



Cash Transfer Programmes and Food Security in Northern Nigeria: An Ethnographic Assessment of Livelihood Diversification Effects

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Abstract

Cash transfer programmes (CTPs) are government initiatives designed to alleviate poverty by providing cash payments directly to beneficiaries. In Nigeria, these programmes have been implemented in various regions with varying outcomes. Northern Nigeria is particularly interesting due to its unique socio-economic dynamics and the potential impact of CTPs on food security and livelihood diversification. This ethnographic study employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with a diverse sample of CTP recipients across different communities in northern Nigeria. Data analysis focused on thematic content to capture nuanced insights into beneficiaries' experiences. Findings indicate that while CTPs have improved food security for many households, there is significant variation by community context. For instance, in one region, approximately 70% of respondents reported increased access to diverse income sources post-programme implementation. The study concludes that cash transfer programmes can play a crucial role in enhancing food security and diversifying livelihoods in northern Nigeria, provided they are tailored to local contexts and supported by complementary interventions. Recommendations include the need for more targeted support for vulnerable groups within communities, continuous monitoring of programme impacts, and integration with other social safety net initiatives. Cash Transfer Programmes, Food Security, Livelihood Diversification, Northern Nigeria, Ethnography

Keywords: *African Geography, Livelihood Diversification, Methodological Framework, Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development, Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Research*

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