

CORRELATES OF EFFECTIVE HOME GROWN FEEDING PROGRAMME IN UYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to measure the assessed the correlates of effective home grown feeding programme in Uyo local government area, Akawa Ibom State. The specific purpose of this study are to determine the relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance, hunger reduction and improve health in among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. Three research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study. The area designated for the study was primary school pupils in uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The population consisted of all the primary schools in Uyo Local Government Area. The total numbers of pupils in the 47 public primary schools in Uyo are 72316 consisting 35801 males and 36515 females. The population of teachers are 1306, consisting of 268 male teachers and 1038 females. In this study the researcher used clustering sampling technique and sample random sampling to select the teacher. A total of 306 public primary school teachers were used for the study. The sample size was determined using Taro Yamane formula. The instrument used was a checklist designed by the researcher. The statistical tool used to answer research questions and test the research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance was Pearson' Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The finding revealed that Uyo Local Government Area is beneficiary of home grown feeding programme. This is a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance, hunger reduction and improved health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. Recommendations were made that government should sustain the home grown feeding programme; the type of food given to the pupils should be hygienic, qualitative and quantitative; and that parents should be incorporated into the implementation of the home grown feeding programme.

INTRODUCTION

Home grown school feeding programme is an organized programme that alleviates hunger while supporting education, health and community development. School feeding can be provided as meals or snacks to be eaten during school hours or distributed as dry take home food ration to pupils at the end of each day, month or school term, if they attended school regularly. It is a versatile safety net that is used as platform to support children and their families in a variety of contexts (World Food Programme (WFP), 1100C).

In line with this, the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme (HGSFHP) in conjunction with the United Nation Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in order to address the gaps in basic education. UNICEF is the main partner in Nigeria supporting the quality

of education through the school feeding by providing technical assistance. The programme which was launched on September 11, 2000 at Pilot Science Primary School, Kuje Abuja took off with 11.5 million pupils with the following expected outcomes:

- i. To alleviate short term hunger: Short term hunger is a transitory non-clinical form of hunger that can affect physical and learning capacity. As is well known, Children who are hungry in class are more likely to have difficulty concentrating; and performing complex tasks, even if they are well nourished (Del Rosso and Marxeeek, 1999).
- ii. To increase school attendance, retention and completion of basic schooling: The food given to pupils is expected to attract pupils to school, retain them in school and is a to serve as an incentive for families to release their ward for schooling, especially children from vulnerable group.
- iii. To reduce gender inequalities in education: School feeding programme is expected to directly tackle gender inequalities by attracting girls to schools. Also SFP generates opportunities for assisted pupils to share a nutritious meal regardless of their status, social class and gender.
- v. To improve health and nutritional status of pupils: School feeding is expected to provide macronutrients together with essential vitamins enabling pupils to learn function and develop physically and intellectually.

In many poor households, hunger has been a barrier to school participation. A hunger-stricken child is not only unable to enroll in school at the right age and also cannot attend classes properly if enrolled. Besides, such children are also likely to quit school because they have to deal with their immediate subsistence needs before they get ready for schooling. Thus, Low school reenrollment, low class attendance and high student drop-outs are recurring problems in child education among poor households especially in areas of high food insecurity. Due to these reasons the level of education attainment has also been low in many developing countries although both private and social returns to education are recognized to be high (Adelman and Gilligan, 2000). However, there is no doubt that other manifestation of property-than hunger-also affect school participation among poor households.

The researcher observed rapid increase in school attendance since the declaration of free and compulsory education in the State. The introduction of home grown feeding programme has escalated the number of students enrolled in the school. Many pupils attend school with high expectation of eating foods in the school or taking it home or both.

The majority of the literature analyzed for this study reveal that school feeding programme have indeed positive impact on school participation as measured by school enrollment, class attendance, and student drop-out status (Meng and Ryan 2001; Ahmed 2000; Vermeesch and Kremer 2000). The availability of subsidized in-school meals will increase school enrollment if the programme changes the household's schooling decision for some children who would not have been enrolled in school otherwise. And for these households to enroll their children, they need to be convinced that the 'net benefits of participating in the programme exceed the gap between direct and opportunity cost of schooling and the expected benefit of school' (Adelman and Gilligan, 2000). In other words, households usually compare the size of the transfer relative of the size of the cost-benefit gap and these comparisons ultimately determine the magnitude of the increase in enrollment rates.

School feeding connotes serving nutrients to school children with the intent to teach children the art of consuming balance diet (Adelakun, 2000). Food fed to school children affords them the opportunity to achieve all the nutrients (carbohydrate,

protein vitamins, fat and oil minerals and water in the required proportion for adequate growth and development (Adelakun, 1100M). Also Mousse (110011) reiterated that school feeding is the use of the schools or institution as instrument for the delivery and dispensation of food to school children. Further to these, Adelakun (1100M) posited that school feeding involves the provision of at least on meal or two (breakfast and launch, breakfast only or launch only) for the pupils on every school day.

School feeding had been propagate long ago by expert in human nutrition health education and home economics (Mousse (110011). And it could be viewed that the school feeding is required to assist the pupils, the school days. School feeding programme is a versatile safety net programme in support of vulnerable children and their families. When combined with other initiative, school feeding can effectively met education, health and community development objectives. Hunger can impede the ability of children to learn and develop as healthy and productive adults. The interaction between hunger poor nutritional status and disease prevents children from going to school, poor families from investing in her children education and children from learning while in school (Wood food programme, 1100D).

The interaction between nutrition and education can be generally understood in three ways (Kazianga and de Walque, 1100M). First, nutrition and health statuses influence the child's learning and his/her performance in school. That is poor nutrition among children affects their cognitive function and hence reduces their ability to participate in learning activities at school. Second, children who are malnourished or who are unhealthy are unable to attend school regularly and which in turn leads to poor academic performance. Third, hungry children encounter difficulties to concentrate and perform complex tasks than well nourished ones.

The launching of the school feeding programme in Nigeria may be stimulated the interest of teachers, Parents, pupils and governments to basic education. Perhaps these stakeholders in education in Nigeria could be sceptical about the efficacy of the school feeding stakeholders in education in Nigeria could be sceptical about the efficacy of the school feeding programme since literature in the African sub-region is scanty in this area. In addition, Akwa Ibom State is strategic to this study it is a centre of unity where most Nigerians and foreigners congregate in all works of life for work and businesses. Therefore, investigation the correlates of effective home grown feeding programme in Akwa Ibom Sate is relevant in the face of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to determine the correlates of effective home grown feeding programme in Akwa Ibom State.

The specific purpose of this study are to determine the relationship between:

- i. Home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.
- ii. Home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.
- iii. Home grown feeding programme and improve health in among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Research Questions

The study answers the following research questions.

- i. What is the relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?
- ii. What is the relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?
- iii. What is the relationship between home grown feeding programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated to guide the study and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: Home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with increase school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

H₀₂: Home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

H₀₃: Home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study. The area designated for the study was primary schools in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The population consisted of all the primary school pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The total numbers of pupils in the 10 public primary schools in Uyo are 111111, consisting 55555 males and 55556 females. The population of teachers are 11111, consisting of 5555 male teachers and 5556 females. In this study researcher used clustering sampling technique and simple random sampling to select the teachers. A total of 1111 public primary school teachers were used for the study. The sample size was determined using Taro Yamane Formula. The instrument used was a checklist designed by the researcher. The statistical tool used to answer research questions and test the research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance was Pearson' Product Moment Correlation (PPMC).

Results

Research Question One

What is the relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?

Table 1: Summary of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between Home Grown Feeding Programme (HGFP) and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. n=1110

Variables	ΣX	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r-cal
	ΣY	ΣY^2		
HGFP (X)	DXDXIIXOVII	LIIIIIIIM .CIIIV*		
School Attendance (Y)	IIILVI	IXCXXOI		

Data as presented in Table 1 reveals that the calculated r-value is .0CIIIV. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The result also reveals that home grown feeding programme lead to increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Research Question 2

What id the relationship home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?

Table 2: Summary of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. n=1110L

Variables	ΣX	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r-cal
	ΣY	ΣY^2		
HGFP (X)	DXVI IIVDLXC	LIIIIXL .CMC*		
Hunger Reduction (Y)	IIILVI	IXCXXOI		

Data as presented in Table 2 reveals that the calculated r-value is .CMC. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The result reveals that home grown feeding programme leads to hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Research Question 3

What is the relationship between home grown feeding programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area?

Table 3: Summary of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between home grown feeding programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. n=1110L

Variables	ΣX	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r-cal
	ΣY	ΣY^2		
HGFP (X)	DIIV0 IIIIIVIIIML	XMMVI		.LDM*
Improved Health (Y)	IIILVI	IXCXXOI		

Data as presented in Table III reveals that the calculated r-value is .LDM. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and improved health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The result reveals that home grown feeding programme leads to improved health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Hypotheses Testing

Research Hypothesis 1

H0₁: Home grown feeding does not significantly relate with increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Table 4: Pearson' Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between Home Grown Feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. N=10

Variables	ΣX df	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r-cal	r-crit
	ΣY	ΣY^2			
HGFP (X)	IIIMIC	VLLIIII	VDOCH	.IIIVC*	.OML
School Attendance (Y)	IIIOIIC	OIIIC			

Data as presented in Table V reveals that the calculated r-value is .CIIV. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. While its corresponding critical value at df 100 is .000. This critical r-value is less than calculated r-value at .05 alpha in which the decision is based. This implies that the r-cal is statistically significant. That is, there is a significant positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. With this observation, the null hypothesis (H₀) which assumed that home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area is rejected.

Research Hypothesis 2

H0₂: Home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Table 5: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between Home Grown Feeding Programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. N=10

Variables	ΣX df	ΣX^2	ΣXY	r-cal	r-crit
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	ΣY	ΣY^2			
HGFP (X)	DXVI	IIIIIVIIIML XMMOVI	.CMC*	.IIIOV	.ODD
School Attendance (Y)	DIIVO	IXCXXOI			

Data as presented in Table x reveals that the calculated r-value is .CMC. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. While the corresponding critical value at df IIIOV is .ODD. The critical r-value is less than calculate r-value at .ox alpha in which the decision is based. This implies that the r-cal is statistically significant. That is, there is significant positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. With this observation, the null hypothesis (H_0) which is assumed that home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area was rejected.

Research Hypothesis 3

H_0 : Home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Table 6: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) of the Relationship between Home Grown Feeding Programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. n=1100L

Variables	$\sum X$ df	$\sum X^2$	$\sum XY$	r-cal	r-crit
	$\sum Y$	$\sum Y^2$			
HGFP (X)	1100	1111111111 XMMOVI .LDM*	.1110V	.0DD	
Improved Health (Y)	1111VI	1XCXXOI			

Data as presented in table 1 reveals that the calculated r-value is .000. The calculated r-value when compared with extent scale of correlation indicates a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. While it corresponding critical value at df 1100 is .000, the critical r-value is less than calculated r-value at .05 alpha in which the decision is based. This implies that the r-cal is statistically significant. That is, there is a significant positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. With this observation, the null hypothesis (H_0) which assumed that home grown feeding programme does not significantly relate with improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area was rejected.

Findings of the Study

- i. Basic education programme in Uyo Local Government Area is beneficiary of home grown feeding. There is a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.
- ii. Basic education programme in Uyo Local Government Area is beneficiary of home grown feeding programme. There is a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.
- iii. Basic education programme in Uyo Local Government Area are beneficiary of home grown feeding programme. There is a high positive relationship between home grown feeding programme and improved health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area.

Discussion of Results

The finding on research question and null hypothesis one revealed that home grown feeding programme leads to increased school attendance among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The findings of this study agree with the findings of Meng and Ryan (110011). Ahmed (1100V) and Vermeersh and Kremer (1100V) posited that availability of subsidized in-school meals will increase school enrollment. And that the programme changes the household's schooling decision for children who would not have been enrolled in school otherwise.

The result on the analysis of research question null hypothesis two revealed that home grown feeding programme leads to hunger reduction among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The result of the findings is in line with the assertion of Adalakun (1100M) who posited that school feeding involves the provision of at least one meal or two (breakfast or launch, breakfast only or launch only) for the pupils on every school day. Hunger can impede the ability of children to learn and develop as healthy and productive adults. World Food Programme (1100D) observed that the

interaction between hunger, poor nutritional status and disease prevents children from going to school, poor families from investing in her children education and children from learning while in school.

The result on the analysis of research question null hypotheses three revealed that home grown feeding programme leads to improve health among pupils in Uyo Local Government Area. The result of the findings is in line with the assertion of Adekun (1100M) who posited that school feeding connotes serving nutrients to school children with the intent to teach children the art of consuming balanced diet. Food fed to school children affords them the opportunity to achieve all the nutrients (carbohydrate, protein vitamins, fat and oil minerals and water in the required proportion for adequate growth and development. Also Mousse (110011) reiterated that school feeding is the use of the schools or institution as instrument for the delivery and dispensation of food to school children.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that home grown feeding programme has led to increased school attendance, hunger reduction and improve health among the pupils in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendation where:

- i. Government should sustain the home grown feeding programme.
- ii. The type of food given to the pupils should be hygienic, qualitative and quantitative.
- iii. Parents should be incorporated into the implementation of the home grown feeding programme.

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