



Speaker 4:

Aliyu Usman

Official Statistics That Leave No one Behind: An Opportunity for Nigeria.

¹Aliyu Usman; ²Umar Suleiman ³Osuolale Peter Popoola; ⁴Iyabode Favour Oyenuga;
⁵ Kelechi Chigozie Acha and ⁶Nureni Olawale Adeboye

^{1,2}Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna State, Nigeria.

³Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Adeseun Ogundoyin Polytechnic, Eruwa, Oyo State, Nigeria.

⁴Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

⁵Department of Statistics, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria.

⁶Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Aliyusman2007@gmail.com

Abstract

In simple terms, official statistics are simply the statistics produced by offices, agencies and departments. In any case, little importance is attributed to the question by the academic representatives of the scientific discipline of statistics since they regard official statistics as nothing other than the application of methodology in one field of practice. However, the rapid growth of statistics in modern times has shown that official statistics is far beyond that. The critical role of accurate and reliable official statistics in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. The duo of the National Population Commission (NPC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) usually provide a substantial amount of official statistics that are essential to monitor the level of implementation of the activities of the Federal Government as well as other ties of government in Nigeria. The NPC and NBS usually anchor the collection and dissemination of official statistics as their constitutional mandate to conduct periodic censuses and surveys in Nigeria. The aim herein is to empirically assess how Nigeria could grab the global opportunities in official statistics. Hence, a rapid assessment was conducted on stakeholders in the NPC and NBS. The duo agencies are the statutory stakeholder of official statistics in Nigeria. In order words, to explore the opportunities and the needs to scale up the process, technology and resources for the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria. A rapid assessment (RA) was conducted in order to assess how official statistics could be scaled up in Nigeria given the global scenario. The data were collected via stratified random sampling method of 50 stakeholders. The intervention scalability assessment tool based on reliability and effectiveness score of the intervention was used. Hence, almost all the respondents agreed that the collection and dissemination of officials statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up. Again, almost all the respondents have the mean score of 1. This could be used to further affirm that that the collection and dissemination of officials statistics in Nigeria could be improved and scaled up. Nigeria had the vast opportunities for improve its official statistics vis-a-viz the global scenario.

Keywords: Intervention Scalability tool, reliability, concordance, Scalability, rapid assessment, strata

1. Introduction

Generally, official statistics are simply the statistics produced by offices. In any case, little importance is attributed to the question by the academic representatives of the scientific discipline of statistics since they regard official statistics as nothing other than the application

of methodology in one field of practice (Eurostat, 2016). In this paper, the exclusive focus is placed on what official statistics is, how it came into being, its growth over time, what significance it has for sociopolitical processes and where the developments will lead in the near future in Nigeria.

The critical role of accurate and reliable official statistics in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. The National Population Commission (NPC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) usually provide a substantial amount of official statistics that are essential to monitor the level of implementation of the activities of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The NPC and NBS usually anchor the collection and dissemination of official statistics as their constitutional mandate to conduct periodic censuses and surveys in Nigeria. Essentially, these official statistics combined with other sources of Government data will enhance robust decision making on planning and policies. Globally, the use of official statistics is all encompassing and essential for planning. However, Nigeria needs to scale up the process, technology and resources for the collection and dissemination of official statistics. In fact, official statistics is a representative of the “Statistical Mind in Modern Society”, closely related to social progress and scientific work (Stamhuis et al. 2008). The objectives are to explore Nigeria’s opportunities in official statistics and how official statistics could be scaled up Nigeria.

2. Methodology

Official statistics experienced a first phase of growth and development at the beginning of the nineteenth century during the Industrial Revolution. Moreover, in the twentieth century, three methodological and technical innovations have changed the world of official statistics: “sampling surveys, national accounts and computers” (Desrosières, 2008). After a first phase of growth of official statistics, the second phase of its prosperity was mainly initiated by major scientific innovations particularly in inferential statistics. Also, closely connected with myriad political conditions, crises and the attempts to solve them through the development of macroeconomic statistics.

In a third phase, new possibilities were opened as a result of using modern computer systems for the processes of statistics. There were explosions in the amount of data and the variety of its processing tools in all areas of economics, commerce, administration, politics. In this third era, under these conditions, official statistics were fundamentally reformed by switching from tailor-made to industrial production processes.

Furthermore, we are currently in the fourth phase in which the digitization of all areas of life will continue at high speed. The handling of ‘Big Data’ will dominate the near future of official statistics in recent years. In addition, the effects of globalization will increasingly demand political responses, which will then be directly linked to a new need for official statistics.

Furthermore, The Intervention Scalability Assessment Tool (ISAT) is the concordance (agreement) in reliability and effectiveness score of the intervention. Once the reliability and effectiveness measures are obtained, we therefore compare and contrast the concordance on the following table.

3. Analysis

Table 1: ISAT Rules

ISAT Domains	Scores	Remarks
Reliability of NPC Instrument	Above 0.8	Needs Scale up
Reliability of NBS Instrument	Above 0.8	Needs Scale up
Need for Improving Official Statistics	Above 0.7	Needs Improvement

Results

The results of the need for improving and scaling official statistics up in Nigeria are as follows.

Table 2: Responses

Questions	Responses			
	Yes		No	
	No.	%	No.	%
Is there need to improve the process of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%
Is there need to improve the methods of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%
Is there need to improve the funding for collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%
Is there need to improve the technology of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%
Is there need to improve the technology of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%
Is there need to improve the personnel of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	46	92%	4	8%
Is there need to expand the offices of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	50	100%	0	0%

From the table above, almost all the respondents agreed that the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up, among others.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics

Questions	Mean
Is there need to improve the process of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the methods of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the funding for collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the technology of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the technology of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the personnel of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	0.92
Is there need to expand the offices of collecting official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Is there need to improve the accuracy of official statistics in Nigeria?	1.00
Grand Mean	0.99

From the table above, almost all the respondents have the mean score. This could be used to further affirm that that the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up, among others.

Table 4: ISAT Statistics

ISAT Domains	Scores	Remarks
Reliability of NPC Instrument	Above 0.92	Needs Scale up
Reliability of NBS Instrument	Above 0.91	Needs Scale up
Need for Improving Official Statistics	Above 0.99	Needs Improvement

From the table above, all the ISAT domains have high scores. Therefore, the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

In order to empirically assess how Nigeria could grab the global opportunities in official statistics, a rapid assessment was conducted in the NPC and NBS. The duo are statutory stakeholder of official statistics in Nigeria. In order words, to explore the opportunities and the needs to scale up the process, technology and resources for the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria.

A rapid assessment (RA) was conducted in order to assess how official statistics could be scaled up in Nigeria given the global scenario using some empirical data. The data were collected via stratified random sampling method of 50 stakeholders. The Intervention Scalability Assessment Tool based on reliability and effectiveness score of the intervention was used. Hence, almost all the respondents agreed that the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up, among others. Again, almost all the respondents have the mean score of 1. This could be used to further affirm that the collection and dissemination of official statistics in Nigeria needs improvement and scaled up. Nigeria had the vast opportunities and the room for improving its official statistics vis-a-viz the global scenario.

.References

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