

Implication of Skill Acquisition on Income Status of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Women in Maiduguri Camps

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Abstract

This paper looks at the implication of skill acquisition on the income status of IDP women in Maiduguri camps. Thus, the paper single out tailoring skill and examine it effect on the income of women in both Baskassi Camp and farm centre. Survey research method was used and data were generated using both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained by administering questionnaires, Focus group discussion and Key informant Interview to staff of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Staff of the two selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the beneficial Women IDPs in the two official camps in Maiduguri. While secondary data were gathered from the report of NEMA, SEMA and International Organization for Migration (IOM). A total of 308 sample size was obtained using Yamani's formula out of a population of 1,326 respondents. The utilized both descriptive and inferential statistical tools to analysed data. T-test was used to test the formulated hypothesis for the paper with the aid of Software Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. Conclusively, the paper revealed that tailoring skill acquired has influenced the income level of IDP women in both camps. The paper recommends that Government and concern stakeholders should set up schools for women and girls equipped with facilities for impacting basic entrepreneurial skills like tailoring, catering, weaving and others that will make both ladies and women self-sufficient. In addition to the training government should give monthly token to beneficiaries to cater for some of their needs like transport fare, feeding allowance with a view to encourage participation.

Keywords: Boko Haram Insurgency, Internally Displaced Persons, Skill Acquisition, Tailoring

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Boko Haram insurgency has become one of Nigeria's most challenging issue in the last decade. As millions of persons affected by the Boko Haram violence have been forced to move out of the affected areas to other parts of the country due to the severity of the insurgency challenge. Displacement of persons has major consequences on the health, education and income of the displaced. Apart from the fear and trauma, IDPs are often confounded with environmental health issues such as malnutrition and infant mortality, low income levels and high level of illiteracy (Abiso, 2019).

Most a time, the women are turn into heads of household as result of the fact that their men are killed during crisis that leads to displacement. Some of the women have to engage in profane acts such as prostitution and begging in order to survive. Woman in the IDPs, whose role, hitherto was to cook now has to contain with the fact that she not only have to cook but also provide and fend for the family. This is

the situation that women found themselves in camps in Maiduguri. A Survey by the International Organization for Migration (2017) indicates that majority of the heads of households in camps in Borno state are women, thus explaining the fact that the Boko Haram insurgency only targets the men folks. The women in the camps must therefore be empowered to carry on with this role, hitherto performed by the men.

Women Empowerment has become a frequently cited goal of development intervention (Mosedale, 2005). In the 1980's women empowerment was invoked by the Third World Feminist and Women Organizations, and it was explicably used to frame and facilitate the struggle for social justice and women equality through a transformation of economic, social and political structures at national and international levels (Bisnath & Elson, 2003). The need to empower women seems to centre on the fact that women have potentials to contribute to the development process but are constrained by some factors that render them powerless like their reproductive responsibilities, societal norms, beliefs, customs and values by which societies differentiate between them and men (Kabeer, 2008). These constraints are shaped by male dominated social structure (patriarchy), high rate of poverty among women, and gender division of labour. To ameliorate these, the need for improving the educational, political and economic status of women to enable them to participate actively in development processes become germane.

In view of this, the 1999 constitution provided promotion and protection of women's right in Nigeria. The Federal government adopted the national policy on women in July, 2000. The Federal Government has also set up the National Women Development Centre as a parastatal to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs. The Centre is primarily in-charge of research studies on women's issues (Women Aid Collective, 2008). Skill acquisition programmes are established by government and NGOs in camps to help in improving the status of women. The programmes range from credit programme, literacy programme, women skills training and other related activities with the aim of empowering the women to have access to source of income, be self-reliant, have the capacity to participate in decision making and improve their status.

It is this realization of the need to have women run their own lives, be part and parcel of socioeconomic and political agenda that made the Borno state government and several Non-Governmental Organizations provided different empowerment skills for the women in the IDP camps. Women in IDPs in Borno State have participated in skill acquisition programmes such as tailoring, knitting, Soap and detergent making, and other related development activities. The ultimate goal was to empower women to develop their potentials, contribute to and benefit from development on equal basis as men.

Though several studies have been conducted on women empowerment such as: Empowerment of women in South Asia: Concepts and practices (Batliwala, 1993); Assessing interventions available to internally displaced persons in Abia state (Enwereji, 2011) and Understanding Issues of Empowerment, Gender and Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Nigeria (Adole, 2019). But none have conducted studies on examining the benefit of acquiring tailoring skills among women in the selected camps in Maiduguri.

The paper is restricted to Bakassi camp and Farm Center out of the 12 registered IDPs Camps in Maiduguri. This is carried because both have attracted IDPs from most of the local governments affected by the insurgency in Borno state and the empowerment programmes are provided by both the government and NGOs in these camps. The paper covers the period 2015 to 2020. This is the period when the government agencies and NGOs have increase commitment on empowerment in IDPs Camps.

2.0 TAILORING SKILL AND INCOME STATUS OF WOMEN IN CAMPS

According to Savary (2014) displaced women in Kachin state in Myanmar have learnt to sew, knit and make soap as part of an initiative to organize themselves, address protection concerns and assist their community. Also many household in IDP camps are headed by women while some husbands are idle because lost their means of livelihood so, they stay for a longer periods in search of work and some have fallen victim to the conflict. Therefore women carry the burden of looking after the family, making sure the children get enough food and adequate clothing, taking care of shelters and, when possible, trying to make a living.

More so, the acquisition of training, like tailoring lessons, provide displaced women with a safe source of income and encourage them to get together, share their concerns and assist others. Additionally UNHCR is supporting IDPs to initiate community-based protection activities to assist the community for self development project by identifying, discussing and decide how to address protection issues.

In the camps according to Enwereji (2012), tailoring training was identified by women as one way to respond to the protection risks they face. So, members of the camp women's committee selected the trainees for tailoring. Consequently Participants selected includes widows, women with many children, students who have dropped out of school and people living with disabilities while survivors of trafficking are expected to join in the future.

Besides, Jamil (2013) pointed out that in Sudan skills-training courses were launched to enhanced the capacities of women, the classes have been replicated in 11 camps throughout Kachin benefitting some 340 women. More so, Training is also provided in knitting, weaving and soap-making, though tailoring remains the most preferred skill. The trainees learn basic tailoring skills in three months and are able to produce a broad range of clothes Also in Maiduguri camps too, displaced Women in the selected camps preferred tailoring skills and trainer do not only impacted the skills but also proved the required tools to beneficial to reduce the pain and suffering for catering for their families.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The paper is survey research and data were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were obtained from government officials (NEMA & SEMA), Camp officials, NGOs, and Women IDPs in camps, while secondary data were obtained from official documents from the SEMA, NEMA and IOM.

The paper has a population of 1326 respondents comprising of government officials, NGOs (IMC and UNFPA who were directly involved in women empowerment in the selected camps) and women beneficiaries in in Bakassi camp and Farm Centre IDPs Camps (SEMA, 2017).

A sample size of 308 respondents were obtained from the population using the Yamane's formula. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the sample. The women were randomly selected based on the application of the training used. Purposive sampling technique and proportionate sampling techniques were applied to select the government officials while census survey were applied to select two most senior staff of IMC and UNFPA from each of the camp making a total of 4 staff of NGOs involved in the empowerment of women through skills acquisition programmes in the selected camps.

Data were collected using questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Interview. Questionnaire were distributed to Government officials while interview were conducted with the NGOs. The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics consist of percentage, frequency distribution tables while inferential statistical tool was used, which is T-test to test the hypotheses with the aid of Software Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.

A total of three hundred and twenty (320) questionnaires were administered to the respondents instead of the three hundred and eight (308) to provide for margin of error. Thus, only 308 were retrieved and analysed. To complement the findings from the questionnaire four (4) Focus Group Discussions were conducted with 32 beneficiaries of the various skill acquisition programme in both Bakassi Camp and Farm Centre representing eight (8) beneficiaries per group.

Similarly, two key informant interview (KII) were conducted with the staff of International mercy Corp and United Nation Fund for Population Activities in both Bakassi Camp and Farm Centre. Meanwhile, data were summarized and analysed by the use of frequency distribution table and percentage while, t-test (paired sample t test and one sample t test) were used in testing the formulated hypotheses with the aid of Software Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.

4.0 FINDINGS

Income of Beneficiaries before the Training

The researcher sought to know the amount of money in terms of naira earned monthly by beneficiary before the training. This has helped in the comparison with the current amount earned for better understanding of the impact.

Table 1: Monthly earning by beneficiaries before the training in Bakassi Camp

| Amount | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| ₦1000 – ₦2000 | 59 | 31 |
| ₦3000 – ₦4000 | 58 | 31 |
| ₦5000 – ₦6000 | 33 | 18 |
| ₦7000 – ₦8000 | 28 | 15 |
| ₦9000 and above | 10 | 5 |
| Total | 188 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 1 reveals that 59 respondents representing 31% claimed that the beneficiaries earned between ₦1000 – ₦2000 monthly before the training, 58 respondents representing 31% earned between ₦3000 – ₦4000, 33 respondents representing 18% earned between ₦5000 – ₦6000, while 28 respondents representing 15% earned between ₦7000 – ₦8000 and 10 respondents representing 5% earned between ₦9000 and above. This indicates that majority of the beneficiaries' earnings were close to none before the inception of the skill acquisition training as represented by 31%.

Table 2: Monthly earning by beneficiaries before the training in Farm Centre

| Amount | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| ₦1000 – ₦2000 | 43 | 36 |
| ₦3000 – ₦4000 | 32 | 27 |
| ₦5000 – ₦6000 | 22 | 18 |
| ₦7000 – ₦8000 | 15 | 12 |
| ₦9000 and above | 8 | 7 |
| Total | 120 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2. reveals that 43 respondents representing 36% claimed that the beneficiaries earned between ₦1000 – ₦2000 monthly before the training, 32 respondents representing 27% earned between ₦3000 – ₦4000, 22 respondents representing 18% earned between ₦5000 – ₦6000, while 15 respondents representing 12% earned between ₦7000 – ₦8000 and 8 respondents representing 7% earned between ₦9000 and above. This indicates that majority of the beneficiaries' earnings were close to none before the inception of the skill acquisition training as represented by 36%.

Monthly amount earn after the training

The researcher sought to know the monthly amount earn by the beneficiaries after the training. This has afford the researcher to compare with the monthly earn before the training in order to determine whether the beneficiaries' income level has improved or not.

Table 3: Amount earn monthly after the training in Bakassi Camp

| Amount | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| ₦1000 – ₦2000 | 4 | 2 |
| ₦3000 – ₦4000 | 4 | 2 |
| ₦5000 – ₦6000 | 23 | 12 |
| ₦7000 – ₦8000 | 44 | 23 |
| ₦9000 and above | 113 | 61 |
| Total | 188 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3. reveals that 4 respondents representing 2% claimed that the beneficiaries earned between ₦1000 – ₦2000 monthly after the training, 4 respondents representing 2% earned between ₦3000 – ₦4000, 23 respondents representing 12% earned between ₦5000 – ₦6000, while 44 respondents representing 23% earned between ₦7000 – ₦8000 and 113 respondents representing 61% earned between ₦9000 and above. This implies that majority of the beneficiaries’ earnings has improve due to the skill acquisition training as represented by 61%.

Table 4: Amount earn monthly after the training Farm Centre

| Amount | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| ₦1000 – ₦2000 | 4 | 3 |
| ₦3000 – ₦4000 | 7 | 6 |
| ₦5000 – ₦6000 | 12 | 10 |
| ₦7000 – ₦8000 | 26 | 22 |
| ₦9000 and above | 71 | 59 |
| Total | 120 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4. reveals that 4 respondents representing 3% claimed that the beneficiaries earned between ₦1000 – ₦2000 monthly after the training, 7 respondents representing 6% earned between ₦3000 – ₦4000, 12 respondents representing 10% earned between ₦5000 – ₦6000, while 26 respondents representing 22% earned between ₦7000 – ₦8000 and 71 respondents representing 59% earned between ₦9000 and above. This implies that majority of the beneficiaries’ earnings has improve due to the skill acquisition training as represented by 59%.

Table 5: Beneficiaries have a ready market to sell their product at a good price in Farm Centre

| Option | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Strongly Agree | 16 | 13 |
| Agree | 24 | 20 |
| Undecided | 14 | 12 |
| Disagree | 39 | 32 |
| Strongly Disagree | 27 | 23 |
| Total | 120 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 5 shows that 16 respondents representing 13% strongly agreed that beneficiaries have a ready market to sell their product at a good price, 24 respondents representing 20% agreed, 14 respondents representing 12% were undecided, whereas 39 respondents representing 32% disagreed and 27 respondents representing 23% strongly disagreed. This implies that beneficiaries have a ready market to sell their product at a good price as represented by 32% and 23% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

The interview with the case worker in Bakassi camp also revealed that as part of the support rendered to the beneficiaries, IMC has provided them with raw materials to set up their business and has also provided the markets where such products can be sold at appreciable price. One among this gesture is the move by the NGO to take it to place like Teachers village in the process where the Wife of the Borno state governor bought everything. This has brought joy to the beneficiaries and serve as an encouragement to do more.

Tailoring Skills acquired and Income level of women in IDP Camps

In this section, the researcher sought to know particularly, the effect of tailoring skills acquired on income level of women in IDPs. This is however connected or a continuation of the questions in previous tables. As the table will determine if tailoring skill has improve the income bracket of beneficiaries, how

sufficient has this income help to meet their basic need needs and whether such skill acquisition programme were characterized by favouritism.

Table 6: Effect of tailoring skills acquired on income level of Women in Bakassi IDPs

| Statement | Responses | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
| Acquired Tailoring Skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries | 60 32% | 75 40% | 4 2% | 23 12% | 26 14% | 188 100% |
| The current earning of beneficiaries is sufficient to meet their basic needs | 30 15% | 45 24% | 6 3% | 49 26% | 58 32% | 188 100% |
| Selection into the Skill Acquisition programme is characterized by favouritism | 21 11% | 20 11% | 15 8% | 108 58% | 24 12% | 188 100% |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 6 shows that 60 respondents representing 32% strongly agreed that Acquired Tailoring Skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries, 75 respondents representing 40% agreed, 4 respondents representing 2% were undecided, whereas 23 respondents representing 12% disagreed and 26 respondents representing 14% strongly disagreed. This implies that acquired tailoring skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries in Bakassi Camp as represented by 32% and 40% strongly agreed and agreed respectively.

The table also shows that 55 respondents representing 18% strongly agreed that the current earning of beneficiaries is sufficient to meet their basic needs, 65 respondents representing 21% agreed, 9 respondents representing 3% were undecided, whereas 74 respondents representing 24% disagreed and only 105 respondents representing 34% strongly disagreed. This implies that the current earning of beneficiaries is not sufficient to meet their basic needs as represented by 24% and 34% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

The table finally shows that 34 respondents representing 11% strongly agreed that selection into the skill acquisition programme is characterized by favouritism, 46 respondents representing 15% agreed, 25 respondents representing 8% were undecided, whereas 148 respondents representing 48% disagreed and only 55 respondents representing 18% strongly disagreed. This implies that selection into the skill acquisition programme is not characterized by favouritism as represented by 48% and 18% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

The interview in Bakassi revealed that IMC have more than 100 trainees under her watch from various skill group among which tailoring is a part. The organization has been instrumental in providing them with enabling support to forge ahead. This has served as source of income to the beneficiary as it also afford them the opportunity to learn how to read and write through their literacy class, and have other programmes that educated them on the personal and environmental hygiene among others. More than 50 tailors have gained their freedom and are independently working to provide for their needs. Many more are in the process of learning. The trainees have been cooperative.

In essence, the beneficiaries were better off now in term of livelihood than their first time in the camp. As to the issue of Tailoring skill acquired and how it impact on their income, majority of the responses were in the affirmative, claiming that the IMC has been instrumental in impacting tailoring knowledge which they are using. The skills have been a source of income thereafter. Such earning have been use to provide for their family needs and even send their wards to school.

Table 7: Effect of tailoring skills acquired on the income level of Women in Farm Centre IDPs

| Statement | Responses | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
| Acquired Tailoring Skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries | 39 32% | 51 42% | 2 2% | 14 12% | 14 12% | 120 100% |
| The current earning of beneficiaries is sufficient to meet their basic needs | 25 21% | 20 16% | 3 3% | 30 25% | 42 35% | 120 100% |
| Selection into the Skill Acquisition programme is characterized by favouritism | 13 11% | 16 13% | 10 8% | 46 39% | 35 29% | 120 100% |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 8 shows that 39 respondents representing 32% strongly agreed that Acquired Tailoring Skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries, 51 respondents representing 42% agreed, 2 respondents representing 2% were undecided, whereas 14 respondents representing 12% disagreed and 14 respondents representing 12% strongly disagreed. This implies that acquired tailoring skill has improved the income bracket of beneficiaries as represented by 32% and 42% strongly agreed and agreed respectively.

The table also shows that 25 respondents representing 21% strongly agreed that the current earning of beneficiaries is sufficient to meet their basic needs, 20 respondents representing 16% agreed, 3 respondents representing 3% were undecided, whereas 30 respondents representing 25% disagreed and only 42 respondents representing 35% strongly disagreed. This implies that the current earning of beneficiaries is sufficient to meet their basic needs as represented by 25% and 35% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

The table finally shows that 13 respondents representing 11% strongly agreed that selection into the skill acquisition programme is characterized by favouritism, 16 respondents representing 13% agreed, 10 respondents representing 8% were undecided, whereas 46 respondents representing 39% disagreed and only 35 respondents representing 29% strongly disagreed. This implies that selection into the skill acquisition programme is not characterized by favouritism as represented by 48% and 18% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

With regards to the Tailoring, the UNFPA have empowered beneficiaries with 20 sewing machines as at December 2019. Beneficiaries were given to help generate income to better their living condition. In the words of the Psycho Business Support Counsellor:

UNFPA activities have impacted positively in satisfying the needs of the IDPs women, for instance, someone empowered as a tailor can make between 20,000 naira to 30,000 when it is considered on the ground that a the beneficiary sew one clothe at 1,000 to 2000 naira depending on the nature of style.

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁: Tailoring services skills acquired has no significant effect on the income status of women in IDPs camps in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

Paired Sample t-test summary table

| Variables | Before (X) | After (Y) |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| A | 102 | 8 |
| B | 90 | 11 |
| C | 55 | 35 |
| D | 43 | 70 |
| E | 18 | 184 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

T Test Summary

| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Pair Sample t test | Df |
|--|-----|----------|----------------|--------------------|----|
| Income Before skill acquisition - Income after skill acquisition | 308 | -2.10714 | .89418 | -41.357 | 4 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Decision: Base on the result of hypothesis one, the direction of relationship between Income before the skill acquisition and Income after the skill acquisition is inversely related. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and therefore means that Income of beneficiaries increase as they acquire skill. Hence, it can be said that tailoring services skills acquired has significant influence on the income status of women in IDPs camps in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (See Appendix II).

5.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The outcome of hypothesis one revealed an inverse relationship between beneficiaries' income before and after the skill acquisition programme. By implication, tailoring skill acquired has influenced the income level of IDP women. This finding is in line with the results from Interview, focus group discussion and descriptive statistics where it was revealed that UNFPA have empowered beneficiaries in Farm Centre with 20 sewing machines to assist the beneficiaries become self-reliant. IMC did same in Bakassi Camp as beneficiaries can generate an average of 2000 naira per day and 20,000 monthly. To buttress further, Rahman and Naoroze (2007) found that education enhanced women's empowerment, thereby improving on standard of living. The paper is further supported by Chandravadia and Kanani (2010) where women were said to engage in making the detergent powder and soap, dairy cooperative, milk product, petty business, and handicraft and has yielded positive result in terms of income generation. This is also consistent with Abiso (2019) that empowerment has impacted positively on the income levels of the beneficiaries in Bauchi State.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Base on the findings of this paper, it is concluded that skill acquisition scheme in both Bakassi Camp and Farm Centre have achieved the desired objective in that It has helped the IDP to generate income even though such income is not sufficient to cater for all their needs. It is also commendable to say that the programme has encouraged the IDPs in engaging in skill such as Tailoring and has served them as source of living.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the Findings and Conclusions reached at the end of this paper, the following recommendations were made;

- i. Government and concern stakeholders should erect schools to women equipped with facilities for impacting basic entrepreneurial skills like tailoring, catering, weaving and the likes. In addition to the skills impacted government should give monthly token to beneficiaries for catering some of their needs to encourage participation.
- ii. There is need for government to complement it efforts as well as support the effort of the non-government organization for assisting those successful graduates with capital to enable them set up their own business and remain self-reliant.

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