

Impact of N-Power programme on the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

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ARTICLE INFO	Abstract
<p>Keywords: <i>N-Power Programme, Youth empowerment, socio-economic status, youth unemployment, Anambra State.</i></p> <p>©2026 Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International</p> 	<p><i>Unemployment and low socio-economic status among the young people is another big issue in Nigeria especially youths who form the majority of the population. To solve this issue, the Federal Government developed the N-Power programme under the National Social Investment Programme to offer job opportunities, skill development, and socio-economic wellbeing of young people. Although the programme was put in place, there are still questions about whether it has alleviated the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. The research design used in this study was a descriptive survey design to investigate how N-Power programme influences the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State, Nigeria. Two thousand four hundred and fifteen beneficiaries (18 to 35 years) in 6 Local Government Areas were sampled. A sample of 343 respondents was calculated using the formula by Taro Yamane and purposive sampling was used to select the sample. Data were collected using structured questionnaires with a 5-point Likert scale and secondary data were obtained with the help of the other literature. Experts reviewed it and tested it again, which ensured validity and reliability. The SPSS version 20 and Pearson correlation at the 5% level were used to analyze data. Results revealed that the majority of the respondents said that N-Power enhanced purchasing power, income, savings, and educational progress, but many disented that it enhanced wealth accumulation. Correlation analysis demonstrated a positive and significant relationship ($r = .222, p = .035$) which showed that N-Power had a significant effect on improving the socio-economic status of youths. The paper concludes that the N-Power programme has made a great difference in the socio-economic situation of young people in Anambra State.</i></p>

Introduction

One of the most burning socio-economic issues in Nigeria has been youth unemployment. A high percentage of the youth leave tertiary institutions annually without having any meaningful job prospects. The National Bureau of Statistics indicates that there has been a high rate of youth unemployment and underemployment in Nigeria leading to poverty, social instability, and low economic productivity. The education-employment gap exists as many young people have no practical skills and experience in their work that the employing institutions demand. To address this threat, the Nigerian government has come with a number of social intervention programmes, among which is the N-Power programme, which focuses on enhancing the socio-economic welfare of the Nigerian youth (Abdullahi, 2025).

The N-Power initiative was inaugurated in 2016 as a part of the Federal Government of Nigeria National Social Investment Programme (NSIP). The purpose of its design was mainly to cut down youth unemployment and enhance employability by offering temporary work, skills development, and financial assistance to the young graduates and non-graduates. The programme focuses on young people aged 18-35 and assigns them to areas of education, agriculture, health, technology, and community development (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2017). Employment creation and provision of income is one of the largest ways in which N-Power has contributed to the socio-economic status of youth. The monthly stipend is given to the beneficiaries, temporarily stabilizing the finances of the beneficiaries and lessening the economic pressure on unemployed young people. This income helps participants to afford basic needs, to support their families and occasionally start small businesses. Research has indicated that these types of income support programmes can greatly enhance the living standards and make young people less poor (David et al., 2025).

The programme also helps in capacity building and skills development on top of its income support. Participants are trained in specific areas that include teaching, healthcare delivery, farming extension and information and communication technology. Such trainings prepare youths with realistic skills that can make them more employable in the labour market. As an example, the N-Teach element places graduates in government-run schools where they receive teaching experience, although N-Agro trains in agricultural practices and extension services (Haruna and Haliru, 2025). These experiences equip the beneficiaries with professional skills, communication skills and discipline in the workplace, which can later be applied in the job markets.

The N-Power programme has helped in community building and helping young people to contribute to the community by assigning them to under-serviced communities where they are able to help in areas like education, healthcare and community services. In such capacities, the beneficiaries help teachers to work in the public schools and help health workers in the rural health centres, thus enhancing service delivery and reinforcing the community support systems. These initiatives also assist in decreasing skill and technology disparities among the youth and facilitate digital inclusivity, which is significant to socio-economic development (Okoye et al., 2023). Moreover, youth involvement in government programmes boosts political engagement and service to the community, hence consolidating democratic and social systems (Nwobi et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, regardless of these contributions, the programme is subject to various challenges that restrict its effects in the long term. The short-term employment character of N-Power leaves a question mark to the beneficiaries at the end of the program. Delays in stipend, insufficient training resources, and poor manpower planning forms are among the issues that influence programme effectiveness and sustainability (Anaekwe et al., 2025). Moreover, youth empowerment programmes shall also enhance social stability and community building like other government interventions that seek to enhance security and social welfare (Okafor et al., 2025a; Okafor et al., 2025b). These problems underline the necessity of better policy implementation and sustainable youth empowerment strategies.

The other issue is the sustainability of the programme. Being a government-funded project, its future largely relies on the political will, budgetary allocations and efficiency in administration. Without adequate incorporation into the wider economic development plans, the programme can find it difficult to generate sustainable changes in the rate of youth employment. The significance of conducting a study on the effect N-Power programme has on the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State can be explained by the fact that unemployment and underemployment among young people in Nigeria remain an issue of concern. Even with the government intervention programmes like the N-Power, several youths in Nigeria continue to grapple with a lack of job opportunities, low earnings, and lack of skills to support a sustainable livelihood (Agunyai, 2025). The programme was aimed at counteracting such challenges through offering temporary employment and skill

development, as well as financial aid to youths, but its effectiveness at the state level has not been studied thoroughly.

N-Power has been evaluated at the national scale in several studies, dedicating most of their attention to employment generation and reduction of poverty (Abdullahi, 2025). Although they are very insightful, these studies frequently fail to capture state-specific effects and the contextual variations that can affect the programme outcomes. For instance, economic activities, educational opportunities, and labour market conditions vary significantly across states, including Anambra State, which has a strong entrepreneurial culture and a large youth population. Furthermore, existing research has not adequately examined whether participation in N-Power has led to sustainable socio-economic improvement, such as long-term employment, business development, or improved living standards among beneficiaries (Muhammed & Ajibola, 2026). This creates a research gap that necessitates empirical investigation. Therefore, this study is important to evaluate how effectively the programme has improved the socio-economic conditions of youth in Anambra State and to provide evidence that can guide policy improvement and programme sustainability.

Objectives

To analyze the extent to which N-Power has improved the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Research Question

To what extent has N-Power improved the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State?

Hypothesis

Hi: N-Power has a significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Ho: N-Power has not significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design, which enabled the use of structured questionnaires to obtain detailed information on respondents' opinions, attitudes, and experiences regarding the N-Power programme. The design was appropriate because it allowed the researcher to gather first-hand data directly from beneficiaries, especially information not readily available in textbooks or journals. The study was conducted in Anambra State, located in South-East Nigeria. The state was created in 1976 and later restructured in 1991. It is popularly known as "The Light of the Nation" and has major commercial cities such as Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, Nkpor, Ogidi, and Ogbunike. Anambra is bounded by Delta, Edo, Kogi, Enugu, Imo, Abia, and Rivers States, with an estimated population of 6,012,205 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). The population is predominantly Igbo (98%), with a small Igala minority (2%). The target population consisted of 2,412 N-Power beneficiaries aged 18–35 across six selected Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Table 1: Population Distribution of N-Power Beneficiaries in Selected LGAs

S/N	Local Government Area	Population
1	Dunukofia	352
2	Idemili North	520
3	Orumba North	393
4	Ekwusigo	410
5	Onitsha South	400
6	Anambra East	337
Total		2,412

Source: National Social Register (2024)

Using Taro Yamane's formula at a 95% confidence level and 0.05 error margin, a sample size of 343 respondents was determined. Bowley's proportional allocation formula was applied to distribute questionnaires proportionately across the LGAs. Purposive sampling was used to select respondents. Two LGAs were selected from each of the three senatorial zones of the state.

Table 2: Proportional Sample Allocation Across Selected LGAs

Local Government Area	Population	Sample Size
Dunukofia	352	51
Idemili North	520	73
Orumba North	393	55
Ekwusigo	410	59
Onitsha South	400	57
Anambra East	337	48
Total	2,412	343

Both primary and secondary data sources were used. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires divided into two sections: demographic data (Section A) and research-related questions (Section B), structured on a 5-point Likert scale (Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree). Secondary data were obtained from textbooks, journals, and related publications. To ensure validity, face and content validation were conducted by experts and supervisors. Reliability was tested using the test-retest method with 20 youths outside the study area, yielding consistent results. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 20, with hypotheses tested using Pearson Product-Moment Correlation at a 5% significance level.

Results

Research Question Three: To analyze the extent to which N-Power has improved the socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State?

Table 3: Respondents' responses to issues in the third research question N=256

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	U (%)	Total
1	N-Power increased the purchasing power of youth	111 (43)	133 (52)	5 (2)	5 (2)	2 (1)	256 (100)
2	N-Power resulted in accumulation of wealth by youth	18 (7)	18 (7)	120 (47)	100 (39)	-	256 (100)
3	N-Power has helped to exposed youth to ways of making better income in Anambra State.	74 (29)	76 (30)	55 (21)	45 (18)	6 (2)	256 (100)
4	N-Power has helped to increase income and savings among youths in Anambra State.	110 (43)	140 (55)	-	-	6 (2)	256 (100)
5	N-Power helped the beneficiary to further his/her studies through the stipends given	108 (42)	115 (45)	-	-	33 (13)	256 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

To analyze the extent to which N-Power has improved the socio-economic status of youth in Nigerians is the focus of the third specific objective and research question. 43 percent of the respondents in table 3 strongly agreed to the notion that N-Power has increased the purchasing power of youth. In the same vein, 52 percent agreed that N-Power has increased the purchasing power of

youth, 2 percent disagreed, 2 percent strongly disagreed while 1 percent was undecided that N-Power has increased the purchasing power of youth

The assertion in question 2 received the following strands of responses; 18 percent of the respondents strongly agreed, 18 percent of the respondents agreed, 47 percent of the respondents disagreed, 39 percent strongly disagreed that N-Power resulted in accumulation of wealth by youth. The assertion in question 3 received the following strands of responses; 29 percent strongly agreed, 30 percent of the respondents agreed, 21 percent disagreed, 18 percent strongly disagreed and 2 percent were undecided that N-Power has helped to exposed youth to ways of making better income in Anambra State. The assertion in question 4 received the following strands of response, 43 percent strongly agreed that N-Power has helped to increase income and savings among youths in Anambra State, 55 percent agreed, while 2 percent were undecided that N-Power has helped to increase income and savings among youths in Anambra State. 42 percent strongly agreed that N-Power helped the beneficiary to further his/her studies through the stipends given, 45 percent agreed, and 13 percent were undecided that N-Power helped the beneficiary to further his/her studies through the stipends given.

Hypothesis

Hi: N-Power has a significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Ho: N-Power has not significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Table 4. Pearson correlation between N-Power participation and socio-economic status (N = 256).

		N-Power	Socio-economic status
N-Power	Pearson Correlation	1	.222**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.035
	N	256	256
Socio-economic status	Pearson Correlation	.222**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.035	
	N	256	256

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

From the computation in the table 4, it shows that the probability value (0.035) is less than the alpha value (0.05), as a result, the researcher accepts null hypothesis and concludes that N-Power has a significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State

Discussion

The result showed that N-Power has a significantly improved socio-economic status of youth in Anambra State. The implication is that efforts should be made to encourage unemployed youths to engage in self-empowerment, which would not only enable them to do things at their own pace but would also encourage them to introduce innovations for productivity and profit. In addition, the provision of opportunities for job training and continued education would enhance their self-employability. This is in line with thought of Bello, (2019) which posits that there is significant relationship between N-Power and improved socio-economic status of youth in Nigerians. This is corroborated by Abbas (2013) who averred that identifying and developing an effective policy framework (e.g. Npower) within international, national, and local resources would benefit citizens, especially the poor. It was also revealed that some beneficiaries were able to enroll for and complete further studies (MSc, PGDE, Professional Diplomas, among others), while some had the plan of enrolling through the monthly stipends of thirty thousand naira.

Conclusion

The research question explored how N-Power programme affected the socio-economic status of the youth in Anambra State. According to the findings of the surveys, the programme has helped to improve the living conditions of the beneficiaries. Most of the respondents agreed that N-Power has increased their purchasing power, income and savings, and they are financially benefiting through further education. The programme also opened the participants to better income prospects and enhanced their economic participation. However, the results indicate that N-Power did not lead to wealth accumulation among the large number of recipients in the long-term, although it did enhance a short-term financial stability. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation tested showed the positive and statistically significant correlation between N-Power participation and socio-economic status ($r=0.222$, $p<0.05$). This establishes that the programme has greatly alleviated the socio-economic living standard of young people in Anambra State. The study ends by suggesting that N-Power has produced a significant positive impact in terms of empowering young people and economic well-being, but notes the importance of the need to strengthen efforts towards the sustainability of wealth generation and long-term economic growth amongst beneficiaries.

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