

NATURE AND IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE INTERVENTION OF JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION IN THE FCT

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ABSTRACT

The social welfare intervention of Justice Development and Peace Commission in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has had a significant impact on the community. This intervention seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals and families in the community by promoting justice and peace. By providing resources and support, this intervention aims to enhance the social, economic, and political well-being of the community. Through the implementation of various programs and initiatives, the Justice Development and Peace Commission has successfully addressed issues such as poverty, hunger, and inequality. This has resulted in a more cohesive and harmonious community, with improved access to education, healthcare, and other basic rights and amenities. Overall, the Nature and impact of this social welfare intervention has been crucial in promoting a more just and peaceful society in the FCT.

Keywords: Nature, Impact, Social Welfare, Intervention, JDPC.

Introduction

Social welfare intervention in modern social concerns and challenges is a hot topic. NGOs and other social welfare organisations are crucial to social welfare work. Since government must always serve its people, it is its duty to oversee social welfare services. However, this has proven unsustainable because the government alone cannot supply these needs, especially in developing economies. This gap has forced religious groups, NGOs, and other social welfare service providers to lead population-wide social welfare intervention efforts (Ekpe, 2011).

Faith-based organisations (FBOs) advance economic, social, cultural, and political progress worldwide. FBOs help the government and corporate sector create human potential and social capital, promoting social cohesion and integration in various areas. Most Sub-Saharan African nations are impoverished, and the government and private sector cannot provide social services. The private sector helps the government with social cooperation, while faith-based organisations provide social welfare programs to improve quality of life (Fauzia, 2013).

A notable Nigerian faith-based institution, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), implements social welfare projects to boost development and living standards. The Church or Christianity has promoted global peace, life improvement, and social order for the common benefit. According to Alawode (2016), the church's social services help society

develop. Due to significant poverty rates in remote FCT communities, JDPC launched a social welfare intervention program. According to National Bureau of Statistics data, poverty in Nigeria and the FCT is rising. The FCT's poverty rate from 2010 to 2018 was 43.4%, 44.7%, 47.1%, 47.9%, 49.3%, 49.9%, 52.3%, 58.6%, and 73.1%. This statistical analysis shows that poverty in the FCT has been rising geometrically, supporting JDPC's social welfare intervention initiative among rural dwellers, where Abuja has the poorest people.

Additionally, National Poverty Profile Report compared poverty rates in Abuja, FCT. It showed that while poverty rose between 1.3% and 6.3% from 2010 to 2018, it rose between 7.1% and 10.3% from 2018 to 2024, which was more tragic. This baseline was drawn based on the purchasing power of basic goods and services in Nigeria – FCT, the standard of living, the number of those with formal education, the number of those employed in Abuja, and other economic indicators that led to JDPC's social welfare intervention initiative among rural FCT residents. The group promotes literacy, scholarships, and quality education. Education helps communities break the poverty cycle and improve their socioeconomic status (Edmond, 2017). Human rights knowledge and activism by the JDPC have helped many people seek justice. These efforts have raised human rights awareness, reduced abuses, and helped vulnerable people. JDPC microfinance programs provide small amounts to entrepreneurs. These loans help borrowers grow their businesses, income, and livelihood. These are some JDPC rural FCT social welfare interventions.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the social welfare intervention of Justice Development and Peace Commission in the FCT from 2018 -2024. However, the specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To clearly identify the various social welfare intervention programmes implemented or carried out by Justice Development and Peace Commission in the FCT from 2018 - 2024.
- ii. To assess the impact of the social welfare intervention programmes by Justice Development and Peace Commission in the FCT over the specified period.

Nature of JDPC Social Welfare Intervention in the FCT

Justice, Development, and Peace/ Caritas (JDPC) helps marginalised populations in the FCT. This report details JDPC's FCT social welfare programmes' goals, intervention methodologies, target demographics, and important partners. JDPC's FCT social welfare operations focus on education, healthcare, livelihood aid, human rights advocacy, and disaster relief.

JDPC aids at-risk students through literacy programs, scholarships, and advocacy for high-quality education. Health literacy, medical outreach, and universal high-quality healthcare are JDPC's goals. Livelihood aid initiatives help underprivileged populations develop economic independence and skills. Human rights defenders fight relentlessly for women, children, and disabled people, who are among the most vulnerable. Disaster response programs help disaster victims (Olubitan, 2014).

JDPC assists at-risk adolescents, moms, disabled individuals, low-income families, and natural disaster victims in the FCT. The organisation follows a community-based strategy in conjunction with community leaders, faith-based organisations, and government agencies. JDPC optimises resources through cooperation with private sector and international development agencies. JDPC's FCT social welfare project aims to improve the lives of underprivileged groups like children, women, and the disabled. JDPC seeks greater education, healthcare, job opportunities, human rights, community resilience, and disaster response (Fine, 2019).

JDPC primarily works with local government agencies, community organisations, commercial firms, international development partners, and religious organisations in the FCT. Through these agreements, JDPC uses resources, experience, and influence to achieve its aims. JDPC's FCT social welfare initiative is comprehensive and addresses marginalised groups. JDPC promotes human dignity and sustainable development in the FCT through disaster response, human rights advocacy, healthcare, education, and livelihood support. JDPC's community-based strategy and regional and global relationships benefit FCT marginalised populations (Daston, 2018).

Impact of JDPC Social Welfare Intervention in the FCT

Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) was created as a structural response to the Second Vatican Council's demand for Church involvement in social issues and development. The Vatican welfare commission has become a non-discriminatory, faith-based, non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainable and integral human development through a holistic empowerment approach to facilitate effective structural transformation in society without discrimination. Its goal is to create the kingdom of God in the church and society and free people from oppression regardless of race, creed, or gender. The Commission has done well in these and other areas, especially in the FCT, where it has driven development (Flores, 2018).

Faith-Based Development Theory

Faith-based philosophy incorporates religion and spirituality into psychology, education, and social work. Faith can shape a person's worldview, decision-making, and well-being, according to this notion. Faith-based theory explains how spiritual beliefs affect human behaviour and society by examining faith and factual facts (Ilesanmi, 1997).

Faith-based development theory emphasises religious institutions' involvement in community development and wellbeing. This article covers the theory's proponents, assertions, critics, and application to the Justice Development and Peace Commission's social welfare intervention.

Faith-based theory illuminates spirituality in human behaviour, education, and social work. Practitioners can handle spiritual well-being more holistically by acknowledging faith's impact on people's lives. However, incorporating faith into professional practises presents obstacles and ethical issues that must be addressed. As society evolves, faith-based theory discourse will be essential to comprehending human complexity.

Research Design

This research adopted the mixed research method of research design which was used to analyse specific respondents (interviewees) on salient important questions that relates to the subject matter of the study which concerns Justice Development and Peace Commission and social welfare intervention in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. The research design adopted basically three methods of data collection which are questionnaires and observations. It also made use of standardized questions where reliability of the items will be determined and ascertained.

Data Analysis Techniques

This study used both descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, the descriptive statistics include percentage, frequency table and mean, while the inferential statistics will be the multiple regression analysis.

Basic Background Knowledge of JDPC Social Welfare Intervention

Variables	Yes	No	Mean (x)	Remark
Have you heard of the JDPC	411 (87.1%)	61 (12.9%)	2.4	Accepted
Do you know that the JDPC offers social welfare Interventions	397 (84.1%)	75 (15.9)	2.3	Accepted
Do you know of any JDPC social welfare intervention in your community?	348 (73.7%)	124 (26.3%)	2.4	Accepted
Do you know the goals of JDPC social welfare intervention in the FCT?	305 (64.6%)	167 (35.4%)	2.4	Accepted
Do you know the goals of JDPC social welfare intervention in your community?	299 (63.3%)	173 (36.7%)	2.3	Accepted
Do you have to belong to a particular	26 (5.5%)	472 (94.5%)	1.3	Rejected

religion to benefit from the JDPC social welfare intervention?				
Do you have to belong to a particular tribe to benefit from the JDPC social welfare intervention?	21 (4.4%)	451 (95.6%)	1.2	Rejected
Do you have to belong to particular social strata to benefit from the JDPC social welfare intervention?	15 (3.2)	457 (96.8%)	1.3	Rejected

Sources: Field Survey (2024)

The table above presents data on varies of basic background information of JDPC social welfare intervention, which includes; if respondents have heard of the existence of JDPC in their local communities (figure 3 below further explains the outcome of respondents view on this matter); if respondents are aware of the JDPC social welfare intervention; knowledge of respondents of JDPC social welfare intervention in their communities or residents (see figure 4 below for graphic clarification on the view of respondents on the subject matter); respondents knowledge of the goals of JDPC social welfare intervention (see figure 5 below for graphic explanation on respondents view of the goals of the JDPC); if JDPC social welfare intervention is being administered based on religious affiliation; if JDPC social welfare intervention is being administered based on tribal affinity; and if JDPC social welfare intervention is being administered based on the social strata of the targeted beneficiaries.

Have you benefitted from either of the JDPC social welfare intervention in the FCT before?

Variables	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Remark
Education	83 (17.6%)	59 (12.5%)	16 (3.4%)	163 (34.5%)	151 (32.0%)	1.5	Rejected
Healthcare	188 (18.8%)	174 (36.9%)	21 (4.4%)	38 (8.0%)	51 (10.8%)	2.7	Accepted
Livelihood	210 (44.5%)	134 (28.4%)	41 (8.7%)	49 (10.4%)	38 (8.0%)	3.6	Accepted
Human right advocacy	94 (19.9%)	142 (30.1%)	83 (17.6%)	108 (22.9%)	45 (9.5%)	2.5	Accepted
Disaster response	163 (34.5%)	137 (29.0%)	64 (13.6%)	86 (18.2%)	22 (4.7%)	2.6	Accepted

Others	165 (34.9%)	155 (32.8%)	48 (10.2%)	46 (9.7%)	58 (12.9%)	3.3	Accepted
Average Overall Mean						3.9	

Sources: Field Survey (2024)

The table above presents data on finding out if the respondents have benefitted from the social welfare intervention programmes conducted by the JDPC in their rural communities at one time or the other. The respondents were made to select through different categories of the beneficial process, such as; direct service provision, partnership with local organizations, community mobilization, advocacy with government agencies, among others. Besides the category of education which had a mean of 1.5 rejected, the other categories were accepted with an average overall mean of 3.9. This shows that most of the respondents have benefitted from the social welfare intervention of the JDPC in rural communities of the FCT. It also shows that either these respondents have had direct benefits of the social welfare intervention of the JDPC or some close to them must have equally benefitted from the program.

Discussion and Findings

This section discusses the result from the data analysis carried out in the preceeding section. Several issues were examined in this study as they relate to JDPC social welfare intervention across rural dwellers in FCT – Abuja. The study found the following:

- i. The findings revealed that the Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja has been able to identify many challenges facing rural dwellers within Abuja and have also taken steps towards intervening in such social welfare initiatives. The study identified that some of such social welfare challenges that have been identified and tackled includes, but not limited to; good governance initiatives, correctional facilities visit and intervention for inmates that were either unjustly confined to the correctional centre in Abuja or need intervention to meet their bail conditions, medical outreaches and intervention for the poor and downtrodden, educational and health interventions, human capacity building and skill acquisition programmes among other social welfare intervention services.
- ii. The study found that the intervention services of JDPC in the FCT have created various remarkable impacts on citizens and the society. It has given hope to those who have been bitten by the societal burg of poverty and financial challenge; provided medical care and support to those passing through different forms of illness and sickness; engaged government officials and the political class on the need for good governance; enlightened the citizens of the need to be actively participatory in the affair of governance; intervened on the cases of those unjustly incarcerated, and those with lesser bail conditions; among others

Conclusion and Recommendations

The social welfare intervention efforts of Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) in the Federal Capital Territory have shown to be multifaceted and multidimensional. The

organization has been actively involved in the social welfare services required in the society; and most of such services have proven to be timely and absolutely necessary. The in-depth investigation on the nature and impact of social welfare interventionist schemes carried out by JDPC in the last couple of years has shown how necessary and important the services been rendered by the organization has become. Though, the study believes that beyond the present social welfare intervention scope being covered by the JDPC, more still needs to be done; and to achieve this, there may be need for collaboration and partnership between the JDPC and other similar organizations, and the involvement of the government.

Recommendations

Having considered the nature and impact of the social welfare intervention of JDPC in rural areas of the FCT, the study made the following recommendations:

1. JDPC should put mechanisms in place that will clearly identify the social welfare intervention programs that are most needed by the people of rural communities in each instances and follow same up in implementation process. This is very necessary as doing so will create the needed and expected impact on the rural dwellers of each of these communities that are direct beneficiaries.
2. The organization must put in place evaluation mechanisms that will always evaluate the impact of its social welfare intervention initiatives carried out in each of its targeted rural communities. This will help in future planning and intervention process in such communities.

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