

IS “OKADA” COMMERCIAL MOTORCYCLE RIDING REDUCING POVERTY AMONG OPERATORS IN ILORIN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KWARA STATE?

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ABSTRACT

Poverty has been identified as a persistent economic problem in the economy of Nigeria for more than three decades. It has become painful issue to many Nigerians. Not less than two-third of the population of Nigeria is absolutely poor, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, (2010). “Okada” is a commercial motorcycle transport that operates within the communities and local vicinities in Nigeria. Some Nigerians are involved in the operation of this local transport as a last resort to survive. Therefore, this paper aims to investigate the impact of “Okada” or local motorcycle transport in reducing poverty among the riders/operators in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara state, Nigeria. Sample size of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents was chosen using multistage sampling technique among the rider populace. However, questionnaires were employed as a major instrument of data collection and supplemented with personal interview with the respondents. The analysis was done through descriptive and inferential statistics inform of percentages and table frequencies as well as Spearman Rank Order Correlation (ρ), using the software of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 20.0). The findings reveal negative but not significant impact of the “Okada” motorcycle riding on poverty reduction as well as living standard of the respondents. The results show weak and negative correlation between the two variables, $r = -.091$, $n=120$, $p(.325) > .0005$, with high amount of money makes per day associated with lower standard of living. Finally, the paper draws conclusion and gives meaningful suggestion towards the standardization and enhancement of the “Okada” motorcycle riding in Ilorin West Local Government Area in particular and Kwara State, Nigeria in general.

Keywords: Commercial motorcycle, Ilorin West, Kwara State, “Okada”, Poverty reduction.

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