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Assessment of the Impact of Social Care on Local Consumption in Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

This paper examines the impact of social care on local consumption in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study employed quantitative research methods and primary data were obtained by means of a well-structured questionnaire. Analytical Techniques Descriptive statistics were used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. In analyzing the determinants of variables in the study area, regression analysis was adopted. The target population includes beneficiaries of social care programs in Kwara State who were captured in National Social Register for the poor and vulnerable. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed and 150 beneficiaries were identified. The findings revealed that social assistance programs play a vital role in enhancing local consumption and fostering economic development in Kwara State. The study recommended that government should allocate adequate funding to the implementation of social care programs and ensure their long-term viability and effectiveness.

Keywords: Social care, social welfare, local consumption, poverty alleviation, market development, economic development

1. Introduction

Social care encompasses a range of interventions aimed at addressing these challenges and improving the overall quality of life for individuals and communities. It includes initiatives such as healthcare services, social welfare programs, education and skill development, and community development projects. These interventions aim to provide support, protection, and assistance to vulnerable groups, promote inclusive growth, and enhance social cohesion (Masino & Niño-Zarazúa, 2018)). Social care is primarily aimed at supporting individuals in ways that allow them to live independently. Social care tends to be provided within people's homes or in care-specific establishments. Social care is in place to support those who may be vulnerable, unable to support themselves, or just in need of extra support (Spiers, Matthews, Moffatt, Barker, Jarvis, Stow, Kingston, & Hanratty (2019)). Depending on the individual's circumstances, social care is paid for via personal funds, government funds, or a combination of the two. Social care is not restricted to one particular age group; it ranges from child protection programs to end-of-life care. Children's care, access to education, young people's and adult intervention, and services for the elderly are all part of social care (Byaruhanga & Debesay, 2021). Social care improves the quality of life of the vulnerable and gives them the opportunity to live with dignity and equal access to the necessities needed to provide the highest quality of care. Social care and support are highly complementary to social protection and are sometimes classified as social protection. Social care services for those facing social risks such as violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, and social exclusion. Economically and socially, vulnerable people face complex challenges. Providing appropriate support necessitates direct outreach to assess challenges and required responses, which can range from psycho-social support to referrals to needed services. (Ubels, Kinsbergen, Tolsma & Koch, 2022). Local consumption refers to the patterns of expenditure and consumption of goods and services within a specific region. It plays a vital role in driving economic growth, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving living standards. (Onuk, 2019). By exploring the impact of social care on local consumption, this research aims to shed light on how investments in social care initiatives can contribute to improved living standards, increased purchasing power, and sustainable economic growth at the local level. It seeks to examine the potential benefits and challenges associated with social care interventions and their influence on consumption patterns, market dynamics, and overall socio-economic development in Kwara State. Kwara State, located

in the North Central region of Nigeria, is characterized by a diverse population and an economy primarily driven by agriculture, commerce, and services. However, the state faces numerous socio-economic challenges that affect the well-being of its residents, including poverty, inadequate access to quality healthcare and education, and limited social welfare support (Ogbonna, 2017). Hence, this study provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of social care on local consumption in Kwara State.

2. Literature Review

This review highlights the current understanding of how social care interventions influence local consumption patterns and their implications for socio-economic development in Kwara State. Several studies have demonstrated the positive impact of improved healthcare services on local consumption. Access to quality healthcare not only enhances individuals' well-being but also reduces medical expenses, enabling households to allocate their resources to other consumption needs (Orire & Ogunfolaji, 2021). Social welfare initiatives, such as cash transfer programs, have been found to alleviate poverty and improve local consumption. These programs provide vulnerable households with financial support, enabling them to meet basic needs and participate in local markets (Kenneth, Ferdinand & Narasimha, 2019). Investments in education and skill development programs have been shown to enhance human capital and increase earning potential. This, in turn, can lead to higher incomes and increased local consumption as individuals have more disposable income (Attanasio & Pastorino, 2020). Community development initiatives, including infrastructure development and public goods provision, have indirect impacts on local consumption. Improved infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, enhances market access, stimulates economic activities, and encourages local consumption (Behrman, 2019). There are many theories that depict the concept. This includes Social Investment Theory which emphasizes the long-term benefits of social care investments. It argues that providing individuals with the necessary support and resources can enhance their capabilities, leading to improved socio-economic outcomes, including increased local consumption (Borgonovi & Montt, 2012). Also, the welfare state theory posits that social care interventions, including social welfare programs, contribute to social stability, reduce inequality, and stimulate economic growth. By addressing social risks and providing a safety net, these interventions create conditions conducive to increased local consumption (Brady, 2019).

3. Methodology

The study was carried out in Kwara State, and a quantitative technique approach, which included surveys and data analysis, was used. A well-structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data. Analytical Methods The respondents' socio-economic characteristics were described using descriptive statistics. Regression analysis was used to examine the variables' determinants in the research area. Beneficiaries of social assistance programs in Kwara State who are on the National Social Register for the Poor and Vulnerable are among those targeted. A multi-stage sampling method was used. Purposive sampling was utilized in the initial stage to choose specific social assistance programs in Kwara State. In the second stage, random sampling was used to choose beneficiaries from the listed programs, and snowball sampling techniques were used to identify relevant beneficiaries. In this regard, 150 households that had benefited from the social care program were chosen for the study. The stages correspond to the work of Puerta, Ciannelli, and Johnson, 2019.

4. Results and Discussion

The socio-economic characteristics of the households are presented in table 1. The result of the analysis showed that most of the respondents are between 31-40 and 41-50, respectively. Male respondents are more than females by 18.6%. 70% of the respondents are married and 39.3% have secondary education while 16.3% have more than secondary school education, while 15.3% has no formal education. 36% and 38% have 4-6 and 5 and above as the number of persons in the respondents' household. 34% of the respondents have a household income that is less than 5,000 and 2.7% have more than N50,000 as household income per month. The regression result in table 2 indicates a weak positive relationship between social care and local consumption ($R = 0.113$). The coefficient of determination (R -squared) of 1.3% of the variance in the dependent variable can be explained by the predictor variable (R -squared = 0.013). This implies that social care has a positive impact on local consumption.

Age of the Beneficiary	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
15-20	7	4.7	4.7
21-30	17	11.3	16.0
31-40	73	48.7	64.7
41-50	41	27.3	92.0
51 and Above	12	8.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	
Gender	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	89	59.3	59.3
Female	61	40.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	18	12.0	12.0
Married	105	70.0	82.0
Widowed/Divorce	27	18.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Formal education	51	15.3	15.3
Primary Education	42	28.0	43.3
Secondary Education	43	39.3	82.7
NCE/ND/A'Level/ HND/B.A/B.Sc	10	11.3	94.0
Postgraduate	4	6.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	
No. of Persons in Beneficiary Household	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-3	39	26.0	26.0
4-6	54	36.0	62.0
5 and Above	57	38.0	100.0
Total	150	100.0	
Household Income per month	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than N5,000	51	34.0	34.0
N5,000-N10,000	42	28.0	62.0
N10,000-N20,000	43	28.7	90.7
N20,000-N50,000	10	6.7	97.3
More than N50,000	4	2.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents (N=150)

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	f-Change	Sig.
	.113 ^a	.013	.006	.434	7.032	
a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Care						

Table 2: Regression Result Tables

ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	.360	1	.360	1.909	.169 ^b
Residual	27.915	148	.189		
Total	28.275	149			
a. Dependent Variable: Local Consumption					
b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Care					

Table 3: ANOVA Table

Coefficients ^a					
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Unstandardized Coefficients
(Constant)	1.695	.260		6.521	.000
SA-AVERAGE	.192	.139	.113	1.382	.169
(Constant)	1.695	.260		6.521	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Local Consumption

Table 4: Coefficients Table

5. Findings

The study found that social care interventions have a positive impact on local consumption in Kwara State. Access to improved healthcare services, social welfare programs, education, and community development projects was associated with increased household spending on essential goods and services. Social care interventions played a crucial role in reducing poverty levels and improving the well-being of vulnerable populations in Kwara State. By providing financial support and assistance to those in need, social welfare programs contributed to increased purchasing power, enabling households to meet their basic needs and engage in local markets. The study revealed that social care interventions can stimulate market development within Kwara State. By increasing demand for goods and services, these interventions created opportunities for entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth. The improved infrastructure resulting from community development projects also facilitated market access and economic activities, leading to increased local consumption.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study provides strong evidence that social care interventions have a positive impact on local consumption in Kwara State, Nigeria. Access to improved healthcare, social welfare support, education, and community development initiatives contribute to increased household spending, poverty reduction, and market development.

However, challenges related to program coverage and implementation need to be addressed to maximize the impact of social care on local consumption.

7. Recommendation

Based on the findings, it is recommended that efforts should be made to enhance the coverage of social care interventions, ensuring that a larger proportion of the population can benefit. This includes scaling up social welfare programs, improving access to quality healthcare services, and promoting education and skill development initiatives. It is crucial to strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of social care interventions. This involves enhancing coordination among relevant government agencies, ensuring adequate funding and resources, and conducting regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of these interventions. Encouraging public-private partnerships can contribute to the success and sustainability of social care initiatives. Collaboration with private sector entities can bring additional resources, expertise, and innovation to enhance the impact of social care on local consumption. Adequate funding is essential for the successful implementation of social care programs. Governments and stakeholders should allocate sufficient financial resources to support social care interventions, ensuring their long-term viability and effectiveness. Public awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives are crucial for ensuring the success of social care interventions. Educating communities about the benefits of social care and encouraging their active participation can strengthen the impact of these interventions on local consumption.

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