AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS SCHEME AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN NIGERIA

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CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled *AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS SCHEME AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN NIGERIA* meets the regulations governing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Public Administration) of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria and is approved for its contributions to knowledge and literary presentation.

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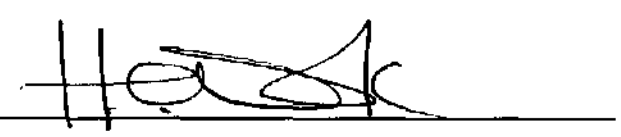
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DECLARATION

I, CLARK, Henry Udumenbrayen, hereby declare that this thesis is written by only me and that it was not copied from any past research or thesis.

I also declare that all the articles used in this thesis are appropriately acknowledged.

Sign 

DEDICATION

This Thesis is dedicated to the ***glory of the Almighty God*** who made this vision come true. And to the memories of my father ***Chief Clark Fuludu Bekederemo***, JP who taught me Aggression and my mother Chief ***(Mrs) Igbebu O. Clark*** who taught me Humility. Both attributes contributed to my cherished ambition; professionally, I got to the rank of a General in the Nigerian Army and educationally, I fulfilled the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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ABSTRACT

The most contentious problem facing post-independence NIGERIA is the phenomenon or fear of national disintegration. There was a tragic Civil War. from 1967 - 70, military seizures of political power and numerous constitutions had been written and discarded. As long as Nigeria continues to grapple with the problem of nation - building, Integration will remain a topical issue. For this reason, the Federal Military Government conceptualized the National Youth Service Corps in 1973 to pilot the formula for achieving full integration and unity. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme as an instrument for promoting national integration in Nigeria with a view to making recommendations. The timeframe of study is from 1986 ~ 88. The objective of the study can be seen from the theoretical and practical dimensions. Specifically, the study will enable us understand the process of national integration and the dynamics of the movement of Youth Corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries. The theoretical frame work is the Social Communications - Transactional Theory for Political Integration. Three hypothesis are advanced on the dynamics of the movement of Youth Corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries. The population and unit of analysis comprised Youth Corpers who served 1986/87 designated Post-Corpers and 1987/88 designated Pre-Corpers. The catchment area is Anambra (Anambra/Enugu and part of Ebonyi) Benue (Benue and part ofKogi) Kaduna (Kaduna/Katsina) Lagos States and Abuja FCT Recourse is to made to the techniques of Kolmogorov Smirnov and Chi-Square for the purpose of applying statistical test to the null hypothesis. The results and findings proved that the NYSC promotes national integration and unity through interactions with other Nigerians. The study had postulated that national unity is a function of contact dynamics in a nation - state. It is recommended amongst others that the Federal government should replicate this study at the national level for policy and cost benefit analysis.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Nigeria is a British colonial creation, resulting from the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914.[1] The British government amalgamated the two Protectorates of Nigeria not because of any desire on their part to lay the foundations for the eventual emergence of a powerful and dynamic independent black state, but for reasons of imperial convenience and economy in colonial administration.[2] Nigeria gained her independence on October 1, 1960 as a political unit. Within the bounds of the state are people of varying cultures, languages and ethnicity. Indeed, Nigeria is a multiethnic society with more than two hundred and fifty (250) linguistic groups.[3]

There existed little national identification among these various ethnic/national, cultural, linguistic and religious groupings. The differences presented and still presents considerable internal political challenge to Nigeria. Weaving this conglomeration of peoples into a nation constitutes a central problem.

The events that took place after the country's independence in 1960 questioned the ability of Nigeria to build a strong united nation. The events as the declaration of the state of emergency in western Nigeria in 1962, the treasonable felony trials of 1963, the failure of the elections of 1964 and 1965 coupled with the general strike of 1965, indicated that the new Nigerian nation had serious problems. By January 15, 1966, Nigeria experienced the first coup d'etat to be followed six months later, on July 29, 1966 by a second coup, and subsequently massive civil disturbances that eventually culminated in a civil war.

A critical problem delineated so sharply by the Nigerian civil war and present in various forms nearly everywhere in the post-colonial states, is that of national unity or integration. This question of national integration stands at the very core of the political problems in Nigeria, past and present. The traumatic experiences of the civil war made both the government and citizenry to start seeking ways to build a strong united political entity.

According to William Liddle national integration has two major dimensions, how to unite disparate social groups kinship, ethnic, linguistic and racial groups within a frame work of national loyalties, how to bridge the elite-mass gap.[4]

Coleman and Roseberg stress that:

> The problems of integration are the major issues and obstacles in the task of anti on-building, which is itself the primary preoccupation of the leadership (and elites) of the new states.[5]

The situation applies to Nigeria and this concern was emphatically stated in the opening statement of the 1979 Republic of Nigeria Constitution which states:

> We the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having firmly and solemnly resolved; to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation ... provide for a constitution for the purpose of consolidating the unity of our people.[6]

The phenomenon or fear of national disintegration is still a primary concern of most Nigerian leaders and intelligentsia. For instance, Ajayi sees the issue of national integration as a serious problem to Nigeria. He argued that national integration is basic to the development of Nigeria.[7] He urged that the Federal Military Government should accord national integration a priority and evolve a coherent policy and ideology towards the attainment of that goal.

For purposes of planned and directed change aimed at achieving national integration, economic development and social advancement, the Federal Military Government promulgated decree No 24 of 1973 which formally established the NYSC scheme with the following objectives:[8]

(a) To include discipline in our youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and, of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation they may find themselves.

(b) To raise the moral tone of our youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement and social and cultural improvement.

(c) To develop in our youths attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest.

(d) To develop common ties among our youths and promote national unity by ensuring that:

    (i) As far as possible, youths are assigned to jobs in states other than their states of origin.

    (ii) Each group, assigned to work together, is as representative of the country as possible.

(iii) The youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejudices, eliminating ignorance and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups.

(e) To encourage members of the Corps to seek, at the end of their corps service, career employment all over the country, thus promoting the free movement of labour.

(f) To include employers partly through their experiences with corps members, to employ more readily, qualified Nigerians irrespective of their states of origin;

(g) To enable our youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Nigeria is a heterogeneous nation state. The most contentious problem facing Post-Independence Nigeria is the phenomenon or fear of national disintegration. Nigeria has suffered a tragic Civil War from 1967 – 1970. Nigeria has witnessed military violent seizures of political power. Nigeria has written and discarded numerous Constitutions, precisely; 1963, 1979, 1989, 1994/1995 and the current 1999 Constitution is now a subject of major review today. 40 years of independence, Nigeria is still in search of national unity and her political stability remains hazardous.

As stated earlier, a multiplicity of problems since independence in 1960, and the seeming lack of government success in coping with these problems coupled with the experience of the Nigerian civil war (1967 – 70), have caused many Nigerians to have serious doubts about the Nigerian nation.[9] The lack of confidence in the ability of the federal government to

solve some of the national problems have had serious consequences for the policy making process. Some of these problems such as ethnic tension, acute shortage of high-level manpower in industrial and other sectors of the economy, under-development, mass illiteracy and poverty, and the phenomeon or fear of national disintegration were and still are basic concerns of most Nigerian leaders and intelligentsia and can be seen in the increasing call on the federal government to emphasize those things that would integrate the people of Nigeria and avoid those that tend to bring about disunity among the various groups.

Within Nigeria's forty years of political independence, she has witnessed six military coups and four abortive coups (in one of which the Head of State, General Murtala Mohammed was assassinated in 1976). As a result of the abortive coups in 1976 and 1991, over one hundred Service personnel were court-martialled and shot. There were also one secession attempt, a thirty-month tragic civil war and over three decades of military rule, still in search of national integration. As long as Nigeria continues to contend with these problems of unity and nation-building, national integration will continue to be a fertile ground of study by students, scholars and researchers who would want to examine their causes in order to find solutions.

In the process of nation building, the institutionalization of certain organisation has been identified as critical for the attainment of that goal. The military government under General Yakubu Gowon conceived the idea of the National Youth Service Corps as one of the institutions for achieving its five national objectives of the Second National Development plan.[10]

These objectives are:

(a) A united, strong and self-reliant nation;

(b) A great and dynamic economy;

(c) A just and egalitarian society.

(d) A land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens; and

(e) A free and democratic society.

There were very strong protests to the establishment of the scheme from some Nigerians, particularly university students.[11]

According to Professor Adedeji:

> Opposition to the scheme arose partly out of ignorance about the full details of the scheme, partly out of the failure of the government in selling the scheme to the students and promoting a general understanding of its purpose among the populace; partly due to the Nigerian tendency to demand that if a group within the society is to be called upon to make a sacrifice then the whole society must be prepared to make that or other sacrifices and finally due to the fear of the new and destabilizing effect of any new programme before it becomes internalized into the system.[12]

Furthermore, some arguments against the scheme were politically motivated suggesting that the scheme was designed to solve the manpower problems of the Northern States as the vast majority of university students (at that period), were from the Southern States,[13] and "given also the principle that, as far as possible, Youth Corpers should serve in states other than their states of origin, most of the participants in the scheme would be serving in the Northern states".[14] These complaints continue to manifest. Another of

such complaints was from reporters of Newswatch magazine who related that officials corruption, favouritism and graft conspired to derail what was once seen as an ideal and a unifying factor.[15] This is a problem because the issue of lack of success of government programmes in Nigeria, for instance, the Operation Feed the Nation, has persisted in spite of suggestions on how this can be rectified. It is also a problem because apparently ineffective and non-productivity government programmes, end up not satisfying the expectations of the people, who virtually depend on government for the supply of social needs. In addition, a lot of resources was sunk into the programme and any wastage aggravates the situation of non-development and non-realization of goals. Further, it perpetuates the situation of lack of any understanding among the people – the *raison d'etre* for the National Youth Service Corps Scheme.

The NYSC programme has been in existence since 1973 and the question that is now posed is: to what extent has the NYSC enhanced national integration? Integration in this work means the extent to which the NYSC has enhanced political cultural, social, economic and religious understanding among the various ethnic groups in Nigeria. Specifically, to what extent has there been more communication, sense of belonging and association among the people of Nigeria? These factors are some of the indications of integration – a major goal of the NYSC scheme, and these are some of the questions which this study seeks to examine.

1.3 **Aim of Study**

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme as an instrument for promoting national integration in Nigeria with a view to making recommendations.

1.4 Significance/Objective of Study

The ever recurring waste in the bureaucracy of Nigeria, the prognostication of unviable development policies and programmes has become something of an axiom. Though there is the existence of an appreciable volume of relevant and useful study revelations in real life situations made by eminent scholars and researchers on the issue of mass-based development policies, the problem of failure still persists and elicit the search for solution. This study is therefore another contribution in seeking an answer to the question of the extent integration has been attained.

The importance of this work can be seen from two dimensions, the theoretical and the practical dimensions. In the theoretical aspect, this study will enable us to understand the process of integration. Specifically, it will enable us to understand the dynamic of movement of people across geographical and cultural boundaries, the association of people across these boundaries and the development of a sense of belonging among the youth corpers and ex-youth corpers.

At the practical level, the findings of this study will help policy makers to evaluate the usefulness or otherwise, of the NYSC, in relation to its objective, the human resources involved in the operational and also the material resources committed to the programme. In addition, it is hoped that the findings would be a significant contribution to both the intellectual community and the Nigerian society in general especially in the area of evolving and making a purposeful orientation towards national integration goals.

1.5 Hypothesis

For the purpose of this research, we are advancing the hypotheses that:

1. There is no significant change in the relationship of youth corpers contact circumstances and attitudes when they move across geographical and cultural boundaries.
2. There is no significant change in the relationship between a corper's participation in the NYSC and his sense of belonging among people from other geographical and cultural areas of the country.
3. There is no significant relationship between participation in the NYSC and inter-cultural marriages.

1.6 Limitations of Study

This study is not comprehensive and, therefore, does not cover all possible factors that are likely to cause the problems identified. Rather, it concentrates on the development, execution and evaluation of a specific public policy.

This research is limited in many ways. These include the limitations inherent in data gathering, the scope of the problem, and the nature of the study. In the questionnaire method of gathering data for instance, there is the possibility that some respondents may be inclined to hold back information and fill the questionnaire in a haphazard manner. However, effort has been made to eliminate this possibility through multifarious approach, such as combining the administration of questionnaire with some interviews to ensure that in the ultimate analysis of data, objectivity has not been compromised in any significant way.

It is noted that this research is a case study of corpers in four states; Anambra, Benue, Kaduna and Lagos in addition to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and generalization from it may be limited application. The limitations of the data generating techniques have already been noted in our discussion on methodology and repeat here is not necessary. Also treated in this section under reference is the sampling procedures and their limitations.

Finally, there are problems of limited financial resources which made it difficult for the researcher to engage in extensive field work.

1.7 Operational Definitions

The major terms that need to be clarified to bring out their operational meanings for this study are: integration, communication, association and sense of belonging.

National Integration: In spite of the differing usages of the term integration, and for the purpose of this research, it is conceived as a process whereby a group of people has moved from a lower to a higher level of cohesion, that is from a lesser to a greater sense of belonging, and from less association of a people to a greater or more association of people. National Integration means the above progresses within a nation state as opposed to across nation states. National Integration embraces political, cultural, economic, religious and social dimensions.

Communication: In the ordinary sense means to convey, have one know, give to understand or give one the facts. However, here the term communication is used to mean transactional exchanges between members of a group. It refers to the contact circumstance as used in the hypothesis (1.5).

***Sense of Belonging*:** At the national level is taken to mean the desire to work with people other than ones own kith and kin; the appreciation of similarities and differences and tolerance of the differences and the willingness to take work outside ones own ethnic/geographical area.

***Association*:** As an aspect of national integration is the continuing interethnic marriages and business partnerships existing among people.

***Contact Circumstance*:** Ordinarily, it means to succeed in meeting others or to communicate with others under a condition. Specifically, in this study, it will enable us to understand the process and the dynamics of the movement of youth Corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries, the association of people across these boundaries and the development of a sense of belonging among the Youth Corpers. It refers to the contact circumstance as used in the Hypothesis (1.5).

Footnotes

1. O. Ikejiani and O. Ikejiani, ***Nigeria; Political Imperative Desiderata for Nationhood and Stability,*** Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1986, p.62.

2. *Ibid*

3. *Ibid*

4. R. William Liddle, ***Ethnicity, Party and National Integration; An Indonesian Case Study,*** London: Yale University Press, 1970, p. 4.

5. Coleman and Roseburg, Carl G. (eds). ***Political Parties and National Integration in Tropical Africa,*** Berkley: University of California Press, 1964, p. 8.

6. ***Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution,*** Lagos: Government Printer, 1979, p. 9

7. Ajayi, Ade J. F., ***Ideology of National Integration*** *Daily Times,* January 30, 1985, p. 3.

8. National Youth Service Corps Decree No 24 of 1973 Lagos: Government Printer, 1973; See Appendix I

9. O. Ikejiani and O. Ikejiani, *op.cit.*, p. 9.

10. See the five ideological concepts incorporated in the Second National Development Plan 1970 – 74 as contained in Adebayo Adedeji, **The National Youth Service Corps: Its Genesis and Formative years.** ***A Compendium of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme,*** Lagos, NYSC Directorate, 1983, p. 19.

11. E. Emenako (ed)., ***12 Years of National Youth Service Corps in Nigeria: 1973-1985,*** Lagos: National Youth Service Corps Directorate Headquarters, 1986. P. 6; See also ***A Compendium of the National***

Youth Service Corps Scheme, Lagos: National Youth Service Corps Directorate Headquarters, 1983, p. 23 – 27.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 23.

13. *Ibid.*, p. 24.

14. *Ibid.*,

15. *Newswatch*, April 29, 1991, p. 22, 23.

16. Claire Selitz, ***Research Methods in Social Relations,*** New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961.

CHAPTER 2
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

So much has been written on integration, integration theories and strategies that one who writes on the subjects may be said to be dealing in the spent. Yet, the truth still remains that issues they entail have not been exhausted. Hence it becomes necessary to bring into perspective those conceptual variables that are relevant to our current study because it is our belief that repeated examination of those variables is in itself valuable even if such analysis merely reveals the basis of our choice of behaviour and reaction. Therefore, whatever subject that is introduced in this study, will revolve around integration and the NYSC as a thematic option for and induced programme for integration in Nigeria, but with particular focus on its operations in the four states and Abuja previously mentioned. The subjects that are considered for relevant attention include studies that have been done on the NYSC programme and theories of national integration.

2.1 Studies on the NYSC Programme

A few studies have been done on the NYSC programme and its achievements and/or areas of failure since the inception of the programme.

A Compendium of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme: Ten years of Service to the Nation[1] is the first comprehensive study of the NYSC scheme since its inception twenty-seven years ago. It is an account of the philosophy and objectives of the scheme, the work programmes designed to achieve these objectives, the management structure, the achievement of the programme, and its problems and prospects. It traced the growth and

development of the scheme vis-a-vis its set objectives which include the political goal of fostering unity and integration, accelerating a more even socio-economic development of the whole country and its human resources through the opportunities given individual participants for increased self-reliance, self-discipline, resourcefulness, and endurance. The study mentioned that attainments in some areas are not as readily qualifiable as in others, but in the area of skilled manpower supply for socio-economic development in sectors such as health, education and agriculture – the contribution of corps members have been acclaimed by the beneficiaries. These include state and local governments, local community leaders and members of the articulate citizenry.

The work also mentioned that various studies on the NYSC such as annual feedback from corps members and periodic evaluation studies conducted have made it possible to obtain a measure of success of the scheme in promoting among the participants labour mobility, the elimination of prejudices, stereotypes, awareness of cultural similarities and tolerance of differences. The book highlights some of the problems that militate against the operational efficiency of the NYSC. Among the problems are financial constraints, staffing, societal constraints such as participants' accommodation problems, under-utilization and lack of employment prospects for discharged corps members.

As regards the solutions to these problems the *Compendium* asserts that the management has continued to constantly strive, with the co-operation of other agencies and the patronage of government, to reduce, and, in fact,

eradicate some of these problems. The book concludes that some of the prospects of the scheme are undoubtedly assured as it continue to serve many useful purposes in the political, social and economic advancement of the country.

Nevertheless, the *Compendium* has its flaws. Although it asserts in its conclusion that the NYSC seems to be fulfilling its set objectives of achieving national integration, it does not provide a concrete evaluation base for such a conclusion. Merely providing manpower to the various states does not mean that such manpower deployment has enhanced national unity. Actions of corpers may have reinforced the prejudices of the people they served or exposed their own prejudices. In this way, deployment of staff may have failed to promote national integration.

Otwin writing on national integration, asserts that the achievement of national integration is sought through language and education policies, cultural and ideological programmes, and the structuring of access to the distribution of available resources. He further contends that in general the programme is now seen as a ready temporary source of educated manpower, rather than a year of service and learning to be a Nigerian – the aims which had been emphasized at the beginning. Otwin concludes that the NYSC has developed into an efficient and necessary manpower distribution mechanism supplying states with educated personnel they would not normally be able to attract and this has contributed to greater national unity and a lessening of tensions.[2] This conclusion is in line with the achievements of the NYSC

scheme as presented in *Compendium*. On the problems of the NYSC Scheme, he identified inadequacies of organization, lack of supervision, failure to provide accommodation and transport and that relatively few people knew about the programme and what it stands for. Finally, it is his belief that the continuity of the NYSC in Nigeria seems assured. He arrived at this conclusion by mentioning that throughout the 1979 election campaign, none of the political parties challenged its validity, and no one indicated any desire to do away with the programme.

Although Otwin's study is useful in the sense that statistical data are provided to show the deployment of needed manpower to various states, it is our contention that such manpower deployment might heighten the fear of domination and suspicion rather than enhancing national unity, where discriminatory treatment is accorded one group against others in deployment.

Anyanwu, in a paper delivered at Nsukka maintained that the establishment of the NYSC remains an everlasting monument for which the military administration will be remembered. He agreed with Otwin that in spite of party politics, the programme has not been politicized. He further mentioned that the scheme has become an integral factor in the body politics of this country like the army, police and civil service.[3] On the achievements of the NYSC programme, Anyanwu concluded like the *Compendium*, that some factors such as nationalism, patriotism and national integration are not easily quantifiable or measurable although it is possible to resort to surrogate measures. He maintains that the NYSC has achieved and contributed in the

area of the national education policy, health care delivery and also the legal aid scheme. The NYSC has constantly supplied these services with youth corps para-medicals and lawyers to augment the relative scarce resources in those fields. Anyanwu also categorized the achievements in terms of national integration, manpower utilization, adaptability and self-reliance, self-discipline and dignity of labour. He identified this inadequacy of staff, the problem posed by community development in the area of supply of materials, accommodation, transport and lack of community participation as problems facing the NYSC scheme. Other problems, he identified, include the difficulty encountered in the process of mobilization or call-up exercise and the inadequate subvention at the state level which makes it impossible to meet the welfare needs of corps members such as accommodation, transport, refund of medical bills etc. Finally, he maintained that the achievements of the NYSC, if properly measured, would justify its continued existence. Again, Anyanwu ends up on an assertive note.

Another interesting work is by Sagir A. Shittu which is a research essay.[4] It is an attempt to analyse and assess the impact which the NYSC Scheme has on the rural population, the author was of the opinion that the problem of national integration and unity in Nigeria is an immense one which existed before and has continued to exist since Nigeria's independence. He notes that the British decided to unite Nigeria as a matter of administrative convenience and for maximum economic exploitation, and they did nothing to promote unity among the people. He argued that the problem of integration is also reflected in the size of one of the national units which is the North. He saw the creation of states after the collapse of the

civilian regime (first republic) as one of the measures to eliminate this imbalance the size of the component units. Again, he mentioned educational imbalance among the states, the absence of a common language and that of persuading the units or states into more commitment towards national ideals, instead of paying allegiance to one's ethnic group, as some of the principal problem of Nigerian integration.

His propositions were that within the particular community that is being integrated into a national whole, there must be a continuing process of integration to stimulate further integration. And that within such a community in which integrative tendencies appears, the call for national commitment like NYSC when proposed, would be more readily welcomed. National integration involves the rural communities and the NYSC Scheme has gone down to provide measures for integrating them to the national whole.

Sagir Shittu considers that the background conditions leading to the establishment of the NYSC Scheme could be seen in relation to the search for a viable united nation with cultural and social diversities. The author concluded that the Scheme was really operating at the grass-roots level; that it was not an elite phenomenon and by evidence of projects executed, sought to cater for the welfare of the community. Thus, he regards the scheme as an instrument of integration.

On the area of the impact of the scheme in terms of broadening the corper's outlook on Nigerian socio-economic and political realities, he found that the scheme had helped to eliminate ignorance about other parts of the

country and for corpers to begin to see Nigeria as the same irrespective of geographical differences.

In the author's recommendation, he identified communication and language as obstacle. He noted that communication is weak between the rural dwellers and corpers, and this effects the degree of social integration. Shittu suggested that a crash programme of teaching corps members basic language during the orientation as a shrewed policy to minimize this problem. However, for us, the question that still remains unanswered is whether these interactions of corps members and the local people enhanced or detracted from national integration.

Dr Folayan Ojo[5] made an evaluation of the first four years of the NYSC Scheme. This study reviewed the scheme and its operational problems such as language barrier, employer's attitudes, lack of supervisory visits, etc. The author concluded that in its first four years of operation, the NYSC was successful in achieving the objectives for which it was established. He maintained, through his research, that the scheme had a significant impact in the area of national understanding and integration. However, the evaluation instrument was very faulty as the study did not identify what it means by integration and the indices for measuring it.

Emeneko[6] in his thesis research attempted to make an evaluative study of some aspects of the NYSC programme in order determine their effectiveness towards goal achievement. He concluded from his findings that the NYSC promotes national consciousness by making the participants identify themselves with the nation. It is not clear how Emenako arrived at

his conclusions since the empirical research did not provide evidence to this effect. Furthermore, he did not specify any indicators for measuring integration.

Dr A.O. Sanda in his study was mainly concerned with directed change or "consciously planned" programme of directed change among youths who are to serve the nation must "not be conditioned solely by either university education or age but must be determined by the primary objective of the scheme.[7] He contends that service at the higher school, polytechnic and teacher training level, made compulsory, would attain the goal of the NYSC more readily. He emphasized that all the youths have been induced by decree to comply with the requirement of one year national service, but he found manifestations of pre-service opinions and attitudes, such as interethnic and cross-cultural prejudices. Sanda also suggests that within the context of social change, the environment needs "mobilization and revitalization" as according to him youths have been able to differentiate the contradictions between the verbal utterances of the elders and the perceived patterns of behaviour of the same elders. He contends that one can see the hypocritical nature of a call for discipline when those who make the call depict the opposite values in their every day behaviour. Sanda emphasized that if the desired changes for the youths are to outlive their one year service, then their socio-cultural environment, their prevalent operative norms and their learned needs or goals, "must be made to reward probity, patriotism, discipline, self-denial or national service, devotion to duty, universalism, diligence, achievement motivation and extension motivation while discouraging or punishing indolence, particularly, ethnic chauvenism, and general indiscipline at any level."[8] He concluded that the success or failure

of the NYSC decree in effecting its goal of unity would depend on the existing values and motivational patterns within the Nigerian society as a whole. This work, as we can see, is essentially speculative and does not pretend to evaluate with any indicators.

A booklet titled *Twelve Years of National Youth Service Corps in Nigeria 1973-1985*[9] is an NYSC compilation of the history of the inception of the NYSC Scheme over twelve years period. This study noted the increase in the number of participants since the inception of the programme, from 2,364 to 42,685.[10] Although the study notes the integration efforts during the service year, "the national feelings gained during the year is established by the political situation in the country, corps members go back to square one after the service."[11] This is due to societal failure. This study shares the same view point as Sanda's work, that failure or success of the scheme is beyond the programme and its organisation. One agrees with the view that the NYSC alone cannot solve the issue of national integration. However, it should be possible to find out how far the programme has contributed to the enhancement of national integration.

2.2 Theories of National Integration

Just as the definition of integration varies, so do the theories and strategies for achieving political integration. Generally, most theories of national integration have been adopted from those theories of international political integration that have direct relevance for the analysis of the process of national integration.

The theories of national integration fall into two broad categories. The first is the pluralist version which involves the creation of cross-cutting affiliations among the different cultural groups within a society. The second approach is called the assimilationist version. This version assumes that primordial and civil ties are mutually exclusive and that integration takes the form of zero-sum-game culminating in the emergence of a homogenous nation. That means that intra-group cohesion and loyalties should disappear and be replaced by loyalty to social classes or to the society called the state before integration can occur.

Theories of integration are important because they not only offer descriptions of various forms of integration as an explanation of the conditions which sustain them, but also provide an insight into the requisite socio-economic and political policies and structures for creating or meeting the conditions for achieving national integration.

The theories of national integration are summarized under the following categories:

2.3 The Structural-Functionalist Theory

According to Osei-Kwame,[12] these group of theories suggest that exposure to the forces of modernization such as wage employment, industrialization, commercialization, urban residence, migration, mass media, formal education , and increased political participation tends to reduce or eradicate traditional particularistic or ethnic tendencies, hence, they are capable of fostering political integration. Proponents of the structural-functional framework include Coleman,[13] Lerner,[14] Almond and Verba,[15] Parsons,[16] Eisenstat[17] and Cohen[18].

Inherent in this theory is the idea that very low levels or economic and social development have very low levels of political integration. With increasing modernization therefore, comes the realization of the need for increased socio-political interdependence which is a pre-requisite for national unity.

The suitability of the structural-functionalist theory in a country such as Nigeria and many other African states have been called to question on empirical grounds. Uchendu[19] and Bates,[20] for instance, have observed that, at least in the African context, modernization has demonstrated a rather strong tendency to co-exist with or intensify traditionalistic tendencies such as tribalism. This observation invalidates the structural-functionalist proposition.

2.4 **Social Communications-Transactional Theory**

Deutsch[21] development on his previous works employing the theory of communication and control in the study of nationalism and social mobilization, focused upon transactions and other forms of social communication in his analysis of the integration of political communities. The underlying hypothesis of this theory is that cohesiveness among individuals of a group and among communities can be measured by and promoted by the extent of mutual relationship or interaction among them. In other words, the greater the transactional exchanges between members of a group, the greater the cohesiveness of the group.

Deutsch suggests in his theory that an extensive pattern of communication between national or communal units will result in a closer community which he refers to as a "security community".[22] He also argues that if the rate of communications between groups within a community increases, an increase in elite responsiveness will result; and if elite responsiveness increases, then a security community as one that attains a sense of unity "accompanied by formal and informal institutions and practices, sufficiently strong and widespread to assure peaceful change among members."[23] So if an integrated community is desired, ways have to be sought to increase the flow of transactional exchange between and among its members and communities. Thus, unity in diversity becomes the core of this kind of pluralistic but coherent political culture. The above conditions become essential elements in a society like Nigerian with a multi-policity of ethnic groups which have, to a large extent, been politicized along sectional or ethno-regional lines. But, there are quite a number of difficulties associated with the Deutsch model.

Deutsch talks of transactions independent of the perceptions and motivations of transacting actors. Although he did mention a number of postulates regarding such variables as trust, responsiveness, complementarity, he left unexplained when and how trust and responsiveness among actors of a political community with fragmented political cultures are to occur.[24] This is why Hass,[25] in criticism of Deutsch, states "it is as if theorists of the balance of power need only worry about application of the principles of mechanics of international politics and need not worry about how foreign ministers perceive themselves in this supergame."[26]

Huntington[27] points out that increased communication can increase ethnic consciousness and this, in turn, can stimulate political disintergration, tearing apart the body politic. As he states:

> Increased communication may generate demands for more 'modernity' than can be delivered (by the political system). It may also stimulate a reaction against modernity and activate traditional forces. Since the political arena is normally dominated by the more modern groups, it can bring into the arena new, anti-modern groups ... it may also mobilize minority ethnic groups who had been indifferent to politics but who acquire a self-consciousness and divide the political system along ethnic lines (thus stimulating political disintegration in the systems body politic).[28]

But contrary to Huntington's preposition, communication promotes integration rather than encourage disintegration.

Finally, Jacob and Tuscano[29] point out that exchanges or transactions between people in various communities have costs attached to them. Costs of transactions, they noted, differential benefits of one community over another. Consequently, attempts to facilitate transactions and, thus political integration, would probably be resisted by communities whose income depends heavily on inter-community transactions, or where one community fears that such transactions will lead to the other community perpetually dominating them economically, administratively and politically. If costs of transactions are related to political integration, then, according to Jacob and Tuscano,[30] the greatest amount of national integration should occur between:

> Communities where (persons) participate in decisions relating to costs and where the benefits of the costs are rather evenly shared.[31]

It should be noted that "the transactional influences, if indeed they do represent an integrative factor, may need to be conditioned by other variables; or other variables may need to be present for the transactions to have their integrative impact."[32]

2.5 The Equitable or Balanced Development Approach

This approach believes that the problem of integration in the new states can be resolved by providing equal development for all ethnic regions. This theory is widely held by most African leaders, politicians and intellectuals and is best expressed by Busia,[33] a Ghanaian sociologist and former Prime Minister of Ghana, when he stated:

> If the regions of a state (within a country) are more evenly developed, and the people are able to share adequately in the government of their own areas, tribalism will cease to be a divisive force (and a threat to national unity).[34]

Osei-Kwame[35] has stated emphatically that this approach may be tempting and probably justifiable on the basis of local knowledge, "the problems involved in the logistics and financing of 'equal development of all ethnic regions' means that the resolution of the integration problem through equal development is unrealizable in the immediate future".[36]

2.6 The Free Market Model:

This approach to integration has been attributed to Hass and Schmitter[37]. The authors have stated that the primary requisite for political integration is that the political actors involved in the process behave rationally. Rational behaviour they defined as that which seeks to maximize the pay-offs to

individual participants. Although Hass and Schmitter's theory was set in an international context (the integration of independent states), they saw themselves as putting forward a generalized theory of integration. For them, the theory can be more applicable to any specific level of analyses if different values are substituted for the variables in the theory. This implies that the theory can be more applicable to any specific level of analysis of different values, and by extension, it can be applied to a country like Nigeria which has more than 250 ethnic group or communities.

The theory assumes that provided actors behave rationally, the collective welfare, like that of an individual, will be maximized because the gains and losses will cancel each other out leaving the collectivity better off. However, there are a number of difficulties that are inherent in the Hass and Schmitter proposed framework.

It has been pointed out that there exists an inferential jump in the postulation that the pursuit of individual calculations, as defined, will automatically lead to the creation of an integrated community.[38] If an integrated community is to be taken as a goal, therefore, "the least desired strategy for achieving it would be the one proposed by Hass and Schmitter."[39] Dudley[40] pointed out that from the experience of Nigeria, it can be demonstrated that it was the elite's pursuit of strategies like those suggested by Hass and Schmitter, that all but led to the disintegration of the first Federal Republic of Nigeria and that of the Second Republic. This is supported by Ake[41] who has also identified the work of some classical sociologists like Karl Marx, Herbert Spencer, Ferdinand Joennies and Emile

Durkheim, which give insights into the processes and problems of national integration. The notion of integration is problematic, in other words, scholars are not agreed on one definition of integration.

The concept of "integration" has been widely used as a "heuristic device" for the study of third world countries. The result is that there is a vast, and still expanding, professional literature on integration, and consequently, is now part of the vocabulary of every student of political development, modernization and change and political instability. Despite its wide usage, a generally accepted definition use the term differently. Sometimes interchangeably with political integration, national or political unification, nation-building, political stability or political development. The term has been used relatively and differently as a "process", as a "condition", and sometimes it is used synonymously.

In order for us to arrive at an operational definition of national integration that will be used in this study, we have to examine the various meanings of the concept in order to elicit the board themes common to most of the definitions.

To integrate, according to Deutsch, generally "means to make a whole out of parts – that is to turn previously separate units into components of a coherent system."[42] He further added that "an integtated system is cohesive to the extent that it can withstand stress and strain, support disequilibrium, and resist disruptions."[43] Previously, Deutsch has defined integration as:

> The attainment of a sense of community, accompanied by formal or informal institutions and practices sufficiently strong and wide spread to assure peaceful change among members of a group with reasonable certainty over a long period of time.[44]

Such an integration community, in Deutsch's terms, is a "security community".

Morrison[45] defines integration as:

> A process by which members of a social system develop linkages and cohesion so that the boundaries of the system persist over-time and the boundaries of the subsystems become less consequential in affecting behaviour.

Binder views political integration as involving the creation of a "cultural ideological consensus of a very high degree of comprehensiveness".[46] Coleman and Roseberg defined integration as the "progressive reduction of cultural and regional tensions and discontinuities on the horizontal plane in the process of creating a homogenous political community."[47] They also defined it as the "progressive bridging of the elite-mass gap."[48]

The definitions of Deutsch, Morrison, Binder, Coleman and Roseberg, emphasize shared culture of gradual elimination of subordinate cultures in order to achieve a homogenous political culture and national integration. This prospective has been referred to as assimilationist definitions or models.[49]

Some scholars of integration have criticized this assimilationist perspective. For example, Etzioni[50] taking issues with Deutsch's contention that a common culture is a pre-requisite for unification, argues that

culturalism is not necessarily a pre-requisite for integration. First he pointed out that many cultural characteristics may not be politically relevant because political culture is part of the general culture. He posited that "sharing culture is not required for unification, nor does the lack of a shared culture prevent it; it simply has little effect on political unification."[51] The second argument Etzioni made was that shared culture may not be a "pre-requisite for unification but a requirement that has to be fulfilled before the process can be advenced."[52]

Weiner[53] has identified five specific usages of the concept of integration:

a. ***National Integration***: Is the process of bringing together culturally and socially discrete groups into a single territorial unit and the establishment of a national identify which overshadows sub-ordinate parochial loyalties. This identification recognizes that national integration involves, in most cases, plural societies with distinct ethnic, religious, linguistic, and self-conscious cultural qualities, or other groups and strata. It also implies the subjective feelings that individuals in different groups or strata have towards the nation.

b. ***Territorial Integration***: Is the establishment of national central authority over subordinate political units or regions. This implies objective territorial control.

c. ***Elite-Mass Integration***: Is the linking of government with the governed, assuming that there is a gap between them.

d. ***Value Integration***: Is the minimum value consensus necessary to maintain a social order; the common myths, symbols, beliefs, and shared history of the people.

e. ***Integration Behaviour***: Is the capacity of people in a society to organize for some purposes.

The Weiner's identification reveals the variety of meanings and usages of the concept of integration which are not always clearly define.

Geertz defines national integration in the new nations as:

> The aggregation of independently defined, specifically outlined, traditional primodial groups into larger, more diffuse units, whose implicit frame of reference is not local scene but the nation' – in the sense of the whole society encompassed by the new civil state.[54]

Etzioni considers a community integrated if:

(a) It has an effective control over the use of the means of violence;

(b) It has a centre of decision making capable of affecting significantly the authoritative allocations of resources and rewards throughout the community, and

(c) It is the dominant focus of political identification for a majority of politically aware citizens.[55]

From the above analysis of the definitions of integration, three broad themes common to most of the definitions can be identified to include:

(i) The existence of an identifiable territory or political entity inhabited by the people to be integrated;

(ii) The existence of a central government within that political system, and

(iii) Loyalties of the peoples to the central government that should supersede loyalties to their parochial institutions.

In this study, the term national integration is used as was used by Weiner and Etzioni. However, as stated earlier, national integration in the case of Nigeria can be seen as the transactional exchange between members of the society.

For this research, we consider their definitions as adequate because the assimilationist definitions of national integration is unrealistic in the context of Nigeria. Smock and Bentsil-Enchil,[56] for example, have noted that given the tenacity of ethnic identities and the inevitable role they will continue to play in the political process of African countries, any attempts or efforts at achieving homegenization will be unrealistic.

Nordlinger also criticizes the assimilation definitions and approaches when he contends that it is fruitless and even dangerous for government leaders in plural societies (like Nigeria) to vigorously attempt to inculcate a national identity. To him, plural societies can only remain viable if their leaders emphasize conflict regulation and concession rather than mobilization.[57] Mazrui[58] also made a similar point when he stressed that national integration necessitates both some depluralization of society and the simultaneous establishment of mechanisms for inter-group conflict resolution. He noted that some concessions to the ethnically plural character of African States seem essential if their political system is to remain viable and peaceful.

2.7 Process of Integration

Etzioni in his book *Political Unification: A Comparative Study of Leaders and Forces*,[59] considers question of the condition under which process of integration is initiated form four angles by raising the following questions:

a. What is the state of each societal unit that is to become a member of the union?
b. What is the nature of the aggregate of these units?
c. Are the environmental factors favourable for integration?
d. To what degree was there interdependence and integration before a specific process of national integration was initiated?

For the purpose of this study, the various conditions of integration that have been identified are subsumed under eight of the factors identified by Philip and Tuscano[60] as follows:

2.8 Territorial and Geographical Proximity

According to Philip and Tuscano,[61] the closer people live together geographically, the more likely they are to develop integration relationships among themselves. Similarly, the closer communities are to each other, the greater the likelihood of their political integration. They pointed out that this hypothesis is usually indirect and must be mediated through other variable such as homogeneity, integration or transactions, and mutual knowledge among the groups.

2.9 Degree of Homogeneity

The hypothesis here states that "the more that communities are similar, the more successful are attempts to build integrative relationship among them, and conversely, communities whose members are heterogeneous, will have a very hard time achieving or maintaining political integration.[62] So the feasibility of national integration. Where this advantage is absent, as in Nigeria, characterized by heterogeneity, pluralistic ethnic groupings, and fragmented political culture, the achievement and maintenance of integration is not easy to come by.

2.10 Mutual Knowledge and Cognitive Proximity

Philip and Tuscano[63] also point out that mutual knowledge or understanding among people is essential to their functioning together effectively as a political community. They argue that unless people are aware of each other and know a good deal about one another, they are not likely to enter into social or political partnership, however, much alike they may be in terms of elements of homogeneity. This description is appropriate to Nigeria. Even though the various ethnic groups have been living close together before the advent of colonialism, they have had little contact with one another and virtually no mutual understanding existed until they were forcefully brought together by their colonial experience. They are basically suspicious of one another to the extent that a total functional integration of these diverse groups become a major problem in the country.

2.11 **Government Effectiveness**

This refers to the capacity of the government to satisfy social expectations of the various groups. The proposition here is that "governmental effectiveness is necessary to retain the loyalties of the members of the community, and such loyalty is necessary to maintain internal integration in the community.[64] They also point out that "government ineffectiveness, on the other hand, will engender pressure for new, different, or external forms of integration."[65] This variable is important in analyzing the degree of integration in societies where the governments are the chief employers of the salaried labour force and the principal controller and distributor of economic goods and social services.

The ability of government to satisfy the needs of the diverse groups will depend mainly on its distributive capacity, which in turn, may depend on three types of integrative powers – "coercive, utilitarian and identitive."[66] Coercive power refers to the use of force by the government to compel or impose its will or norms on the member units. This capacity stems from the government's monopoly over the instruments of coersion and its legitimate use. The use of force or the threat of force may sometimes be sufficient to guarantee compliance in normal times.

Utilitarian power of government results from its control of the economic capacity, technical and administrative capabilities, and its manipulation of these assets in such a way that it can bring the sub-units to comply with the norms it upholds for its members.

The "identitive" power involves the symbolic identification of the citizens with their government. These identitive potentials are usually "values or symbols built up by educational and religious institutions, national rituals and other mechanism".[67]

2.12 **Functional Interests**

The hypothesis here is that "integration is dependent on the extent to which the dominant functional interests are shared in each community and thus, could be advanced by inter-community agreement or association."[68] It should be noted, however, that because people's devotion to particular interests may change with time and circumstances, converging functional interests "may not promise a firm and lasting basis for intgration."[69]

2.13 **Structural Frame**

The proposition here is that communities with a common or similar political structures have ideological affinities that make it possible for them to integrate more easily.[70] Today in Nigeria, because of her chequered history there is no clear-cut ideology in the country that can serve to integrate or unite the diverse linguistic or cultural groups.

2.14 **Previous Integrative Experience**

Studies of European integration by Hass[71] suggests that integration could occur more easily if there has been previous integrative experience. Tuscano[72] refers to similar experience from the results of his study of the

Philadephia suburban communities as "spill-over" effect. Further, the pattern of political activity forced on a community by external forces such as colonialism, may generate the initial momentum for integration, but in most cases, such a common colonial experience may not be sufficient to sustain a firm integration among the different nationalities. Nigeria is an example of this externally imposed amalgamation which has failed to generate much desired national integration.

Ali Mazrui,[73] uses the term social engineering, as a term he referred to as applied social sciences; cultural engineering for him is a special approach to the problems of social engineering and nation-building which he compared with construction.

Cultural engineering becomes a deliberate manipulation of cultural factors for purposes of deflecting human habits in the direction of new and perhaps constructive endeavours; There must be some changes in the cultural patterns. This leads to the issue of identity.

In the quest for patriotic symbols for East Africa, the ambition is to move race-conscious nationalism to new state-conscious patriotism as a basis of sovereign identity. This ambition and struggle to realize the identity are at the heart of nation-building.

He explored those principles of cultural engineering which are particularly relevant to identify formation in a new African State –

indigenizing what is sectional and emphasizing what is African. He discusses the place of history in the development of African nationalism stressing that to be denied of history is to be denied full dignity as a people. Central to the existence of the printed word, which they regarded as the preserver of the past, Mazrui dismissed the supremacy of the printed word over oral traditions. Yet he agrees that only problem with African history is the difficulty in distinguishing between the past and the present because of the African concept of the 'living dead'. The African past is not completely past because the dead is not entirely dead. The neglect of African history was due to the wrong notion about the continent as a "dark continent". Reinterpretation of the African history becomes a prominent issue in cultural engineering.

He observed that although African writers have emerged, they tend only to realize the cultural heritage of the people through autobiographies. The major problem of creative literature in East Africa is aesthetic dualism. The acquisition of a new literary culture is not only a matter of education but one of resocialization. Documentary radicalism emerged in order to conserve the African though. This would help in the movement from a society of traditional political culture to a society of modern ideology.

Mazrui also discusses the importance of language in East Africa development. He considered identity not only in terms of recognition, but also as a matter of self expression and of communication between co-nationals.

This is where both language and literature assume a critical significance. This subject includes the relative merits of the imported metropolitan language, English, as against indigenous rivals. According to him, language policy affects political participation and political penetration in East Africa. The goals of language in this area tends towards national integration and social integration. It is precisely this thinking that may be behind the NYSC's encouragement of the youth corpers to study the language of their area of posting.

On the issue of economic integration and exchange, Muzrui cited the Ibo entrepreneurs and their activities as an example of economic mobility and entrepreneurial activity that contributed to national integration. The ability to establish business outside their regions, to facilitate movement of goods and money to make business contacts. However, he also stated that this economic interaction and exchange as fostered by the Ibos in Nigeria had also contributed to inter-ethnic conflict in Northern Nigeria in May and September, 1966.[74]

In conclusion, he maintains that nation-building involves five major processes. These include achievement of some degree of cultural and normative fusion; the promotion of economic inter-penetration among different strata and sectors of society; the process of social integration; the building of institutions for effective conflict-resolution; and the psychological accumulation of a shared national experience.

The very fact to having been ruled by the same colonial power was all important factor behind the relative unity and similarity of Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya as contrasted with Congo. Cultural engineering as a quest for purposeful change becomes a shared moment in the stream of conscious history. The NYSC Scheme may be called cultural engineering and hence Ali Mazrui's postulation is a very necessary study for this research.

2.15 Theoretical Framework of this Research/Justification for Nigeria

From the above enumeration of the various definitions, conditions and theories of political integration, a number of problems that tend to hinder national integration can be identified. These factors include multi-ethnicity and cultural heterogeneity or fragmented political cultures; fears of domination; lack of interaction or transactions between the different sub-units of a political community; and elite fragmentation or elite instability. Other problems of integration include uneven patterns of development, poor leadership and lack of national heroes, elite-mass gap, lack of previous integrative experience and lack of institutionalized or broad-based organizations. All these factors and the lack of a generally agreed upon approach to achieving national integration indicate that political integration is a very complex phenomena.

Integration is a phenomenon that has received great attention by scholars. In spite of its wide usage, no generally agreed upon framework of analysis of national integration in the new states has emerged. The result of

this state of affairs is that there are several propositions, theories, conceptual frameworks and paradigms on national integration. Some of these have been discussed earlier.

Various contending views appear to capture some aspects of the reality of integration. Even though the concept is difficult to operationalize across cultures and periods, often, when a community is integrated, there is a sense of belonging among members of that society; there is a fairly unhindered movement of that association of people and transactions of personal and commercial nature. From our own point of view, integration is a dynamic process and has no terminal end. More often than not, it is a movement from a state where people move from being estranged to being familiar, move from less to more interactions, and vice-versa, when a society moves to disintegration.

The theoretical framework of analysis for this research will entail some of the notions as embraced by Deutsch, precisely, the Communications-Transactional Theory which maintains that the greater the transaction exchanges take place between members of a group, the greater the cohesiveness. It implies Contact Circumstance as used in the hypothesis (1.5). Specifically, it will enable us to understand the dynamics of the movement of Youth Corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries. This theory has been discusses in detail in section 2.4 (page 24).

The justification for the use of this theory is that the said conditions become essential elements in a society like Nigeria characterized by fragmented political culture with multiplicity of ethnic groups which have, to a large extent been politicized along sectional or ethno-regional lines. Thus unity in diversity becomes the care of this kind of pluralistic but coherent political culture.

The NYSC is a body or a federal government machinery that recruits people for compulsory service from different geographical and cultural backgrounds and moves them to places other than their own geographical and cultural areas. The experience is presumed to create a sense of belonging among those people from different backgrounds and make it easier for people to understand and associate with people of cultures other than their own.

For the purpose of this research, national integration is conceived as a process inculcating communication, sense of belonging and association as earlier defined. This set of concepts will help to guide, organize and integrate our observations.

Footnotes

[1] ***A Compendium of the National Youth Service Scheme: Ten Years of Service to the Nation***, Lagos: National Youth Service Corps Directorate, (1983).

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CHAPTER 3
METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to examine whether the NYSC is achieving its main objective of enhancing unity and integration; the extent to which the participation of NYSC has enhanced or detracted from the development of interaction, association and sense of belonging among people of different cultural and geographical backgrounds. Specifically, this research is to ascertain the national orientation of pre-NYSC and post-NYSC graduates with a view to determining the impact of the NYSC experience on those who passed through the programme in terms of its national objectives. Thus, we shall compare the perceptions of the two grounds in relation to their domicile preferences and national identification through their indoctrination orientations. This study will also focus on the comparative analysis of the perceptions and attitudes of the two groups in multi-cultural perspectives by using variables of national integration. Furthermore, the study also focuses on the public attitudes of the two groups in order to determine their comparative psychological structures on public issues. Finally, the evaluation of the various aspects of the NYSC scheme is made in order to assess their effectiveness towards goal achievement. The intent of the research is to study the extent to which the participation of the NYSC has enhanced or detracted from the development of interaction, association and sense of belonging among people of different cultural and geographical backgrounds.

The method and procedures needed to implement an investigation built around these objectives involves four steps:

(1) Selection of a study population;

(2) Specification of data collection methods, and

(3) Selection of data analysis techniques.

This chapter will outline the procedures used in implementing each step.

3.1 Population and Sample

The population for this study and analysis comprises Nigerian youth corpers who served during the 1986/87 service period (designated post-NYSC) and Youth Corpers who served during the 1987/88 service period (designated Pre-NYSC). This research covered a sampling of specific target population representing three zones of the federation, namely, the South, the Middle-Belt and the North. It would have been ideal to study all the thirty states plus the FCT, Abuja.

However, for reasons of easy communication and minimization of financial constraints, our representative sample area is limited to Anambra, Benue, Kaduna and Lagos States and Abuja Federal Capital Territory. After this research was conducted and documented, more states were created from nineteen to thirty states in 1991 and thirty-six in 1996 plus the FCT Abuja. Hence, in our study references are made to Anambra/Enugu States and part of Ebonyi State, Kaduna/Katsina States and Benue/part of Kogi States which emerged from the old Anambra, Kaduna and Benue States, respectively.

A good sampling must be small enough to make for efficiency and economy and must be large enough to contain the basic units for study and to permit generalizations about the population and the relevant units of the sub-population.

The total number of corpers who had participated in the programme in the 1986/87 and 1987/88 service years were about 19,112. The following was the distribution across the states and the FCT, Abuja:

	YEAR	NUMBER
ABUJA FCT	86/87	560
	87/88	649
STATE		
BENUE/part of KOGI	86/87	964
	87/88	1,034
ANAMBRA/ENUGU/	86/87	1,454
part of EBONYI	87/88	4,141
KADUNA/KATSINA	86/87	1,679
	87/88	1,487
LAGOS	86/87	3,203
	87/88	3,941
	TOTAL	19,112

These were further grouped into **3,207** from the Middle Belt, **3,166**, in the North and **12,739** in the South. These groups are spread across several cultural and geographical areas of Nigeria.

The popular notion in Nigeria is that people tend to see themselves as either northerners or southerners, but increasingly, there is the growing awareness of the middle belt who claim to be neither north nor south. Hence the choice of the various states that represent these three zones.

A proportionate random sample of 1,800 was conducted and studied in the following numbers:

North:	650
South:	900
Middle Belt:	650

1,800 is about 10% of the population under study which is generally considered reasonable for sampling. The questionnaires were administered just as the corpers came into camp and towards the end of the service year in order to determine their attitudes and beliefs.

3.2 Data Collection

Data was collected in 1986/87 and 87/88 through the questionnaire and interview methods to study the attitudes, beliefs and opinions of the corps members before and after the youth service experience. Other data were collected through library research from books, articles from professional journals, published and unpublished official documents, newspapers and magazines. The documentary data are subjected to content analysis, and they supplement the questionnaire and interview data.

3.3 Operationalization of Concepts

The operationalization of concepts outlined in chapter two comprise three basic steps:

(1) Drawing up questions to ask respondents;

(2) Formalizing these questions into an interview schedule and associated procedures, and

(3) Assigning numerical values to responses and appropriately combining these values into summary scores.

To complete the first step, available literature on the National Youth Corps Scheme and theories on national integration were reviewed. Directors, Inspectors and other personnel of the NYSC who were acquainted with the details of the programme were interviewed. Next, open-ended probing interviews with at least three persons in each of the roles of concern, the Senior Inspectors and Co-ordinators of programmes, were conducted.

The interviews were designed to determine the range of information acquisition, processing, dissemination and behaviours of person in these roles. We also reviewed and drew upon interview schedules used in previous related studies. From the pilot study done by M. M. Owosina *et al*[1] and Emenako,[2] we were able to derive many ideas for questions and procedures to use in measuring the concepts of organizational compliance which have been outlined by Etzioni,[3] and a study of approaches to programme evaluation by Eleanor Chelimsky[4] proved useful in constructing measurement questions.

The second step, developing the interview instrument, involved several drafts and revisions of questions for each concept measured. The questionnaire was designed to give responses on the questionnaire from itself, and was given to respondents. These questionnaires provided the range of possible responses sought. The staff of the NYSC, especially the Senior Inspectors in the states of study, were contacted and extensive discussions held. They also reviewed the interview instrument and assisted in notifying potential respondents of the study and urged their cooperation. This method was used in order for us not to be able to influence or prejudice the outcome of the study and also for convenience and easy accessibility to the respondents of the states concerned. Finally, the instrument was pre-tested on a few of the intended subjects and underwent slight revisions before being administered to the final sample. A copy of this questionnaire schedule is attached as Appendix II.

The questionnaire sought to obtain information from respondents on whether or not the youth service programme had enhanced national integration; if there had been an increase in cross-cultural integration among

participants in the scheme. It also included questions on background, attitudinal, and behavioural characteristics which form the independent variables of the study.

The third step, transforming question responses into numeric values, was done partly during the process of designing the questionnaire and partly after the data had been collected. The basic approach was to build composite measures, based on responses to several questions, for each concept measured. In several instances, multiple indicators of each concept were measured. Responses to open-ended questions were content analyzed. All these were pre-coded in the computer analysis data form. Where appropriate, scale reliability analysis was performed to determine whether or not item responses met the criteria of additivity. In this process, some of the items included in the questionnaire were dropped from consideration.

Details on questions asked, the rationale behind the questions are given in Chapter [5].

3.4 Data Analysis

All data analysis was completed using computer programmes from the Statistical Package for the Social Science.[5] Use was made of content analysis of some works that had good documentation on aspects of the subject matter. As earlier indicated, these include major documents, textbooks, articles, journals and periodicals. The effort was geared toward studying a level of communication, association and sense of belonging as already spelt out in Chapter 1 and 2. Although we had access to existing relevant literature, mention must be made of the fact that the topic is a relatively new area and no substantial work has been done. As stated earlier, we used the questionnaire and interview methods as self report techniques to

study the attitudes, beliefs and opinions of the corps members before and after the youth service experience. Content analysis was used to study documents for purpose of understanding and clarifying certain statements and issues found in documents and during the interview process.

Documents were studied pertaining to employment of corpers after service in order to determine the nature of association across cultural and geographical boundaries before and after service. NYSC and other government documents were utilized in order to complement the other sources of information pertaining to movement, employment and interaction of corps members and other aspects of this study.

A combination of the above methods were considered suitable and adequate for effectively reporting the results of this research work.

The data analysis techniques used were percentages, correlation, chi-square and (Table 5.3.V) Kolmorgov-Smirnov. Our raw data used were mainly in tabular form and extracts from questionnaires. For such data, simple analysis such as averaging and percentaging is usually used to reduce data to manageable proportions. In cases where analysis of cause and effect were considered, correlation analysis was deemed sufficient; while for comparisons of frequencies, particularly a stated hypothesis, Table 5.3.V, chi-square statistics was used. Those cases were either the size of the frequencies in the various cells was very small or the number of the cells was small, the statistic of choice was the Kolmorgov-Smirnov (Table 5.3.V).

Footnote

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CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH CORPS SCHEME

4.1 The Global Character of Youth Mobilization

National service scheme are usually established in response to national needs, and when certain objectives need to be achieved, a nation usually embarks on a youth mobilization exercise. Youth mobilization has a global character.

In discussing the global character of youth mobilization, inferences are drawn from invaluable use in national service policies from socialist countries like the former Union of Socialist Soviet Republic (USSR) and Cuba, and the Non-Socialist countries like the United States of America (USA) and other various Youth Service bodies in the African Continent where youths have been committed to national service.

The Young Pioneers of the Soviet Union, The Red Guards of Mainland China, the Hitlerjugend of Nazi Germany, the Ballila of Italy under Mussolini, the Cadet Voluntary Service in Britain, The Voluntary-In-Service To America and Peace Corps in the United States, the United Arabic Republic's Serve Your Village Scheme, all bear testimony to the great importance attached to youth mobilization for national service in some societies.

In the U.S.S.R., the achievements of youths constitute a product of socio-psychological evolution. In the Soviet Union, the youths are ideologically committed to make maximum contribution to the society. The communist ideology determines the achievements of youths. In turn, the youths accept unquestionably, mobilization in the service of the state, while

feelings and actions portraying class consciousness are narrowed down. The youths achievements are reflected in the socio-economic and political development in the Soviet Union.

The achievement of youth in Cuba represent a gradual transformation from illiterate to a literate society as rooted in their brand of communist ideology – Castroism. The educated youths are expected to participate in adult education in order to specifically achieve a certain literacy level in society. Again, their achievements are also reflected in the socio-economic and political developments which evolved from the theory and practice of Castroism.

In the United States of America, the youths have participated in terms of their national identification and in a two year compulsory military service (Draft) for a call-up at any required period. The motivating factor for the Peace Corps programme is to ensure that the American democratic ideology is spread apart from generally providing jobs. Within Africa, the nationally controlled youth services include:

(a) The Ethiopian Students one year compulsory rural service.
(b) The National Service of the Ghana Youth pioneers.
(c) The Kenya National Youth Service.
(d) The Malawi Youth pioneers.
(e) The Zambian Youth Service.
(f) The Uganda National Union of Youth Organization, and
(g) The Tanzanian National Service, etc.

National Youth Service bodies in Africa are classified into four groups according to their major pre-occupation, although they all share in varying degrees, an underlying goal of promoting national discipline.

The first category are these that comprise the youth schemes primarily designed to combat unemployment and produce skilled labour for example, Liberia's National Youth Organization (LNYO). The LNYO is a part of the Military of Labour and is administered by technical officers from the civil service. The youth organization is concerned with the execution of vocational programmes among elementary and high school who are unable to continue their education. Also in Kenya, the National Youth Service programme is designed to provide vocational training for school drop outs.

The second group of youth service consists of interim solutions to manpower shortage. In this category are included Sierra Leone's people's militia and Ethiopia's University Service. The Sierra Leone People's Militia is a voluntary Service to train citizens to assist during emergency. Sierra Leone also has a compulsory national service for university graduates who while in the university pursue a diploma in Education in addition to their degrees.

After graduation, they are required to teach in schools for two years before they are allowed to take on jobs of their choice.

The third category comprise of National Youth bodies which serve military and para-military purposes. Examples in this category include national youth organizations in Chad, Sudan, Malawi and Egypt. The Chad Republic operates a compulsory military service for all university students above the age of eighteen. The programme is ostensibly designed to prepare the youth in physical and social aspects of life and it is generally believed that it is the nation's method of training reservists in the event of a national emergency.

The fourth group consists of National Youth organizations which are intergral parts of a process of institutionalisation of party and/or national ideology. In Tanzania the Green Guards are expected to adhere to the code of Tanzania African National Union Youth League, the youth wing of the ruling TANU. The members are expected to vow to adhere to the principles of socialism, accept the Arusha Declaration, declare that they are not capitalists or exploiters nor enslaved by capitalist tendencies and finally pledge that they are only workers, peasants and/or students. Nigeria had to borrow some leaf from these existing youth services.

4.2 Historical Survey of the NYSC Scheme in Nigeria

It is very important at the beginning of this section on the historical background of the NYSC, to review the situation that brought the scheme into being.

Nigeria gained her political independence from Britain on October 1, 1960. Later, events which unfolded themselves questioned the ability of the leaders to build one strong united nation.

As Adebayo Adedeji puts it:

> The declaration of the state of emergency in Western Nigeria in 1962, the treasonable felony of 1963, the fiasco of the election of 1964 and 1965 coupled with the general strike of 1965, were more than enough to confirm to the cynics that the new Nigerian nation was condemned to early infant mortality. As we all know, matters came to a head on January 15, 1966 with the first coup d'etat to be followed six months later, on July 29, by a second coup, and in quick succession by massive civil disturbance and reprisals and a civil war.[1]

The first attempt at secession was in February 1966 when Isaac Boro, Sam Owonaro and Nottingham Dick declared a Delta people's Republic out of the former Eastern Region dominated by the Igbo-Speaking people.[2] They were arrested, tried and condemned to death by the Federal Court for treason. In May 1967, the people of Eastern Region of Nigeria, under the leadership of the military governors of that region, Lieutenant Colonel Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, declared the Republic of Biafra. The secession of the East led to a very bloody civil war which lasted for thirty months.

The Nigerian civil war (1967 – 1970), fought in defense of the unity of the country, has caused many Nigerians to harbour some serious doubts about some of their most cherished political ideas and ideals. Many Nigerians have come to regard unity as an illusion in Nigeria. Ikejiani and Ikejiani noted that "Nigeria has never known peace unless by truce",[3] The civil war experience made Nigerian leaders to think in terms of some ideological concept that could motivate Nigerians into a pattern of behaviours that would fulfil their cherished political ideas. The slogan "to keep Nigeria one is a task that must be done", served as a strong ideological rhetoric during the civil war and confirms Clifford Geertz's statement that:

> Ideology names the structure of situations in such a way that the attitude contained towards them is one of commitment. Its style is ornate, vivid, deliberately suggestive.[4]

Soon after the Nigerian civil war in 1970, and consequent upon the policy of rehabilitation, reconciliation and reconstruction embarked upon by the Federal Government, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme was established. The NYSC was established to pilot the formula in order to

achieve full integration and unity of the country by bringing together Nigerian Youth from all the higher institutions of learning for the purpose of sharing common experience, giving selfless service to the community and to emphasize the oneness and brotherhood of all Nigerians irrespective of cultural background. The promulgation of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Decree No. 24 of 22nd May, 1973, gave birth to the NYSC scheme.

The idea about some kind of natural service had been advocated by different quarters or sections of the society after independence.[5] Numerous calls featured in the pages of many newspapers by the citizenry, some advocating different forms of service schemes. Some of the proposals called for national military training, training young school leavers in agriculture and various vocational skills to prepare the youth for employment and also to inculcate in them a healthy attitude towards manual labour.[6] Prior to the civil war, many Nigerian undergraduates had at one time or the other expressed the desire for the establishment of a programme for mobilization of the youth, a programme similar to the America Peace Corps or British Volunteer Service.[7] Thus, the need for mobilization of youths in the national interest was recognised long before the scheme was launched in 1973.[8] During the civil war, some students called for a role and participation in the national reconstruction in the Nigerian civil war policies and programme popularly referred to as the three **R's** – Rehabilitation, Reconciliation and Reconstructions.[9]

The Federal military government in 1968 commissioned a committee to examine the possibility of starting a rehabilitation and reconstruction service corps which could metamorphise into a permanent scheme for

mobilizing Nigerian youths for development tasks. It became very clear at the end of the civil war, when Nigeria was bedevilled by ethnic distrust and mutual antipathies, the erosion of national consciousness and awareness, amongst a host of other serious national issues, that a youth programme was not only necessary but imperative.[10] It was in this state of affairs that the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities conceived the idea of establishing a scheme of national service for Nigerian graduates. The committee set up a panel to examine the details and invited Mr Alex Dickson, the former principal of the Federal Training School for 'Man O War Bay' activities to work out the details.

To seek public opinion and to educate the Nigerian public on government's intentions, General Gowon first announced on October 1, 1972, in his broadcast to the nation on the twelfth anniversary of Nigeria's independence, the Federal Military Government's plan to introduce a voluntary national youth service.[11] Subsequently, in his convocation address at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in December 1972, he announced that the NYSC would be established. In February 1973 at the University of Lagos, he called for memoranda and idea from concerned groups.

The Committee of Vice Chancellors decided to hold a workshop on the NYSC issue at Ibadan, but this workshop ended in a fiasco.[12] There was very strong opposition to the scheme from Nigerians and University students in particular. The opposition led to unsavoury activities including students unrest and the Nigerian mass media did not help very mush. In fact, they helped to inflame the tense situation. Cases of violent reactions and students

demonstrations were variously reported in Zaria, Lagos and Ibadan Universities.

The causes of students opposition to the scheme were identified as:

a. The rumours that the term of service would run for two years.

b. That it would involve road building and other heavy manual tasks.

c. That the remuneration would only be ₦50.00

d. That there was no prior consultations with students before deciding on the establishment, which was impositional and slightful to their self-image; and the students also demand that the Federal Military Government grant all Nigerian students of Nigerian institutions of higher learning the following:

(i) Automatic loans and sponsorship;

(ii) Adequate accommodation be made mandatory in the institution;

(iii) Vacation employment and automatic post NYSC guaranteed employment; and finally;

(iv) The Federal Military Government should utilize other youths, particularly the unemployed secondary school leavers initially for the scheme.

As the debate about the rights and wrongs of the proposed scheme raged on between 1971 and 1972, the Federal Military Government insisted that the scheme would not be abandoned. However, the Federal Military Government's promulgation of the decree was delayed for a year and the students who graduated in June 1972 missed the programme. In the final

analysis, students could not help acquiescing to the compulsory national service, since it would contradict their avowed characteristic patriotism and altruism as a social class, the intransigency of the individual components notwithstanding. According to the Compendium, the Federal Military Government conceived that Nigerian youths from all ethnic groups were to be mobilized in the task of nation building and integration. Consequently, the Gowon Administration evolved the five ideological concepts as enumerated in Section 1.2, p.6.

The Second National Development plan contained the idea of pilot projects designed to extract unemployed youths from the labour market for training in manual skills. The idea of the National Youth Service Corps was based on the notion that the future of Nigeria lies in the hands of the present youths. Therefore, all youths were called upon to dedicate themselves to the ideals of national unity and develop the qualities that make for leadership and self-reliance.

On 22nd May 1973, the NYSC was established by Decree No. 24, 1973,[13] which enunciated the aims, objectives and functions of the NYSC. The NYSC Decree states clearly matters relating to the programmes for the service year, remuneration, welfare, kitting, leave, discipline, sporting and cultural activities as they affect the corps members. The National Directorate was inaugurated the following month, June 1973, with Professor Adebayo Adedeji as Chairman and Lt Col A Ali as Director. The initial group of corps members started the programme in July 1973, with exemptions granted to those over the age of 30, the medically unfit, members

of the armed forces and police, and part-time students already working.[14] These pioneer corps members number 2,364.[15]

The Federal Military Government in commencing the scheme decreed as follows:

> There is hereby establishment a scheme to be known as the National Youth Service Corps (hereinafter referred to as the Service Corps) with a view to the proper encouragement and development of common ties among the youths of Nigeria and the promotion of National unity; the Service Corps shall be charges with all such functions as pertain to the objectives of the scheme.[16]

4.3 The Fundamental and National Objectives of the N Y S C Programme

As mentioned in chapter one, the establishment of NYSC scheme was motivated by both socio-economic and political problems of Nigeria which became more pronounced at the end of the Nigerian civil war. The scheme was therefore established by Decree No. 24 of May 22nd, 1973 with its objectives specified in Section 1 of Paragraph 3.[17]

As previously stated, the Decree specified the aims, objectives and *modus operandi* of the NYSC which provides a platform for Nigerian youths in order to realize self-discipline, self-reliance and self-realization of the Nigerian national pride. Most importantly, the programme seeks to instil into the youths, a sense of national loyalty, selfless service to the nation and to help them appreciate the notion of dignity of labour. While observing the

significance of these objectives, Adebayo Adedeji said "it is clear that these objectives, lofty and noble as they are, particularly within the context of Nigeria and her immediate post-independence experience, are the basic pre-requisites for successful nation building, and integration".[18]

The Growth of the NYSC

Since the inception of the National Youth Service Corp, a total of over one million graduates of institutions of higher learning have been through the programme. (See Table 4.3.1). The Scheme which started off with 2,364 participants in 1973 had cumulative participants of 42,685 in the 1984/85 service year, and 26,907 participants in the 1987/88 service year alone spread over the whole country.

The increase in the number of participants is best shown in a table such as table 4.3.1 below:

Table 4.3.1: Number of Corps Participants from 1973 – 2000

YEAR	TOTAL	ANNUAL INCREASE
1973/74	2,364	-
1974/75	2,998	636
1975/76	3,513	515
1976/77	6,107	2,594
1977/78	10,814	4,707
1978/79	15,632	4,818
1979/80	18,629	2,997
1980/81	23,039	4,410
1981/82	26,295	3,864
1982/83	36,295	9,392
1983/84	44,837	8,542
1984/85	46,685	2,152
1985/86	24,804	21,881
1986/87	25,233	329
1987/88	26,907	1,674
1988/89	28,383	1,476
1989/90	33,290	4,907
1990/91	40,912	6,622
1991/92	33,980	6,932
1992/93	36,873	2,893
1993/94	36,217	656
1994/95	18,610	17,607
1995/96	42,768	24,158
1996/97	48,272	5,504
1997/98	64,731	16,459
1998/99	74,298	9,567
1999/2000	69,311	-4,987

Source: NYSC Data Bank Division, Directorate Headquarters, Abuja, 2000.

The record of the significant increase in the number of participants is due to a number of factors, amongst which are:

a. The expansion of the scope of the scheme through amendments to the enabling Decree; e.g. in 1975, the Scheme became compulsory for all Nigerians trained in any degree awarding institutions at home and abroad:
    (i) In 1976, graduates of polytechnics (HND) and Colleges of Education (NCE holders) were included in the Scheme.
    (ii) In 1977, the 30 years limit was removed.
b. An increase in the number of institutions of higher learning whose graduates participate in the NYSC.
c. An increase in the number of foreign trained Nigerian who return to Nigeria to participate in the Scheme, and
d. The cancellation of the limit exemption, with effect from 1977.[19]

Table 4.3.1 indicates that a total number of 310,760 people had participated in the National Youth Service Corps Scheme from 1973 through to 1988.

It should be noted that the annual percentage increase in participants for the first three years, was less than thirty percent. But between 1975/76 and 1977/78, there was an increase of seventy four percent and between 1978/79, the increase shot up to seventy seven percent. Since 1980, the annual percentage increase dropped to below twenty five percent.

It is projected that this growth trend stabilized because state Universities have already been established as well as the new universities established by the Federal Government as planned under the Fourth National

Development plan of 1981/85. Additionally, inferences can be drawn in view of the current economic situation in the country to suggest that it is more likely that there would be a drop in enrolment; also the fact that N.C.E. holders have been dropped or stopped from participating in the programme since 1984/85, have all contributed to arresting the growth trend.

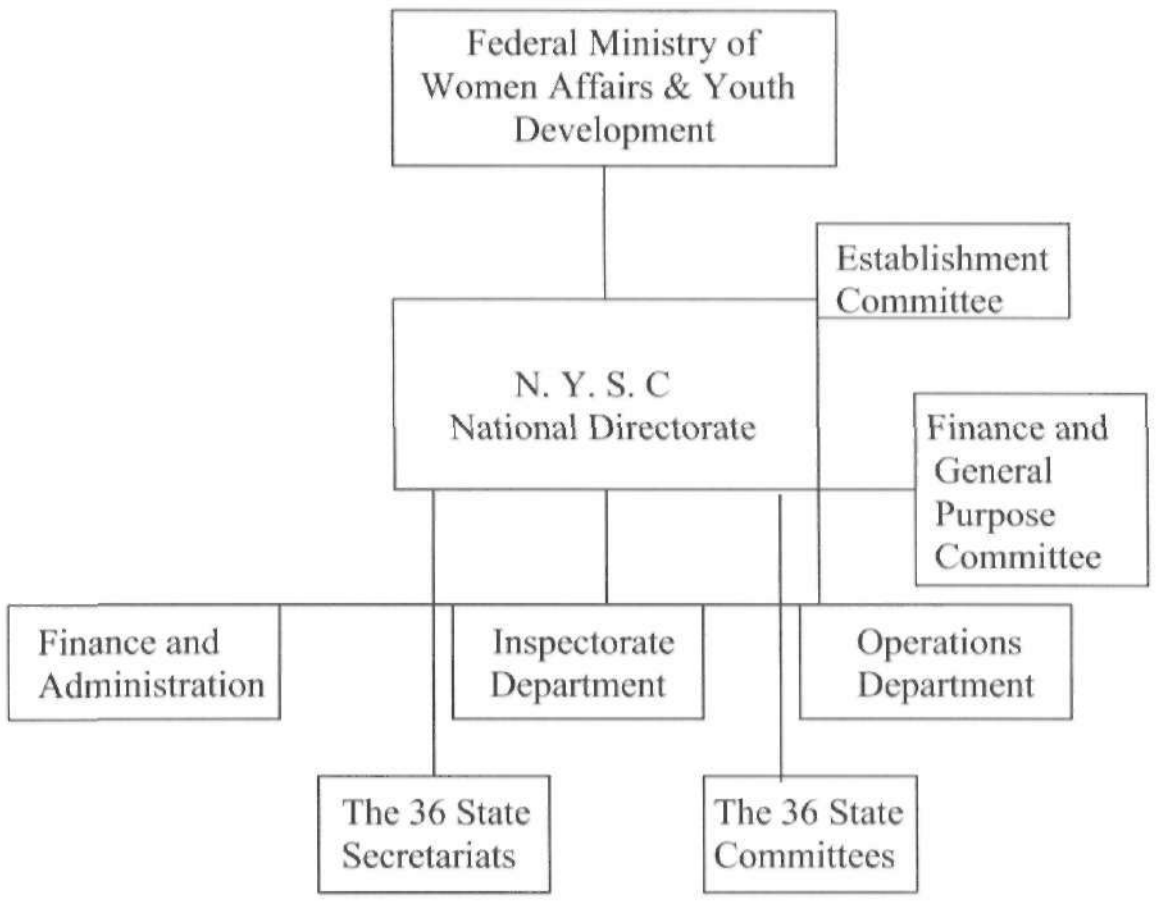
Table 4.3. II below indicates a breakdown of participants according to their sex. 236,999 were male, while 73,761 were female.

Table 4.3. II: Number of Participants and Growth Trend in Fifteen Years (1973 – 1988)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1973/74	2,024	340	2,363
1974/75	2,529	469	2,998
1975/76	2,920	593	3,513
1976/77	5,003	1,104	6,107
1977/78	8,944	1,870	10,814
1978/79	12,033	3,599	15,632
1979/80	14,789	3,840	18,629
1980/81	17,822	5,217	23,039
1981/82	20,509	6,394	26,903
1982/83	26,858	9,437	36,295
1983/84	33,676	11,161	44,837
1984/85	30,094	12,591	42,685
1985/86	19,495	5,309	24,804
1986/87	19,617	5,616	25,233
1987/88	20,686	6,221	26,907
Total	236,999	73,761	310,760

Source: NYSC Data Bank Division, Directorate Headquarters, Abuja, 1998.

Table 4.3. IV: The Organizational Structure of NYSC



Source: Data Bank Division National Directorate Headquarters, also *Compendium, p. 8.*

Supervisory Body

As a parastatal, the National Directorate is responsible for in rating and implementing policies. The scheme is now under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development; from 1973 – 1983, it was under the Cabinet Office. Between 1983 – 1993 it was at various times under the Federal Ministry Social Development, Youth and Sports and Federal Ministry of Education.

The National Directorate

At the National Directorate Headquarters, there are currently eight departments; Personnel Management, Planning, Research and Statistics, Community Development Services and Corps Mobilisation, Corps Welfare Services, Corps Inspectorate, Finance & Supplies and Public Relations.

The Decree establishing NYSC set up a Directorate which is the governing and policy making body of the NYSC. The Director (now Director General) is the Chief Executive of the Scheme at the national level while the Chief Inspector is (now Director) the Chief Executive at the State Secretariats/Abuja FCT.

The composition of the Directorate include the following members:

a. The Chairman.

b. Five persons to represent the universities in Nigeria, in rotation.

c. One member each of the armed forces in the Federal; the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Employer's Consultative Association;

d. The Director appointed under section 5 of the Decree.

e. One representative each of the Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Culture, the Federal Ministry of Education and Executive Office of the President.

f. Two representatives each of the following, that is to say:

(i) Polytechnics or equivalent institutions.

(ii) Advanced Teachers Training Colleges, and

g. Three other persons, at least one of who shall be a woman.[20]

The Directorate has power to appoint (including power to appoint or promote, transfer and appointments), advance, terminate and discipline employers holding or acting any offices in the Directorate

Other functions of the Directorate as stipulated by Section 4(i) of the Decree are:

(a) Drawing up detailed programmes of training and schedules designed for achieving objectives of the corps;
(b) Ensuring that such programmes and schedules are strictly adhered to;
(c) Maintaining regular contacts with all universities and colleges in Nigeria as necessary;
(d) Assigning members of the service corps to programmed work in the states as provided by the Directorate;
(e) Co-ordinating the work of state committee in the furtherance of the objects of the Act;
(f) Assessing and reviewing from time to time, the progress of the scheme; and
(g) Making such reports in respect of such matters as it deems fit.[21]

Section 5(i) of the Decree provided for the appointment of a Director who as chief executive is responsible for the day to day running of the scheme. The Decree also provides for the establishment of a state committee in each state of the Federation. The state committee has a statutory responsibility to assist the Directorate in the operation of the scheme in the state. Some of these responsibilities include:

(a) Arranging accommodation, boarding, transportation and providing other facilities which are essential for the welfare of the members of the service corps and for the success of the scheme in the state;

(b) Assembling reports on members of the service corps and transmitting them to the Directorate;

(c) Arranging the provision of facilities for induction courses and winding-up exercises;

(d) Compiling information on such opportunities as there may be employment in a state; and

(e) Deploying members of the service corps within the state.[22]

The state committee in each state consists of the following members:

(a) Chairman.

(b) A member of the Armed Forces of the Federation

(c) A member of the Nigeria Police Force.

(d) A Chief Inspector.

(e) Four other persons who shall be appointed from among persons concerned with the following sectors of the Nigerian economy –

  (i) Commerce and Industry.

  (ii) Agriculture and nature resources, and

  (iii) Local Government.

All members of the state committee are appointed by the Governor.[23]

State Secretariat

Each of the state secretariats in the Federation is headed by a Chief Inspector who is responsible to the Director. He is assisted by the appropriate cadres of officers and staff for the discharge of his task. The responsibilities of the Chief Inspector includes:

(a) Supervising staff of 70 (average) permanent employees and between 2,000 and 5,000 youth corps members in a given year;

(b) Undertaking extensive tours to visit corps members at various locations in the state and taking responsibility for their welfare and discipline;

(c) Is the Chief accounting officer – state level;

(d) Implementing and supervising general and professional orientation programmes, community development and winding-up exercise;

(e) Developing job description and assigning responsibilities to staff as the need arises;

(f) Establishing and maintaining good relationship with corps members and extending this to the host community;

(g) Evaluating staff and corps members performances;

(h) Ensuring maintenance of buildings and vehicles;

(i) Establishing and maintaining administrative and professional links with appropriate local and state agencies, professional bodies, school; etc.

(j) Taking responsibility for the implementation of NYSC policies in the state;

(k) Any other duties assigned by the Director.[24]

The state government often play a major supportive role by granting subventions to the state secretariats. These vary in the amount received from each state government and they are used for corps members welfare services. The amount is disbursed with the discretion of the NYSC state committee and Directorate's effort by providing vehicles, residential quarters and free medical services for the NYSC officials and corps members.

The organizational structure of the scheme has delineated the authority and responsibility of various offices. There is a Director, four Assistant Directors and twenty seven other posts.

Co-ordination: (Between the Centre and the Field Offices)

The NYSC scheme has its directorate headquarters at Abuja. The Directorate is the governing and policy making unit of the NYSC and it performs the function of general administration. The Directorate works through committees, namely, the Establishment Committee for staff matters, the Finance and General Purpose Committee for financial matters. The whole programme is headed by a Director who is in charge of overall administration. The Directorate gives directives to the field offices.

The field offices are basically the various state committees established by each state and the state secretariats located throughout the thirty two state capitals. The state committees assemble reports on the members of the service corps and transmits them to the Directorate. Each state secretariat is headed by the Chief Director who is responsible to the Director General. The Chief Inspector has other subordinates such as the Assistant Chief

Inspector (Assistant Director) and other zonal Inspectors. Besides the Inspectors there are an information officer and an accountant. The various state secretariat report personnel matters to the National Directorate.

The zonal Inspector co-ordinate the activities of the NYSC members through the heads of various departments, establishments, parastatals, organizations and schools where such members are serving.

Finally, the National Directorate maintains contact with the registry department of the many institutions of higher learning in recruiting the prospective youth corps members. "For home graduates, the directorate relies mostly on the Registrar of each institution, producing corps members, and detailed information about them".[25]

4.5 Operational Details of the NYSC Programme: Recruitment of the NYSC Members

Participation in the NYSC scheme is compulsory for the following categories of Nigerians:

(i) Graduates who completed their degree programmes from universities of Nigeria at the end of 1972/73 academic year and subsequent years.

(ii) Nigerians who graduated from any university outside Nigeria at the end of 1974/75 academic year and subsequent years.

(iii) Holders of the Higher National Diploma, or the National Certificate of Education or such other professional

qualifications as may be prescribed from 1975/76 academic year and subsequent years.[26]

If however, the above named persons had celebrated their 31st birthday at the time of graduation, they could be granted exemption from the national service on grounds of age.[27]

Each corps member is expected to make himself or herself available for service for a period of twelve continuous months. The service commences on the date each corps members registers at the state of service to which he is deployed.

Some university graduates, N.C.E. or H.N.D. holders are not allowed to defer their participation in the NYSC scheme in order to pursue professional courses or post-graduate studies. However, "Medical Doctors, Lawyers and Pharmacists are allowed to do their one years professional training, before enrolment into the scheme.[28] Permission may be given to any law graduate if they decide to serve before going to the Law School. Also, any member of the armed forces and the police who is still in active service at the time he obtains a higher qualifications, is not obliged to serve.

There are other conditions for exemption from the scheme. Nigerians who graduated before July 1st, 1975 could volunteer to serve, if they so wish. Also holders of professional qualifications like ACIS, ACWA, ACMA, ACA, ACCA, AIB, HND which were obtained before 1st July, 1976 may

also be exempted because professionals were incorporated into the NYSC as from 1st July, 1976.[29]

Corps members have no choice as to where they would do the National Service. Usually, corps members are posted to serve in states other than their own states of origin. Preferential posting however, is granted to female married corps members who have at least one child. Also, so far as possible, corps members are assigned tasks that are relevant to their academic or professional training.

The Corps Year Programme

The youth corps year is divided into four major parts:

(i) Orientation and Induction Courses.
(ii) Primary Assignment.
(iii) Community Development Programme; and
(iv) Winding-up exercise and passing-out parade.

(1) ***Orientation and Induction Programme***

During the initial four weeks of the service year, corps members undergo an orientation course comprising of drills, physical exercises, lectures and leadership training activities of the Man-O-War-Bay type. During this period, corps members live a fairly regimented life in camps. Lectures and discussions are held on a variety of national and local issues. Local languages are also taught.

*(2) **Primary Assignment***

For the greater part of the service year, corps members are deployed to work assignments relevant to their fields of study. During this period, they work under the supervision of their employers who are required to write quarterly confidential reports on them.

*(3) **Community Development Programme***

During the Easter vacation, corps members used to be withdrawn for their community development exercise. They were required to work side by side with their host communities in road construction, building local schools or other such projects, repairing or building bridges, market stalls, etc. In 1984, the Community Development Programme was redefined. The most significant change was the addition of farming nation-wide for increased food production as well as exposure of young graduates to agriculture. Hence farming was introduced on a large scale. In such a state of the Federation, the NYSC is encouraged to concentrate on those corps that thrive best in their locality.

As a supplement, corps members are expected to undertake, in conjunction with their primary assignments, at least one community development project in their local neighbourhood on a year round basis. The project undertaken is supposed to be related to the felt needs of the community and would be selected in due consultation with the community.

(4) Winding-up Exercises and Passing-out Parade

During the last week of the service year, corps members are brought together once again in a camp environment for evaluation of the service year. The corps members are organized into groups in order to discuss the experience of the service year, making recommendations for improvement in the various phases of the scheme. The year ends with a passing out parade, during which certificates of national service are issued to all corps members whose performance during the year had been judged outstanding.[30]

Footnotes

[1] Adebayo Adedeji, The National Youth Service Corps: Its Genesis and Formative Years, ***A Compendium of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme***, Lagos; NYSC Directorate, 1983 p. 18.

[2] See Tamuno Tekena, N., ***Separatist Agitations in Nigeria since 1914***, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 8, 4, 1980: p. 577.

[3] Okechukwu Ikejiani and M. Odinchezo Ikejiani, ***Nigeria, Political Imperative, Desiderata for Nationhood and Stability***, Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1986, p. 3.

[4] Clifford Geert, ***The Integrative Revolution, in Old Societies and New States*** *(ed)*. New York: The Free Press, 1963, p. 93.

[5] See Otwin Marenin, ***National Service and National Consciousness in Nigeria***, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 17, 4, (1979), pp. 629 – 654.

[6] Anyanwu, E. A., *The Rationale for Continued National Youth Service Corps vis-a-vis National Integration*, Unpublished Lecture, U. N. N., 30th April, 1982, p. 1.

[7] Anyanwu E.A *Op Cit.* p. 3

[8] Sanda A. O., ***Problems and Prospects of the National Youth Service Corps in Nigeria***, Ibadan: Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Ibadan, 1980, p. 13.

[9] *Compendium, op. cit.*

[10] See Also Folayan Ojo: *Evaluation Report on Four Years of the Years of the National Youth Service Corps Service, op. cit.*, p. 7.

[11] See *Compendium, op. cit.*, p. 25.

[12] *Afriscope*, Vol. 3, No 4, 1973, pp. 51 – 53.

[13] Federal Military Government, National Youth Service Corps Decree No 24 of 1973, Supplement to official Gazette Extraordinary No 28, Vol 60, May 22, 1973: A505-512.

[14] *Compendium, op. cit.*

[15] *Compendium, op. cit.*, p. 26

[16] NYSC Decree No. 24, *op cit*, May 1973, p. 3.

[17] The NYSC objectives have already been enumerated in Chapter One, of this work. Also see *Compendium, op. cit.*, p. 80; Appendix 1 also.

[18] *Compendium Ibid*, p. 22.

[19] Emenako, G. E. (ed) ***Twelve Years of National Youth Service Corp in Nigeria***. *1973 – 85*, Lagos: National Youth Service Corps Directorate, 1986, pp. 32 – 33.

[20] *Compendium, op. cit.*, p. 98.

[21] *Ibid*, p. 99.

[22] *Ibid*, p. 100.

[23] *Ibid.*

[24] *Ibid*, p. 103.

[25] *Compendium, op. cit.*, p. 81.

[26] *Compendium of the NYSC Scheme: Ten Years of Service of the Nation, op. cit.*, p. 81.

[27] *Ibid.*

[28] *Ibid*; The N.C.E. Participation in the NYSC Scheme was stopped in 1984/85 due to administrative and financial problems.

[29] *Ibid*, p. 82.

[30] *15 Years of NYSC: The Journey so far, 1973 – 88, op cit*, p. 29; also interview with Chief Inspector of our States of study.

CHAPTER 5

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The goals and objectives of the NYSC as stated in Decree No. 24 of 22nd May, 1973, is primarily to imbue or instil in Nigerian youths that participate in the youth corps programme with the spirit of patriotism, dedication and loyalty to a united Nigeria. It was hoped that exposing corps members to a culture of other Nigerians, would gradually eliminate ethnic prejudices and promote national unity. That was the basis for the decision not to allow corps members to serve in their states of origin

As stated in the introduction, the history of Nigeria since independence has shown the need for unity amongst all the people. Hence, in stating the objective of this study, we said that the central task is to find out to what extent the NYSC has enhanced national integration as stated in the objectives.

We had also examined the various usages of the term integration (see Chapter One) and defined national integration as a process whereby the various socio-cultural and discrete linguistic groups within the single territorial unit are loyal to the government. Further, we did state for the purposes of this research, that we shall conceive integration as a process whereby a group of people have moved from a lower to a higher level of communication, from a less to a greater sense of belonging and from less

association of a people to a greater or more association of people. National integration then is perceived here as the above processes within Nigeria and embracing political, cultural, economic, religious and social dimensions.

In order to measure the goal of national integration, we selected the variables of communication, sense of belonging and association with people as the manifestation of the presence of integration.

Response Rate of Sample Population

Out of 900 copies of questionnaires administered on the pre-NYSC population, there was a return of 697 or 77% of the 900 copies of questionnaires for the post-NYSC group, we had a return of 702 or 78%. On the average, there was a 77.5% return rate of the sample population. We considered this relatively acceptable to provide us with analyzable data.

The data was collected in a systematic manner and the sampling of universes utilized as data were varied, randomly selected and relatively large. The actual administration of questionnaire was done through the staff especially the Senior Instructors of the NYSC.

5.1 Communication

Communication is an intrinsic element of national integration. We had earlier thought of communication (see page 10) in terms of the movement and interaction of people across geographical and cross-cultural boundaries; travel and other forms of interactions such as trade and free flow of labour, are considered as potential forms of social interaction. In the

ordinary sense, communication means to convey, have one know, give to understand or give one the facts and information. Hence, the desirability for youth mobilization is, *inter alia*, to promote national understanding and integration.

Folayan Ojo states that the "enhancement of labour mobility is an integral part of the development and effective utilisation of human resources."[1] Labour mobility enhances social interaction and aids development in those areas with manpower shortages and also helps to minimise underutilisation of manpower to those areas of the country with surpluses. Ojo stated further that the civil war reduced the availability of skilled personnel among the various parts of the federation.[2] As a result, states with some manpower shortages resorted to recruiting expatriates while some states had surplus of manpower in some needed areas.[3] In addition, prior to the civil war, extreme regionalization policies of the public services of the regions had resulted in discriminatory recruitment policies,[4] and obviously this resulted not only in high level manpower immobility but also divisiveness and further strain in the fabric of society.

As a consequence of restrained manpower flow between states in a heterogeneous country like Nigeria, national unity is hindered. The NYSC programme has been described as one of the "most veritable instrument of forgoing national unity, understanding and peaceful co-existence".[5] The desirability for youth mobilization amongst other things, is to promote

national understanding and integration.[6] Travel, social transactions, business transactions, trade, technical forms of communication such as mail, telephone, radio, etc and free labour flow are aspects of contact motions which are instrumental to national understanding, integration and unity. As stated earlier, national unity is a function of contact dynamic in a nation state.

In furtherance of its objectives, (Section 3(e) and (f) of Decree 24) the NYSC Scheme encourages the deployment of corps members in order to promote national unity. This is the reason why the scheme makes efforts to deploy and post corps in the state other than their state of origin. Some corps members are however posted to their own states on concessional grounds based on marital status, (married women can choose where to go) health and other family problems. Table 5.1.1 indicates the deployment figures for our catchment area of study. The special mix of this deployment enables corps members to meet, mix and interact with other people of Nigeria (fellow corps members and their host community) in states other than their state of origin. The deployment criteria utilized by the NYSC are listed as follows:

(a) National interest;

(b) State of Origin: As much as possible, corps members are posted to states other than their state of origin.;

(c) Absorptive capacity of each state: Socio-economic needs for each state;

(d) Relevance of corps members area of specialisation to the socio-economic needs of each state.

(e) Equitable manpower distribution for the purposes of rural-urban socio-economic need of each state.

(f) Concessional consideration.

(g) Related objectives being attained, i.e. responsiveness to national development needs.

(h) Inculcation of the spirit of service and patriotism in the youths.

(i) Realisation by the youths, to whom opportunity for high education had given, that they owe it as a moral obligation to give their service to the nation wherever same is needed.

(j) To encourage members of the service corps to seek, at the end of their corps service, career employment all over the country; thus promoting the free movement of labour.

(k) To induce employers, partly through their experience with members of the service corps, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their state of origin.

(l) To enable Nigerian youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.[7]

Table 5.1.1. Deployment Figures Showing State of Origin and State Deployed, 1987/88

State of Origin of Corps Members

Deployment Area	ANAMBRA	BAUCHI	BENDEL	BENUE	BORNO	CRIVER	GONGOLA	IMO	KADUNA	KANO	KWARA	LAGOS	NIGER	OGUN	ONDO	OYO	PLATEAU	RIVERS	SOKOTO	TOTAL
ABUJA/FCT **	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ANAMBRA	1181*	4	721	69	31	108	42	850	55	20	53	10	18	225	320	500	35	70	33	4141
BENUE	45	9	272	180*	7	70	25	85	25	16	45	5	19	41	50	65	25	40	10	1034
KADUNA	132	15	360	90	32	75	20	174	298*	55	96	11	44	95	76	134	20	37	22	1487
LAGOS	466	48	369	46	20	127	20	399	35	24	215	240*	22	800	455	552	20	74	9	3941
TOTAL	1854			385					413			286								10583

Source: Directorate Headquarters, NYSC, Lagos.

*Corps members serving in their state of origin.

**There are no figures available that could be reliably collected for Abuja

The criteria listed above in the deployment of youth corps personnel for the period under study would appear from examination of Table 5.1.1 to have been met. Table 5.1.1 also indicates that the states of our study received a fairly representative cross-section of the states of the Federation. 10,583 corps members served in the four states under study (as shown in table 5.1.1), of which 1,854 or 18% were from Anambra State, 385 or 3.6% from Benue, 413 of 4% from Kaduna and 286 or 2.7% from Lagos State. It must be stressed that these figures refer only to the four states under study. For Abuja FCT, no data of similar quality was available.

One of the cardinal objectives of the NYSC which is to ensure as much as possible, that the corpers serve outside their state of origin, is apparently by these figures not being fully adhered to. Be that as it may, it is established by our study so far that the percentage that do go out, fully achieve the goals of this programme. An attempt was made to discover the reasons for this apparently large percentage of corps members that served in their states of origin, Anambra – 1,181; Benue – 180; Kaduna – 298; Lagos – 240. No reasonable answer was obtained from the headquarters of the NYSC. Even though the percentage of corpers posted out were comparatively low, one should have expected under the aims of the scheme, that the reverse should have been the case. However, we cannot say that this is representative of the years of the Federation.

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* Since our data collection, the number of states had increased to 30 in 1991. and 36 in 1996.

In order to test the NYSC experience by communication and integration, a number of questions were posed in the questionnaire administered to the pre- and post-NYSC participants as follows:

Question 1: (Pre-NYSC) "Are you willing to accept employment in a rural area?"

2: (Post-NYSC) "As a result of your participation in the NYSC scheme, are you willing to accept employment in a rural area of Nigeria?"

3: (Pre-NYSC) "Would you be willing to accept employment after the compulsory service in a state other than your own?

4: (Post-NYSC) "As a result of your experience during the service year, are you willing to accept a permanent job in your state of deployment, or in any other state other than your own, after the national service?"

Their responses to these questions are indicated in Table 5.1. II.

Table 5.1. II: NYSC Experience by Communication and Integration

Communication/Integrative Variables		Percentage of Respondents		
		Positive Attitude	Neutral Attitude	Negative Attitude
1.	Rural Service Pre-NYSC	15	25	60
2.	Rural Service Post-NYSC	70	19	21
3.	Integrative Attitude Pre-NYSC	34	14	52
4.	Integrative Attitude Post-NYSC	85	12	3
5.	Contact Rate	Frequency	Now & Then	Seldom
		60	24	16

As indicated in Table 5.1. II (1, 2), NYSC experience by communication and integration, 70% of the post-NYSC respondents showed willingness to take up employment in rural areas of the country; 19% of the respondents were undecided and 21% indicated negative responses. The response to the open-ended question of "if No, state reason" showed that lack of job opportunities and the distressing living conditions in the rural areas was a disincentive for the 21% of the respondents. It is also indicated that 15% of the pre-NYSC cadre did not mind working in the rural areas. This was in response to the question: "Are you willing to accept employment in a rural area?" 60% were negative, they were not willing to accept employment in a rural area, 25% were undecided.

The posting of large number of corps members to rural areas was intended to lay the foundation for a better understanding of the problems of the rural communities in Nigeria, and our catchment area in particular. However, corps members were found to be caught up in the web of lack of 'adequate' communication, harsh weather condition, poor transportation system, malnutrition, language problems, hostilities and frustrations arising out of these privations. It can be said that these first hand experiences amongst some of the future policy makers and implementers of National Development Plans has contributed to ex-corps members displaying more national outlook than their colleagues.

In order to enhance communication, corps members during the service years are taught the language of the community of posting, as it is thought to be one of the factors that promote or enhance national unity. On the role of

language dynamic as an instrument of national unity, the following question was asked, and the response is tabulated in table 5.1. III:

Question: "During the orientation exercises, you were taught a language of the state of your deployment. Did you learn about language besides your own in the service year and how well do you speak it?"

Table 5.1. III: NYSC Experience and Language

Post-NYSC					Approximate Percentage
Speak					
Fluently	Simple Conversation	Few Phrases	Understand Phrases/Cannot Speak at all	None	Total
19	30	33	5	13	100

Note that in Table 5.1. III only 13% of the post-NYSC respondents could not speak the language taught during the service year and therefore could not communicate in the native language. 49% including those who could speak fluently (19%) and those who could simply converse (30%) could speak a new language learnt during the service year and added to 33% who could make a few phrases meant that a total of 82% could communicate with their host community, thereby having a high rate of interaction and integration chances with the host community. This language factor also helped in enhancing the corpers sense of belonging, from a less to a greater sense of belonging, thereby proving our second hypothesis.

In collecting the open-ended answers to the question and reasons for not learning the language at all, it is significant to note that only 13% indicated that they had no interest at all. 9% of the 13% attributed this lack of language knowledge to the fact that they spoke pidgin English in the host community and therefore had no opportunity to learn a new language. Only 4% had no interest in learning a new language. However, the results have shown that the NYSC has proved a potent instrument of integration through its capacity to make most of its participants learn a new language (to a comfortable degree), and thereby communicate, enhancing some degree of integration.

From the findings in Tables 5.1.I, 5.1.II and 5.1. III, it can be stated that the NYSC has a strong tendency towards promoting national integration through interaction and communication. Further, it proves our first hypothesis that the movement of youth corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries enhances greater interaction amongst people of different cultural and geographical backgrounds.

From table 5.1.II, we observe also a consistent association between frequent contact and positive perception of the post-NYSC cadre with the communication/integrative variables. Similarly, there is a consistent correlation between seldom contact and negative perceptions or a lower positive perception. A 60% frequency contact rate as recorded in table 5.1.II, corresponds favourably with the positive attitude of the post-NYSC cadre.

The table shows that 70% of those who had frequent contact were willing to accept employment in the rural areas; this contrasts sharply with 16% of those who had seldom contact, of who 60% were those who were not willing to serve in a rural area. The contact rate was collated from answers to the question based vis-a-vis the variable: "how frequently did you come in contact socially, (that is when you are not engaged in your work) with the people of the area you were assigned to?" The willingness to accept employment in a rural area, 70% after the service year in comparison to 15% pre-NYSC cadre, and the learning of a new language, 49%, complement our findings that show that frequent contact and communication enhanced positive perceptions thereby providing our first and second hypothesis, that movement of youth corps across geographical and cultural boundaries enhances greater integration amongst people of different cultural and geographical backgrounds and that participation in the NYSC gives rise to a greater sense of belonging with people from other geographical/cultural areas of the country than before the service. We shall expatiate on this Section 5.3.

5.2 Association: (Association in form of Marriages, Business Partnerships, etc)

Unfortunately, adequate data was not available to address this issue raised in B.6 of the questionnaire, as the NYSC scheme in our catchment area did not follow-up and retain data, either during or after the service year, in order to determine the forms of association established, especially in marriage or what happens after the service year. We made attempts to follow

up on the NYSC corpers who had completed their assignments (to their homes and workplaces), but this was not always successful because of lack of contact address in a significant number as would be adequate and relevant for this study. The question posed was "would you be willing to marry a person from or accept employment from the compulsory service in a state other than your own?" The responses are as reflected in Table 5.2.1.

Table 5.2.1: Employment and Marriage of Post-NYSC Persons in States of Deployment

State	Year	Employment by State of Deployment		Marriage
ABUJA FCT	86/87	Government	20	-
		Private	3	
	87/88	Government	4	-
		Private	None	
ANAMBRA (Anambra/Enugu/ part of Ebonyi)	86/87	Government	22	-
	87/88	Government	31	-
BENUE (Benue/part of Kogi)	86/87	Government	13	
		Private	5	3
	87/88	Government	3	
		Private	3	1
KADUNA (Kaduna/Katsina)	86/87	N.A.*		-
	87/88	N.A.		N.A.
LAGOS	86/87	N.A.		N.A.
	87/88	N.A.		N.A.

* N.A. indicates that the figures were not available.

The marriage statistics available while the corpers were serving during the service year indicate minimal activities recorded in this area as the secretariat mainly concentrated on the mapped-out programmes for the service year and the only recorded marriages do not indicate inter-ethnic marriages, however, note is made of the fact that many corps members of different ethnic backgrounds started their romantic life during the one-year national service.

The non-availability of records in the area of how many inter-marriages and joint business and settlements, etc, hampers the effectiveness of government to adequately follow up and evaluate the National Youth Service Corps programme and some of its stated objectives. In addition, since the programme began in 1973, the programme would have had data readily available on its nascent high level manpower that could readily be utilised both in evaluating the stated aims of the NYSC and for national development. Hence we could not prove our third hypothesis that participation in the NYSC gives rise to intercultural marriages.

5.3 Sense of Belonging

Sense of belonging had been defined as taking jobs or willingness to take jobs outside one's ethnic or geographical area; the desire to work with people other than one's kith and kin; appreciation of similarities and differences and tolerance of the differences amongst people and cultures. Qualities of nationalism and patriotism are not easily measurable, however, the importance of identifying with the nation, having a sense of belonging in the nation, cannot be over-emphasized as this augurs well for the integration

into a strong united fold. National unity and integration can be promoted and is promoted because in one aspect, living with people and understanding their ways of life can lead to more national integration and national consciousness. The scheme has contributed towards uniting the nation through intercultural understanding occasioned by communal living.

Table 5.1. II on page 93 indicates that 70% of the post-NYSC respondents showed a positive attitude towards service in the rural areas after the NYSC programme year; while 19% were undecided, 21% were not willing to work in rural areas post-NYSC. The positive attitude towards service in rural areas was motivated by the following reasons by respondents:

(a) Working and domiciliary experience and acquaintance with rural areas during NYSC service year.

(b) Interaction with natives which helped to adjust the conception of people's behavioural patterns.

In order to test the national identification orientation and sense of belonging of our sample population, we designed a set of questions in our instrument. This factor of national identification indicates how participants identify themselves with the whole or national interests, and how their interests are identified with national concerns. To find out the extent of their national identifications, we has attempted do find out corpers choice of community to work and settle.

The integrative attitude among respondents, as shown in Table 5.1. II, appreciated with their NYSC experience. (pre-NYSC 34% positive, 52% negative and 14% neutral); post-NYSC 85% positive, 3% negative and 12% neutral). This was as a result of the respondents answers to the following questions: Pre-NYSC – "Would you be willing to accept employment after the compulsory service in a state other than your own?"

Post-NYSC – "As a result of your experience during the service year, are you willing to accept a permanent job in your state of deployment, or in any other state other your own, after the national service?" This question was posed in order to find out the extent of their national identification, by finding out their choice of community to settle and work after their NYSC experience. The choice was between their own and others, not being necessarily where they served during the year. Their choice was enhanced by either being able to have moved away from their home communities for the service year, and by their experience after the service year. It can be safely concluded from the data analysis that the NYSC to some extent promotes national integration through its activities, but that much still needs to be done. Our second hypothesis is proved here also.

As table 5.1. II (3 + 4) indicates, 34% of respondents were willing to accept a permanent job in their state of deployment or any other state other than their own after the service year. This was in contrast to 85% of the

post-NYSC cadre. The implementation of this is that the majority of the Post-NYS C cadre are willing to serve in states other then their own.

In D-17 of the questionnaire, the following question was asked: "If you are willing to accept employment anywhere other than in your own state, tick the reasons", and the response in indicated in Table 5.3. I.

Table 5.3. I: Inhibitions to Labour Movement

Post-NYSC (Positive-Negative Continuum)		%
1.	Strong Family Reasons	51
2.	Fear of Discrimination in Employment and Promotions	33
3.	Unfamiliar Social Environment	11
4.	Obligation to an Employer	5
5.	Health Reasons	-
6.	Total	100

Table 5.3. I. Shows that in the breakdown of answers giving reasons for not accepting employment anywhere other than in their own state, respondents indicated that family reasons or consideration constitute the greatest inhibition (51%) to labour mobility. The next in rank order was fear of discrimination in employment and promotion with 33%. Many of the respondents decried the attitude of some states of the federation to treating them as contract employers, a category applied to foreigners. This was compiled from the open-ended comments.

Unfamiliar or unusual, social environment scored 11%, obligations to an employer scored 5%. No respondent gave reasons of health or other as an inhibiting factor. The conclusion that can be drawn from the results in table 5.3.2 is that self-interest in terms of family considerations and obligations are individual corps members.

On the issue of national unity (Questionnaire C.6) the question was asked: "With your experience as a corper, do you think Nigeria should remain united? If 'No' state reasons. If 'Yes', what type of political arrangement would you prefer?" The responses are indicated in Table 5.3. II.

Table 5.3. II: Respondent's views on National Unity

Responses	Number of Post-NYSC Corpers	Percentage
To a large extent To a moderate extent	153) 297)	64.01
Very little extent	220	31.34
Not at all	10	1.42
No opinion	22	3.13
Total	702	99.90

The data in Table 5.3. II are responses categorized into 5 group of the 702 respondents, (64.01%, n = 450) agreed that Nigeria remain united. 'Large extent' and 'moderate extent' is a positive indication that they felt that Nigeria should remain united. The general sentiment then, was that Nigeria should remain united which indicated the positive attitude of the corpers.

As regards the attitude of corpers towards similarities and common bonds of Nigerians, it was asked in the questionnaire C.4 "Do you feel that as a result of the National Service that you have become more aware of the similarities and common bonds among Nigerians?" and the answer is reflected in table 5.3. III.

Table 5.3. III: Corpers Attitude Towards Similarities and Common Bonds of Nigerians

(approximate percentages)

Ratings		Post-NYSC
1.	Strong Agree	16
2.	Agree	50
3.	Disagree	19
4.	Strongly Disagree	5
5.	Undecided	10
6.	Total	100

Before their service year, most of the corpers were not familiar with other cultures in their country in that they were little exposed to other people and cultures from ethnic groups other than their own. Some had misconceptions and preconceived notions and prejudices. On the contrary it was found that the post-NYSC participants had been exposed to the modes of living of other people and their cultures.

Table 5.3. III: indicates that 60% agreed that they were more aware of the similarities and common bonds among Nigerians because of the NYSC experience, (16% strongly agreed + 50% agreed); were undecided 24%, that is, (19% Disagree + 5% strongly disagree) felt that they aware of the

similarities not because of their service experience. This category had been exposed to other people and appreciated the similarities and bonds prior to the service year. Table 5.3. III also shows that if any type of negative indoctrination had been internalized; the percentages indicate positive responses towards the non-internalization of any type of indoctrination and a feeling of 'esteem' for the nation indicating a sense of belonging.

As indicated earlier, communication is primarily thought of as to include movement and interaction of people across geographical and cross-cultural boundaries. Hence, the scheme has exposed corps members to the socio-cultural life of other communities other than their own and this enables or enhances their sense of belonging, that is, the opportunity to appreciate the similarities or differences among people and cultures. Most Nigerians have pre-conceived notions and ideas about other Nigerians which can only be confirmed or discarded through interaction with other Nigerians. For the purposes of adequately measuring some of the achievements of the scheme, two questions were addressed to the corps members in order to relate their attitude and the correlation with the contact rates. He had earlier postulated that national unity is a function of contact dynamics in a nation-state.

E.1 and E2 of the questionnaire are concerned with the frequency of Contact and Attitude of Corps members towards host Community (Other Nigerians) and raised the following specific questions the answers to which are reflected in table 5.3.IV: "Generally, how frequently did you come in

contact socially (that is, when you are not engaged in your work) with the people of the area you were assigned to?" And "What was your attitude towards fellow Nigerians other than those from your ethnic grouping before you entered the NYSC? What is your attitude towards other Nigerians now?"

Table 5.3. IV: Frequency of Contact and Attitude of Corps Members Towards Host Community (Other Nigerians)

(Percentage of Respondents)

Frequency of Contact ++	Attitude of the Respondents					
	Positive Impressions		Neutral		Negative Impressions	
	Pre-NYSC*	Post-NYSC	Pre-NYSC*	Post-NYSC	Pre-NYSC*	Post-NYSC
A Frequent	64	92	9	8	27	0
B Seldom	50	81	45	17	5	2

*Pre and Post-NYSC here stand for the experience of post-NYSC group before and after NYSC respectively. By positive impression we mean favourable comments (devoid of stereo-type prejudices) made by corpers before and after their postings.

The negative impressions denote or implies the negative comments made by corpers before and after the NYSC.

++Contacts (frequent and seldom) combine 'frequent', 'very frequent', and 'seldom' combines 'now and then', and 'None'.

Table 5.3. IV: indicates a strong relationship between the frequent of social contact and the attitudes of the pre and post NYSC cadre. After their NYSC experience, 92% of the respondents had positive impressions towards other Nigerians as against 62% respondents before the NYSC very low percentages of the respondents (0% and 27% respectively) had negative impressions before the national service. The implications are that they did not feel free with people from other ethnic groups and would/did not change their original notions of other Nigerians.

Table 5.3. V: Contact Circumstances and Attitude of Corps Members Towards Host Community

Contact Circumstances for pre-NYSC

Contact		Positive	N	Negative
A	Frequent	64	9	27
B	Seldom	50	45	5

Contact Circumstances for Post-NYSC

Contact		Positive	N	Negative
A	Frequent	92	8	0
B	Seldom	81	17	2

Information regarding contact circumstances (i.e. whether frequent or seldom) and levels of attitudes of the people are presented in Table 5.3. IV, for both pre and post NYSC. This table is a breakdown into components of the information contained in Table 5.3. IV. In order to test our hypothesis

regarding the contact circumstances for pre and post NYSC participants, it is necessary to state a null hypothesis. The null hypothesis is usually presented in a negative form for the purpose of applying a statistical test to the problem under investigation. Since our data in Table 5.3. V is in the form of contingency tables of limited size and since some of the frequencies are quite small, recourse is made to the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistical method in order to test our null hypothesis. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is concerned with the degree of arrangement between the distribution of a set of sample values (observed scores) and some specified distribution. It determines whether the scores in the sample can reasonably be thought to have come from a population having the theoretical distribution. The K-S test is like the Chi-square (χ^2) test and it is the preferred statistic of choice in situations where there are large frequencies. The K-5 test is applied to the data in Table 5.3.V. In the case of the Pre-NYSC, the null hypothesis is: "There is no difference between frequencies of contact circumstances and attitudes within the Pre-NYSC cadre." The workings are hereby listed:

Observed proportions	A	0.64	0.09	0.27
	B	0.50	0.45	0.05
Cumulative proportions	A	0.64	0.73	1.00
	B	0.50	0.95	1.00
		0.14	0.22	0.00

Maximum Difference = 0.22

The Critical Difference from the K-S distribution is composed from the following equation:

$$1.36\sqrt{\frac{N + N_2}{N_1 \quad N_2}} = 1.36\sqrt{\frac{100 + 100}{10{,}000}}$$

$$= 1.36\sqrt{\frac{200}{1000}} = 0.19$$

Critical Difference = 0.19

Since calculated difference 0.22 is > 0.19, the null hypothesis Ho is rejected. In testing a hypothesis, if the calculated value of a statistic is less than the critical value of that statistics, at the same level of significance, the null hypothesis (H_O) is expected. In our case, our calculated value of the K-S at 0.22 is larger than the critical value of 0.19 at 95% (0.05) confidence. Our null hypothesis is thus rejected.

In the case of the post-NYSC (the bottom half of the Table 5.3.V) the null hypothesis is: "There is no difference between frequencies of contact and attitudes within the post-NYSC cadre." A K-S test yielded a calculated value of 0.11. Our critical value is still 0.19 at 95% confidence. Since our calculated value is less than our critical value, this hypothesis is accepted. This test lends support to our research hypothesis 1 and 2, that participation in the NYSC (that is the post-NYSC group) enhances national integration with respect to sense of belonging and association.

It is possible to examine corpers pre- and post- contact circumstances together in reference to the question posed in Table 5.3.VI and E.3 of the questionnaire as follows:

Question: 1: What was your attitude towards fellow Nigerians other than those from your ethnic grouping before you entered the NYSC? What is your attitude towards other Nigerians now?

2: Generally speaking, how do you find the attitude of the people in your area of deployment.

Table 5.3. VI: Corpers (Pre and Post) Attitude and Contact Circumstances

(Percentage of Respondents)

People's Attitude**	Levels of Contact					
	Frequent		Seldom		Not at all	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Friendly	18	70	24	12	58	18
Unfriendly	18	55	24	27	58	18

**Friendly combines 'very friendly' and 'friendly'; unfriendly combines 'unfriendly' and 'very unfriendly'.

Table 5.3 VI shows levels of contact and corper's attitudes towards people in host community; the post-NYSC category shows that 70% of the group as a result of frequent contact through visits and correspondences found the people friendly in contrast to 18% who made no contact at all after the NYSC. Comparable data was obtained for participants who seldom interacted with the local community, in order to be able to prove the variation in attitudes depending on the degree of social contact. The null

hypothesis is "There is no difference between the frequencies of contact with the people and the pre and post NYSC cadre." This hypothesis is tested using the Chi-square statistic since the frequencies in Table 5.3. VI are large. In order to conduct the test, the frequencies in the table are grouped under pre and post.

Observed frequencies:

				Total
Pre	18	24	58	100
Post	55	27	18	100
Total	73	51	76	200

Expected frequencies: (Theoretical distribution from the hypothesis)

Pre	36.5	25.5	38
Post	36.5	25.5	38

$$\chi^2 = \Sigma \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} = \frac{(18-36.5)^2}{36.5} + \frac{(24-25.5)}{25.5} + \frac{(58-38)}{38} + \frac{(55-36.5)}{36.5} + \frac{(27-25.5)^2}{25.5} + \frac{(18-38)^2}{38}$$

$$= 9.33 + 0.09 + 10.53 + 9.38 + 0.09 + 10.53$$

$$= \chi^2 \quad 40.00$$

Our degree of freedom, $V = (R-1)(r-1)$

$= (2-)(1)$

$= 2.$

With 2 degrees of freedom at 95% level of significance,

$\chi^2 = 5.99$

Since the critical value < cal. Of 40.00 our Ho is rejected.

There is therefore a difference of frequencies of contact among the post and pre NYSC cadres. In Table 5.3. VI, the change in attitude as a result of the participants interaction with local people compares favourably with their perception of the friendliness of the people. The figures would also suggest that higher levels of frequency of contact, help to remove unfavourable stereotyping. Therefore, the more contact they have as exemplified by the post NYSC cadre, the more the chances of enhancing national integration with respect to sense of belonging through association with people from other ethnic groupings. The implications of Table 5.3. VI are that for the pre-NYSC there are differences in attitude levels. There are strong indications that people are more open and have a tendency towards positive impressions with frequent contact. In the case of the post-NYSC, acceptance of the hypothesis means that peoples level of attitude is not significantly determined by the frequency of contact after the NYSC. The results and finding then show that the NYSC tends to promote national integration and unity through interaction with other Nigerians. This proves our first and second hypothesis.

National unity and other integrative variables depends of the degree to which members of a polity identify themselves with national interests and integrate their own interests with these. Here, we tried to find out the corpers domicile preferences in terms of choice of living and working.

Table 5.3.VII: Attitudes of Pre and Post Corps Members Towards Accepting Deployment in Their Home Communities.

Statement: "I desire to live and work in my home Community after the national service."

	(Percentage of Respondents)		
	Positive	Undecided	Negative
Pre-NYSC	20	36	44
Post-NYSC	55	20	25

Table 5.3. VII; indicates that new graduates without NYSC experience showed little interest in living and working outside their states of origin. After the NYSC, however, the numbers wishing to work and live in other parts of the country increased dramatically to 55%. Interestingly, the normal and well known human penchant to resist change was lowered by some 16% (35% to 20%) by exposure to the NYSC programme.

Unfortunately, this enthusiasm to stay or work in states other than the home states is eroded by the lack of employment prospects afforded by the government and private sectors for discharged corps members. The result is that the stated aims of the NYSC programme with respect to national integration is consistently being achieved by the NYSC but after the programme year, the aims are stultified by the lack of other basic follow-up institutions. However, in taking note of this problem, it does not erode the fact that the findings of our research concerning the corps members during their service year are still relevant, that the scheme had exposed corps members for the first time to the socio-cultural life of other members of Nigeria other than their own ethnic group and in addition, through interaction were able to learn and impart knowledge of their various communities, thus enhancing knowledge and appreciation of other groups. Hence our two

hypothesis are proved, that:

(1) The movement of youth corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries enhances greater interaction amongst people of different cultural and geographical background; and

(2) The participation in the NYSC gives rise to a greater sense of belonging with people from other geographical and cultural areas of the country than before the service.

5.4 NYSC Programme Assistant

The adequate assessment of a given programme must consider not only the results but also, the purpose of the programme in terms of the need that it is addressing and its implementation or how the programme works. This is important in order to find out if the programme design and implementation enables the programme to achieve the desired result. Therefore, there is a need to examine the overall programme by asking generalized questions to corroborate our findings in the earlier sections of this thesis.

In order to achieve the objectives of the NYSC (specifically effecting social change and attitudes), three programmes were designed by the instrument establishing the NYSC, namely, the orientation programme, primary assignment and secondary assignment. The specific strategies of these programmes have been defined and described in Chapter II. The strategies for achieving the objectives under the orientation programme include reception, feeding, camping facilities and medical care as aspect of the welfare system. Other areas of importance are lectures, discussions, symposia, language study, physical training, Man O' War activities, drills

and parades, all being aspects of the training strategy. The primary assignment involves placement of corps members on jobs commensurate with their respective levels of academic and professional attainments in both public and private sectors of the economy. The secondary assignment entails an officially organized community development work programme for a continuous period of one month in the service year and a year round community development project embarked upon by each individual participant on his own initiative or in league with one or more corpers stationed in the same locality. Our study ascertains the performance of aspects of the NYSC programmes in order to determine the extent to which they influence the national perceptions of the post-NYSC sample population hence measures the functionality and effects of the programme. But there is need to examine the post-NYSC perceptions and programmes by critically assessing the following statement:

Statement: The orientation course received at the NYSC Orientation Camp prepared one quite well for the years' service.

Table 5.4. I: Post-NYSC Perceptions and Programmes

	(Approximate Percentages) Number	Percentage	(Post-NYSC)
Strongly Agree	372	53.0%	63% (442)
Agree	70	10.0%	
Neutral/No opinion	35	5.0%	
Disagree	185	26.0%	32% (225)
Strongly Disagree	42	6.0%	
Total	702	100.0%	

Of the 702 post-NYSC respondents, 63% believed that the orientation they got at the NYSC orientation camp prepared them for the service year, 32% did not believe so and 5% could not say either way.

It is also necessary to examine the reactions towards facilities by considering this statement.

Statement: Generally, the facilities at the Orientation Camp were adequate.

Table 5.4. II: Orientation Facilities

		(Approximate Percentages)	
	Number	Percentage	
Strongly Agree	14	2.0%)	
		) 25%	(176)
Agree	162	23.0%)	
Neutral/No opinion	42	6.0%	
Disagree	204	29.0%)	
		) 69%	(484)
Strongly Disagree	281	40.0%)	
Total	702	100.0%	

The orientation facilities were felt to be very poor by 69.0% of the respondents. Only 25.0% of the respondents thought that the facilities were adequate and 6% could not make up their minds. Facilities were very basic to the whole orientation course and therefore inadequate facilities pose problems. Since the inception of the programme, states have provided buildings and camp sites which are used as orientation course camps. The growth in the number of participants and the consequent increase in the number of corps members deployed to the states over the years have

rendered the facilities available inadequate. It was in recognition of this fact that:

> Federal Military Government in 1977 made the sum of ₦250,000.00 available to each state to build National Youth Service Corps Orientation Camps and Vocational Training Centres in each of the States of the federation.[8]

However, it has been found that the number undergoing orientation has outstripped the facilities available again. Further responses on the actual types of facilities offered by the programme are instructive.

Table 5.4. III: Post-Corps Members Evaluation of Welfare and Training Aspects of the NYSC Programme

Post-NYSC		(Approximate Percentages)			
Aspects		Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Neutral/ No Opinion	Not Satisfactory
Welfare:					
(a)	Reception on arrival	5.0% (35)	40% (281)	15% (105)	40% (281)
(b)	Feeding during orientation	10.0% (70)	40% (281)	8% (56)	42% (295)
(c)	Medical Care	4.0% (28)	64% (449)	6% (42)	26% (183)

Table 5.4. III above is arrived at from a list of categorization of opinions on the welfare of corps members during the orientation exercise. 5.0% of the respondents thought that the reception they received on arrival or orientation was very satisfactory. 40% indicated that it was satisfactory while 40.0% felt it was not satisfactory at all. 15.0% had no opinion or were undecided, on the issue of feeding during orientation, 10.0% indicated that it was

satisfactory. Hence 50.0% were quite satisfied with the medical care received at the NYSC camp during orientation was not satisfactory.

Even though the statistics compare favourably, there is need for improvement in the area of feeding and camping arrangements since this is a very sensitive area and essential to the success of the orientation. In response to open ended questions, 22% indicated that the guideposts to orientation camps were not clear; 25% wanted the quantity of food increased as they felt their rations were small, 53% wanted better camping arrangements. A programme geared towards facilitation of nation-building and national integration should provide facilities for effectuating them.

Table 5.4. IV: Post-Corps Members Evaluation of the Training Aspects of the NYSC Programme

Post-NYSC Aspects		(Approximate Percentages) Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Undecided	Not Satisfactory
Training:					
(a)	Lectures	15	60	10	15
(b)	Language Study	10	38	15	37
(c)	Physical Training	60	33	2	5
(d)	Drills & Parades	81	11	1	7
(e)	Man O' War Activities	52	32	4	12
(f)	Discussions Symposia, etc.	25	30	15	30

In Table 5.4.IV, respondents were asked to indicate by ticking the sections of the training programme that was effective. Physical training scored highest, 93%, then in rank order of scores, Drills and Parades 92%, Man O' War Activities scored 84%, Lectures 75%, Discussions and Symposia 55% and Language Study 48%. Obviously, the area of language study needs improvement. This is because language barrier was a problem experience by many corps members and this area is essential to the success of the programme. On comments in this section, 36% of the respondents indicated that language specialists should be engaged and that the classes were too large for effective language study. One percent felt that to study more than one language was a disaster and that only one language should be taught in a state. Regarding the lectures, 15% found it not satisfactory because they were inadequate and badly organized. 30% were not satisfied with the symposia as the comments were similar to that of lectures. It is interesting to note that the 7% that were not satisfied with drills and parades and felt that real military training should have been included and certificates awarded for that category.

Table 5.4. V: Post-NYSC Perception in Area of Primary Assignment

Question: How relevant was your field of study to your assignment?

(Approximate Percentages)

	Number	Percentage	
Very relevant	555	79%	88% (618)
Slightly relevant	63	9%	
Not relevant	42	6%	8% (56)
Very irrelevant	14	2%	
Undecided	28	4%	
Total	702	1 00%	

88% of the respondents felt that their field of study was relevant to their primary assignment while 8% saw it as irrelevant; 4% were undecided or indifferent.

Table 5.4. VI: Supervision by NYSC Officials

Statement: The supervision you received from the NYSC officials was adequate in order for you to function.

(Approximate Percentages)

	Number	Percentage	
Very relevant	105	15%	55% (386)
Disagree	281	40%	
Undecided	42	6%	
Agree	211	30%	39% (274)
Strong agree	63	9%	
Total	702	100%	

39% of the respondents agreed that the supervision they received was adequate for them to function, 6% were undecided while 55% did not agree and felt that the supervision was not adequate, in fact 15% strongly disagreed.

Table 5.4. VII (a): Post-NYSC Evaluation of Aspects of Primary Assignment Period (Welfare Conditions)

Instructions: Tick √ the appropriate column on your views Pertaining to the welfare of the corps members.

Aspect		(Approximate Percentage) Very Satis-factory	Satis-factory	Un-decided	Not Satis-factory	Very Unsatis-factory
Welfare Conditions:						
(a)	Accommodation or rent subsidy proved by employer	30% (211)	16% (112)	5% (35)	30% (211)	19% (133)
(b)	Transport of transport allowance provided by employer	7% (49%)	30% (211)	4% (28)	9% (63)	50% (351)
(c)	Medical Care	19% (133)	30% (211)	2% (14)	29% (204)	20% (140)

The details of the welfare conditions during primary assignment period as shown in Table 5.4. VII(a) indicated very satisfactory and satisfactory (positive) scores for accommodation, transportation and medical care were of

the order of 46%, 37% and 49% respectively. These were lower than the percentages of unfavourable responses which were 49;59% and the medical care scoring the same 49%. Interestingly, opinions were divided (49% either way) over the adequacy and disagreed with 30% in disagree category[10] In response to open ended questions, 79% of the respondents said that the NYSC officials visited them only once. As indicated in Table 5.4 VII (a), 49% of the respondents saw the accommodation facilities as very poor particularly when most employers would not provide accommodation or pay any rent subsidy. The same response also went to the category of transportation as 35% of the respondents felt that their transport allowance should be increased and paid monthly. A high degree (82%) of utilization of the respondents services and assignment of relevant responsibility (91%) must have been functional to the success of the corps members.

Table 5.4. VIII: Post-NYSC Evaluation Aspects of Secondary Assignment (Community Development)

Statement: Indicate your views on your community development Activities.

Post-NYSC Aspect	(Approximate Percentage) Number	Percentage
Great Success	126	18%
Marginal Success	267	38.0%
Undecided	98	14%
Failure	70	10%
Total Failure	140	20%

Generally, 56% of respondents saw the secondary assignment as successful, 14.0% were undecided while 30.0% saw it unsuccessful. (10.0% as failure and 20.0% as total failure).

Table 5.4. IX: Evaluation Aspect of Secondary Assignment Involvement.

Statement: Were you involved in any special year-round activities besides your primary assignment.

Post-NYSC Aspect	(Approximate Percentage) Number	Percentage
Yes	281	40.0%
No	421	60.0%
Undecided		–

Of the 702 respondents 40.0% involved themselves in secondary assignment (year-round community development project). 60.0% of the respondents answered 'No' meaning that they failed to do anything. If this aspect of the programme is still found relevant, the NYSC authorities have to do something by way of taking a more microscopic look and design a new strategy for enforcing the implementation of secondary assignment.

As deduced from table 5.4. II, the orientation facilities is quite poor, 69.0% felt that the facilities were not adequate. 6% had no opinion and 25% thought they were adequate. This is an area the programme should address itself. The responses to facilities in both tables 5.4. II and 5.4. VII (a) are correlative. In Table 5.4. VII (a), 46% thought accommodation facilities to

be satisfactory, 49% not satisfactory and 5% undecided. In response to open-ended questions arising from table 5.4. II, 45% of the respondents felt that the NYSC made inadequate preparations prior to their deployment, hence corpers had accommodation problem; 45% of the respondents felt that the host communities lacked a clear understanding of their requirements felt they could not be utilized as a result of this fact.

Table 5.4. X: Opinions Expressed on the Community Development Project

Opinions Expressed (in the Common Column)		Percentage
1.	Publicity on the part of NYSC in order to convince the communities of the importance of the scheme is inadequate:	30%
2.	Non-Cooperation of the local government in the community:	42%
3.	Need for adequate planning and preparation by the community before applying for NYSC participation:	13%
4.	Insufficiency of equipment or lack of it which hampers success:	15%

Table 5.4. X, shows a clear picture of opinion expressed on the problem of secondary assignment. 30% of the respondents felt that there was lack of any publicity of what the programme is all about in order to inform communities about the scheme and its importance; 42% felt that the local government authorities were uncooperative and did not participate in the scheme adequately; 13% felt that the communities should be prepared before applying to participate.

The respondents (40%) who were involved in the year-round community development projects, (secondary phase), said they developed or worked in the following projects:

(a)	Continuation and Adult Classes:	(15%)
(b)	Agriculture – crop farm, livestock farm:	(17%)
(c)	Organization of literary programmes, radio, drama, sports, etc. or cooking and child care	(8%)

The issues already mentioned in this section on community development pose serious problems to the scheme especially in the area of accommodation, supply of material, and community participation. These are serious problems that could render the exercise difficult.

The problem of transportation affects mostly the corps members who have to travel to other project sites as there are no community development projects located within their area of service. Transport to and from the project sites are absent and where they exist, transport fares are exorbitant. It was also noted that due to inadequate accommodation provisions, most of the corpers remain in their respective places of primary assignment. Materials for the execution of community projects were in most cases not available due to non-provision of materials by the communities involved. Note in table 5.4.X, 15% respondents said that this hampers success.

The provisions of residential accommodation has always been a major problem and this is compounded by the yearly increase in the number of participants. The Directorate has been able to do more than appeal to employers of youth corpers to provide them accommodation and most employers grant rent subsidy in lieu of accommodation.

This does not solve the problem as rents are noted to be exorbitantly high in various places. Many corpers have been known to 'squat' with colleagues, friends, etc during the service year, this is a demoralizing start for the corpers hence a major source of their pressure for deployment.

The lack of publicity hinders and tends to obliterate appreciation of the ideals and objectives of the scheme. Some corps members looked upon as labourers are either paid by government or hired by contractors. Such public reaction is destructive of morals and initiative on the part of the corps members and this underscores the need for sustained public enlightenment campaign.

An examination of the NYSC programme would be incomplete if we do not review the NYSC directorate and its managerial capacity in order to identify possible areas of strengths/discrepancies in programme implementation.

5.5 The NYSC and Its Managerial Capacity

In Chapter four, we had already described the NYSC organization. At the apex is the governing body called the National Directorate, the State Secretariat is structurally patterned after the national directorate form. The State NYSC acts within the policy directives of the National Directorate.

Table 5.5. I: Post-NYSC Perception of Adequacy of NYSC Management and Scheme

Statement: (a) What is your opinion about the administration and management of the NYSC scheme.

(b) The present structural arrangement of the NYSC organization is adequate for effective management of the scheme in order to achieve its objectives

Post-NYSC Variables		(Approximate Percentages) Very Effective	Effective	Neutral	Very Ineffective	Not Effective
(a)	Administrative Effectiveness	12% (84)	28% (197)	18% (126)	28% (197)	14% (98)
(b)	Structural	15% (105)	24% (160)	23% (162)	16% (112)	22% (154)

Table 5.5. I, shows that 40% of the respondents (12% very effective + 28% effective) were of the opinion that the NYSC management was effective

administratively. 42% had a negative view (28% very ineffective + 14% not effective) and 18% were undecided. 39% of the respondents found the organizational structure adequate for the effective management of the scheme in order for it to achieve its set objectives; 23% were undecided and 38% saw it as inadequate. Hence an uncomfortable 61% did not find the organizational structure adequate for the achievement of its goals. We could infer a correlation between the administrative effectiveness and the structural adequacy of the organization. Hence it can be safely concluded that the organizational structure of the NYSC is inadequate for realizing the schemes objectives.[11] Programme efficiency and effectiveness would not be enhanced if certain deficiencies exist. Among the comments to their answers, the following reasons were given for the negative responses to administrative effectiveness:

1. The scheme needs proper publicity in order that its aims and objectives would be understood, also to constantly remind and reawaken interests in the scheme; (30%)

2. There is need for staff of the NYSC to liaise and consult with employers of labour to utilize serving corps members; (18%)

3. Field management supervision is grossly lacking, most of the corps members are abandoned to the mercy of the employers; (42%)

4. Many corps members refuse rural postings and those without anybody influential to support them have to serve in the rural areas; (10%)

5.6 Operational Costs

No programme succeeds without adequate budget (both in men and materials). There was need in this study therefore, to also examine the budgetary allocations to the NYSC Programmes. The NYSC is a non-fund generating venture and it relies entirely on budgetary allocation from the Federal and State Governments for its operations. Table 5.6. I shows expenditures on the scheme from 1975/76 services year through 1987/88.

Table 5.6. 1: Operational Cost of NYSC 1975/76 – 1987/88

Year	Expenditure in Naira
1973/74*	N.A.
1974/75*	N.A.
1975/76	11,398,253
1976/77	19,119,920
1977/78	30,692,765
1978/79	36,112,521
1979/80	42,949,185
1980/81	54,552,660
1981/82	85,000,000
1982/83	91,114,950
1983/84	97,582,654
1984/85	103,112,410
1985/86	109,287,253
1986/87	121,000,000
1987/88	158,939,084
Total	₦960,861,655

*The amount spent for 1973/74 and 1974/75 were not available (N.A.)

Source: Directorate Headquarters of NYSC, Lagos.

This amount as shown in Table 5.6.1, were spent on corps members' allowance, kits etc and other capital costs. States are expected to help in subsidizing the feeding during the orientation course, provide the facilities during the course and help maintain secretariat office in general. While some states have been helping in this aspect, others regard it as entirely a federal government affair especially if the state is hamstrung for finance and depends almost entirely on the Federal government for its own funds. This makes it very difficult for some state secretariats to operate smoothly.

Also note must be taken of the value of the naira today vis-a-vis its worth and buying rate for the years previous to 1985. The allowances and fringe benefits were reviewed in 1988 and the normal monthly stipend was increased by twenty five percent (₦250). Corpers' transport allowance to travel to their stations of service was increased by 300 percent. Prior to 1988, it was fifty naira (₦50). Also at the end of service, each corper gets one hundred and fifty naira (₦150) to travel home. These increased allowances explain the high differential rate as shown in Table 5.6. I, 1987/88.

Financial data were difficult to obtain on the level of the various state government funding in terms of their subventions to the programme hence we could not conduct any further analysis in this section. However, it suffices to state here that for meaningful community projects to be built or established, state government must participate. It is quite serious that only

42% of the participants felt that the local government authorities were uncooperative and did not participate in the scheme adequately (Table 5.4. X). We must state here that although costs can be measured in terms of the amount of the investment, the social value of the programme is difficult to estimate.

There are many approaches to measuring the extent to which intended objectives have been achieved. Some may focus on quantifiable, tangible outcomes however data on measures to assess the achievement of the NYSC programme is to ascertain the direction and magnitude of change in the integrative measures that can be attributed to the NYSC programme itself. The implementation of the scheme over the years has attracted comments and criticisms and in this chapter, we decided to focus on what the corpers say about the scheme as they have experienced knowledge and are the most affected by whatever programme implementation procedures are adopted in order to achieve the stated objectives. 63% of the respondents believed that the orientation course prepared them quite well for the years service (Table 5.4. I). However, 69% felt that the facilities were very poor (Table 5.4. II).

In Table 5.4. V, 88% of the respondents felt that their field of study was relevant to their primary assignment. It is quite interesting to note however that 55% felt that there was no supervision from NYSC officials in order for the corpers to function (Table 5.4. VI). This is a very serious area

of shortcoming and constraint in the way of achieving the set objectives of the scheme as this primary assignment period constitutes three quarters of the service year. There is obviously a correlation to table 5.4. VIX where 60% were not involved in the special year round activities (secondary assignment). This situation again is ascribed to the near absence of planning (Table 5.4. X) and supervision by the NYSC secretariats and some extent, indiscipline on the part of the corpers.

We have seen that NYSC participants have shown their various perceptions about the different strategies employed to enhance national awareness and integration. On the whole, they believed that the scheme was apt for the attainment of its set objectives however, this does not detract from their view that there should be changes in the strategies of specific criticisms of the scheme.

Footnote

[1] Folayan Ojo, ***Evaluation Report of Four Years of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme***, Lagos: National Youth Service Corps Directorate, November 1977, p. 3.

[2] *Ibid*, p. 4.

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] "Scan through the States, *A Compendium of the NYSC Scheme: Ten Years of Service to the Nation, op. cit.*, p. 143.

[6] Folayan, Ojo. *Op. cit.*, pp. 6 – 7.

[7] G. E. Emenako (ed), *12 Years of National Youth Service Corps in Nigeria: 1973 – 85, op. cit.*, p. 42.

[8] *A Compendium of the NYSC Scheme. Ten Years of Service to the Nation*, op. cit., p. 170.

[9] Full responsibility and partial responsibility as indicated in questionnaire is collapsed into positive; no responsibility and not decided, responsibility is indicated and collapsed into negative.

[10] Strongly agree and agree were collapsed into positive, disagree and strongly disagree into negative.

[11] The NYSC organization has been reorganized since after this study began.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Basically, this research has attempted to evaluate the impact or more precisely, to empirically find out the extent to which the NYSC has enhanced or promoted national integration. Specifically, the problem of this research was to find out to what extent, as a result of the programme, there has been more communication among the people of Nigeria in terms of movement of people across geographical and cultural boundaries; to what extent has there been a sense of belonging among the people of Nigeria; to what extent has there been more association of people across geographical and cultural boundaries.

In the process of doing this, the work focused on the historical background and the growth of the National Youth Corps Service scheme. The thesis also dealt with the character of youth mobilization, the philosophy and objectives of the NYSC programme and the growth of the scheme. Chapter four shows the organizational structure and operational details of the scheme.

Attention was directed to the performance of the NYSC and in operational terms, communication, sense of belonging and association among people was analyzed as the manifestation of the presence of integration. Chapter five deals with analysis and interpretation of data.

6.1 FINDINGS

The findings of this study are intended to help understand better the process of national integration. More precisely, to establish the fact of the effectiveness or otherwise of the NYSC as an instrument for achieving national unity, hence the *raison d'etre* for its continued existence or otherwise. While the numerous problems which militate against the operational efficiency of the scheme such as financial, administrative, societal constraints, inadequate infrastructural facilities posed by community development were identified, we also needed to determine if the various aspects of the programme have been satisfactorily effective to promote the objectives as specified and whether the managerial capacity were adequate and effective.

The geo-political areas covered in this research are Anambra (Anambra/Enugu/part of Ebonyi), Benue (Benue/part of Kogi) Kaduna (Kaduna/Katsina) and Lagos states in addition to Abuja FCT. These states were purposively selected to represent three zones in Nigeria – the south, the middle belt and the north. These zones also represent the major cultural and geographical areas of the country. Youth corpers who were just about to pass through the service year in 1987/88, and those who had gone through the service year in 1986/87.

The total number of youth corpers who had participated in the programme during the period of study was about 19,112. Chapter three under methodology, indicates the distribution of figures across the states in our area of study and the breakdown of figures into 3,207 from the middle

belt, 3,166 in the north and 2,739 in the south. Again, these groups are representative of the cultural and geographical belts of Nigeria. As was mentioned, the differential in the statistical figures for the south is accounted for by the high figures for Lagos and Anambra States. We have no control over the returns.

Furthermore, the sample population consisted of 1,800 youth corpers and distributed zonally in the following manners:

North	650
South	900
Middle Belt	650

1,800 is 10% of the population under study and 10% is generally considered reasonable for sampling. 900 questionnaire were administered on the pre-NYSC population. There was a return of 697 or 77%. Of the 900 questionnaire given to the post NYSC cadre, we had a return of 702 or 78%. On the average, there was a 78% return rate of the sample populations. We considered this quite adequate to provide us with analyzable data.

In order for us to achieve our questionnaire, instrument was based on the hypothesis that:

1. There is no difference between frequencies of contact circumstances and attitudes by the movement of youth corpers across geographical and cultural boundaries.

2. There is no significant relationship between participation in the NYSC and sense of belonging with people from other geographical and cultural areas of the country.
3. There is no significant relationship between participation in the NYSC and inter-cultural marriages.

In Chapter one, we noted that despite the differing usages of the term integration, that for the purpose of this research work, we conceived integration as a process whereby a group of people had moved from a lower to a higher level of communication, from a less to a greater sense of belonging and from a less association of people to a greater or more association of people. We perceived national integration to mean the above processes within the nation state as opposed to across nation states, the main indices being national identification consisting of multicultural communication, integration or association among members of a national collectivity.

The major findings are summarized as follows:

1. Responses from NYSC participants indicate very positive willingness to accept employment in rural areas (Table 5.1.III).

2. NYSC participation tends to develop among the members, a high positive attitude towards the host communities as a result of frequent contacts. (Table 5.3.IV):

3. Participation in the NYSC programme tends to encourage a strong desire for inter-ethnic communication through knowledge of the language of the host communities.

4. Participation in the NYSC improves the individuals perspective to accept employment in states other than one's own.

5. Exposure to the NYSC programme has a positive effect on participants desire for unity in Nigeria (Tables 5.3.II and 5.3.IV).

6. Even though a large proportion of the respondents believed that their pre-service orientation prepared them well for their service year and that the secondary assignment was successful, they also felt that the orientation facilities were poor or inadequate. (Table 5.4.I, 5.4.VIII and 5.4.II).

7. More than half of the corpers felt that the supervision during the primary assignment was poor; that NYSC officials were very infrequently visiting them, but that their areas of primary assignment were relevant to their fields of study. (Tables 5.4.VI and 5.4.V).

8. In general, the training aspects of the programme tend to be satisfactory, to very satisfactory, in the areas of physical training, lectures, drills and parades, Man O'War activities, and discussions and symposia; but a little less so satisfactory for language study. (Table 5.4.IV).

9. The secondary assignment was perceived as fairly successful (Table 5.4.VIII) even though a large proportion could not secure any secondary assignment (Table 5.4.VIX). This was attributed to lack of adequate preparation for this phase by the NYSC officials.

10. There were inadequate data to support our third hypothesis. (Table 5.2.I). The Director General attributed the lack of accurate data to manual record keeping.

In the area of the movement and deployment of youth corpers across cultural and geographical boundaries thereby enhancing and promoting greater integration among people of different cultural and geographical entities and secondly, in the area of participation of the NYSC programme giving rise to a greater sense of belonging with people from various areas of the country, our findings so far has proved our first and second hypotheses, that the NYSC has the capability of promoting national unity by infusing greater understanding association, appreciation and national consciousness amongst the people.

We have established that despite the criticisms of the NYSC scheme and its shortcomings, the post-NYSC cadre showed positive attitudes and opinions in the capacity of the NYSC to enhance national unity. The NYSC also had a significant impact on national understanding, especially in the areas of social development of Nigeria. The NYSC enhanced inter-state and urban-rural interaction, thereby contributing to greater understanding and thereby enhancing identification with the nation, a sense of self-belonging with the nation.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Consequent upon the findings produced in this research, the following recommendations are made for improvement:

a. The Staff of the NYSC should be job committed to their supervisory roles during assignments. They should liaise effectively with employers of labour for the welfare of corpers;
b. The Federal Government should ensure that the facilitates at the Orientation Camp particularly feeding, medical is adequate;
c. The NYSC Data Bank should be fully computerized with services to ensure adequate storage and retrieval of statistical data on activities of the Organization and its clientele;
d. The Evaluation Unit of the NYSC should be strengthened and effectively developed on data collation methodology.

6.3 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

It is recommended that the Federal Government should replicate this study (research) on a much larger and comprehensive scale at the national level for cost effectiveness and cost benefit analysis.

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APPENDIX I

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

Decree and Amendments

Supplement to Official Gazette Extraordinary

No. 28, Vol. 60, 22nd May 1973 – Part A.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS DECREE 1973

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Establishment and objectives of National Youth Service Corps.
2. Calling up of members of the service corps.
3. Establishment and constitution of a Directorate.
4. Principal functions of the Directorate.
5. The Director and his functions.
6. Establishment and functions of State Committees.
7. Membership of State Committee.
8. Registration of members of the service corps, etc.
9. Placing of members of the service corps.
10. Evaluation and report on members of the service corps.
11. Discharge certificate.
12. Production of certificate for employment purposes.
13. Offences and penalties.
14. Regulations, etc.
15. Exemptions from, and deferment of, service, etc.
16. Protection of members, etc.
17. Interpretation.
18. Citation.

1973 No. 24 National Youth Service Corps

Decree No. 24

(22nd May 1973)

Commencement

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decree as follows:

Establishment and objectives of National Youth Service Corps.

1. (1) There is hereby established a scheme to be known as the National Youth Service Corps (hereinafter referred to as the "service Corps")

(2) With a view to the proper encouragement and development of common ties among the youths of Nigeria and the promotion of national unity the service corps shall be charged with all such functions as pertain to the objectives of the service corps set out in subsection (3) below:

(3) The objectives of the service corps shall be:

(a) to inculcate discipline in Nigerian youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work, and, of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation them may find themselves.

(b) to raise their moral tone by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideas of national achievement and social and cultural improvement;

(c) to develop in them attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them national interests;

(d) To develop common ties among them and promote national unity by ensuring that –

(i) as far as possible youths are assigned to jobs in States other than their states of origin;

(ii) Each group, assigned to work together, is as representative of the country as possible;

(iii) The youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejudices, eliminating ignorance, and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups;

(e) To encourage members of the service corps to seek, at the end of their corps service, career development all over the country thus promoting the free movement of labour;

(f) To induce employers, partly through their experience with members of the service corps, to employ readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their States of origin; and

(g) To enable Nigerian youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.

Calling up of members of the Service Corps.

2 – (1) Subject to the provisions of this Decree every Nigerian up to the age of 30 years shall –

(a) If, at the end of the academic year 1972 – 73 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent academic year, he shall have successfully completed his first degree at any university in Nigeria;

(b) Unless exempted under section 15 below, be liable to be called upon to serve in the service corps for a continuous period of one year as from the date specified in a call-up instrument served upon him or, as the case may require, a notice thereto is given in the prescribed manner; and when so called upon such person shall make himself available for service and shall present himself at such place and time on such day and, to such person or authority as may be specified in the instrument or notice.

(2) Notwithstanding anything, to the contrary, the Head of the Federal Military Government may by an order extend the application of subsection (1) above to every Nigerian up to the age of 30 years who shall immediately after the academic year 1972 – 73 and subsequent academic years have successfully completed his first degree at a university outside Nigeria.

(3) The head of the Federal Military Government may as aforesaid by the order or any subsequent order extend the application of the provisions of sub-section (1) to other categories of Nigerians up to the age of 30 years who shall have obtained such diplomas, certificates or such other qualifications as may be prescribed in the order from universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning within or outside Nigeria, and the different categories of those affected or to be affected by the other.

Establishment and Constitution of a Directorate

3 - (1) There shall be established a Directorate which shall be the governing body of the service corps.

(2) The Directorate shall comprise the following:

(a) A Chairman;

(b) The Vice-Chancellor of each of the universities in Nigeria or any person appointed in that behalf by any such Vice-Chancellor to represent him;

(c) One member of the Armed Forces of the Federation;

(d) One member of the Nigeria Police Force;

(e) A representative of the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association;

(f) The Director as appointed under section 5 below;

(g) One representative of Cabinet office;

(h) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Education.

(i) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Labour and;

(j) Three other persons, at least one of whom shall be a woman.

(3) The Chairman and members of the Directorate shall be appointed by the Head of the Federal Military Government.

Principal Functions of a Directorate.

4 - (1) The Directorate shall:-

(a) Draw up a detailed programmes of training and schedules which shall be designed for achieving the objectives of the service corps;

(b) Ensure that such programmes and schedules are strictly adhered to;

(c) Maintain regular contacts with all universities and colleges in Nigeria as necessary;

(d) Assign members of the service corps to the programmed work in the States as provided by the Directorate;

(e) Co-ordinate the work of State Committees in the furtherance of the objectives of this Decree;

(f) Assess and reviews, from time to time the progress of the scheme; and

(g) Make such reports in respect of such matters as it deems fit.

(2) The Director may delegate any of its foregoing functions to a State Committee; provided that such delegation shall not prevent the Directorate from exercising the functions so delegated.

The Director and his Functions.

5 – (1) There shall be a Director of the scheme who shall be appointed by the Head of the Federal Military Government.

(2) The Director shall be the chief executive and shall be charged with the general responsibility for matters affecting the day to day running of the scheme.

Establishment and Functions of State Committees.

6 – (1) There is hereby established for each State a National Youth Service Corps Committee (herein-after referred to as "the State Committee") with its office in the Military Governor's Office of the State.

(2) The State Committee shall be responsible for:

(a) Arranging accommodation, boarding, transportation, and providing other facilities which are essential for the welfare of members of the service corps and for the success of the scheme in the State;

(b) Assembling reports on members of the service corps and transmitting them to Directorate;

(c) Arranging the provision of facilities for induction courses and winding-up exercises;

(d) Compiling information on such opportunities as there may be for employment in a State; and

(e) Deploying members of the service corps within the State.

Membership of State Committees.

7 – (1) The State Committee in each State shall consist of the following members:-

(a) One official in the Military Governor's office in the grade of a Permanent Secretary who shall be the Chairman;

(b) A member of the Armed Forces of the Federation;

(c) A member of the Nigeria Police Force;

(d) A Principal Inspector;

(e) Four other persons who shall be appointed from among persons concerned with the following sectors of the Nigerian economy –

(i) Commerce and industry,

(ii) Agriculture and natural resources, and

(iii) Local government.

(2) All members of the State Committee shall be appointed by the Military Governor of the State in question.

8 – (1) Every member of the service corps shall be registered by the Director in such a manner as may be prescribed by this Decree, and it shall be the duty of the appropriate registrar in Nigeria to furnish the Director with such particulars of every person who is subject to be called up pursuant to the provision of this Decree in such manner as may be required.

(2) The Directorate shall on the commencement of this Decree and at such times as may be prescribed compile a list of all prospective members of the service corps, and for that purpose it may obtain or direct to be obtained such information as it may require from the appropriate register within or outside Nigeria.

(3) Where any information is require in relation to the compilation of the list of members of the service corps for any academic year, the Director shall make a request in writing to the appropriate registrar in Nigeria, and it shall be the duty of the said registrar to provide such information as requested.

(4) For purposes of ensuring notification of call-up for service to all members of the service corps pursuant to section 2 above the Directorate may in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed give directions to the appropriate registrar and it shall be the duty of the said registrar to comply with the directions.

(5) In this section "appropriate registrar" means the registrar of a university, college or educational institution or such other person having the management of any university, college or other educational institution.

Placing of members of the Service Corps.

9 – (1) The Directorate shall determine the place and time each person qualified to be registered under the provisions of this Decree shall be deployed.

(2) The Directorate shall register each member of the service corps and shall deploy him for national service in the following undertakings and projects, that is to say, in:-

(a) Hospitals,

(b) Road construction,

(c) Farming,

(d) Water Schemes,

(e) Surveying and Mapping,

(f) Social and Economic Services,

(g) Teaching,

(h) Food Storage and eradication of pests,

(i) Rehabilitation of destitutes and the disabled,

(j) Development of sports,

(k) All government departments and statutory corporations suitable for new graduates,

(l) Development projects of local councils,

(m) The private sector of the Nigerian economy, and

(n) Such other undertaking and projects as the Head of Federal Military Government may by order determine.

(3) For the purpose of this section priority shall be given to service in any of the undertakings or projects aforementioned, the Directorate shall take into consideration the qualifications of each member and vacancies then existing and the Directorate shall not be compelled to deploy a member only to a particular undertaking or project.

Evaluation and report on members of the Service Corps.

10 – (1) The Directorate shall cause quarterly returns and reports on each member of the service corps to be compiled by such officers including training officers as it may designate.

(2) The quarterly reports of each member of the service corps shall show:

(a) the extent of his interest in the undertaking or project;

(b) The degree of comradeship he engenders amongst his fellow members and the people within the community he is serving or has served;

(c) Industry at work, resourcefulness and initiative;

(d) Character, address, temperament and integrity;

(e) Leadership and readiness to accept responsibility;

(f) Any other information which may assist in evaluating the character of each member of the service corps.

Discharge Certificate.

6 The Directorate shall, on completion of the service of a member of the service corps unless such person is exempted under section 15 below, issue him with a discharge certificate which shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed.

Production of Certificate for Employment Purpose.

12 – (1) For the purpose of employment anywhere in the Federation and before employment it shall be the duty of every prospective employer to demand and obtain from any person who claims to have obtained his first year degree at the end of the academic year 1972-73 or, as the case may be, at the end of any subsequent academic year the following:

(a) A copy of the discharge certificate of such person issued pursuant to section 11 above;

(b) A copy of any exemption certificate issued to such person pursuant to section 15 below; and

(c) Such other particulars relevant thereto as may be prescribed by or under this Decree.

(2) It shall also be the duty of every employer to produce on demand to a police officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, any such certificate and particulars or copies thereof.

Offences and Penalties.

13 – (1) Any person:-

(a) Who fails to report for service in the service corps in the manner directed by the Directorate, or as may be prescribed, pursuant to the provisions of this Decree; or,

(b) Who refuses to make himself available for service in the service corps continuously for the period specified in section 2 above, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of N200 or to imprisonment for twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with or who contravenes any provision of this Decree (not being a provision relating to the calling up of members of the service corps) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of N500 or imprisonment for three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Any person who:-

(a) In giving any information for the purposes of this Decree knowingly or recklessly makes a statement which is false; or

(b) Forges or uses or lends to or allows to be used other than in the manner provided by this Decree by any other person any certificate issue pursuant to the provisions of this Decree; or

(c) Makes, or has in possession any document so closely resembling any certificate so issue as to be calculated to deceive, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦500 or imprisonment for three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) Where an offence under sub-section (2) above which has been Committed by a boy corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to, any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other official of the body corporate, or any person purporting to act in such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Regulations, etc.

14 – (1) The Head of the Federal Military Government may make such regulations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of achieving the objects of this Decree, and in particular, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions:-

(a) for the proper functioning and conduct of the work of the service corps;

(b) Setting out programmes and schedules for the training of the members of the service corps;

(c) Specifying the procedure for call-up and the manner in which notification of call-up shall be made to members and prospective members thereof;

(d) For providing forms for the use of the Directorate;

(e) For the procedure for determining the medical fitness or otherwise of persons to be called up and the manner in which such matter shall be determined, and

(f) Other matters (unless it is otherwise provided expressly) required to be prescribed by this Decree.

(2) The Directorate may with the approval of the Head of the Federal Military Government make bye-laws for the proper administration of the Service Corps, and in particular:

(a) Governing the pay, remuneration, allowances and other emoluments and expenses of the persons affected; and

(b) In relation to the general discipline, control and welfare of members of the corps.

Exemptions from the Deferment of Service, etc.

15 – (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Directorate may, with the prior approval of the Federal Executive Council, by an order published in the Gazette exempt any person from all or any of the provisions of this Decree, and may subject thereto and with such approval impose in relation to any exemption such conditions as it may think fit.

(2) For the purpose of sub-section (1) above and with the approval of the Federal Executive Council, the Directorate may on being satisfied that there is reasonable cause for so doing by any order defer the calling-up of any person or category of persons liable to be up for service corps for such period as may be specified in the order, and may subject to such approval reduce or extend the period of service specified in section 2 above in relation to the service of any person or category of persons liable to be called up.

(3) Where an order is made for an exemption of any person it shall be the duty of the Directorate to issue to that person an exemption certificate in the prescribed form, and for the purposes of this section where the service of any person in the service corps is deferred or where the period of service is extended or reduced as the case may be pursuant to subsection (2) above an exemption certificate setting out such particulars or the prescribed particulars shall be issued to such person.

Protection of Members, etc.

16. The Public Officers Protection Act shall apply to every member of the service corps and to any other person employed under any undertaking or project for the duration of his service in the service corps.

Interpretation

17 – (1) In this Decree unless otherwise stated:-

"academic year" means a year beginning in September or October and ending in June or July as the case may be in the following year;

"Directorate" means the body established under section 3 of this Decree;

"Membership of the Directorate" means the membership as provided for by section 3 of this Decree;

"Registrar: includes a secretary and "State Committee" means a committee set up under section 6 of this Decree.

(2) For the purposes of this Decree, the reference to a "a member of the service corps" includes unless the context otherwise requires or it is otherwise expressly provided a prospective member of the service corps of any person who is registered as member.

17. This Decree may be cited as National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973.

MADE at Lagos this 22nd day of May 1973.

GENERAL Y. GOWON
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of this Decree but is intended to explain its effect)

The Decree establishes scheme under which Nigerian citizens up to the age of 30 years are called upon to serve in National Youth Service Corps. The Scheme affects, in the first instance, Nigerians of up to the age of 30 years who shall have at the end of the academic year 1972 to 1973 obtained their first degree in Nigerian Universities. Provisions have been made to apply the Decree to certain other categories of Nigerians within or outside Nigeria.

All members or prospective members of the corps are to be registered in accordance with the procedure to be prescribed under the Decree.

The Decree also makes provisions for membership and functions of a Directorate and State Committees and creates, interalia, certain offences.

Supplement to Official Gazette No. 11, Vol 11.
14th March, 1974 – Part A

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (AMENDMENT) DECREE 1974

Decree No. 11
(28th February 1974)

Commencement

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows:

Amendment of 1973 No. 24

1. The National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 is hereby amended as follows:-

   (a) in section 2 thereof, immediately after subsection

   (3) there shall be inserted a new subsection as follows:-

   (4) Any Nigerian who would have been liable to be called up to serve in the service corps under the foregoing provisions of this section had he not exceeded the prescribed age may, if he so desires, apply to the Directorate to be called up for service and the Directorate may, if satisfied that the applicant is otherwise qualified for service, call him up for a service in the same

manner as it would call up a person who had not exceeded the prescribed age".

(b) For the existing paragraph (a) of section 7(1) thereof there shall be substituted for the following new paragraph (a):-

(c) Immediately after section 15 thereof there shall be inserted a new section as follows:

"Employers to take account of period of Service in the Youth Corps Service

15A Every employer shall in determining the salary or other remuneration payable to a graduate who has completed a period of service in the youth corps service and been duly discharged there-from, take account of that period of service, and such salary or other remuneration shall not be less than that normally payable to a graduate in comparable employment and who has been in employment for the same period as the duration of the first mentioned graduate's service in the youth corps service".

Citation

(2) This Decree may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) Decree 1974.

MADE at Lagos this 28th day of February 1974.

GENERAL Y. GOWON
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its purpose)

The Decree amends the National Youth Service Corps, Decree 1973 to provide, among other things, that graduates who have exceeded the prescribed age may volunteer for service, and that the employers, are to take account of youth corps service in determining the remuneration payable to graduates.

Supplement to Official Gazette Extraordinary No. 31, Vol. 61, 19th June, 1974 – Part A

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (AMENDMENT NO. 2) DECREE 1974

Decree No. 24

See Section 2 (2)

Commencement

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decree as follows:-

Amendment of 1973 No. 24

1 – (1) The National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 is amended by the insertion, immediately after section 16, of the following new section:-

Exclusion of proceedings

16A No court in Nigeria shall have or continue to have jurisdiction to entertain a civil cause or matter instituted:-

(a) For the determination of any question or issue relating:

(i) To the call-up for service of any person by the Directorate pursuant to section 2 of this Decree;

(ii) To the place where a member of the service corps is deployed for service by the Directorate pursuant to section 9 of this Decree;

(iii) To the issue or otherwise of a discharge certificate pursuant to section 11 of this Decree;

(iv) To any exemption from service or deferment of service of any persons granted under section 15 of this Decree; and

(b) On account of any other act, matter or thing done or purported to be done by any person or authority in pursuance of the provisions of this Decree".

(2) Accordingly, and for the avoidance of doubt, any civil cause or matter instituted in, and pending before, any court in Nigeria at the time of the making of this Decree shall be void.

2(1) This Decree may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) (No. 2) Decree 1974.

(2) Section 1 (1) of this Decree shall be deemed to have come into force on 22nd May 1973.

MADE at Lagos this 19th day of June 1974.

GENERAL Y. GOWON
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its purpose).

The Decree amends the National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 to prohibit the institution of civil proceedings in respect of any matter arising from the operation of the Decree.

Supplement to Official Gazette N0. 48, Vol. 61, 26th September, 1974.

L. N. 54 of 1974

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS DECREE 1973
(1973 No. 24)

National Youth Service Corps (Extension of Application) Order 1974

Commencement: 19th September 1974

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, the Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces hereby makes the following Order:-

Extension of the Service Corps Scheme to Nigerians from Universities outside Nigeria,
1973 No. 24

1 - (1) The application of section 2 (1) of the National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 shall extend to every Nigerian who:-

(i) Successfully completed his first degree at the end of the

1973-74 academic year at a university or degree awarding institution of higher learning outside Nigeria;

(ii) Successfully completed his first degree at a university or degree-awarding institution of higher learning outside Nigeria before the 1973 – 74 academic year but had since been engaged in postgraduate studies;

If such a Nigerian volunteers for call-up for service in the service corps scheme for the year 1974.

(2) The application of section 2 (1) of the said Decree shall extend to every Nigerian who, at the end of the 1974 – 75 academic year or any subsequent academic year, shall have successfully completed his first degree at a university or degree-awarding institution of higher learning outside Nigeria.

Citation

2. This Order may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Extension of Application Order 1974).

MADE AT Lagos this 19th day of September 1974.

C. O. LAWSON
Secretary to the Federal
Military Government

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This does not form part of the Order but is intended only to explain its purpose).

By the Order the application of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme is extended to various categories of Nigerians who obtained their degree at universities and other institutions outside Nigeria at the end of the 1974 academic year if they volunteer for service.

All those who obtain their degree from universities and other institutions outside Nigeria at the end of the 1974 – 75 academic year and subsequent academic years shall be liable to be called for service.

Supplement to Official Gazette No. 23, Vol. 66, 17th May, 1979

Part A

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (AMENDMENT) DECRRE 1979

Decree No. 17

Commencement

(8th May, 1979)

Amendment of National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973, No. 24

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows:

(1) The National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 is hereby amended as

follows:-

(a) For section 2 thereof, there shall be substituted the following new section:-

"Calling up of members of the corps.

(2) – (1) Subject to the provisions of this Decree every Nigerian shall:-

(a) If, at the end of the academic year 1972 – 73 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent academic year, he shall have graduated at any university in Nigeria; or

(b) If, at the end of the academic year 1974 – 75 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent year, he shall have graduated at any university outside Nigeria; or

(c) If, at the end of the academic year 1975 – 76 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent year, he shall have obtained the Higher National Diploma or the National Certificate of Education or such other professional qualification as may be prescribed;

Be under an obligation unless exempted under section 15 of this Decree to make himself available for service for a continuous period of one year from the date specified in the call-up instrument served upon him.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, age shall cease to be a ground for exemption for those graduating as from January 1977.

(3) A person liable to be called upon to serve in the service corps shall serve for a continuous period of one year as from the date specified in the call-up instrument served upon him or, as the case may be, if a general or special notice to that effect is given in the prescribed manner; and when so called upon such person shall make himself available for service and shall present himself at such place and time and to such person or authority as may be specified in the instrument or notice.

(4) The Head of the Federal Military Government may, by Order published in the Gazette, extend the application of the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section to other categories of Nigerians who shall have obtained such diplomas, certificates or other qualifications as may be prescribed in the order from universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning within or outside Nigeria, and the order may specify different dates for call-up in relation to different categories of those affected or to be affected by the order".

(b) For subsection (2) and (3) of section 3 thereof there shall be substituted the following new subsections:-

"(2) The Directorate shall comprise the following members, that is:-

(a) A Chairman;

(b) Five persons to represent the universities in Nigeria in rotation, so however that no two of them shall come from one university at the same time;

(c) One member of the Armed Forces of the Federation.

(d) One member of the Nigeria Police Force;

(e) A representative of the Nigerian Employer's Consultative Association;

(f) The Director appointed under section 5 of this Decree;

(g) One representative of the Cabinet Office;

(h) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;

(i) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports;

(j) Two representatives of each of the following, that is to say:-

(i) Polytechnics or equivalent institutions

(ii) Advanced teacher training colleges, and

(k) Three other persons, at least one of whom shall be a woman.

(3) A member of the Directorate who is not a public officer shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of his appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term only".

(c) In section 4, immediately after subsection (2) thereof, there shall be added the following new subsections:-

(3) Service in the Directorate is hereby declared as approved service within the meaning of the Pensions acts.

(4) The Directorate shall have power to appoint (including power to appoint on promotion and transfer and of confirmation of appointments) advance, terminate and discipline employees or acting any offices in the Directorate.

(d) In paragraph (d) of section 7 (1) thereof, for the words "Principal Inspector" there shall be substituted the words "Chief Inspector"

(e) In section 8-

(i) For the words "appropriate registrar" wherever they occur in that section, there shall be substituted the phrase "appropriate official of the institution of higher learning concerned".

(ii) In subsections (3) and (4) thereof, for the word "registrar" there shall be substituted the word "official"

(iii) For subsection (5) thereof, there shall be substituted the following new sub-section.

"(5) In this section "appropriate official means the person charged with responsibility for the management of any university, college or other educational institution."

(f) In section 10 and in subsection (2) thereof:-

(i) The word "and" at the end of paragraph (e) shall be deleted,

(ii) Immediately after the said paragraph (e) there shall be added the following new paragraph, that is:-

"(f) Special contributions to the host community; and;

(iii) The existing paragraph (f) shall be enumerated as paragraph

(g) In section 11, for the words "a discharge certificate", there shall be substituted the words "the National Youth Service Corps Certificate".

(h) Immediately after section 13 thereof, there shall be added the following new section:-

"Annual reports and accounts

13A – (1) The Directorate shall prepare and submit to the Commissioner not later than 31st December in every year an estimate of its expenditure and income during the next succeeding financial year.

(2) The Directorate shall keep proper accounts in respects of each financial year, and proper records in relations to those accounts and shall cause the account to be audited as soon as may be after

the end of the financial year to which the accounts related by a firm of auditors approved as respects that year by the commissioner;

(3) The Directorate shall prepare and submit to the commissioner not later than 30th June in each financial year a report in such form as the commissioner may direct on the activities of the Directorate during the previous financial year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited account of the Directorate for that previous financial year and of the auditor's report on those accounts.

(4) The commissioner shall cause a copy of the report made to him under this section to be laid before the Federal Executive Council."

(i) Immediately after section 16 thereof, these shall be added the following new section:-

16A. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16 of this Decree, any person aggrieved by any decision of the Directorate or by the exercise by the Directorate of any power under this Decree shall have the right of appeal to the Commissioner in the first instance and the Commissioner may, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Decree and subject to the approval of the Federal Executive Council, confirm or reverse the decision or the Directorate or take such further measures in relation to the appeal as he may think just."

(j) In section 17, and in subsection (1) thereof:-

(i) For the definition of "academic year" there shall be substituted the following new definition."

(ii) Immediately after the definition of "academic year" there shall be added the following new definitions:-

Commissioner "means the Federal Commissioner charged with responsibility for youth matter."

(iii) There shall be deleted the definition of "registrar"

1979 No. 17 National Youth Service Corps (Amendment)

Citation

2. This Decree may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) Decree 1979.

MADE at Lagos this 8th day of May 1979.

GENERAL O. OBASANJO
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its purposes only)

This Decree amends the National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973, inter alia, to comply with the current policy of the Directorate relating to the call up of members of the service corps.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) DECREE 1979

DECREE NO. 42

1979 No. 42 National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) (No. 2)

(8th May 1979)

Commencement

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows:

Amendment of National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 No. 24

1 – (1) The National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973 (as amended by the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment Decree 1979) is hereby amended as follows:

(a) In subsection (2) of section 2 thereof for the words "January 1977" there shall be substituted the words "1st July 1977.

(b) For subsections (2) and (3) of section 3 thereof, there shall be substituted the following new subsections:-

(2) "The Directorate shall comprise the following members, that is":

(a) A Chairman;

(b) Five persons to represent the universities in Nigeria in rotation, so however that no two of them shall come from one university at the same time;

(c) One member of the Armed Forces of Nigeria.

(d) One member of the Nigerian Police Force;

(e) A representative of the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association.

(f) The Director appointed under section 5 of this Decree;

(g) One representative of the Cabinet Office;

(h) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;

(i) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports;

(j) Two representatives each of the following that is to say:-

(i) Polytechnics or equivalent institutions

(ii) Advanced Teachers Training Colleges; and

(k) Three other persons, at least one of whom shall be a woman.

(3) The Chairman and members of the Directorate shall be appointed by Head of the Federal Military Government.

(4) A member of the Directorate who is not a public officer shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of his appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term only".

Citation and Commencement

2. This Decree may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment (No. 2) Decree 1979 and shall be deemed to have come into force on 8th May 1979.

MADE at Lagos this 3rd day of August 1979.

GENERAL O. OBASANJO
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its purposes)

This Decree further amends the National Youth Service Corps Decree 1973, to make it clear that the removal of the age requirement for compulsory service in the Youth Corps was effective from 1st July 1977 and not January 1977.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (AMENDMENT) (AMENDMENT) DECREE 1985

Decree No. 21

(1st August 1985)

Commencement

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows:

1. Section 2 of the National Youth Service Corps Act 1973, as amended by the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) Act 1979, is hereby amended by substituting for subsections (1) and (2) thereof the following new subsections, that is:-

   (a) If, at the end of the academic year 1972 – 73 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent academic year, he shall have graduate at any university in Nigeria; or

(b) If, at the end of the academic year 1974 – 75 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent year, he shall graduate at any university outside Nigeria; or

(c) If, at the end of the academic year 1975 – 76 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent year, he shall have obtained the Higher National Diploma or such other professional qualification as may be prescribed; or

(d) If, at the end of any academic year 1975 – 76 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent academic year up to the end of the 1983 – 84 academic year, he shall have obtained the National Certificate of Education, be under an obligation, unless exempted under subsection (2) of this section or section 15 of this Act, to himself available for service for a continuous periods of one year from the date specified in the call-up instruct served upon him.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, with effect from 1st August 1985, a person shall not be called upon to serve in the service corps if, at the date of his graduation or obtaining his diploma or other professional qualifications:-

(a) He is over the age of 30 years;

(b) He has served in the Armed Forces of Nigeria or Nigeria Police Force for a period of more than 9 months or

(c) He has been conferred with any National Honours.

Citation and Commencement

2. This Decree may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) Decree 1985 and shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st August 1985.

MADE at Lagos this 8th day of November 1985.

MAJOR GENERAL I. B. BABANGIDA;
President, Commander-in-Chief
Of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the above Decree but is intended to explain its purposes).

The Decree amends the National Youth Service Corps Act 1973 to exempt from the service corps, with effect from 1st August 1985, persons who are over 30 years old or who have been conferred with National Honours or who have served in the Armed Forces of Nigeria or Nigeria Police Force for a period of more than 9 months at the date of graduation. It also excludes from service, with effect from the end of the 1984-85 academic year, holders of the National Certificate of Education.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

Decree 24

(1973)

BYE-LAWS

1974

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS DECREE 1973 (11973 No 24)

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS BYE-LAWS 1974

REVISED 1982

SCHEDULE 1

1. Motto of the National Youth Service Corps:

The motto of the National Youth Service Corps (hereinafter refereed to as the "Service Corps") shall be ("Service and Humility")

2. The Pledge:

Every member of the Service Corps (hereinafter refereed to as the "Service Corps") shall as soon as possible after registration, subscribe to and sign a copy of the pledge set out in Schedule 3 to these Bye-Laws.

3. Code of Conduct:

Every member shall observe the following code of conduct during the period to which the code relates, that is to say:

(a) Every member shall accept his posting without question.

(b) During the period of Orientation, every member shall:

(i) Attend regularly, punctually and participate fully in all official engagements on the field, at lecture and all places of work;

(ii) Not leave the Orientation Camp or absent himself from any official activity without the written consent of the State Director or his representative.

(iii) When absent from his duties on account of illness, ensure that such absence is covered by an "Excuse Duty Certificate" issued by a medical doctor then on duty at the Camp.

(iv) Not gamble within the premises;

(v) Not be in possession of firearms or ammunition;

(vi) Not smoke or chew anything whatever while on parade, and at any time not smoke in a prohibited area or throw lighted cigarette butts or lighted matches about the premises carelessly;

(vii) Not receive visitors in the camp except on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays;

(ix) Wear the various uniform provided for the activities;

(x) Not deprive other members of their meals by taking double rations;

(xi) Not keep animal pets in the camp;

(xii) Not incite other members to cause disaffection in the camp;

(xiii) Not riot or take part in mob action;

(xiv) Not steal;

(xv) Not take part in or organise night parties in camp without the Written permission of the State Director;

(xvi) Not be insubordinate or rude to camp officials.

(c) During the period of Primary Assignment, every member shall:

(i) Accept his assignment without question;
(ii) Report at duty station promptly;
(iii) Report for duty punctually;
(iv) Carry out such diligently;
(v) Not leave his station or absent himself from any official activity without the written consent of the appropriate authority in his establishment;
(vi) Not travel outside the state without prior written consent of the State Director;
(vii) Not travel outside Nigeria without consent of the National Director;
(viii) Not be rude or insubordinate at his place of work;
(ix) Not engage in immoral practices especially with students;
(x) Not disclose any information which comes to him in his official capacity to any person not authorised to receive such information;
(xi) Not engaged in private practice;
(xii) Not ride a motor-cycle without wearing a crash helmet.

(d) **During the period of Year – Round Development Service every member shall:**

(i) Not absent himself from project site without the prior consent of his Community Development Inspector;

(ii) Report punctually at his place of assignment; and

(iii) Work as an efficient member of his team.

(e) **During the period of the Wining-Up and passing-Out every member shall:**

Participate in all the activities and programmes.

4. Medical Provisions

Any member who takes ill while on duty shall avail himself of the nearest Military or Government Medical facilities and on no account seek specialist treatment outside his station without:

(a) Prior reference by the local government military doctor;

(b) The written permission of the State Director.

5. Leave of Absence.

(i) Except in the case of the 21 day vacation granted as a terminal benefit on completion of the service, leave off absence is a privilege granted at the discretion of the National Director in accordance with the leave scales laid down by the Directorate from time to time.

(ii) Except in the case of vacation leave, total number of days that can be granted as leave for whatever reasons shall not exceed 14 days in any service year,

(iii) Leave of absence shall not be granted to enable a member to travel outside Nigeria except by the National Director.

(iv) Subject to the exigencies of the service a member may be recalled from his leave at short notice;

(v) Leave of absence shall begin on the days specified in the letter approving such leave and a member is required to rejoin his post on the day the leave expires;

(vi) One rejoining the post from leave, it shall be the duty if each member to acquaint himself with all instructions issued during his absence.

(vii) (a) Where a member on leave requires medical attention, he shall report to the nearest Military or Government hospital and shall be treated on production of his identity card;

(b) 1. Where in the absence of the facilities referred to in sub-paragraph 'a' above, a member is compelled to avail himself of the services of a private medical practitioners, he shall be responsible in the first instance for the fees payable and shall obtain a receipt thereof as well as a medical report;

2. If the circumstances are recognised as requiring such services, the Directorate may authorise a refund to such a member at such rates as the National Directorate considers fair and reasonable;

(c) A member who has availed himself of the facilities in sub-paragraph 'a' and 'b' (1) above must tender a medical report or discharge certificate on disposal of the case as evidence on return to his post;

(d) Any payment made to a chemist for treatment rendered to a member while on leave may only be refunded by the State Directorate where there is no hospital in the area at such rates as the State Directorate considers fair and reasonable;

(viii) Where a member is admitted into hospital during his leave, it shall be his duty to notify State Director.

6. Maternity Leave During the Service Year

(i) A married or unmarried pregnant member shall be entitled to twelve weeks maternity leave. During this period of leave, she will be paid full monthly allowance. She will not, at the same time, be entitled to the annual leave.

7. Marriage During Service Year

A member who desires to get married during the service year shall:

(a) Be allowed to perform the marriage ceremony in any place of his choice;

(b) Any member who wishes to apply for leave of absence for the purpose of sub-paragraph (a) above shall do so not later than four weeks before the date of the proposed marriage.

8. Abscondment

Any member who is absent for continuous period of 3 months within the service year shall be considered to have absconded and shall be declared a wanted person.

9. I. D. Cards

(i) Every member shall:

(a) During the service year carry on his person, his identity card wherever he goes and shall on request present it to the appropriate authority.

(b) At the end thereof, surrender it to the State Director.

(ii) Any person who fails to surrender his identity card to the State Director shall be liable to the appropriate penalty prescribed in schedule 2 hereto.

10. Confidential Reports

(i) In order to provide a full record of work, conduct and capabilities of each member, and to assist the Directorate to give a correct assessment of each member at the end of the service year, a Head of Department shall submit to the State Director on "Form NYSC 2" in Schedule 3 to these Bye-Laws quarterly confidential reports in respect of each member under his charge.

(ii) Each confidential report submitted, pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) above, shall be considered a privilege document and shall be made public but

(a) The substances of any advance comment on the work or conduct of a member which is include in any such report on him shall be

conveyed to him in writing by the State Director with the object of encouraging him to overcome his shortcomings; and

(b) The fact that this action has been taken should be endorsed on the report itself.

Where a member has any cause to make representations in respect of any part of his report shall do so through his Head of Department to the State Director.

11. Channels of Communication

(i) All communications including those for re-deployment from a corps member shall always be endorsed by his Head of Department.

(ii) A member shall seek redress for any grievance or redeployment from;

(a) His Head of Department or the State Director in the first instance; but

(b) Where he is not satisfied with the action taken by any person mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above, he may appeal to the Chairman of the relevant State Service Corps Committee; and

(c) As a last resort, he may appeal to the National Director.

(iii) Any member who:-

(a) Violates the progressive channels of communications laid down in sub-paragraph (1) above, or

(b) Airs his grievance in any news media, shall be liable to the appropriate penalty prescribed in Schedule 2 hereto.

12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. No member shall:
   (a) Be involved in any act of forgery;
   (b) Form any organisation or group without the prior written consent of the State Director;
   (c) Engage in fraudulent practices;
   (d) Engage in physical fighting;
   (e) Assault any official of the NYSC of his employer in his place of primary assignment physically or verbally;
   (f) Take part in partisan politics or
   (g) Engage in any action detrimental to the image of the scheme.

13. CITATION

These Bye-Laws may be cited as the National Youth Service Corps Bye-Laws 1974 as revised in 1990.

SCHEDULE 2

PENALTIES

The following penalties shall be in the following circumstances:

(a)	For lateness in any official engagement on the field at lectures or place of work.	15 minutes drill by the Camp Commandant.

(b)	Leaving the Camp without the permission of the State Director	Extension of the Service year by double the number of days for which the member was absent from his Camp and forfeiture of his allowance for the same number of days which he was absent.
(c)	Absent from any activity without the State Director's permission.	20 minutes extra drill.
(d)	Gambling	Fine of not less than ₦20.00
(e)	Possession of arms and ammunition.	Member shall be handed over To the Police for prosecution.
(f)	Smoking or Chewing while on parade.	Extra drill for 15 minutes.
(g)	Taking double ration or aiding and abetting the taking of double ration.	Fine of not less than ₦5.00.
(h)	Drunkenness resulting in disorderly behaviour	Extra drill for 20 minutes.
(i)	Failure to wear the uniform provided for any particular activity.	20 minutes extra drill.

(j)	Receiving visitor in Camp on any unauthorised day or hour.	20 minutes extra drill.
(k)	Infringement of the fire preventive measures.	20 minutes extra drill for Each infringement.
(l)	Keeping animal pet in Camp.	Confiscation of the extension
(m)	Inciting other members to cause disaffection in the Camp.	of service by at least 14 days.
(n)	Rioting or taking part in a mob action.	Extension of service for a Period not less than 30 days.
(o)	Stealing in Camp.	Recovery of stolen item(s) and extension of service for at least 30 days.
(p)	Taking part in organising night parties in camp without the written permission of the State Director.	Note on minute - financial provision for extension not on the absenteeism.
(q)	Insubordinate or rudeness to Camp officials.	Extra drill for 30 minutes.

2. General Notes:

Drills (serving as penalties) for offenders should be administered during the camp leisure and should be in full view of other corps members. All fines should be deducted from the corps member's monthly allowance and paid promptly back to chest.

3. During the Period of Primary Assignment:

a.	For failure to accept assignment *without question.*	Withhold the certificate of Clearance *until he complies.*
b.	Lateness to report at duty station promptly.	Extension of service by double The period he is late to the station.
c.	Failure to report to duty punctually.	Query by Head of Department and report to State Director subsequently.
d.	Failure to carry out duties diligently.	Same as (iii) above.
e.	Saving his duty station or absenting himself from any official activity without the written consent of the State Director.	Extension of service to be determined by the State Director.
f.	Travelling outside the state without the written permission of the State Director.	Forfeiture of allowance for the number of days absent and Extension of service or double period of absence.
g.	Rudeness and insubordination.	Extension of service for a period not less than 14 days.

h.	Engaging in immoral practice especially with students.	Extension of service for a Period not less than 90 days.
i.	Disclosing official information.	Extension of service for a period not less than 30 days.
j.	Leaking of examination questions.	Extension of service for a period not less than 2 months ½ pay and redeployment.
k.	Engaging in private practice.	Extension of service for a period not less than 14 days.
l.	Riding a motorcycle without crash helmet.	Fine of not less than ₦20.00.

4. During the Period of Secondary Assignment:

(a)	Absent from place of assignment.	Forfeiture of the day's allowance plus extension for double the number of days absent.
	Lateness of more than 30 minutes to the place of assignment	Forfeiture of day's allowance plus extension for the same number of days late.

5.	**During the Period of Winding-Up and Passing-Out:**	
a.	Failure to participate in any of the activities.	Forfeiture of the ₦150.00 transport fare back home.
6.	**Miscellaneous Penalties:**	
a.	Failure to produce identity card on demand.	Fine of ₦2.00.
b.	Loss of Identity Card.	Fine of ₦10.00
c.	Wrongful channelling of communication.	No action should be taken on Such communication.
d.	Seeking redress outside established channel of communication.	Extension of service for a period to be determined by The Directorate.
e.	Forgery.	Extension of service for at least 30 days and/or handing over to the Police for investigation as possible.
f.	Forming any organisation or group without the written consent of the State Director.	Proscription of the group plus extension of service for a period of not less than 14 days.
g.	Fraud.	Recovery of the amount involved plus extension of service for at least 30 days and/or handing over to the Police for investigation as applicable.
h.	Engaging in physical fighting.	Extension of service for a period not less than 14 days.

i.	Assaulting NYSC Officials.	Extension of service for a period not less then 30 days ½ pay and redeployment.
j.	Taking part in partisan politics.	Extension of service for a period not less than 6 months.
k.	Loss of any kits.	Payment of the equivalent of the current price of the kit item.
l.	Wilful damage to public property.	Payment of cost of damaged property plus extension of service for a4 days.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

(a) Any member who infringes any of the foregoing provisions shall have the benefit of appearing either before the camp courts during the Orientation/Passing out periods for the State Disciplinary Committee at any other period(s) during the service year. The Courts/Disciplinary Committees shall be established in each camp or state to determine beaches and mete out appropriate penalties.

(b) Except where otherwise stated, extension of service is now double the period of absence from duty, with only half allowance for the period.

(c) Any corps member who travels outside the country without permission from the National Director shall face appropriate disciplinary measures to be determined by the National Director.

(d) Corps members should not travel out of the State during School/ College and public holidays without permission from the State Director.

N Y S C

HANDBOOK

REVISED IN 1991

Amorial Bearings

THE NATIONAL PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria, my country,
To be faithful, loyal and honest,
To serve Nigeria with all my strength,
To defend her unity and
Uphold her honour and glory
So, help me God.

In Nigeria's coat of arms, is an eagle mounted on a black shield which is trisected by two silver wavy bands. Two white chargers support the shield and at its base is a wreath of cactus spectabilis flower cast in the national colours of white and green.

The black shield represents the fertile soil. The silver band denote the Niger and Benue Rivers which form the main inland waterways, in the country. The cactus spectabilis is a wild colourful flower which grows

widely in Nigeria. The eagle stands for strength, and the chargers symbolize dignity.

The Nation's motto is Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress.

The flag is divided vertically into three equal parts. The central part is white and the two outer parts are green. The green of the flag represent agriculture and the white is for unity and peace.

Mr Taiwo Akinkunmi, at that time a 25 year old Nigerian engineering student at the Norwood Technical College, London, was the designer of the National Flag. At the open competition held by order of the Council of Ministers, a total of 2,870 designs were received in the National Flag Competition. Mr Akinkunmi's design won.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Arise, O compatriots,
Nigeria's call obey
To serve our fatherland
With love and strength and faith
The labour of our heroes past,
Shall never be in vain.
To serve with heart and might,
One Nation bound in freedom,
Peace and Unity.

O God of creation, direct our noble cause,
Guide our leaders right;
Help our youths the truth to know,
In love and honest to grow,
And living just and true;
Great lofty heights attain,
To build a nation where peace and justice
Shall reign.

Youths obey the Clarion call
Let us lift our nation high
Under the sun of in the rain
With dedication, and selflessness
Nigeria is ours Nigeria we serve.

Members, take the great salute
Put the Nation first in all
With service and humility
NYSC for the noble Youths
Make Nigeria a great nation.

Far and near we come to serve
And to build our Fatherland
With oneness and loyalty
NYSC for unity
Hail Nigeria our great nation.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

THE PLEDGE

In pursuance of our aspiration to build a united, peaceful, prosperous, hate-free, egalitarian society and a great nation and of our motto "Service and Humility".

I, ...
(Name of Member)

Member of the National Youth Service Corps 19..... hereby pledge to follow at all times the leadership of those in authority irrespective of their social and educational background and in particular I shall:-

(a) At all times and in all places think, act, regard myself and speak first as a Nigerian before anything else;

(b) Be proud of the fatherland, appreciate and cherish the culture, traditions, arts and languages of the nation;

(c) Be prepared to serve honestly, faithfully and, if need be, pay the supreme sacrifice for the fatherland;

(d) Be well informed about the history, geography, economy and the resources of Nigeria;

(e) Regard fellow Nigerians as my brothers and sisters and myself as 'Brother's keeper';

(f) Have a heavy attitude to work and play. I shall not only be ready to work in any part of the country to which I am deployed, but also genuinely identify myself with the problems and aspirations of the people of the areas in which I work;

(g) Tackle difficulties and challenges in a disciplined and self-reliant manner, constitutionally pursuing grievances and properly channelling such for redress;

(h) See myself always as a leader who must give effective leadership by my transparent honest and selfless service;

(i) Detest and shun bribery and all forms of corruption and nepotism;

(j) Be courteous and polite to all and sundry;

(k) Be obedient without being slavish, and

(l) Always remember the motto and strive continuously to live up to the ideals of the National Youth Service Corps during and after my service year.

So help me God.

.....

Corps Member

(a) Into and effective machinery for achieving self sufficiency in the priority areas of food production and provision of agro-based raw materials for industry, economic recovery and self-reliance;

(b) Providing on-the-job training and experience for corps members in the areas of Health, Engineering, Agriculture, Education and Social Services, among others;

(c) Providing a forum for corps members to experiment with ideas and translate them into concrete achievements towards national development;

(d) Developing the spirit of entrepreneurship in corps members thus de-emphasising dependence on public service employment and promoting self-employment ventures.

4. Because of the year round nature of the CDS programmes, a very important and new dimension was added to it in 1984, that is, the farming programme.

5. The NYSC Farming programme was undertaken to buttress national effort at achieving self-sufficiency in the production of food for the country's teeming population and agricultural raw materials for our industries. The involvement of our young graduates in farming during the national service is also intended to provide them with on-the-job training and experience which will give them more confidence to venture into vast areas of agriculture for self-employment.

NYSC Call Up of Corps Members……..

Date ……

Sworn to at the National Youth Service Corps Orientation Camp.

This……..…day of……..…..……19…….

BEFORE ME

……

CHIEF JUDGE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

1. As part of its programme review, the traditional Easter time Community Development Programme has been restructured to become the year round CDS. Community Development Services involve all the contributions corps members are expected to make to communities to which they are deployed. These services should be rendered outside the primary assignment hours.

2. The Traditional Community Development Programme of the NYSC, from its inception, featured projects in remedial and extra-mural classes for school children, adult education classes, legal aid clinic, agricultural projects, organizing drama clubs, games and sports competitions. Others include health campaigns, manpower and feasibility survey, socio-economic survey of local communities, charity appeal campaigns etc.

3. The objectives of the CDS programme include among others;

(a) Harnessing the knowledge and skills of corps members into and effective machinery for achieving self sufficiency in the priority areas

of food production and provision of agro-based raw materials for industry, economic recovery and self-reliance;

(b) Providing on-the-job training and experience for corps members in the areas of Health, Engineering, Agriculture, education and Social Services, among others;

(c) Providing a forum for corps members to experiment with ideas and translate them into concrete achievements towards national development;

(d) Developing the spirit of enterpreneurship in corps member thus de-emphasising dependence on public service employment and promoting self-employment ventures.

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6. Encouraged by the success of the infrastructural construction, agriculture and technological experiments, the management of the NYSC scheme is forging ahead with diversifying into some commercial ventures such as Tailoring, Printing and Publication, Food Production and processing, cottage industries, using local raw materials and corps resources.

BACKGROUND TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS SCHEME

1. Nigeria is a country whose colonial history and experience in the immediate post-independence era were characterised by ethnic loyalties, mutual group suspicion and distrust, that culminated in the traumatic events of a bloody civil war.

2. As a developing country, Nigeria is further plagued by the problems attendant upon a condition of under-development, namely: poverty, mass illiteracy, acute shortage of high-skilled manpower (coupled with a most uneven distribution of the skilled people that are available), a woefully inadequate socio-economic inrastructural facilities, i.e. housing, water and sewage facilities, road, health care services, and effective communication system.

3. Faced with these almost intractable problems, which were further compounded by the burden of reconstruction after the civil war, the government and people of Nigeria set for the country fresh goals and objectives aimed at establishing Nigeria as:
   (a) A united, strong and self-reliant nation;

(b) A great and dynamic economy;

(c) A land of bright and full opportunities for all citizen; and

(d) A free and democratic society.

4. The Government and people of Nigeria are not unaware that sound and patriotic leadership is a pre-condition for the rapid social and economic development of the country. As a nation, Nigeria has been less fortunate in the kind of leadership that emerge to govern the affairs of the country in the period immediately after independence, a leadership whose achievements notwithstanding was nonetheless ill-prepared, and generally not properly motivated to tackle the problems of socio-economic under development in the interest of the country as a whole.

5. There is no gainsaying the fact that the future of any country depends on the youths. The youths of Nigeria acknowledge this fact, and have consistently laid claim to the nation's leadership.

6. While one may give credence to the saying that leaders, are born, not made, one must also concede to the fact that leadership in a modern society requires a certain degree of preparation and orientation before the assumption of that role.

7. The Universities and other institutions of higher learning are normally expected to be the training ground for future leaders, except that, as we are all aware, these institutions are first and foremost committed to the advancement of learning and knowledge, training of people for good

citizenship. Little wonder that the product of these institutions have been accused of being too elitist in their outlook, of not identifying with the plight of the common man, and of inability to appreciate the predicament of the vast majority of our people who live in rural areas.

8. It was the need to look beyond the immediate present and to think of the future leadership of the country that necessitated the mobilization of certain categories of our youths through the National Youth Service Corps Scheme. This was done with a view to giving them the proper guidance and orientation relevant to the needs of the country. The National Youth Service Corps Decree No. 24 was formally promulgated on 22nd May, 1973.

9. The purpose of the scheme is primarily to inculcate in Nigerian Youths the spirit of selfless service to the community, and to emphasise the spirit of oneness and brotherhood of all Nigerians irrespective of cultural or social background. The history of our country since in dependence has clearly indicated the need for unity amongst all our people, and demonstrated the fact that no cultural or geographical entity can exist in isolation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

10. The objectives of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme are clearly spelt out in Decree No. 24 of 22nd May 1973 as follows:

(a) To inculcate discipline in our Youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work, and of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation they may find themselves.

(b) To raise the moral tone of our Youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement and social and cultural improvement.

(c) To develop in our Youths attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest.

(d) To develop common ties among our Youths and promote national unity by ensuring that:

(i) As far as possible, youths are assigned to jobs in state other than their states of origin and away from their geographical, ethnic and cultural background.

(ii) Each group, assigned to work together, is a representative of the country as possible.

(iii) The youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejudice, eliminating ignorance and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups.

(e) To encourage members of the Corps to seek, at the end of their Corps service, career employment all over the country, thus promoting the free movement of labour;

(f) To induce employers, partly through their experience with corps members, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of states of origin; and

(g) To enable our youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.

OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

11. The Decree sets up a Directorate comprising a Chairman, a Director, representatives of institutions of Higher Learning, the Armed Forces, the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports, the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association, and three Special Members.

12. The Directorate is the governing and policy-making body of the National Youth Service Corps. The National Director is the Chief Executive of the Scheme while the Director is the Chief Executive in the state.

13. The Decree also provides for the establishment of a State Committee in each State of the Federation. The State Committee has a statutory responsibility to assist the Directorate in the smooth operation of the Scheme on the State.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

14. Participation in the National Youth Service Corps scheme is compulsory for the following categories of Nigerian graduates:

(a) Subject to the provisions of this Decree every Nigerian shall:-

(i) If, at the end of the academic year 1972 – 73 or, as the case may be, at the end of subsequent academic year, he shall have graduated at any University in Nigeria; or

(ii) If, at the end of the academic year 1974 – 75 or as the case may be, at the end of any subsequent academic year, he shall have graduated at any University outside Nigeria; or

(iii) If, at the end of the academic year 1979 – 76 or as the case may be, at the end of any subsequent academic year, he shall have obtained the Higher National Diploma or the National Certificate of Education or such other professional qualification as may be prescribed.

(iv) If, at the end of the academic year 1975 – 76 or as the case may be at the end of any subsequent academic year up to the end of the 1983 – 84 academic year, he shall have obtained the National Certificate of Education, be under an obligation unless exempted under Section 15 of the NYSC Act, to make himself available for service for a continuous period of one year from the date specified in the call-up instrument served upon him.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section (1) of this Section, with effect from 1st August 1985, a person shall not be called upon to serve in the Service Corps if, at the date of his graduation, or obtaining his Diploma or other qualifications recognised for service by the Directorate:

(i) He is over the age of 30 years;

(ii) He has served in the Armed Forces for a period of more than 9 months or

(iv) He has been conferred with any "National Honours" the police, serving (9 months at least) or retired, personnel of the Nigeria Security Organisation;

(v) Pensioners;

(vi) Persons conferred with any National Honours;

(vii) Person certified insane by a Government psychiatrist;

(viii) Persons permanently incapacitated but excluding the blind, the crippled, deaf and dumb whose incapacitation Does not deter them from academic pursuits.

(c) A person liable to be called upon to serve in the Service Corps shall serve for a continuous period of one year as from the date

specified in the call-up instrument served upon him or, as the case may be, if a general or specified notice to that effect is given in the prescribed manner; and when so called upon, such person shall make himself available for service and shall present himself at such place and time and to such person or authority as may be specified in the instrument or notice.

15. As from 1st July, 1977 and to 31st July, 1985 only, it became mandatory for all Nigerian graduates from institutions of Higher Learning both at home and abroad to participate in The National Youth Service Corps Scheme irrespective of the age at graduation. Exemption of age grounds was first abolished/withdrawn in July 1977 and reinstated in July, 1985.

DEFERMENT

Medical doctors, lawyers and pharmacists are allowed to do their one year professional apprenticeship before enlistment in the scheme. However, if a law graduate decides to serve before going to the Law School, he is permitted to do so. The age as at the date of graduation for lawyers and medical students, is the date taken into account for mobilization in the NYSC Scheme (i.e. when the student graduated LLB, M.B.B.S. or B.Pharm). H.N.D. holders and all other graduates as may be prescribed by Law, are not allowed to defer their participation in the NYSC Scheme in order to purse

professional courses, other first degree courses or postgraduate studies until they have completed service and discharge from National Service.

DEPLOYMENT POLICY

The ultimate objective of the NYSC Scheme is to achieve national unity through mobilization of the Youths of this country for service in the NYSC Scheme. Corps members are to be exposed to life in order parts of the country and to learn at first hand the many similarities and diversities of culture and traditions of the various ethnic groups in the country with a view to eliminating any inherent prejudices etc. Corps members therefore have no choice as to where they would like to serve. However, married female corps members who have at least one child, may be granted preferential posting.

(A) OMISSIONS AND WRONG POSTINGS CORRECTION OF:-

Occasionally, after the posting exercise there are cases of omission or of erroneous posting – that is, cases of bonafide concessional postings not effected. Three ways exist of correcting these errors:

(i) Before the orientation programme, corrections are made through the schedule officers in the institutions.

(ii) During the orientation programme further corrections are made by the Directorate Headquarters through the Directors of the state of deployment. At both levels, only cases that meet laid down criteria are considered.

(iii) After the orientation, corrections can still be made by the Directorate Headquarters through the State Secretariats.

(iv) At all levels, early cases that meet laid down criteria are considered.

(B) EXCEPTIONS OF THE ABOVE
(CONCESSIONAL POSTING)

Except to the posting policy above are however granted for health, marital and extreme compassionate reasons. The privilege of preferential posting cannot be abused as there exist tight procedures for screening those entitled. Concessional posting is arranged through the schedule officers in the institutions.

Please note that since age limit has been restored, in service concession is automatically cancelled. Employers should now regard any period of National Service as an extension of service award to their officers.

(C) MEDICAL REPORTS

For purposes of concessional posting of prospective corps members with medical problems, medical reports from the Institute of Medical Centre or University Teaching Hospitals, General Hospitals, Military or Mission Hospitals and signed by the Chief Medical/Health Officer, Consultant, shall be accepted. Medical reports from Private Clinics or Hospitals are not acceptable for purposes of NYSC mobilization.

(D) ADMINISTRATION OF CALL-UP LETTERS

In accordance with the Act which established the NYSC Scheme, only successful candidates in the various certificate/diploma or degree examinations are liable to be call-up for service in the NYSC Scheme. Only such candidates are therefore qualified to collect their call-up letters from the Students Affairs of their respective Institutions. Those candidates with reference of having some unit courses or credit hours to complete their certificate examinations or outright failure should not collect their call-up letters until they have successfully completed and passed the course. Academic Registrars of all Institutions of Higher Learning have been asked to enforce the provision of this Act.

(E) CALL-UP FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

17. All prospective Corps members are issued call-up letters before leaving the campus at the final term. The letter informs them of their state of deployment, the orientation, and the date they should register for National Service at the venue of Orientation of NYSC State Secretariats.

CORPS YEAR PROGRAMME

A typical corps year programme is divided into four phases: Orientation Programme, Primary Assignment, Community Development Service (CDS) and Wining-Up programme Passing-and Out Parade.

(A) ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

It is now compulsory for every participant to be inducted through orientation training before service. Nobody joins the service anymore prior to orientation.

In order to take care of all categories of participants, there are now two orientation programmes in a year scheduled in:

1. August/September (General orientation for four weeks)
2. March/April (two weeks intensive training).

During the first four weeks of the general orientation for the service year, Corps members undergo an orientation course comprising drills, physical exercises, lectures and leadership training activities of the Man O' War Bay type. During the period, Corps members live a fairly regimental life in camps usually outside state capitals.

Lecture and discussions are held on a wide variety of national and local issues including ideology, history, culture, customs, economics and government. Guest speakers are drawn from all walks of life. Local Language are also taught.

(B) IMPORTANCE OF THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The orientation programme provides the first venue for effecting the desired change of attitude as participants receive training in preparation for their next assignment of selfless and patriotic service to their fatherland. The

purpose of the course is also to introduce corps members to and familiarize then with the ideals of the youth corps scheme.

(C) IDENTITY CARDS

19. Every Corps members shall be issued an Identity Card which must be handy at all times, especially on demand by an accredited official. Any lost of identity card shall be replaced on payment of ₦10.00.

(D) KITTINGS

1. Corps members are issued the following items of kittings:-

1 Khaki Shirt and trousers	2 P.E. shorts.
2 plain vests	1 vest with emblem.
1 Youth Corps cap	1 pair of white canvas shoes.
1 Youth Corps belt	2 pairs of stockings.
1 pair of jungle boots	

2. They will, however, bring their own plates, cutlery, pillow cases, bed-sheets, blankets, water-bottle and torchlight.

3. No lost or stolen kits shall be replaced except on payment of actual cost of same through the State Director to the Directorate Headquarters.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME AND MOBILIZATION

As soon as any of the schedule Two-Tier Orientation begins, mobilization will stop accordingly after the orientation.

(F) POSTING TO PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT

The National Youth Service Corps takes care to avoid postings that result in wasting resources. Corps members are therefore, as much as possible posted to areas relevant to their discipline, although sometimes national need may override this consideration.

(G) REPOSTING

Wrong posting or under-utilisation of corps members, when established, is corrected through reposting by the State NYSC Secretariat.

(H) PROCEDURE FOR REDEPLOYMENT

A corps member seeking redeployment away from his state of service shall address an application to the National Director through the Director of the state of service attaching necessary documentary evidence to support the request. The State Director will forward the application to the National Director with his comments. He is not to suppress the application whether recommended or not. A corps member who has applied for redeployment and except under very unusual circumstance, shall continue to serve at his duty station until the necessary approval for redeployment is received from

the Directorate Headquarters. Permission shall not be granted to corps members to travel to the Headquarters office in order to pursue matters connected with their request for redeployment.

(I) COMPLETION OF FORMAT

Either at the Orientation Camp or on arrival at the NYSC State secretariat, corps members shall be asked to complete formats for the purpose of preparing the certificate of National Service. These formats should be completed very legibly and the writing should be in capitals in the handwriting of the corps member himself. Any carelessness on the part of the corps member in completing the formats which may result in preparing the certificate with wrong spellings, etc, shall be at the corps member's risk. Please exercise patience and write legible. Corps members who may have completed certificate formats in orientation camp and who may be redeployed to another state legitimately MUST not complete another certificate format at then next state of service.

(J) DISCIPLINE

(i) Each corps member is guided by a Code of Conduct and Bye-Laws of the NYSC, a copy of which will be issued to him on enrolment.

(ii) Penalty clauses are provided for contravention of the Code of Conduct.

(iii) Confidential Reports are rendered quarterly on each corps member by his Head of Department.

(iv) Every corps member shall be entitled to a fair hearing and trial in case of any disciplinary offence.

(K) RESUMPTION

The following are some financial entitlements:

(i) ₦350.00 monthly allowance for all Corps Members;

(ii) ₦150.00 transport allowance to state of deployment and another back ₦150.00 home at the end of service year.

(iii) ₦168.00 Local Transport Allowance.

(L) RESUMPTION

When a corps member is made to work outside the official working hours of his place of primary assignment, he is entitled to the same treatment given to the regular officers of the establishment, except that a corps member may choose to forgo such entitlement in the interest of the service.

(M) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

As part of its programme review, the traditional Easter time Community Programme has been restructured to become the Year-Round CDS. Under the programme, Corps member are encourage to undertake, on a year round basis, project that are of felt-need and of developmental importance to the communities.

(i) In identifying with current National objectives, the NYSC CDS has

ventured decisively into agriculture. Thus several corps members who specialise in NYSC farms for their Agriculture and Allied disciplines are posted to primary assignments, while others deployed within the locality are organised to work in rotational schedules on the farms.

(ii) Furthermore, the generality of corps members are expected to undertake on a year round basis in addition to their primary assignments, at least one community development project in their neighbourhood, individually or in groups, after due consultation with the community people. Some suggested projects under the year round community development programme are as follows:

(a) Conducting extra-mural classes for drop-outs from secondary schools.

(b) Conducting literacy classes for adults under the auspices of the Adult Education Division of State Ministry of Education;

(c) Organizing local people to take more interest in indigenous drama, music, dances, etc.

(d) Youths Corps Agriculture would organise Farmers' Club, and train local youths in modern methods of farming and

(e) Public Health Education.

(N) WINDING-UP PROGRAMME AND PASSING-OUT PARADE

during the last week of the service year, corps members are organised into groups to evaluate and appraise the service year.

Their suggestions, recommendations and proposals are studied, analysed and subsequently used as basis for further improvement of the Scheme.

The Service year is rounded off with a passing-out parade, usually in the state capital, during which certificates of National Service are issued to Corps members, and special honours conferred on those Corps members whose performances during the year was judged outstanding, both at the state and National levels.

(O) SAFETY MEASURES

Every Corps member is enjoined to observe the following rules in his own interest:

(i) You should not ride a motor-cycle without wearing a crash-helmet.

(ii) You must ensure that you are in possession of valid drivers' licence, and insurance cover before driving a car, and that the car is in a good mechanical running order.

(iii) You must observe simple rules of hygiene at all times, especially with regard to food and the disposal of wastes. Specifically, you should endeavour to:

(a) Cook all vegetable and fruits that cannot be peeled.

(b) Keep all food covered to protect it from flies and dust;

(c) Bury or incinerate food remnants and cans. Cans must be flattened before burial.

(d) Always cover and disinfect pit latrines, and ensure that whilst on expedition, the source of drinking water is not near where excreta is buried.

(iv) You should boil all drinking water, particularly if it is from a well, or if the source is doubtful.

(v) You should stay away from disreputable men and women, particularly call-girls.

(P) WELFARE

(a) **Medical:-** Every Corps member is entitled to free medical care on the same basis as the public servant in all State of the Federation.

(b) **Insurance:-** The Public Officers Protection Act applies to every member of the Service Corps.

(c) **Accommodation:-** It is mandatory on employers to provide Corps members with accommodation if they except them to put in their best in the course of their National Service.

(Q) POLICY ON TRANSPORT

In addition to the ₦168.00 local transport allowance paid to every Corps member an employer shall be obliged to provide transport or adequate allowance to Corps member(s) serving in his employment in order to facilitate efficient and effective discharge of his duties at the place of primary

assignment. Various policy measures have been adopted by some of the State Governments in this respect. Each State Government and or Employer is encouraged by the Directorate to lend maximum support to the success and smooth operation of the Scheme in the state.

(R) MATERNITY LEAVE

(i) Married pregnant corps members who hitherto had been receiving any allowance during the period of maternity leave, shall be paid full monthly allowance during the period and shall no longer serve any period of extension.

(ii) Unmarried pregnant corps members shall be paid half allowance during the period of maternity leave and shall no longer serve any period of extension.

(iii) The three weeks terminal leave granted to corps members at the end of the service year shall now be regarded as part of the maternity leave and shall therefore not be granted to these two categories of corps members listed in paragraph 2 (i) and (ii) above at the end of the service year.

(S) OTHER NYSC LEAVES

(i) Every corps member is entitled to a one week convocation leave and a twenty one days terminal leave. Any other leave apart from these can only be granted at the discretion of the State Director or of the National Director as the case may be.

(ii) Corps members who have enjoyed maternity leave during the service year shall forfeit the 21 day terminal leave.

(iii) Those that enjoy pilgrim leave shall get the days ploughed back during the service year.

(T) SPORTING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Any NYSC member proficient in any field of Sports, Arts or Culture, is given permission to participate in that event, and to represent that State in which he is deployed, or any club or organisation based in that state. The period of time a Corps member spends in representing a State or club at such sporting or cultural events, is counted towards the period of his National Service.

(U) NYSC SCHEME AND PARTISAN POLITICS

Corps member like civil servants are not to take part in partisan politics. They are free, like other citizens to exercise their voting right nut they cannot be put up as candidates during elections to be voted for. They cannot also mount soap boxes to campaign for any political party. They are however free to engage in active politics as soon as they have been discharged from service in the NYSC Scheme.

(V) SOME DON'TS

(1) Corps members should not undertake unauthorised journeys.

(2) A break in service may result in repetition of the whole service year.

(3) Overseas travels during the service year cannot be undertaken except with the approval of the National Director.

(W) PENALTIES

Offences are met with commensurate penalties. These range from bad Reports to extension or repetition of service. On a number of occasions corps members have been prosecuted.

MOBILISATION OF FOREIGN TRAINED NIGERIAN GRADUATES INTO OR EXEMPTION AND CLEARANCE FROM NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS SCHEME

(A) MOBILISATION

Nigerian foreign trained graduates will have to report at the Directorate Headquarters before they shall be mobilised for service in the National Youth Service Corps Scheme. They should note that like the home trained graduates, they have no choice of where to serve.

A prospective corps member will be mobilised for NYSC irrespective of his age at graduation as from 1st July, 1977 and before the end of 1984/85 academic year and any subsequent year. This is so because all categories of prospective corps members irrespective of their ages were mobilised after graduation for national service.

(1) REQUIREMENTS

Original and photocopies of all academic credentials including:

(a) WASC Result/GCE 'O' Level or H.S.C or GCE 'A' Level or Pre-University degree certificate.

(b) Ph.D M.A./M.Sc., B.A. B.Sc. HND etc.

(c) Marksheet (India)

(d) Official transcripts (USA, UK others)

(e) Medical Doctors shall produce in addition original and photocopies of Housemanship clearance, Registration certificate from the Nigerian Medical Council.

(f) Pharmacists shall produce in addition original and photocopies of Internship and Registration by Pharmacy Board of Nigeria.

(g) Original Nigerian travelling passport and photocopies of pages 1 – 3 including date of arrival. Prospective corps members who were issued with new travelling passport are expected to present the expired for verification.

(h) Three passport size photographs

(i) School I. D. Car.

(j) Completion of NYSC Form.

N.B: The original credentials and travelling passport will be returned to the owner after verification.

CALL-UP LETTER

In accordance with the decree which established the scheme, only the eligible candidates (Nigeria foreign trained graduate) will collect a call-up letter for service in the NYSC scheme from the Directorate Headquarters.

(B) EXEMPTION FROM THE SERVICE ON AGE ABOVE 30 YEARS

Exemption of age ground could be granted if one is above 30 years of age on the date of first graduation before 1st July, 1977 from the end of the 1984/85 academic year and any subsequent year.

1. Requirements same as A 1.
2. Completion of Exemption Form.

(C) CLEARANCE

Clearance could be obtained if a prospective Corps member's qualification is lower than B.A. B.Sc., HND subject to evaluation.

2. Clearance could also be obtained if he graduated before the end of the 1974/75 academic years.
3. Requirements same as A 1.
4. Completion of clearance form.

(X) LOSS OF CALL-UP LETTER

In the event of loss of call-up letter, a sworn affidavit, letter of accreditation, police report and statement of result or degree certificate should be tendered before a prospective corps members is cleared for registration.

(Y) LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The certificate of National Service is not replaceable therefore this document should be properly taken care of. If for any reason a certificate of National Service is lost a letter certifying that affected corps member has

completed national service, will be issued to him to enable him get into employment.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

"Graduates qualified for exemption are issued with certificate of exemption by the Directorate. However, it should be noted that such certificates are not replaceable.

It is therefore very advisable that proper care be taken to ensure proper safety and security of the document. If for any reason a certificate of exemption is lost, a letter from the Student Affairs Office of his/her Institution confirming award of degree HND/Diploma shall be demanded plus a sworn affidavit and a police report.

Students applying for exemption either on grounds of age or on grounds of Military/Police Service should ensure that their names and complete dates of birth are submitted as contained in their admission forms to the Director by the Students Affairs Officer. Cancellation of certificates issued as a result of wrong information will from henceforth attract payment of a fine to be determined by the Directorate"

LOSS OF TRAVELLING PASSPORT

Prospective corps member who has lost his/her Travelling Passport should bring the following:

(1) Police and immigration reports from the country where the passport got lost.

(2) Affidavit.

N.B. The above documents should contain the same information as contained in the travelling passport.

LOSS OF ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

(1) Police report.

(2) Affidavit.

(3) Confirmation letter from the institution where the academic credentials were obtained.

PASSAGE ALLOWANCE TO OVERSEAS TRAINED NIGERIAN GRADUATES

With effect from January 1985, payment of passage allowance of overseas trained corps members had been discontinued. The Directorate of the NYSC however continues to give letters of accreditation to overseas trained corps members to enable them get some rebate on the duty payable to Customs on their cars. This concession does not extend to discharge corps members, except those who might have given particulars of their cars during the service year.

WE WISH YOU HAPPY SERVICE YEAR

DIRECTORATE HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS

NYSC Directorate Headquarters,
J.S. Tarka Street,
Off Festac Road,
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Garki, P.M.B. 138
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GUIDELINES ON CORPS WELFARE PROVISIONS
CORPS WELFARE NEEDS

PREAMBLE

Since the inception of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme, the question of corps welfare needs has been uppermost in the mind of the operators of the scheme. From experience, it has become clear that the corps members are resourceful, enterprising and productive and given the right motivation and environment, they can make enormous contributions to National Development.

More recently, we have focused our attention on amore effective monitoring of programmes implementation. It is therefore out thinking that the skills, energies and potentials of corps members could be optimally utilised if most of their welfare needs are met. The concept of welfare is as old as man, and it is predicted on the nation state which is said to exist for the sake of good life and continues for the same purpose. A state is said to be welfarist when it prescribes minimum standard and provides equal opportunities, in education, health, housing, pensions, rehabilitation, etc, to reinforce individual and other charitable and philanthropic efforts in these social enterprises. In its modern concept, welfarism embraces that we might describe as a comprehensive charter of personal security to immense any community from oppression and socio-economic discomforts and inconveniences, like hunger, want, ignorance and fear.

It is against the above background that the management of the scheme has taken a hard look at the issues relating to the welfare needs of corps

members. Hitherto, the welfare needs of corps members, had been given **and hoc** treatment and therefore lacked the desired standardisation. In order to meet corps welfare needs adequately, all concerned should cooperate and meet their obligation as outlined in this booklet and the Enabling Decree.

The obligations are grouped under the following headings:

(a) NYSC Directorate

(b) State Government

(c) NYSC State Secretariat

(d) Employers of Corps Members.

SECTION A

DIRECTORATE

It is the overall responsibility of the NYSC Directorate to monitor the level of implementation of the welfare provisions for corps members throughout the Federation. It also has functions in the following areas:

(a) The Directorate should ensure that funds for the payment of monthly, transport and leave allowances of corps members are made available as at when due.

(b) Should a sick corps member be referred abroad for treatment by a Government specialist hospital, the Directorate takes responsibility, provided that such aliments are incident on the service. The enjoyment of this privilege will however, be subject to the approval of the Directorate Headquarters in all cases.

(c) A corps member who, during the service year sustains a serious accident leading to incapacitation will be taken care of by the Directorate, in line with prevailing Government regulations.

(d) Commendation of outstanding performance through President's Honours Award should continue to be encouraged and enhanced. The practice of automatic employment to outstanding corps members by the Federal Government should be intensified.

(e) Finally, the Directorate should co-ordinate the work of the State Committees in furtherance of the objectives of the Decree, in the areas of corps welfare.

SECTION B

STATE WELFARE

1. The functions of the state Government, acting through the state committee in the areas of corps welfare, are clearly spelt out in the Decree No. 24, 1973, section 6 paragraph 2(a), (c), (d) as follows:

   (a) Arranging accommodation, boarding, transportation, and providing other facilities which are essential for the welfare of members of the corps and for the success of the scheme in the state.

   (b) Arranging the provision of facilities for induction courses and winding-up exercises;

(c) Compiling information on such opportunities as there may be for employment in a State.

2. OTHERS:

a. In addition to these functions, the state Governments in the Reverie areas are requested to provide each corps member with life jacket, recoverable at the end of the service year.

b. Corps members are to avail themselves of free medical treatment in Government and Military Hospitals, where available. The co-operation of State Governments is required in this matter.

c. Medical bills should be refunded in full by the State Government, i.e. from state subvention. This refers to bills incurred from the purchase of drugs and treatment prescribed in Government hospitals, but are not available.

d. The State Governments are encouraged to give automatic employment to corps members who have distinguished themselves.

e. Contract Appointment: Offering appointment to non-indigenes on contract basis runs counter to the objectives of the NYSC which seeks to promote the free movement of labour. State Governments are therefore enjoined to employ corps members more radily on permanent appointment as it is being enjoyed by indigenes.

SECTION C

THE NYSC STATE SECRETARIATS

1. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

(a) Sign Post:

(i) There should be posters at strategies locations welcoming corps members to the state. Boldly-written directional sign posts must be erected at strategic places like the airport, motor parks, railway stations and road junctions, directing arriving corps members to the orientation camps. These sign posts should indicate the distance in kilometres from the sport to the orientation camp.

(ii) State Secretariats should liaise with the Local Transport Unions in order to ensure that their members do not exploit corps members arriving from different parts of the country.

(b) Registration:

(i) There should be adequate and clear guidelines for corps members at Registration centres.

(ii) There should also be sign posts in the camp, directing corps members and visitors to all parts of the camp, e.g. Registration centre, Hostel, Kitchen, Stores, Clinic, etc.

(iii) Adequate arrangements should be made for accommodation of corps members, and meal tickets should issued at the point of registration.

(iv) State secretariats are to ensure that competent officers with good public relations are put in charge of registration.

(v) All camp facilities (Clinic, Kitchen, etc) should be set up and made to function from the beginning of the orientation.

(c) Posting of Corps Members:

(i) State secretariats should ensure that corps members are impartially posted to their places of primary assignment in accordance with their fields of study and within the existing guidelines. The posting to primary assignment should be released on the last day of the orientation programme.

(ii) Chief Inspectors should ensure that corps members are not stranded at the end of the orientation programme. Consequently, Chief Inspectors should not leave the camp until all corps members have left the camp.

(d) Sick Corps Members:

It is the responsibility of the State Secretariat of NYSC to pay regular visits and monitor the progress of hospitalized corps members in their areas of operation, regardless of state of deployment of the corps member, Chief Inspectors of state of deployment should give their counterparts the details of the corps member's hospitalization. Corps member's employer should inform the state secretariat about the hospitalization of corps members.

(e) Deceased Corps Member:

In the case of the death of a corps member, it is mandatory that Chief Inspectors adhere strictly to guidelines on deceased corps members. Copy attached as Annex 1.

2. OTHERS

(a) Copies of NYSC Bye-Laws, Handbook, Service News and other materials containing valuable information should be made available to employers of corps members.

(b) Adequate publicity should be given to outstanding contribution of individual/group of corps members especially in the area of Community Development Service.

(c) Educating corps members on job prospects and self-employment through Job Placement Division.

(d) State secretariats should ensure that annual meeting with employers of corps members is held.

(e) Chief Instructors should ensure that periodic inspection of corps member is carried out in accordance with the inspection guidelines of the Inspectorate Department at the Headquarters.

(f) Chief Inspector should encourage the formation of corps welfare associations.

SECTION D

EMPLOYERS

1. PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT

(a) It is the responsibility of the employers to transport their corps members from the orientation camp to their places of primary assignment. This should be made clear to the employers in good time.

(b) Accommodation:

Employers of corps members should provide each corps member with a minimum of one room accommodation with the following:

(i) A bed and mattress ;

(ii) Table and Chair;

(iii) A cushion chair;

(iv) Basic necessary conveniences.

In lieu of accommodation, minimum rent subsidy should be paid as zoned below:

Zone A: Lagos and Abuja – not less than ₦40.00 per month.

Zone B: Other States – not less than ₦40.00 per month.

However, in consideration of the fact that corps members are non-indigenes and would have language barrier, employers should in addition to rent subsidy, assist corps members to get accommodation.

(v) It is pertinent to point out that these are minimum requirements and nothing prevents any employer from giving higher benefits.

(c) Transportation

Corps members should be paid transport allowance, in lieu of transportation to and from the office as follows:

(i)	Lagos and Abuja	–	₦40 per month.
(ii)	Other States	–	₦30 per month.
(ix)	Reverie Areas	–	₦50 per month.

(d) Medical Care:

Employers should allow their corps members use medical facilities available to their staff.

(e) Post Service Employment:

Employers of corps members are urged to employ some corps members who serve in their establishments. Experience has shown that many employers have not been complying with the requirements of the relevant section of the decree on this matter. It is therefore pertinent to draw the attention of employers to section i paragraph 3(e & f) of Decree No. 24, 1973 as follows:

3(e) To encourage members of the service corps to seek, at the end of their corps service, career employment all over the country thus promoting the free movement of labour;

3(f) To include employers, partly through their experience with members of the service corps, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their state of origin;

The Directorate has set up a monitoring team to assess the level of compliance with this section of the Decree and this would lead to a review of posting of corps members to establishments.

The practice by some employers, who enjoy the services of corps members without any effort to retain some percentages of them after service over the years, run counter to the spirit and objectives of the Enabling Decree. Our monitoring of the level of compliance and subsequent review off posting of corps members to establishments may lead to the unpleasant black-listing or defaulting establishments.

SECTION E

GENERAL

1. Religious Welfare

Recognition will be accorded Orthodox Christian and Islamic Organisations and specific times allocated on the orientation time table for religious worship. No religious fanaticism or fundamentalist Moslems or Christians will be allowed any foothold in the camp.

2. Additional Service Awards

In addition to existing awards by Federal and State Government for outstanding performance by corps members, there will be the following awards:

(a) Minister's Awards for Agriculture – The best corps members in agriculture in each state will receive an award from the Federal Minister of Social Development, Youth, and Sports.

(b) Minister's/Chairman's Award for the best NYSC Secretariat Three is an award to be presented either by the Minister or the NYSC Chairman (where there is one) to the best NYSC Secretariat in each

service year. Apart from the performance of the NYSC officials in each state, the contributions of corps members to the overall development of the state will form part of the criteria used in assessing the performance of each Secretariat.

(c) National Director's Award for the best Sporting sports: The Director of the NYSC will make yearly presentations to the best sporting in Football, Volleyball and other sports.

NYSC Directorate Headquarters, August 1987.

ANNEX 1

1. GUIDELINES ON DECEASED CORPS MEMBERS:

1.1 This is strictly a delicate issue and must be tactfully handled with dispatch and care.

1.2 It is compulsory for State Directors to personally take charge of the burial arrangement of any deceased Corps Member in his/her area of jurisdiction irrespective of where the corps member is deployed.

1.3 The following procedure should be followed:-

(i) State Director to start burial arrangement immediately by getting the corps member embalmed and kept in a good mortuary to prevent decomposition.

(ii) Notify the National Director immediately.

(iii) In the event of corps member dying outside state of service, host State Director should inform the State Director of State of deployment.

(iv) Inform the State Director where the parents or next-of-kin resides to enable them fix date and place of burial.

(v) Date and place of burial must be communicated to the National Director.

(vi) State Director must prepare oration on behalf of the National Director and Governor of State of Deployment.

(vii) Corps members in the State of burial must be made to participate actively in the burial.

(viii) When conveying deceased corps member for burial, the coffin must be draped with the National Flag while the funeral procession should be proceed by the NYSC Flag.

(ix) Name of next-of-kin written on green card must be cleared with relations or parents during burial in order to enable the right person collect the gratuity of such corps member.

(x) Completion of the proforma on deceased corps member must be accompanied by the name and address of next-of-kin, original of death certificate and a copy of the oration. These should be forwarded to the National Director with dispatch immediately after the burial ceremony (Marked for the personal attention of Head of HCWS. Photocopies of these documents must be kept in the State file of the deceased corps member.

The new procedure for payment of death gratuity to corps members will be as follows:

(a) Immediately a corps member dies or is reported dead, the burial procedure of informing the Directorate Headquarters should be followed, forwarding the death certificate and explaining the circumstances in which the corps member had died, burial arrangements, etc, indicating address of next-of-kin of the deceased corps member as elicited from his green card. Once Directorate Headquarters is satisfied that all necessary conditions have been met as outlined above, the State Director of the State of origin of the next-of-kin of the deceased corps member will be instructed to pay the ex-gratia award through the Administrator-General of that State from his cash holding after which a reimbursement can be sought from Headquarters.

(b) All State Director should note that henceforth, all ex-gratia payments should be made to the Administrator-General were the next-of-kin will file their claims. There should be no variation of this procedure to ensure uniformity please. All applications for reimbursement of the amount paid should include:

  (i) The receipted payment voucher by the Administrator-General and a Treasury receipt for the ₦3,000.

  (ii) A copy of the death certificate or Coroner's report from the Police or sworn affidavit of death.

(iii) Any other relevant papers.

It is expected that the whole transaction should be completed within four weeks after the burial of the deceased corps member. State Directors are to find the most effective and efficient method of ensuring this.

APPENDIX II

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

INTRODUCTION TO RESPONDENTS

This study is being conducted for a postgraduate programme. The objective of the questionnaire is to be able to analyse and evaluate the NYSC programme in the area of national integration and development. Hence, this questionnaire is strictly a research exercise.

Your cooperation is required in order to make the study meaningful. Please feel free to answer the questions as honestly and as best as you can. Your answers will be treated as confidential and note that you are not required to write your name.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Instruction

Please mark the appropriate box with an "X" i.e [x]

In some cases, the questions require you to express your opinions. Please do so briefly in the space provided.

Questionnaire: Section A – Personal Date

A.1 What is your sex? Male ☐ Female ☐

A.2 How old are you ? ..... years

A.3 What is your marital status

1. Single ☐
2. Separated ☐
3. Married ☐
4. Divorced ☐
5. Widowed ☐

A.4 How many children do you have ? .....

A.5 State of Origin .....

A.6 State of Deployment .....

A.7 To which religious group do you belong

1. Christian ☐
2. Islam ☐
3. Traditional ☐
4. Other (Specify) ☐

A.8 Higher Institutions of Learning Attended:

	Name of Institution Univ., Poly., etc	Country	Years Attended 19..... to 19.....	Qualification
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

A.9 Major area of academic specialization.

1. Arts
2. Sciences
3. Social Sciences
4. Education
5. Medicine
6. Dentistry
7. Pharmacy
8. Law
9. Engineering
10. Business Admin/Management
11. Architecture/Environmental Studies
12. Agric/Forestry
13. Vet. Medicine
14. Other

☐

A.10 Who financed your education to the highest institution of Learning ?

1. Parents ☐
2. Relation ☐
3. Self ☐
4. Government ☐
5. Community ☐
6. Other (Specify) ☐

Section B – N Y S C Experience (National Orientation/ National Identification)

B.1 I desire to live and work in my home community after the National Service,

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

Give reasons for your answer: _____

_____

B.2 In training Nigerian children, what emphasis and priority should be given to the following areas:
(State order of choice by marking 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc).

1. Loyalty to Nigeria ☐
2. Respect for authority ☐
3. The ambitions moving ahead in this life ☐
4. The traditions of the people ☐
5. Freedom to live one's life ☐

B.3 How do you regard the statement that Nigeria is not better than other countries in the third world ?

1. Strongly disagree ☐
2. Disagree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Agree ☐
5. Strongly agree ☐

B.4 How do you feel about this statement: Every citizen of Nigeria has an obligation to serve this country even if it means some personal sacrifice ?

1. Strongly disagree ☐
2. Disagree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Agree ☐
5. Strongly agree ☐

B.5 Are you willing to accept employment in a rural area ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strong disagree ☐

B.6 (Pre) Would you be willing to marry a person from or accept employment after the compulsory service in a state other than your own :

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

B.7 What is your attitude towards people in your host community ?

1. Very Friendly ☐
2. Friendly ☐
3. Neutral ☐
4. Unfriendly ☐
5. Very Unfriendly ☐

Section C – N Y S C Experience (Multiculturality)

C.1 As a result of your participation in the NYSC scheme. Are you willing to accept employment in a rural area of Nigeria ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

C.2 Is it possible to achieve national unity and to maintain cultural traditions of different groups at the same time ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

C.3 Is it possible to have very strong ties to one's community and ethnic grouping, and at the same time be a good citizen of Nigeria ?

1. Strongly disagree ☐
2. Disagree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Agree ☐
5. Strongly agree ☐

C.4 Do you feel that as a result of the national service you have become more aware of the similarities and common bonds among Nigerian ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

C.5 During the orientation exercise, you were taught a language of the state of your deployment. Did you learn another language besides your own in the service year and how well do you speak it ?

1. Fluently ☐
2. Can conduct simple conversation ☐
3. Can speak only a few phrases ☐
4. Can understand only a few phrases but cannot speak at all ☐
5. I could not learn another language ☐

Give reasons for your answer to either 3, 4, or 5

(Question C.5 is to be completed only by post-NYSC members only)

C.6 With your experience as a corper, do you think Nigeria should remain united ? If 'NO' state reasons. If 'YES' what type of political arrangement would you prefer ?

1. To a large extent ☐
2. To a moderate extent ☐
3. Very little extent ☐
4. Not at all ☐
5. No opinion ☐

Section D – Evaluation of Aspects of N Y S C Programme

D.1 The orientation received at the NYSC Orientation Camp prepared one quite well for the year's service ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

D.2 Generally, the facilities at the Orientation Camp were adequate

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

D.3 The following chart is a categorization of opinions on the welfare of corps members during the orientation exercise. Tick √ in each appropriate column.

Item	Very Satis-factory 1	Satis-factory 2	Undecided 3	Not Satis-factory 4
a. Reception on arrival of Orientation				
b. Feeding during Orientation				
c. Camping facilities				
d. Medical care				

D.4 Tick √ in the appropriate section, the sections of training programme that was effective.

Item	Very Satis-Factory 1	Satis-factory 2	Undecided 3	Not Satis-Factory 4	Bad 5
a. Lectures					
b. Language Study					
c. Physical Training					
d. Drills and Parades					
e. Drills and Man O' War Activities					
f. Symposia, Seminars etc					

Comment on items D.3 and D.4 _____

Primary Assignment

D.5 The supervision you received from NYSC officials was adequate in order for you to function.

1. Strongly disagree ☐
2. Disagree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Agree ☐
5. Strongly agree ☐

5.

Indicate how many times the NYSC officials

visited_____

D.6 Tick √ the appropriate column on your views pertaining to the welfare of corps members.

Item	Very Sati-factory 1	Sati-factory 2	Undecided 3	Not Sati-factory 4	Very Unsati-Factory 5
a. Accommodation or Rent Subsidy provided by employer					
b. Transport or Allowance provided by employer					
c. Medical care					

D.7 How relevant was your field of study to your primary assignment ?

1. Very relevant ☐
2. Slightly relevant ☐
3. Not relevant ☐
4. Very irrelevant ☐

D.8 How would you react or did react if you were deployed to an area of national need different from your area of specialization ?

1. Very Unfavourable ☐
2. Unfavourable ☐
3. Indifferent ☐
4. Favourable ☐
5. Quite favourable ☐

D.9 Were you given responsibilities that were normally assigned to staff with equivalent qualifications and experience ?

1. Full responsibility ☐
2. Partial responsibility ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. He decided responsibility ☐
5. No responsibility at all ☐

D.10 Were you treated as any permanent staff, for example, of your assignment ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

D.11 To what extent were your services utilized during the period of primary assignment ?

1. Great extent ☐
2. Undecided ☐
3. Not used at all ☐

Any comments_____

D.12 Generally, do you consider you work as a corps member a success or failure ?

1. Huge success ☐
2. Success ☐
3. Not sure ☐
4. Failure ☐
5. Total failure ☐

Secondary Assignment: (Community Development)

D.13 Indicate your view on the community development activities

1. Great success ☐
2. Marginal Success ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Failure ☐
5. Total failure ☐

D.14 Were you involved in any special year-round activities besides your primary assignment ?

Labour Mobility

D.15 As a result of your experience during the service year, are you willing to accept a permanent job in your state of deployment, or in any other state except your own, after the national service ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

D.16 If you had not participated in the compulsory national service, would you have been willing to accept employment in a state other than your own ?

1. Definitely not ☐
2. Probably not ☐
6. Undecided ☐
4. Probably yes ☐
5. Definitely yes ☐

D.17 If you are not willing to accept employment anywhere other than in your own state, tick the reason.

1. I have health reason ☐
2. Obligations to employer ☐
3. I have very strong family employment and ☐
4. Fear of discrimination in employment and promotion ☐
5. Unfamiliar environment ☐
6. Other reasons:_____

D.18 As a result of your participation in the NYSC scheme, are you willing to accept employment in a rural area in Nigeria ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

Comment on your answer:_____

Section E – Contact Dynamics

E.1 Generally, how frequently did you come in contact socially (that is, when you are not engaged in your work) with the people of the area you were assigned to ?

1. Very frequently ☐
2. Frequently ☐
3. Now and then ☐
4. Seldom ☐
5. None at all ☐

E.2 What was your attitude towards fellow Nigerians other those from your ethnic grouping before you entered the NYSC ? What is your attitude towards other Nigerians now ? Tick √ the appropriate column.

Period	Positive Impressions	Neutral	Negative Impressions
Before			
Now			

Comment: _____

Positive impressions mean favourable comments; good impression.

Negative impressions denote unfavourable comments, bias, prejudices; not quite liking other people from other ethnic groups.

E.3 Generally specking, how do you find the attitude of the people in your area of deployment ?

1. Very Friendly ☐
2. Friendly ☐
3. Neutral ☐
4. Unfriendly ☐
5. Very Unfriendly ☐

Section F – N Y S C Management

F.1 What is your opinion about the administration and management of the NYSC scheme ?

1. Very ineffective ☐
2. Not effective ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Effective ☐
5. Very effective ☐

Comment on your answer and offer suggestions for improvement in the administration system: _____

_____

F.2 The present structural arrangement of the NYSC organisation is adequate for the management of the scheme to achieve its objectives.

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

Comment and offer suggestions for structural improvements: _____

_____

Section G – General Assignment

G.1 Do you feel that as a result of the National Service that you have become more aware of the similarities and common bonds among Nigerians ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

G.2 Do you feel that the NYSC Scheme has contributed towards National understanding and integration ?

2. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Disagree ☐
4. Undecided ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

G.3 Do you feel that the NYSC Scheme should be continued ?

1. Strongly agree ☐
2. Agree ☐
3. Undecided ☐
4. Disagree ☐
5. Strongly disagree ☐

APPENDIX III

BEING AN ADDRESS BY GENERAL (DR) YAKUBU GOWON CHAIRMAN OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE NYSC FOUNDATION AT NICON HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

Hon. Minister for Youth and Sports,
Your Excellencies,
My Lords,
Director General of NYSC,
Past Directors General,
Staff and NYSC Members past and present,
Distinguished Guest
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am delighted to be here with you all today on this historic occasion of the launching of the NYSC Foundation. I feel highly honoured to be asked to be the Chairman of the occasion.

2. Over twenty-five years ago, as Head of State of this country, my government mooted the idea of a national service for our youths. At that time, we had copious knowledge of how certain countries have been mobilizing the most vibrant section of their population for gainful community-oriented activities. The successes of such programmes persuaded us to feel that Nigerian youths too could be called upon to render selfless service to our people at the threshold of

their various career the basis of unity. The government felt that something must be done to remove the spectre of mutual distrust which was capable of threatening the realization of the post war objectives of national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

3. We didn't look far before identifying the youths as a necessary instrument with which a nascent Nigeria could be built. With the young ones, we could put behind us the sentiments that created the chasms between the various ethnic groups. In addition, the resources of the youths in talent and abundant energy should be directed and dedicated to these ideals which enable a nation to rise above its historic and attain greater heights. That was why I said in my broadcast to the nation in May 1972 that if the energies of our young people-mental and physical are directed into proper channels, the future of this country can be assured. Therefore, the intention of the Federal Government was to establish an institution that can embrace the youths of our nation for a one year national service immediately after they must have graduated from their tertiary instructions. The key element of the scheme was that each participant in the programme must serve in a State other than his state of origin.

4. We were aware we were about to introduce a radical policy that can affect the orientation of our young ones. However, we did not envisage that the purpose of the scheme would be misunderstood when the policy was first made public. It is instructive to note that inputs were sought from the university authorities to make the scheme an

instant success. I am however pleased to say that after the initial misgivings the policy was accepted and so the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme came into being.

5. Since the last 25 years, the Scheme has grown from strength so strength, providing for the youths, the opportunity to develop those highly valuable qualities of discipline, industry at work, patriotism, loyalty and community spirit. They have been able to understand the diversities of this country and the need to transform same as a source of renewed strength and above all, dedication to national cause.

6. Let me pay a deserving tribute to the first set of graduates that served under the scheme. Through their pioneering efforts, they have made it possible for the initial apprehensions to give way to great optimism. I realise that this remarkable innovation has been modified in the course of time. I think that the metamorphosis has paid off. Those who followed the pioneers of the Scheme also deserves commendation for helping to strengthen the Scheme. And for those who are about to serve under the Scheme, I say to you: keep the Flag flying!

7. I must seize this opportunity to express my appreciation to the successive governments that have acknowledge the relevance of the Scheme to our national cohesion and development. I also acknowledge the valuable role of the private sector in providing a helping hand in absorbing some of the youths in their employ. We all know that the Scheme requires more funds. From just over 2,000

corps members in 1973, the Scheme now attracts over 70,000 members. This expansion in the number of participants must stretch available resources thin. I have also been told that the NYSC has several uncompleted projects in all States of the Federation.

8. It is this need for better funding that has moved corps members and concerned individuals to bring all of us together this evening to contribute our own quota towards growth and further development of the Scheme. I wish to call on the government and the people of Nigeria to support the Foundation to realise its objectives.

9. The future of this country lies in the hands of our youths and any programme put in place to prepare the youths for the challenges of leadership from a nationalistic perspective should enjoy the support of our people. This national initiative may after all be what is needed to change the fortune of the NYSC and possibly enhance its evolutionary process.

10. One more, I feel very proud to be with you this evening and I hope that all of you here, at home or abroad will respond positively to the clarion call of lend a helping hand to the NYSC through the Foundation that we are about to launch.

11. Thank you very much for your kind attention. – God bless you all.

Please record below any other comments you may wish to make on t
NYSC Scheme.

Thank you for cooperation in completing the questionnaire.

Date:_____