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## Assessment of Labour Generation/ Reduction of Unemployment from the Practical Completion of Talba Housing Estate: A Study of Kpakungu, Minna, Niger State

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*One of problems Nigeria is facing is unemployment and Minna is not left out of this problem. The federal governments of Nigeria have tried several ways of solving the problem of unemployment in the country over the years but could not succeed. Thus, the practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate in Kpakungu community of Minna was studied with the aim of analysing labour generation from them. Oral interviews were conducted with inhabitants of the study area that were involved in the construction of the Talba Housing Estate. Sampling sizes were collected from 20 households using systematic random sampling method. The assessment was done based on skilled and unskilled labours and tables were employed in summarising the data and percentage was used in the analysis of data. Results showed that the construction of buildings can reduce unemployment in Nigeria, particularly, Minna and suggested that government should emphasis on the construction of more buildings, since there is a great need for housing magnitude in urban areas.*

***Keywords:*** Construction, Housing, Unemployment, Labour, Generation.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Unemployment is a very serious issue in Africa (Vandemoortele, 1991 and Rama, 1998) and particularly in Nigeria (Oladeji, 1994 and Umo, 1996). Minna is not left out of this problem. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1998). Attitude of people on this varies from country to country. While this may be high in developed countries and where government is committed to resolving unemployment problems, it is likely to be very low in countries with the opposite attributes. Apart from representing a colossal waste of manpower resources of a country, it generates welfare loss in terms of lower output thereby leading to lower income and well-being (Akinboyo, 1987 and Raheem, 1993). Unemployment has been categorised as one of the serious impediments to social progress. In most countries, particularly Nigeria, people below the age of 15 years and those above the age of 55, who are actively engaged in economic activities, are usually excluded from labour statistical surveys (Okigbo, 1986). All these factors have the tendency to result in under estimation of unemployment thereby making international

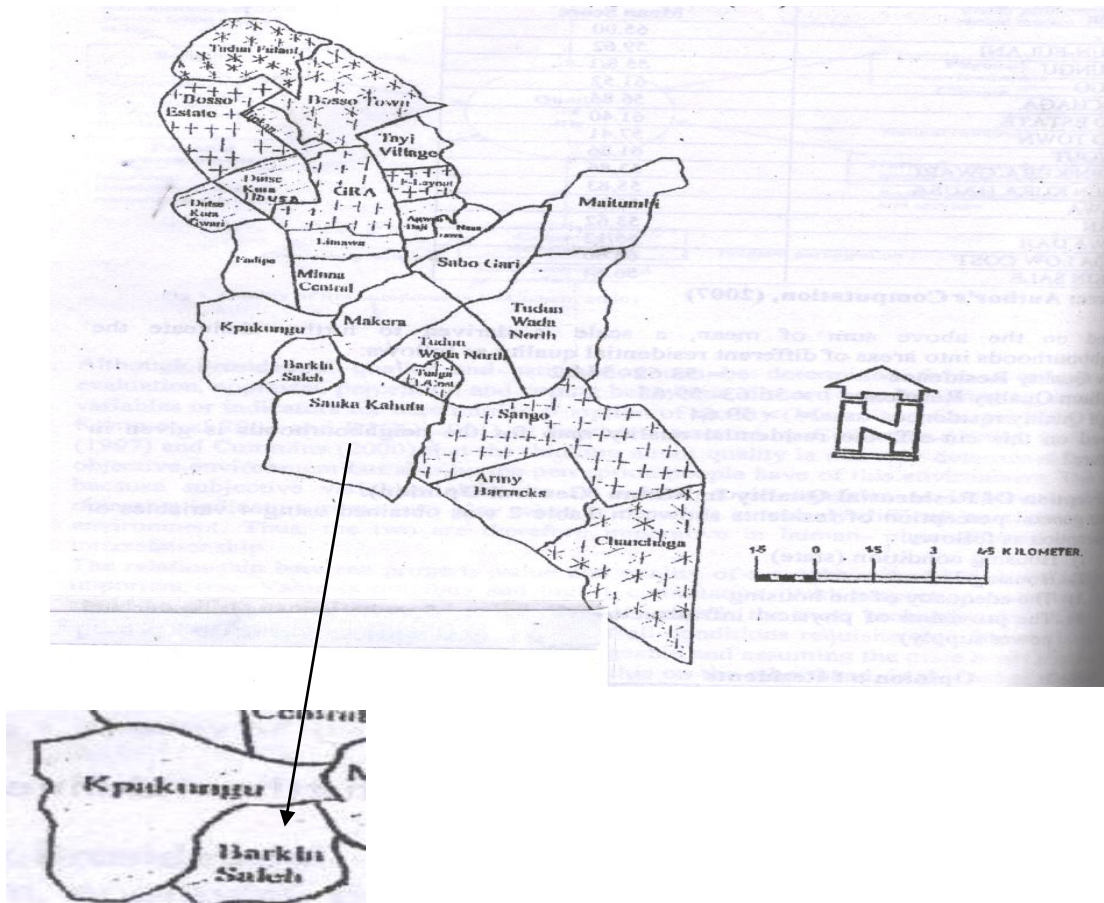
comparison very difficult. Factors such as the preponderance of full house wives (but who are willing to be engaged in paid job) and unpaid family workers also contribute significantly to the under estimation of unemployment.

There is no doubt that construction is a key activity within any economy; it influences, and is influenced by the gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation (Madi, 2003). In the field of architecture, construction is a process that consists of the building or assembling of infrastructure. Building construction is the process of adding structure to real property. Far from being a single activity, large scale construction is a feat of multitasking. Normally, the job is managed by the project manager and supervised by the construction manager, design engineer, construction engineer or project architect. It is procured privately or publicly utilising various delivery methodologies including hard bid, negotiated price, traditional, management contracting, construction management-at-risk, design & build and design-build bridging.

Labour generation from the construction of buildings is one of things that are central to the social and economic life of every country. Continuous construction of buildings is one of the surest ways to reduce unemployment. Growth in building construction improves the welfare of the people and enhancing social progress. Observation has been made, that continuous enhancement of productivity has been very central to the brilliant performance of the Asian Tigers and Japan in recent years (Simbeye, 1992 and World Bank, 1993). Production of buildings also inclusive.

Recent developments in the world economy have also shown that countries with high productivity are not only central to the determination of global balance of powers (Japan and Germany are examples), but also serve as centres of stimulus, where world resources (including labour) are redirected to, as opposed to countries with low or declining productivity. Studies have also shown that high productivity increases competitiveness in terms of penetrating the world market (Rensburg and Naude, 1999; Roberts and Tybout, 1997). Thus, a country with high productivity of building constructions is often characterized by a very high capacity utilisation (optimal use of resources), high standard of living, low rate of unemployment and social progress. The need to avert the negative effects of unemployment has made the tackling of unemployment problems to feature very prominently in the development objectives of many developing countries. Incidentally, most of economies of these countries are also characterised by low productivity. Thus, there must be a straight forward connection between building construction and employment/unemployment.

The study area is Kpakungu (along Federal Bida-Minna road), Chanchaga local government of Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. It has been in existence since 1970s. The area was a farming village and has since witnessed tremendous growth and developed as a result of the construction of the Federal Bida-Minna road which serves as a link between the Northern part and Western part of Nigeria and the proximity of the Federal University of Technology, Minna. It is bordered to the east by the Minna Express Road and to the south by the Federal Bida-Minna road. It has a population of about 17,174 people (National Population Commission, 2006). Figure 1 shows the boundary map of Minna indicating the study area.



**Fig 1:** Map Showing the Boundary of the Study Area (Kpakungu) of Minna, Niger State (Source: Ministry of Lands, Minna, Niger State).

One problems Nigeria is facing is unemployment (Oladeji, 1994 and Umo, 1996) and Minna inclusive. The federal governments of Nigeria have tried several ways of solving the problem of unemployment in the country over the years but could not succeed. One of these attempts was the introduction of the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) in early 2000. This was an interim measure introduced to address problems of rising unemployment which is the cause of poverty and crime waves, particularly among youths. It was ultimately aimed at increasing the welfare of Nigerians. Essentially, the primary objectives of PAP are three-fold: reduce the problem of unemployment and hence raise effective demand in the economy; increase the productiveness of the economy; and drastically reduce the embarrassing crime waves in the society. One could glean from government pronouncements that targets/components of the PAP among others include: provide jobs for 200,000 unemployed but all these attempts were in vain.

This study aims at assessing the labour generation from the practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate in Kpakungu community. Objectives of this research work are: to determine the percentage of employed/unemployed people in kpakungu community before the construction of Talba Housing Estate; to determine the percentage of employed/unemployed people in kpakungu community during the construction of Talba Housing Estate; to determine the percentage of employed/unemployed people in kpakungu community after the practical completion of Talba Housing Estate; to ascertain substitutes by residents of the study area in view of the problem of unemployment.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

For the purpose of this study, interviews were conducted with inhabitants of the study area that were involved in the construction of the Talba Housing Estate. Sampling sizes were collected from 20 households using systematic random sampling method. The assessment was done based on skilled and unskilled labours and tables were employed in summarising data and percentage was used in the analysis of data.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 shows the condition of employed/unemployed people in the study area before the construction of Talba Housing Estate. 30% of respondents were unemployed. That is, these people depended on somebody or some people for survival. One of causes of corruption and crime waves in Nigeria especially among youth is unemployment

(Omaga, 2004). Therefore corruption and high rate of crimes can be found within this set of people. 65% of the respondents were employed but they were not satisfied with their employments. These people needed something better than what they were doing, so that they can be satisfied. Corruption and high rate of crimes is less within this set of people. 5% of respondents were employed and satisfied with their employments. These people are fulfilled but they still want to have more jobs for themselves. The rate of corruption and crime may be very low in this set of people.

**Table 1: Condition of Employed /Unemployed People In The Study Area Before The Construction Of Talba Housing Estate**

DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Unemployed	6	30
Employed but not Satisfied	13	65
Employed and Satisfied	1	5
Total	20	100

**Source: Author’s Field Work, 2015.**

Table 2 shows the effect of Talba Housing Estate on the condition of employed/unemployed people in the study area during its construction. 15% of respondents were unemployed. This shows that the percentage of unemployed people before the construction of Talba Housing Estate have reduced by 15% (30% to 15%). Thus, there was reduction in corruption and crime waves in the town. 75% of respondents were employed but not satisfied with their employments. This shows that the percentage of people that were employed but not satisfied with their employments before the construction of the Talba Housing Estate has increased by 10% (65% to 75%). Even though, the 10% of these people that got employment were not satisfied, labour has been generated and by this, corruption and crime waves in the town were also reduced due to increase in labour. 10% of respondents were employed and satisfied with their employments. That is, the percentage of people that were employed and satisfied with their employments have increased by 5% (5% to 10%). By this, corruption and rate of crimes were reduced very well in the town.

**Table 2: Effect of Talba Housing Estate on the Condition of Employed/Unemployed People in the Study Area during Its Construction**

DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Unemployed	3	15
Employed but not Satisfied	15	75
Employed and Satisfied	2	10
Total	20	100

**Source: Author's Field Work, 2015**

Table 3 below shows the effect of Talba Housing Estate on the condition of employed/unemployed people in the study area after its practical completion. 20% of respondents are unemployed. That is, unemployment has reduced from 30% (before the construction) to 15% (during the construction) but later increased to 20% after the practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. This means that unemployment has increased by 5% after the practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate and this 5% increment shows that 5% out of 15% of the people that got employment from the construction of the Talba Housing Estate could not save the money they were getting during constructions, in order to engage themselves in other businesses (self-employments) but the remaining 10% out of the 15% that got employment from the construction of the Talba Housing Estate were able to engage themselves in other businesses (self-employments) after its practical completion.

This means that 10% of the 30% of unemployed people before the construction of the Talba Housing Estate were employed after its practical completion. 60% of respondents are employed but not satisfied with their employments. That is, people that have employments but not satisfied have increased from 65% (before the construction) to 75% (during the construction) but later decrease to 60% after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. Comparing this 60% (after practical completion) to 65% (before the construction), it implies that employments without satisfaction has decreased by 5% after practical completion and it also means that the percentage of employments without satisfaction has been reduced as a result of the construction of Talba Housing Estate. 20% of respondents are employed and satisfied with their employment. That is, the percentage of respondents that have employments and are satisfied with their employments has increased from 5% (before the construction) to 10% (during the construction) and later increased to 20% after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. When this 20% of respondents that are employed and satisfied with their employments after practical completion are compared to 5% of

respondents that are employed and satisfied with their employments before the construction, the percentage of respondents that are employed and are satisfied with their employments will really be 15% and this means that the construction of the Talba Housing Estate has increased the percentage of satisfied employments by 15% after its practical completion.

**Table 3: Effect of Talba Housing Estate on the Condition of Employed /Unemployed People in the Study Area after its Practical Completion**

DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Unemployed	4	20
Employed but not satisfied	12	60
Employed and satisfied	4	20
Total	20	100

**Source: Author's Field Work, 2015**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

10% of the 30% of the unemployed respondents before the construction were employed (self-employments) after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. There was a reduction of percentage of respondents that were employed but not satisfied with their employments (before the construction) by 5% after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. This shows increase in the level of job satisfaction. Talba Housing Estate has increased the percentage of satisfied employments for respondents by 15% after its practical completion. These means that the construction of buildings reduces unemployment in Nigeria, particularly, Minna.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Talba Housing Estate in Minna was studied. The study was to assess the labour generation from the practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate in Kpakungu community, Minna. Interviews were conducted with inhabitants of the study area that were involved in the construction of the Talba Housing Estate. Sampling sizes were collected from 20 households using systematic random sampling method. The assessment was done based on skilled and unskilled labours and tables were employed in summarising the data and percentage was used in the analysis of data.

From the total of 20 households that were studied, 10% of the 30% of the unemployed respondents before the construction were employed (self-employments) after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. There was a reduction of percentage of the

respondents that were employed but not satisfied with their employments (before the construction) by 5% after practical completion of the Talba Housing Estate. This shows increase in the level of job satisfaction. Talba Housing Estate has increased the percentage of satisfied employments for respondents by 15% after its practical completion. This result also showed that construction of buildings can reduce unemployment in Nigeria, particularly, Minna. The enormous influences of unemployment, has transcended corruption and crime implications especially among youth in Nigeria. In order to find lasting solution to this problem, it is important for the government to emphasis on the construction of more buildings, since there is a great need for housing magnitude in urban areas.

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