

Original Research Article

**INFLUENCE OF GENDER ON NATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION
PROGRAMME (NAPEP) CAPACITY ACQUISITION SCHEME (CAS)
GRADUATES ON THEIR ABILITY TO ACQUIRE TAILORING
SKILLS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate Gender Influence on graduates of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) on their ability to acquire Tailoring Skills in Ogun and Osun States in Nigeria. The study adopted an expost facto research design. The target population consisted of 2,396 graduates who were trained between 2003-2007 when the programme was functional. A multistage sampling technique was adopted to select a sample size of 484 respondents. A structured questionnaire consisting of eleven (11) item statements was utilized. The data gathered were analysed using means and standard deviation for the research question while the t.test was used to determine the level of significance for the hypothesis tested. Findings revealed that gender had no influence on graduates abilities to acquire tailoring skills, however, gender influenced females' abilities to acquire tailoring skills and not the males. Finding also showed gender influence on NAPEP Capacity Acquisition Scheme among urban graduates on their abilities to acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurship than the rural graduates. Based on the finding, it was recommended that skills training which is a way out of the harsh economic and poverty eradication is gender inclusive, therefore cultural and societal prescription of specific roles for males/females should be discouraged.

Key words: Gender, Influence, tailoring Skills, Poverty Eradication, Graduates.

Introduction

Gender is the difference between male and female which is derived from social expectation about appropriate behavior, interest, abilities and attitudes. Azikwe (1993), sees gender as a cultural construct that distinguishes the role behavior, mental and emotional characteristics between female and male developed by the society. Arubayi (2012) described gender as an individual's personal and psychological experience of being male or female, as well as the visible external organs that describes peoples'

biological makeup. Okojie (2011), opined that gender is a domain of human capital development and that culturally, society has ascribed some certain roles to male and female respectively, which may influence and determine what they do and how they work and their choices of careers. Ironically, no society can separate the economic variability of its nation from gender related issues. For economic development and growth of national economy, the quality of skills possessed by the citizens (male/female) must be enhanced through adequate training and skills acquisition programmes for entrepreneurial activities. Adebisi (2014), reiterated that Nigeria as a nation is blessed with many natural resources yet, there is high level of unemployed youths who could have been empowered through skill training and skills acquisition for self employment, self reliance or possibly employers of labour.

Despite, the rich and numerous resources available in this country, Nigeria, is characterized by the most crushing level of poverty in the world (Woolen 2003). In recognition of the challenge of poverty and other associated problems, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), initiated the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as a means of ameliorating the hardship and poverty of its citizens. This gave birth to Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) which is one of the forefront agencies for poverty eradication in Nigeria. In support of this laudable development on capacity building, Arubayi (2009) pointed out that nations and individuals that had their rate of poverty reduced, invented in skill training and skill acquisition programmes as a way out of harsh economic conditions and thus increasing National productivity capacity.

Looking at the challenges of poverty and unemployment, Adebisi (2014), opined that the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as a scheme was set up to tackle the problems of poverty by providing skills acquisition programme like tailoring skills for entrepreneurial development. Tailoring is a unique area of Clothing and Textiles which involves making of garments and other outfits with special attention to exact fit. Tailoring is a skill oriented field of knowledge which could be taught for capacity building. This is an area of competence which individuals after training may possess the cognate experiences to set up an enterprise for self employment. Tailoring skill acquisition scheme is not restricted to a particular gender, however, gender and locality among other variables could be among some determinant that may influence an

individual's ability to acquire any skill. In the opinion of Carrito (2008), locality whether rural or urban may influence learning outcomes. He observed that trainees from urban centres are exposed to learning in an environment with modern amenities and resource persons than those from rural areas. Globally, society has ascribed certain roles as feminine or masculine. This societal constraint may interfere with the perception of individuals as to which roles to accept as a male or female. Hence, gender stereotyping that influence career choice is prevalent in cultures that ascribed strict roles to women and others to men. Uko-Aviomoh (2005), lamented over the prevalence of gender stereotype in Home Economics especially Clothing and Textiles of which Tailoring skill is an aspect. In a comparative research study by Hammond (2006), in Germany, Honkon, United States and Britain, findings from this study showed high level of gender stereotype in Clothing and Textiles (Tailoring). Gender, is a dimension of human capacity development whose influence are moderated through social institution and are significant in determining access to opportunities (Adebisi 2014).

Adeliman (1991) is of the opinion that there is a global consciousness at the grassroot on policy level regarding the influence of gender on Education and National Development. Therefore, both men and women should constitute a driving force for national development and entrepreneurship. In view of the major threat to poverty and massive unemployment, many countries of the world including Nigeria has evolved various methods of combating it. To this end, there is advocacy for skill acquisition and training. Tailoring is a skill that could be acquired for entrepreneurship development undermining the gender and locality of the trainee. Therefore, the way out of poverty, is training and skill acquisition through entrepreneurialship Education. Entrepreneurial skills involve the acquisition of abilities, knowledge and competencies that will enable people make use of existing resources to produce goods and services. Ifegbo (2002), defined entrepreneurial skills as the acquisition and development of appropriate knowledge and skills that will enable an individual to maximize the resources around him within the limits of its capability. Thus, the issue of entrepreneurship is gender inclusive and has become a cause for concern by policy makers for national development since gender whether male or female are necessary agents for capacity building of any society.

A study by Arubayi (2010), on skills possessed by youths in the Niger Delta region, showed that one of the skills possessed by females and males in the area of study was tailoring. Although more males were involved with tailoring, patronage of male tailors was mainly by females. No wonder, Adebisi and Arubayi (2013), posited that tailoring skills was appreciated more by females because of their passion for good looks and fashion consciousness. Could the assumption that more females patronize male tailors because of their passion to look good and fashionable a reality? This study seeks to verify the influence of Gender on Graduates of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) on their ability to acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurship.

In recent times, the high incidence of poverty and unemployment has become worrisome. Could the societal norms which ascribed specific roles for males and females be a problem why some individuals shy away from certain profession? Every member of the society either male or female should be empowered with skills to enable them combat poverty and unemployment. The issue of poverty and unemployment may be resolved through skill training hence, the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated the national Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) which gave rise to the Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS). These programmes were set up to train participants of different gender, educational background and locality to acquire skills and training in a chosen area. Skill training in tailoring is a vital tool for equipping its participants with necessary skills for alleviating poverty through personal enhancement, self reliance, self employment and economic upliftment. It creates an employment alternative and social safety net for people (male/female) who engage in tailoring as a means to escape poverty. The study seeks to investigate the influence of Gender on Graduates of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) in the ability to acquire Tailoring skills for entrepreneurship

Specifically this study seeks to provide answer to the research question raised and to test the hypothesis to find out the level of significance.

Research Question

125 What is the influence of gender on graduates of National Poverty Eradication
126 Programme - Capacity Acquisition Scheme in Tailoring Skills for entrepreneurship?

127 **Hypothesis**

128 There is no significant difference between the influence of Gender on National Poverty
129 Eradication Programme – Capacity Acquisition Scheme on Graduates ability to acquire
130 tailoring skills for entrepreneurialship in rural and urban locations.

131 The scope of study is in two selected States in South-West (Osun and Ogun) in
132 Nigeria where trainees have graduated from the National Poverty Eradication
133 Programme (NAPEP) capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) in Tailoring. The study is
134 also delimited to gender and its influence on graduates abilities to acquire Tailoring
135 skills for entrepreneurship. The study targeted graduates from the programme between
136 2003-2007 when the programme was functional. Significantly, the findings of this work
137 will be of great benefit to programme planners, researchers and the Federal Government
138 who is concerned about poverty eradication through skill acquisition for self reliance of
139 its citizen.

140 **Methods and Procedures**

141 This study adopted an expost-facto research design, which was descriptive in
142 nature. This research looked at the facts that already have occurred, thus there was no
143 manipulation of variables. The action of the independent variable on the dependent
144 variable was investigated. The target population comprised of 2,396 graduates who had
145 trained in Ogun/Osun States in National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)
146 Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) in Tailoring for 5 years (2003-2007) when the
147 scheme was functional and viable. A multistage sampling technique was adopted to
148 select the sample size of 484 respondents who were graduates of the training
149 programme. This sample consisted of 285 (58.8%) females and 199 (41.11%) males.
150 The instrument for data gathering was a structured questionnaire with 11 item
151 statements. The respondents were required to go through the questions and indicate their
152 opinion using the 4-points numerical rating scale of SA- Strongly Agree (4) A – Agree
153 (3), D-Disagree (2) and SD- Strongly Disagree (1) the scores were aggregated for each

154 item and the mean obtained. The mean value of 2.50 was used as the cut-off point or
 155 decision rule for agreeing and disagreeing. However, any mean below 2.5 was taken as
 156 disagree and strongly disagree. The instrument used was adjudged to have face validity
 157 and also reasonable reliability. The data gathered were summarized in tables using
 158 means, standard deviation, for the research question. To test the hypothesis, t-test was
 159 used to determine the level of significance.

160 **Result**

161 The results arising from the analyses of the data, were summarized and reported in table
 162 1 for the research question and in table 2, the answer to the research hypothesis was
 163 presented.

164 **Table 1**

165 **Research Question One:** What is the influence of gender on graduates of National
 166 Poverty Eradication Programme-Capacity Acquisition Scheme in Tailoring skills for
 167 entrepreneurship?

168 **Table 1**

169 Gender influence on National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Capacity
 170 Acquisition Scheme (CAS) graduates' abilities to acquire tailoring skills for
 171 entrepreneurship.

S/ N	Items	Male =N-199			Female=N=285			Combined = 484		
1.	My gender(Sex) had no influence in my enrolment for tailoring skills programme	3.40	0.74	Agree	3.58	0.49	Agree	3.51	0.61	Agree
2.	My gender gives me an advantage to perform better during the training	2.99	1.02	Agree	3.55	0.77	Agree	3.33	0.91	Agree
3.	Tailoring skills are mean for females only	1.33	0.66	Disagree	1.48	0.70	Disagree	1.36	0.06 2	Disagree
4.	Tailoring skills are meant for males only	1.56	1.121	Disagree	1.35	0.54	Disagree	1.51	0.76	Disagree
5.	Males and females are involved in Tailoring Capacity Acquisition Scheme	3.68	0.84	Agree	3.53	0.98	Agree	3.38	0.79	Agree
6.	The course content are more on specific gender	1.47	0.50	Disagree	1.43	0.69	Disagree	1.45	0.063	Disagree

7.	Gender disparities are well taken care of in the design of tailoring capacity acquisition scheme.	1.58	0.78	Disagree	1.70	0.81	Disagree	1.47	0.59	Disagree
8.	Training skills in tailoring are gender sensitive	1.72	0.89	Disagree	2.80	1.09	Disagree	1.89	1.01	Disagree
9.	There is no gender bias in terms of incentives available during training	3.52	0.60	Agree	3.51	0.61	Agree	3.53	0.59	Agree
10.	The duration of apprenticeship did not consider gender	3.60	0.63	Agree	3.65	0.65	Agree	3.60	0.59	Agree
11.	My gender influences my performance during training	2.14	0.41	Disagree	2.19	0.53	Disagree	2.17	0.48	Disagree

172

173 Presented in Table 1, is the influence of gender on NAPEP-CAS graduates ability to
 174 acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurship. The data showed that five(5) out of the
 175 eleven (11) items scored above 2.50 which is the cut-off point. While six(6) items scored
 176 below the cut-off point of 2.50. By implication, gender did not influence their ability to
 177 acquire tailoring skills. Furthermore, gender had no influence on male students as six(6)
 178 out of the eleven (11) items had mean below 2.50 while for females gender influenced
 179 their abilities to acquire tailoring skills as six(6) out of the eleven (11) items had mean
 180 scores above 2.50.

181 Hypothesis (1): There is no significant difference between the influence of gender
 182 on National Poverty Eradication Programme NAPEP-Capacity Acquisition Scheme
 183 (CAS) on graduates abilities to acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurship in rural and
 184 urban locations.

185 **Table 2**

186 T-test analysis on the influence of Gender on NAPEP-CAS rural and urban graduates on
 187 their abilities to acquire tailoring skills.

Sources of Variation Gender	N	X	SD	DF	t-cal	t-tab	Remark	Decision
Rural	124	1.5403	0.5004					Hypothesis accepted
Urban	360	1.6028	0.4900	482	-1.2174	1.96	S**	
Combined	484	1.5867	0.4929					

188

189 $H_{01} = S^{**}$ Not significant = t-cal – 1.2174 < t-tab 1.96

190 @ 0.05 level of significance.

191 Key: N = Number of NAPEP-CAS graduates

192 X = Mean scores

193 DF = Degree of freedom

194 t-tab = t=test tabulated

195

196 Presented in Table 2, is the t-test analysis on the influence of gender on NAPEP-CAS
197 rural and urban graduates on their abilities to acquire tailoring skills for
198 entrepreneurship. The t-calculated value of -1.2174 is less than the table value of 1.96 at
199 the 0.05 level of significance, this showed that there is no significant difference between
200 the influence of gender on NAPEP-CAS graduates in their abilities to acquire tailoring
201 skills for entrepreneurship.

202 **Discussion of Results**

203 Finding on the influence of gender on National Poverty Eradication Programme
204 (NAPEP) Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) showed that gender had no influence on
205 graduates abilities to acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurial activities. This was
206 evidenced from the data presented in table 1 where six(6) out of the eleven (11) items
207 statement had mean below 2.50. however, gender from the data presented had influence
208 on females as six(6) out of the eleven (11) items statement had mean scores above 2.50
209 while for males, gender had no influence on their abilities to acquire tailoring skills as
210 five(5) out of the eleven item statement had mean score below 2.50. This finding is in
211 line with Arubayi (2010), that both male/female possessed tailoring skills in a study
212 carried out in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and that male youths were more
213 involved with tailoring skills than females. Interestingly, even though more males were
214 involved with tailoring skills, the finding showed that the females patronized the male
215 tailors more. Contrary to the finding of Arubayi (2010), this present research finding

216 showed that gender had no influence on the abilities of NAPEP-CAS graduates on
 217 acquiring tailoring skills for entrepreneurial activities. Although, more females were
 218 involved with tailoring skills in this study as compared to Arubayi's (2010), findings
 219 that more males were involved with the acquisition of tailoring skills. Again this finding
 220 supports Adebisi & Arubayi (2013) who posited that tailoring skills was appreciated
 221 more by females because of their passion for good looks and fashion consciousness.
 222 Also in line with this finding, is the study by Hammond (2006), on a comparative
 223 research in Germany, Honkon, United States and Britain that showed high level of
 224 gender stereotype in tailoring. This finding was corroborated by Uko-Aviomah (2005),
 225 in an earlier study who lamented the prevalence of gender stereotype in Home
 226 Economics especially Clothing and Textiles of which Tailoring is an aspect. These
 227 findings have become a cause for concern as both gender (male/female) need to acquire
 228 skills for capacity building and national development. In the opinion of Adeliman
 229 (1991), that there is the rising consciousness at the grass root and policy level that both
 230 men and women constitute the driving force for national development, therefore they
 231 should be given opportunities to develop their innate abilities irrespective of their
 232 gender. The findings is further buttressed by Okojie (2011), who saw gender as a
 233 domain of Human capital development whose role have been moderated through culture
 234 and society, thus inhibiting the roles played by men/women in any society.

235 Findings from the t-test analysis on the hypothesis one stated that there is a significant
 236 difference between the influence of gender on National Poverty Eradication (NAPEP)-
 237 Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) on graduates abilities to acquire tailoring skills for
 238 entrepreneurship in rural and urban locations. Finding showed the mean score of 1.6028

for urban graduates and 1.5403 for rural graduates respectively. The mean score for urban graduates is higher than that of rural graduates. This comes as no surprise as Carrito (2008), opined that location (urban/rural) may influence learning outcomes and that urban graduates may be exposed to modern amenities and resource persons more than rural graduates which may influence positively their abilities to acquire tailoring skills for entrepreneurial activities

Conclusion

Gender is an important determinant to the acquisition of tailoring skills to eradicate poverty. The aim of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)-Capacity Acquisition Scheme (CAS) to empower its trainees may be hampered if culture and society prescribes specific roles for men/women. However, finding from this study showed that gender had no influence on graduates abilities to acquire tailoring skills, although while the male folks were influenced by their gender, it did not influence the females' abilities to acquire tailoring skills for poverty eradication.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from this research work skills training is a way out of harsh economic hardship and poverty eradication is gender inclusive. Therefore, cultural and societal prescription of specific roles for male/female which may inhibit the abilities of individuals to be empowered economically for self reliance through entrepreneurship activities should be discouraged.

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