies for poverty eradication and development in Gombe state. Both primary and secondary data were utilized by the researcher; the study revealed that implementation of poverty reduction programmes in the state was poor. Even though the study addressed the issue of relevance of social policies in poverty eradication programme, the study on the other hand failed to address the issue of administrative and managerial variables in the programme.

A conclusion reached by Demery and Squire (1996) in their work titled "Macroeconomic Adjustment and Poverty in Africa: An emerging picture" from their empirical evidence of six African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Cote devoir, Ghana, and Nigeria) however, is that the apparent ineffectiveness of the adjustment programme in tackling poverty was due to poor policy implementation. They believe that effective reform programmes will result and reduced overall poverty while inadequate policy implementation would give rise to worsening poverty. In the same vein, Chinsman (1997) is of the view that the poverty situation in Nigeria has been aggravated by the absence of an enabling policy environment and sudden changes in macro-economic policies in recent times. It must, however, be remarked in passing that how policy reforms in Africa affect poverty, even when they are properly implemented, will remain a subject of vigorous debate (Oladeji, S.A and Abiola A.G 1998). The fundamental issue in this respect is the kind of structural adjustment programme, especially as it relates to the main objectives, policy thrusts and packaging. Suffice it to say that discussions on the structural adjustment programmes in Africa have resulted in conclusions that are incomplete, mechanistic and of too short time perspectives, and are therefore, limited in scope in addressing human situation concerns, including improved income distribution and poverty reduction (Adedeji, et al, 1990).

In its study "taking action for poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa", the World Bank emphasized the redistribution of wealth such that distrust, inequality, unrest eventual civil war and the pressure for political change may not be perpetuated and thereby save the society from social and political unrests that only retard development and result in retrogression. Measures recommended in that study for poverty alleviation include: Growth and Development must move paripassu; distribution of the benefits of growth, changing the pattern of growth, rural improvement, pursuit of accelerated and equitable distribution of growth.

Chinsman (1997) holds the view that the contemporary growth progress in Nigeria does not hold much prospect for poverty alleviation.

> *... Nigeria has clearly demonstrated that the hitherto held view that poverty could be tackled by raising general economic standards through the 'trickle-down' effect of economic growth is faulty... it is now clear that there is little sense in maintaining 'growth' while allowing the bulk of the population to remain impoverished, jobless, handicapped and excluded from the development process... (Chinsman, 1997:2)*

According to Radwen, (1995:25), two general approaches to poverty reduction are the trickledown approach, in which growth is regarded as a condition for poverty reduction; and the targeting approach, in which non-market interventions by government are prescribed in the fight against poverty, the trickledown approach relies primarily on market-based growth as taking care of those who fall through the cracks of the market processes with targeted public welfare programmes and the provision of infrastructures (Bardham, 1996:67). Growth can certainly help to alleviate poverty, but high rates of growth where there is an uneven distribution of assets may exacerbate, rather than reduce poverty. As such, the trickledown approach may do little to reduce poverty (Iniodu, 1997; 300).

The targeting approach, on the other hand, is a development –oriented strategy for poverty reduction. Development-oriented strategies function by creating assets that benefit the poor and by raising the productivity of the poor through education, public health, vocational training and other human-resource-related measures. Through this approach, poverty reduction is firmly anchored on sustainable and remunerated employment, which is based on high productivity.

The targeting approach, which Nigeria has, adopted over the years, involves changing the distribution of assets (in terms of land, physical and human capital e.g. NALDA restructuring production at the sectoral level (involving the promotion of production and employment in the

informal sector, employment creation in the rural economy, public works and food-for work schemes), and labour market access and vulnerability (with emphasis on labour market regulation to reduce poverty-setting minimum wages and other intervention). One of Nigeria's programmes using the targeting approach to poverty reduction is run by National Directorate of Employment (NDE which was aim at generating adequate remunerative employment opportunities throughout Nigeria to raise both rural and urban incomes and reduce poverty.

It has earlier been pointed out that the alarming rate of poverty in Nigeria has not come into being as a result of non-challant attitude and non-recognition of the problem at hand. It has also not come by as a result of lack of response to the yearning of the poor people to be emancipated from their rather deplorable and frustrating state of near-despair.

The fact is that no Nigerian Government be it military or civilian, has come without introducing and leaving behind one form of poverty alleviation or reduction programme meant to reduce the level of poverty, gives hope and succor to the poor, and or move towards some sort of wealth creation. Strategies, policies and plans have been articulated; programmes and projects have been formulated and executed over the years. For instance, at independence in 1960, poverty eradication efforts in Nigeria centered on education, while Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), the Green Revolution, War Against Indiscipline (WAI), People Bank, Community Banks, Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Better Life for Rural Women, Family Support Programme (FSP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Mass Transit Programme (MTP), Guinea Worm Eradication Programme (GWEP) and Petroleum (special) Trust Fund (PTF) existed during the period under review.

These programmes were designed with the following objectives amongst others, training to improve available skills, income generation, increased accessibility to credit, improved health care services including family planning, nutrition and immunization and other provisions of greater welfare services to the poor.

2.2.8 Youth Unemployment and Poverty Situation in Nigeria

The worldwide labour participation rate for the world youth since 2007 to date is increasing dropping. Within the context of the Nigerian youth unemployment and poverty situation, it is to be stressed that accurate youth unemployment and in fact general unemployment statistics are difficult to access.

On the whole, Nigeria's unemployment that has resulted into poverty scenario can be observed from two categories according to Okafor (2011:362). These categories are the "older unemployed who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy, or bankruptcy and became ravaged by poverty; and the younger unemployed, most of who have never been employed but are completely ruined by poverty". In this regard, detailed assessments of the statistics of the youth unemployment scenario in Nigeria are also observable. For instance from records of the rural sector as reported by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics and the International Labour Organization 2003 to 2011 respectively, it is disturbing to note the gravity of this social plague of youth unemployment and poverty in the country.

For this rural records, table in appendix 2 indicating "Unemployed Persons by Educational Level, Age Group and gender Categories" from the years of 2003-2011 demonstrates the pervasiveness of the youth unemployment leading to poverty scourge in Nigerian rural settings.

A cursory look at the table in Appendix 2 shows that the level of youth unemployment in the rural areas of Nigeria causing poverty is alarming. For the age bracket of 15-24 years, it is observable that the level is very high ranging from 56.1 percent of the totality of unemployed people in Nigeria in 2003, to 55.1 percent for the years of 2004 to 2011. The magnitude of this level of youth unemployment in the Nigerian rural areas are even more glaring when the additions of the age bracket of 15 years to 44 years of unemployed person are considered. For instance, for the year 2011, it is observable that an addition of 55.1 percent for ages 15-24 and 38.5 percent for ages 25-44, gives a wholesome figure of 93.6% of all the unemployed in Nigeria. In other words, the over 90 percent of the unemployed causing poverty in Nigeria for the year 2011 are constituted of the Nigerian youths. Additionally the picture of this high level of youth unemployment breeding poverty can be seen even from the educational level of those that are unemployed in Nigeria. The rural sector as shown in the table in Appendix 2 demonstrates clearly that the majority of the unemployed are youth comprising of secondary school leavers. In this rural sector, the statistics are 63.3 percent for the year 2003 and 52.6 percent for the years 2007 to 2011.

Additional to the above however, the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2010) has stipulated that Nigeria's youth population tantamount to 80 million of the 140 million Nigerians, which statistically represents 60 percent of the entire population of Nigeria. More detailed figures from the NBS (2010) indicate that about 64 million of these 80 million youth are unemployed with 1.6 million of them under-employed. In the decade of the 1990s to 2000, the Nigerian youth unemployment statistics demonstrates that the largest categories are secondary school graduates.

In a determining study, Okafor (2011:363) has analyzed the nature and characteristics of youth unemployment giving rise to poverty in Nigeria in terms of their educational levels and age categories within the decade of 1990 to 2000. In his reporting of the statistics from the Nigerian Manpower Board, Okafor has indicated that:

Also 40% of the unemployment rate is among urban youth aged 20-24 and 31% of the rate is among those aged 15-19. Also two-thirds of the urban unemployed are ranged from 15-24 old. Furthermore, the educated unemployed tended to be young males with few dependents. National Bureau of Statistics (2011); ILO= International Labour Organization NIG = Nigeria (2012) * = Estimates.

2.2.9 The Potentials of SURE programme Implementation in Youth Unemployment and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

In the history of public employment generation for Nigerian youths, a lot of approaches have been initiated towards its successful implementation. Nonetheless, in the life span of the Yar'Adua/Goodluck administration, the first to be inaugurated was the Nigerian Youth Empowerment Action Plan (NIYEAP) which initially was meant to be implemented in 2009-2011. However, in the administration of Goodluck Jonathan, which started in 2011, the first youth empowerment scheme that was embarked upon is the Youth Empowerment with Innovation in Nigeria (You Win) programme, which was launched by President Goodluck Jonathan at Abuja in October 2011, with subsequent launching at the various state capitals, including the federal capital territory. In discussing imperatives of the (You Win) programme in his 2012 presidential address to the national assembly on Monday 12, December 2012, Goodluck Jonathan had emphasized that his:

Government is focused on stimulating entrepreneurial activity and setting a framework for young people with creative tendencies to showcase their business insight, build capacity and create jobs. In this spirit and to move beyond the conventional paradigms of job creation, the government partnering with the organized private sector and our development partners took bold steps to initiate the youth enterprise with innovation in Nigeria (You Win) programme.

In terms of the expectation of the volume of job opportunities to be created, it has been stated by the SURE Board document (2012:2) that:

The project is expected to generate 500,000 skilled jobs and 320,000 unskilled jobs opportunities and would be implemented in partnership with the states, the local governments and the private sector. Then as to how the State Government and the local government are to generate their share of the jobs, there have been mapped out certain amounts of money distributed to these levels of government based on their usual federal financial percentage allocations. The allocation are calculated on annual basis but distributed monthly, along with other monetary shares to these states and local government. For the 2012 distributions to various states and their local governments in Nigeria, the table in Appendix shows the details (SURE Board Document 2012).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

A preliminary theory is important for any researcher in order to have a guide on the appropriate approach to use for analysis. According to Yin (2003) with the help of a theory a researcher is guided in designing possible solutions to the problem in the case.

Theories developed by Social Scientists to explain the existence of poverty in societies tend to be more concerned with inequality than with poverty. They include ‘necessity theory’ and ‘natural

circumstances theory'. All these theories no doubt try to explain the intricacies of high rate of poverty, especially in developing countries like Nigeria. However, due to the fact that this study is an assessment of SURE-P put in place to reduce poverty in the country, any or all of these theories might not adequately explain why the programme failed or succeed. Therefore, several theories were reviewed to give guidance to this work but after a careful study the institutional theory was adopted.

2.3.1 Necessity' Theory

There are three variants of this theory – the one put forward by sociologists and rested ultimately on hypothesized functionality of the institution of division of labour, a second which is essentially evolutionary and the third put forward by economists and developed in relation to capitalist entrepreneurial theory. The functionalist theory of economic inequality is rather simple. Specialization makes for efficiency but since different roles are differently evaluated (by common consent the harmony postulate), certain roles, (such as those of medical men, 'captains of industry' and so on) are accorded higher rewards than others (such as those of unskilled labourers, messengers and so on). Thus, the basis of the economic and social hierarchy in society is the different value, which is put by society on different people's work, and a 'class' therefore consists simply of families whose breadwinners have similar jobs and similar rewards, and who in consequence share a similar material standard of living and style of life. This is how the poor class is seen to form, almost spontaneously, since there is some inevitable link between deep structurally necessary inequality and the emergence of the poor class.

The evolutionist variant argues simply that extreme inequality and poverty act as eliminators of the least fit thus performing an evolutionary function. Thus, this variant shares with the former

one the notion that poor classes in society arise only spontaneously. The third variant, via the capitalist theory of entrepreneurship, does not uphold the notion of spontaneously. It derives very much from economic history of capitalist (free enterprise) economies. For instance, the western countries and even Japan are reported to experience rising inequalities in the early stages of their industrialization. The crude exploitation of the poor is then sometimes assumes to have been the condition that made possible the rise in savings and the aggressive entrepreneurship that gave momentum to the industrial revolution. Akeredolu-Ale (1975:53) is, however of the view that excessive income differentials in society could over a long period, impair the overall national economic efficiency and retard growth.

2.3.2 Natural-Circumstance Theory

The 'natural-circumstances theory' takes an opposite stand from other theories. It is more directly concerned with the problem of poverty (not merely with that of great inequality). According to this theory, poverty is essentially the result of self-perpetuating cultural and social deficiencies, which are beyond the capacity of individuals to remedy through their own efforts. The characteristics of poverty suggest that poor families are the victims of the ills of the society and their environment. Among the important variables identified by the natural circumstances theory are the geographical location and natural endowment of the environment in which the people live, unemployment, old age, and physical disability. Poverty should therefore, be seen as a social by–product of a complex, highly interdependence and dynamic economy and the responsibility of alleviating poverty should not be left to the individual, but must rest primarily on the society (McConnell, 1969:677).

2.3.3 The Institutional Theory (IT)

The roots of institutional theory which is the one adopted for this research work run richly through the formative years of the social sciences, enlisting and incorporating the creative insights of scholars ranging from Marx and Weber, Cooley and Mead, to Veblen and Commons. Much of postulations carried out at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century was submerged under the onslaught of neo-classical theory, but has experienced a remarkable revitalization. Contemporary IT has captured the attention of a wide range of scholars across social sciences and is employed to examine systems ranging from micro interpersonal interactions to macro global frameworks. Therefore, in understanding institutional theory, this study adopted the IT propounded by Scott (2001).

The justification for the choice is hinged on the fact that the institutional theory will clearly identify the institutional set up of poverty reduction within which the Taraba State SURE-P Policy is been implemented and how the institutional characteristics of the Taraba State Ministries and Agencies and the local governments impact on policy outputs which is a unique quality of the institutional theory.

According to Scott (2001) "Institutions are composed of cultural-cognitive, normative and regulative elements that together with associated activities and resources provide stability and meaning to social life". Although rules, norms and cultural beliefs are considered central ingredients of institutions, it is however imperative to consider human behaviour which is creating and applying these norms, interpreting meanings or beliefs and formulating, modifying

and obeying or disobeying these rules. Hence they cannot be separated from the associated behaviour and material resources (Scott 2001).

Consequently, institutions can either empower or restrain the actor's behaviour thereby making them more or less capable of operating according to the rules. In poverty reduction this implies that, the actor's behaviour towards implementing SURE-P programmes on poverty reduction can influence the reduction/alleviation of poverty towards success or failure. In this case, the Taraba State Ministries, Agencies and the local governments as institutions can either empower or restrain the behaviour of its employees towards implementing the SURE-P and this can influence the reduction of poverty to its success or failure in the state.

However, critiques of IT believe that there are important empirical problems with the theory. In particular, measurement of institutions and variations in their characteristics pose perhaps the greatest challenges to the use of the theory in a more systematic manner. Another standard critique of IT has been that it is almost inherently static while the world which it seeks to explain is almost inherently dynamic. Furthermore, even the normative element or pillar of an institution that stresses the "logic of appropriateness" has been criticized not to be concerned with change but have a clear concern with institutional development (Peters, 2000).

In spite of the criticisms of the IT by scholars, it still provides a better framework for understanding institutional internal operations and linkages of the Taraba State Ministries, Agencies and the local governments in regards to poverty reduction in the state. In his approach to institution, Scott indentified three main elements or pillars of institutions. These are the

regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive which support and form the basis for distinguishing the characteristics of institutions.

2.3.4 The Elements or Pillars of Institutional Theory

There are significantly three pillars of institutions. These are regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive elements which according to Scott (2001) have been identified as the vital ingredient of institutions. When looking from institutional perspectives of poverty reduction, it is essential to consider all these facets as contributing in interdependent and mutual reinforcing ways to a social framework. This will assist in understanding the way poverty reduction programmes can be implemented within a particular social system.

Regulative Pillar

The regulative aspects of institutions constrain and regularize behaviour with its processes of rule setting, monitoring and sanctioning activities. The regulative pillar is often reinforced by rules and laws resulting to the elements of fear, force and expedient. Often the powerful actors use this type of pillar to impose their will to others through using threats of sanctions. An example is on the use of authority using its coercion power legitimated by a normative framework to support and constrain the exercise of power. In other words, when power and enforcement are being practiced in some cases by the same actors meaning those who formulate the policies are the same implementing it, it is unarguably that the powerful actors will have the capacity to influence the outcome. The actor is becoming the rule maker, evaluator and implementer. It is considerably significant to involve a third party which is supposed to behave neutral in enforcement. In addition, institutions from a regulative pillars perspective depends on how the rules are interpreted and resolved, design of sanctions and incentives can bring yet another effects (Scott, 2001).

Normative Pillar

The normative pillar makes use of the role of values and norms, values are conceptions of the preferred, together with the construction of standards to which existing structures or behaviour can be compared and assessed, where as norms identify how things should be done by defining legitimate means to pursue valued ends. The normative system diverts away from the logic of consequences and put emphasis on appropriateness by defining the goals and objectives as well as the appropriate way to pursue them (Scott, 2001).

Cultural-Cognitive Pillar

The focal point of this pillar is based on shared conceptions that constitute the nature of social reality and the frames through which meaning is made. It has similar aspects like the normative but stresses on the cultural assumptions of *"the way we do these things"* as opposed to the normative which looks at *"how things should be done".* In this pillar meanings arise in interactions and are maintained and transformed as they are employed to make sense of the ongoing stream of occurrences. Moreover a cultural cognitive conception of institutions give emphasis to the manner in which the common framework of meaning is socially constructed (Scott, 2001). The institutional context in which organizations and individuals operate is important to ensuring the necessary incentives and rewards for improved public sector performance hence in this case poverty reduction.

2.3.5 Relevance of the Theory to the Study

The IT by Scott (2001) gives an insight into what an organization or institution should be as a structure and how her regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive functions helps in the implementation of Community Services Scheme, Graduate Internship scheme and Vocational Skills Training programmes on empowerment leading to poverty reduction. In this case the

SURE-P, it is from here its relevance is illustrated in the study of poverty reduction in Taraba state. In reality, the elements of institutions regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive are not found clearly aligned and is likely one element may undermine the effect of the other.

However, in poverty reduction and empowerment programmes the importance of these elements cannot be undermined as being part of the main factors contributing to the ineffectiveness of poverty reduction. The regulative element of the institutional theory which tends to regularize behavior with its processes of rule setting, monitoring and sanctioning activities becomes highly relevant to this study because the Taraba State Ministries, Agencies and the local governments as institutions can make use of their regulative functions to influence the behavior of their workers towards the enforcement of the policy guidelines enshrined in the SURE policy. The Ministries, Agencies and the local governments too can deploy the regulative element of this theory to impose sanctions on workers who fail to ensure the strict implementation of SURE-P.

Furthermore, the normative element of the theory has been useful in constructing standards to which existing structures or behaviour in the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments can be compared and assessed. The normative element explains how the Taraba State Ministries, Agencies and the local governments as institutions define their goals and objectives as well as the best way they can implement the SURE-P in the state and how their actions must be in line with the laws establishing it. Consequently, this element identifies how things should be done by the ministries, Agencies and the local governments by defining legitimate means to pursue their objectives on empowerment leading to poverty reduction in the state.

In addition, the cultural-cognitive element stresses the cultural assumptions of "the way we do these things". In this case, this element provides a better understanding of the institutional way and manner in which the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments implemented poverty reduction and empowerment programmes in the state. If the way and manner they implemented poverty reduction and empowerment programmes in the state seems unsuccessful, the cultural-cognitive element suggest that the way things are done must be changed in order to address the present realities on ground so as to achieve an efficient and effective programme implementation on empowerment leading to poverty reduction in the state. This element further assists the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments in understanding how people's culture influence poverty reduction and empowerment in the state.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The chapter of the study explained how the research has been carried out. That is what the data consists of and how they were collected, organized and analyzed. Thus, it consists of research design, sources of data, population and sample size, sampling techniques and method of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The study has adopted the survey research design in which both quantitative and qualitative research was used through questionnaires; interview/focused group discussions and observation. This is because the method was capable of studying behaviour, attitude and response of a person(s). It has also studied both large and small groups of population by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelationship of independent and dependent variables, in this case, SURE-P and poverty reduction strategies. The variables related to the study were structured on a five-point Likert scale, questions on Focused Group Discussions with the beneficiaries were held on discussion schedule, while interview questions with the staff/committee of SURE-P that implemented the programmes were structured on an interview schedule; data from interview and questionnaires as well as FGDs were supported by observation. Secondary data or content analysis such as extraction of relevant documents, journals, newspapers, magazines, conference papers, books etc were used to complement the research.

3.3 Population and Sample Size of the Study

The study has a population of 647 which comprises of all the numbers of beneficiaries in Community Services Scheme, Graduate Internship Scheme and Vocational Training Scheme in all the (16) local government areas in the state divided by the numbers of the local governments in the state, multiply by three local governments selected as the study areas and the SURE-P staff; with the beneficiaries having 627 i.e questionnaire respondent's population and the SURE-P staff 20 as the interviewee's population.

Table 3.1: Population and sample size of the study

S/N	Category of populations	Population	No of sampled Respondents	Percentages
1	SURE-P Staff	20	5	2.1%
2	Beneficiaries	627	237	97.9%
3	**Total**	**647**	**242**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey 2015.

In the study, Krejcie and Morgan formula was used to determine the sample size for the population of beneficiaries and the SURE-P staff in Taraba State; in using the formula for the sample size, the following procedure were adopted.

Sample size for the population using Krejcie and Morgan's formula

N = Population 647

S = size 242

By our calculation, sample size for the study is 242 using Krejcie and Morgan formula representing 37.4% of the total population of 647.

The justification for using Krejcie and Morgan's formula for the determination of the sample size is to help reduced the population to a moderate size.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Sampling technique is the strategy adopted in composing a representative sample of population for the study. For the purpose of this study therefore, three local government areas were purposively sampled for the study through stratified random sampling from the three senatorial zones of the state; namely: Jalingo LGA from the Northern zone which is justified on the ground of being urban, Gassol LGA from the Central zone representing semi-urban and Ussa LGA from the Southern zone representing rural areas of the state that was for the SURE-P beneficiaries while for the SURE-P staff, five (5) people were sampled these are; the Chairperson committee and her Secretary, Community Service Officer (CSO), Consultant of Golden Heritage and the Desk officer of Ussa LGA using purposive sampling to interview them and efforts at reaching the other desk officers proved abortive. The justification for the adoption of this technique was basically judgmental.

3.5 Sources of Data

Primary and Secondary sources of data were explored in the study. This consists of the responses from the beneficiaries and the SURE-P staff/committee through questionnaire; interview/focused group discussions and observation. The use of questionnaire was justified on the basis of its reliability, convenience, anonymity and less reactivity; questionnaires were structured in close-ended format for easy tabulation, coding and analysis. The questionnaires were divided into sections 'A' and 'B'. Section A consists of questions relating to the respondents personal data while section B of the questionnaire addresses questions relating to the research hypothesis using the five-point likert scale of strongly agreed, agreed, undecided, disagreed and strongly

disagreed. A total of 240 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents who were the beneficiaries of the SURE-P in the (3) selected local government areas in the state, each of the LG having 30 questionnaires on Community Services Scheme and 30 questionnaires on Vocational Skills Training Scheme, also 60 questionnaires were administered on the Graduate Internship Scheme in the state capital.

While the use of interview/focused group discussions were justified on the ground that it revealed complex emotionally laden issues on the topic as well as gives room for additional information which has complemented the research questionnaires. The interview/focused group discussions questions were structured and unstructured; the structured questions were contained in the FGD/interview schedule and was a face to face FGD/interview. However, unstructured interview/FGDs were used in some cases and were extremely informative. The justification for the use of observation was the fact that it guarantees recording behaviour as they occur, it provides information that relates directly to typical behavioural situation and can be carried out independently of the subject or respondent willingness or ability to cooperate. The observation takes place in the study areas to ascertain the impact of the programme.

The secondary sources of data explored in this study includes official publication of government such as the SURE-P Project Implementation Manual on CS/WYE, SURE-P journey so far in Taraba State first edition, journals, articles, Newspapers, Magazines, Conference Papers, Books, Published and unpublished materials and the internet for materials on SURE-P and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

3.6 Administration of Instrument

A total of 240 questionnaires were administered on the sampled respondents as indicated in table 3.1, and 30 questionnaires each on Community Services Scheme and Vocational Skills Training

Scheme were distributed randomly to the respondents in each of the selected LGA of the stratum and 60 questionnaires on the GIS in the state capital that made up 240 questionnaires. Questions on the questionnaires were used to elicit responses from the respondents on the implementation of the SURE-P programmes in the state, how the programme being able to raised some social infrastructures, meet the basic needs of the beneficiaries as well as empowering them leading to their poverty reduction; and how the programme directly contributed to the socio-economic development of people and the state. The respondents responses were measured using the five-point likert scale of strongly agreed, agreed, undecided, disagreed and strongly disagreed.

A FGDs was also held with the beneficiaries to elicits more responses from them, while a total of five (5) respondents were interviewed they are: Chairperson committee and her Secretary, Community Service Officer (CSO), Consultant of Golden Heritage and the Desk officer of Ussa LGA The reason is to assess official information on the SURE-P programmes and its implementation, outcomes and contribution to the people of the state.

Justification for the selection of these categories is because they are the key officers that knows much about the subject matter (SURE-P and Poverty Reduction strategies) and can provide the study with reliable and official information.

3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

For the purpose of analyses, descriptive and inferential statistical tools of analyses were employed in this study. The descriptive tools include the use of frequency counts and simple percentage in analyzing and interpreting data collected; however, for the purpose of testing the hypotheses, the Pearson's Product moment correlation (r), one of the inferential statistical tools was used to measure the relationship exists between the independent and dependent variables. However, the International Business Machine (IBM) Statistical Packages for Social Sciences

(SPSS) version 20 was used to run the relationship. Meanwhile, data generated through focus group discussion, interview and secondary sources were analysed using content analysis.

Decision Rule

The decision rules for correlation analysis are based on comparison of the p-values of the correlation coefficient and the level of significance of the selected confidence level of the study. For the purpose of this study, 95% confidence level is selected which gives us a 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, when the p-value (Sig. one or two tailed) is less than the level of significance (0.05), the correlation coefficient is said to be statistically significant at 95% confidence level and then, the null hypothesis is to be rejected. However, where the p-value is greater than 0.05, the correlation coefficient is said to be statistically insignificant at 95% confidence level and then, the null hypothesis is to be accepted.

CHAPTER FOUR

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, STRUCTURES, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBSIDY RE-INVESTMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (SURE-P)

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the activities of the SURE-P and its strategies in Poverty Reduction. The chapter predominantly discussed the Historical background of SURE-P, Components, Structural organization, Powers and Functions of the SURE-P.

4.2 Historical Background of SURE-P

The Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment (SURE) programme of the President Goodluck Jonathan's administration was announced on the 1st day of January 2012. However, the actual implementation of the policy was embarked upon in the early 2012 on February 13th, during which members of the SURE Board led by Dr. Christopher Kolade was inaugurated.

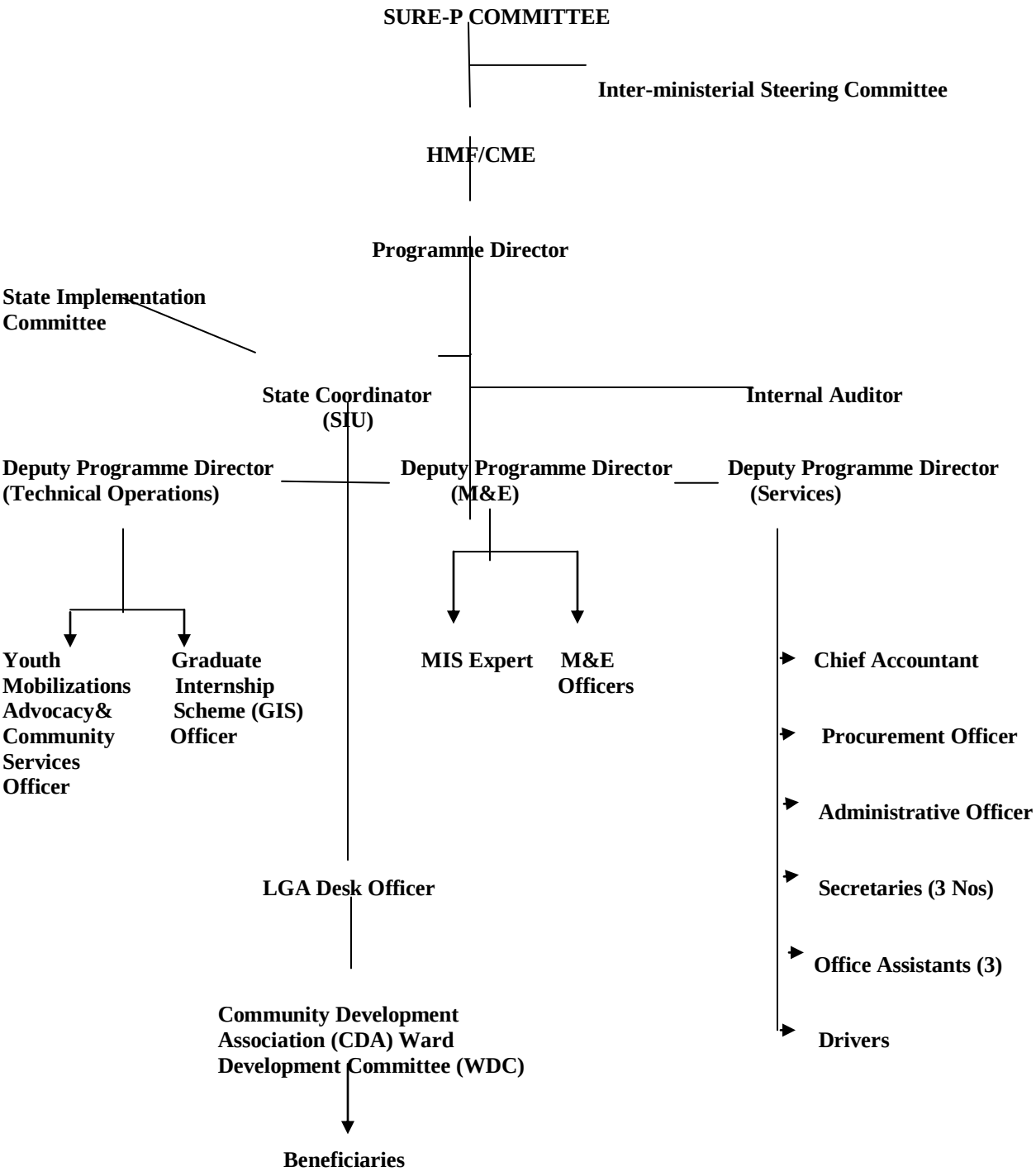
The Federal Government policy to discontinue oil subsidy is to eliminate the huge financial burden it poses on government and divert the resources to investments in critical areas of needs that will stimulate economic growth and citizen empowerment. In order to cushion the effect of the oil subsidy removal on the poor, the government initiated the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P). The programme has eight (8) components namely, the Social Safety Net (SSN), Niger Delta Development, Road Infrastructure, Rail Transport, Water and Agriculture, Selected Power Projects, Petroleum and NNPC Projects and Information and Communication Technology.

The Social Safety Net (SSN) Component of the SURE-P has three (3) sub-components, which are the Maternal and Child Health Services, Community services, Women and Youth Employment and Urban Mass transport. As part of the social safety net strategy, government has deliberately placed the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE) component of the SURE-P on priority agenda due to the urgent need to engage the teeming unemployed women and youth in labour intensive services targeted at rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructures. This is aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations. In addition it will help mitigate negative socio-economic consequences of unemployment.

4.3 Structural organisation of SURE-P

The institutional management and arrangement for the Community Services Scheme/Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE) component of the SURE-P mirrors its implementation strategies and is thus anchored on a deconcentrated service delivery model with adequate delegation of authority to different levels and integration of key stakeholders. The arrangement being put in place is aimed at achieving project objectives.

The SURE-P Committee provides overall policy guidance and supervisory roles, while an inter-ministerial committee was responsible for oversight and quality assurance roles. A Project Implementation Unit was established in the Federal Ministry of Finance and under the office of the Coordinating Minister for the Economy (CME)/Honourable Minister of Finance. The PMU was responsible for overall management and coordination of the programme nationwide and will report to the SURE-P Committee through the Coordinating Minister of the Economy.



Source SURE-P (document 2012)

4.4 Roles and Responsibilities of various stakeholders of SURE-P

In consideration of the multi-stakeholder interests, roles and responsibilities have been defined for each key stakeholder to strengthen accountability and effective delivery. The roles and responsibilities are outlined below:-

4.4.1 SURE-P Board

The board oversees the overall programme to ensure probity, transparency and accountability. Reviews overall programme performance and progress, provides guidance on critical issues on the programme, approval for budgets and work plans.

4.4.2 Inter-Ministerial Committee

The committee is chaired by the Coordinating Minister of the Economy/Honourable Minister of Finance with membership drawn from Federal Ministries of Labour and Productivity, Finance, Environment, Youth Development, Culture Tourism and National Orientation, Lands Housing and Urban Development, Mines and Steel Development and Women Affairs. The Federal Ministries will be responsible for the following:

Provides guidance to central Project Implementation Unit (PIU) on effective programme execution; Supports in project identification process; Resolves implementation bottlenecks related to projects; Ensures support for state PIUs from their corresponding state representatives; Monitor implementation process; Guide in policy changes for effectiveness of the scheme.

4.4.3 Federal PIU

This is manned by technical and professional team with needed expertise to provide support and guidance nationwide in achieving the objectives of the project. It is responsible for day to day

project management and coordination of overall programmes; Sets strategic direction and generic operational guidelines for programme execution in states; Ensures partnership with state stakeholders – establish and ensure adherence to MOUs; Responsible for procurement decisions for overall programme; Approves all beneficiary – related activities – selection, deployment etc; Maintains national database of registered beneficiaries and community services for each state; Prepares and manages programme budget and funds disbursement to all – beneficiaries, supervisors, State Liaison office etc; Aggregates, prepares and submits regular performance reports on overall programme; Responsible for overall verification, monitoring and evaluation activities across states and capacity building of project team.

4.4.4 State PIU

A coordinator shall be appointed by the FGN charged with responsibility of managing the entire project affairs at the state level. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) will provide the secretariat and technical support. Responsible for programme execution in the state; Coordinate community services identification and ensure state spread; Coordinates the beneficiary identification and selection process (through community associations); Enrolls identified beneficiaries into the database; Coordinates beneficiary and supervisor orientation; Coordinates deployment of beneficiaries to projects; Maintains database of registered beneficiaries; Communicates with beneficiaries as required; Aggregates, prepares and submits regular performance reports on beneficiary activities and project progress for state; Creates awareness on CSWYE in federal, state and LGA/MDAs in the state; Manages project supervisors; Conducts routine checks on beneficiaries in the field; Prepares monthly payroll information for beneficiaries; Resolves complaints and conflicts; develops and executes transition/exit plans for beneficiaries.

4.4.5 Local Government Councils

Designate CSWYE desk officer at LG offices; Provide office space for the desk officers; Serve as link between communities in the LGA and state level implementation Unit; Review recommended beneficiaries to ensure adherence to guidelines; Provide information on community services in LGAs for which labour is required; Provide work materials not provided under the scheme for the identified services; Mobilize community leaders on matters related to the project; Responsible for confirming the works and priority provided by the communities; Certify that works selected for the project are not in conflict or duplication with regular budgetary provisions of the LGA; Responsible for certifying the quality of completed works.

4.4.6 LGA CSWYE Desk

Work closely with communities in the LGA in identification of services and potential beneficiaries; Compile database of services and beneficiaries selected in communities in the LGA; Submit to State level PIU data on potential beneficiaries and works in each community under the LGA; Collate the reports of supervisors in communities under the LGA and submit same to the state PIU; Conduct spot-checks on supervisors and report any anomalies to the state office; Take part in conflict resolution at LG level and report all unresolved cases to the state office; Take part in monthly M&E of works in communities in their LGAs; Reports to LGAs on project performance on monthly basis; Provide application forms to CDAs for prospective beneficiaries.

4.4.7 Community Development Associations/Ward Development Committee

They work closely with the LGA CSWYE desk; Responsible for identification of works and potential beneficiaries in their communities; Distribute Application forms to prospective

beneficiaries; Review applications, identify and select beneficiaries in line with guidelines, Responsible for creating awareness and mobilizing potentials beneficiaries; Responsible for mobilizing other resources e.g. work materials for construction works e.g. culverts; Be part of the participatory M&E team of works done in their communities; Certify completion and quality of work done in their communities before submission to the LGA and the State Implementation Unit; Resolution of conflicts in their communities and to report unresolved cases to the LGA CSWYE Desk; Keep record of works, and potential beneficiaries submitted to CSWYE Desk for onward transmission to the State and the central PIU.

4.4.8 Project Supervisor

Supervises beneficiaries' activities (in collaboration with implementing MDAs' staff); Prepares and submits reports on beneficiaries' attendance and performance; Provides support during orientation/induction programme for beneficiaries; Acts as first point of escalation for issues relating to beneficiaries; Interface with CDAs on project performances.

4.4.9 Beneficiaries

They carried out the work assigned to them by the supervisor judiciously. They maintain and preserve the tools and equipments in their care; To be safety conscious while on duty; To report to the supervisor on a daily basis.

4.4.10 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

To propagate the future as essence of Community Services Scheme; To monitor the implementation of the scheme both at the Community and State levels; To acts as the interface between the community and the Government towards proper implementation of the project.

4.5 An Overview of Nigerian Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment (SURE) Programme

The fundamental socio-economic and political issues according to Obuzuwa (2012) that led to the establishment of the SURE programme was the January 1, 2012 federal government of Nigeria's announced removal of the popular fuel subsidy which increased the pump price of the premium motor spirit (PMS) to over 100 percent. In this exercise the pump price of fuel was increased from its last price of N65.00 per litre to the all high price of N145.00 per a litre. The arguments of the federal government for the removal of the fuel subsidy are multifaceted. Among some of the arguments is that:

The Federal Government intends to save that subsidy money and invest same in the economic development of the nation and thereby eradicating the suffering of the Nigerian masses; and that the Federal Government intends to spend the subsidy savings in improving the various sectors of the economy especially in infrastructural and services development (Obuzuwa 2012).

Based on the eventual partial removal of subsidy on the pump price of the fuel product that later settled at N97.00 per a litre, the SURE programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria, under the administration of Goodluck Jonathan was birthed. In line with the Federal Government's arguments for the removal of the fuel subsidy, the objectives of the SURE programme according to the Federal Government's SURE programme (2011:6) are:

(a) To mitigate the immediate impact of the petroleum subsidy discontinuation on the Nigerian population, but particularly for the poor and vulnerable segments. This applies to both the direct and indirect effects of the subsidy removal.

(b) To accelerate economic transformation through investments in critical infrastructural projects, so as to drive economic growth and achieve the vision 20:2020, which is part of spirit of the administration's transformation agenda.

(c) To lay the foundation for the successful development of a national safety net programme that is better targeted at the poor and the most vulnerable on a continuous basis, including public works and employment schemes, maternal and child health, mass transit programmes and vocational training skill acquisition schemes.

In furthermore of the implementation of one of the key planks of the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE) which is the government led generation of employment for the Nigerian masses, especially the youths, President Goodluck Jonathan had in his 2012 budget speech before the Joint Sessions of the National Assembly on December 12, 2011, did aver that:

This administration believes that it is time to give Nigerian youths an opportunity to enjoy the dignity of a job, the support for innovation, the confidence to be an entrepreneur and the sheer optimism to be an employer of labour, along with security of an income that can contribute to our economic development. We are conscious of the fact that we have the task of transforming the huge potential of our youths into real, tangible outcomes which all of our people can experience and call their own.

In terms of the mechanisms of funding these SURE programmes in Nigeria, the federal government in the SURE Programme Document (2011:4) has stated that:

The total projected subsidy reinvestment fund per annum is N1.34 trillion based on an average crude oil price of USS 90 per barrel. Out of this N478.49 billion accrues to federal government,

N411.03 billion to state governments, N203.23 billion to local governments, N9.86 billion to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and N31.37 billion as transfers to Derivation and ecology, development of natural resources and stabilization funds.

In an attempt to spread the implementation of the SURE programmes to all levels of governance in the country, the federal government of Nigeria as stipulated in the SURE document (2011:4) emphasized that:

This programme is focused on utilization of federal government share of the subsidy. Every state and local government is expected to design its own programme and utilizing its portion of the subsidy reinvestment funds. The subsidy reinvestment funds from the discontinuation of the fuel subsidy will be used for the implementation of the programme and to reduce our borrowing needs. The federal government has decided to channel its own share of the resources into a combination of programmes to stimulate the economy and alleviate poverty through critical infrastructure and safety net projects.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses data collected through primary and secondary sources. Data collected through questionnaire were presented in tables and analysed using frequency counts and percentages. The data from the questionnaire were measured on a five-point Likert scale and further interpreted using descriptive statistics. Based on the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data, the hypotheses postulated in chapter one was tested using Pearson's Product moment correlation (r).

The questionnaires were administered on the beneficiaries in Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa local governments. They contained questions and responses mostly on independent and dependent variables of the study in order to draw inferences and establish relationship between independent and dependent variables.

Similarly, data were collected from the committee in charge of Community Services, Vocational Training and Graduate Internship Schemes of SURE-P as well as the committee M&E of the programmes in Taraba State through the use of interview. Focus group discussions were made with the beneficiaries and the secondary data obtained were analysed using content analysis to complement the responses from the questionnaire. Inferences were also made through observation to further substantiate the hypotheses tested and the chapter concluded with the presentation of the major findings.

5.2 Administration of Questionnaire

A total of 240 questionnaires were administered for the study, 30 questionnaire on Community Services Scheme and 30 questionnaires on Vocational Training Scheme were administered in each of the (3) LGAs comprising Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa Local Government Areas while 60 questionnaires were administered on the Graduate Internship Scheme for the whole of the state. Out of these total, 178 were filled and returned representing 74.2% and used for the purpose of analysis. The rate of return of the questionnaires by each category of respondents is presented in the tables below.

Table 5.1 Rate of Return of Questionnaires as responses from the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Community Services Scheme

S/N	Study Area	Total No. of Questionnaire Administered	Total No. of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
1	Jalingo	30	25	83.3%
2	Gassol	30	28	93.3%
3	Ussa	30	25	83.3%
	Total	**90**	**78**	**86.7%**

Source: Field Survey, 2015

As indicated in table 5.1, out of 30 questionnaires administered to the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Community Services Scheme in Jalingo local government only 25 were filled and returned representing 83.3% of the return rate. The return rate of Gassol local government is 28 out of 30 questionnaires administered representing 93.3% while that of Ussa local government is 83.3% representing the rate of 25 questionnaires returned. However, of all the categories of respondents, the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Community Services Scheme in Gassol LGA had the highest rate of questionnaires returned (93.3%) while responses from the beneficiaries in Jalingo and Ussa LGAs had the lowest return rate represented by 83.3% respectively.

Table 5.1.1 Rate of Return of Questionnaire as responses from the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Vocational Skills Training Scheme

S/N	Study Area	Total No. of Questionnaire Administered	Total No. of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
1	Jalingo	30	23	76.7%
2	Gassol	30	22	73.3%
3	Ussa	30	21	70%
	Total	**90**	**66**	**73.3%**

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.1.1 shows that 30 questionnaires were administered to the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Vocational Skills Training Scheme in each of the (3) local government areas, in Jalingo local government 23 were filled and returned representing 76.7%; in Gassol local government 22 were filled and returned representing 73.3% while in Ussa local government 21 were returned representing 70%. Jalingo LGA therefore, had the highest rate of questionnaires returned (76.7%) while Ussa LGA had the lowest return rate representing 70% of the return rate.

The questionnaires on Graduate Internship Scheme were administered only in the state capital where the beneficiaries of the Scheme from various LGAs were trained and attached to their respective firms/companies in the state; and its responses is therefore shown in the cumulative table of all the respondents.

Table 5.1.2 Cumulative Rate of Questionnaires Return on Community Services, Vocational Skills Training and Graduate Internship Schemes of SURE-P in the selected LGAs/State

S/N	Schemes	Total No. of Questionnaire Administered	Total No. of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
1	Community Services Scheme	90	78	86.7%
2	Vocational Skills training Scheme	90	66	73.3%
3	Graduate Internship Scheme	60	34	56.7%
	Total	**240**	**178**	**74.2%**

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.1.2 shows the cumulative rate of questionnaires return on Community Services Scheme, Vocational Skills Training Scheme and the Graduate Internship Scheme. There were 90 questionnaires that were administered on Community Services Scheme in the selected LGAs 78 were filled and returned representing 86.7%, also in the Vocational Skills Training Scheme 90 were administered but only 66 were filled and returned representing 73.3% while in the Graduate Internship Scheme 60 questionnaires were administered to the beneficiaries in the state and 34 were filled and returned representing 56.7% given a total of 178 questionnaires out of the 240 administered representing 74.2% returned.

5.3 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The study reveals that a majority 39.3% of the respondents had their ages between 20 -29 years, 35.4% is within the age brackets of 30-39 years; 20.2% have their ages between 40 and above years while 5.1% are within the age of 15-19 years respectively. A Majority 55.6% of the respondents are male, 44.4% are female. Majority of the respondents who constitutes 50.6% are married while 49.4% are said to be single. This shows that there are predominantly more youths and married people in the programme implementation. About 37.1% of the respondents had completed their secondary education, 25.3% received OND/NCE education i.e. post-secondary; 19.1% had Degree and 2.3% had their post-graduate education, with 16.3% had received only primary education.

The respondents' income level before their involvement in the SURE-P programme was low but after the programme it has been appreciated. Some of the beneficiaries said that they hardly raised 2000-3000 naira in a month, but during the programme they were able to get up to 10,000 naira as their monthly stipends and even above such as those from the VSTS.

Table 5.1.3: Distribution of respondents by their socio-economic characteristics
Age distribution of Respondents

Age Range	**No of Respondents**	**Percentage (%)**
15-19	9	5.1
20-29	70	39.3
30-39	63	35.4
40 and above	36	20.2
Total	**178**	**100**

Source: Field Survey 2015

Table 5.1.4 Sex of the Respondents

Sex	**No of respondents**	**Percentage (%)**
Male	99	55.6
Female	79	44.4
Total	**178**	**100**

Source: Field Survey 2015

Table 5.1.5 Marital Status of Respondents

Status	**No of Respondents**	**Percentage (%)**
Single	88	49.4
Married	90	50.6
Total	**178**	**100**

Source: Field Survey 2015

Table 5.1.6 Educational Qualification of Respondents

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Primary	29	16.3
Secondary	66	37.1
Post Secondary	45	25.3
Degree	34	19.1
Post-graduate	4	2.3
Total	**178**	**100**

Source: Field Survey 2015

5.4 Annual Distribution of SURE-P Allocation Shares to Nigerian States and their Local Governments

From the table in Appendix 3, it is observed that the share of Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, Delta and Bayelsa States tops the annual allocations of the SURE programme to the states. In the contrast, the shares of Ebonyi, Ekiti, Nasarawa and Gombe states constitutes the least shares in the 2012 SURE programme financial allocations to the States.

From the local government shares under the SURE programme, the table in the appendix demonstrates these amounts shared according to the number of local governments in each state of the federation. A quick glimpse at the table shows that Nigerian local governments from Kano, Katsina, Oyo and Borno States top the list of the highest receivers of the SURE allocation for the year 2012. On the other hand, Bayelsa, Gombe, Ebonyi and Nassarawa are the least states in terms of SURE allocation to Nigerian local government for the year 2012 (SURE Document 2011) National Planning Commission Abuja.

5.5 SURE-P in Taraba State

The Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) was flagged off in Jalingo in May 2013 to deliver its dividends to Tarabans. The scheme was one of the government policies to phase out some critical areas of the economy and socio-economic development of the country.

The Acting Governor in his response to the programme said that, the adoption of SURE-P will be the beginning of a systematic process that will move the state forward; therefore, in fulfilling the set objectives the state government has also gone ahead to includes its own home-grown solutions to make the programme more effective. He added that, the initiative was in line with the state government desire to create thousands of jobs every year, even as he encourages the private sector to do same through increased investment in the state. The SURE-P Journey so far in Taraba State first edition (2013).

The implementation of SURE-P in Taraba State was in two phases, the first phase was the distribution of motorcycles and the tricycles, while the second phase comprises; training the youths/women in Vocational Skills, Community Services and the Graduate Internship Schemes. There are about 600 youths that received training in Computer Applications at the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) secretariats and Muslims council, 300 each. Training is being carried out by a consulting firm, "Global Heritage and Consultancy Services Limited" in collaboration with the Taraba State Polytechnic Jalingo and certificates were issued to the beneficiaries at the end of the training. The beneficiaries were drawn from the three Senatorial Districts and the 16 Local Government Areas of the State.

About 446 beneficiaries were engaged in fingerlings production, which were also drawn from the 16 Local Government Areas. Taraba State is blessed with abundant of fish resources, through its rivers and natural ponds scattered across most of the LGAs. The training will not only equip the farmers with the technical know-how in fish production, but also improve their occupation, boost their economy and provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to the young school leavers.

Beneficiaries were drawn from the 16 LGAs, 1500 motorcycles and 400 tricycles were distributed to them. The tricycles and motorcycles was leased to 1,900 recipients, and are to be with them for about one year, within which they would repay only 40% of the cost to Government before taking ownership of them.

In its targets to empower 8,600 unemployed youths in the state, in the first batch of the SURE-P, the Taraba State Government has ensured that among the beneficiaries were people living with disabilities SURE-P Journey so far in Taraba State (2013). They acquire skills in areas like; tailoring, carpentry, building, poultry, welding and fabrication, knitting, Auto-Mechanic and electrical installation to make the youths and the disable self reliant and useful to the society.

Also about 1,200 youths were trained as "Taraba marshals" in the State, upon completion of the training; the State Government engaged them as security agents, environmentalists and traffic marshals. The programme is borne out of the need to reduce poverty and arrest the negative trend of youth's involvement in social vices, violent, crimes and conflicts.

The implementation of the programme in Taraba State did not stop on youth empowerment; it has also involved women who are the hope of the nation that can produce self-reliant future leaders. About 1200 beneficiaries were engaged in various skills acquisition programme, such as

fashion design and tailoring, Hair dressing, food packaging, knitting as well as Jewelleries and bits making.

In the committee report of (2014) submitted to the state government on the SURE-P programme implementation in the state; it was stated that in Jalingo local government, the Community Services Scheme programme have made a significant provision of some infrastructures like the purchased of some equipments such as the hospital beds supplied to some PHCs within the local government area, ambulances for carrying patients in term of accidents/emergencies etc. The report affirmed that the scheme has also engaged some youths as environmental marshals, traffic marshals, security marshals (vigilante) members who would help in the area of security provision. In the same vein under the Vocational Skills Training Scheme, the programme have contributed so much that those who benefited from the scheme were able to set-up their business enterprises such as hair dressing saloon, workshops for welding, fashion design and tailoring, electrical installations, food packaging, knitting, computer centres, carpentry workshops etc.

The committee report also confirmed that in Gassol local government one of the study areas, the Community Services Scheme under the social safety Net component of the programme tremendously contributed much in improving the welfare of the people in the local area. This is based on the fact that the scheme has constructed two maternities in the local government area; one renovated and the other newly constructed. These can be found in Gassol town and Mutm-Biyu respectively. This has further complemented the questionnaire and the focus group discussions held where the researcher was only shown that of Mutum-Biyu the headquarters of the local government.

According to the report, apart from the construction of the two maternities, the scheme has helped in the provision of some infrastructures such as the solar water pump, solar freezer/fridges, solar light, and building of staff quarters as well as supplies of drugs to the two maternities. It has engaged some youths as security agents who would provide security within the local area like that of their counterpart in Jalingo local government area. Others were engaged in taking care of government infrastructures like removal of blocked drainage, sweeping of the roads, cleaning and maintenance of structures belong to government. In the area of Vocational Skills Training Scheme, the report also indicated that women and youths have been empowered and most of the beneficiaries are now self-reliant and have been putting into practice the skills acquired e.g. computer services, furniture making and upholstery, building, poultry etc which has helped in alleviating their poverty level.

The report stated that, in Ussa local government area, those empowered in the Vocational Skills Training Scheme both youths and women were doing well in practicing their skills. Some of the skills acquired in the local government are; tailoring and fashion designing, building work, furniture making and welding. The community services scheme engaged some unemployed youths and vulnerable women into activities like roads sweeping, removal of blocked drainages, as well as maintenance of government infrastructures. Unlike that of other local government areas, no provision was made in the area of social infrastructures such as buildings and purchase of some equipments compare to other local governments.

Report from the committee members who implemented the programme indicated that over 150 graduates across the state have been empowered through the GIS programme in different firms among them were Yaggai Academy, Bridge group of schools, Teknocrat Digital Services Ltd and Global Heritage Consultancy Services after which some of them were retained by the firms

on part-time bases (Committee Report, 2014) on the SURE-P programme implementation in Taraba state. In view of the above, disparities exists in some areas compare to the data generated from the questionnaires and FGDs which may be due to variations in the responses gotten from the beneficiaries and that of the committee members.

5.6 Data Analysis

The data sourced from the respondents in Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa local governments on Community Services Scheme, Vocational Skills and responses from the Graduates Internship Scheme in the state capital are duly presented and analysed in tables below.

5.6.1 Community Services Scheme

Community Services Scheme of (SURE-P) provides short-term employment for unskilled and semi-skilled youths, women and other vulnerable groups in labour-intensive community services. It improves socio-economic infrastructures in rural communities for improved livelihood and economic growth that contributes to social and community development towards Poverty Reduction in the local government areas and the state at large. In view of the above policy, the opinion of respondents across Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa local governments of the state were sought to ascertain the adequacy of community services rendered to the communities in the state and the level of policy implementation. Their responses are contained in the table below and were all analysed.

Table 5.1.7 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Jalingo local government on the Community Services Scheme

Community Services rendered in the local government area	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (U)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	F	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	F	%
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms	1	4	5	20	1	4	9	36	9	36	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staff rooms	2	8	4	16	-	-	12	48	7	28	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres	2	8	6	24	-	-	13	52	4	16	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics	2	8	6	24	-	-	11	44	6	24	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chair	2	8	7	28	-	-	8	32	8	32	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs	5	20	14	56	-	-	1	4	5	20	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improved on my income	3	12	18	72	-	-	2	8	2	8	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay school fees	6	24	11	44	-	-	4	16	4	16	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay hospital bills	4	16	11	44	-	-	5	20	5	20	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	5	20	9	36	1	4	2	8	8	32	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015
***f*= frequency**
%= percentage

A detailed analysis of table 5.1.7 indicates the responses of the beneficiaries on the effectiveness of community services scheme rendered in Jalingo LGA through the means above. Majority of

respondents were of the view that Community Services Scheme has not contributes in the construction of classrooms. 36% which constitutes the majority strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively with the effectiveness of Community Services Scheme rendered to the local government; 20% of the respondents agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms in Jalingo LGA, 4% strongly agreed with this and 4% of the respondents were undecided on the community Services rendered in the Local Government.

However, majority of the beneficiaries which constituted 48% disagreed with the assertion that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staffrooms. The table also indicates that 28% of the beneficiaries strongly disagreed with this view too. Only 16% and 8% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively on the view that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staffrooms in Jalingo LGA.

In the construction of primary health care centres, 52% of the respondents which are the majority strongly disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres; 16% of them also strongly disagreed with that while 24% and 8% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively to the claim that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres.

Majority of the respondents representing 44% and 24% disagreed and strongly disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics while 24% and 8% agreed and strongly agreed respectively that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics in Jalingo LGA.

The opinion of the respondents was sought on whether Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc their responses indicated that, majority of them 32% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively with the assertion that Community

Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc. on the contrary, 28% and 8% agreed and strongly agreed respectively that Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc in Jalingo. This can further be substantiated with an interview conducted with the Chairperson Committee monitoring and evaluation of the SURE-P programmes in the state; it was revealed that Jalingo LGA bought beds and an ambulance to help in conveying emergency cases.

The beneficiaries' views were also sought to ascertain the extents to which Community Services Scheme helped them in meeting some of their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction. Majority of them which constituted 56% agreed that the Community Services Scheme has helped them in meeting some of their basic needs; likewise 20% of them strongly agreed too. But also, 20% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 4% disagreed respectively.

Equally, the responses gotten from the beneficiaries in the table indicated that, 72% of the respondents agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them to improve on their income and further supported by 12% of the respondents who strongly agreed to that while 8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. On the other hand, beneficiaries' views were tested whether Community Services Scheme has helped them to pay school fees, 44% representing the majority agreed that it has helped and 24% strongly agreed to that view while 16% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

In the same vein, the table indicated that 44% of the respondents agreed that the Scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills, so also supported by 16% of the respondents who strongly agreed that Community Services scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills; but 20% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that it has helped them in paying hospital bills. Still on the Community Services Scheme, 36% of the respondents agreed that the scheme has

helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat; 20% of them strongly supported that while significant responses from them representing 32% strongly disagreed and 8% disagreed respectively that the Scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat, while 4% were undecided.

Table 5.1.8 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Gassol local government on the Community Services Scheme

Community Services rendered in the local government area	**Strongly Agree (SA)**		**Agree (A)**		**Undecided (UD)**		**Disagree (D)**		**Strongly Disagree (SD)**		**Total**	
	f	**%**	***f***	**%**	***f***	**%**	***f***	**%**	***f***	**%**	**F**	**%**
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms	16	57.1	2	7.1	2	7.1	3	10.7	5	17.9	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staff rooms	9	32.1	13	46.4	1	3.6	3	10.7	2	7.1	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres	17	61	6	21.4	3	10.7	2	7.1	-	-	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics	12	43	10	36	1	3.6	3	10.7	2	7.1	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chair	12	43	11	39.3	1	3.6	2	7.1	2	7.1	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs	11	39.3	15	54	-	-	-	-	2	7.1	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improved on my income	16	57.1	11	39.3	-	-	-	-	1	3.6	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay school fees	14	50	13	46.4	-	-	1	3.6	-	-	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay hospital bills	14	50	14	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	10	36	12	43	-	-	2	7.1	4	14.3	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.1.8 above indicates that 57.1% being the highest responses from the respondents on the effectiveness of Community Services Scheme rendered in Gassol LGA strongly agreed that it has helped in the construction of classrooms and further supported by 7.1% who agreed to their opinion; meanwhile, 17.9% of the respondents strongly disagreed to their claim likewise 10.7% disagreed to the above assertions while 7.1% of them remained undecided. Majority of respondents were of the view that Community Services Scheme has contributed in the construction of staffrooms in the LGA with 46.4% and 32.1% agreed and strongly agreed to that and on the contrary, 10.7% and 7.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed with their view respectively with only 3.6% remained undecided. On the other hand, during data collection, the respondents who were in support of this claim were able to show the researcher some of the constructions made by the scheme which is done through the use of observation to further substantiate their claims see Appendix 11. In the construction of primary health care centres, 61% being the majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the Scheme has done so much in the construction of primary health care centres in the LGA and supported by 21.4% of the respondents who also subscribed to their view. However, only 7.1% disagreed with their view and 10.7 remained undecided.

Majority of the respondents representing 43% strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics in Gassol LGA and further supported by 36% who also agreed that the scheme has contributed; in opposition to that, 10.7% and7.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics while 3.6% remained undecided.

Respondents views were sought on whether Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc their responses indicated that, 43% strongly

agreed that the scheme has made some provision in the same vein, 39.3% also agreed with the views that Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc this is also proved by the researcher through the use of observation see Appendix 11. On the contrary, 7.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc and 3.6% remained undecided.

The respondents' opinions were also sought to ascertain the extents to which Community Services Scheme helped them in meeting their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction. Majority of them which constituted 54% and 39.3% agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them in meeting their basic needs only 7.1% strongly disagreed.

More so, the responses gotten from the table indicated that, 57.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them to improve on their income and also supported by 39.3% of the respondents who agreed to that while 3.6% strongly disagreed. Similarly, beneficiaries' views were tested whether Community Services Scheme has helped them to pay school fees, 50% representing the majority strongly agreed that it has helped and 46.4% also agreed to that view while 3.6% disagreed with that.

Again, the table indicated that 50% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills respectively with no responses from others. In line with the Community Services Scheme, 43% of the respondents agreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat; 36% of them strongly supported that while 14.3% strongly disagreed as well as 7.1% were in opposition to that claim.

Table 5.1.9 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Ussa local government on the Community Services Scheme

Community Services rendered in the local government area	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	F	%	*f*	%
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms	-	-	1	4	-	-	4	16	20	80	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staff rooms	-	-	2	8	1	4	17	68	5	20	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres	-	-	-	-	2	8	11	44	12	48	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics	-	-	1	4	2	8	18	72	4	16	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chair	3	12	2	8	-	-	10	40	10	40	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs	7	28	15	60	-	-	-	-	3	12	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improved on my income	11	44	10	40	-	-	-	-	4	16	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay school fees	6	24	13	52	2	8	1	4	3	12	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay hospital bills	5	20	15	60	-	-	2	8	3	12	25	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	12	48	10	40	-	-	-	-	3	12	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

In Ussa LGA and based on the responses gotten in the table above, 80% of the respondents strongly disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms and backed up by 16% of the respondents who also disagreed with only 4% responded that the scheme has constructed classrooms. A significant percentage of respondents at 68% disagreed that Community Services Scheme has contributed in the construction of

staffrooms in the LGA with 20% strongly disagreed too; only 8% who agreed that the scheme has constructed classrooms with 4% said to be undecided. In the construction of primary health care centres in Ussa, 48% being the majority of the respondents strongly disagreed that the Scheme has constructed primary health care centres in the LGA and supported by 44% of the respondents who also concurred to their view only 8% remained undecided.

Most of the respondents representing 72% disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics in Ussa LGA supported by 16% who strongly disagreed that the scheme has contributed in building of clinics; but 4% of the responses agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics while 8% remained undecided.

In the questionnaire, Respondents views were sought on whether Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc their responses indicated that, 40% disagreed and strongly disagreed correspondingly that the scheme has made some provision, in opposition to this, 12% agreed with the views that Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chairs etc and also 8% agreed to that view.

However, respondents' opinions were also sought to determine the extents, in which Community Services Scheme has helped them to meet their basic needs thereby reducing Poverty, majority of them which constituted 60% and 28.3% agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them in meeting their basic needs as well as reducing their poverty only 12% strongly disagreed with that.

In addition, the table indicated that, 44% of the respondents strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them to improve on their income in the same way, 40% also agreed to that while 16% strongly disagreed. Likewise, beneficiaries' views were asked in the questionnaire whether Community Services Scheme has helped them to pay school fees, 52% representing the majority agreed that it has helped and 24% strongly agreed to that and in contrast, 12% strongly disagreed and more so 4% were in total disagreement with that while 8% remained undecided.

Once more, the table indicated that 60% of the respondents agreed and 20% strongly agreed that Community Services scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills with 12% strongly disagreed and 8% disagreed. Another, the table shows that 48% of the respondents strongly agreed and 40% agreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat; only 12% strongly disagreed that their quality of food has improved.

Summary of Responses on the Community Services Scheme in the Selected LGAs of Taraba State

Table 5.1.10 contains the summary responses of the respondents from Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa local governments on Community Services Scheme. The responses of the respondents for each question under each option are added together and the percentages were calculated for the purpose of determining the highest response under each question to help draw an inference. This will make it easy for the reader to comprehend.

Table 5.1.10: Summary of the Responses on Community Services Scheme in (3) Selected LGAs of Taraba State

Community Services rendered in the local government areas	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		TOTAL	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	Ƒ	%	*f*	%
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms	17	21.8	8	10.3	3	3.9	16	20.5	34	43.6	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staff rooms	11	14.1	19	24.4	2	2.6	32	41	14	18	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres	19	24.4	12	15.4	5	6.4	26	33.3	16	20.5	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics	14	18	17	21.8	3	3.9	32	41	12	15.4	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chair	17	21.8	20	25.6	1	1.3	20	25.6	20	25.6	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs	23	29.5	44	56.4	-	-	1	1.3	10	12.8	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improved on my income	30	38.5	39	50	-	-	2	2.6	7	9	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay school fees	26	33.3	37	47.4	2	2.6	6	7.7	7	9	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay hospital bills	23	29.5	40	51.3	-	-	7	9	8	10.3	78	100
Community Services Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	27	34.6	31	39.7	1	1.3	4	5.1	15	19.2	78	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Table 5.1.10 above indicated the distribution of responses from the respondents across the three sampled areas. The respondents were asked Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms in Taraba State, 43.6% of the total sampled respondents strongly disagreed that it has helped in the construction of classrooms; 21.8% strongly agreed that it has helped, 20.5% disagreed with the same view and 10.3% agreed while 3.9% were undecided. In view of the above therefore, 43.6% is the majority opinion of those who strongly disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms supported by a significant percentage of 20.5% who also disagreed with that; we can conclude based on this that Community Services Scheme has not helped in the construction of classrooms in Taraba State.

Also, 41% which represents the majority of the total sampled respondents also disagreed that the Scheme have helped in the construction of staffrooms 18% also strongly disagreed but 24.4% and 14.1% agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staffrooms in the state, while 2.6% were undecided. This revealed and confirmed that the Scheme has not helped in the construction of staffrooms in the State only in some areas but not to a significant numbers.

Over again, 33.3% constituted the majority of those who disagreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres, 20.5% have equally disagreed with the same, on the other hand, 24.4% strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres in the State further supported by 15.4% and 6.4% were undecided; based on this responses, the Scheme has not done much in the construction of primary health care centres but were able to construct few just as in Gassol LGA where the Scheme renovated PHC and constructed their staff quarters as discussed with the beneficiaries in the focus group discussion and with some committee members that

implemented the SURE-P programme as well as the researcher's personal observation during data collection in the State see Appendix 11.

Similarly, 41% of the total respondents, representing the majority of the responses disagreed that the Scheme has helped in the building of clinics in the State 15.4% also strongly disagreed with that but on the contrary, 21.8% and 18% agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics in the State and 3.9% were undecided.

In the same vein, 25.6% of the total respondents across the State agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments in the State 21.4% strongly agreed with the same opinion meanwhile, same percentages of the total respondents 25.6% equally disagreed and strongly disagreed with their opinion regarding the provision of equipments by the Scheme while 1.3% were undecided. In view of the above, it shows that to some extent there were provision of equipments made by the Scheme but not to a reasonable proportion to make generalization; just as been told during interview session with the Chairperson Committee M&E where she said some LGAs bought ambulances and beds as well as personal observation by the researcher where he was shown some equipments like solar water pump, solar freezer/fridge, equipments and drugs bought in Gassol LGA see Appendix 11.

Generally, after a careful perusal at the distributions of the responses of the total sampled respondents in the three sampled LGAs of the study, it is understood that the majority of the respondents attested to the fact that Community Services Scheme has helped them in meeting their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction in the State; this can be substantiated with their responses where 56.4% and 29.5% agreed and strongly agreed respectively that the Scheme has done so much in terms of their basic needs, 12.8% strongly disagreed and 1.3% disagreed.

More so, in the summary of their responses in table above, it was deduced that the respondents (beneficiaries) overwhelmingly agreed and strongly agreed that the Scheme has helped them to improved on their income signified by 50% and 38.5% respectively, with only 9% stand to strongly disagreed and 2.6% disagreed as well. In line with the above, 47.4% and 33.3% agreed and strongly agreed that the Scheme has helped them to pay school fees, 9% and 7.7% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively and 2.6 remained undecided. The table has also shown that 51.3% and 29.5% agreed and strongly agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them to pay hospital bills; 10.3% strongly disagreed and 9% disagreed that it has not help them. Finally, 39.7% of the respondents representing the majority have agreed that Community Services Scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat, 34.6% of them also strongly agreed with their view but 19.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed with their view, 5.1% disagreed too and 1.3 remained undecided.

In view of the above responses by the respondents generally, it can be inferred that Community Services Scheme has not done much in terms of social infrastructural construction like classrooms, staff rooms, PHCs, building of clinics, as well as provision of some equipments like beds, chairs, ambulances etc in the State but have done few in some areas like Gassol, Donga, Yorro, Ussa and Jalingo LGAs as stated in an interview by the Chairperson committee M&E of SURE-P in Taraba State. On the other hand, it has done well in meeting people's basic needs, improved on their income, being able to pay school fees and hospital bills as well as improve on their quality of food they eat which has lead to Poverty Reduction in the State. This has justified the claim made by McConnell, (1969:667) in the theoretical framework under the 'Natural circumstances theory' that the responsibility of alleviating poverty should not be left to the individual, but must rest primarily on the society.

5.6.2 Test of Hypotheses

Under this section as specified earlier in chapter three, Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) was used in the test of the hypotheses postulated in chapter one. The hypotheses were tested by using data collected from the field through questionnaires and backed by the focus group discussions, secondary sources as well as interview results and observation outcome. In chapter one of this study, three null hypotheses were stated (Ho) as guide for data collection and analysis by using two-tailed test. They were meant to be tested using Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) tool of analysis. However, in testing the hypothesis, only the data in summary tables were used, i.e. Tables, 5.1.10, 5.1.16 & 5.1.18.

Decision Rule

The decision rules for bivariate correlation analysis are based on comparison of the p-values of the correlation coefficient and the level of significance of the selected confidence level of the study. For the purpose of this study, 95% confidence level is selected which gives us a 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, when the p-value (Sig. one or two tailed) is less than the level of significance (0.05), the correlation coefficient is said to be statistically significant at 95% confidence level and then, the null hypothesis is to be rejected. However, where the p-value is greater than 0.05, the correlation coefficient is said to be statistically insignificant at 95% confidence level and then, the null hypothesis is to be accepted.

Test of Hypothesis I

The Ho hypothesis states that, there is no significant relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures which in turn leads to poverty reduction in Taraba State.

To test this hypothesis, data in summary table 5.1.10 were used, this is presented below.

Table 5.1.11 There is no significant relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures which in turn leads to poverty reduction in Taraba State

Correlations

Correlations

		Community Services Scheme	Poverty Reduction I
Community Services Scheme	Pearson Correlation	1	.778**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	78	78
Poverty Reduction I	Pearson Correlation	.778**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	78	78

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: IBM SPSS version 20 Data analysis

Table 5.1.11 above shows the Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) results for the hypothesis I

From the tables, the Pearson coefficient (r) gives a statistical value of 0.778 which is positive, strong and statistically significant at 95% confidence level. The p-values (Sig., two tailed) being 0.000 (less than a 0.05 level of significance) indicates that there is a correlation between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures and in turn poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State, Hence a rejection of the null hypothesis.

The correlation coefficient (r) being positive and strong indicates that an increase in Community Services Scheme will increase the level of Women and Youth empowerment, improving their

general welfare thereby leading to Poverty reduction in the State. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis H_{01} which states that there is no significant relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures and in turn poverty reduction and accept its alternate H_1.

5.6.3 Reports of the Focus Group Discussions on Community Services Scheme in the (3) Selected LGAs of Taraba State

During the focus group discussion with the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Community Services Scheme, the researcher asked the beneficiaries to describe the level of sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P; some responded by saying through form filling from the LGA headquarters while some indicated that it was through their village heads, media and through their various wards in the LGA after which they were then screened and asked to open accounts. The researcher asked whether there was training organized for the beneficiaries; in their response, they said there was no formal training instead they were told how to do community work/services and some said they were given wheel barrows, brooms, shovels etc as equipments in carrying out their functions and nothing like formal training. This is supported by observation from the researcher where he was shown some of the equipments in Ussa LGA.

5.6.4 Significance of the Community Services Scheme on Poverty Reduction

The beneficiaries were asked how significant the Community Services Scheme is on Poverty Reduction and employment generation to them. Some of the respondents said it has helped by engaging them in doing things that in turn helped in alleviating their poverty; majority says there is significant importance because it has helped in maintaining cleanliness in the society such as

sweeping of the roads, removal of blocked drainages, cleaning of clinics and health centres as well as maintains government infrastructures. They were also asked to describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and programme implementation; the respondents indicated that they were very active in terms of passing out information e.g. their Supervisors, some confirmed that they were perfect and there was a good rapport between them and the staff while in Jalingo LGA to the dismayed of the researcher, that the staff were not dedicated to their work and did not pay them what government has agreed to pay them for about 11 months then. The respondents were right because the researcher has tried everything possible to get in touch with their Desk Officer but all efforts proved abortive where the Desk Officer was running away from the researcher and cannot even pick his phone calls. This revelation has coincided with Demery & Squire, (1996) in their empirical evidence that the apparent ineffectiveness of the adjustment programme in tackling poverty was due to poor policy implementation.

5.6.5 Methods of the beneficiaries' selection and the contribution of CSS to their LGAs

In the same vein, the beneficiaries were asked how they were drawn from their respective local government areas. Some of them says it was through their Community Development Association (CDAs), some it was through their Village Heads/Traditional Rulers, Politicians and others says it was through the filling of forms from their various wards and to local areas which to some extents, they have followed the eligibility criteria identified in the SURE-P document (2012). Similarly, they were asked how did Community Services Scheme helped in the construction of some social infrastructures as well as provisions of some equipment in their areas. In their response some said that the Scheme has helped by building of clinics, staff quarters, some said the programme did not help in the construction of some social infrastructures while some stated

that it has helped in the provision of equipments like solar water pump, solar freezer/fridge, hospital beds, ambulances etc see Appendix 11.

5.6.6 Payment of the beneficiaries' monthly stipends

The beneficiaries were asked whether they have been receiving their monthly stipends promptly; in response to this, the respondents testified that they were being paid promptly as of 2014 but not in the year 2015 for about 11 months from the time of information gathering which means from January to November 2015. Another says they were paid an under-payment ranging from 6000-8000 naira. And then asked what will be their calls on government, they said they are appealing to government to revamp the programme because it has helped them much in paying their children's school fees, most especially the widows and vulnerable.

5.7 Vocational Skills Training Scheme

Vocational Skills Training Scheme as a SURE-P programme targets the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled youths and women who are willing to be trained in specific trades to acquire sufficient skills for establishing their own enterprises with prospects for employing others towards Poverty Reduction in the local government areas as well as the state in whole. In view of the above, the opinion of respondents across Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa local governments of the state were sought to find out the satisfactoriness of the programme rendered to the communities in the state; as well as the extents to which Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P empowered Women and Youths leading to poverty reduction in Taraba State. The responses of respondents across the (3) selected local governments in the state on the Vocational Skills Training rendered are contained in the table below and were analysed.

Table 5.1.12 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Jalingo local government on the Vocational Skills Training Scheme

The Vocational Skills Training has generated employment and reduced poverty in the local government	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	F	%	*f*	%	*f*	%
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in fashion designing and tailoring	5	21.7	5	21.7	9	39.1	2	8.7	2	8.7	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in hair dressing	5	21.7	4	17.4	9	39.1	2	8.7	3	13	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in carpentry work	6	26.1	3	13	9	39.1	1	4.4	4	17.4	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in building work	3	13	5	21.7	11	47.8	1	4.4	3	13	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in electrical installations	3	13	-	-	11	47.8	5	21.7	4	17.4	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to meet my basic needs	14	60.9	4	17.4	-	-	3	13	2	8.7	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improved on my income	9	39.1	9	39.1	-	-	2	8.7	3	13	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay school fees	11	47.8	7	30.4	1	4.4	3	13	1	4.4	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay hospital bills	7	30.4	11	47.8	1	4.4	1	4.4	3	13	23	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	13	56.5	4	17.4	3	13	2	8.7	1	4.4	23	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table above shows the disparities of responses by the respondents in Jalingo LGA on the Vocational Skills Training received, 39.1% remained undecided as to whether the Vocational Skills Training has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring; but 21.7% of the respondents correspondingly strongly agreed and agreed that the scheme has helped them in designing and tailoring, on the contrary 8.7% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the above. Also, majority of the beneficiaries which constituted 39.1% were once again undecided on whether the

Vocational Skills Training has helped them in hair dressing rather only 21.7% and 17.4% strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the affirmation that Vocational Skills Training has helped them in hair dressing with 13% and 8.7% strongly disagreed and disagreed with the affirmation.

Majority of the respondents whose percentage is 39.1% were also undecided and adamant to whether Vocational Skills Training Scheme is of assistance to them in carpentry work but 26.1% and 13% strongly agreed and also agreed respectively that it has assisted them in carpentry work with 17.4% and 4.4% strongly disagreed and disagreed too that the Scheme has helped them. Their opinion was sought on whether Vocational Skills Training has helped them in building work, 47% were equally undecided 21.7% and 13% agreed and strongly agreed; on the contrary, 13% and 4.4% strongly disagreed and disagreed. They were also asked on whether the scheme has contributed to their knowledge in electrical installations, only 13% strongly agreed while 21.7% and 17.4 disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively and 47.8% still remained undecided.

On the other hand, 60.9% of the beneficiaries overwhelmingly and strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in meeting their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction; also 17.4% agreed by having a similar opinion with them but 13% and 8.7% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

In the same way, the responses gotten from the beneficiaries in the table indicated that, 39.1% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to improve on their income in Jalingo LGA 13% strongly disagreed and 8.7% disagreed that it has improved their income. In a similar way, beneficiaries' views at 47.8% who strongly agreed signified that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has contributed so much for

them to pay school fees, 30.4% equally supported it. In contrast, 13% disagreed and 4.4% strongly disagreed and remained undecided respectively.

In line with the above, the table indicated that 30.4% strongly agreed and 47.8% of the respondents agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills; but 13% of the respondents strongly disagreed while 4.4% disagreed that it has helped them in paying hospital bills and 4.4% also remained undecided. Over again, the table pointed out that 56.5% strongly agreed that, Vocational Skills Training has contributed a lots in improving the quality of food they eat, 17.4% of the respondents also agreed 4.4% strongly disagreed and 8.7% disagreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat while 13% remained undecided.

Table 5.1.13 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Gassol local government on the Vocational Skills Training Scheme

The Vocational Skills Training has generated employment and reduced poverty in the local government	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in fashion designing and tailoring	8	36.4	3	13.6	5	22.7	3	13.6	3	13.6	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in hair dressing	6	27.3	2	9.15	8	36.4	4	18.2	2	9.1	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in carpentry work	7	31.8	4	18.2	7	31.8	1	4.6	3	13.6	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in building work	5	22.7	3	13.6	7	31.8	2	9.1	5	22.7	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in electrical installations	6	27.3	5	22.7	5	22.7	3	13.6	3	13.6	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to meet my basic needs	16	72.7	2	9.1	-	-	2	9.1	2	9.1	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improved on my income	15	68.2	2	9.1	-	-	2	9.1	3	13.6	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay school fees	9	40.9	7	31.8	-	-	3	13.6	3	13.6	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay hospital bills	7	31.8	10	45.5	-	-	3	13.6	2	9.1	22	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	11	50	6	27.3	3	13.6	2	9.1	-	-	22	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

From the table above, it shows that 36.4% strongly agreed that in Gassol LGA Vocational Skills Training received has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring likewise 13.6% agreed with that, 13.6% on the contrary disagreed and strongly disagreed that Vocational Skills Training has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring; leaving 22.7% remained undecided as to whether the scheme has helped them. Moreover, majority of the respondents constituted 36.4% were also undecided on whether the Vocational Skills Training has helped them in hair dressing meanwhile

27.3% and 9.1% strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the confirmation that Vocational Skills Training has helped them in hair dressing; 18.2% and 9.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the confirmation.

The table indicated that 31.8% and 18.2% strongly agree and agreed respectively, and in the same way 31.8% were also undecided and adamant whether Vocational Skills Training Scheme has been of great help to them in carpentry work but 13.6% and 4.6 strongly disagreed and disagreed too that Scheme has helped them. Moreover, 31.8% were undecided on the assertion that Vocational Skills Training has helped them in building work, 22.7 and 13.6% strongly agreed and agreed too; on the contrary, 22.7% and 9.1% strongly disagreed and disagreed with the scheme. The responses in the table further buttress that 27.3% strongly agreed as well as 22.7% agreed that Vocational Skills Training scheme has contributed to their knowledge in electrical installations; only 13.6% strongly disagreed and disagreed in the same manner while 22.7% remained undecided.

Conversely, 72.7% of the beneficiaries awesomely and strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to meet their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction; so also 9.1% agreed to this with the remaining of the options responded at 9.1% with none undecided.

In a similar way, the responses gotten from the table shows that, 68.2% and 9.1% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to improve on their income in the LGA, 13.6% strongly disagreed and 9.1% disagreed that it has improved their income. The responses shows that 40.9% and 31.8% strongly agreed and agreed in that order that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has contributed so much for them to pay school fees, 13.6% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the claim.

The table also indicated that 31.8% strongly agreed and 45.5% of the respondents agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in paying hospital bills; but 9.1% and 13.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed that it has helped them in paying hospital bills. Yet again, from the table, 50% strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training has contributed a lots in improving the quality of food they eat, 27.3% of the respondents also agreed; 9.1% disagreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat while 13.6% remained undecided.

Table 5.1.14 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Ussa local government on the Vocational Skills Training Scheme

The Vocational Skills Training Scheme has generated employment and reduced poverty in the local government	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in fashion designing and tailoring	10	48	-	-	7	33.3	2	9.5	2	9.5	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in hair dressing	5	24	6	29	8	38.1	1	4.8	1	4.8	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in carpentry work	7	33.3	4	19.1	6	29	2	9.5	2	9.5	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in building work	6	29	2	9.5	8	38.1	2	9.5	3	14.3	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in electrical installations	10	48	2	9.5	4	19.1	1	4.8	4	19.1	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to meet my basic needs	14	67	2	9.5	3	14.3	2	9.5	-	-	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improved on my income	13	62	3	14.3	1	4.8	2	9.5	2	9.5	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay school fees	10	48	8	38.1	-	-	3	14.3	-	-	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay hospital bills	8	38.1	7	33.3	3	14.3	2	9.5	1	4.8	21	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	10	48	5	24	2	9.5	2	9.5	2	9.5	21	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table above indicated the discrepancies in responses of the respondents in Ussa LGA on the Vocational Skills Training received, 33.3% remained undecided as to whether the Vocational Skills Training has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring; but 48% of the respondents strongly agreed that the scheme has helped them in designing and tailoring, on the contrary 9.5% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the above. Also, majority of the beneficiaries which constitute 38.1% were again undecided on whether the Vocational Skills Training has helped

them in hair dressing, 24% and 29% strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the assertion that Vocational Skills Training has helped them in hair dressing with 4.8% strongly disagreed and disagreed with the assertion.

The table clearly shows that 33.3% strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has assisted them in carpentry work 19.1% also supported that but 9.5% strongly disagreed and also disagreed respectively that it has assisted them in carpentry work with 29% remained undecided. Their opinion was sought on whether Vocational Skills Training has helped them in building work, 38.1% were equally undecided 29% and 9.5% strongly agreed and agreed; on the contrary, 14.3% and 9.5% strongly disagreed and disagreed. The respondents' views show that 48% strongly agreed that the scheme has contributed to their knowledge in electrical installations further supported by 9.5%, only 19.1% strongly disagreed, 4.8 disagreed while 19.1% were undecided.

On the one hand, 67% of the beneficiaries strongly agreed and 9.5% agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in meeting their basic needs; 9.5% disagreed and 14.3% remained undecided.

In the same way, it has indicated that, 62% strongly agreed and 14.3% of the respondents agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to improve on their income in Ussa LGA 9.5% strongly disagreed and disagreed that it has improved their income only 4.8 remained undecided. In a similar way, 48% strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has contributed so much for them to pay school fees, 38.1% equally supported it and in contrast, 14.3% disagreed with the claim.

Correspondingly, the table shows that 38% of the respondents strongly agreed and 33.3% agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to pay hospital bills; but 4.8% of the

respondents strongly disagreed while 9.5% disagreed that it has helped them to pay hospital bills and 14.3% remained undecided. Once more, the table pointed out that 48% strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped in improving the quality of food they eat, 24% of the respondents also agreed 9.5% strongly disagreed and disagreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat likewise 9.5% remained undecided.

5.7.1 Summary of Responses on the Vocational Skills Training Scheme in the Selected LGAs of Taraba State

Summary of responses from the respondents across the three (3) selected local governments areas discussed above is presented in table 5.1.15 below. The table contained cumulative number of the sampled respondents across Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa Local Governments.

Table 5.1.15: Summary of the Responses on Vocational Skills Training Scheme in (3) Selected LGAs of Taraba State

The Vocational Skills Training Scheme has generated employment and reduced poverty in the LGA	SA		A		UD		D		SD		Total	
	f	%	Ƒ	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	Ƒ	%	*f*	%
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in fashion designing and tailoring	23	34.9	8	12.1	21	31.8	7	10.6	7	10.6	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in hair dressing	16	24.2	12	18.2	25	37.9	7	10.6	6	9.1	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in carpentry work	20	30.3	11	16.7	22	33.3	4	6.1	9	13.6	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in building work	14	21.2	10	15.2	26	39.4	5	7.6	11	16.7	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me in electrical installations	19	28.8	7	10.6	20	30.3	9	13.6	11	16.7	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to meet my basic needs	44	66.7	8	12.1	3	4.6	7	10.6	4	6.1	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improved on my income	37	56.1	14	21.2	1	1.5	6	9.1	8	12.1	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay school fees	30	45.5	22	33.3	1	1.5	9	13.6	4	6.1	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay hospital bills	22	33.3	28	42.4	4	6.1	6	9.1	6	9.1	66	100
Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	34	51.5	15	22.7	8	12.1	6	9.1	3	4.6	66	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

Table 5.1.15 as mentioned earlier, is indicating the responses of the total sampled respondents from the three (3) Local Governments namely Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa. The respondents were inquired whether Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring 34.9% respondents of the total sampled respondents from Jalingo, Gassol and Ussa as the majority have strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in fashion designing and tailoring. More so, 12.1% conceded to the same opinion however; 10.6% disagreed and strongly disagreed while 31.8% did not indicate their position.

Another, the respondents were asked whether the Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them in hair dressing, 24.2% of the total sampled respondents being the majority strongly agreed, again 18.2% also agreed with the above even though a significant proportion of the respondents representing 37.9% were mute, we assumed the above percentage to be the majority instead, while 10.6% disagreed and 9.1% strongly disagreed.

In the same vein, 30.3% constituted the majority of the total respondents across the three (3) selected local government areas strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has contributed so much to them in carpentry work, 16.7% of the respondents also agreed with the same view, 13.6% and 6.1% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively but 33.3% being the highest response still remained voiceless and were undecided.

Similarly, 21.2% of the total respondents strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has contributed so much to them in building work supported by 15.2% of the respondents who agreed with the same view; 16.7% strongly disagreed with the claim likewise 7.6% disagreed too and again a significant proportion of the respondents being 39.4% were silent and undecided. Also, 28.8% of the respondents in the selected LGAs indicated that Vocational Skills Training

Scheme has helped them in electrical installations and were supported by 10.6% of the responses, 16.7% strongly disagreed with the claim and also were backed up by 13.6% who equally disagreed while 30.3% remained at a standstill being undecided.

On the other hand, the respondents' proportion at 66.7% awesomely and strongly agreed that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has helped them to meet their basic needs in term of Poverty Reduction; this is further supported by 12.1% of the responses with only 10.6% and 6.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the claim while 4.6% were undecided. In a similar way, 56.1% and 21.2% being the highest responses strongly agreed and agreed respectively that Vocational Skills Training has improved their income, 12.1% strongly disagreed, 9.1% agreed and 1.5% remained undecided.

In the same vein, 45.5% and 33.3% which constituted the highest responses strongly agreed and agreed that the Scheme has helped them much in paying school fees, 6.1% strongly disagreed, 13.6% disagreed and 1.5% undecided. More so, 42.4% and 33.3% agreed and strongly agreed that the Scheme has supported them a lot in paying hospital bills, 9.1% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the assertion while 6.1% were undecided. Finally, 51.5% and 22.7% signifying the highest responses on the question whether the Scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat; they strongly agreed and agreed respectively that it has helped, 4.6% and 9.1 strongly disagreed and disagreed with the claim and 12.1% remained undecided.

The distribution of the responses to the various questions in table 5.1.10 portrays that majority of the entire respondents agreed to the fact that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has empowered them by engaging in things like; fashion designing, hair dressing, carpentry work, building work

electrical installations etc as well as helping them to meet their basic needs, improving on their income, payment of school fees and hospital bills, improving on the quality of food they eat which also eventually leads to reduction in their poverty level. This has justified Akeredolu-Ale (1975:53) postulations under the Necessity theory in the theoretical framework of the study oppositely by narrowing their income disparities through empowerment by the programme.

Hypothesis II

The hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in Taraba State. To test this hypothesis, data in summary table 5.1.15 were used, this is presented below:

Table 5.1.16 There is no significant relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in Taraba State

Correlations

Correlations

		Vocational Skills Training Scheme	Poverty Reduction II
Vocational Skills Training Scheme	Pearson Correlation	1	.813**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	66	66
Poverty Reduction II	Pearson Correlation	.813**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	66	66

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: IBM SPSS version 20 Data analysis

Table 5.1.16 above shows the Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) results for the hypothesis II.

From the table, the Pearson coefficient (r) gives a statistical value of 0.813 which is positive, very strong and statistically significant at 95% confidence level. The p-values (Sig., two tailed) being 0.000 (less than a 0.05 level of significance) indicates that there is a correlation between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State, hence a rejection of the null hypothesis.

The correlation coefficient (r) being positive and very strong indicates that an increase in Vocational Skills Training Scheme will empowered more women and youths which in turn will lead to Poverty reduction drastically in the state. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis H_{02} which states that there is no significant relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in Taraba State and accept its alternate H_2.

5.7.2 Reports of the Focus Group Discussions on Vocational Skills Training Scheme in the (3) Selected LGAs of Taraba State

In a focus group discussion with the beneficiaries of SURE-P on Vocational Skills Services Scheme, the researcher asked the beneficiaries to describe the level of sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P; they responded by saying that it was through form filling from the LGA headquarters while others said it was through their village heads. The researcher asked whether there was training organized for the beneficiaries; they responded and said they were trained on computer, carpentry, fashion designing and tailoring,

hair dressing, electrical installations, building etc. The beneficiaries were asked again, how significant the Vocational Skills Training Scheme on Poverty Reduction and employment generation to them. They said it has helped by engaging them as professionals in doing things and serves as a means of living which has helped to reduce their poverty. This again coincides with Akeredolu-Ale (1975:53) postulations under the Necessity theory in the theoretical framework of the study oppositely by narrowing their income disparities through empowerment by the programme. They were also asked to describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and programme implementation; they said they were diligent and understanding.

In the same vein, the beneficiaries were asked in a group discussion on the methods of selection from their respective Local Government Areas; some beneficiaries said it was through their Community Development Association (CDAs) in which they were given forms to fill, some responded it was through their Village Heads and Traditional Rulers. Likewise, they were asked which area of the Vocational Skills Training Scheme they undergone in the programme; some said tailoring, welding, fabrication, hair dressing and some said computer etc.

Finally, they were asked whether they have been receiving their monthly stipends promptly; in response to this, some respondents said they were not been paid for about 11 months as of then i.e. as at the time for information gathering which means from January to November 2015. Some beneficiaries said they were paid but half payment 6000 and 8000 naira. The respondents shows their dissatisfaction of not being paid as stated in the SURE-P document as well as when they were told of the scrapped of the programme and are appealing to government to revamp the programme for them to be paid their stipends because it has helped them much in paying their children's school fees and hospital bills. This justifies the view of Chinsman (1997) that, the

poverty situation in Nigeria has been aggravated by the absence of an enabling policy environment and sudden changes in macro-economic policies.

5.8 Graduate Internship Scheme

Graduate Internship Scheme as a (SURE-P) programme provides graduates with quality temporary work experience to make them stronger candidates for job openings in the labour markets; acquisitions of sufficient experience by the interns to enable them establish their own enterprises at the end of the internship, forming of peer networks for empowering other unemployed graduates, prospects of being retain by the companies after the period of internship, placement options for them, provision of opportunities to acquire professional skills, training and work experience towards Poverty Reduction in the state. In line with the above, the views of the beneficiaries across the state were sought to find out the suitability of the Graduate Internship Scheme rendered to them in the state. The responses of the respondents on the Graduate Internship Scheme are contained in the table below and analysed.

Table 5.1.17 Responses of the beneficiaries of SURE-P on the Graduate Internship Scheme in Taraba State

Graduate Internship Scheme has generated employment and reduced poverty in the State	Strongly Agree (SA)		Agree (A)		Undecided (UD)		Disagree (D)		Strongly Disagree (SD)		Total	
	f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%	*f*	%
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to be attached to company	15	44.1	3	8.8	5	14.7	10	29.4	1	2.9	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to collect monthly stipends	14	41.2	6	17.7	3	8.8	10	29.4	1	2.9	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to establish my own enterprises	4	11.8	13	38.2	4	11.8	13	38.2	-	-	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to be retained after internship by company	-	-	7	20.6	7	20.6	13	38.2	7	20.6	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to employ other unemployed graduates	2	5.9	11	32.4	4	11.8	14	41.2	3	8.8	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs	8	23.5	9	26.5	-	-	14	41.2	3	8.8	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to improve on my income	9	26.5	12	35.3	2	5.9	11	32.4	-	-	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to acquire professional skills	4	11.8	8	23.5	3	8.8	13	38.2	6	17.7	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to acquired experience	3	8.8	13	38.2	-	-	14	41.2	4	11.8	34	100
Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat	9	26.5	6	17.7	1	2.9	14	41.2	4	11.8	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

In the table above, it proves that 44.1% strongly agreed that in Taraba State, Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to be attached to companies/firms likewise 8.8% agreed with that, 29.4% and 2.9% on the contrary disagreed and strongly disagreed that it has helped them to be attached to companies or firms; with 14.7% remained undecided. Furthermore, majority of the

respondents constituted 41.2% and 17.7% strongly agreed and agreed respectively that Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to collect monthly stipends, 2.9% and 29.4% strongly disagreed and disagreed too with the affirmation while 8.8% remained undecided.

The table also indicated that 11.8% and 38.2% strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to establish their own enterprises after the internship; and on the contrary 38.2% and 11.8% disagreed with the claim and were undecided respectively. None of the respondents strongly agreed that the Scheme was able to retained them after their internship, only 20.6% of them agreed that they were retained after their internship by the firms; but 38.2% and 20.6% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that they were retained after their internship, also 20.6% remained undecided. The responses in the table further buttress that 5.9% strongly agreed as well as 32.4% agreed that the Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to employ other unemployed graduates; 8.8% and 41.2% strongly disagreed and disagreed in the same manner while 11.8% remained undecided.

On the other hand, 23.5% of the beneficiaries strongly agreed that the Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to meet their basic needs in terms of Poverty Reduction; so also 26.5% agreed to this with 8.8% and 41.2 strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively.

Similarly, the responses gotten from the table illustrates that, 26.5% and 35.3% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to improve on their income in the State; 32.4% disagreed with this claim and 5.9% is said to be undecided. Their responses evidenced that 38.2% disagreed that the Graduate Internship Scheme has contributed for them to acquired professional skills, further supported by 17.7% who strongly disagreed too but 23.5% and 11.8% agreed and strongly agreed that they

were able to acquired professional skills as a result of their engagement in the scheme while 8.8% remained undecided.

The table also indicated that 38.2% of the respondents agreed and 8.8% strongly agreed that the Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to acquired experience but in opposition to this, 41.2% and 11.8% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that it has helped them in acquiring experience. Yet again, the table point out that 26.5% strongly agreed that Graduate Internship Scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat, 17.7% of the respondents also agreed and 41.2% disagreed that the scheme has helped them to improve on the quality of food they eat; 11.8% also strongly disagreed with the claim while 2.9% remained undecided.

On a general note, the GIS has helped the beneficiaries to be attached to firms/companies in the State, it has able to assists some beneficiaries of the programme collect monthly stipends while some has not, it has also helped some of the beneficiaries to established their own enterprises while to some it has not, the GIS did not contributed much in retaining graduates after their internship, but it has also contributed in retaining just few out of the many, the programme as well helped only few who were able to employ the services of other unemployed graduates, the Scheme has not to some extent helped in meeting the beneficiaries' basic needs but only few whose basic needs were met by the programme, the programme to some extent has improved the income level of a significant numbers of the beneficiaries while others has not improve theirs and the GIS in Taraba State has not done much in helping the beneficiaries to acquired experience; but has done much to few who were able to acquired professional skills as well as improved on the quality of food they eat.

Hypothesis III

The hypothesis states that there is no significant relationship between Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State. To test this hypothesis, data in table 5.1.17 were used, this is presented below:

Table 5.1.18 There is no significant relationship between Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State

Correlations

Correlations

		Graduate Internship Scheme	Poverty Reduction III
Graduate Internship Scheme	Pearson Correlation	1	.797**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	34	34
Poverty Reduction III	Pearson Correlation	.797**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	34	34

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: IBM SPSS version 20 Data analysis

Table 5.1.18 above shows the Pearson's Product moment correlation (r) results for the hypothesis III.

From the table, the Pearson coefficient (r) gives a statistical value of 0.797 which is positive, strong and statistically significant at 95% confidence level. The p-values (Sig., two tailed) being 0.000 (less than a 0.05 level of significance) indicates that there is a correlation between

Graduate Internship Scheme of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State, Hence a rejection of the null hypothesis.

The correlation coefficient (r) being positive and strong indicates that an increase in Graduate Internship Scheme will continue to empowered more youths and in turn reduce poverty in the state. Hence, we reject the null hypothesis H_{03} which states that there is no significant relationship between Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State.and accept its alternate H_3.

5.8.1 Reports of the Focus Group Discussions on Graduate Internship Scheme in Taraba State

A Focus Group Discussion was held with the beneficiaries of Graduate Internship Scheme GIS comprised of interns from the Yaggai Academy, Bridge group of schools and Global Heritage Consultancy Services who were said to be the last batch of the beneficiaries employed by the Scheme in the State. They were asked by the researcher to describe the level of sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P programme as well as their engagement in the GIS activities in the state; in their responses to the question raised during the discussion, some of the respondents says they rate the level of the sensitization and mobilization as zero simply because what they were expecting to see in the SURE-P as heard by them were not in place and some of them stated that the sensitization and mobilization may not be favourable to them and does not means that Government has not done well, in fact government has done very much on the issue of the impacts of the programme; only that in Taraba State the engineering and technological aspects of the programme is not well represented because some of them read engineering and technological courses but were wrongly allocated to teach in secondary schools

which is not suppose to be like that see Appendix 11. They were asked to mention the types of training they received during the SURE-P (GIS) and surprisingly, they said there was nothing like training/workshop during their own time but were rather being attached to their firms; only the first and the second batch of the GIS in the state that were properly sensitized based on testimony from their friends.

The researcher went further and asked about the significant of the GIS on poverty reduction and employment generation to them, in response to this the beneficiaries lamented that they did not see anything so significant in this programme as far as they are concern due to the fact that they were the last batch employed and are not been paid for the past 4 months. Some also stated that they cannot completely say that there is no significance of the programme because there are graduates out there who have benefitted from the programme and are doing very well. The problem with their own was as a result of poor management and supervision on their own side (SURE-P implementers of the programme); who could not make sure that there was proper posting of the interns to their place of work. This is because as stated earlier, some of the beneficiaries that read engineering were posted to teach in secondary schools what will be of benefits to them? What about the experience? Can they add something to themselves at the end of their internship? This remain the questions to answer because with their experience, it has contradicts the objectives of the GIS where it stated that the programme is to provides graduates with quality temporary work experience to make them stronger candidates for job in the labour market as well as boosting their chances of becoming self-employed. This act justifies what Onah (2006:80) in the literature review under causes of poverty, where he gave support to this when he said that "indeed, poor leadership of various civilian governments in Nigeria

contributed to poverty in Nigeria". Achebe (1983) also stated clearly that "the trouble in Nigeria is purely the problem of leadership".

Again, the beneficiaries were asked to describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and during the implementation of the programme, some of the respondents rated the staff partially, while some referred to their performance as poor. The researcher again asked the beneficiaries how they were drawn from their respective local government areas; in response to this they said that they have relations that reside within the Jalingo metropolis i.e. the state capital and were able to be aware of the programme through radio, television and internet. This is in tandem with the interview conducted with the Assistant Director, Project Implementation Unit in the GIS section Federal Ministry of Finance FCT, Abuja where he equally stated that advocacy for the programme was made through internet to source graduates and firms that will register for the programme online to achieve its aim of targeting 50,000 graduates in 12 months.

In the same way, the beneficiaries were asked if they were attached to a company or institution, collectively they responded by saying "Yes". Another, have they been receiving their monthly stipends? They angrily responded by saying "No". They were again asked whether they have established their own enterprise. Sadly, they responded that they were not opportune to operate on their own or as entrepreneur and therefore cannot establish their own enterprise. Finally, they were asked if they have been retained by their firms; they said no and are still on their assignment. The researcher then asked to know if the programme has done well to achieve its objectives in reducing poverty, they responded by saying the programme is a very good one at least it has achieved 50%-60% of its objectives because the first and the second batch beneficiaries of the programme were successful and are doing very well, some have established their enterprises like computer centers and from their point of view it has reduced their poverty

level to some significant extent; only that it is unfortunate for them the last and second to the last batch not to benefit from it by receiving their monthly stipends, because those second to the last batch were paid only once too.

The researcher asked, what their remarks will be from the entire programme since the first and the second batch of the beneficiaries were successful. What have then been the hitches or snags to their own success? They responded by saying that problems with Nigerian government is a problem of policy inconsistencies, that every government will come and leave with his policy irrespective of whether the policy is a good one or not. Therefore the coming of the new administration with the wind of change has affected the programme as well as their success in the programme. That money has already been budgeted for the new government to pay the beneficiaries even if there will be change in government; so why have they not been paid? They are therefore, calling on the new administration to set a committee that will investigate the Federal Ministry of Finance, why some beneficiaries have not been paid; and they should tell them the reason if they are not trying to siphon the money that has already been budgeted for the beneficiaries by the past government. This was in line with the views of Demery and Squire (1996), in their empirical studies and as stated by Chinsman (1997) that the poverty situation in Nigeria has been aggravated by the absence of an enabling policy environment and sudden changes in macro-economic policies. This can also be seen in Oladeji and Abiola's view, "It must, however, be remarked in passing that how policy reforms in Africa affect poverty, even when they are properly implemented, will remain a subject of vigorous debate" (Oladeji, S.A and Abiola A.G 1998).

However, disparities exists on the responses gotten from the FGDs with the beneficiaries and that of the responses gotten from the questionnaires which to some extents has questioned the

validity of the respondents' responses on the questionnaire as tested in the third hypothesis. This may be due to the fact that the FGDs were conducted with the beneficiaries of the last batch of the programme who were not privilege to benefit from it.

Table 5.1.19 Summary of the focus group discussions held on the three programmes

SCHEMES	RESPONSES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS		
	JALINGO LG	**GASSOL LG**	**USSA LG**
CSS			
1. Level of sensitization and mobilization before SURE-P	-Partial through form filling, Village heads and through media	-Through form filling only	-Ward-ward, form filling and they were screened
2 .Training received during SURE-P	-They were only told how to do community services	- How to do community services	- How to work with broom wheelbarrows and shovels
3 .Significance of CSS on poverty reduction and employment generation	-Alleviate poverty as well as engaging them in doing things that serve as their sources of income	-maintain cleanliness in the society, sweeping of roads, removal of blocked drainage and maintenance of govt. infrastructure	-Maintain roads, removal of blocked drainage and help them to pay their children's fees and improve their income
4. Performance of SURE-P staff during training and programme execution	-Not dedicated and did not pay them their stipends promptly	-Good rapport between them and are good	-Active in passing out information with good rapport
5. Selection of the beneficiaries from the LGs	-By filing of forms from ward to local area	-Through their village head and Traditional Ruler	-Through CDAs, politician and Traditional Rulers
6. CSS and the provision of social infrastructures	-Provides hospital beds and ambulance	-Clinics, quarters, solar water pump, solar freezer	-Nothing has been done
7. Payment of monthly stipends	-Not regularly and were not paid for 11 months	-Not paid for 11 months	-under-payment some 6-8 thousand and 10,000 naira
VSTS			
1. Level of sensitization and mobilization before SURE-P	- Village Heads	-Form filling from their local government	-Wards level
2 .Training received during SURE-P	-Yes they were trained	-They received training	-Yes they have been trained
3 .Significance of VSTS on poverty reduction and employment generation	-Trained as professionals in their field and help in sourcing their income	-Experience in their fields of training and serve as their sources of income	-Practicing the training they received and its help in increasing their income
4. Performance of SURE-P staff during training and programme execution	-Hardworking to some extents	-They were perfect in their duties	-They were understanding
5. Selection of the beneficiaries from the LGs	-Through filling of forms	-Village Heads	-CDAs and Traditional Rulers
6. Areas of the VST under-gone	-Fashion designing, hair dressing, building and carpentry work	-Computer, carpentry, hair dressing, fashion design, electrical installation etc	-Tailoring, hair dressing, carpentry, building and electrical installations
7. Payment of monthly stipends	-Not being paid as before	-Not paid for 11 months	-They were paid half sometimes
GIS	**WITHIN THE ENTIRE STATE**		
1. Level of sensitization and mobilization before	-They rated the sensitization/mobilization as zero and not what they were expecting to see from the programme		

SURE-P	
2 .Training received during SURE-P	-Only the first batch received training, for their own they were only posted to their places of assignment
3 .Significance of GIS on poverty reduction and employment generation	-To them nothing significance there because they were not been paid for 4 months how will they know the significance? Others says there were graduates who benefitted and are doing very well, theirs is due to poor management and supervision
4. Performance of SURE-P staff during training and programme execution	-Some rated them partially while to some they are poor in discharging their duties
5. Selection of the beneficiaries from the LGs	-That they resides within Jalingo metropolis and other cities, they became aware of the programme through radio, Television and internet and then registered online
6. Attachment of interns to companies/institutions	-Yes they were attached to some firms, companies and institutions
7. Payment of monthly stipends	-No they have not been paid but second to the last batch were paid only once
8. Establishment of enterprises at the end of internship	-They sadly responded and said they were not opportune to operate on their own, and how can they establish theirs?
9. Retaining of the interns by the companies	-They are still on their assignments

Source: Field survey 2015
CSS= Community Services Scheme
VSTS= Vocational Skills Training Scheme
GIS= Graduate Internship Scheme

5.9 An Interview Report on SURE-P with the Committee that implemented the programme

In order to avoid bias in the study, the staff and the committee that implemented the programme in Taraba State are not sidelined but were also interviewed. They were asked the strategies put in place to promote effective and efficient implementation of the SURE-P programmes, it was confirmed that workshops were held for all the LGAs in the state capital for (3) days with the facilitator from Abuja the FCT. After the workshops, a committee was set for each of the (3) zones with some technical staff to carry out the programmes; money was then given to the LGAs on their proposals for the empowerment with each given the sum of 120 million naira, 60m in the first half of the programme and another 60m in the second half which was used to buy tools for the training and after which it was dashed out to the beneficiaries.

5.9.1 Strategies for awareness on the programme implementation by the committee/officials

To know how the strategies helped the committee and the officials in creating awareness on the programme implementation, the committee/officials said during the interview session with them that the strategies has helped them in decentralizing the LGAs into zones instead of bringing them together and awareness campaign was carried out down to the grassroots through media and personal contacts. The decentralization becomes important because it will be difficult to gather the whole beneficiaries from the LGAs together and start training them, this is due to the fact that among the beneficiaries were drop out, and some to communicate is a problem therefore, they have to be disintegrated in order for the skills to be made known for them to choose which ever area they would like to participate and at the end, the strategies have worked so much that some beneficiaries were inviting them to come and see their workshops they were able to set at the end of their training.

5.9.2 Significance of the Strategies on Empowerment Leading to Poverty Reduction in the State

The committee/officials have admitted that the strategies have significant effects on empowerment which has led to poverty reduction in the state because some of the beneficiaries are utilizing what they have gotten from SURE-P and it is helping them to earn a living. Some of the committee members said this is the first time a programme is affecting the life of the poorest of the poor; market women and many other people were affected by the programme, carpenters and tailors are in their workshops which has helped so much in reducing their poverty. While some of the officials says some beneficiaries were able to pay school fees and some have

becomes self-employed such as in welding, electrical installations etc which has contributed to their poverty reduction in the state.

5.9.3 Significance of the Community Services, GIS and the Vocational Skills Training Schemes

The officials were asked about the significant of the Community Services Scheme, GIS and the Vocational Skills training Scheme. The committee stated that the (3) programmes has affected all the strata of the society, most especially the Vocational Skills Training Scheme, when you give skills to somebody you have empowered the person for life and when you put something in the hands of women being the major beneficiaries, the whole family will benefit from it and have cause a change reaction which will affect everybody. This reiterates what Jumare (2011:7) says that the most valid generations about the poor are that they are disproportionately located in the rural areas, and that they are more likely to be women and children than adults males. Some committee members stated that the GIS is a very good programme after NYSC and felt as strategy to put off the graduates on the street, by exposing them to their employers who will be monitoring what they would be doing and then get employed by the employers if satisfied with their experiences in doing things; and wish the programme to be a continuous programme.

5.9.4 The Performance of the Beneficiaries on the Programme Implementation in the State

Again, the committee/officials were asked to describe the performance of the beneficiaries on the programme implementation, some rated them 75%, some described them to be above average, some stated that they were good and cooperate while others describes some to be very poor because they sold what has been given to them like hair dresser, fridge, thermocool etc. They were asked of the role played by the Community Services Scheme in the construction of some

social infrastructures as well as revamping equipments like beds and chairs in the state. The committee members stated that the Scheme has played a significant role whereby some LGAs bought some equipments to help in taking care of the patients and the emergency cases such as the hospital beds, ambulance, drugs, freezer/fridge, solar water pump, building of staff quarters, renovation of the PHCs, etc which has helped in lessen the cost of services rendered to the people thereby guaranteeing them the affordability of accessing those services that people and beneficiaries find it difficult to access. See Appendix 11 and these LGs are Donga, Yorro, Ussa, Gassol and Jalingo LGAs. Some of the officials stated that Community Services Scheme has played a significant role in maintaining government structures, such that dilapidated structures were renovated, broken beds and chairs were mended or repaired as in the PHCs/Maternity; and also the construction of bridges as in Zing and Lau LGAs to ease accesses to infrastructures in the LGAs.

5.9.5 Beneficiaries in the Vocational Skills Training Scheme

In the same vein, the committee were asked to describe the beneficiaries in the Vocational Skills Training, some responded by saying that they were very good because they have seen them practicing the skills they have learned and there are commitment in some of them even though it is not all see Appendix 11. The researcher also asked, whether the beneficiaries have been receiving their monthly stipends; the committee said their monthly stipends have been paid to them through their various accounts. Again, they were asked whether there are graduates who establish their enterprises; they said some have, and some didn't. In a similar way, the researcher again asked how many have been retained by the companies/firms; the officials said some of them were retained on a part time job outside the companies or firms, then lastly, they were asked from their observation, whether the programme has achieved its objectives in Poverty

Reduction, in response to this, the committee responded by saying some LGAs has achieved but there are (4) LGAs such as Karim-Lamido, Ibi, Ardo-kola and Wukari failed to achieved theirs because of diversion of funds into another different project which were inferior to the programme as an act of embezzlement. These are true confirmation of what Bardhan (1999) in Chapter two of the Literature Review under Conceptual Issues in the work argues that even if the State allocates a significant part of its budget for poverty eradication programmes, it would not reach the real poor. He argued that the anomalies occur because there is no organized pressure from the intending beneficiaries (the poor), and the programmes are administered by uncoordinated and corrupt bureaucrats who are unaccountable to the rural poor and insensitive to their needs.

The officials also stated that some LGAs also ends up renovating their blocks of building, roads as well as some LGs like Takum bought (3) buses and put them on the road to ease transportation which is outside the objectives of this very component of SURE-P. Some of the officials also expressed their dismay on some of the beneficiaries who went and sold their tools and equipments; that they have contravened the objectives for which the programme is being designed and says those who utilizes theirs were able to reduce their poverty to the bearest minimum.

However, from all the interviews conducted, we can succinctly state that the responses gotten from our respondents have answered our research questions or hypotheses. This is anchored on the fact that the schemes have done so much that Community Services for example, played a significant role by engaging the beneficiaries in community services; providing some services such as buying of drugs, freezer/fridge, solar water pump, building of quarters, renovation of some PHCs/Maternity as well as construction of bridges which has lessen the cost of services

received by the people and have provided them more accesses and patronage to some infrastructural facilities in the state.

Vocational Skills Training to some extent have empowered women/youths in the state. This is because women and youths have received training on skills acquisition that has empowered them towards poverty reduction. When you empower or give skills to somebody, you have empowered that person for life, when you put something in the hands of women; the whole family will benefit from it and will cause a change reaction that will affect everybody. Therefore, women empowerment towards poverty reduction has positive impacts on the lives of people in the society.

Graduate Internship Scheme programme has significant effects on the life of youths in the state based on their responses and as stated by some committee members; it is a programme that was strategized to put off the graduates on the street. This has exposed many of the graduates to acquire some professional skills and experience that has helped them to secure jobs/employments and also helped some to be self-employed and in turn led to the reduction in their poverty level.

5.10 Observation Report on the Programmes Implementation in the State

During the information gathering by the researcher, personal observation was put into consideration on the implementation of the programmes in the state. For instance in the community services scheme, the beneficiaries in Ussa LG were able to show the researcher their working equipments when conducting a FGDs with them; these comprised of wheel barrows, brooms, shovels etc in carrying out their functions. In the same vein, in Gassol LG the researcher was shown some projects made by the community services scheme such as the building of staff

quarters, renovation of the PHCs/Maternity, provision of solar water pump, buying of drugs, solar freezer/fridge etc.

In the area of skills acquisition, the researcher was able to locate some of the beneficiaries in Gassol LG one in his shop practicing the skill he acquired/learned from the programme i.e. the computer knowledge he learned and a carpenter from the same LG who confirm to the researcher that the programme has done much that he was able to pay his children fees and also cater for their needs.

The GIS programme in the state, the researcher came in contact with the beneficiaries attached to their various firms. Three of the graduates were seen in Yaggai Academy and were served with the questionnaire to fill, and based on their testimonies the programme is paying them the sum of 30,000 naira per month as well as the Academy is paying them too. Beneficiaries from the Global Heritage Consultancy Services were attached to State Polytechnic to lecture on a part time job which to them is of great help and they are doing well in regards to reduction in poverty. Others are the beneficiaries attached to Bridge Group of Schools who according to them were not been paid and have learned nothing as far as experience is concern, because they were not trained and were wrongly posted to their place of work which to them have contravened the objectives of the programme.

From the observations made above, it implies that the community services scheme has contributed so much by engaging the beneficiaries in some community services which in turn serve as their sources of generating income. It also shows that the scheme has done well in the provision of some social infrastructures which has also given the beneficiaries and the masses some accesses and patronage to the services provided. Vocational skills training have

empowered the beneficiaries to a point that those who utilizes what they have gotten from the scheme were able to set up their business enterprise which also serve as their source of living thereby reducing poverty. On the part of the GIS programme in the state, the observation shows that those graduates who were lucky to be the first and second batch of the beneficiaries benefitted significantly from the programme compare to the last and second to the last batch. This is because those who benefitted were seen carrying out their duties diligently and according to them they were able to get something at the end of day which has helped them to earn a living. Unlike the other set of the beneficiaries, they lamented much on their placement and lack of payment of their stipends as well as poor supervision by the implementers of the programme but yet they keep coming to their place of work hoping that one day their trouble will come to an end.

5.11 Major Findings

1. The study found out that there was fairness in the selection of the beneficiaries based on the responses gotten from the respondents which has been in tandem with the eligibility criteria of the programme in SURE-P document.
2. In the study, it is revealed that there is a relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures, and in turn poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State. The study has shown that Community Services Scheme has increased the level of Women and Youth empowerment, improved their general welfare, and therefore, brought about a significant reduction in their Poverty level in the State.
3. The study revealed that there is a relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction

in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State. This indicated that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has empowered women and youths in the state that has led to their Poverty reduction.

4. The study also reveals that there is a relationship between Graduate Internship Scheme of SURE-P and Youths empowerments as well as poverty reduction in Taraba State, this shows that Graduate Internship Scheme has empowered youths and has reduced poverty in the state.
5. From the study, it reveals that the beneficiaries were passionate, committed and much eager to continue with the programme implementation in the state.
6. It was also found that policy inconsistencies with regards to the change in government has affected the last quota of the programme where significant numbers of the beneficiaries were no longer paid their monthly stipends due to change in government as well as the scrapping of the programme.
7. Finally, the study reveals that there are cases of corruption and embezzlement in some LGs whereby the funds allocated for the programme were diverted for other purposes other than what is in the SURE-P project document.

Therefore, from the findings above it has been proved that there is an agreement between the findings and the responses gotten during the interview/focus group discussions held with the respondents. This has therefore, buttresses the facts and given the researcher confidence to make generalization on the subject matter that SURE-P is an effective strategy for empowerment that will leads to poverty reduction. See table 5.1.19 p.124.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of study and conclusions reached on the bases of the hypotheses tested. Recommendations were also proffered on the bases of the findings.

6.2 Summary of the work

The problem of poverty dates back to the formation of human society, the increasing incidence of Poverty in Taraba State and Nigeria in particular has been a major challenge bedeviling the state and the country at large despites its potentials. In response to this, the Federal Government of Nigeria has introduced the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) to cushion the effect of the partial subsidy removal on Nigerians especially the poor.

The programme has (8) components; as part of the social safety net strategy, government has deliberately placed the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment (CS/WYE) component of the SURE-P which also has (3) sub-components such as Community Services, Vocational Skills Training and Graduate Internship Schemes on priority agenda due to the urgent need to engage the teeming unemployed women and youth in labour intensive services targeted at rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructures. This is aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of unemployment thereby reducing poverty while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations.

This study attempted to assess the extent in which SURE-P as a policy is being used as a strategy to reduced poverty in the state and the country at large. The study specifically ascertained the

adequacy of community participation in Community Services Scheme, it evaluates the extent of community's participation in Vocational Skills Training Scheme and its effects on their poverty level; and it also examined the extent of the youth's involvement in Graduate Internship Schemes by empowering them leading to their poverty reduction in the state.

Three hypotheses were postulated and stated in null forms. The hypotheses were postulated to ascertain the adequacy of Community Services Scheme, Vocational Skills Training Scheme and Graduate Internship Schemes as strategies for poverty reduction through empowerment. The significance of the study to research, policy makers as well as the state was stressed; the study covered the period from 2012 – 2014 and was limited to assessing the effect of SURE-P on Poverty. The limitation of the study has also been acknowledged, Key terms used in the study were authoritatively and most importantly operationally defined for the purpose of the study.

The literature relating to the study was critically reviewed they include SURE-P, conceptual issues on poverty, general poverty profile in Nigeria, indicators of poverty, causes of poverty, poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria, an overview of previous poverty alleviation policies and programmes in Nigeria, youth unemployment and poverty situation in Nigeria, the potentials of SURE programmes implementation in youth unemployment and poverty reduction in Nigeria and annual distribution of SURE allocations to Nigerian states and their local governments. The institutional theory by Scott (2001) was adopted as the theoretical framework of the study.

The research design for the study was mainly survey research consisting of the use of questionnaire and FGDs administered on the Beneficiaries of the SURE-P in the three selected

local governments, interview was conducted with (5) staff of SURE-P that implemented the programmes in the state and was further complemented through observation. The total population for the study was 647 (comprises of 237 questionnaire respondents and the five (5) interviewees). The sample size for the study was 242; stratified random and purposive sampling techniques were employed, both primary and secondary sources of data were explored. These were presented in tables and frequencies while descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse and test the validity of the hypotheses.

The Historical background of SURE-P was captured; the Structural Organization of SURE-P, Roles and Responsibilities of various stakeholders of SURE-P, SURE-P Board, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Federal PIU, State PIU, Local Government Councils, LGAs CSWYE Desk, Community Development Associations/Ward Development Committee, Project Supervisor, Beneficiaries and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs were identified and discussed.

The data obtained from the field representing the views of the respondents were presented in tables and analysed using frequencies and percentages. The data centres on the questions on the variables used in the study, the views of the respondents were also complemented with secondary data.

From the data presented and analysed, the study revealed that there was fairness in the selection of the beneficiaries; that there is a relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures, and in turn poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State. The study has shown that Community Services Scheme has increased the level of Women and Youth empowerment, improved their general

welfare and brought about a significant reduction in their Poverty level in the State. It has shown that there is a relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction; it also shows that Graduate Internship Scheme has empowered youths and has reduced poverty in the state. However, it was also found that policy inconsistencies with regards to the change in government has affected the last quota of the programme where significant numbers of the beneficiaries were no longer paid their monthly stipends due to change in government, there was also cases of corruption and embezzlements in some LGs where funds made for the programme were diverted for other purposes, this has in turn affected the smooth running of the programme.

6.3 Conclusion

From the data presented and analyzed as well as the hypotheses tested, the study concludes that SURE-P is an effective policy/programme of empowering people as well as reducing their poverty; this is justified on the ground that, both the sampled respondents and the committee/officials of SURE-P opined that the programme has helped in alleviating and empowering people as well as reducing their poverty to a point that the beneficiaries were passionate, committed and much eager to continue with the programme implementation in the state. According to the respondents, the programme has helped in uplifting their standard of living in which they were able to pay their children's school fees, buy food stuff, as well as improved their level of earnings; some of the committee members that implemented the programme referred to it as next to the NYSC assignment especially the GIS.

However, the hypotheses tested have indicated that Community Services Scheme has increased the level of Women and Youth empowerment, improved their general welfare, and therefore, brought about a significant reduction in their Poverty level in the State. From the test of the

second hypothesis, the study also concluded that Vocational Skills Training Scheme has empowered women and youths in the state that has led to their Poverty reduction. With the result obtained from the test of the third hypothesis, the study also concluded that the involvement of graduates in the GIS has empowered them and earned them something doing from which they would be earning their livings.

In relation to the theoretical framework, the inability of the SURE-P staff/committee in the state to effectively perform their regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive functions to ensure proper placements of the beneficiaries such as the graduates based on their field of professionalism, regular payments of the beneficiaries' monthly stipends and proper use of the funds as well as ineffective sensitization and mobilization of the beneficiaries before the commencements of the SURE-P programme serves as an impediment to proper policy implementation.

6.4 Recommendations

In view of the findings and conclusions made in this study, the following recommendations have been proffered.

The study found out that there was fairness in the selection of the beneficiaries based on the responses gotten from the respondents which has been in tandem with the eligibility criteria of the programme in SURE-P document. The study therefore recommended that the SURE-P staff and committee should continue to do so in whatsoever programme they have been given to implement.

Implementation of Community Services Scheme for General Welfare

In the study, it is revealed that there is a relationship between Community Services Scheme of SURE-P and the beneficiaries' access to social infrastructures, and in turn poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State. The study therefore, recommended for more Community Services Scheme to be implemented by the SURE-P in the state to improve the general welfare of the people.

Implementation of Vocational Skills Training Scheme and Women/Youth Empowerment

The study revealed that there is a relationship between Vocational Skills Training Scheme of SURE-P and Women and Youths empowerments leading to poverty reduction in the (3) selected local government areas of Taraba State. The study recommended that Vocational Skills Training Scheme should be given much priority by the government because he who gives skills has given life to an individual.

Implementation of Graduate Internship Scheme & Youths Involvement for Empowerment

From the study it reveals that the involvement of graduates in the Graduate Internship Scheme has empowered youths and has reduced poverty in the state. The study recommended that Federal Government should make it a compulsory programme for Graduates that have not been employed to get themselves involves in the programme so as to help put off the teeming graduates roaming the streets in search for jobs.

Further Appeal to the Present Administration

The study recommended that government should revamp the SURE-P programme since the beneficiaries were passionate, committed and much eager to continue with the programme

implementation in the state. This is anchored on the fact that the respondents shows their grievances and dismay during the focus group discussions, when they were told that the programme has been scrapped; they are appealing to the government to revamp it in order for them to continue benefitting since it has improved their standard of living.

The study recommended for good policy atmosphere to avoid policy inconsistencies that will jeopardize the smooth running of the programme as happen towards the last quarter of the programme due to the change in government, where a significant numbers of the beneficiaries were not paid their monthly stipends as a result of the scrapping of the programme.

In line with the above, the study is recommending that federal government should set up a committee to investigate the lack of payment of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in some states with similar problem since the funds meant for the programme has been budgeted and released by the immediate past government.

Finally, the study recommended that cases of corruption and embezzlement in some LGs whereby the funds allocated for the programme were diverted for other purposes such as building and renovation of their local government headquarters other than what is in the SURE-P project document, those involves should be brought to book and dealt with.

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Appendix 1

TABLE 2.1: SELECTED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FROM 1972

Programmes	Year	Head of Government	Target group	Nature of intervention
National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP)	1972	Gen. Yakubu Gowon	Peasant Farmers	To educate Farmers
Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative Bank (NACB)	1972	Gen. Yakubu Gowon	Peasant Farmers	Agricultural Financing
Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)	1979	Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo	Rural Dwellers	Increase food production
War Against Indiscipline WAI/Go Back to the land	1983	Gen. Muhammadu Buhari and Brigadier Babatunde Idiagbon	The entire society	War Against Indiscipline
Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)	1986	Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Rural Dwellers	Feeders roads rehabilitation, rural water supply and rural electrification
National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	1986	Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Unemployed Youths	Training, Financing and guidance
Better Life Programme (BLP)	1987	Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Rural Women	Self help and rural development programme, skills acquisition and health care
People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN)	1989	Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Under-privileged in rural and urban areas	Securing loans and credit facilities
Community Banks (CB)	1990	Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Rural residents and micro enterprise in urban areas	Securing loans and credit facilities
Family Support Programme (FSP)	1994	Gen. Sani Abacha	Families in rural areas	Health care and child welfare developments
Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)	1998	Gen. Sani Abacha	Rural Dwellers	Credit facilities to support the establishment of cottage industries
National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	2004	Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	The entire society	To provide easy access to health services

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)	2004	Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	The poor in the society	Government reformation, growing private sector, access to health education, welfare, employment, empowerment, security and participatory governance

Source: Oladeji and Abiola (1998)

Appendix 2

TABLE 2.2: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, AGE GROUP AND GENDER AS AT DECEMBER (RURAL), 2003-2011

	2003	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007***	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	
LEVEL	ILO	NIG	ILO	NIG	ILO	NIG	ILO	NIG	ILO
All levels	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
No schooling	11.5	53.6	19.0	59.8	19.7	59.9	19.7	59.9	19.7
Primary	16.9	20.8	15.4	17.8	15.3	17.7	15.3	17.6	15.3
Secondary	63.3	22.3	52.8	18.9	52.6	18.7	52.6	18.7	52.6
Post secondary	8.3	3.3	12.8	3.5	13.3	3.6	13.4	3.6	13.4
Age group All groups (15-59)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
15-24	56.1	18.0	55.1	21.4	55.1	21.6	55.1	21.6	55.1
25-44	33.3	47.1	38.3	46.6	38.5	46.6	38.5	46.6	38.5
45-59	4.6	22.7	3.4	21.3	3.1	21.2	3.1	21.2	3.0
60-64	2.8	6.5	1.3	5.8		5.7		5.7	
Gender	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Male	54.3	64.3	58.8	64.1	58.9	64.1	58.9	64.1	58.9
Female	45.7	35.7	41.2	35.9	41.1	35.9	41.1	35.9	41.1

Sources: National Bureau of Statistics (2011); ILO= International Labour Organization NIG = Nigeria (2012) * = Estimates

Appendix 3

TABLE 2.3: 2012 ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF SURE ALLOCATION SHARES TO NIGERIAN STATES AND THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

S/NO	STATES	STATE ALLOCATION (₦)	STATES AND THEIR LGAS	LOCAL GOVT. ALLOCATIONS
1	ABIA	7,460,062.24	17	4,238,037.28
2	ADAMAWA	7,093,217.24	21	5,453,941.40
3	AKWA IBOM	43,406,731.87	31	7,192,651.57
4	ANAMBRA	7,164,697.14	21	5,406,502.22
5	BAUCHI	8,309,773.31	20	6,252,967.94
6	BAYELSA	33,839,652.09	8	2,300,560.20
7	BENUE	7,658,631.38	23	6,357,999.06
8	BORNO	8,451,350.27	27	7,307,086.59
9	CROSS RIVER	7,718,686.26	18	4,540,847.09
10	DELTA	40,965,476.92	25	6,001,812.3.0
11	EBONYI	5,880,552.15	13	3,235,045.01
12	EDO	9,432,709.30	18	4,544,886.73
13	EKITI	5,931,760.50	16	3,697,048.21
14	ENUGU	6,692,449.99	17	4,380,299.45
15	GOMBE	6,291,166.08	11	3,196,301.41
16	IMO	8,729,126.56	27	6,342,352.58
17	JIGAWA	7,848,086.61	27	6,654,099.65
18	KADUNA	8,944,553.13	23	7,136,961.50
19	KANO	11,210,304.04	44	11,712,750.53
20	KASTINA	8,535,402.69	21	8,563,272.60
21	KEBBI	7,131,000.67	21	5,319,281.53
22	KOGI	7,113,202.30	16	5,513,261.00
23	KWARA	6,482,037.63	20	4,234,044.54
24	LAGOS	10,126,514.01	20	7,114,676.51

25	NASSARAWA	6,073,343.25	13	3,388,143.83
26	NIGER	8,294,895.04	25	6,865,934.91
27	OGUN	6,932,554.10	20	5,080,656.46
28	ONDO	12,554,345.28	18	4,689,711.39
29	OSUN	6,575,162.77	30	6,391,233.41
30	OYO	8,283,911.05	33	8,172,704.52
31	PLATEAU	6,956,827.74	17	4,678,163.80
32	RIVERES	44,628,272.62	23	6,125,835.15
33	SOKOTO	7,395,670.79	23	5,872,227.28
34	TARABA	7,005,145.87	16	4,674,398.11
35	YOBE	6,952,382.78	17	4,533,026.64
36	ZAMFARA	6,973,520.31	14	4,255,704.32
	FCT ABUJA		6	1,811,053.26
	TOTAL	**411,034,176.00**	**774**	**203,235,480.00**

Source: SURE Document (2011) National Planning Commission Abuja

Appendix 4
Respondents' letter

Dear respondent, I am a postgraduate student of the Department of Local Government and Development Studies Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria currently carrying out a research on the topic "Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) as a strategy for poverty reduction in selected LGAs of Taraba State".

The research forms an essential part of my work towards the award of Masters Degree in Policy and Development Studies (M.sc). Information given will be solely used for the purpose of this research and will be treated confidentially. Please tick appropriately the options in the Questionnaire and comment where applicable.

Thank you for the anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

HOSSANA DANIEL SAIBI

Appendix 5
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SURE-P ON COMMUNITY SERVICES SCHEME WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH AND IMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAMME IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

SECTION A
PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

Instructions

Please you are required to kindly tick [√] as appropriate.

(1) Age 15-19 [ ] 20-29 [ ] 30-39 [ ] 40-49 [ ]

(2) Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]

(3) Marital status: Single [ ] Married [ ]

(4) Highest educational qualification

(a) Primary [ ]

(b) Secondary [ ]

(c) Post Secondary [ ]

(d) Degree [ ]

(e) Postgraduate [ ]

Section B: For Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 1

Community Services Scheme as a Subsidy Reinvestment Programme (SURE-P) provide short-term employment for unskilled and semi-skilled youths, women and other vulnerable groups in labour-intensive services that contributes to social and community development towards Poverty Reduction in your local government area. Pls. tick as appropriate in each of the boxes below.

	Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of social infrastructures/poverty reduction in the local government	**Strongly Agreed**	**Agreed**	**Strongly Disagreed**	**Disagreed**	**Undecided**
1.	Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of classrooms					
2.	Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of staff rooms					
3.	Community Services Scheme has helped in the construction of primary health care centres					
4.	Community Services Scheme has helped in the building of clinics					
5.	Community Services Scheme has helped in the provision of equipments like beds and chair					
6.	Community Services Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs					
7.	Community Services Scheme has helped me to improved on my income					
8.	Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay school fees					
9.	Community Services Scheme has helped me to pay hospital bills					
10.	Community Services Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat					

Appendix 6

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SURE-P ON VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING SCHEME WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH AND IMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAMME IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

SECTION A
PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

Instructions

Please you are required to kindly tick [√] as appropriate.

(1) Age 15-19 [ ] 20-29 [ ] 30-39 [ ] 40-49 [ ]

(2) Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]

(3) Marital status: Single [ ] Married [ ]

(4) Highest educational qualification

(a) Primary [ ]

(b) Secondary [ ]

(c) Post Secondary [ ]

(d) Degree [ ]

(e) Postgraduate [ ]

Section B: For Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 3

Vocational Skills Training Scheme as a SURE-P programme targets the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled youths who are willing to be trained in specific trades to acquire sufficient skills for establishing their own enterprises with prospects for employing others towards Poverty Reduction in your local government area. Pls. tick as appropriate in each of the boxes below.

	The Vocational Skills Training has generate employment and reduces poverty in the local government	**Strongly Agreed**	**Agreed**	**Strongly Disagreed**	**Disagreed**	**Undecided**
1.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me in fashion designing and tailoring					
2.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me in hair dressing					
3.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me in carpentry work					
4.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me in building work					
5.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me in electrical installations					
6.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me to meet my basic needs					
7.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on my income					
8.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay school fees					
9.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me to pay hospital bills					
10.	Vocational Skills Training has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat					

Appendix 7

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SURE-P ON GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH AND IMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAMME IN SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

SECTION A

PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

Instructions

Please you are required to kindly tick [√] as appropriate.

(1) Age 15-19 [ ] 20-29 [ ] 30-39 [ ] 40-49 [ ]

(2) Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]

(3) Marital status: Single [ ] Married [ ]

(4) Highest educational qualification

(a) Primary [ ]

(b) Secondary [ ]

(c) Post Secondary [ ]

(d) Degree [ ]

(e) Postgraduate [ ]

Section B: For Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 2

Graduate Internship Scheme as a (SURE-P) programme provides graduates with quality temporary work experience to make them stronger candidates for job openings in the labour markets; placement options for them, provision of opportunities to acquire professional skills, training and work experience towards Poverty Reduction in your local government area. Pls. tick as appropriate in each of the boxes below.

	Graduate Internship Scheme has generate employment and reduces poverty in the local government	**Strongly Agreed**	**Agreed**	**Strongly Disagreed**	**Disagreed**	**Undecided**
1.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to be attached to company					
2.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to collect monthly stipends					
3.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to establish my own enterprises					
4.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to be retained after internship by company					
5.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to employ other unemployed graduates					
6.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to meet my basic needs					
7.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to improve on my income					
8.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to acquire professional skills					
9.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to acquired experience					
10.	Graduate Internship Scheme has helped me to improve on the quality of food I eat					

APPENDIX 8
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SURE-P (COMMITTEE THAT IMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAMMES) IN TARABA STATE AND THE DESK OFFICERS IN THE SELECTED LGAs IN TARABA STATE

(1) What are the strategies put in place by the Committee to promote effective and efficient implementation of SURE-P programmes in Taraba State?
(2) How have these strategies helped the Committee in creating awareness on the programme implementation?
(3) Are there any significant effects of these strategies on poverty reduction and employment generation?
(4) How significant is the Community Services Scheme, Graduate Internship Scheme and Vocational Skills Training on poverty reduction and employment generation in the State?
(5) How would you describe the performance of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in the implementation of the programme?
(6) What role does Community Services Scheme play in the construction of some social infrastructures like classrooms, staff rooms, teachers' quarters, primary health care centres as well as revamping equipments like beds and chairs?
(7) How would you describe the beneficiaries in the Vocational Skills Training Scheme in areas like fashion design and tailoring, hair dressing, carpentry, building and electrical installations in the state?
(8) Have they been receiving their monthly stipends promptly? If no why?
(9) How many graduates established their enterprise at the end of internship?
(10) How many have been retained by the institutions and companies?
(11) From your observation, has the programme achieved its objectives in Poverty Reduction? If yes how? And if no why?

APPENDIX 9

FGDs GUIDE WITH THE SURE-P BENEFICIARIES OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SCHEME IN THE SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

1. How would you describe the level of community sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P?
2. What training did you receive during the SURE-P?
3. How significant is the Community Services Scheme on poverty reduction and employment generation to you?
4. How will you describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and during the implementation of the programme?
5. How were you been drawn from your respective local government areas?
6. How did Community Services Scheme help in the construction of some social infrastructures like classrooms, staff rooms, teachers' quarters, primary health care centres as well as revamping equipments like beds and chairs?
7. Have you been receiving your monthly stipends?

FGDs GUIDE WITH THE SURE-P BENEFICIARIES OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME IN THE SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

1. How would you describe the level of sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P?
2. What training did you receive during the SURE-P?
3. How significant is the Vocational Skills Training on poverty reduction and employment generation to you?
4. How will you describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and during the implementation of the programme?
5. How were you been drawn from your respective local government areas?
6. Which area of the Vocational Skills Training you undergone? E.g Fashion designing and tailoring, hair dressing, carpentry, building and electrical installations.
7. Have you been receiving your monthly stipends?

FGDs GUIDE WITH THE SURE-P BENEFICIARIES OF GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME IN THE SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE

1. How would you describe the level of sensitization and mobilization before the commencement of SURE-P?
2. What training did you receive during the SURE-P?
3. How significant is the Graduate Internship Scheme on poverty reduction and employment generation to you?
4. How will you describe the performance of the SURE-P staff during training and during the implementation of the programme?
5. How were you been drawn from your respective local government areas?
6. Have you been attached to a company or institution?
7. Have you been receiving your monthly stipends?
8. Did you establish your own enterprise at the end of the internship?
9. Have you been retained by the company or institution after your internship?

APPENDIX 10

CHECKLIST OF OBSERVATION

a. Community Services in practice
b. Vocational Skills in practice
c. Take-off grant and workshops
d. Working equipments
e. Beneficiaries in their work place

APPENDIX 11



A picture with the SURE-P Community Service Officer (CSO), who handle the aspects of Community Services Scheme in Taraba State after an interview session with him.



Picture of the Focus Group Discussions by the researcher with the beneficiaries of SURE-P, in Community Services Scheme in Ussa LGA of Taraba State



Picture of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Vocational Skills Training Scheme with the researcher during Focus Group Discussions in Ussa LGA of Taraba State



Picture of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Community Services Scheme with the researcher during Focus Group Discussions in Jalingo LGA of Taraba State



Picture of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Vocational Skills Training Scheme with the researcher during Focus Group Discussions in Jalingo LGA of Taraba State



Picture of the beneficiaries of SURE-P in Community Services Scheme during Focus Group Discussions in Gassol LGA of Taraba State



Beneficiaries of SURE-P and the renovated project in Gassol LGA of Taraba State



The Mutum-Biyu Maternity Health Care Centre Staff Quarters built by SURE-P in Gassol LGA



Renovated Maternity Health Care Centre by SURE-P in Mutum-Biyu Gassol LGA of Taraba State



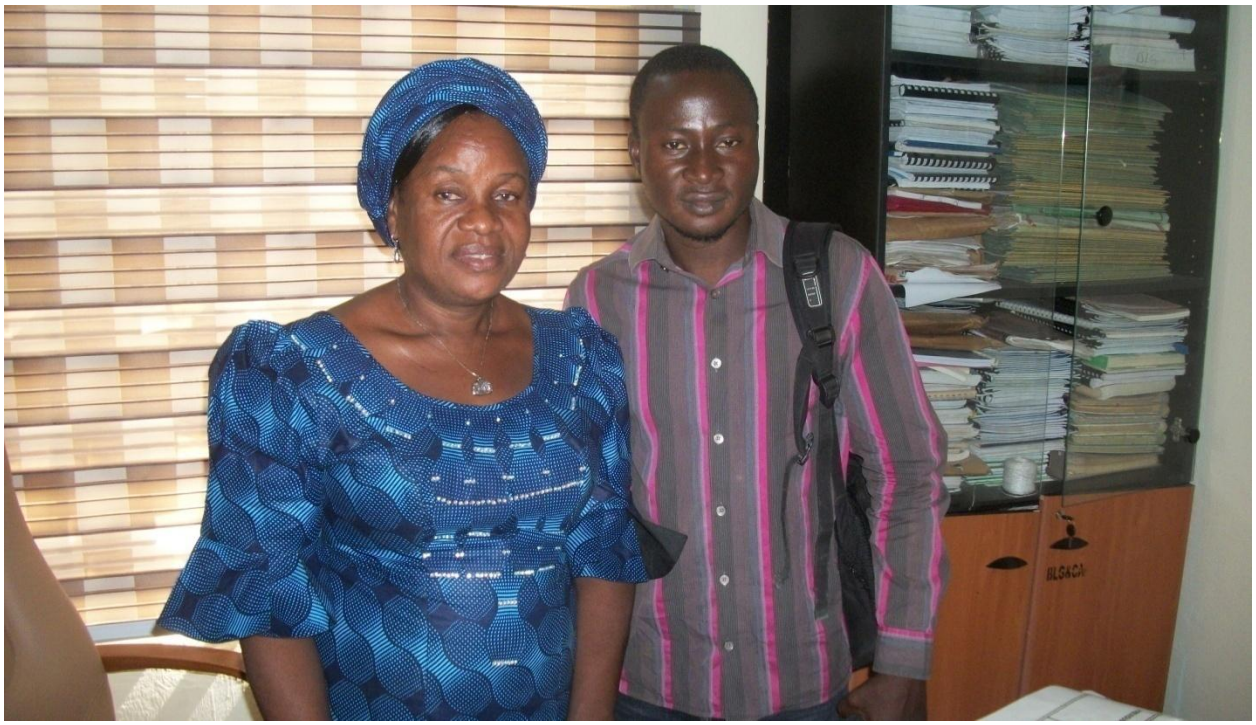
Solar Freezer/Drugs supply by SURE-P to Mutum-Biyu Maternity Health Care Centre in Gassol LGA of Taraba State



Mutum-Biyu Maternity Clinic solar water pump project by SURE-P Gassol LGA of Taraba State



A beneficiary of SURE-P in Computer training in his shop in Gassol LGA



The researcher and the Chairperson of SURE-P Committee Monitoring and Evaluation in her office during an interview session



The researcher and the Secretary of the SURE-P Committee that implemented the Programme in the State during an interview session



The Consultant of Global Heritage that handles the aspects of Vocational Skills Training and some aspects of the Graduates Internship Scheme in the State, during an interview session.



The researcher and the beneficiaries of the Graduate Internship Scheme in Taraba State