

DESIGNING PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY FOR THE TEENAGERS, YOUTHS AND CARING FOR THE ELDERLY IN NIGERIA: A STEP FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

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Abstract

The paper focused on the need to go beyond the routine concept of poverty alleviation and create opportunities capable of engaging the teenagers, the youths/adults in productive activity; and also the need for adequate care for the elderly as a panacea for poverty alleviation. Many hawkers and thugs in Nigeria are teenagers who are school dropouts due to parents' inability to fend for them due to poor living standard. Many retirees who were self-employed have no support from any quarters, and there is no social provision put in place to assist them at their non-productive periods. This situation raises the dependency ratio of the population thereby culminating to increased poverty. It is the conviction of authors that apart from creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed, it is absolute relevant to design programmes that will enable students, undergraduates, school dropouts to earn income and support themselves so as to reduce social vices and over dependence on the few income earners. It is our conviction that the multifaceted poverty nature in Nigeria requires attacking it from all perceivable angles. Among the way forward articulated are: putting up policies aimed at designing programmes capable of engaging willing teenagers on few hours of production; provision of education incentives and credit facilities for indigent students; urgent need for adequate diversification of the economy, and raising the industrial base of the country.

Keywords: Alleviation, Caring, Designing, Elderly, Poverty, Productivity