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Abstract

The government constitutes the most critical level of government in the move for a sustained national development. Over the years, national development has been canvassed to take off from the grassroots as the local government is widely known as a vital instrument for rural transformation and machinery for effective delivery of socio-economic services to the people. In the light of this in 1976, the local government nationwide reform was initiated, the local governments were saddled with more functions, responsibilities and finance. However, in reality, the local government has lost their footing in the developmental process. Unwarranted encroachment into the administration, finance and operations of the local government by the state governments, financial challenges, shortage of skilled personnel and corruption have all been accounted for as the reason why the local government has been performing badly in national development. Therefore, it is concluded in this paper that for even national development to be achieved, a constitution amendment must be done to cede the local government away as an appendage of the state government, also, anticorruption crusade of the federal government should be extended to the local governments and improvement in capacity building.

Keywords: Local Government, National Development, Nigeria

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to The Study

One of the primary purposes of every government is to improve the welfare of its citizenry. The basic idea of welfarism encompasses all concerted efforts directed towards the betterment and the improvement of the living standard of the people thereby achieving economic development. Nigeria is a country endowed with abundant human, material and natural resources. These vast resources are capable of forming a solid base for socioeconomic development, granted political leadership, good governance and exemplary leadership as well as the development in human skills. Nigeria has a high potential of becoming a great nation. At independence, Nigeria had a high expectation of launching into a take-off stage within a reasonable period of time. However, the economy was dualistic with a large traditional agricultural-based rural sector and a small modern urban sector. Most of the manufacturing industries and almost all the modern infrastructures were located in the urban areas. The majority of the people lived and farmed in the rural areas with little or no economic/social infrastructure, neither had they the required skills to develop themselves.

The developmental challenges that face the post-independence government were enormous. These developmental challenges included at the minimum, the provision of education and health services to the people, the provision of social and economic infrastructures to the vast majority of the people, the management of the vast human and material resources and the development of people's skills toward enhancing their economic wellbeing. It is worth noting that the manner in which some of these challenges were addressed was the adoption of a four-year demand management economic policy in the form of economic stabilization Act of 1982, the austerity programme of 1984 and the National Economic Emergency Measures of 1985 for economic recovery and self-reliance. But all had only marginal effects because of lack of continuity in past policies. And a two-year Structural Adjustment Programme(SAP) had to be adopted to broaden the productive and resource base of the economy, eliminate distortion, reduce the role of government, encourage competition and make the economy self-reliant.

It is obvious that due to policy errors, stay-aid by non-continuity in the existing policies of the past, the Nigerian economy suffered from fundamental structural defects and remained in a persistent state of disequilibrium. The productive and technological base was weak due to non-policy programmes on the development of people's potentials, initiative and skills, the infrastructures that were urban-based were poor, inadequate and lack of maintenance, the effectiveness of incentives was low, giving rise to inadequate utilization of the factors of production.

The need for policy redirection in Nigeria became more obvious with the revelation of the consequence of the past policy errors. This policy redirection becomes imperative because, the improvement in the living condition of the people in every nation is often the major concern of every good government. Emphasis were therefore redirected on policy programmes that will develop the people's skills, initiative, creativity and potentials with a view of empowering them to become economically productive and self-reliance mainly because of

The problem of rural/urban migration which has reduced the number of youthful and vibrant members of the rural community. The reduction of the pressure poor people have on their representatives in government as well as their local council administration. The reduction in the number of unemployed that work in the agricultural sector in most rural areas. The ever increasing number of the poor in the country. Statistics shows, that this high level of poverty ranges between 65-75 percent in rural areas, indeed this percentage of the poor have been increasing over the decades in the country. At any rate, it is the aforementioned reasons that policy programmes on vocational skills acquisition and youth empowerment for self-reliance, self-development and self-sustenance has become an important concern of every government in Nigeria. According to Prof Jerry Gana, this concern becomes distinct pre-occupation and actually attain the highest priority rating under the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida. To him, never before had the country witnessed the kind of concerted and comprehensive war which the administration relentlessly waged against the rural poverty, against the deprivation of the people and against the powerlessness of the people.

As a matter of fact, until the mid-1980s there was no comprehensive national policy on youth empowerment, vocational skills development/acquisition for self-reliance, although various sectoral policies often touched on human development. Yet there has been effort to fashion these

desperate ideas of human development via skills acquisition for youth into appropriate objectives and coherent strategies and action for empowerment in Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

It has been known in Nigeria that each government leaves on one type of poverty reduction methodology or the other. What has stayed unanswered is the degree to which these projects have affected the poor citizens. Lately, studies on the subject poverty and its reduction agencies and additionally programs demonstrate that impressive gap exists between the target objective reducing or eliminating poverty and accomplishment. It appears that the endeavors of different governments are inadequate and accordingly very little has been done to actualize the advantages.

Traditionally speaking, the primary business of government and its institutions is the promotion of social wellbeing through policy programmes that are designed specifically for such purpose. However, before embarking on programme implementation, there is often the need to appraise the institutional capabilities of the implementing organization to ascertain its competence in implementing such programme. If they lack the institutional capacity, then government can decide whether to create new institution, upgrade the existing ones or retain their staff in order to equip them with the technical competence needed to implement the policy programme accurately. In Nigeria the tendency to proliferate policy programmes is very high, resulting in too many programmes without clearly defined areas of responsibilities and authority, rather than strengthening the performance capabilities of the existing programmes and re-orientating them for innovative task, new policy programmes are created and more often than not on top of the existing ones.

For poverty reduction agencies, their outcomes don't appear to legitimize the gigantic monetary allocations to them. Poor individuals view of formal poverty reduction establishments are to great extent very ineffective and insignificant in their lives as government poverty reduction exercises contribute little in their battles to survive and once in awhile help them to escape problem. The most disturbing problem is that the huge amount of money voted for these policies only succeeded in deepening poverty thereby multiplying the number of persons falling into that category instead of moving them out of it. Based on the foregoing this research investigates the role of government in poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to appraise the role of government in the alleviation of poverty in Nigeria (2015-2021). The specific objectives are:

- 1 To identify the various government programmes on poverty alleviations.
- 2 To examine the performance of such programs in alleviating poverty in Nigeria
- 3 To examine reasons for policy failure in poverty alleviation and suggest possible remedial measures.

1.4 research questions

- 2 what are the various government programmes on poverty alleviations?
- 3 What are the performance of such programs in alleviating poverty in Nigeria?
- 4 What are the reasons for policy failure in poverty alleviation and their remedial measures?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Achieving significant results reducing poverty often hinges on what is done, how it is done, when it is done and whom it is targeted at. It is obvious from several studies that poverty reduction policies in Nigeria have failed to achieve their stated objectives. Several reasons may be adduced for this failure. It therefore requires concerted efforts by all stakeholders to contribute to the success of this all-important but elusive goal. Such efforts can only be meaningful if it stem from an empirical study in order to realize not only her own local targets and objectives, but also to help her in achieving the global lofty objective of eradicating poverty. Pointedly therefore, this study is going to be significant for a number of reasons.

- a. The study is expected to be a concerted effort to identify, articulate and highlight the existence, causes, and effects of poverty in Nigeria.
- b. It is an effort at streamlining poverty reduction strategies towards making them more potent, and hence more beneficial to the target population.

- c. The study is also expected to benefit a number of groups, especially stakeholders of poverty reduction efforts such as public and private sector players, planners, managers, coordinators and monitors of poverty reduction agencies and the poor who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the efforts and indeed the general public.
- d. The research is expected to become part of a data bank for operators as well as policy makers in poverty reduction activities.
- e. It will also arouse the interest of students and researchers to conduct more researches in the field of poverty reduction.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study will be limited to an appraisal of the role of government in the alleviation of poverty. Certainly, time, financial and other unforeseen constraint has precluded a detailed coverage of the study and could not permit the investigation to move beyond the study of poverty.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Poverty: The term poverty is defined in the perspective of this study as a state where an individual is unable to cater for his basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, unable to meet social and economic obligations, lack of gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem and has limited access to social and economic infrastructures such as education, healthcare services, potable water and sanitation and also has limited chances of advancing his welfare to the limit of his capabilities.

Unemployment: For the purpose of this study, unemployment is defined as a condition and/or situation in which able bodied persons who are physically and mentally fit and are willing to work, are unable to find work because of lack of employment opportunities. It is a condition in which those who are able or capable and eager to work find it difficult to obtain suitable jobs.

Development: The researcher views the concept of development as the fulfillment of the necessary conditions for the achievement or realization of universally acceptable aims and potentials of human personality, through the eradication of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the

economic system of a nation. So development is therefore the realization of the full potentials of the society, which is the sustained improvement of the wellbeing of the people.

Self Reliance: In operation terms, self reliance is to be understood as the will to build up and use a capacity for autonomous decision making and implementation on all aspects of the development process including human development. It is an essential component of alternative strategies, pattern or mode of development which are directed at the satisfaction of the maximum needs of the entire population as the primary development objective. It is development through one's own efforts.

Economic Development: The researcher look at economic development as a necessary element in development, a more equitable distribution of wealth and a cumulative rise in the material standard of living of an increasing proportion of the total population. In conclusion, all these definitions imply that it involves rising living standard.

CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK, LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the relevant literature for this study. The first part presents conceptual clarification. The second part presents the theoretical literature and lastly the empirical literature review

2.2 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual Meaning of Development

The conceptualization of the term development has over the years, frustrated attempt at planning of real development by many government of the world. This conceptualization has consistently been presented in terms of economic growth without due regards to human development, yet the Gross National Product (GNP) measures and other economic indicators per se do not give an indicator of the quality of life and the general welfare of the people whose level of development is being measured. Oyewole (2009)

The search for a better measurement of development first gave rise to the popular social indicators movement in the 1980s. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRSD) discovered some inter-correlated variables which can serve an indicator of development based on empirical study of some selected countries. Lately the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also examined the worldwide progress of people's welfare and attempt to provide country-by-country comparison on a number of social and economic indicators which all emphasized on the Gross National product (GNP), per capita and economic growth. The two institutions however views development in terms of per capita income, economic growth as well as Gross National Products (GNP) as being the major social and economic indicators for development. They of course give room for examining how the gross national product and the per capita income can be fairly distributed among the society, with subsequent equation of per capital income with real societal income. However, these institutions did not or fail to give room for assessing how fundamental and even aesthetic human potentials are gainfully

or peacefully exercised to achieve their development. In a similar vein, critics of the gross national product (GNP) and the per capital income (PCI) as a social and economic indicator of development de-emphasized the rise in GNP and economic growth as the main indicator of development, but instead emphasized on the elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the economy as the new and more realistic indicator of social and economic development. Taking this new perspective on development, Dudley Seers asserts that to know if a country has developed or not, the questions to ask are:

“What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all these have decline from high to low level, then beyond doubt, there has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all the three have, it would be strange to call the result development, even if the per capita income doubled”.

This way of posing the questions focuses the attention on the fundamental problems which every society is supposed to solve. But how can these three problems of poverty, inequality and unemployment be solved in the society without due recognition and use of human potentials? The scholar fails to point out ways through which these fundamental problems could be tackled. Ibrahim (2010)

On the contrary, the researcher is of the view that poverty, inequality and unemployment as a societal problem can be tackled or eliminated through the appropriate programmes on human development. These human development programmes involve skills acquisition and empowerment, use of potentials and initiatives of the people. The skills acquired can be put to productive use, and the provision of both formal and informal employment opportunities for the people. Thus, a man knows he has the potentials of being productive when he is skillfully developed and properly empowered, this can give him the opportunity to realize these potentials. It is the use of these creative skills that will enhance his economic wellbeing, thus answering the three fundamental questions as posed by Dudley Seers. Essentially, development is a phenomenon associated with change in man's humanity and creative energies not in things. It is the unending improvement in the capacity of the individual and the society to control and manipulate the forces of nature using his skills, potentials and creativeness for the benefit of the individual and that of the society at large.

2.2 THE CONCEPT OF POVERTY

The concept of poverty which reflects in it numerous visible attributes is multi-dimensional in nature. Attributes of poverty may be classified into structural, economic, socio-cultural and Political deprivation. The economic dimension appears more paramount and manifest in a vicious circle, reflecting limited productive resources, lack of skills for gainful employment, vocational disadvantage and inadequate income to obtain the basic necessities of life.

The social dimension of poverty is largely a deprivable issue. Since the greatest weight of poverty is borne by household and children from poor home. However, conventional notion depict poverty as a condition in which people lives below a specified minimum income level and are unable to provide and/or satisfy the basic necessities of life needed for an acceptable standard of living'. Often the poor are known to have inadequate level of consumption; they are illiterate, with short life span and cannot satisfy their basic health needs.

A compromise definition depict poverty as a state where an individual is unable to cater for his/her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, unable to meet social and economic obligations, lack skills for gainful employment, self-esteem and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, portable water and sanitation and also has limited chances of advancing his/her welfare to the limit of his/her capabilities.

Deducing from the above views about poverty, the researcher observes that poverty whether measured in absolute or relative terms, is generally more prevalent in the rural communities of Nigeria. Even though the population of urban dwellers in total population has increased from 19.0 percent in 1963 to 25.0 percent in 1991, both urban and rural areas share similar poverty characteristics. For this reason most purposeful government continuously strive to improve and raise the standard of living of its people by providing adequate skills acquisition and youth empowerment programmes to enhance the productive capacity of the people and improve their economic conditions. The researcher believed that if appropriate skills acquisition programmes and empowerment schemes are put in place, the people's knowledge and skills will undoubtedly be activated and consequently they will strive harder and harder to be effective in their new condition.

According to Harold Watts (1987), poverty has been defined in the literature from two perspectives; the economic perspective and the cultural perspective. The economic perspective defines poverty in terms of the external circumstances that conditioned and/or influences a person's behaviour especially with respect to economic decisions and transactions like purchase of consumer goods and the acquisition of skills for productive use etc. Furthermore, it is seen as a severe constriction of the choices set, which is measured by the households generalized command over real goods and services.

The cultural perspective of poverty described the internal attitudes and behavioural pattern that a person brings to any particular set of circumstances. To Watts, while the economic perspective locates poverty in the present condition, the cultural perspective finds it in (lie person's character. This according to him shows that poverty is not a discrete condition since both the economic and cultural aspect of poverty is interconnected. As such any programme aimed at eliminating economic poverty will measure its success by increase in command over goods and services that is induced by the programme. While a programme aimed at eliminating cultural poverty will measure its success by changes in the complex of attitudes and behavioural pattern and characteristics of that culture, because the external condition given sufficiently long exposure can affect (lie pattern of behaviour termed culture and in turn culture can and does influence the nature of the external world a person faces. Watts concluded that it is not usually possible to attribute exclusive effect to either economic or cultural poverty to any particular policy programme.

Watts in his perspective of poverty considers only economic and cultural perspective of poverty as the only aspect of poverty that affect an individual and the society and fails to look at the sociological, political and psychological aspect of poverty which together leads to powerlessness, voicelessness and vulnerability.

According to Ogunike and Umoh (2008), poverty is said to exist when income or disposable resources are inadequate to support minimum standard of decent living²⁰. Using income as a measuring rod, they distinguish between absolute poverty and relative poverty while absolute poverty is indicative of an income level below which minimum standard of nutrition, shelter and personal amenities cannot be attained. Relative poverty is conceived in terms of income inequality within a stratified society. Relative poverty according to them carries a connotation of inferiority, dependency or exploitation.

2.3 Role Of Constituency Projects In Poverty Alleviation In Nigeria

Poverty as well as unemployment is the most serious problems confronting Nigeria today. What makes Nigeria's poverty especially more tragic is the paradox of crushing poverty in the midst of plenty. Nigeria is acknowledged to be one of the most richly endowed countries of the third world. Its poverty and unemployment thus stands in contradiction to its abundant resources endowment. Nigeria present United States with a paradox of desperately poor citizen, yet the club of millionaires and billionaires in the country have continued to grow in inverse proportion to the worsening rate of poverty in the country. Informed by this development, successive governments in Nigeria have demonstrated their commitment toward reducing poverty as well as unemployment and improving the socio-economic wellbeing of the people through various programmes that will impart a positive change on the life of the people especially those in the rural areas.

The pursuit of poverty alleviation and reduction as the first priority of the present Obasanjo administration has been adopted as "a means" and "an end" to the achievement of accelerated economic growth and the eventual elimination of poverty as well as unemployment generally²¹. The measure employed was to empower Nigerians to be more economically productive with a view to improving their quality of life. In addition, the measure was to be people-oriented.

Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)

This is an empowerment scheme of constituency projects, designed to provide training opportunities, skills acquisition, formal and informal employment opportunities, wealth creation that enhance income generation, improved social status and rural development. The scheme is primarily aimed at economically empowering the youth to be more productive with a view to improving their quality of life as well as standard of living. The scheme consist o the following skills acquisition programmes — The Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) and the Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP).

The Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP)

This is a short term skills acquisition programmewhich is aimed at empowering all unskilled and unemployed Nigerians through hands-on training on creative activities, entrepreneurial and services. Unlike NDE, participants in this programme were attached to public or private practical (master craftsmen) and hands-on training centres for a limited period of three to six months

depending on the trade. By participating in the programmes, the people would be more equipped both creatively and skillfully for both formal and productive employment within the public and private sector. This will provide affordable quality of life, create wealth through a secondary programme of micro credit scheme. To facilitate participation, each participant, unlike NDE which pay N300 per month as allowance was to be paid N3500 as allowances per month for the duration of training and between 2001 to 2005, a total of four hundred and seventy (470) participants graduated from the scheme with varying trades and/or skills in Quaau-Pan Local Government.

The Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP)

This is a long term work experience skill acquisition and training programme for graduates of tertiary institutions. Participants are logically attached to construction companies, manufacturing companies, banks and other financial institutions, corporate organizations both public and private for a period of one and two years. Participants are paid N50,000 — N100,000 per month for the period of attachment (National Diploma and National Certificate in Education (NCE) N50,000; Higher National Diploma and University graduates N100,000). After the training, participants were expected to be absorbed by the organization they are attached to or other interested organizations or be resettled with micro credit loan to establish a productive and viable business enterprise of their choice. In Quaau-Pan Local Government, out of a total of five hundred and sixty-four (564) participants that were enrolled for the programme, five hundred and thirty-six (536) successfully graduated.

The Youth Empowerment Schemes (YES) function under the umbrella of the constituency projects, job creation and employment opportunities, enterprise development and promotion and youth participation for skills acquisition.

2.4 An Appraisal Of The Various Government Programmes On Poverty Alleviation

It has earlier been pointed out that the alarming rate of poverty in Nigeria has not come about as a result of nonchalant attitude or non-recognition of the problem of poverty among the populace. It

has also not come by as a result of lack of response to the yearning of the poor people to be emancipated from their rather deplorable and frustrating state of near-despair. The fact on ground remains that no Nigerian government has come without introducing and leaving behind one form of poverty alleviation or reduction programme meant to reduce the level of poverty, give hope and succour to the poor and, or move towards some sort of wealth creation. Strategies, policies and plan articulated; programmes and projects have been formulated and executed over the years. For instance, at independence in 1960, poverty eradication efforts in Nigeria centred on education, while Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), the Green Revolution, War Against Indiscipline (WAI), Peoples Bank of Nigeria, Community Banks, Directorate of Foods Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI), Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Family Support Programme (FSP), National Directorate of employment (NDE), Mass Transit Programme (MTP), Guinea Worm Eradicating Programme (GWEP) People Empowerment programme Initiative (PEPI), and Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) among others existed during the period under review. These programmes were designed with the following objectives amongst others, tracing to improve available skills, income generation, increased accessibility to credit, improved health care services including family planning, nutrition and immunization, and the provision of greater welfare services to the poor.

An analysis of the programmes will reveal that they cut across all sectors of the economy. This would explain why the presidential panel on streamlining and rationalization of poverty Alleviation Institutions and Agencies in its report of 1999 comprehensively listed and classified the programmes thus:

Agricultural

- National Agricultural Land Development Authority
- Strategic Grains Reserve
- Small Ruminant Production
- Small scale fishery
- Pasture and grazing reserves

- Accelerated crop production
- Agricultural credit Guarantee Scheme

Healthcare delivery

- Primary health care programmes
- Disease eradication schemes
- Expanded programmes on immunization
- National/state/Local Action Committee on Aids

Housing

- Site and services scheme
- Prototype low-cost housing Scheme
- State Government's Housing Programmes

Education

- Nomadic Education Programme
- Migrant Fishermen Scheme
- Adult and Non-formal education Programmes
- Family Support Basic Education Programme

Resource/ Technology Development Centres

- family Economic Advancement Programme
- Industrial development Centres

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Here in this project we will have various components that define the research methodology that will be applied in this study. It begins by outlining the research design best for the study based on the research topic. In choosing the research designs, measurability of the variables and the type of data to be collected was highly considered. More so, the chapter will proceed to inform about the targeted data, sampling processes and sample size, process of collecting data and analysis that the study embraced. In the end, highlights on validity and reliability as well as operational definition of variables.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design means the structuring of investigation aimed at identifying variables and their relationship to another (Asika 2001). It is kind of blue print that guides the researcher in his or her investigation and analysis. Research design normally include the method adopted, process of data collection as well as the type of instrument to be used for data analysis.

This study is an analytical one, which require a systematic procedure for collecting, investigating and reporting relevant data and information. For this reason, opinion of professionals and the public about the subject matter was sought. Some of the data from this group are considered necessary facts which form a basis for the theoretical concepts an analysis. It is only necessary that research questions be answered on the basis of the data which is the major responsibility of the design that will anchor the pragmatic solutions to the research questions. It is also pertinent that given the most sophisticated problem definition, with data collection and analysis of instrument to be applied, one cannot elicit reasonable data if one's design is done in a clumsy manner. It is in the light of the above that, the researcher has deemed it necessary to consider a research design in this project report.

3.3 TARGET POPULATION

A study population is a group of elements or individuals as the case may be, who share similar characteristics. These similar features can include location, gender, age, sex or specific

interest. The emphasis on study population is that it constitutes of individuals or elements that are homogeneous in description. The population of the study are the academia's, staffs of Kwasu, civil servants, law makers and the politicians. The reason for the choice of this specific populations is because of the availability of knowledge closest to the researcher.

3.4 SOURCES OF DATA

The data for this study were generated from two main sources; Primary sources and secondary sources. The primary sources include questionnaire, interviews and observation. The secondary sources include journals, bulletins, textbooks and the internet.

3.5 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

A study sample is simply a systematic selected part of a population that infers its result on the population. In essence, it is that part of a whole that represents the whole and its members share characteristics in like similitude. In this study, the researcher used the [YARO YAMANE FORMULA] to determine the sample size.

3.6 DESCRIPTION OF TECHNIQUES USED IN ANALYZING

The researcher used percentage (%) statistical technique as a means of analyzing the tabulated data in respect of the questionnaires distributed to respondents. Also technique was used because of its analysis and better understanding

3.7 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

At the time of constructing theoretical framework, secondary data collection procedure was used. The secondary data sources are internet, books, reports and Journals, Newspaper etc. Whereas, the primary source of data collection were used for the purpose of collecting data to examine data for making findings. Here the primary source of data is structured as questionnaires for interviews. Structure questionnaire contains multiple choice questions, and single choice questions, rating questions. In this way the research has used both primary and secondary data which helps in useful and accurate findings.

3.8 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF INSTRUMENTS

Reliability of measurement instruments contributes to validity of research findings. If an instrument will be measuring what is not designated to measure, the instruments fails to be valid and would yield unreliable result. Instruments reliability is a way of ensuring that whenever we use any instruments to measure experimental variables will give the same result every time.

To ascertain research validity of the research instrument, the researchers will intensively consult her supervisor on items analysis and accuracy of the questionnaire and the observation guide items in relation to the variables of the study. The Researcher will also make wide consultations with colleagues and senior colleagues on question development. This led the development of a scale which logically reflects what is purported to measure, enabling the researcher to obtain sufficient information on the factors affecting delegation of authority.

In order to insure validity and reliability of data following things will be done through;

- 4 the use of past data
- 5 discussion with an expert
- 6 cross checking of the filled questionnaires open ended questions
- 7 explore the new facts rather than being prejudiced on past researches

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter seeks to present and analyze the data collected for this study. From the presentation and analysis of data, we stated our findings upon which we made conclusion based on empirical and theoretical deductions and offer recommendations accordingly.

There were altogether fifty (50) respondents and 10 point questionnaire to be answered on either two choice alternatives of Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. Out of the fifty questionnaires administered, forty-five (45) were fully and accurately answered and returned.

4.1 Data Presentation

Table 4.1:1 Age

Variable	NO. OF RESPONSE	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	30	66.7 %
Female	15	33.3 %
Total	45	100 %

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.1 shows that 30 respondents representing 66.7% are Male while 15(33.3%) are female.

Table 4.1:2: Educational Background

V a r i a b l e NO. OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGE (%)

First Leaving Certificate -	-				
S S C E / W A S S C E 5	1	1	.	1	1 %
N D / N C E / H N D 2	5	5	.	5	6 %
B . S c . / B . A . / P G D 1	5	3	.	3	3
T o t a l 14	5	1	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.2 shows that 5 respondents representing 11.11% are SSCE/WASCE holders, 25 (55.56%) of the respondents are ND/NCE/HND holders while 15 representing 33.33% are B.Sc./B.A.PGD holders. This shows that the majority of the respondents are ND/NCE/HND holders.

Table 4.1:3: The poverty reduction programmes have brought about an increase in health facilities.

V A R I A B L E NO OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGES (%)

Strongly Agree 8	1	7	.	7	8 %
A g r e e 1	7	3	.	7	8 %
U n d e c i d e d 4	8	.	8	9	%
D i s a g r e e 1	0	2	.	2	2 %
Strongly Disagree 6	1	3	.	3	3 %
T o t a l 4	5	1	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.3 shows that 17 respondents representing 37.78% agreed that poverty reduction programmes have brought an increase in health facilities. 8 (17.78%) strongly agree,

4(8.89%) responds to undecided, 10 (22.22%) Disagree and 6 respondents represent 13.33% strongly disagree.

Table 4.1:4: Data Collection of the unemployed graduates & petty traders has help in poverty reduction programme.

VARIABLE NO OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGES (%)

Strongly Agree	1	0	2	.	2	2	%
A g r e e	2	0	4	.	4	4	%
U n d e c i d e d	2	4	.	4	4	%	
D i s a g r e e	4	8	.	8	9	%	
Strongly Disagree	9	2		0		%	
T o t a l	4	5	1	0	0	%	

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.4 shows that 10 respondents representing 22.22% strongly agree that data collection of the unemployed graduates & petty traders has help in poverty reduction. 20 respondents representing 44.44% Agree, 2 respondents representing 4.44% are undecided and 4 respondents representing 8.89% are disagree while and 9 respondents representing 20% strongly disagree with the motion.

Table 4.1:5: Farmers in Rural Area are empowered for the farming seasons in 2015 and 2021 respectively.

VARIABLE NO OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGES (%)

Strongly Agree	7	1	5	.	5	6	%
A g r e e	2	5	5	.	5	6	%

U n d e c i d e d -	0				
D i s a g r e e 8	1	7	.	7	8 %
Strongly Disagree 5	1	1	.	1	1 %
T o t a l 4	51	0	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.5 shows that 25 of the respondents representing 55.56% agree that farmers in Rural Area are empowered for the farming seasons in 2005 and 2007, 7 of the respondents strongly agree. This means that the majority of the respondents has benefitted from constituency projects programme of 2005 and 2007 respectively.

Table 4.1:6: Micro-credit scheme of the programme has not lived up to expectations. Most trainees fall back into the labour market without empowerment to facilitate business take off.

V A R I A B L E N O O F R E S P O N S E P E R C E N T A G E S (%)

Strongly Agree 5	1	1	.	1	1 %
A g r e e 3	06	6	.	6	7 %
U n d e c i d e d -	0				
D i s a g r e e 8	1	7	.	7	8 %
Strongly Disagree 2	4	.	4	4	%
T o t a l 4	51	0	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.6 shows that 30 of the respondents representing 66.67% agree that Micro-credit scheme of the programme has not lived up to expectations. Most trainees fall back into the labour market without empowerment to facilitate business take off, 5 of the respondents strongly agree. While 8(17.78%) and 2(4.44%) of the respondents disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

Table 4.1:7: The poverty reduction programmes have helped in training many people on crafts, and trade so they are self reliant.

VARIABLE NO OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGES (%)

Strongly Agree	1	02	2	.	2	2	%
A g r e e	2	04	4	.	4	4	%
U n d e c i d e d	3	6	.	6	7		%
D i s a g r e e	7	1	5	.	5	6	%
Strongly Disagree	5	1	1	.	1	1	%
T o t a l	4	51	0		0		%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.7 shows that 20 respondents representing 44.44% agreed that the poverty reduction programmes have helped in training many people on crafts, and trade so they are self reliant. 10 (22.22%) strongly agree, 3(6.67%) responds to undecided, 7 (15.56%) Disagree and 5 respondents represent 11.11% strongly disagree.

Table 4.1:8: The empowerment programmes of government have lifted a lot of the citizens out of abject poverty.

VARIABLE NO OF RESPONSE PERCENTAGES (%)

Strongly Agree	5	1	1	.	1	1	%
A g r e e	1	02	2	.	2	2	%
U n d e c i d e d	5	1	1	.	1	1	%
D i s a g r e e	1	53	3	.	3	3	%

Strongly Disagree 1	0	2	2	.	2	2	%
T o t a l 4	5	1	0	0	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.8 shows that 5 respondents representing 11.11% strongly agree that the empowerment programmes of government have lifted a lot of the citizens out of abject poverty, 10 (22.22%) of the respondents also agree, 5(11.11%) are undecided, while 15 respondents representing 33.33% and 10 respondents representing 22.22% responds to Disagree and strongly disagree respectively. This means that the majority of the respondents said the programme has not reduced abject poverty.

Table 4.1:9: Lack of proper implementation of government policies on poverty alleviation has hindered the achievement of the programme.

V A R I A B L E N O O F R E S P O N S E P E R C E N T A G E S (%)

Strongly Agree 1	2	2	6	.	6	7	%
A g r e e 2	2	4	8	.	8	9	%
U n d e c i d e d -	-						
D i s a g r e e 8	1	7	.	7	8		%
Strongly Disagree 3	6	.	6	7			%
T o t a l 4	5	1	0	0	0	0	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.1.9 shows that 12 respondents representing 26.67% strongly agree that lack of proper implementation of government policies on poverty alleviation has hindered the achievement of the programme, 22 (48.89%) agree. This means that the major problem of government is lack of proper implementation of policies as such it hindered the realization of constituency projects programme.

Table 4.1:10: Inadequate facilities and logistic support is one of the basic problems identified to be militating against the efficient operations of the programme.

V A R I A B L E N O O F R E S P O N S E P E R C E N T A G E S (%)

Strongly Agree	12	26.67	%
Agree	18	40	%
Undecided	3	6.67	%
Disagree	7	15.56	%
Strongly Disagree	5	11.11	%
T o t a l	43	100	%

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.10 shows that 12 respondents representing 26.67% strongly agree that inadequate facilities and logistic support is one of the basic problems identified to be militating against the efficient operations of the programme. 18 respondents representing 40% strongly agree, 3 respondents representing 6.67% are undecided and disagree respectively while 11.11% of the respondents strongly disagree with the motion.

4.2TEST OF HYPOTHESIS

In order to realistically assess the appraisal of government in poverty alleviation in Nigeria a case study of constituency projects (199-2007). The hypothesis stated for the purpose of this research are being subjected to statistical test.

For the purpose of this study only two hypothesis are formulated (assess in chapter one).The following hypothesis was formulated to guide this study.

Ho:constituency projects as one of the government programmes to eradicate poverty has not made any impact in reducing poverty in Nigeria.

Hi:constituency projects as one of the government programmes to eradicate poverty has significant impact on poverty reduction in Nigeria.

To test the hypothesis, a table was used from the questionnaire. The statistical method used is called chi-square (χ^2) the formular for calculation of χ^2 is.

$$\text{Chi-square} = \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

f_e

where:

χ^2 =Chi-square

\sum =Summation

f_o =The observed frequency of any given value.

f_e =The expected frequency of any given value.

CONTINGENCY TABLE

Q U E S T I O N S	FAVOURABLE	UNFAVOURABLE	TOTAL
The poverty reduction programmes have brought about an increase in health facilities.	25 (26.18)	16 (14.82)	41
Farmers in Rural Area are empowered for the farming seasons in 2005 and 2007 respectively.	32 (28.73)	13 (16.27)	45
The empowerment programmes of government have lifted a lot of the citizens out of abject poverty	15 (25.54)	25 (14.46)	40
Lack of proper implementation of government policies on poverty alleviation has hindered the achievement of the programme.	34 (28.73)	11 (16.27)	45

Inadequate facilities and logistic support is one of the basic problems identified to be militating against the efficient operations of the programme.

30 (26.82) 1 2 (1 5 . 1 8) 4 2

1 3 67 72 1 3

HOW TO DERIVE THE EXPECTED FREQUENCY

Favourable Unfavourable

Q1. $\frac{136}{41} \times \frac{17}{77} \times 41$

213= 26.18213= 14.82

Q2. $\frac{136}{45} \times \frac{7}{77} \times 45$

213= 28.73213= 16.27

Q8. $\frac{136}{40} \times \frac{7}{77} \times 40$

213= 25.54213= 14.86

Q9. $\frac{136}{45} \times \frac{7}{77} \times 45$

213= 28.73213= 16.27

Q10. $\frac{136}{42} \times \frac{7}{77} \times 42$

213= 26.82213= 15.18

COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE

E O (E – O) (E – O)² (E – O)²

E

25 26.18 - 1.18 1.39 240.5569

32 28.73 3.27 10.69 290.3342

15 25.54 -10.54 111.09 167.4061

34 28.73 5.27 27.77 290.8168

30 26.82 3.18 10.11 240.3371

16 14.82 1 . 1 8 1.3 9 2 4 0.08 7 0

13 16.27 - 3 . 2 7 10.69 2 9 0.82 2 5

25 14.46 1 0 . 5 4 111.09 1 6 4.44 3 6

11 16.27 - 5 . 2 7 27.77 2 9 2.52 4 8

12 15.18 - 3 . 1 8 10.11 2 4 0.84 2 7

$\chi^2 = 18.1717$

Decision rule

From the chi-square computation, since the calculated chi square χ^2 value is greater than the chi square table value, the alternative hypothesis is accepted that constituency projects as one of the government programmes to eradicate poverty has significant impact on poverty reduction in Nigeriawhile H_0 the null hypothesis is rejected.

4.3 MAJOR FINDINGS

The following findings was revealed from the study

- a. The poverty reduction programmes have brought about an increase in health facilities.
- b. Data Collection of the unemployed graduates and petty traders has help in poverty reduction programme.
- c. Farmers in Rural Area are empowered for the farming seasons in 2015 and 2021 respectively.
- d. The study reveals that the micro-credit scheme of the programme has not lived up to expectations. Most trainees fall back into the labour market without empowerment to facilitate business take off.
- e. The poverty reduction programmes have helped in training many people on crafts, and trade so they are self reliant.

f. The empowerment programmes of government have lifted a lot of the citizens out of abject poverty.

g. Lack of proper implementation of government policies on poverty alleviation has hindered the achievement of the programme.

h. One of the basic problems identified to be militating against the efficient operations of the programme is “inadequate facilities and logistic support”. This it was observed has negatively affected effective operations of the programmewhich is rural based.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1SUMMARY

This study is to appraise the role of government in the alleviating poverty in Nigeria (2015-2021) is structured into five chapters. Poverty inhibits the potentials of its victims: trapping such persons or community in a condition where neither individual's basic needs could be met nor contribution to societal development feasible. The incidence of poverty therefore shows that poverty is largely a rural phenomenon: hence, any poverty reduction and/or self-reliance effort should see the rural areas as target group since their condition can appropriately be described as the very definition of poverty.

Edward Suchman's evaluation theory was adopted as the theoretical base for the study. The theory advances certain variables, methods or techniques to be adopted in ascertaining the performance of a programme.

Further findings revealed the success of constituency projects programme as well as its coverage and acceptability by the people of the rural area especially in Kaduna.

5.2CONCLUSION

One basic strategy of development to be adopted to increase national self-reliance is programme on human skill development/acquisition. Constituency projects programme is the self-reliance strategy adopted by government to tackle the problem of poverty which has proved endemic and severe in the Nigerian society. The programme should generate mutual benefit requiring the development in skills that can be put to economically productive use to satisfy the basic needs of human life. This means self confidence, reliance on one's own potentials, skills and the capacity for autonomous goal setting and decision making.

There is obviously a scope for development but the thrust should be on adaptation and generation of basic skills and vocational development programme that will exclude exploitative tendencies for

their own development. This implies, the decentralization of these programmes down to the grassroots to enhance the sense of personal participation, and the trust in people; and the nation's reliance on the capacity of the people themselves to invent and generate new skills and techniques, put them to economically beneficial use as well as to take a measure of command over their economy and to generate their own way of life.

To arrive at this condition of self-reliance, fundamental social and economic changes in the structure of the society will often be necessary. Equally necessary is the development of appropriate skill acquisition programmes compatible with and capable of supporting moves toward self-reliance.

Based on the findings of this research and the evaluation theory by Suchman, it is equivocally concluded that only has made impact on the socio-economic life of the rural people. As projects/activities of the programme highlighted in the study have rural inclination.

5.3RECOMMENDATIONS

In line with the findings of this study it is pertinent to make recommendations which adaptation would go a long way in solving the problems militating against the attainment of constituency projects programme in rural area. The following recommendations are therefore considered to be strategic.

- a. Constituency projects programme should be rejuvenated, re-oriented and strengthened as well as provided with the necessary support for better performance. To eschew this unwholesome practice of the programme.
- b. Closely related to the above is the need for the provision of working materials (men, materials and money) for these programmes, more especially constituency projects which has been firmly established in the rural areas.
- c. Necessary facilities, equipments and logistics should be provided to the programme to enhance better performance most especially if the self-reliance objective of the programmes is to be achieved.

d. The credit schemes should be properly funded, strengthened and made to provide basic loans to grandaunts of various skill acquisition programmes, to enable them establish own business.

e. There is the need for an effective monitoring of the entire activities of the programme at all stages of implementation. In this way, diversion of fund/resources to other uses as well as mismanagement of resources will be checked. As such, the monitoring department of this programme should be made more efficient and effective in identification of problems and subsequently proffering workable remedial solutions.

f. Therefore government should embark on poverty alleviation by providing infrastructures in the rural areas and not only in the city. Adequate infrastructures will boost agriculture and the per capita income of the country because enough jobs will be created and the jobless youths will find employment.

g. Investment in the education of Nigerians is highly recommended, scholarships should be provided and be made accessible to the poor and not a scenario where the rich still use their position to hijack the scholarship opportunities for their children and family members.

h. Construction of roads, bridges, railways, markets and buildings will help to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. Good roads enhance the smooth running of businesses and as a result people can freely travel to the interior villages and move the agricultural produce to the urban areas where there is sufficient market for it.

i Hospitals and health centers are recommended especially for the poor who cannot afford the cost of using private hospitals. The government should work with Non-governmental Organizations whose targets are to reach out to the poor especially in the area of providing health care services.

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