



**THE EFFECT OF HOME MANAGEMENT SKILLS
TRAINING ON WOMEN: A STUDY OF CITY WOMEN
CENTRE, KANO STATE**

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Abstract

The production of processed and non-processed products contributes immensely to the economy and wellbeing of society. This paper investigates the extent to which City Women Center, Kano State is creating job and improving the employment situation of women. This paper focuses on the effects of Home Management Skill Training on women in the centre, which requires analysis that can first explain the nature and pattern of the beneficiaries to participants. The study evaluates and categorized the centers' on vocational training they offer such as tailoring, knitting, beads, pomade and soap making. Tailoring during this research was the most patronized vocation by participants at 35.4%, while pomade making and interior decoration were the least favoured. Results indicate that 84.1% of the respondents

positively responded to the skills learnt. Above all, they acquired and adopted different skills not only for their self-employment but in the long-run an employer of labour.

Keywords: Home Management Skills, City Women Center

Introduction

Kano City has been one of the most influential commercial centers in West Africa for many centuries. It is the most populous state in Nigeria with the highest number of Local Government areas (National Bureau of Statistics Nigeria, NBSN, 2006) and lies entirely within the semi-arid Sudan Savannah zone of West Africa at about 840 kilometers edge of the Sahara Desert. Kano State has a total land area 20,131 square kilometers. Its absolute location is 11°30'N 8°30'E. The state is bounded by Katsina, Kaduna, Jigawa and Bauchi states.

Wikipedia described Kano as a state where subsistence and commercial agriculture are mostly practiced in outlying districts. Some of the food crops cultivated are millet, cowpeas, sorghum, maize and rice for local consumption while groundnuts and cotton are produced for export and industrial purposes. During the colonial period and several years after the country's independence, the groundnuts produced in the state constituted one of the major sources revenue for the country. Kano State is a major producer of hides and skins, sesame, soybean, cotton, garlic, Gum Arabic and chili pepper. Commercial activities in

Kano were first developed with the establishment of the Kurmi market by the Emir of Kano Muhammadu Rumfa in the 16th Century CE.

There is no doubt that education is an important lever towards economic development and social progress. This is because it is one central activity through which the human resources of any society can be developed. Mohammed & Alkasim (1998) emphasised that it is only through the total engagement of our productive capacity that we ensure a self-sustained development. In line with the present administration, it centered on achieving higher enrolment, improving quality and reducing the educational gap in the country. Women's tradition which hitherto had received little attention and social and cultural practices have combined to relegate women to a somewhat second-class status in society. However, the government of Kano State developed women empowering schemes through City Women Center to shift away from tradition to a more modern life style of income generation.

The City Women Center, Kano State, was established in 1980 but skills acquisition programmes commenced in 1985. The State government established the Centre to address skill deficits and grow competencies that will prepare participants for future role opportunities. In an interview with one of the facilitators at City Women Center on 4th February, 2016, he emphasized the professional roles of women in businesses and vocational occupations in the state. All program components promote

alignment between the program itself, institutional workforce needs, organizational direction and participants' aspirations at a critical time in the competition for talent. Okoro (1996) sees vocational education as any form of education whose primary purpose is to prepare the individual for employment in a recognized occupation. In addition, the facilitator noted that the oral interview discussion would focus on women empowerment in various home management skills acquisition programs. The importance and place of women in the society and the idea of empowering them through the provision of skill acquisition had reduced or contributed in ameliorating the economic instability that is believed to have been the major course of youth restiveness, indiscipline, immorality and even the insurgency problems.

The information would be useful to various types of government on its change agenda. This research can, therefore, provide the government with information on the extent of how social vices may be addressed through training of non-educated women in Kano to improve on their living standards. This vocational training knowledge can enables decision makers to make more effective policies that would alleviate poverty and stimulate growth in the state and the nation at large. However, Osuala (1999), opined that any type of education or training in which a worker participates is vocational.

Methodology

According to Shaughnessy et al (2011), survey research is often used to assess thoughts, opinions and feelings. It can be specific and limited or have more global, widespread goals. Today, survey research is used by a variety of different groups. Psychology and sociologists often use survey research to analyze behaviour, while it is also used to meet the more pragmatic needs of the media, such as in evaluating political candidates, public health official, professional organization and evaluating and marketing directors. A survey consists of a predetermined set of questions that is given to a sample. With a representative sample, that is, one that is representative of the larger population of interest, one can describe the attitudes of the population from which the sample was drawn. Further, one can compare the attitudes of different populations as well as look for changes in attitudes over time. A good sample selection is key, as it allows one to generalize the findings from the sample to the population, which is the whole purpose of survey research.

According to the record obtained from the management of City Women Centre Kano, there are 170 participants and 10 facilitators in the skills acquisition section of the centre. Therefore, the total population is 180. Both the participants and facilitators are women (City Women Centre, Kano 2015). The selection of the sample was in line with the provision of Krecie and Morgan (2006) guidelines that a population of 180 would

require the use of 113 samples. However, a sample of participants 113 and 10 instructors was used in the study.

The instruments used to collect data are a self-developed questionnaire with reliability coefficient of 0.621 and interview schedules to generate information from the facilitators. The questionnaire covers the participants schedule while the interview method targets the instructors and administrators who are teaching the training skills program. The instrument comprises two parts. The first part deals with the demographic characteristics of the participants and instructors while the second part examines the effectiveness of the home management skills training of women at the City Women Centre Kano.

The instruments are as follows:

- a. Home Management Skills Effectiveness Questionnaire for Participants (HMSEQ)
- b. Home Management Skills Effectiveness for Instructors Interview Schedule (HMSEIIS)

The Participants Instrument (Home Management Skill Effectiveness for Questionnaire) is written in form of a questionnaire for the respondents or subjects to answer. The researcher employed the self-developed questionnaire in Hausa and later translated into English. It was made in Hausa for the participants to comprehend very well and be as free as possible in expressing their minds or views on a number of issues that assess the efficacy of the training. The question is based on “Yes

or No” and other alternative forms of questions asked by the researchers. The Instructors Instrument (Home management skills effectiveness for instructors interview schedule) consists of two parts A & B. Part A covered demographic characteristics of the respondent while part B are questions that captured the City Women Center Skills, training activities, their contributions and problems confronting their effective implementation programme. The questionnaire consisted of open and closed ended items. It is based on “Yes or No” and other alternative forms of questions by the researcher. Frequency count and simple percentage were used for the calculation. The draft instrument is given to three research and measurement and evaluation experts at the School of Education Sa’adatu Rimi College of Education Kumbotso, Kano. The reliability of the instrument was determined based on the test-retest procedure.

Results

The method used in data presentation and analysis is percentage (%). Tables where the responses of the participants are collected totaled and a percentage of a particular response in respect of the total responses is calculated to show the magnitude on the particular opinion. The results from the data obtained show that a positive relationship exists between participants and increased income generation among City women in Kano state, Nigeria. The study indicated a high impact on the participant self-reliance, capacity building and poverty reduction. Activities at the home management programme include tailoring, knitting,

beads-making, soap production and interior decorations that are excessively utilized.

Table 1: Response on Scope of Home Management Skill Programmes

Description	Details	Frequencies	Percentage
Scope of Home	Tailoring	40	35.5
Management Skill	Knitting	25	22.1
Training	Beads Making	15	13.5
	Pomade Making	10	8.8
	Soap Production	13	11.4
	Interior Decoration	10	8.8
Total		113	100.0

Sources: Field Survey 2015.

The Table above shows the scope of the home management skills program available in the Centre. The tailoring skill has higher frequencies of 35.4%; the knitting section, 22.1%, beads-making 13.5%; soap making 11.5%; while pomade-making and interior decoration 8.8% were the least favoured.

Table 2: Response on relevance of Home Management Skills to Need of the Participants

Variable		Frequencies	Percentage
Relevant Skills	Yes	95	84.1
Learnt	No	18	15.9
Total		113	100.0

Sources: Field Survey 2015.

The Table above presents the survey identified relevance of home management skills to the need of the participants, as offered in the City Women Centre Kano. 84.1% says “yes” on the opinion that the skills learnt were relevant and useful to them while 15.9% did not accept the opinion.

Table 3: Response on the Relevance of Home Management Skills

Variable	Option	F	%
How relevant to your needs	a. Increase my income	28	24.8
	b. Improves my ability to work in group	15	13.3
	c. Makes me productive	30	26.5
	d. Makes me self-reliant	40	35.4
Total		113	100

Sources: Field Survey 2015.

The Table above presents the survey identified relevance of home management skills to the need of the participants. 24.8% indicated that the training has impacted positively on their income generation. 13.3% said it improves their ability to work in a group or team, while 26.5% believed they have become productive and 35.4% self-reliant after the skills training from the Centre.

Summary of the findings

1. The findings showed the highest patronized home management skills was tailoring with 35.5% and the lowest, pomade-making and interior decoration, with 8.8% each.

2. The second finding indicated the highest relevant skills learnt with 84.1% whereas those that responded negative are 15.9%.
3. Finally, 35.4% positively agreed that the training skills makes them self-reliant while others responded negatively with 13.3%, respectively.

Conclusion

Nigeria is blessed with all the potentials to make a great nation capable of feeding herself and export goods. These potentials are still waiting to be developed. A holistic approach to the production, processing and marketing of her resources will transform the capability of the country to meet from the abundant resources available. The ever-increasing population growth of Nigeria indicates a ready-made market. Based on the findings of this study, it could be concluded that City Women Center, Kano State has played a prominent role in poverty reduction through skills acquisition and the provision of support services to women of Kano State through the introduction of the Women-based development activities. It improves production and increases the income of women; after all, sustainable development is not possible without the empowerment of women.

Recommendations

1. There is the need for both government and NGO’s to increase tailoring machines and more sophisticated sewing machines to woman centers.

2. Government should provide more training materials for pomade making and interior decoration, so as to boost the training capacity of women centers.
3. Government should provide free soft loans as financial assistance to the participants in order to make them productive and self-reliant.

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