# POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND EDUCATION IN URBAN AREA: A CASE STUDY OF YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE NIGERIA.

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## ABSTRACT
This research is on Animal Production and Education as tool for poverty alleviation in Yola North L.G.A of Adamawa State. The objective was to evaluate the role of animal production and education as means for poverty alleviation in the study area. The index used was education which when achieved improves Animal production. The targeted population was Yola North LGA and the sample was 200 people selected from 5 (45%) out of the 11 wards using random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire and the data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages. The major finding of this study was that Animal production reduces the rate of poverty and promotes economic development. It was concluded that Animal Production and Education contributes to income distribution and the recommendation made was people to be educated on Animal production.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Poverty alleviation, Animal production,

## INTRODUCTION
Access to social amenities, good education and stable source of income is amongst the general desires of majority of the populace. Unfortunately, that is hardly obtainable due to poverty. Orduen (2005) stated that poverty is a state of not having enough to meet the basic needs or a condition where the basic necessities of life are insufficient. He described poverty as hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to go to school. These three indices of poverty affect majority of urban livestock producers in Yola-North. Animal production and education could serve as a tool towards human capital development. Muhammad (2015) stated that livestock production is a key to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Ewuola (1992) reported that education develops the knowledge, skills or character of individuals and it teaches them how to live their lives by developing their minds and equipping them to deal with reality. This will enhance them to use the techniques for producing animals to reduce level of poverty among them. The objective of this study was to assess and analyze education and Animal Production as means for alleviating poverty, in Yola-North, Adamawa state.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS
A survey was conducted in September 2008 in Yola North Local Government Area. Five wards (45%) were randomly selected out of the 11 wards in the Local Government Area. A group discussion was held using the opinion leader to introduce the aim of the survey. Thereafter 20 men and 20 women making a total of 40 persons per ward which sums up to 200 people were randomly selected from those that participated in the group discussion. A developed structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents with the help of trained enumerators. The questionnaire captured the contribution of education and livestock production to poverty alleviation. The data collected were analyzed using SAS, 2002.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
Perception of the respondents on the Role of Education in alleviating poverty

Table 1 shows the responses on how education helps in reducing poverty. It was observed that 72% of the respondents agreed that education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills. Education develops and equips the mind to deal with reality. While 20% of the respondents had contrary views as to whether education develops and equips the mind; 8% of them were undecided. Sixty-three

percent (63%) of the respondents agreed that education is an indispensable tool for economic development and enhances agricultural productivity. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the respondents agreed that the greater the number of people with basic education the more and better chances for rapid development. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the respondents agreed that basic education improves income, opportunities and decision making capabilities in the house hold. The implication of this finding showed education improves awareness, maturity in attitude, behavior and sense of responsibility to self-sustenance. Mangvwat, (2002) reported that education is the basis for the full promotion and improvement of the status of individuals. It is one of the most important means of empowering people with the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to participate fully in the developmental process. It also improves income, opportunities and decision making capabilities in the house hold.

Table 1: Responses on how education helps in reducing poverty.

| **Item** | **Statements** | **Responses** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Agreed | | Disagreed | | Undecided | |
| | | F | % | F | % | F | % |
| 1. | Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills. It also develops and equips the mind to deal with reality | 86 | 72 | 24 | 20 | 10 | 8 |
| 2. | Education is an indispensable tool for economic development and enhances agricultural productivity. | 75 | 63 | 32 | 27 | 13 | 10 |
| 3. | The greater the number of people with basic education the more and better chances for rapid development. | 80 | 67 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 8 |
| 4. | Basic education improves income, opportunities and decision making capabilities in the house hold. | 88 | 73 | 24 | 20 | 8 | 7 |

Perception of the respondents on the Role of Animal production in alleviating poverty

Table 2 shows the responses on how Animal production is the means for alleviating poverty. It was observed that 83% of the respondents agreed that Animal production is capable of eradicating extreme poverty, while 10% did not agree to that, 7% were undecided. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the respondents agreed that Animal production is a direct means for broader knowledge of good nutritional practices, while 18% disagreed, 13% were undecided. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the respondents agreed that the livestock industry provides a good source of animal protein, which is much needed for balanced diet, 18% disagreed and 8% were undecided. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of

the respondents agreed that the consumption of milk, meat and eggs help reduce child mortality, 25% disagreed and 17% were undecided. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the respondents agreed that small poultry enterprises can help to take first step out of poverty, while 15% disagreed, 2% were undecided. The finding on table 2 suggests that Animal production reduces the rate of poverty which confirmed the observation that livestock production is capable of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by contributing to human nutrition through products as milk, meat and eggs (Livestock net, 2006). Similarly, Jensen & Dolberg's (2002) study, which found that from several countries, small poultry enterprises with adequate institutional support targeting the poorest rural women and their families can help them take first step out of poverty. The findings of the study also revealed that educating people on modern mechanized ways on Animal production enhances the living condition of the masses. In line with this, Abdul Fattah (1997) noted that the technology packages used in the programme of village poultry rearing activities generate varying amounts of income.Table 2: Responses on perception on how Animal production is the means for alleviating poverty.

| **Item** | **Statements** | **Responses** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Agreed | | Disagreed | | Undecided | |
| | | F | % | F | % | F | % |
| 1. | Animal production is capable of eradicating extreme poverty. | 100 | 83 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| 2. | Animal production is a direct means for broader knowledge of good nutritional practices. | 64 | 53 | 21 | 18 | 15 | 13 |
| 3. | The livestock industry provides a good source of animal protein, which is much needed for balanced diet. | 90 | 75 | 21 | 18 | 9 | 8 |
| 4. | The consumption of meat, milk and eggs help reduce child mortality. | 70 | 58 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 17 |
| 5. | Small poultry enterprises can help to take first step out of poverty. | 99 | 83 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 2 |

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

From the findings of this study, it was concluded that the respondents are aware that education has the potential to improve income, opportunities and decision making capabilities in the house hold. Education on Animal production enhances the living condition of the masses and reduces the rate of poverty. The recommendations of this study are people should be educated on animal production to reduce the rate of poverty, promote economic development and contribute to income distribution.

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