

Economic and Psychological impact of Vocational Training on the Poor and Perverted in Nsukka Metropolis of Enugu State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Poverty and moral perversion have been on the increase in the recent times in Nsukka Metropolis of Enugu state and currently questions are being raised on the place of entrepreneurial skills in curbing these societal menace. This study dwelt on the analysis of the poor (destitute) and morally perverted with the aim of ascertaining their trainability for effective empowerment with particular reference to Nsukka metropolis in Enugu State. The study employed the survey research design in order to answer the research questions. Responses from the respondents were analyzed using excel tools like charts, graphs and tables. The results show that many of these beggars and deviants engage in begging and prostitution because they are physically challenged, lack basic necessities for good living, have many dependents, are the breadwinners of their families, they receive little or no support from their parents, family and friends, have pressure from immediate family and some are their own sponsors in school. It was also found that these individuals are very much around the Nsukka metropolis because they receive some patronage in the area. It was discovered that majority of these groups of individuals under study have not acquired any professional skill; hence empowering them with skills, will go a long way to make them abandon their current profession.

Keywords: Poverty, Destitution, Prostitution, Vocational training, Nsukka Metropolis

JEL Classification: I32, I38, P46

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The increasing numbers of poor (destitute) and morally perverted individuals in the Nigerian urban areas have raised several questions and concerns among policy makers and scholars. Many studies have anticipated that this rather disturbing trend will hit a further breaking point in the nearest future given the current economic stagnation being experienced in Nigeria (Aluko and Olanipekun, 2019). More so, it is supposed to be a worrying development to patriotic Nigerians seeing how this special population of the society currently poses a glaring threat to the beautification of cities by successive governments. Besides with the spread of sexually transmitted disease like HIV/AIDS, the increasing number of prostitutes in Nsukka metropolis is an indication of moral bankruptcy and a bastardization of the Nigerian values. There is little or no doubt that many well-meaning Nigerians find it difficult to visit some public places citing fears of possible embarrassment from destitutes. Moreover, Lal, (2016) laments that even able-bodied men are engaged in destitution, thereby posing threat to conducive and serene environment. Beside debris, industrial and domestic wastes, destitutes constitute the second most significant eye-sore on major streets and roads. In conducting their alms begging businesses, they tend to disfigure the image and pride of any environment they occupy.

Destitution has to do with the lack for the basic needs of life whereas a destitute is a person who is extremely poor and lacks the means to provide for oneself. Sometimes, the populations of destitutes in most societies are the aged but the recent upsurge in terror attacks and other inhuman treatments have increased the number of destitute to include both the youth and children. Succinctly put, destitutes are people who lack basic necessities of life like food, clothing and shelter. However, to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) i.e eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in Nigeria, the problem of increasing incidence of begging in her cities needs to be properly addressed. Irrespective of the fact that street begging constitutes nuisance to the physical and social environment in many cities in Nigeria, the long-term reliance on the activity as a means of livelihood, amount to a waste of human resources and constitutes a burden on the already overstretched meager-income earners that make up the majority of the entire work force. Nevertheless, as different tiers of government measure against poverty and sometimes destitution, the problem continues unabated. The poverty rate in Nigeria has increased tremendously, as results of the inactions of those saddled with the leadership responsibility of this country and is such that people are ready to commit all kind of heinous crimes including prostitution to survive.

There has been tremendous increase in the level of poverty in Nigeria since the implementation of SAP in the 1980s, thus the poverty profile of Nigeria increased from 28.1% in 1980 to 43.6% in 1985 but declined to 42.7% in 1992 and rose again to 65% in 1996. The UNDP Human Development Indices (HDI) for 2001 ranked Nigeria the 142nd with HDI of 0.40 among the poorest countries. From 1980-1996, the population of the poor Nigerians increased four folds in absolute terms. In 2019, poverty rate in Nigeria was still very high at 40.1% (National Bureau of Statistics).