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## Effect of Poverty Alleviation on Entrepreneurial Success among Physically Challenged: Beneficiaries of Caring Family Enhancement (CAFÉ) Programme in Anambra State

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### **Abstract:**

*Prior to Caring Family Enhancement (CAFÉ) poverty alleviation to physically challenged in Anambra state, there were no recorded intervention programmes that addressed their plight which hampered their entrepreneurial success. The study determined the influence of CAFÉ poverty alleviation on entrepreneurial success of the beneficiaries, and if there was difference in income levels before and after the project. Sample size of 151 was drawn from population of 432. Descriptive and inferential statistics were adopted. Regression analysis was used to determine the influence of CAFÉ poverty alleviation on entrepreneurial success and Paired Samples t test used to determine if there were differences in income levels of beneficiaries before and after the project. Findings revealed that majority of the respondents were not married. The coefficient of artificial limbs and wheelchair, skills and vocational trainings, free equipment and cash were all significant at  $P < .001$  levels, with  $F(882.014)$  values. Equally, mean of paired samples t test was significance at  $P < .001$ . Null hypotheses were rejected and alternate hypotheses accepted. Therefore, it was concluded that CAFÉ poverty alleviation had significant influence on entrepreneurial success of physically challenged. In view of the findings, researcher recommended that project be sustained and replicated to other states through sensitization programme.*

**Keywords:** Poverty alleviation, entrepreneurial success, physically challenged, CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme

### **1. Introduction**

Nigeria is blessed with enormous natural resources that range from deposits of crude oil in abundant and arable land that support any form of agricultural activities, of which Nigeria is supposed to compete favorably with the super advanced countries in terms of per capita income and GDP. Unfortunately, Nigeria imports virtually everything. The situation has led many Nigerians especially youth striving to leave the country to foreign land seeking a greener pasture. All these arise due to inability of the country to manage its enormous resource as result of leadership failure to follow through with developmental goals, side-by-side with leadership's penchant for primitive accumulation (Sanusi, 2012, cited in Iyoha, Gberevbie, Iruonagbe and Egharevba, 2015).

The disparity in standard of living between developed countries and Nigeria is forcing the teeming youths to seek succor in foreign land. Poverty has been the reason for rural urban migration. Poverty is a product of poor nutrition, not having access to quality education, of which education has been identified as bedrock for national development. Due to the prevalent alarming rate of poverty in Nigeria, it is assumed that good things of life are only available to some certain class of citizens.

Reports had it that poverty has been on increase in Nigeria after independence in 1960, it was around just 15%, by 1980 it moved upwardly to 28.0%. The rise continued to 46.6% by 1985 despite all the intervention programmes to address poverty in the country by successive government. It dropped to 43% by 1992, though the fall was not really significant. By 1996, poverty sky rocketed to 66%. From 2004 to 2010 poverty level rose from 54.4 to 69. (NBS, 2011)

Nigerian human development index was only 0.504 positioning the country at 152 out 187 in 2013 (UNDP, 2014). In another view point poverty has been described as failure to attain basic necessities such as being adequately nourished, living a healthy life, possession of skills to participate in economic and social-political life, permission to take part in community activities (Odeh & Okoye, 2014).

Poverty is a global phenomenon which affects almost all continents, nations and people differently, there is no nation that is absolutely free from poverty (Oloyede, 2014a) Developed countries of the world have one time or other experienced extreme poverty, they later come over it due to policies and programme meant to address poverty. The will to

overcome extreme poverty depends on the individual entrepreneurial traits and strategies adopted to overcome them. The disparity between African countries and first world countries in combating poverty depends on manner of approaching them and institutions. Dike (2015) argued that whether a society will develop or not depends largely on the effectiveness of its institutions and infrastructure. In advance nations, poverty alleviation and its implementation mechanism are strictly adhered to, while in developing nation, every aspect of poverty alleviation programme has been issue of politics and hijacked by party faithful (Oloyede, 2014b). Also, embezzlement, poor implementation, and kick back among others have marred the success of poverty alleviation programmes.

Nigeria has millions who live in poverty and experience inequality as far as access to economic and political power is concerned and at the same time they go to same market on daily basis to purchase. Some people were more opportune than others, it could be due to political affiliations and family ties to ruling class, successive business nurtured by the family lineage among other reasons.

In Nigeria, the physically challenged and vulnerable people are mostly affected by the prevalence of poverty. Majority could not do odd jobs to improve their economic status due to their condition and this impede on their entrepreneurial success. Lifting physically challenged persons out of poverty is a multi-faceted task for both private and various government at all levels. First you need to pool them out and make them walk around and secondly, the resources to cue them into the mainstream of the economic activities within their environment. It is observed that physically challenged being confined to a particular place would definitely jeopardize their entrepreneurial traits. To overcome these challenges, limbs and wheel chairs becomes necessity to assist them, which of course due to their economic status, they find it difficult to acquire. Salminen, Samuelsson, Outi and Malmivaara (2009) stated that wheel chairs is critical source of mobility which aids independence and integration into society, including ability to earn a livelihood (Shores and Juillerat, 2012). Even when the very few privileged ones could access them, consequently, training and skill acquisition becomes necessary to make them innovative. Since majority of them could not fit in into the labor force, It becomes inevitable that they embrace entrepreneurship and self-employment as a viable alternative to a paid career path and an effective means of skill acquisition and vocational rehabilitation (Cooney, 2008; DeMartino, Atkins, Barbato, and Perotti, 2011) Similarly, physically challenged and disabled experience lower labour market participation rates than the non-disabled throughout Europe (Grammenos, 2011). Scholars argued that skill acquisition can be used as a potential rehabilitation and vocational tool to achieve faster and better integration into the labour market of individuals who are physically challenged and disabled (Arnold and Seekins, 2002). Equivocally in their submissions, Yamamoto, Unruh and Bullis (2012) suggested that in the 21st century, self-employment through skill acquisition can be a catalyst for expanding work opportunities and improving outcomes for physically challenged people. Boylan and Buchardt (2002) cited in Pagan-Rodriquez (2011) stress that improving entrepreneurial traits, self-employment can provide an alternative to a competitive and discriminatory labour market and poverty alleviation strategies for PWD. Likewise Arnold and Ipsen (2005) noted that there are few opportunities in work, and that self-employment may offer flexibility to address illness and provide opportunities for independent living .On a similar note, Beisland, Roy and Stephen (2016) noted that employers resist hiring people that are physically challenged, either because of pure discrimination or because they believe that their working capabilities are insufficient for the job in question. Cooney (2008) observes that an alternative career option for people with disabilities is to become self-employed, which has the benefits of freedom, flexibility and independence associated with self-employment as well as autonomy from access-related obstacles such as transportation, fatigue, inaccessible work environment and the need for personal assistance. According to Jones and Latreille (2005) it is now widely recognized that having a disability has a negative effect upon the rates of employment and earnings. Culturally, lewis (1966), bilton et al (1987) and Henslin (1996) cited in Aluko (2003), believed that poor possess certain cultural features which make them off from rest of the society and this are passed from generations to other, while inhibiting those exposed to them from taking opportunities to escape from poverty.

Admittedly, the consequences of poverty among the physically challenged persons have been a burden both to the family and society at large and many resorts to begging and this has been a threat to national development. Poor economic and social status affect the ability of physically challenged persons to gather assets for productive activities and this militate against entrepreneurial traits. Environment they grew up still affect them because in some cases there were no productive activities, this accounts why government have been emphasizing on the need for vocational training and skill acquisition among physically challenged, indigent, unemployed and rural poor. Physically challenged people who are ill-treated in working place always tend to seek self-employment as an alternative means of livelihood, this to a great extent drives their entrepreneurial traits.

Over the years, governments has introduced programmes and policies meant to address poverty in Nigeria, some of them were; Nigerian Agriculture And Cooperative Bank (NACB), Green Revolution, Directorate Food Roads Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Family Support Programme (FSP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NAPEP) among others. Though none have halted poverty, Adebayo (2012) argued that despite the plethora of poverty alleviation programme in Nigeria, Nigerians still remain poverty-stricken. Some programmes failed to seek the needs of the intended beneficiaries before embarking on the projects. Basically, none of the programmes were specifically directed towards addressing the plights of physically challenged and indigents persons in the society. Hitherto, programmes were implemented mainly through top down approach, and non-participation of beneficiaries in the planning stage resulted in failure of some of the projects. With the paradigm shift to bottom-up approach in adoption and implementation process, poverty alleviation programme which requires first identifying the needs of the intended beneficiaries and allowing them undergo trainings, makes poverty alleviation programmes more realistic and achievable.

It's on this premise that sub project of CAFÉ was initiated to address the plight of physically challenged and rekindle their entrepreneurial success.

The Caring Family Enhancement Initiative (CAFÉ) is a non-governmental, non-partisan organization which is non-ethnic, non-religious and non-partisan, which provides humanitarian and charitable services. The organization promotes and propagates the welfare and safety of the citizens based on the principles of equity, justice and fairness in order to foster socio-political and economic development of the state. (CAFÉ, 2014).

CAFÉ was founded in August 2014 through the office of Wife of the Governor, Anambra State. It has mandate to care for the less privileged and reduce women-child vulnerability while maintaining the dignity of physically challenged persons. (CAFÉ, 2012).

CAFÉ galvanizes support from International donor agencies, non-governmental organization, corporate bodies and individuals. The resources are channeled towards uplifting active poor, physically challenged, orphans, and vulnerable children out of poverty. Adejo (2012) posit that government, non-governmental organizations seeking to improve youth likelihood through empowerment for self-sustenance could be best pursue their empowerment intents by tapping into the potential of their entrepreneurial activities.

CAFÉ identifies the non-skilled persons, indigent widows, women, youths, the physically challenged and the less privileged in the communities. It provides supports like limbs, wheel chairs to physically challenged. Equally, Café in addition to supports given to physically challenged, some of them who are still active participated in skill acquisition and Vocational training on tailoring and fashion design, soap making, bakery and confectionary, hair dressing and beauty therapy, interior decoration, telephone and computer repairs among others. Ogbeni (2007) stated that poverty reduction programmes cannot succeed without some levels of education. No nation can adequately tap its human potentials without adequate education. The beneficiaries on graduation receive free equipment in their various chosen areas, and accompanied with start-up capital.

Bottom-up and participatory approach of poverty alleviation has been useful in implementing CAFÉ projects. This mechanism places the beneficiaries at drivers sit, where themselves must be involved in identifying, implementing and management of the desired empowerment projects that suits their economic needs within their locality. Anietem and Abiodun (2015) reiterated failure of the Top-Down developmental approach of the past governments in tackling rural poverty and dangers it posed by rural urban migration, CDD which is integral part of Bottom Up approach became popular in Nigeria. This, therefore, makes a bottom-up poverty reduction strategy more accepted, in which the poor themselves must be involved, as matter of urgent necessity. It's on this premise that it became imperative to investigate the state of establishment of projects that would lift physically challenged persons out of poverty. As to best of researcher's knowledge, no research effort has been carried out to determine the influence of CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme on entrepreneurial success of the beneficiaries in Anambra State. The purpose of this study is to;

- Determine the influence of café poverty alleviation programme on entrepreneurial success of the beneficiaries in the study area
- Determine if there is difference in income level before and after the projects.

### 1.1. Hypotheses

- H<sub>01</sub> CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme has no significance influence on entrepreneurial success of physically challenged.
- H<sub>02</sub> there is no significance difference in income levels before and after the projects.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Study Area

The study was carried out in Anambra state in South Eastern Nigeria. Anambra was created on 27 August 1991. It has a population of 4,055,038 (2006 census), with density of 846/km<sup>2</sup> (2,200/sqm) and total land mass of 4,854km<sup>2</sup>. Anambra is rich in natural gas, crude oil bauxite, ceramics and has an almost 100 percent arable soil.

Anambra state has many other resources in terms of agro-based activities like fishery and farming, as well as land cultivated for pasturing and animal husbandry. People of the area are mostly into trading, agricultural activities and partly civil servants. Boundaries are formed by Delta state to west, Imo state and Rivers state to South, Enugu state to the east and Kogi to the North.

### 2.2. Population of the Study

There are 650 beneficiaries of artificial prosthetic limbs and 370 beneficiaries of wheelchairs, totaling 1,020. Out of the total beneficiaries of Limbs and wheel chair, 432 who are still active went further and took part in various skill acquisition programmes and this forms the population of the study.

### 2.3. Determination of Sample Size

Multi-stage sampling was adopted. There are four (4) zones in Anambra state (Anambra, Awka, Aguata and Onitsha). Awka and Onitsha zones were randomly selected out of the four (4) zones due to their economic viability in the state. The two zones have a total of 151 beneficiaries and this forms the sample size.

### 2.4. Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to present and describe the socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries such descriptive tools like mean, averages, and frequency.

Also, inferential statistics such as multiple regression analysis was employed to analyze and determine the influence of poverty alleviation programme on the entrepreneurial success of the beneficiaries. Paired sample test to determine the mean difference in their income before and the projects.

Entrepreneurial Success are measured or judged by financial performance of the firm (Zhou, Zhou Zhang, Obschonka And Silbereisen (2017), also in the case of the physically challenged who hitherto have no or limited means of survival, what matters to them concerning entrepreneurial success is financial gain derived from their business dealings.

### 2.5. Data Collection Instruments

A well-structured questionnaire was duly administered to elicit information from the respondents on their socio-economic characteristics

Such like sex, marital status, age, size of family, skill and vocational training received, income before and after the projects. 5 points Likert scale ratings were equally used to obtain data from beneficiaries on their ratings of the influence of CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme (independent variables) and their rating on entrepreneurial success (dependent variable).

### 2.6. Regression Model

Multiple regression model was used to test the hypotheses in order to ascertain the influence of poverty alleviation programme on the entrepreneurial success of the beneficiaries. The regression was run using SPSS package to determine the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable. This was done at alpha level of 5%.

CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme =Independent variables

Entrepreneurial success =Dependent variable

The model is implicitly specified as follows;

$$Y_1 = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 \dots X_n + e.i)$$

The models are further explicitly specified as follows.

$$Y_i = b_0 + b_1X_{1i} + b_2X_{2i} + b_3X_{3i} + b_4X_{4i} + e.i$$

Where

1= Artificial prosthetic limbs and wheel chairs

2= Skill acquisition and trainings

3=Free Equipment

4=Cash.

Components of independent variables are; artificial prosthetic limbs, wheel chairs, skill and vocational trainings and cash.

### 2.7. Regression Analysis

Y=Entrepreneurial success

X<sub>1</sub>=Artificial prosthetic limbs and wheel chairs

X<sub>2</sub>=Skill acquisition and trainings

X<sub>3</sub>=Free Equipment

X<sub>4</sub>=Cash

e<sub>i</sub>=Error Term design to capture the effects of unspecified variables in the model.

Entrepreneurial success (Y)=F (CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme)

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondent

The respondent's socio-economic characteristics on table 1 shows sex, age educational qualification, size of family, monthly income before the project and monthly income after the project. The table shows that 59% are female while 41% are males. This shows that female folk are more involved in the CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme. Majority of the respondents fell within the age bracket of 41-50 years with the highest percentage of 39%, followed by those that fall within the age bracket of 31-40, representing 38%. This shows that beneficiaries are still in their productive age.

Though majority of the respondents were not married, representing 72% while 36 respondents were married with 24%. A reasonable number (46%) of them has First School Leaving Certificate, followed by (35%) having SSCE. Those that had no formal education was (15%) and with only (1%) had Bsc/HND. Only (20%) of them have family size of between 1-3 persons and average family size of 1. Before the project, 137 respondents representing (91%) make a monthly income of N1000-N20,000, while (3%) of respondents make between N41,000-N60,000 per month. Their monthly average income was N12,751. Then, after the project (67%) make N41,000-N60,000 while 3% make N80,000 and above monthly. Their average monthly income after the project was N48,248.34

Variables	Frequency	Percent
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	89	59
Male	62	41
<b>Age (years)</b>		
< 20	10	7
21-30	18	12
31-40	38	25
41-50	39	39
51-60	26	17
61-above	0	
-	(x)= 39	
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	109	72
Married	36	24
Divorce	4	3
Widowed	2	1
<b>Educational qualification</b>		
No formal Education	23	15
FSLC	69	46
SSCE	52	35
NCE/OND	5	3
BSC/HND	5	1
<b>Family size</b>		
< 1	119	78
1-3	30	20
4-6	3	2
7-9	0	0
-	(x)= 1	
<b>Monthly income(N) before project</b>		
1,000-20,000	137	91
21,000-40,000	11	7
41,000-60,000	3	2
61,000-80,000		
81,000-Above		
-	(x)= 12,751.65	
<b>Monthly income(N) After project</b>		
1,000-20,000	6	4
21,000-40,000	27	18
41,000-60,000	101	67
61,000-80,000	12	8
81,000-Above	5	3
-	(x)= 48,248.344	

Table 1: Distribution of Respondent by Their Socioeconomic Characteristics

Table 2 shows response on the Free Equipment received by the beneficiaries of CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme. Fifty-six beneficiaries representing 37% received tailoring machines and other materials for tailoring and fashion design business, for bakery and confectionaries 32 of the respondents received bakery equipment. Twenty-eight respondents indicated that that they received hair dressing and beauty equipment, for telephone and computer repairs, 15 of the respondents received working equipment on that. Five of the respondents were given equipment for interior decoration business and equipment for soap making were given to 15 beneficiaries.

Also, in table 3, ninety-seven respondents representing 64% and 54 respondents representing 36% were given free limbs and wheelchairs respectively.

Free Equipment Provided	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tailoring and fashion design	56	37
Bakery and confectionaries	32	21
Hair dressing and beauty therapy	28	19
Telephone and computer repairs	15	10
Interior decoration	5	3
Soap making	15	10

Table 2: Response on the Free Equipment Beneficiaries Received

Source: Field Survey: 2019

Beneficiaries of limbs or wheel chairs	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Limbs	97	64
Wheel chairs	54	36

Table 3: Response on the Limbs Or Wheel Chair Received  
Source: Field Survey: 2019

### 3.2. Test of Hypotheses

#### 3.2.1. Hypothesis one

CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme has no significance influence on entrepreneurial success of physically challenged.

In testing the hypothesis which state that CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme has no significance influence on the entrepreneurial success of physically challenged, the result of the regression indicated that the model explained 96% of the variance of independent variable on entrepreneurial success. The coefficient of Limbs and wheelchairs were statistically significant and contributed to dependent variable at (B=.237, P<.001). For a unit increase in limbs and wheel chair provided to physically challenged, entrepreneurial success is increased by N.237. This finding corroborates with the submissions of Salminen, Samuelsson, Outi and Malmivaara (2009) which state that wheel chairs is critical source of mobility which aids independence and integration into society. The coefficient of skill acquisition and training was statistically significant and contributed to entrepreneurial success at (B=.264, P<.001), for a unit increase in provision of skill acquisition training, entrepreneurial success of physically challenged is increased by N.264. This equally go in line with the findings of (Cooney 2008; DeMartino, Atkins, Barbato, and Perotti, 2011) that entrepreneurship and self-employment is a viable alternative to a paid career path and an effective means of skill acquisition and vocational rehabilitation. The coefficient of free equipment is statistically significant and contributed to entrepreneurial success at (B=.234, P<.001), for a unit increase in provision of free equipment, entrepreneurial success of physically challenged is increased by N.234. And coefficient of cash is equally statistically significant and contributed to entrepreneurial success at (B=.232, P<.001) for any unit increase in increase in cash provided, entrepreneurial success is increased by N.232. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis which state that CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme has significance influence on entrepreneurial success of physically challenged is accepted.

Model	Coefficient estimates	T-value	P-value
(Constant)	.122	2.072	.040
X <sub>1</sub> -Limbs and wheel chairs	.237	9.582	.000
X <sub>2</sub> -Skill acquisition and trainings	.264	8.821	.000
X <sub>3</sub> - free equipment	.234	12.012	.000
X <sub>4</sub> -cash	.232	10.748	.000
R <sup>2</sup>	0.960		
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	0.959		
F	882.014 (sig.@0.001)		
Dependent variable:	Entrepreneurial success		

Table 4: Regression Estimates (Effect of CAFE Poverty Alleviation Programme on Entrepreneurial Success)

#### 3.2.2. Hypothesis Two

There is no significance difference in income level before and after the project. Testing the hypothesis which states that there is no significance difference in income levels before and after the project. Since the P<.001, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis which state that there is significance difference in income level before and after the project is accepted.

	Mean	Std Deviation	T-value	P-value
Monthly income before the project -monthly income after the project	-2.33901	.91830	-31.299	.000

Table 5: Paired Sample Test

### 4. Summary and Conclusion

The result shows that CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme had a significant influence on entrepreneurial success of the physically challenged persons in Anambra State. The result shows that for a given unit of CAFÉ poverty alleviation project provided entrepreneurial success of beneficiaries is increased. Limbs and wheel chairs, skill acquisition and vocational training, free equipment and cash are indispensable in addressing the plights of physically challenged.

Accordingly, the theory of Bottom-up and participatory approach has been useful in actualizing the project, because it places the beneficiaries at drivers sit, makes them involved at every stage of project identification, implementation and its management. The researcher therefore recommends the following;

- The project should be sustained so that more physically challenged persons would benefit.
- CAFÉ poverty alleviation programme be replicated to other states through sensitization programme.

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