

(Research/Review)

An Evaluation Of The Government's Involvement In The Fct Abuja, Nigeria, Poverty Eradication Program.

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Abstract: Regardless of ethnicity, gender, or social standing, poverty and injustice are twain plaques that are ruining lives and undermining the core of existence, according to the examiner. As a result of the unimaginable devastation, world leaders and As societal systems are being exhausted, policymakers are searching for solutions; mobility rates have increased, and the discourse surrounding income distribution is tainted. While other nations who are severely overburdened are struggling to understand the realities of these economic thunderbolts, others that have recognized these terrible patterns are formulating plans to counter the escalating threat. The purpose of the study is to look into the causes and antecedent effects of poverty on the Nigerian economy because, in spite of the admirable efforts made by the federal, state, and local governments to reduce and eradicate poverty, the nation is still plagued by widespread poverty and issues with property and life insecurity, endangering the nation's ability to remain an indivisible whole. Although there are more than a billion people in Africa, Nearly half of the population is impoverished and at risk, and this number is still rising (World Population Review, 2014). With a population of more than 170 million, Nigeria is battling not only poverty but also a host of other problems, such as a lack of capable leaders, corruption, deteriorating infrastructure, and problems with nutrition and health. In order to gather data, the study used a descriptive technique with questionnaires; 80 questionnaires were recovered and 120 were randomly dispersed to the respondents. According to the findings, poverty has increased, which has resulted in incidents like armed robberies, prostitution, bombings, and insecurity of life and property. The document makes several recommendations, including that the government develop workable programs and give young people the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

Key words: Nigerian self-reliance and governance, poverty alleviation, program, government, and insecurity

1. Overview

According to Okoye and Onyukwu (2017), poverty is a unique state in which people's basic requirements are not met, depriving them of advantages to which they are legally entitled in the areas of economics, society, politics, and the environment. Nigeria's poverty rate has taken on a new dimension in recent years, marked by significant increases in insecurity and widespread corruption brought on by poor leadership. Understanding the serious effects of poverty, Nigeria's successive administrations have created and put into effect a number of policies aimed at combating the issue and providing a long-term solution for the populace. All of the efforts made in this regard, meanwhile, have not produced the anticipated outcomes. While some people think that poor leadership, widespread corruption, low productivity, and unemployment are the causes of weak governance, Conflicts and debt are linked to the failure of plans to eradicate poverty; others blame the high rate of poverty on globalization, macroeconomic distortion, rapid population increase, and

inadequate human resource development. Effective policy measures led by competent leadership free from corruption are widely seen to be able to decrease or eliminate acute poverty, which is the main tenet of this article (Sulaiman, 2023).

One of the main issues Nigeria faces is poverty, which is reflected in the rise in the operations of organizations like Boko Haram, the militancy in the Niger Delta, and the prevalence of property and life insecurity in the country. According to data from the Nigerian Office of Statistics (2017), more than 112 million Nigerians make less than the poverty level Not even a dollar a day. Due to subsistence farming and a lack of government support for the development of effective programs, rural areas suffer from poverty to the greatest extent. Since the implementation of the structural adjustment program during the Babangida administration in the middle of the 1980s, poverty has been pervasive in Nigeria. For example, the poverty rate was 28.1% in the 1980s, increased to 46.6% in the middle of the decade, and then declined in the early 1990s. It increased to 65.6% in 2016 and 70.1% in 2020, according to World Economic Report (2017). This essay aims to examine the causes of poverty in Nigeria as well as the effects of its antecedents. An introduction is given in Part 1, followed by an analysis of previous administrations' attempts to address the issues of poverty, the origins of poverty in Nigeria are examined in part three, the effects of poverty in Nigeria are discussed in part four, and recommendations for addressing poverty in Nigeria are provided in the final section (Ajiteru, 2023).

The study poses some basic questions on the types of leaders in the nation's leadership roles, the extent of policies and strategies aimed at addressing poverty, and the effects of these policies and their sustainability in reducing poverty. What policies and initiatives did Nigeria's previous governments use to reduce poverty, and how did they affect the delivery of social services? What are the mechanisms and procedures for uniting different agencies to collaborate on goals related to poverty alleviation? This essay aims to tackle some of these problems from a variety of angles, taking on difficulties that are both physical and non-physical. The federal government, foreign agencies and donor organizations, and the organized private sector must all be included in poverty reduction strategies, according to Abalaka (2023).

2. Goal

The study's main goal is to evaluate Nigeria's successive administrations' efforts to reduce poverty. to list the different obstacles that have prevented the implementation of laws and programs aimed at reducing poverty and suggest solutions.

3. Questions for research

The following are some of the research questions that make up this study:

- Q1. What is the reason for the high prevalence of verity in Nigeria?
- Q2. What initiatives does the government have in place to combat poverty?
- Q3: What effects does poverty have in Nigeria?

4. Hypotheses for Research

The following are the hypotheses for this study:

- H0: Do poverty and property and life insecurity have a substantial relationship?
- H1: Is there a meaningful connection between corruption and poverty?
- H2 That Nigeria's poverty rate is expected to rise as a result of a lack of political will

5. The Era of National Development

Previous efforts were coordinated around National Development Plans, an economic growth strategy intended to raise the country's GDP level by increasing the growth capacity of every sector. This changed with the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 2016, the first government-conscious policy aimed at poverty reduction/eradication. These development plans prioritized projects linked to agriculture, health care, education, and other infrastructure that will eventually improve the quality of people's lives. The federal government either carried out a large number of the development projects directly or in collaboration with foreign development organizations such as the African Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB). The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural

Banking Scheme (RBS), the River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), and the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES) are a few of the initiatives that were carried out throughout these times, according to Sulaiman (2023).

These developmental plans were quite successful, but most of them were not sustainable since they could not be carried out. Poor upkeep, a lack of oversight and monitoring tools, and a change in emphasis by succeeding administrations caused the developmental initiatives to lose their original purpose and eventually disappear. The plans for national development exclusively focused on increasing the nation's GDP; therefore, income distribution and poverty alleviation were not specifically addressed. Since there was no intentional poverty-targeted action, it was assumed that the impoverished would profit from the economic expansion. Poverty persisted as a result of the National Development Plans' lack of attention to it. Nonetheless, via the efforts of the international community, succeeding governments kept shifting their priorities toward strategies for reducing poverty. Nigeria implemented a number of additional programs prior to the Structural Adjustment Program's (SPA) wake-up call. Similar to Free Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE), which was implemented in 2017 to enhance the nation's educational standards, and Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), which was developed to boost agricultural performance, Green Revolution is a wholesale agriculture policy. created to increase agricultural output in 2020 and the Low-Cost Housing Scheme (LCHS) to give all Nigerians access to affordable housing (Ajiteru, 2023).

Table 13.0 Poverty Eradication Programs Of Nigerian Government 2015 –2021

S/N	Programs	Target Group	Nature Of Intervention	Year Established
1	Directorate for Food, Roads & Rural Infrastructure (DEFRI)	Rural Areas	Federal Roads, Rural & Water Supply& Rural Electrification	2015
2	National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	Unemployed Youths	Training Finance & Guidance	2016
3	Better Life Program (BLP)	Rural Women	Self Help & Rural Development	2017
4	People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN)	Underprivileged in Rural & Urban Areas	Encouraging Savings and Granting of Credit Facilities	2018
5	Community Banks (CB)	Rural residents & Micro Entrepreneurs in Urban Areas	Granting of Credit Facilities	2019
6	Family Support Program	Families in Rural Areas especially women	Health Care delivery, Child Warfare, Women & Youth development	2020
7	Family Economic Advancement Program	Rural Areas	Granting of Credit Facilities to support the establishment of cottage industries	2021

Table 13.1 Poverty Eradication Programs of Nigerian Government Democratic Era1999– 2019

S/N	Programs	Target Group	Nature Of Intervention	Year Established
1	Poverty Alleviation Program	Urban Youths	Job Creation, Developing Entrepreneurs	1999
2	National Poverty Eradication Program	Rural & urban Areas	Agriculture, Rural development, Education & Health	2004
3	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)	Rural & Urban Areas	Addressing economic and social, political and institutional issues	2009
4	Vision 20-2020	Rural & Urban Areas	Energy, Agriculture and Food Security Wealth Creation, Land Reform Security of Lives and Property Education for Children Transportation	2014
5	You WIN	Urban & Aural Development	Youth and entrepreneurial empowerment scheme	2019

6. A Synopsis of Nigeria's Sustainable Development Initiative

Because poverty is so prevalent, successive Nigerian administrations have launched sustainable development initiatives to lessen or eliminate the fatal plague of poverty. Programs like Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), which was started in the 1970s, and the Green Revolution, which was started in 2020, were previously implemented to either directly or indirectly address the issues of poverty, claims Odion (2019). Subsequent governments have also established the Better Life Program (BLP), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DEFRI), the Peoples' Bank of Nigeria (PBN), the Family Support Program (FSP), the Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP), the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP), the National Economic Empowerment Program, and The You WIN program, Vision 20–2020, and the Development Strategy (NEEDs) Sulaiman, (2023).

7. Programs to Reduce Poverty Roads, Rural Infrastructure, and Food Directorate (DFRRI)

The impact of many of these initiatives in reducing poverty varies. For instance, in addition to marking a significant shift from earlier initiatives, the creation of the Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) acknowledged the complimentary nature of necessities like food, shelter, drinkable water, etc. The rural areas were greatly impacted by DFRRI. For example, DFRRI had finished a number of roads between its founding in 1986 and 1993. Its rural electrification program helped more than 5,000 rural areas (CBN Annual Reports 2014).

Without a doubt, this integrated approach to rural development made the need fundamental facilities that can encourage the expansion of small-scale agro-allied businesses in rural regions. DFRRI also had a favorable effect on food output. The index of agricultural production, for example, demonstrated a consistent and noteworthy increase in agricultural output from 2016 to 2020 (CBN, Statistical Bulletin, December 2018). However, a number of factors, such as the absence of project harmonization standards and efficient mechanisms for coordination between the three levels of government and between DFRRI and the levels of government, prevented DFRRI from achieving many of its goals (CBN Bauchi Zone; and Enugu Zone, 1998). As a result, DFRRI eventually failed to maintain the pace at which it had begun, failed to live up to expectations, and ceased operations (National Planning Commission (1994) The primary organization for creating jobs during this time was the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Designing and implementing initiatives to address mass unemployment and articulating policies targeted at creating work programs with labor-intensive potential are among NDE's goals. Since unemployment and underemployment are two ways that poverty shows up, it may be argued that the NDE's policies and programs are aimed at reducing poverty. For example, the directorate's four primary initiatives increase the productivity and income-earning potential of youths and other recipients in addition to creating jobs. These initiatives include the Agricultural Employment Program, the Small-Scale Enterprises Program (SSE), the Special Public Works Program (SPW), and the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSD). The evidence that is currently available indicates that regarding its numerous programs, NDE has made impressive strides. Among them are:

- Between 2010 and 2020, more than 766,783 people—including those with disabilities—were trained through the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme.
- By the end of 2020, over 106,854 people have benefited from the Resettlement program.
- As of the end of 2013, 15,317 teenagers without jobs had been enrolled in the School on Wheels Program.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the Special Public Works Program generated employment for more than 154,910 people (Central Bank Annual Reports, 2012–2016). In addition, NDE, one of the organizations that has endured since the SAP era, has persisted in articulating labor-intensive development plans and initiatives that strive to address the nation's unemployment issues. But the directorate has not received enough funding. Accordingly, NDE has been unable to meet the demands of the nation's growing number of employment seekers (Ajiteru, 2023).

8. The BLP, or Better Life Program

Among other goals, the Better Life Program (BLP) was established to improve the standard of living for rural women. Due to a lack of education and basic skills required for meaningful employment, poverty is a rural issue in Nigeria, with rural women being the most affected. Without a doubt, focusing on women in the fight against poverty will greatly lower the overall level of poverty in the nation. Thus, the Better Life Program attempted to utilize rural women's potential and consequently had a favorable effect on their earnings and economic activity. Through the construction of several educational and enlightenment programs, the distribution of various inputs, and the awarding of easy credits, the BLP enhanced the quality of life for numerous women. Ogwumike (2018) came to the conclusion that the BLP had a significant influence on reducing poverty based on the evidence that was available. The following are some concrete examples of BLP's accomplishments: creation of 3,613 processing mills, the creation of 11,373 women's cooperatives by 2017, and the provision of agricultural inputs like fertilizer to women who would not typically have had access to them despite performing the majority of the agricultural work. Nevertheless, the program's success was fleeting. Position wasn't the only way the program got taken over looking for people, but the program's funds were taken and put toward personal development (Sulaiman, 2023).

9. Nigeria's People's Bank (PBN)

Community Banks (CB) were created to support microbusinesses in urban areas and to offer banking services to rural residents, while the People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN) was founded to promote savings and offer credit facilities to the poor in both urban and rural areas (Oladeji & Abiola, 2018). These two banking programs were created in awareness of the critical role that finance plays in reducing poverty. Many of the aims and objectives of the two banking schemes were never achieved, despite their relative success. The programs have been plagued by a number of negative elements, such as egregious mismanagement and corruption. For example, Tai-Solarin, who passed away in 2021, resigned as chairman of People's Bank due to allegations of corruption and executive irresponsibility in the bank's management.

10. The FSP, or Family Support Program

The Family Support Program (FSP) was established to help rural households with better nutrition, child welfare, youth development, and health care delivery. Additionally, the Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP) was created to assist the development of cottage enterprises in both rural and urban regions by offering financial facilities to cooperative societies. The initiative was also intended to train ward-based company owners, promote the design and production of suitable plants, machinery, and equipment, and generate employment possibilities at the ward level. (Abiola and Oleji, 2018). To put it briefly, both the purpose of FSP and FEAP was to enhance the standard of living for people who live in rural areas. Even yet, the FSP documented a number of noteworthy accomplishments, including the construction of several public restrooms, numerous vocational institutions, and numerous nurseries and elementary schools. According to Sulaiman (2020), many of these programs were poorly carried out and were not sustainable, and many impoverished people in various areas did not truly profit from them during their duration.

Under the long-term perspective plan Vision 20-2020, the Nigerian government suggested in 2007 to give a true growth process by aiming to propel Nigeria to rank among the top 20 economies globally by 2020. The government in its established the National Council and the National Steering Committee on Vision 20-2020, which pledged to combat poverty and advance development while utilizing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as a roadmap Nigeria.

1. The following was stated as the agenda's seven points.
2. Food Security and Agriculture
3. Creating Wealth and Reducing Poverty
4. Reform of the Land
5. Protection of Persons and Property
6. Development of Human Capital, including Mandatory Education for Kids
7. Better Mass Transit as part of the Transportation Revolution

The administration's aims were never met, primarily due to a lack of commitment from the leadership to achieving the stated goals. Thus, it is imperative that plans and policies give way to actual action in order to achieve developmental advantages. In this context, cooperation among governments, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will establish Nigeria's economic priorities and strategies in a way that benefits the majority of its citizens, international organizations, the organized private sector, and civil society are essential in fostering the necessary synergy. Ajiteru (2023).

11. Approach

Questionnaires and observation are two of the methods utilized to gather data for this article. Despite printing and distributing 120 questionnaires at random to the respondents, the researcher was only able to collect 80 of them. Additionally, secondary data was collected from sources like government papers, journals, and textbooks. Based on the literature analysis of the research approaches taken in related studies, the research techniques employed for Data for this study was taken from government papers, books, and journal articles. Furthermore, data was collected from historical government documents and a few public interactions (Ajiteru, 2023).

12. The government's role in reducing poverty

Subsistence farmers dominate the Nigerian economy, employing 60% of the country's workforce and contributing 41% of its gross national product. Over 80 percent of foreign exchange comes from the agriculture and energy industries. According to the National Office of Statistics (2020), the manufacturing sector contributes at least 3%, while the communication industry contributes 5.5%. The standard of living for people in rural areas has declined, and several of the government's feasible initiatives to raise their standard of living have not been implemented, according to CBN (2021).

The day's schedule consists of:

- OFN stands for Operation Feed the Nation.
- the green revolution
- the Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure Directorate (DFRFRI);
- Employment National Directorate (NDE);
- the founding of the Nigerian People's Bank;
- program to improve the lives of rural women;
- the program for family support;
- program for agricultural development;
- the program for adult and nomadic education;
- program to reduce poverty;
- NAPEP stands for National Poverty Eradication Program.
- Nigerian strategies for economic development and empowerment (NEEDS) and
- CBN (2021) Millennium Development Goals.

The issue of poverty still plagues the nation in spite of all these initiatives. The National Office of Statistics (2017) found that only 54.7% of people in 2014 were unable to pay for clothing, food, and housing, compared to 69.9% in 2010. The highest incidence, 77.7%, was seen in the North East and North West and 76.3%, respectively, where the Boko Haram sect's activities are the most intense. Niger State and Sokoto made the top list. According to Sanusi (2017), the Nigerian economy is dysfunctional, which means that until something is done to fix the issue, the country's poverty rate would keep rising. According to Sulaiman (2020), the majority of Nigerians living in poverty are from rural areas, which make up 75% of the country's population. This is because the country's efforts to eradicate poverty are hampered by factors like poor education, lack of access to agricultural extension workers, distance to markets, and lack of microcredit. Ajiteru (2023).

Table:1.0 Statistics of unemployment in Nigeria

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nig.population	140,431,790	144,925,609	149,563,227	154,349,250	159,288,426	164,385,656

Econ. active	78,922,666	81,448,191	84,054,533	86,744,278	89,520,095	92,384,738
Labor force	57,455,701	59,294,283	61,191,700	63,149,835	65,170,629	67,256,090
Employed	50,388,650	51,763,909	52,074,137	50,709,317	13,946,515	51,181,884
Unemployed	7,067,051	7,530,374	9,117,563	12,440,517	13,946,515	16,074,205
Newly Empl	-	463,323	1,587,189	3,322,954	1,505,997	2,127,691

Source: National bureau of statistics general household survey,2021.

From the table above, it is clear that number of unemployment had increased from 7,067,051 in 2016 to 7,530,374 in 2017 to 9,117,563 in 2018 to 3,322,954 in 2019 to 1,505,997 in 2020 and to 16,074,205 in 2021.

13. The reasons why government plans don't work

With 168 million people, 75% of Nigerians live in rural areas and work mostly in subsistence farming, which leaves them unable to support their families, let alone make any contributions to the country's progress. One of the factors contributing to the rise in the prevalence of poverty in Nigeria's rural areas is the long-standing disregard for the development of infrastructure in these areas (Abalaka, 2023).

Nigerian poverty persists despite the government's efforts to alleviate it for a number of reasons, including the following: Resource linkage: As the eighth-largest oil-producing state in the world, corruption has been the main issue the nation faces the entire world. At one point, a Nigerian president claimed that the nation's issue was not money but rather how to spend it. However, the nation is still falling behind in terms of development despite its plenty of resources, which may be related to the corrupt actions of its officials. According to Segun (2020), corruption is one of the nation's problems; many of Nigeria's wealthiest individuals amassed their wealth through unethical means, leaving the majority of the population in extreme poverty, which in turn fuels crime, unemployment, and intercommunal strife. According to Mike (2021), a major factor impeding the success of earlier programs aimed at reducing poverty was corruption, misrepresentation of project funds, and a lack of social responsibility.

Lack of program sustainability: In order to address the issue of poverty in the nation, previous governments had developed workable policies and programs that would raise the standard of living for the majority of people. However, nearly all of these initiatives were unable to succeed because they lacked continuity. Because of the absence of continuity following the end of government, the program collapsed (Ajiteru, 2023).

Poor coordination: One factor contributing to Nigeria's subpar performance was the three levels of government's improper coordination of the program. Although government programs, particularly those aimed at reducing poverty, are commendable, the program's failure was mostly caused by the competition among the three levels of government. Lack of presence of attainable target goals: The government frequently releases plans without considering the number of unemployed graduates, the kind of work that these graduates choose, or whether these goals are realistic. Consequently, the program became a white elephant project rather than producing results. Nigeria is a federal state with three levels of government: the federal, state, and local administrations. The roles and responsibilities of these levels are unclear. The federal government released a policy a while back, but the way the three levels of government are divided has caused many programs to fail (Ajiteru, 2023).

Absence of effort on the part of the beneficiary: Additionally, Nigerians' elevations were a barrier to the failure of the shows. The socioeconomic crisis in the nation is further exacerbated by young people who favor easy money over hard labor and independence. They would rather follow politicians who will give them money for using drugs than study viable jobs that will lead to their independence. Chukwuma (2008) believed:

"Children of the poor are likely to grow up to be poorer because the poor could not sleep because they were hungry and the rich could not sleep because they were awake."

Table 1.1: Non-poor, moderately poor, and severely poor people in relation to poverty

Year	Non poor	Moderate poor	Extremely poor
2016	72.8	21.0	6.2
2017	53.7	34.2	12.1
2018	57.3	28.9	13.9
2019	34.4	36.3	29.3
2020	43.3	32.4	22.0

2021	31.0	30.3	38.7
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Source: National bureau of statistics 2021

From the table above, it is clear that poverty has increased over time for instance in 2016 the percentage of extremely poor people in the world stood at 6.2, it increased to 12.1 in 2019, to 29.3 in 2020, it increased to 22.0 in 2021 and to 38.7 in 2021 Abalaka, (2023).

Table:1.2 Relative poverty head count from 2016-2021

Year	Poverty incidence%	Estimated population (Million)	Population poverty in
2016	27.2	65	17.1
2017	46.3	75	34.7
2018	42.7	91.5	39.2
2019	65.6	102.3	67.1
2020	54.4	126.3	68.7
2021	69.0	163	112.47

Source: National bureau of statistics 2021

From the above, it is clear that the population of poverty-stricken people stood at 17.1 million in 2016, increased to 34.7 million in 2017, doubled the first in 2018 that is 39.2, increased to 67.1 in 2019, increased to 68.7 in 2020 and finally to 112.47 million in 2021.

Table :1.3 2021 poverty forecast

	2019%	2020	2021
Estimate population	126.3	163	168
Relative poverty	54.4	69	71.5
Absolute poverty	54.7	60.9	61.9
Dollar per day	62.8	61.2	62.8
Change in inequality			
	2019	2020	% Changes inequality in
National	0.4296	0.447	4.1
Rural	0.4239	0.4334	2.2
Urban	0.4154		4.2

Source: National bureau of statistics 2021

Also based on the report of national office of statistics the number of poor is likely to increase (Relative poverty) 54.4 in 2019 to 69 in 2020 and to 71 in 2021. Also, absolute poverty is likely to increase from 54.7 in 2019 to 60.9 in 2020 and finally to 61.9 in 2021.

The results of the survey conducted by HNLSS 2020 as contained in the Nigerian poverty profile 2020 report indicate increased. The trends may increase in 2021 and employment generation intervention programmes are not taken into account Proshare intelligent investment (2012).

Table 1.4 Analysis of the questionnaires

QUESTION	VS	S	IS	DON'T KNOW	Total/%
Poverty in Nig has led to insecurity of lives and properties	34 42.5%	30 37.5%	10 12.5%	6 7.5%	80 100
Crimes such as armed robbery, prostitution are the order of the day etc	66 82.5%	10 12.5%	3 3.8%	1 1.25%	80 100
Decline in investment opportunities	70 87.5%	7 9%	3 3.8%	0 0%	80 100
Rise of such groups such as Boko Haram and militancy	72 90%	5 6%	2 2.5%	1 1.25%	80 100
Gov't not playing enough role to address this problem	55 69%	15 19%	7 9%	3 4%	80 100
Corruption among the populace is the major cause	67 84%	8 10%	3 3.8%	2 2.5%	80 100
Leading to unemployment in the country	58 73%	17 21%	4 5%	1 1.25%	80 100

Lack of political will to address the problem is also constituting hindrance	70	8	2	0	80
	88%	10%	2%	0%	100

Source: questionnaire administered 2021

14. Discussion and results

It is evident from the above table that the majority of the questions pertaining to poverty demonstrated significant relationships. For example, the first question, which examined the impact of poverty in Nigeria, had 42.5% of respondents stating it was very significant, 37.5% stating it was significant, 12.5% stating it was insignificant, and 7.5% stating they were unsure (Sulaiman, 2023).

Additionally, the following analyses address the subject of whether poverty contributed to the nation's rise in crime. Among those surveyed, 82.5% felt it was very significant, 12.5% said it was substantial, 3.8% said it was insignificant, and 1.25 stated they were unsure. Furthermore, the research showed that the decrease in investment opportunities, particularly for international investors who are afraid of that country because of kidnapping and money requests, 3.8% thought it was unimportant, 9% said it was substantial, and 87.5% said it was very significant. Additionally, the results indicate that 90% of respondents deemed it extremely significant, 6% significant, 2.5% insignificant, and 1.25 don't know when asked if it opened the way for the actions of groups like Boko Haram and Niger Delta militants (2021).

The government, as a stakeholder, is not playing any crucial role in tackling the issue of poverty in Nigeria, according to numerous interviews and questionnaires that were issued. For example, 69% of respondents indicated that the issue was very significant, 19% said that it was considerable, 9% said that it was insignificant, and 4% said that they didn't know. Furthermore, according to the poll, corruption is another important problem impeding Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty, with 84% saying it is very significant and 10% saying it is substantial, 2.5% answered they didn't know, and 3.8% felt it was small. Additionally, 73% of respondents stated that corruption and the government's incapacity to implement workable programs are the main causes of unemployment in Nigeria, 21% said that this is significant, 5% said that it is insignificant, and 1.25 percent claimed they are unfamiliar with Abalaka (2023).

Lastly, as the above table illustrates, 88% of respondents deemed the government's lack of political will to be very significant, 10% to be considerable, and 2% to be minor (Sulaiman, 2023).

15. Research Results

Some of the conclusions drawn from this research project include the following:

1. The instability and confusion caused by Nigeria's poverty resulted in property and life insecurity.
2. It also played a significant role in the growth of criminal operations like kidnapping and armed robbery, as well as the activities of organizations like Boko Haram.
3. also made significant contributions to the nation's poverty, which fuels a great degree of inequality between the rich and the poor.
4. In addition, the government's lack of political will remains the main reason why poverty persists despite its efforts to address the issue.

16. Profile of Poverty in Nigeria

As per the 2019–2020 National Bureau of Statistics study, 27.2 percent of Nigerians were living in absolute poverty in 2016. At the state level, the Plateau and Nasarawa States had the highest proportion, at 49.5 percent. This made it very evident that less than 50% of people lived in poverty in every state. The national poverty rate increased to 46.3 percent by 2017, with Bauchi State (including Gombe State) having a poverty rate of 68.9 percent. In 2018, the number increased once more to 65.6%, with the highest recorded rate of 83.6 percent occurring in Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara (formerly Sokoto State). Gombe State and Bauchi come next, with an incidence of 83.5 percent each. It was believed that as of 2020, the poverty rate had increased to 70% on a national level. The increase has now reached 84%, with Borno State leading the way and Niger State following. Nigeria's poverty rate decreased to 69.0% in 2020, despite the country's population being 112.47, thanks to the efforts of the government and other developmental organizations. With the exception of the

South-South zone, where poverty decreased in 2016, poverty in the Southern portion grew between 2004 and 2021. In actuality, over half of the population in every state but Bayelsa lived below the poverty line. In contrast, the Southeast had a poverty rate of 26.7%. This supported the results of the World Bank study conducted in Nigeria, which indicated that the North and South differed with greater The Northern zone has a higher concentration of the impoverished (National Bureau of Statistics, 2016). The prevalence of urban poverty has also been rising between 2014 and 2021, demonstrating that poverty is not just a problem in rural areas but also coexists in the nation's urban centers. Poverty in 2020 increased from 28.3 to 51.4% in 2015, then decreased to 46.0%, then increased once more to 69.3% in 2016, before dropping to 63.3% in 2014 (Tomori, 2016).

17. The 2010–2020 Nigerian Poverty Profile

Region	2014%	2015%	2016%	2017%	2018%	2019%	2020%
National	27	46	42	67	60.9	54.5	69.0
Urban	17	38	37	59	63	58	52.0
Rural	28	51	46	71	73	70	66.1
North East	38	55	54	67	70	69	69.0
North West	38	52	37	68	70	69	68
Central	32	51	46	66	67	68	59.5
South East	12	30	41	68	68	69	58.7
South West	13	39	43	67	67	68	49.8
South - South	13	46	41	67	67	68	55.5

18. Summary

According to the Vision 2020 Committee Report:

- Fifty percent of Nigerians are impoverished.
- Forty percent have access to clean drinking water.
- On average, 85% of urban dwellers reside in single-family homes with more than seven people.
- Primary healthcare is accessible to 62% of Nigerians.

Less than one-third of Nigerians consume the bare minimum of vitamins and protein (Report 2010 Committee; Edoh, 2013:71). Nigeria, a nation of more than 140 million people, has widespread poverty. The nation's low development indices and status among the world's poorest nations can be attributed to the scourge's increasing tendency over the past few decades (United Nations, 2021 and OXFAM, 2013). The vast majority of Nigerians are impoverished with not enough money to pay for the bare necessities of housing, food, water, healthcare, and education. The country's poverty profile paints a grim picture of a wealthy country in decline, especially considering its abundant natural resource endowment (OXFAM, 2013).

19. conclusion

Although the study attempted to examine the role of governance in eradicating poverty in Nigeria, the impact of poverty in Nigeria was evident in a number of ways, including recent bombings, armed robberies, kidnappings, ethno-religious violence, and the emergence of militant groups like Boko-Haram and the Niger Delta Militant. The federal government launched numerous initiatives to combat poverty, but they never got off the ground because resource linkage, the government's lack of political will, and the economy's scarcity. Nigeria must establish an economic theory that serves as the foundation for a logical planning system. We cannot avoid the issue of agriculture and rural development because the great majority of our population resides in rural areas. However, that won't ensure a change in the country. In order to generate employment for the hordes of unemployed youth, agriculture needs to be integrated into a broad industrial strategy. Nigeria's future depends on an industrialization plan driven by agriculture, whereby increased productivity in rural agriculture generates enterprises that produce new goods further up the value chain with the goal of capturing niche markets abroad. There are chances for us to advance our growth by utilizing ICT technology to improve welfare and productivity and by utilizing the potential of sustainable energy systems (Abalaka, 2023).

20. Suggestions

The following suggestions are meant to assist alleviate poverty issues and enhance the nation's overall security condition if they are implemented. The issue of strong leadership needs to be addressed if the Nigerian economy is to make significant development in relation to its inherent realizable potentials given its vast endowment of material and human resources. The nation continues to face many obstacles that have impeded the attainment of economic change and the battle against poverty and income disparity. From a leadership perspective, the nation is severely burdened with many inadequacies in corporate leadership, politics, and even community leadership. It would be accurate to say that Nigeria is experiencing leadership degeneration in all spheres of human effort. The following general categories would be a useful way to classify the scourge of leadership in our setting:

- ❖ In order to guarantee accountability, the government should first attempt to guarantee transparency in her programs and policies.
- ❖ This will significantly lower the nation's corruption rate.
- ❖ In addition, rather than merely imposing programs, the government ought to develop workable plans that directly impact young people. According to Akanji (2021), the solution is to fortify the current institution, oversee the distribution of resources properly, improve elementary education financing, and create microfinance organizations to lessen Nigeria's poverty.
- ❖ The government should develop workable policies that will aid in giving young people job chances.
- ❖ In order to stimulate the economy and provide opportunities for young people, the government should simultaneously establish new industries and revitalize those that already exist. For instance, Ghana's foreign company policy requires that each company hire a minimum of ten employees.
- ❖ To ensure wise use of resources, anyone found engaging in corrupt activities should face severe punishment, such as the death penalty.
- ❖ prevalence of corruption and lawlessness in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government as many officials prioritize their own interests over group objectives.
- ❖ Leadership has become extremely ineffective due to the frantic pursuit of wealth above all other factors.
- ❖ Absence of training and abilities in leadership to successfully carry out leadership responsibilities and fulfill assigned obligations (Ajiteru, 2021).

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