

## WAQF AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TO ATTAIN THE HIGH LEVEL OF HUMAN CAPITAL FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN KANO

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**Abstract:** *The Study was aimed in examining the Potentials of Waqf for youth empowerment for attaining high level of Human capital among the Youth for peaceful coexistence in Kano state Nigeria. Human Capital signifies the Knowledge, attitude, expertise and skills possess by Human being, It is believe that Human capital is the most significant factor among the factors of production, it direct the other factors of production in the provision of good and services to the nation towards the attainment of social and economic development. Awqaf institutions have played a vital role to the development of Human capital in various Muslim Communities more specifically through Education, Hygiene and Health Care Services. The Studies has shown that Nigeria was ranked the 11th in the world among the countries that has the highest labor force, and most of these youth are either unemployed or unemployable. These youth can be easily recruited into thuggery, political violence and other social vices that will disturb the peace and peaceful coexistence of the state. To ensure peace and security in Kano, utmost priority must be given to Youth Empowerment in the areas of Education, training, skills and abilities of the youth. The study adopted the qualitative method of research, whereas, relevant documents were consulted as structured interview was designed to ascertain the role of waqf based youth empowerment programs in achieving high level of human capital in Kano. The data were analyzed using thematic data analysis. The study concluded that Awqaf institutions in Kano has played a vital role in the Youth empowerment for the actualization of High level of Human capital in Kano towards the attainment of peaceful society.*

**Keywords:** *Youth Empowerment, Human Capital, Waqf, Peace and Education*

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## Introduction

Qualified human capital reflects the extent to which society give concern for the youth, trained, and educate people and improve the educational standard thereby developing the economy, improving political participation as well as social status of the people. Education has been a mechanism for societal building, human development and economic growth. Many studies have shown that the level of Human Capital in a country determines the level of economic development and the societal development of that country (Peace Global Index, 2018). The study further found that the country with high Human Capital will eventually became the nation with the highest technological advancement with a short period of time and remain in the leadership if the Human capital capacity is maintained (Benhabib and Spiegel 1994).

Waqf aims to achieve both economic and social goals, however, waqf can serve as a vehicle for entrepreneurship to attain the wellbeing of the society. Islam has given much emphasis on the development of Human Capital in terms of Knowledge and skills acquisitions. Islam has made seeking of Knowledge obligation upon every Muslim be it Male or Female, the comprehensive understanding of Islam would not be achieved without proper knowledge. (Al-Tirmidhi, 1980, no. 2570)

Islam has contributed to the Human Capital development through the instruction and obligation if Knowledge acquisition by the people. As mentioned by the International Islamic Jurisprudence Academy (2007) “that development of human being to establish the comprehensive development in Islamic understanding will not be fulfilled except the means of education, teaching and training.” Various Qur’anic texts and the Prophetic traditions has reiterated the importance of knowledge acquisition. Allah says in the Qur’an: “Allah will increase the status of the people who believe in Him and acquire knowledge. He said: (Allah will rise up, to (suitable) ranks (and degrees), those of you who believe and who have been granted (mystic) knowledge. and Allah is well-acquainted with all ye do.)” Q58:11

Similar Qur’anic verse emphasis on the importance of knowledge to mankind, thus Allah said: Allah questioned that the knowledgeable persons and the ignorant cannot be the same. He said: Say: “Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? It is those who are endued with understanding that receive admonition.” Q 39:9. the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) expresses the virtues of Knowledge, He said: “Whoever seeks a path in search of knowledge, Allah would make easy for him a path leading to paradise.”

Positive Peace is defined as the “attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies”. These equivalent factors additionally lead to numerous other positive results that society feels are significant. In this way, Positive Peace is depicted as making the ideal condition for human potential to prosper. (Global peace index institute for economics and peace 2017)

High level of Human capital is one of the Pillars of positive Peace, Human Capital signifies the Knowledge, attitude, expertise and skills possess by Human being, It is believe that Human capital is the most significant factor among the factors of production, it direct the other factors of production in the provision of good and services to the nation towards the attainment of social and economic development (Khan and Management 2015).

Youth Empowerment has been an issue of concern, debated widely and it is a seeming problem in the country. (Gbosi, 2005) The Authorities concern in Nigeria have made different efforts since the country's independence in providing the citizens with employment through various empowerment programs. However, the efforts seem to be fruitless. Youth Empowerment has been the main obstacle that hinders the societal development in Kano, in the areas of Education, Health Care, vocational skills, entrepreneur and Agriculture. It was asserted in the concept of empowerment in Higher education is an instrument of self-improvement. (Burton, 2008).

## **Literature Review**

### **Education in the Literature**

It is believed that education has been the major factor and a mechanism for developing human skills and knowledge. The rapid development and economic growth of the nation lies on the educational opportunities given to its citizens. It was asserted that in the developed countries education is the key to their success. (asteriou and agiomirgianakis 2001).

Olaniyan stated that education is a mechanism for development in any nation and its based on the quality and quantity of the education. The studies show that in Human capital, positive investment is connected to the development and economic growth (Olaniyan and Okemakinde 2008).

### **Waqf in the literature**

Wan Kamal M. et al, examines the contributions and role of Waqf, that it has high impact on spiritual and human advancement. Individuals from various layers of society such scholars, aristocracy, elite and wealthy, middle class and low income are involved in Waqf practice to enrich the Sunnah of the prophet (pbuh). They lamented that there is high level of Islamic knowledge and consciousness on the importance of strengthening Waqf in Negeri Sembilan, they have succeeded in educating the society to strengthen Waqf practices for human development. The practice of Waqf in Negeri Sembilan contributed in the fields of education, economics, and technology among others. (Mujani, Rifin et al. 2017)

Siti Khadijah, A. M. M. Sabki, S. Ismail, looks at Waqf roles waqif (Waqf donors) in financing Higher education. The target of this research is to gauge the components that influence the waqif to contribute their property or earnings into Waqf for financing higher education. The findings uncover that Religiosity, Altruism, Personal Satisfaction and Commitment are important characteristics in clarifying Waqf commitments. In any case, Trust and Social Norm are not important. (Khadijah, Sabki et al. 2017).

### **Youth Empowerment in the literature**

Kabiru, B, examined the problems of youth's accessibility to government – run employment and empowerment programs in Nigeria. It examines the challenges of government – run employment and empowerment strategies among the youth in Nigeria. It argued that in spite of enamours resources sunk into policies to provide more access and equal opportunities; the dream of the Nigerian youth was not achieved. In Kano state several policies and programs in health, education and income generation were established at various level of government, yet the problem contentious. The sustainable development as all about resources, equity, justice, fairness management of resources. The study recommends that government should address the issue of corruption, expand the number of opportunities to youth among others. (Bello)

The youth's unemployment rate in Nigeria stood at 29.7%, this represents the 4.2 % increment from that of the year 2017 (National Bureau of Statistics 2018).

The unemployment rate of those with the post-secondary certificates including the graduates is relatively higher except those without any formal education. (National Bureau of Statistics 2018:34). This is relatively connected with the mismatches between skills/ education/ qualifications possessed by graduates and the available jobs.(Aminu 2019)

Security and Peaceful Coexistence could not be guaranteed in a country where most of its youth are either unemployed or unemployable. Nigeria was ranked 11th in the World labor force, but the productivity of its work force was very low and was ranked 169th position in the work force engagement. (Alaro and ISSN-- 2016).

### **Human Capital in the literature**

Human Capital signifies the Knowledge, attitude, expertise and skills possess by Human being, It is believe that Human capital is the most significant factor among the factors of production, it direct the other factors of production in the provision of good and services to the nation towards the attainment of social and economic development(Rizvi 2011)

The term Human capital was defined as “A key element in improving a firm assets and employees in order to increase productivity as well as to sustain competitive advantage” (Marimuthu, Arokiasamy et al. 2009).

Human capital can be understood as economic value of employee's skills education and experience. Which includes skills, education, intelligence, training, health, punctuality and Loyalty (Hadley, Jaffe et al. 2019).

### **Methodology**

Qualitative research method was adopted where two methods of data collections was used, primary data collection which includes literature review from documented articles, books and secondary data that comprise the semi- structured interview questions.

The researcher gathered the information from the respondent who are versed with the knowledge of Waqf and Islamic Economics and who are the members of Kano community. Interviews were conducted face- to – face, the information were recorded in Hausa language and later transcribe and translate it into English Language. The interview respondents comprise the Expert Scholars in Waqf and Islamic finances, philanthropist, and officials of Kano Zakat and Waqf Commission. The respondents are coded here as P1, P2 up to P17.

The study adopted and used the Merriam ideal for qualitative data analysis. This model involves uniting, reducing and interpreting the participants' statements and utterances and what the researcher knows and understands with a view to create meaning. According Merriam, data analysis includes moving back and forth between the existing data and abstract concepts, between inductive and deductive reasoning, between description and interpretation. The findings can be planned and arranged in the form of descriptive accounts, explaining the data, themes or categories cut across data in order to answer the questions of the research. (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015).

Thematic analysis is the hunt themes, which appears to be crucial for the explanation of the phenomenon. It requires recognizing the themes via thorough reading of the data in multiple times. In this approach, themes and categories are formulated from the Data obtained from the interview and documents analysis. (Mason, 2006)

### Findings

The Role of Waqf to Youth Empowerment for the Attainment of High level of Human Capital in Kano Awqaf institutions have played a vital role to the development of Human capital in various Muslim Communities more specifically through Education, Hygiene and Health Care Services. The institutions of Waqf has recorded in the History a tremendous success in the dissemination of knowledge and intellectual development of the people. (Abattouy,2013).

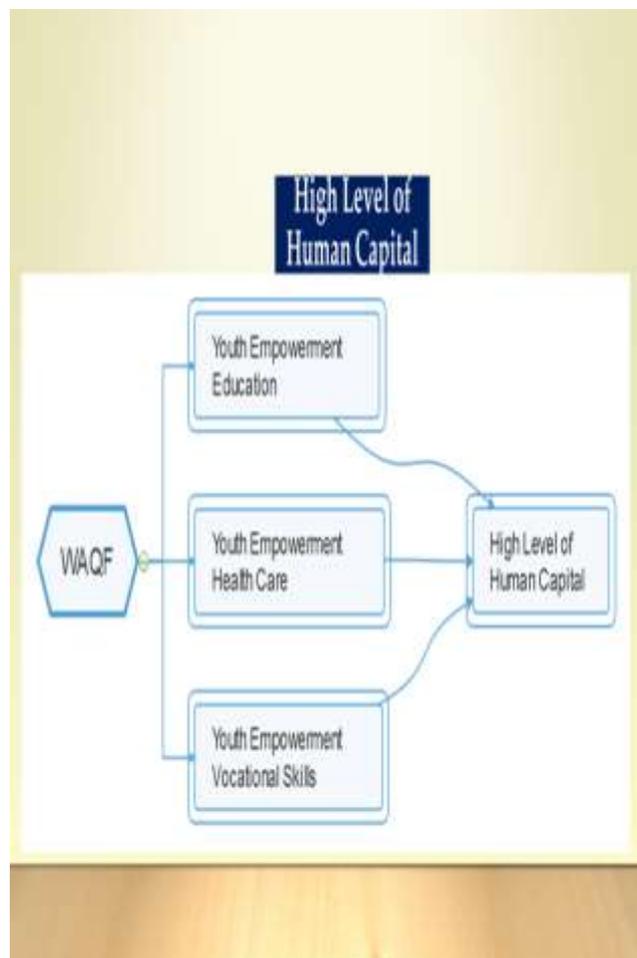


Figure 1. the relationship between Waqf, Youth Empowerment and High Level of Human Capital

### Waqf based, Educational institutions for Youth Empowerment in Human Capital in Kano

Awqaf institutions has been proved to be reliable institution, for the attainment of high level of Human capital in education and Health care services in the past and can be used in the present day to achieve the desired need of Human capital knowledge, skill and abilities.(Khan and Management 2015) Sound and Quality Education develops Human Capital and increase the productivity of the youth towards building a better and peaceful society.

The institutions of Waqf has helped in establishing schools, libraries, hostels, research centres, teachers' residential quarters and many more just to encourage and facilitate better teaching and learning in the different Muslim areas. Also, with the support of waqf Funds many scholars translate or wrote books and conduct a scientific research for the benefit of the society (Mannan 2005).

Studies found that waqf funds has be utilized mostly in three areas which include social and human development, Education and Health care services. It was asserted that due to the importance attached to the education in Islam many awqaf organizations give much emphasis to education. Al Azhar University in Egypt was among the educational institutions that was established and maintain with the waqf resources. Madarasah, educational centres were established and financed by the waqf funds. (Hasan and Pitfalls 2006)

*There are several waqf- based primary and secondary schools in the city of kano, which gives the Education to the youth and children in various communities as well as providing job opportunities to the youth as teachers and other supporting staff of the schools. Among the famous waqf based schools in kano are Darul- Hadith Foundations (Primary and Secondary schools), Alfur'qan, Alu Avenue Schools, Da'awah group of Schools, Markaz Usman Bn Affan, Gadon Kaya Kano and numerous awqaf schools in the city. (PT: 11)*

There are few higher institutions of learning which operate under any waqf institutions, the institutions provide various post-secondary educations in different disciplines, among them are Annur Institute of Islamic Education, Kano, Daawah Institute of Islamic Education, The Institute of Arts and Islamic Studies (CAIS) Hausawa, Kano.

*There are sixty (60) housing units built as a waqf in Kano by Khalifah Ishaq Rabiou for the use of the memorizers of the Holy Qur'an and a hostel for the students who came from far places in the quest for learning Qur'an at kofar Waika Quarters in the Kano metropolis. (PT11)*

*Alhaji Aminu Dantata Kano based philanthropist has contributed immensely to the development of education in the state in various capacities, he has donated ₦50 million, 10 blocks of toilets and 5 boreholes to Girls Secondary School, Dala in order to enhance girl child education in the state. (PT08)*

*Aliko Dangote donated a N1.2 billion ultra-modern business school edifices to the Bayero University, Kano, (BUK), first of such in the northern part of the country. the new structure comprises 650 seating capacity auditorium, two theaters, four lecture halls, two libraries, incubation center, two cafeterias, 800kva soundproof generator and borehole among others. (PT17)*

*In his gesture to improve the quality of education and produce qualified human resource in kano state, Kano based philanthropist, Alhaji Aliko Dangote has rented the services of 15 qualified and renown foreign professors in the fields of science and technology to give their contributions in the state own University of science and technology Wudil, he promise to take care of their salaries and other expenses for 8 year starting from 2018. (PT17)*

*There are high number of philanthropists who dedicated part of their wealth in assisting the less privilege youth who secure admission into any higher institutions and they could not afford tuitions fees or any other school expenses. Among them are, Alhaji Kabiru Sani Kwangila and many more. (PT07)*

### **Waqf Based Youth Empowerment in Vocational Education for Human Capital Development in Kano.**

Vocational education is a mechanism needed for building skills workforce. With the effective application of vocational education, we are optimistic that Youth will be empowered with the needed skills and ability for human capital development, be self-reliant for better and peaceful society. Vocational education has played a vital role in enhancing human capital development. (Awotunde, 2004). Therefore, there is a need for the establishments of Waqf based Vocational and Technical Education centres that will cater for the skilful needs of our Youth in Kano at both secondary and tertiary levels of education.

The Application of vocational skills education will lead to the actualization of High Level of Human capital through the acquisition of necessary skills and abilities that would make the youth to be independent, responsible and to have violent free society. Amaehule and Enyekit (2010) maintain that vocational skills education equip the youth with managerial and technical skills to manage material and Human resources, established their own businesses and live peacefully.

*In Kano State, Waqf institutions has the potentials of dedicating some funds to finance the vocational skills, training and technical expertise to Out-of-School Youth, the program aims to provide the youth the skills on various fields such as Welding, Carpentry, food processing and so on. These will make the kano youth to be self-employed, provide the peace in the state and develop the economy. (PT07) Some philanthropist like Aminu Dantata in the city of Kano has established various centres that are taking the responsibilities of educating and training the youth in different vocational skills, in which they learnt a skill and upon graduation they will be given some amount of money to set up their own businesses. These vocational training include carpentry, welding, tailoring among others (PT14)*

*A Muslims foundation called, IBB way youth Empowerment Training Centre, has taking the responsibility of training the youth in various skills so as to be independent and provide the peace in the state, in the year 2019 they have training the youth as follows: Shoe making – 150 Youths, Bag making – 150 Youths, Other lather works- 97 youths. (PT08)*

*A non- governmental organization called MAFITA has empowered thousands of youth in various vocational skills, such as: Welding & Fabrication – Tailoring - Motor Mechanic \_Tricycle Machine repairs -Air Condition & refrigerator repairs -Carpentry/ Joinery -Masonry -Leather works -GSM repairs -Electrical Installation -Satellite Installation. This gesture is making an important impact to the youth and peace of the kano society. (PT12)*

*Isa Wali Empowerment initiatives has taking the responsibility of training many youths and the women in financial literacy and management skills. They trained*

*more than 15300 youth in kano on vocational skills, literacy skills and financial inclusion. (PT15)*

### **Waqf Based Youth Empowerment in Health Care services for the attainment of High-level Human Capital in Kano.**

The report from the world Bank conclude that worker's good health and nutrition raise their productivity and increase their health, long live and abilities. (World Bank 1991). The study asserted that in the history, awqaf has played an important role in the development of the health care services in the Muslim communities. Awqaf funds were dedicated to the building of Hospitals, health and Hygiene, scholarship to Medical students and other health care developments. (Hasan and Pitfalls 2006)

Abattouy and Al-Hassani mentioned that in most of the Muslim Nations Hospitals were financed with the waqf funds. The Awqaf funds were utilized to provide health care services which include building of Hospitals, Training of the Medical Doctors, paying the patients' medical expenses, among others (Abattouy,2013).

*Many hospitals were built in various locations by the wealthy individuals and dedicated to communities as Sadaqat al Jariya for the benefit of the youth, poor, women and less privilege people in the society. These clinics are providing health care services to any people especially youth, children and women. For instance, in a clinic at Hotoro Quarters built by Alhaji Yahaya Hotoro and donated it as waqf, treated 40- 50 patients every day and employed 9 staff. (PT12)*

*Kano Based philanthropist who plans to spend some of his money in assisting the society as Sadaqa Jariya, constructed 1,000-bed hospital in Kano. This implausible gift of health will be the largest such facility in the northern state of Kano. To be named after his mother Mariya Sanusi Dantata Ultramodern Theatre Complex, the new hospital will be situated near a wing of the Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital in Kano. (PT08)*

*Dangote foundation has also completed the construction of seven out of the eleven primary health care centres it is building in the state. the construction of 11 health centres in the state will cost the Foundation N72 million. With the completion of the health care centres many youths will be employed as doctors, nurses and other supporting staff, and thousands of kano people would have the access of health care facilities at affordable charges. (PT08)*

### **Discussion**

The Data gathered from the interview express the relationship and connections between Waqf, Youth Empowerment and High Level of Human Capital. Whereas, the Awqaf institutions in Kano and other philanthropic activities provided the Youth Empowerment initiatives and programs in the fields of Education, Vocational skills and Health care service. This gesture has helped many youths in the state and succeeded in obtaining education, training and skills form the waqf based schools, hospitals and vocational skills centres. Therefore, Youth Empowerment can be achieved form the initiatives of Waqf institutions in Kano and the result is attaining the high level of Human capital by the Youth.

When the youth were employed there will be unity, love and tolerance between people, as the youth who are mostly perpetrators of the crime and violence, were empowered with the waqf based institutions, they will be busy doing their business and other skilled learned and shun away with all acts of insecurity and social vices. Thereby, peaceful and prosperous Kano State will be established.

### Conclusion

Human Capital Development is one of the major vehicles for peaceful coexistence in Nigeria, as there will be no peace without Human Capital Development. Youth Empowerment in the areas of Education, Health and Vocational skills will enhance the nations labour force, provide experience, qualified Youth that can be used as human resources to actualize the economic development and peaceful coexistence of the state. Non empowerment of these Youth and subsequent deprivation of their right to Education for Human development is an invitation to devilish acts, as some of them will be used to destabilized and disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of the state and the country in general. Therefore, it a duty of the government, individuals and awqaf institutions in the state to endow their resources in the Youth Empowerment to achieve high level of Human Capital for peaceful coexistence of the state.

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