
Effect of Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme on the Enrollment of Al-Majiri in Formal Education

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Abstract: *The aim of this study was to examine effect of Dangote Foundation scholarship programme on enrolment of Al-majiri in formal education in Kano state. Survey research design was adopted in this study. To determine the sample size of the population, 260 Al-Majiri were selected from the population as in accordance with research advisor. But due to the nature of the study the researcher utilized only 50 students. However, Proportionate sampling techniques was also used. The findings show that out of the total hundred percent of the respondents 45 % were in the disagreement category. This indicates that the level of Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme is low in increasing Al-Majiri enrollment in formal education in Kano. This implies that Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme neglects one among the fundamental area that requires an immediate CSR intervention. The study concludes that Al-Majiri system of Education in Kano is taking a new dimension with the corporate assistance of Dangote Foundation and the establishment of the 12 Tsangaya model schools by the Federal Government to integrate the traditional Qur'anic education with western education. This dual and giant contribution of Dangote Foundation and Federal Government really has improved the Al-Majiri system of education in Kano state which was neglected before. Massive advocacy and sensitization campaigns on the Al-Majiri education programme should be intensified in order to create the needed awareness among all the stakeholders. Tertiary institutions should be encouraged and supported to carry out researches for the improvement of Al-Majiri education and also to set up programmes that will absorb graduate of these schools.*

Key words: *Al-Majiri, Dangote foundation scholarship programme, informal education*

1.0 Introduction

In Nigeria, Dangote Group, the largest conglomerate in Africa is involved in Corporate Social Responsibility activities under Dangote Foundation, which oversees their implementations. In the foundation's web site, Dangote Foundation intervenes in the areas of health, education and empowerment. Specifically, apart from its numerous societal oriented functions, the foundation gives a helping hand in Al-Majiri education system especially in Kano where the concentration of such children is high.

Al-Majiri education system is the oldest basic educational system of Northern Nigeria where parents send their children far away home to Qur'anic school to acquire intellectual moral training and mastery of Qur'anic education. Gradually the children begin to study Qur'an from scratch to the point of its memorization and scripting (Shehu, 2006, p. 23). Dangote foundation as an altruist body is giving a special helping hand in this system, hence the needs to assess the impact of the Foundation on Al-Majiri system in Nigeria with specific reference to Kano state. This study therefore, seeks to assess the effect of Dangote Foundation scholarship programme on the enrolment of Al-majiri in formal education in Kano state.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Brief of Dangote Foundation on Almajiri Schools

Dangote foundation which is the CSR arm of Dangote Group of Company was founded in 1997 to embark on CSR activities in Nigeria. Through Support of Children in Qur'anic Schools Dangote Foundation constructed boreholes in strategic Al-Majiri schools in the state to solve the acute water shortage being experienced in those schools, and thousands of Al-Majiri relied heavily on social feeding of the Foundation being carried out by Hajiya Mariya Sunusi, mother of Alhaji Aliko Dangote. Currently the Foundation constructed blood bank at Murtala Muhammad specialist Hospital and handed it over to the hospital management.

2.2 Conceptual Review of Al-Majiri education systems

The word "Al-Muhajir" was originally an Arabic word that means a person who migrates from his home or town and lives somewhere permanently or temporarily. But when Islam was first introduced in Northern Nigeria in the early fourteenth century by Arabian traders (through the trans-Saharan trade routes from North to West Africa with one route leading all the way to ancient Ghana and another one leading much further east to the Kanem-Borno region), and spread out in the entire region, the quest for Islamic knowledge therefore intensified. People migrate from their home-town to other places seeking for knowledge, this migration is synonym with the word "Hijjiza" in Arabic language while Al-Mahajirun means immigrant, in English language as such the word "Al-Muhajir" was adopted into Hausa language and pronounced "Al-Majiri" to call those seeking for Islamic education generally, (Sebastine & Obeta, 2015,p.1).

It is very difficult to clearly state when Islam first introduced in Northern Nigeria considering the period and occasions the religion came. Islam reached Kanem Borno in 11th century during the reign of Umme Jalmi through ibn Mani (1086-79), Kano in 13th and 15th century during the reign of Emir Aliyu Yaji (1349-1385) through Wangarawa Islamic scholars, while Katsina in 13th century respectively, (Iguda, 2007,p.10). Therefore, the word Al-Majiri according to the above explanations simply means Student or Pupil of Islamic education. However, today Al-Majiri refers to Children of Qur'anic schools known traditionally as *Tsangaya or Makarantar Allo*, in Hausa roaming about the street looking for ways of subsistence.

This traditional Qur'anic system of education (Sebastine&Obeta, 2015, p.3), allows children to learn Qur'an under the tutelage of the learned Qur'anic scholar called Malam who is also the product of the system, (Taiwo, 2013, p.67). Under the strict supervision of Malam, the student of Qur'anic school undergo various stages provided in the system where student would first be exposed to recognition of Qur'anic alphabets written boldly on slate and moving gradually to the stage where student learn Qur'an by heart before they graduate and establish his own school, (Iguda, 2007,p.65). There is no specific age of enrollment in the school and the duration of the study depends on the academic ability of the student but the main concern and objective is perfecting the ability to learn Qur'an by heart and write the whole scripture with no error either on the slate or in a paper, (Taiwo, 2013,p.70).

The late premier of the Northern region of Nigeria Sir Ahmadu Bello made this clear in his autobiography, titled "My Life" where he said "In those days there was no school on western line in the village. When we were old enough about five years old, my half-brother and I with three sisters were sent to Malam Garba, the Liman (Imam) of Rabah. He sat under a tree or in his

porch surrounded by about forty children. We learnt the Holy Qur'an by heart with his guidance, we wrote on wooden slate with reed pens dipped in ink we had made ourselves. When the slates were filled with our youthful Arabic writing, we washed them off and started again". This system of education as described by Sir Ahmadu Bello remained the same in not only Nigeria but in countries like Mali, Sudan, Ghana, and Chad among others (Jamalu, 20017, para.1). Qur'an which gradually revealed to the Prophet of Islam over the period of 23 years has been the core of this system of education since its inception in Northern Nigeria because it plays a central role in the life of a Muslim spiritually, politically, socially, economically and otherwise (Goodluck & Juliana, n.d.p.97).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Research Design

Survey research design was adopted in this study. Survey Method according to the Onodugu, Uguwuonah, Ebinne (2010) is a research method of which sole aim is to examine the current opinions, behaviors and other characteristics of a group of people. It is an investigation into what currently exists in an area, at the time of the research, in their natural setting. Usually, it is with the data gathered that judgment and improvements about such a group can be realized (p.10).

3.2 Population of the study

The population of the study consisted students of registered Model Tsangaya primary schools in Kano state with total population of 1200 Al-Majiri according to the Kano state Qur'anic and Islamiyya Schools Management Board statistics report of 2014.

3.3 Sample determination

To determine the sample size of the population, 260 Al-Majiri were selected from the population as in accordance with research advisor. But due to the nature of the study the researcher utilized only 50 students. However, Proportionate sampling techniques was also used. The formula below helps the researcher to determine the proportion of the sample size:-

$$PSS = \frac{TS}{TP} \times SS$$

Where, **PSS** = Proportion of Sample size.

TS = Total Population (of a school).

TP = Total Population (of the study).

SS = Sample Size (as recommended by Research Advisors (2006)).

Table 3.1: Sample Size Determination

S/N	Name of Schools	Senatorial district	Population	Sample size
1	Dandinshe Model Tsangaya Primary School	Kano-Central	100	20
5	Gaya Model Tsangaya Primary School	Kano-South	150	30 50

3.4 Data collection Instruments

Data for this study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire was used to collect primary data while journals and other available related material was also used to collect secondary data.

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Data Analysis

The results obtained from the data collected in this study related to students' responses to the statement contained in the instruments administered on them. The presentation of the result has been in accordance with the research questions stated earlier. Percentage and frequency count were used for data analysis.

Table 4.1: Mean and standard deviation of the questionnaire

To what extent does Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme increases enrollment of Al-Majiri informal education?	N	Mean	S.D
Dangote Foundation provision of uniform encourages me to enroll in formal education	50	2.60	0.98
Dangote Foundation provision of reading materials encourages me to enroll in formal education	50	2.74	0.96
Dangote Foundation provision of transport fee encourages me to enroll in formal education	50	1.96	0.92

4.2 Research Question One

To what extent does Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme increases enrollment of Al-Majiri informal education?

To answer this research question item 6 from the questionnaire was used as follows.

Table 4.2: Research Question

S/N	Questions Items	Responses							
		Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
	Dangote Foundation provision of uniform encourages me to enroll in formal education	9	17.6	21	41.2	11	21.6	9	17.6
	Dangote Foundation provision of reading materials encourages me to enroll in formal education	12	23.5	19	37.3	13	25.5	6	11.8
	Dangote Foundation provision of transport fee encourages me to enroll in formal education	4	7.8	8	15.8	20	39.2	18	35.3

Interpretation

The findings on Table 2 above show that 21.6 % of the respondents have disagreed that Dangote Foundation provision of uniform encourages enrollment in formal education and 17.6 % of the respondents also strongly disagree. Therefore, based on the above results we have seen that out of the total hundred percent of the respondents 45 % were in the disagreement category. This indicates that the level of Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme is low in increasing Al-Majiri enrollment in formal education in Kano. The result is consistent with Peach, (1987) who found that, the effective CSR is one that help the host community in solving societal problems by contributing to education, health care, welfare and the arts, (Uduji, 2012). This implies that Dangote Foundation Scholarship Programme neglects one among the fundamental area that requires an immediate CSR intervention. This is in line with the idea of Maron (2006), according to him organization have been encouraged to move toward socially responsible behavior for both moral and practical business incentive.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that, Al-Majiri system of Education in Kano is taking a new dimension with the corporate assistance of Dangote Foundation and the establishment of the 12 Tsangaya model schools by the Federal Government to integrate the traditional Qur’anic education with western education. This dual and giant contribution of Dangote Foundation and Federal Government really has improved the Al-Majiri system of education in Kano state which was neglected before.

5.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed:

1. Massive advocacy and sensitization campaigns on the Al-Majiri education programme should be intensified in order to create the needed awareness among all the stakeholders.

2. Tertiary institutions should be encouraged and supported to carry out researches for the improvement of Al-Majiri education and also to set up programmes that will absorb graduate of these schools.

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