

**AN APPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE ALLEVIATION OF  
POVERTY**

**BY**

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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research work has been read and approved by the undersigned on behalf of the Department of Public Administration, Institute of Finance and Management (IFMS), Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin as meeting the requirement for the award of National Diploma in Public Administration.

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## **DEDICATION**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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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 wedged 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**

- 1 What are the various government programmes on poverty alleviations?
- 2 What are the performance of such programs in alleviating poverty in Nigeria?
- 3 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.

According to Mabogunje (2006), “development is a process of moving the whole system upward so as to enhance the capacity of each member of the society to realize his inherent potentials and to effectively cope with the changing circumstances”. The scholar of course emphasized on the use of people’s potentials in enhancing development to suit the changing circumstances in the society. He believed that development without the utilization of people’s skills, potentials and initiatives cannot be effectively achieved. More so, the enhancement of people’s skills and potentials to achieve developmental objective of any society is the key factor to all facet of development be it social, cultural, political and economic development.

More so, for any society to be uplifted to meet the changing circumstances as it affects their economic wellbeing and there has to be an effective human skill development programme to facilitate the effective participation of the people in the development process to meet the changing circumstances. It is only there and then that such a society can achieve its developmental challenges.

Supporting the above views, Ali (2006) asserts that:

*Development is one that is people oriented. It involves the use of people’s skills, potentials and initiatives at all stages of the planning and execution process, and is committed to bringing about significant qualitative changes in the lives of all the people.*

People can actively be involved in any development process to meet the changes in any given society, if and only when they are developed and/or acquired with the requisite skills for effective participation not only in the development process, but also for the enhancement of their economic wellbeing as well as standard of living.

In the views of Rodney (1972), development is a many sided process which includes both at individual and societal levels. At the individual levels, it implies skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing. At the social group levels, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. This entails fighting for survival and against natural hazard and against real and imagined human enemies.

Rodney believed that development can only be achieved if an individual achieved the above stated variables. His emphasis on skills and creativity was based on the fact that, greater freedom, self-discipline and material wellbeing can only be attained if an individual is able to acquire and utilize the relevant skills and is creative as well as has the capacity to produce something that will sustain him or make a comfortable living.

Adedeji (2010) identified and strongly advocates two fundamental strategies in his book “African development: Adebayo Adedeji Alternative Strategies”. These are: national and collective self-reliance and self- sustainment. Self-reliance is considered by him in terms of:

- 1)The internationalization of the forces of demand which determine the direction of development and economic growth process and pattern of output.
- 2)Increasing substitution of factor inputs derived from within the system as opposed from those outside and
- 3)Increasing participation of the mass of the people in the production and consumption of the social products.

Self-reliance and self-sustenance imply the capability and capacity to make indigenous resources the stimuli for development and economic growth and for creating self-renewing society.

Giving his overwhelming belief in these principles as the basis for a framework for Nigeria strategy for development, Adedeji stressed:

*“There is no doubt that Nigeria cannot develop, until its people absolutely resolve to be self-reliant. This means developing in the individual and the society such skills, potentials and creativeness as the will to succeed in life. This will enhance productive labour, to be resourceful and to conquer new frontiers. Self-reliance and sustainment implies undertaking economic activities that enhance the capacity of the society to function over the long term for the wellbeing of all its members”.*

Adedeji further emphasize that self-reliance and sustainment do not necessarily mean self-sufficiency. Rather it is a pattern of regeneration through one's efforts of fighting dominance by beginning to rely on oneself. To him, people will exercise self-direction and self-control if they are given the requisite skills. As the essential task of skills acquisition is to enable people achieve their own goals best by directing their own efforts towards the achievements of their needs.

### **2.3 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 arid characteristics of that culture, because the external condition given sufficiently long exposure can affect (lie pattern of behaviour termed culture arid in turn culture can and does influence the nature of the external world a person faces. Watts concluded that it is riot usually possible to attribute exclusive effect or 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 arid the society and fails to look at the sociological, political and psychological aspect of poverty which together leads to powerlessness, voiceless ness 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 living<sup>20</sup>. 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.

However, Salman's (2004) definition of poverty as the lack of certain capabilities, such as being unable to participate with dignity in society, lend credence to the above assertion that poverty is non-discrete condition, while the capabilities are absolute, the commodities needed are relative and the dignity is cultural<sup>22</sup>. These scholars give a broader perspective views of what constitute poverty, using economic and cultural indicators and its connotations in the society but gives no room for assessing the human development programmes that are gainfully exercised to overcome this poverty. In Nigeria, the economic and socio-cultural indicators featured prominently in her poverty situation. Yet political and the psychological indicators cannot be ignored.

Similarly, Harry Johnson (2006) define and/or look at poverty as a situation when the resources of individuals or families are inadequate to provide a socially acceptable standard of living, in order words the individual live below the conventional poverty line demarcating the poor from the non-poor"<sup>23</sup>. But could poverty be measured in terms of not having resources to live a socially acceptable standard of living devoid of economic political and psychological factors? No. These factors have to work in combination. This therefore exposes the shortfall in the above definition. More so the scholar fails to bring out those variables that are used in determining the poverty line which distinguishes the poor from the non-poor. Beside, his conception is based only on the social dimension of poverty but poverty as stated earlier is multi-dimensional in nature which cannot be measured using only one dimension as looked at by the above scholar.

The German government in 1982 described poverty and/or poor people as "those who are unable to live a decent life". In line with the above definition, the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) define poverty as not having enough to eat, a high rate of infant mortality, a low life expectancy, low educational opportunities, poor sources of water, inadequate healthcare, unfit housing and lack of active participation in decision making process. The above views emphasized not only the economic and socio-cultural perspective of poverty, but goes further to include the political dimension, which entails the ability to participate in the decision making process.



Sometimes, attention is drawn to the relativeness of poverty without a clear distinction drawn between the poor and the non-poor. According to the World Bank Development Report, poverty is the inability of certain persons to attain a minimum standard of living. But what constitute minimum standard of living? To demonstrate the practical aspect of the minimum standard of living, three set of ratios based on the level of consumption were constructed by the World Bank. These are: the P-alphabetical, showing:

- i) The head count ratio, the proportion of the population for whom consumption falls below poverty line.
- ii) The depth of poverty which is obtained by multiplying head count ratio by the proportion of the population deemed to be poor.
- iii) The severity of poverty, obtained by squaring the gap between the income of the poor and the poverty line and also taking into considerations income distribution.

The World Bank's view about poverty as well as the ratios showing the minimum standard of living can only be applied to developed countries that has statistical data of the poor as well as those living below the poverty line and not developing countries like Nigeria where there is no distinction between and/or exact number/statistics of those considered poor or living below the poverty line. Beside perception of poverty is restricted to consumption as the basic measurement for poverty without due regard to economic, social and cultural perspective.

To Sam Aluko (1995), poverty is seen as lack of command over basic consumption needs such as food, clothing and shelter, such lack of resources to meet the basic needs incapacitate the individual in protecting himself against social, economic, political and cultural deprivation. Even though the scholar reviewed what poverty is, and its incapacitation on other aspect of human life. The scholar fails to realize that poverty encompasses not only material deprivation measured by an appropriate concept of income or consumption which constitute the basic necessities of life as emphasized by the above scholar but also includes vulnerability and exposure to risk as well as voicelessness and powerlessness. All these forms of deprivation severely restrict what Amartya Sen calls "the capabilities that a person has, that is, the substantive freedoms he or she enjoys to lead the kind of life he or she values". Besides, these scholars identify poverty without looking at the root causes of poverty and the measures to be adopted in eliminating poverty - because poverty

does not exist without a cause. A proper identification of the root causes of poverty by these scholars would aid in proffering solutions to the poverty situation in any society.

Accordingly, Anyawu, J.C. (2007) in his analysis of poverty categorized poverty especially within the Nigerian context as:

a) Households or individuals below the poverty line and whose incomes are insufficient to provide for their basic needs.

b) Households or individuals lacking access to basic services, basic skills and potentials, are not creative and lack other forms of supports.

c) People in isolated rural areas who lack essential infrastructures.

d) Persons who have lost their job and those who are unable to find employment as a result of economic reform, and those who are in danger of becoming the new poor.

e) Ethnic minority who are marginalized, deprived and prosecuted economically, socially, culturally and politically. Poverty he said, manifest itself in different forms depending on the nature and extent of human deprivation. When the minimum level of consumption to sustain human existence becomes important in distinguishing income from the non-poor, the unemployed and low income earners comes readily as the stratum of poor household. It is more likely that this group may not have the capacity to provide the basic needs like food, clothing, housing and welfare for themselves and their teeming dependants. This class of poor people spread across geographical division, urban and rural and occupational categories.

## **2.4 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 generally<sup>21</sup>. 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.

The Constituency projects programme (CPP) first introduced in 1999 was to engage the unemployed in direct productive activities as a means of deflating the economy and providing them with direct jobs. Participants in the programme in the year 2000 were to be engaged in activities that cut across several sectors of the economy including infrastructural rehabilitation, environmental improvement, housing and agricultural production etc. The measure and/or programme planned to address specifically the twin problems of high poverty incidence and mass unemployment as well as low economic growth. This include, the provision of 5 million jobs, and the training and resettlement of at least 50 percent of the unemployed graduates estimated at about 130,000 per annum.

The constituency projects programme (CPP) was to be implemented as a multi-faceted programme involving many ministries with the cooperation and commitment of the three tiers of governments.

However, the implementation of poverty related programmes is not new to Nigeria, by 1999 there were 18 core federal ministries of poverty alleviation and about 30 core institutions, agencies and programmes<sup>24</sup>. There were also ministries, agencies, and institutions for poverty alleviation activities for the various states and local governments, community based organizations (CBOs); non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Donor Agencies (IDAs), but poor policy formulation and coordination, policy discontinuity and lack of sustainability as well as absence of policy framework, institutional framework and delivery machinery has informed the federal government decision to streamline and rationalise the functions of the core poverty alleviation institutions and agencies, improve coordination as well as collaboration with all tiers of government.

Considering the fact that some important issues regarding identification and formulation of relevant constituency projects programmes need to be further addressed. By January 2001, the federal government approved the blue-print of the Professor Ango Abdullahi's Committee Report (2000) and the Constituency projects programme (constituency projects) was established. constituency projects consist of all relevant skills acquisition programmes and projects that are aimed at eradicating absolute poverty as well as unemployment among the people of Nigeria. For a coordinated implementation and monitoring of the programme, the activities of constituency projects have been classified into four (4) schemes. These are:

- 1) The Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)
- 2) Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS)
- 3) Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS)
- 4) Natural resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS).

The federal government major executors of these programmes are the ministries.

#### **2.4.1 The Objectives/Targets of constituency projects**

The overall objectives and/or target of constituency projects is to eradicate absolute poverty among Nigerians through:

- Job creation and employment opportunities;
- Enhancement of enterprises development and promotion;
- The provision of proactive and affirmative actions deliberately targeted at women, youth, farmers and disabled;
- The provision of technology acquisition and development particularly for agriculture and industry;
- The provision of capacity building for existing skills acquisition and training;
- The provision of integrated schemes for youth empowerment, development of infrastructures, provision of social welfare services and exploitation of natural resources.

The philosophy of these objectives is based on the commonly accepted socio-economic profile of Nigeria that nearly 70 percent are below the poverty line. And Nigerians in this groups mostly lived in rural areas where:

- Human comfort activities are non-existent;
- Steady source of real income is hard to come by;
- Power of expenditure is minimal and consumption of low quality food and calories are very common;
- Nutritional status is very low;
- Basic education and healthcare facilities are inaccessible;
- Standard housing units as well as good drinking water are not available; and
- Infant mortality rate is high.

For effective coordination and achievement of the above objectives and targets, all the training programmes of the myriad of public establishments having direct bearing on poverty reduction/eradication were to be registered and coordinated by constituency projects whom shall prepare different modules of the various programmes and liaise with relevant agencies of agriculture, communication, science and technology, industry and solid minerals, power and steel, works and housing, water and petroleum resources for the attainment of the objectives.

#### **2.4.2 Skill Acquisition Programmes**

For a proper coordinated implementation and monitoring of programmes, have been classified into four schemes. These are:

- 1) Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)
- 2) Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS)
- 3) Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS)
- 4) Natural resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS).

But for the purpose of this study, emphasis was laid on one of the programmes that are similar to that of NDE. That is, the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES).

### **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 programme which 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 Quaaau-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 Quaana-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.

## **2.5 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

## **Skill Development and Employment Generation**

- National Directorate of Employment
- Peoples Empowerment Programme Initiative

## **Environmental Protection**

- Federal Environmental Protection Agency
- Food and Soil Erosion Control
- Ecological and Disaster Relief Programme

## **Finance and micro-Credit**

- Nigeria agricultural and cooperative Bank
- Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry
- Nigerian Industrial Development Bank
- Peoples' Bank of Nigeria
- National Economic Reconstruction Fund
- Community Banks

On its part, the FOS (1996) adopted a sectional classification in assessing the poverty reduction programmes. It grouped the programmes based on Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing, Environment, and Manufacturing.

## **2.6 LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section has attempted to examine what other scholars, theorists and policy makers in the field of poverty and poverty reduction have done, in an effort to properly conceptualize the meaning, causes, dimensions, and indices, hence indicate how poverty could possibly be addressed. The literature review was undertaken under sub-headings ranging from meaning of poverty; poverty incidences; indicators of poverty; a review of some poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria; poverty reduction and health care delivery, housing, nutrition, education, public infrastructure, self reliance.

It was revealed that poverty has to do with an individual's ability or inability to provide for the basic requirements of life, like food, shelter, healthcare, access to education and having a voice in the decision-making process of one's community. Poverty was also seen to be either abject, relative, or voluntary, depending on who is defining and why that person is defining (Wikipedia, 2008).

Poverty was also seen to be afflicting not only one section of the world, region or country alone, but that poverty afflicts people everywhere, although in varying degrees of intensity. Indicators of poverty were seen to revolve around such core issues like food, shelter, medical care, education, social inclusion, and powerlessness, (Yaqub, 2002).

A review of some poverty reduction programmes that have been undertaken in Nigeria was also made. This review revealed that such programmes have variously been focused on agriculture, rural infrastructure, health care delivery, education, ethical reorientation, job creation, skills acquisition, among other areas of national interest. It was revealed also that most government that have held sway in Nigeria have introduced and operated one form of poverty reduction programme or the other. The issue has remained that little results appear to be recorded in terms of success of these programmes.

Subsequently, literature was reviewed on poverty reduction and health care; poverty reduction and nutrition; poverty reduction and education; poverty reduction and public infrastructure, and

poverty reduction and self-reliance. It was found that these indices are inextricably linked in a special relationship that sees one sector being affected by the actions or inactions in another sector for instance, it was found that healthcare affect income making ability of poor people, for instance a people ravaged by illness cannot engage in productive work. Also, nutrition was seen to be at the core of good health and school achievement. All this were however a function of the earning capacity of the poor people. Meaning that if the poor were not gainfully engaged in productive work, they can hardly afford healthcare, good nutrition nor education.

On the other hand, education was seen as the key that could unlock doors of opportunities and choices for the poor people to enable them escape from the poverty trap. In the case where access to education was constrained by lack of resources for funding it, poverty was sure to be recycled from one generation to the other. It was seen that since education determines the earning capacity of individuals, the less education a person receives, the less he is likely to earn, and the less capable he is to provide for housing, health care, good nutrition, etc.

On the whole, it was seen that public utilities like roads, electricity, sanitary services, etc. could give the poor people the needed enabling environment to develop their capabilities. But it was seen that such infrastructure on its own cannot translate into reduced poverty unless there is a deliberate policy by poverty reduction agencies (government or NGOs) to engender a spirit of self-reliance and sustainability in the poor. In this case, it was seen that targeted pro-poor programmes can be effective in giving the poor a chance, choices, and ultimately a voice in participating in the affairs of their community. All these dimensions were however not considered in isolation as it was seen that poverty reduction requires economic growth which if accompanied by sound macroeconomic management and good governance, results in sustainable and socially inclusive development, (ADB 1999). It was seen that greater access of the poor to education, health services, water and sanitation, employment, credit, and markets for produce was needed. Above all, that public policy reforms and investment in physical infrastructure will significantly contribute to the pursuit of socially inclusive development and poverty reduction.

Government spending is a potential means of achieving economic growth and reducing poverty through increase in the overall economic performance, human capital development and ensuring that transaction costs are minimized (Wilhelm & Fiestas, 2005). Public spending can favourably influence economic growth and alleviate poverty through infrastructural provisions and social

services (Asghar, Hussain & Rehman, 2012). Government expenditure is defined as the costs incurred by the government in executing its function especially in the area of providing public goods and services (Ogboru, Abdulmalik & Park, 2018; Omodero & Dandago, 2019). In other words, government expenditure which is also referred to as public spending is shown in the budgets which indicate how much will be spent and the revenue sources which involve taxation and other government sources of income (Everett, 2011). Government expenditure is usually categorized as recurrent and capital expenditure (Ogba, 2011). The concept of government expenditure states that public spending ordinarily should enhance economic growth through job creation, reducing rate of unemployment, business expansions through provision of infrastructures and expansion of local markets. These are poverty alleviation measures which are covered under the concept of government expenditure. Asghar et al. (2012) posit that increased government investments in sectors such as health, education, agriculture and social amenities can alleviate poverty, reduce transaction costs as well as increasing the nation's human capital capacity. Dahmardeh and Tabar (2013) identified the direct and indirect effects of government expenditure in poverty reduction. The direct effects are in the form of benefits received by the poor from government expenditures which takes the form of job creation and welfare programs. The indirect effects emanate from government investments in infrastructures, agriculture, health and education which in turn lead to greater job opportunities and availability of food at a cheaper rate.

Olabode (2012) used Dynamic Ordinary Least Squares (DOLS) method to examine the effect of defense expenditure on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The study provided evidence that defense expenditure which are in different categories had positive relationship with poverty indicator. However, military expenditure, secondary school enrolment and output per capita had negative relationship with poverty level. Enyim (2013) employed ordinary least squares method and a data covering a period from 1980 to 2009 to analyze the impact of government spending on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The regression results showed that government expenditure had a significant positive impact on poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Nwosa (2014) made use of annual time series data covering a period from 1981 to 2011 and ordinary least squares method to examine the impact of government expenditure on unemployment and poverty rates in Nigeria. The study discovered that government expenditure had a significant positive impact on unemployment rate while on poverty rate, insignificant negative impact was

established. Odior (2014) examined the probable implication of government expenditure policies on education and poverty reduction Nigeria following the need to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the United Nations. Based on the findings of this study, it was predicted that MDGs might be far reaching in terms of improvement in education and reduction in poverty in the country. Thus, the study suggested more allocation of funds to educational sector in order to attain Millennium Development Goals.

Sunkanmi and Abayomi (2014) investigated the relationship between government expenditure and poverty level in Nigeria using Keynesian macroeconomic framework which assumes that any increase in government expenditure affects economic growth positively. The findings revealed that foreign aid, savings and power generation were all insignificant in reducing poverty level in the country. Adelowokan and Osoba (2015) used ordinary least squares method and granger causality test to assess the role of oil revenue and government spending in reducing poverty rate in Nigeria from 1970 to 2013. The study found evidence that oil revenue and GDP exerted negative effects on poverty rate within the period being investigated.

Asimiyu and Saidi (2015) examined the impact of public budget indicators such as federally collected government revenue and aggregate expenditure on the poverty level in Nigeria using annual time series data covering a period from 1980 to 2013. The study discovered that federally collected government revenue and aggregate expenditure increased poverty rate in Nigeria. The negative outcome of the study was associated with undue dependence of the economy on oil revenue, high rate of corruption and poor budget processes and implementation. The study suggested budget restructuring which should be based on people's preferences. Owuru and Farayibi (2016) used fiscal policy measures to address the issue of poverty reduction in Nigeria from 1980 to 2011. The findings revealed that the level of government capital investments in Nigeria could not alleviate poverty within the period covered by the study.

Oriavwote and Ukawe (2018) studied the effect of government expenditure on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The study covered a period from 1980 to 2016 and made use of ordinary least squares technique and other statistical tools for analysis. Based on the regression results, government expenditure on education and health had significant and positive impact on per capita income (PCI). Similarly, the result also showed that government expenditure on building and construction equally had a significant and positive effect on PCI. Despite the outcome of this study, the scourge

of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria is such that government sectoral spending is not physically felt by the citizens. That means, there is a contradiction between this study and the physical evidences of the relationship between government expenditure and poverty reduction in the country.

Ogboru et al. (2018) assessed the government expenditure on agriculture and its impact on unemployment reduction in Nigeria from 1999 to 2015. The study provided a statistical evidence that government expenditure did not reduce unemployment rate within the period covered by the study. Omodero (2019) employed ordinary least squares technique to investigate the effect of government general spending on human capital development which most importantly involves the education and health care of the entire country's work force for proper economic growth and development. The study covered a period from 2003 to 2017 and the findings indicated that government capital expenditure had an insignificant negative impact on human capital development while the recurrent expenditure impacted on human development index positively and significantly. Thus, the study suggested that more government capital investment on the nation's human capacity building is necessary for better productivity and growth in the country

## **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;

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

### **3.9 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

The research will be conducted with two methods of primary data and secondary data collection procedure.

The primary sources of data for this research are responses collected from the respondents, which were in form of questionnaires and interview. The primary collection for this research is researcher administered.

The secondary data for this research are collected from different sources as follows:

**Internet:** the first and foremost is the source of most relevant data, connecting lots of websites, authors, journals etc.

**Text Books:** books related to welfare and various concepts used in the research were used.

**Research works:** related research and thesis were conducted and used. The research reports and articles of several researchers both local and international have been used as reference in this research.

## 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 4.1:1Age**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Male	30	66.7%
Female	15	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
First Leaving Certificate	-	-
SSCE/WASSCE	5	11.11%
ND/NCE/HND	25	55.56%
B.Sc./ B.A/ PGD	15	33.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	8	17.78%
Agree	17	37.78%
Undecided	4	8.89%
Disagree	10	22.22%
Strongly Disagree	6	13.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

**Source:** Field Survey

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	10	22.22%
Agree	20	44.44%
Undecided	2	4.44%
Disagree	4	8.89%
Strongly Disagree	9	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	7	15.56%
Agree	25	55.56%
Undecided	-	0
Disagree	8	17.78%
Strongly Disagree	5	11.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES (%)</b>
Strongly	5	11.11%
Agree	30	66.67%
Undecided	-	0
Disagree	8	17.78%
Strongly Disagree	2	4.44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	10	22.22%
Agree	20	44.44%
Undecided	3	6.67%
Disagree	7	15.56%
Strongly Disagree	5	11.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	5	11.11%
Agree	10	22.22%
Undecided	5	11.11%
Disagree	15	33.33%
Strongly Disagree	10	22.22%
<b>Ttoal</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	12	26.67%
Agree	22	48.89%
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	8	17.78%
Strongly Disagree	3	6.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025



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.

<b>VARIABLE</b>	<b>NO OF RESPONSE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES (%)</b>
Strongly Agree	12	26.67%
Agree	18	40%
Undecided	3	6.67%
Disagree	7	15.56%
Strongly Disagree	5	11.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey 2025

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 asses 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 ( $\chi^2$ ) the formular for calculation of  $\chi^2$  is.

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

where:

$\chi^2$ =Chi-square

$\sum$  =Summation

F<sub>o</sub>=The observed frequency of any given value.

F<sub>e</sub>=The expected frequency of any given value.

## CONTINGENCY TABLE

QUESTION	FAVOURABLE	UNFAVOURABLE	TOTAL
The poverty reduction programme have brought about an increase in health facilities.	25 (26.18)	16 (14.48)	41
Farmers in Rural Area Empowered for the farming season in 2005 and 2007 Respectively.	32 (25.54)	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)	12 (15.18)	42
	<b>136</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>213</b>

## HOW TO DERIVE THE EXPECTED FREQUENCY

**Favourable Unfavourable**

$$Q1. \frac{136}{4177} \times 41$$

$$213 = 26.18213 = 14.82$$

$$Q2. \frac{136}{4577} \times 45$$

$$213 = 28.73213 = 16.27$$

$$Q8. \frac{136}{4077} \times 40$$

$$213 = 25.54213 = 14.86$$

$$Q9. \frac{136}{4577} \times 45$$

$$213 = 28.73213 = 16.27$$

$$Q10. \frac{136}{4277} \times 42$$

$$213 = 26.82213 = 15.18$$

## COMPUTATION OF CHI-SQUARE

E	O	(E - O)	(E - O) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(E - O)^2}{E}$
2 5	2 6 . 1 8	- 1 . 1 8	1 . 3 9 2 4	0 . 5 5 6 9
3 2	2 8 . 7 3	3 . 2 7	1 0 . 6 9 2 9	0 . 3 3 4 2
1 5	2 5 . 5 4	- 1 0 . 5 4	1 1 1 . 0 9 1 6	7 . 4 0 6 1
3 4	2 8 . 7 3	5 . 2 7	2 7 . 7 7 2 9	0 . 8 1 6 8
3 0	2 6 . 8 2	3 . 1 8	1 0 . 1 1 2 4	0 . 3 3 7 1
1 6	1 4 . 8 2	1 . 1 8	1 . 3 9 2 4	0 . 0 8 7 0
1 3	1 6 . 2 7	- 3 . 2 7	1 0 . 6 9 2 9	0 . 8 2 2 5
2 5	1 4 . 4 6	1 0 . 5 4	1 1 1 . 0 9 1 6	4 . 4 4 3 6
1 1	1 6 . 2 7	- 5 . 2 7	2 7 . 7 7 2 9	2 . 5 2 4 8
1 2	1 5 . 1 8	- 3 . 1 8	1 0 . 1 1 2 4	0 . 8 4 2 7
$\chi^2$	2		= 1 8 . 1 7 1 7	

Decision rule

From the chi-square computation, since the calculated chi square  $\chi^2$  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 Nigeria while  $H_0$  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 programme which is rural based.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 SUMMARY**

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.

#### **5.2 CONCLUSION**

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.

### **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 highjack 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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