



Productivity and effectiveness of school feeding programme service providers for primary schools in Gashua town, Yobe State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: School feeding service signifies serving nutrients to school children with the intent to help children the art of consuming balanced diet. It is a feeding service delivery which includes stages that are in the modality of delivery of foods products such as Preparation, storage, Reception, serving, distribution and consumption of food through appropriate community food vendors services delivery monitored and evaluated by school local inspectors of education and zonal inspectors of education are members of the steering committees who supervise the programme. This paper sought to examine School feeding service delivery by food vendors in Gashua town, Bade LG, Yobe state.

Objectives of the study: The study aims to examine the productivity of school feeding service providers in reducing hunger and improve nutritional health among school children in Primary school in Gashua town, to examine efficiency school feeding service providers in Preparation, storage, Reception, serving, distribution and consumption of food among school children in Primary school in Gashua town, to examine challenges faced in implementation of school feeding programme in Primary school in Gashua town.

Method: The study adopted the survey research design and obtained its data from primary sources. The primary data were obtained through structured questionnaire administered on 25 respondents (Food Vendors) in 5 public elementary schools in Gashua Town (Ramat, Babuje, Umar Suleiman, Islamiya, and Garin-Lamido Primary School) using Total population sampling technique. The administration of questionnaire was supplemented by in-depth interview of 5 school head masters purposively selected and 5 members from inspection team of school feeding programme implementation under Local Government Education Authority in the Bade local government area of Yobe state. Data analysis simple frequency count was to get percentage value of the study.

Results: The results of the interviews conducted with the 5 school head masters and 5 members from inspection team of school feeding programme. Majority (90%) of the respondents indicated that mid-day meals are served daily and promptly while in school. Results in Table 2 show the variation internal consistency about agreements of the respondents on (56%) of the respondents on School food vendors serve pupils regularly with sufficient meals. Results in Table 3 show the variation internal consistency about agreements of the respondents on (64%) of the respondents on Efficient Reception, serving and distribution of meals provided in schools keeps sharing balances among pupils. Table 4 presents the results (96%) of the respondents indicated that classrooms are overcrowded

Conclusions: This study has revealed that Productivity and efficiency of service providers in school feeding services is critical issue for School Feeding Programme which is very effectual in short term hunger reduction and improve nutritional health of school children among primary school pupils in Gashua Town, Yobe state. Since the findings signified imperativeness of school feeding services providers for school feeding programme in short term hunger reduction and improve nutritional health of school children. It is recommended that management of Primary schools within their capacity and Local Education Authority in Bade L.G. Gashua Town will redouble efforts to see that inspection team discharge their binding duties of inspecting, monitoring and supervising on attitude and nature of foods and items supplied such as quality, quantity hygiene of school food vendors diligently and propose a motivational correction measure. This could be done by giving motivational prizes and counselling to both school food vendors and members of school inspection team.

Keywords: school feeding service, school feeding programme, productivity and efficiency

Introduction

For the effective, productive and efficient implementation of school feeding programme, therefore services of food vendors are employed giving appointment trained and equipped with working materials. Besides this a monitoring and evaluation committee is constituted and headed by the director of the inspectorate services in the ministry of education. Also, the local inspectors of education and zonal inspectors of education are members of the steering committees who supervise the programme.

School feeding services are aimed at providing an adequate meal a day to all children enrolled in schools nationwide. School feeding service signifies serving nutrients to school children with the intent to help children

the art of consuming balanced diet. If feeding services are efficiently delivered to school children would afford 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. Mousse (2002) as cited in Helen, Sundy and Rebecca (2017) ^[8] 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 (2009) ^[3] posited that school feeding involves the provision of at least one meal or two (breakfast & lunch, breakfast only or lunch 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. And it could be viewed that the school feeding is required to assist the pupils.

School feeding services (SFS) is a key component of the School feeding programme (SFP) which aimed to reduce short term hunger, improve nutrition, health pupils and education, sustained stay in the schools up to completion of primary education it was also aimed at improving enrolment of school age children into schools more especially the girl-child at enrolment Helen *et al.* (2017) ^[8].

School feeding service delivery which includes stages that are in the modality of delivery of foods products; Preparation, storage, Reception, serving, distribution and consumption of food through appropriate community food vendors services delivery monitored and evaluated by school local inspectors of education and zonal inspectors of education are members of the steering committees who supervise the programme.

As mentioned earlier that for the effective and efficient and productive School feeding programme implementation food service providers such as, food vendors were appointed, trained and equipped with information and working materials. The community food vendors are fully integrated into the well-structured supply chain through which local farmers provide them with the necessary food materials required for the meals. This does not only ensure cost-effectiveness, but ensures that the money expended sinks back into the State's economy and generates maximum multiplier effects on the people (Yunusa, Gumel, Adegbusi, & Adegbusi 2012) ^[10]

The school feeding programme secretariat ensures that the food vendors are paid fortnightly in advance directly into their accounts as well as monthly transport subsidy. The vendors do not cook in schools however a nutritious and balanced diet is given to pupils. This paper sought to examine School feeding service delivery by food vendors in Gashua town, Bade LG, Yobe state.

The school feeding programme is a versatile safety net programme in support of vulnerable children and their families. School feeding programmes constitute critical interventions that have been introduced in many developed and developing countries of the world to address the issue of poverty, stimulate school enrolment and enhance pupils' performance. This was reported in (2007) by United Nations Education scientific and cultural organization. Akanbi (2013) ^[4] stated that in developing countries, almost 60million children go to school hungry every day and about 40 percent of them are from Africa. Providing school meals is therefore vital in nourishing children. Parents are motivated to send their children to school instead of keeping them at home to work or care for siblings.

Adelman, Gilligan and Lehrer (2007) pointed out that in 2003 African governments in their aim to restore agricultural growth, food security, adequate nutritional levels and rural development in Africa, endorsed the Home grown school feeding (HGSF) programme of the comprehensive Africa agricultural development programme (CAADP). World food programme and new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance co- operation on Home grown school feeding (HGSF). Twelve pilot Countries: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal Uganda and Zambia were identified to implement the programme it was in line with the importance of the programme and commitment of former president and commander in Chief of the Armed Forces in Nigeria, Olusegan Obasanjo held a meeting with stakeholders on the 29th of July 2005 at the council Chambers, presidential villa, Abuja, The Forum was a follow up of the former president's pledge to the officials of the world food programme in Rome, Italy in June 2005, regarding his commitment to the home grown school feeding and health programme.

Nigeria happened to be one of twelve (12) pilot countries invited to implement the programme. So far, Nigeria, Cote d'ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and Mali commenced the implementation of the school feeding programme. As a result, the Federal Government came up with the Universal Basic Education Act in 2004, which provided the enabling legislative backing for the execution of the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme. Towards the realization of the objectives of the Universal Basic Education programme and the central role of nutrition, the Federal Ministry of Education launched the Home Grown School Feeding and Health Programme in 2005. The overall goal of the School Feeding Programme in Nigeria is to reduce hunger and malnutrition among school children and enhance the achievement of Universal Basic Education reported in (Helen *et al.* 2017) ^[8].

In addition, the Federal Ministry of education reported that the aim of the forum was to enable the former president share views with relevant stakeholders on the Home grown school feeding and Health programme (HGSHP) and to mobilize them for action towards the flag off of the programme in September 2005. The participants at the forum were drawn from varies sectional ministries, parastartals agencies, top government functionaries pilot state governors, primary schools, NGOS, organised private sectors, as well as development agencies, torture (12) states were selected as pilot states, these include "Bauchi, cross river, Enugu Imo, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Ogun, Osun, River and Yobe states

Yobe was among the twelve (12) States selected to begin a phased–pilot roll out implementation of the programme. The twelve states which were selected as pilot states include Bauchi, Cross River, Enugu Imo, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Ogun, Osun, River and Yobe states.

Yobe State Universal Basic Education Board reported that, Yobe state being one of the twelve (12) states selected by the Federal Government of Nigeria to be one of the pilot states, to pilot the Home Grown school feeding and Health programme, launched its school feeding programme in the State on the 27th of October, 2006 by his Excellency the former the former executor governor of Yobe state Bukar Abba Ibrahim, complementing the effort of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The state government selected six (6) local governments from the Senatorial districts and in each of the local government selected, two (2) schools were selected as pilot schools. The aim of the programme was to reduce short term hunger, improve nutrition, health pupils and education, sustained stay in the schools up to completion of primary education it was also aimed at improving enrolment of school age children into schools in the state, more especially the girl-child at enrolment and boosting agricultural production as well as the economy of the rural areas through purchase of locally-produced food stuff.

In an attempt to reach more children in the state, the state government increased the number of local governments that will benefit from the programme to twelve (12) local government in 2007, at the then time seventeen local governments were practicing the programme with thirty one (31) benefiting schools with the states, with a total enrolment of twelve thousand eight hundred and eighteen (12,818) mostly from rural areas in the state (YBSSVBEB, 2010) as cited in (Helen *et al.* 2017) ^[8]. According to Yobe state programme Manager NHGSFP, Hajiya Fatsuma Accama Blue Print, (2021) ^[7] FGN enrolled 106,797 pupils on feeding programme. She further said the programme, home-grown school feeding is an initiative of the federal government, funded and designed to give one nutritional children in class 1-3 in all over the states.

Most primary school children seem to go to school in Yobe state with empty stomachs or without being fed before going to school, some of them have to trick a distance of several kilometers before getting to their respective schools for learning. A good number of primary school pupils before the introduction of school feeding seem to complain about being disturbed by ill health conditions to their teachers such complains range from having stomach pain, dysentery, diarrhea, headache feverish condition and general weakness of the body. Most of the pupils who go to school under this condition have little or no concentration during learning, they suffer under nourishment and opening a way for varying ill health to set into their bodies, some of them suffer academics failure and sometimes drop out of schools. This problem can be associated to the poverty level of the parents or guideless which help in making them unable to cater well for the families in terms of feeding clothing and other necessities of life which constitute some of the means of maintaining good health of the families. Addo (2005) further pointed out that malnutrition in the early years of life while the brain is in its period of rapid growth can have a serious effect on intellectual development either directly by damaging the central nervous system or indirectly through its deleterious effect on responsiveness to stimuli and interference with learning Adalakun (2009) ^[3] observed that children that are not well fed are more prone to sicknesses because they take a jejune diet which will not give this growing bodies the abilities to fight or resist diseases.

Many studies were conducted on relationship between school feeding with health status of school children for example Helen, *et al* (2017) ^[8] examined relationship between school feeding with health improvement of pupils in Yobe state, Chinomnso, Amobi, Kenechi, Chukwuma, Stanley, Helen, Ezinne, Millicent, Sylvester (2016) ^[5] Feeding Practices and Determinants of the Nutritional Status of Pupils in a Public Primary School in Aladinma Owerri, Nigeria. But this study is conducted in area of school feeding programme focusing on productivity and efficiency of school feeding service delivery.

Objectives of the study

The study aims;

To examine the productivity of school feeding service providers in reducing hunger and improve nutritional health among school children in Primary school in Gashua town.

To examine efficiency school feeding service providers in Preparation, storage, Reception, serving, distribution and consumption of food among school children in Primary school in Gashua town.

To examine challenges faced in implementation of school feeding programme in Primary school in Gashua town.

Method

The study adopted the survey research design and obtained its data from primary sources. The primary data were obtained through structured questionnaire administered on 30 respondents (Food Vendors) in 5 public elementary schools in Gashua Town (Ramat, Babuje, Umar Suleiman, Islamiya, and Garin-Lamido Primary School) using Total population sampling technique. The administration of questionnaire was supplemented by in-depth interview of 5 school head masters purposively selected and 5 members from inspection team of school feeding programme implementation under Local Government Education Authority in the Bade local government area of Yobe state. Data analysis simple frequency count was to get percentage value of the study.

Results and Discussion

Results of the interviews conducted as well as those generated from the questionnaire are presented in the tables below:

Table 1: Respondents Examine Productivity and efficiency of school feeding service providers in Primary school in Gashua Town

Response	Frequency
Meals are provided for the pupils daily and promptly while in school	9(90)
The meals provided are adequate and nutritious such as yam, rice, beans porridge, bread, vegetables, eggs, beef, fruits, chicken, with vegetables	7(70)
The meals provided reaches school before break-fast hour	8(80)
The meals provided are hygienically prepared, stored, and shared well and diligently	6(60)
The meals provided are proportional to number of pupils in school and satisfiable	5(50)

Table 1 presents the results of the interviews conducted with the 5 school head masters and 5 members from inspection team of school feeding programme. Majority (90%) of the respondents indicated that mid-day meals are served daily promptly while in school. A sizeable number (70%) of the respondents indicated that the meals provided are adequate and nutritious such as yam, rice, beans porridge, bread, vegetables, eggs, beef, fruits, with vegetables. (80%) of the respondents indicated that meals provided reaches school before break-fast hour. (60%) of the respondents indicated that meals provided are hygienically prepared, stored, and shared well and diligently. (50%) of the respondents indicated that meals provided are proportional to number of pupils in school

Table 2: Respondents Opinions on the productivity of school feeding service providers in reducing hunger and improve nutritional health among school children

Responses	SA	A	U	SD	D	Mean	Rank
School food vendors serve pupils with Adequate, delicious and satisfiable Meals	12(48)	8(32)	-	-	5(20)	4.16	1
School food vendors serve pupils Promptly with substantial meals	11(44)	12(48)	-	-	5(20)	4.6	2
School food vendors serve pupils Regularly with sufficient meals	7(28)	14(56)	3(12)	-	2(4)	4.3	3

Results in Table 2 show the variation internal consistency about agreements of the respondents on School food vendors serve pupils with adequate, delicious and satisfiable meals hence majority of the respondents (48%) strongly agreed with this opinion and it ranked, 1st and (48%) of the respondents on School food vendors serve pupils Promptly with substantial meals agreed with this opinion and it ranked, 1st (56%) of the respondents on School food vendors serve pupils Regularly with sufficient meals

Table 3: Respondents Opinions on the efficiency of school feeding service providers in Preparation, storage, Reception, serving, distribution and consumption of food among school children

Response	SA	A	U	SD	D	Mean	Rank
Effective Preparation enhance Delicious meals provided in schools	6(24)	15(60)	3(12)	-	1(4)	4.16	1
Efficient storage keeps meals quality Provided in schools to pupils	9(36)	12(48)	3(12)	-	1(4)	4.16	2
Efficient Reception, serving, and distribution of meals Provided in schools keeps Sharing balances among pupils	7(28)	16(64)	2(8)	-	-	4.16	3

Results in Table 3 show the variation internal consistency about agreements of the respondents on Effective Preparation enhance Delicious meals provided in schools hence majority of the respondents (60%) agreed with this opinion and it ranked, 1st and (48%) of the respondents on Efficient storage keeps meals quality provided in schools agreed with this opinion and it ranked, 1st (64%) of the respondents on Efficient Reception, serving and distribution of meals provided in schools keeps sharing balances among pupils.

Table 4: Respondents Opinions on the challenges faced in implementation of school feeding programme in Primary school in Gashua town.

Responses	Frequency
Overcrowded classrooms	24(96)
Low attention to inspect the food	
Preparation to ascertain food quality	15(60)
Low attention to inspect food hygiene	16(64)

Food preparation facilities and storage	
Are not enough	23(92)

Table 4 presents the results (96%) of the respondents indicated that classrooms are overcrowded and (60%) of the respondents indicated that Low attention to inspect the food preparation to ascertain food quality also (60%) of the respondents indicated that Low attention to inspect food hygiene, (92%) of the respondents indicated Food preparation facilities and storage are not enough

Conclusions and Recommendation

This study has revealed that Productivity and efficiency of service providers in school feeding services is critical issue for School Feeding Programme which is very effectual in short term hunger reduction and improve nutritional health of school children among primary school pupils in Gashua Town, Yobe state. However, the study also revealed that somewhat low performance of school inspection team on school feeding service delivery depresses productive and efficient implementation of school feeding programme in Gashua town Yobe state.

Since the findings signified imperativeness of school feeding services providers for school feeding programme in short term hunger reduction and improve nutritional health of school children. It is recommended that management of Primary schools within their capacity and Local Education Authority in Bade L.G. Gashua Town will redouble efforts to see that inspection team discharge their binding duties of inspecting, monitoring and supervising on attitude and nature of foods and items supplied such as quality, quantity hygiene of school food vendors diligently and propose a motivational correction measure. This could be done by giving motivational prizes and counselling to both school food vendors and members of school inspection team.

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