



SELINUS UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCES AND LITERATURE

**POVERTY ELIMINATION POLICY
AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA**

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A DISSERTATION

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DECLARATION

I Samuel Kehinde Ogundipe (UNISE1768IT) hereby declare that I am the original author of this thesis and that its contents are only the result of the readings, research and the passion I have for the subject of academic discuss from over the years. Poverty, the subject matter of this thesis is of great concern to the United Nations and particularly to my country Nigeria. Relevant contributions of other works are acknowledged with citations in accordance with academic tradition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kehinde Ogundipe', is written over the printed name below.

Samuel Kehinde Ogundipe UNISE1768IT

SIGNED:

:

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I acknowledge the great value of the Internet System and Information Technology to the promotion of knowledge for the benefits of mankind. Without this great stride in technological knowledge this doctoral research work could not have been possible. My appreciation goes to all mankind, past and present who have made it possible including all the great scholars who have shared their immense knowledge for all mankind on the Internet, books, journals, seminars, lectures, etc. My many years of experience in teaching and research have been of immense value to me in this academic project.

My special thanks goes to my General Supervisor, Prof Salvatore Fava, to all my specialised supervisors and assessors.

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ABSTRACT

This doctoral thesis examine how poverty elimination policies are used as tools for sustainable development of poor countries such as Nigeria in Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty is widely acknowledged by development scholars and social scientists in general to be a terrible socio-economic malady that dehumanises the victims. In fact, Prof Denis Goulet is quoted severally in this thesis to have described it as a “cruel kind of hell”. It is like a chronic disease that eats up the victim and could destroy the whole society if not abated and turnaround to prosperity. To achieve this fit, radical poverty elimination policies approach must be instituted by the government, coordinated from the centre with the participation of community development bodies based on local needs and demands. It is important for local communities to own the development projects.

This thesis is very particular about the negative consequences of corruption in poor countries as the major cause for their underdevelopment. Most of these poor countries have resources but they are mismanaged by the power elites. It is emphatically pointed out in this thesis that underdeveloped countries as Nigeria with massive resources need **democratic nationalists** who are also **sacrificial leaders** to pilot its development. Jobs creation and massive wealth creation with equity in resource and income distribution to all must be their chief preoccupation while ensuring peace and harmony in the nation. Sustainable development must be inclusive to all, not development that will be vapourised into thin air of corruption and stealing.

This thesis also concluded that trade unions have a role to play in this development process just as civil society groups. It is possible to conquer poverty. Many societies have globally done so.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This thesis is presented in an essay format. It is based on my research and passion for social and economic development of my country Nigeria but so also for the entire human race as a student of humanities. The thesis is structured into two broad parts. Part 1, chapters 1-4, examine the universal global theoretical conceptual frameworks on the subject matter of poverty, public policy, sustainable development, with all its problems, characteristics, and solutions for the creation of egalitarian societies where prosperity is created for all in an all-inclusive manner. Part 2, chapters 5-8, examine critically the application of all these concepts to Nigeria as the case study for this doctoral research work. How has Nigeria fared in creating a prosperous nation for all its massive 200 million plus citizens?

Development is not possible without the goal to eliminate poverty. To achieve this, there must be concerted efforts by all humans wherever they are located to target aggressive government and individual policies to eliminate poverty. Poverty is a very chronic disease. Mere charity relief in form of handouts is not enough to cure poverty and to eliminate it. It is like administering paracetamol to treat COVID-19. For Sustainable Development to be achieved there must be a transformation of the society into productive one. There must be a move from merely being a consumptive society into production. In doing so, the productive environment must be protected, the life of the people must be protected, the quality of their life and environment must never be endangered. National Income must not only rise but there must be equity distribution across board, equal access to resources, work and wealth. The nation must prosper for all and all must prosper by the

prosperity of the nation. The country must revolutionise into nationhood in diversities. This is what Sustainable Democracy is about. Without Sustainable Democracy, it is difficult to achieve Sustainable Development where Poverty with all its miseries is intolerable.

Poverty is a hydra-headed monster that impede sustainable development of many societies. Indeed, all members of developing societies should be concerned with the problem of underdevelopment and its attendant consequences. The major one being mass poverty. More particularly as Nigeria is still a traditional closely knitted society. This is in spite of the influence of external culture of individualism.

This research undertaken is a manifestation of a deeply rooted genuine concern for a growing class of abject poor and even the erosion of the few middle class from our societies.

This issue of poverty is an endemic cankerworm disease that has plagued mankind for ages. Many philosophers, social writers, scholars of different ideological schools have attempted to define and postulate solutions. In other words, this chronic disease called poverty has not been easy to diagnose accurately and therefore very difficult to manage. As it is usual for such problematic diseases, when control is almost achieved, manifestations of the problem takes a new dimension.

This thesis is concerned with poverty in all its ramifications. Poverty is present in all human societies, only to different degrees and manifestations. One matter that must be considered seriously is that poverty is a very contagious disease no matter in what society.

The consequences of poverty could be disastrous to all members of the society. Even the most affluent nations or individuals cannot and must never put up an unconcerned attitude

to the issue of poverty. In the course of this thesis presentation, attention will be focused on the dynamics and consequences of allowing poverty to thrive in a developing country as Nigeria.

It is an irony that a concerned country as Nigeria treat the problem of poverty with kid's glove in an arena of hot battlefield. The political elites are preoccupied with getting themselves and their immediate family members and cronies out of poverty and not the development of their country. They loot the nation's treasury by all manners of open and underground malpractices and corruption.

This thesis will not only highlights the problems but will propound solutions as the whole essence of research is problem solving, hopefully the power elites in Nigeria will wake up to their responsibilities to uplift their country from poverty to prosperity. It behoves on these political elites to embrace meaningful, scientific socio-political-economic programmes that will uplift the status of the overwhelming majority of citizens from low class, abject poverty infested people to prosperous majority middle class status. Nigeria must do so. China is a model of economic, social transformation in a positive way. The mirage that it can't be done is bygone. Once there is the political will and commitment, the prosperous transformation of Nigeria can be achieved in a record time because now is the appropriate time to do so.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Concept of Poverty

James Chen (January 2022) define poverty generally as a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

Poverty can be classified into two broad categories.

- a) Relative poverty category: This approach indicate location and what it means to be poor in a particular society. It measures if income falls below the minimum amount needed to maintain the average standard of living in the society lived in. Poverty is relative to a given society based on their own acceptable standard of living measure or criteria. For example, the standard of living in Nigeria is not the same as in the United States of America. The Department of Health and Human Services, United States fixed the poverty income threshold for a minimum standard of living for \$26,000 per year for a family of four but in Nigeria this income level will be rated as a prosperous middle class family.
- b) Absolute poverty line category: This is the approach of the World Bank and the United Nations System. It defines poverty in absolute terms. Rather than measuring poverty against the rest of the population, poverty is measured against a universally fixed standard of living below which no human is expected to fall below. In October 2015 the World Bank set a new global poverty line at \$1.90 a day.

However, many scholars have over the years attempted different definitions of poverty from their own perspective.

One of such define it as “a social condition that is characterised by the lack of resources necessary for basic survival or necessary to meet a certain minimum level of living standards expected for the place where one lives”.

Poverty: Definition in Sociology and Types – Thought Co

www.thoughtco.com › 18 Jul 2019.

Another definition define poverty as a state or condition in which a person or relative community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met. (Poverty Definition – Investopedia

www.investopedia.com › terms › poverty)

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations on its part assert that poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. Various social groups bear disproportionate burden of poverty. Each country has a different poverty line.

To make easier comparisons, the World Bank calculated a global poverty line of \$1.90 per day in 2015 using the poverty lines of the world's 15 poorest countries in 2015. (World Bank, 1990:26)

Mollie Orshanky (1965) of the US Research and statistics, Social Security Administration, “Counting the Poor: Another Look at the Poverty Profile,” reported that the Council of Economic Advisors used annual income of less than \$3,000 to

define families living in Poverty. Today as already indicated, the United Nations in conjunction with the World Bank put the figure at \$1.90 per day.

The amount of cash income required to maintain any given level of living will be different for the family of two from the family of eight. For the person living in a large metropolitan area as Lagos and a person of the same age and sex living in the rural areas. In other words, standard of living is a function of environment as just as opportunities and earnings.

In a rapidly changing pluralistic society as Nigeria, it is difficult to arrive at a standard universally accepted and uniformly applicable figure by which it can be decided who is poor. Inevitably, a single criterion applied across the board must either leave out of the count some who should be there or include some who all things considered, ought not to be classed as indigent. There can be agreement on some of the considerations to be taken into account in arriving at a standard. If it is possible to state unequivocally "how much is enough", it should be possible to assert with confidence how much, on the average, is too little. At whatever level we peg the concept of "too little", the measure of income used should reflect at least roughly an equivalent level of living for individuals of different size and composition. Size is a key factor in social investigation.

S.M. Miller et al (1967) a professor of education and sociology, New York University in "Poverty, Inequality, and Conflict" suggest a Social Indicators Definition because there is need for new approaches to the quality of life in every country. That a minimum levels approach by government in any society with significant inequalities must provide for rising minimum levels not only of incomes,

assets, and basic services, but also of self-respect and opportunities for social mobility and participation in many forms of decision making.

Poverty they claim “is not only a condition of economic insufficiency it is also social and political exclusion.... In a dynamic society, today’s comfort or convenience is yesterday’s luxury and tomorrow’s necessity.”

The U.S. Board of Inquiry into hunger and malnutrition in its report in 1968 claimed that even in “the United States, hunger and malnutrition exists, affecting millions of people and increasing in severity and extent from year to year”.

The life of the poor is a life of misery, a life of frustration because a significant aspect of satisfactory life is the degree of acceptance of self, the agreeability of self-image, and the satisfactions with life. Individuals' perceptions of inequalities as regards incomes, assets, basic services, social mobility and education, political positions, status, self-esteem, etc., are paramount in the definition of poverty.

Measurement of command over resources is the core of the definition of poverty.

What is the value of the real income, assets, and access to social services relatively to the minimum level of living acceptable? Are there opportunities for social mobility? Can that be possible without a well-structured functional education system? It is a well-established fact that education is increasingly the route to social mobility. It is the pivot upon which all others are built . Educational sophistication is protection against bureaucratic manipulation or political manipulation. Education is an aid in learning how to get services. The education of a family, in most situations is more important than the income of the family in social mobility chances, in affecting how far our youths goes in school. Social

mobility is one of the most crucial indicators of a socially democratic society. A society which limits the ability of its members to have access to socio-political-economic advancement as we have it in the developing world is certainly not a truly democratic one and cannot have a meaningful, functional, sustainable development.

A major issue of the poor today is their social exclusion, rather than their income level. Being included in a society i.e. being accorded respect and accepted in social and political relations with others is increasingly an important part of the issue of inequality. Poverty and status are definitely mutually inclusive. Status refers to the views that others hold of an individual, treated with approval or with disapprobation, with respect or dishonour. Status is negative or positive. For the poor, it is negative. The lot of the poor is discrimination which compounds their problems and is the most striking case of status barriers.

Poverty is of a certain, a social, economic, and emotional condition which has for long been with mankind and recognised by most religious foundational texts. For some however, it has been nearly invisible, and the closest personal involvement has been an occasional gift to charity or the more regular payment of taxes, a portion of which hopefully goes for public welfare. As a major source of political unrest, poverty has recently become sharply registered in the consciousness of almost everybody especially with the rise of "street gangs or hoodlums" in our society and their ready-made use as agent of dislocation, threat to lives and properties. A society that the mass of the people are in the poverty class is built on self-destruction and anarchy. It is a matter of time before its complete dislocation.

Denis Goulet (1971), "The Cruel Choice: a new concept in the theory of development" defines chronic poverty as "a cruel kind of hell, and one cannot understand how cruel that hell is, by merely gazing upon poverty as an object. The most empathetic observer can speak objectively about underdevelopment, about poverty only after undergoing personally or vicariously, the shock of underdevelopment, of poverty. This unique culture shock comes to one as he is initiated to emotions which prevail in the culture of poverty. The reverse shock is felt by those living in destitution when a new self-understanding reveal to them that their life is neither human nor inevitable....." .

Poverty is definitely a social reality. A misery that defines itself in dehumanisation and social exclusion from the goodness of life. The concept of 'relative deprivation' incorporates elements of the standard of living, limited resources, exclusion, class and inequality.

2. Concept of Policy

Thomas R. Dye (1966), simply define public policy as whatever government chooses to do or not to do.

To Richard Rose, public policy is not a decision, it is a course or pattern of activity. In Carl J. Friedrich's opinion public policy is a proposed course of action of a person, group or government within a given environment providing opportunities and obstacles which the policy was proposed to utilise and overcome in an effort to reach a goal, realise an objective or purpose.

From these definitions, it is clear that public policies are governmental decisions,

and are actually the result of activities which the government undertakes in pursuance of certain goals and objectives. It can also be said that public policy formulation and implementation involves a well-planned pattern or course of activity. It requires a thoroughly close knit relation and interaction between the important governmental agencies.

Attributes of Public Policies:

1) Public Policies are goal oriented. Public policies are formulated and implemented in order to attain the objectives which the government has in view for the ultimate benefit of the masses in general. These policies clearly spell out the programmes of government.

2) Public policy is the outcome of the government's collective actions. It means that it is a pattern or course of activity of the governmental officials and actors in a collective sense than being termed as their discrete and segregated decisions.

3) Public policy is what the government actually decides or chooses to do. It is the relationship of the government units to the specific field of political environment in a given administrative system. It can take a variety of forms like law, ordinances, court decisions, executive orders, decisions etc.

4) Public policy is positive in the sense that it depicts the concern of the government and involves its action to a particular problem on which the policy is made. It has the sanction of law and authority behind it. Negatively, it involves decisions by the governmental officials regarding not taking any action on a particular issue.

All these said, public policy must address the critical issues of poverty. The essence of governance is to pilot wealth creation for the uplifting of the standard of living of its subjects within its jurisdiction. It is said that while absolute poverty means that people cannot get even the basics for survival, most public policies are geared toward relative poverty, where people do not have the same quality of living as the rest of society. The government's definition of poverty is based on income but poverty is much more than income as already noted in this thesis.

3. Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development have been defined simply as development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable development encompasses the broad spectrum of economic development, social development, environmental protection.

Sustainable development is a concept that emanated from agricultural practices but have found application in general development, particularly in socio economic development. The United Nations for instance developed 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal.

Sustainable development is an organizing principle for meeting human development goals while also sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/what-is-esd/sd>

(United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 1987, p. 43).

A broad definition of sustainable development must not limit the scope of sustainability. The explanation does, however, touch on the importance of intergenerational equity. This concept of conserving resources for future generations is one of the major features that distinguish sustainable development policy from traditional environmental policy, which also seeks to internalise the externalities of environmental degradation. The overall goal of sustainable development is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgement of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision making process.

4. Interrelationship of concepts

Poverty, Public Policy, Sustainable Development are interacting variables in the elimination of poverty.

The 2030 Global Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

It is inconceivable mirage to expect meaningful development sustainability without the intractability of purposeful targeted policies to tackle mass poverty head-on.

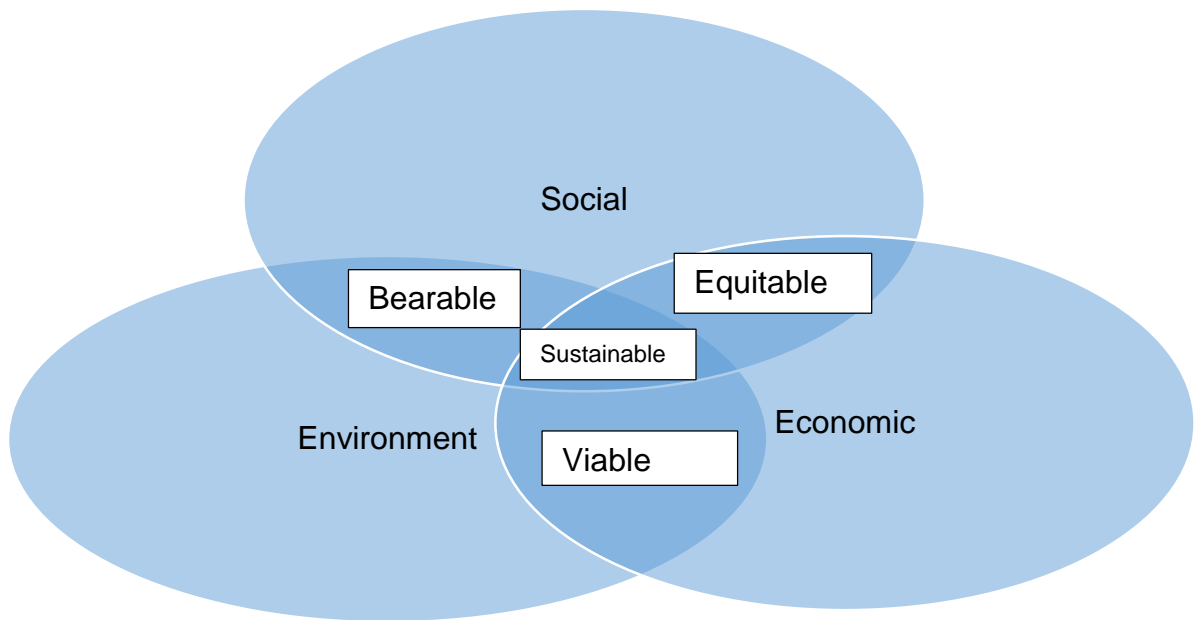
Poverty destroy sustainable development, lack of sustainable development further worsen abject poverty. Without commitment to scientific policy formulation to diagnose and cure the disease of poverty, no poor nation can make meaningful

progress in the quest for development – economic development, social transformation and prosperity.

Poverty alleviation or elimination policies at either the levels of individuals, community and the general governmental system structure must formulate a well-defined and coordinated targeted policies to achieve the desired end point of sustainable development. Development must not be euphoric but enduring to transcend intergenerational. Resources must not be exploited to the detriment of future generations without investing in their welfare as much as at the present.

Levels of poverty, marked-up goals for desirable development identified, backed up by well-defined policies to achieve sustainable development are key intervening variables.

SUSTAINABLE MODEL



The attainable goal is the point of sustainability where all the factors intercept. It is a point of maximal returns for all, in a sustainable manner that do not harm the environment and future generations. This is the level where the returns on investments is not only viable, but it's also equitable and bearable to the environment. Prosperity is sustainable over generations.

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CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON POVERTY

The negative fear of the consequences of poverty influenced the early writers of the classical school of thought. Herbert Spencer (1894) – an English social philosopher, argued in his own words that “Poverty purifies society, the manifestation of incapable, the distress that come upon the imprudent, the starvation of the idle, and those shouldrings aside of the weak by the strong which leave so many in shallow and miseries are the decrees of a large, far-seeing benevolence”. Herbert Spencer goes on to call all those sympathetic to the course of the poor as “Disabled by sympathies with the present suffering, from duly regarding ultimate consequences, they pursue a course which is very injudicious, and in the end even cruel. We do not consider it true kindness in a mother to gratify her child with sweetness that are certain to make it ill.... Similarly, we must call those spurious philanthropists, who to prevent present misery, would entail greater misery upon future generations....”

William Graham Sumner (1879) – a professor of political and social science of Yale USA writing on the theory of survival of the fittest assert that “many (most of whom are economists) seem to be terrified to find that distress and misery still remain on earth and promise to remain as long as the vices of human nature remain.

That many are frightened at liberty, especially under the form of competition, which they elevate into a bugbear. They think that it bears harshly on the weak..... They do not perceive, that if we do not like the survival of fittest, we have only one possible alternative, and that is the survival of the unfittest. That the former is the law of civilisation, the latter is the law of anticivilisation.”

Other leading social theories of the past is the one eminently represented by Thomas Malthus. They claimed that only the need for the bare necessities of life induced the labouring poor to produce luxuries, indeed to work at all. Labourers were considered as a subhuman species that would work only if driven by what Howells called “the dread of want”. Fortified by the Malthusian population postulate that poverty stimulated high birth rates and the spurious psychology that labourers had an innately high propensity toward indolence. The classical subsistence doctrine implied that all productive efforts exerted by the need to maintain a bare level of subsistence. If labourers as a social class rose above this level, indolence would reign supreme. The provision for subsistence living through public policy such as poor laws or even through private charity would, by destroying the fear of want, destroy the incentive to work.

The social Darwinists considered that the poor deserved what they got, because of their own individual deficiencies, which in all likelihood, stemmed from the individual’s innate defects. Such individuals were inherently unfit, perhaps even unfit to survive. On the other side of the coin were, the fit, whose material achievements provided sufficient proof of fitness.

According to this traditional view, the greatest deficiency on the part of the poor was their presumed irrational propensity to proliferate. That this “population principle” guaranteed poverty for the masses. Malthus first essay indeed offered no hope for the poor whom he called “irrational animals”. In his later editions, Malthus modified his postulations by introducing the softer notion of what he called the “preventive check”.

By contrast, John Stuart Mill (1848) – an English philosopher and economist in his essay “Caring for the unfit: The Poor Law” advocated that for an entire generation the state should arrange for the labouring classes to have a taste of higher level of living.

Mill sensed what we now more strongly hold today: that rising living levels provide incentives to reduce the average family size among the wage earning classes. This is why Malthusianism today applies mainly in the “vicious circle cultures of the depressed areas and the poor regions.” Population argument was therefore a cornerstone in the traditional doctrine of inevitable mass poverty. J. S. Mill further stated that “it would be possible for the state to guarantee employment at ample wages to all who are born but only by providing that no person shall be born without its consent. If the ordinary and spontaneous motives to self-restraint are removed, others must be substituted including restrictions on marriage. To give profusely to the people, whether under such influences that prudential motives shall act powerfully upon them, is to lavish the means of benefiting mankind, without attaining the object.”

George Gallup is an American Institute of Public Opinion. Its spring 1964 report published this nationwide findings on this question – “In your opinion, which is more often to blame if a person is poor, lack of effort on his own part, or circumstances beyond his control?.

FINDINGS

TABLE 1

CAUSE OF POVERTY

LACK OF EFFORT	54%
CIRCUMSTANCES.	46%

Those who believe that poverty is primarily due to lack of effort, are more likely to be a Republican than a Democrat. Those who believe it is due to circumstances are more likely to be a Democrat than a Republican.

TABLE 2

CAUSE OF POVERTY

	Republican.	Democrat.	Independents
Lack of effort.	64%.	47%.	62%
Circumstances.	36%.	53%.	38%

Three deductions were also observed.

- a) That among those persons with income of \$10,000 and over, more blame lack of effort than blame circumstances.
- b) That among those persons with incomes of \$3,000, more cite circumstances as the cause of poverty than lack of effort.
- c) That those persons with the most education, who perhaps have had better opportunities tend to cite lack of effort as the major reason for a person being in poverty.

The socio-political-economic dimensions of all these concepts point to one fact, that the socio-political-economic environment of the country and of the individuals mold the attitude toward poverty alleviation and its elimination.

Even in the 21st Century, the Inaugural address of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in January 20, 1937 is still real. As much as it is still applicable to United States, it is equally so to Nigeria and indeed to many nations of the world.

Roosevelt – “I see a great nation, upon a great continent, blessed with a great wealth of natural resources..... I see a United States which can demonstrate that, under democratic methods of government, national wealth can be translated into a spreading volume of human comforts hitherto unknown, and the lowest standard of living can be raised far above the level of mere subsistence. But here is the challenge to democracy: In this nation: I see tens of million of its citizens – a substantial part of its whole population – who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standard of today call the necessities of life.

I see millions of families trying to live on income so meagre that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day.

I see millions lacking the means to buy the products of farm and factory and by their poverty denying work and productiveness to many other millions (negative multiplier effect).

I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. (Obviously Nigeria of today present a more grievous poverty index statistics).

It is not in despair that I paint you that picture. I paint it for you in hope – because the nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out. We are determined to make every American citizen (as indeed every Nigerian citizen) the subject of his own country's interest and concern, and we will never regard any faithful, law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous. The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson continuing from where his predecessors stopped presented a message on poverty in March 16, 1964 titled “The Great Unfinished Work of Our Society”. (Nigeria has the same potentials if not greater natural, materials, and human resources to make this bold assertion).

Johnson reminded his audience that a few years back, United States was a poor country struggling for survival on the margin of a hostile land. He went on to deliver his speech on poverty elimination:

“Today we have established a civilisation of free men which spans an entire continent. (Nigeria horizon therefore need to be inclusive of the whole African continent starting as it has, but with greater vigour, the West African Sub-Region).

With the growth of our Country has come opportunity for our people – opportunity to educate our children, to use our energies in productive work, to increase our leisure – opportunity for almost every American (hopefully every Nigerian), to hope that through work and talent he could create a better life for himself and his family.

The path forward has not been an easy one. But we have never lost sight of our goal; an American goal, (a Nigerian goal), in which every citizen shares all the opportunities of his society, in which every man has a chance to advance his welfare to the limit of his capacities.

We have come a long way toward this goal. We have a long way to go. The distance which remains is the measure of the great unfinished work of our society. (In the case of Nigeria, it is considerable but not insurmountable). To finish that work, I have called for a national war on poverty. Our objective: total victory.

There are millions of Americans – one fifth of our people – (In Nigeria, a conservative estimate is around two-third of a population estimate of two hundred and ten million plus people (still counting). Half of the populace are in absolute or abject or chronic poverty category who have not shared in the abundance which has been granted to some of us, and on whom the gates of opportunity have been closed.

What does this poverty mean to those who endure it? It means a daily struggle to secure the necessities for even a meagre existence. It means that the abundance, the comforts, the opportunities they see all around them are beyond their grasp. Worst of all, it means hopelessness for the young. The young man or woman who grows up without a decent education, in a broken home, in a hostile and squalid environment, in ill-health or in the face of (social, tribal, ethnic, political, economic) injustice – that young man or woman often trapped in a life of poverty.

He does not have the skills demanded by a complex society. He faces a mounting sense of despair which drains initiative and ambition and energy.

Our tax cut (etc.) will create millions of new jobs – new exits from poverty. But we must also strike down all the barriers which keep many from using those exits.

The war on poverty is not a struggle simply to support people, to make them dependent on the generosity of others. It is a struggle to give people a chance. It is an effort to allow them to develop and use their capacities, as we have been allowed to develop and use ours, so that they can share, as others share in the promise of this nation. We do this, first of all, because it is right that we should.

From the establishment of public education and land grant colleges through agricultural extension and encouragement to industry, we have pursued the goal of a nation with full

and increasing opportunities for all its citizens. The war on poverty is a further step in that pursuit.

We do it also because helping some will increase the prosperity of all. Our fight against poverty will be an investment in the most valuable of our resources, the skills and strengths of our people. And in the future, as in the past, this investment will return its cost many fold to our entire economy.

In addition to raising the earnings of the poor significantly increasing national output, we can make important reductions in public assistance payments, and in the large costs of fighting crime and delinquency, disease and hunger etc.

Our history has proved that each time we broaden the base of abundance, given more people the chance to produce and consume, we create new industry, higher production, increased earnings and better income for all. Giving new opportunities to those who have little will enrich the lives of all the rest.

It is right, it is wise, it is possible to conquer poverty”.

HYPOTHETICAL STATEMENT: This hypothetical concept is the whole purpose of this essay – that it is possible to eliminate poverty through concerted policies to entrench sustainable development, raising the prosperity of all and of the country.

Alcock 1997:4 concept of poverty is also enlightening. His composite concept of poverty is illustrated with a concentric circles. He asserted that: Poverty needs to be seen as a composite concept, embracing the range of meanings. Need, Standard of living, Limited resources, Inequality, Economic position, Pattern of deprivation, Lack of entitlement, Social class, Lack of basic security, Exclusion, Dependency, Material conditions, Economic circumstances, Social position, Unacceptable hardship, are all his propositions

in the understanding of poverty as an agglomeration of intervening variables. These factors are mutually inclusive in the understanding of poverty.

Ted K. Bradshaw, August 2005 in “Theories of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs in Community Development”, explore how five competing theories of poverty shape anti-poverty strategies. These competing theories are:

a) **Poverty Caused by Individual Deficiencies.** This first theory of poverty is a large and multifaceted set of explanations that focus on the individual as responsible for their poverty situation. Typically, politically, conservative theoreticians blame individuals in poverty for creating their own problems, and argue that with harder work and better choices the poor could have avoided (and now can remedy) their problems. Other variations of the individual theory of poverty ascribe poverty to lack of genetic qualities such as intelligence that are not so easily reversed.

Asen, 2002:29-34 modified the theory by Horatio Alger that any individual can succeed by skills and hard work, and that motivation and persistence are all that are required to achieve success.

b) **Poverty Caused by Cultural Belief Systems that Support Sub-Cultures of Poverty.** This theory suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generations of a set of beliefs, values, and skills that are socially generated but individually held. Individuals are not necessarily to blame because they are victims of their dysfunctional subculture or culture. The culture of poverty theory explains how government antipoverty programs reward people who manipulate the policy and stay on welfare. The underlying argument of conservatives such as Charles Murray (1984) in “Loosing Ground” is that government welfare perpetuated poverty

by permitting a cycle of “welfare dependency” where poor families develop and pass on to others the skills needed to work the system rather than to gain paying employment. In Nigeria northern region where Islamic religion predominate, it is a taboo for some to send their children for western education where preference is for only Islamic education, e.g. Boko Haram ideology. Boko Haram meaning western education forbidden. This is institutionalisation of poverty to the victims. Alms begging is professionalised by the poor rather than engaging in productive ventures. (Ogundipe).

Valentine’s (1968) approach in solving this inherently poverty culture is apt for public policy formulation to poverty solutions. Approaches such as:

Poverty solution approaches

- i.** If one thinks of the culture of the poor as a dysfunctional system of beliefs and knowledge, the approach will be to replace that culture with a more functional culture that supports rather than undermines productive work, investment, and social responsibility.
- ii.** If one thinks of the culture of poverty as an opportunistic and nonproductive subculture that is perpetuated over generations, then the focus will shift to youth to stop the recreation of the detrimental culture.
- iii.** A third approach to the culture of poverty is to try to work within the culture to redefine culturally appropriate strategies to improve the group’s well-being.

c) **Poverty Caused by Economic, Political, and Social Distortions or Discrimination.**

Whereas the first “individualistic” theory of poverty is advocated by conservative thinkers and the second is a culturally liberal approach, the third is a progressive social theory. Theorists in this tradition look not to the individual as a source of poverty, but to the economic, political, and social system which causes people to have limited opportunities and resources with which to achieve income and well-being. “Poverty researchers have in effect focused on who loses out at the economic game, rather than addressing the fact that the game produces losers in the first place.” Rank, Yoon and Hirschl (2003: 4)

Recent research has confirmed the linkage between wealth and power, and has shown how poor people are less involved in political discussions, their interests are more vulnerable in the political process, and they are excluded at many levels. Coupled with racial discrimination, poor people lack influence in the political system that they might use to mobilise economic benefits and justice.

A final broad category of system flaws associated with poverty relate to groups of people being given a social stigma because of race, gender disability, religion, or other groupings, leading them to have limited opportunities regardless of personal capabilities.

d) **Poverty Caused by Geographical Disparities.**

Rural poverty, ghetto poverty, urban disinvestment, third-world poverty, and other framings of the problem represent a spatial characterisation of poverty that exists separate from other theories. While these geographically based theories of poverty

build on the other theories, this theory calls attention to the fact that people, institutions, and cultures in certain areas lack the objective resources needed to generate well-being and income, and that they lack the power to claim redistribution. Explanations abound in the development literature about why regions lack the economic base to compete. One theoretical perspective is on spatial concentrations of poverty that comes from economic agglomeration theory where concentrations of industries bring development but also on the negative side, attract squalor areas inhabiting the poor and entrenching culture of poverty in the ghetto suburbs or called slums areas in some climes.

e) Poverty Caused by Cumulative and Cyclical Interdependencies.

This theory looks at the individual and their community as caught up in a spiral of opportunities and problems, and that once problems dominate, they close other opportunities and create a cumulative set of problems that make any effective response nearly impossible. The cyclical explanation explicitly looks at individual situations and community resources as mutually dependent, with a faltering economy, for example, creating individuals who lack resources to participate in the economy, which makes economic survival even harder for the community since people pay fewer taxes.

This theory has its origins in the work of Myrdal (1957:23) who developed a theory of “interlocking, circular, interdependence within a process of cumulative causation” that helps explain economic underdevelopment and development. Myrdal notes that personal and community well-being are closely linked in a cascade of negative consequences, and that closure of a factory or other crisis

can lead to a cascade of personal and community problems including migration of people from a community. Thus the interdependence of factors creating poverty actually accelerates once a cycle of decline is started.

Jonathan Sher (1977) focus is on the cycle by which education and employment at the community and individual level interact to create a spiral of disinvestment and decline, while in advancing communities the same factors contribute to growth and well-being. For example, firstly at the community level, a lack of employment opportunities leads to outmigration, closing retail stores, and declining local tax revenues, which leads to deterioration of the schools, which leads to poorly trained workers, leading firms not to be able to utilise cutting edge technology and to the inability to recruit new firms to the area, which leads back to a greater lack of employment. Secondly, this cycle also repeats itself at the individual level. The lack of employment leads to lack of consumption and spending due to inadequate incomes, and to inadequate savings, which means that individuals cannot invest in training, and individuals also lack the ability to invest in businesses or to start their own businesses, which leads to lack of expansion, erosion of markets, and disinvestment, all of which contribute back to more inadequate community opportunities.

At individual level, people who lack ample income fail to invest in their childrens' education, the children do not learn as well in poor quality schools and they fall further behind when they go to get jobs. They also are vulnerable to illness and poor medical care.

The third cycle of poverty is the perspective that individual lack of jobs and

income leads to deteriorating self-confidence, weak motivation, and depression. The psychological problems of individuals are reinforced by association with other individuals, leading to a culture of despair, perhaps a culture of poverty under some circumstances. In rural communities this culture of despair affects leaders as well, generating a sense of hopelessness and fatalism among community leaders.

Poverty theory addresses individuals, their culture, the social system in which they are embedded, the place in which they live, and the interconnection among the different factors suggests that different theories of poverty look at community and individual needs from quite different perspectives. The diversity and complexity of causes of poverty allow for these multiple points of view.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON PUBLIC POLICY

Conception of public policy can be identified with a political scientist, James E. Anderson (1997) who defines policy as a relatively stable, purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or a matter of concern. This statement focuses on what is actually done instead of what is only proposed or intended, and it differentiates a policy from mere decision, which is essentially a choice among competing alternatives. Public policy, therefore, is that policy developed and implemented by government agency and officials, though non-state actors and factors may influence its process. The scope and content of public policies will obviously vary from country to country, depending on the system of government and ideology in force in that country. In most developing countries where so much is expected of government and where

government actions transcend virtually all aspects of life of the citizens, the range of public policies is usually very broad and almost unlimited. Adam A. Anyebe (2018).

Generally, public policy scholars have structured public policy theories into different models. These are incremental model, rational model, process model, public choice model, institutional model, political system model, group model, and elite model (Dye, 2013). This research thesis by Ogundipe examine these models:

a. Rational Model (Rationalism)

The founder of the rational model, Herbert A Simon (1976), defines rationality as “a style of behavior that is appropriate to the achievements of given goals, within the limits imposed by given conditions and constraints”. A rational model suggests that the administration should adopt such policies that can acquire maximum benefits at lower costs. Maximum social gains are achieved in the rational theory. The maximum social gain means that if the cost of any policy is exceeded over its benefits, that policy should not be adopted. The policy decision-makers should have to choose the alternate policy that can produce the utmost benefits over cost. This approach is based on economic principles such as the cost-benefit analysis. Policy-makers using this model are expected to take the following steps:

- i. Identify all the value preferences currently existing in a society.
- ii. Assign each value a relative weight,
- iii. Discover all the alternative policies available to accomplish these values,
- iv. Know all the costs and consequences of each alternative policy,
- v. Select the best alternative which is also the most efficient in terms of the costs and benefits of social values.

b. Incremental Model

Charles Lindblom is associated with this model. He contends that incrementalism is the typical policy-making in pluralist societies such as the United States and Nigeria. Decisions and policies are the product of give and take and mutual consent among numerous participants in the policy process. Public policy is considered as a continuation of a former policy with minor alterations, policies, programs, and expenditures. Incremental decisions involve limited changes or additions to existing policies. According to this approach, the policy-makers examine a limited number of policy alternatives and implement change in a series of small steps. Each of the alternatives available to the policy-maker represents only a small change in the status quo of existing policy.

This approach recognises the less than ideal circumstances under which administrators must make policies. There are very real limits of time, brains, knowledge, money etc. on administrator's ability to understand complex problems and make different policies about them. Because of these limitations, the policy-makers, though they try to be rational, accept the past policies that satisfy them as legitimate and suffice to deal with the issue.

Anyebe (2018) posit that 'Incrementalism is politically expedient because it is easier to reach agreement when the matters in dispute among various groups are only limited modifications of existing programmes rather than policy issues of great magnitude or of an all-or-nothing character'. Because policy makers operate under conditions of uncertainty about the future consequences of their actions, incremental decisions tend to reduce the risks and cost of uncertainty.

Incrementalism is also realistic because it recognises that policy makers lack the time, intelligence, and other resources needed to engage in comprehensive analysis of all alternative solutions to existing problems. Moreover, people are essentially pragmatic seeking not always a single best way to deal with a problem but, more modestly, something that would work. Incrementalism is concerned with utilising limited analysis to yield limited, practical, acceptable decisions.

The criticism for this model is that it is based on past actions and existing programmes and to limited changes in them, incrementalism may discourage the search for or use of other readily available alternatives (Anderson, 1997).

Incremental policy formulation is too common in Nigeria which often fail to address the needs for radical policy needed for positive transformation of present and future requirements (Ogundipe).

c. Elite Model

According to the elite model, public policy is regarded as the preferences and ethics of the elite class which govern the nation. According to the assumption of this model, policy decisions are the sole responsibility of a small elite group (commonly known as government). Policies flow downward from elites to masses; they do not arise from masses' demands.

The elite group is divided into governing and non-governing ones. This model is based on the assumption that the few that possess unique qualities such as skills, material wealth, cunning and intelligence have the rights to supreme leadership, while the bulk of the population (masses) is destined to be ruled. Thus social classes are formed (Obi et al, 2008). This assumption is very popular with the

Nigeria political elites particularly those of the political school of thought of a Nigerian politician Bola Tinubu, (Ogundipe). In other words, according to this theory, the elites simply believe that they alone have the ability to determine the policies to promote the welfare of the masses and implement them. Thus policies flow downward from the elites to the masses. The policies made by the elites reflect elites values and prefer status quo to radical changes.

Professors Thomas Dye and Harmon Zeigler (1990), provide a summary of elite theory:

- I. Society is divided into the few who have power and the many who do not have. Only small number of persons allocate values for society; the masses do not decide public policy.
- II. The few who govern are not typical of the masses who are governed. Elites are drawn disproportionately from upper socio-economic strata of society.
- III. The movement of non-elites to elite positions must be slow and continuous to maintain stability and avoid revolution. Only non-elites who have accepted the basic elite consensus can be admitted to governing circles.
- IV. Elites share a consensus on the basic values of the social system and the preservations of the system.
- V. Public policy does not reflect demands of the masses but rather the prevailing values of the elite. Changes in public policy will be incremental rather than revolutionary. Incremental changes permit responses to events that threaten a social system with a minimum of alteration or dislocation of the system.

VI. Active elites are subject to relatively little direct influence from apathetic masses. Elites influence masses more than the masses influence elites (Dye and Zeigler, 1990).

Dye (1981) summarises the implication of this theory as indicating that public policy reflects elite values, serves elite ends, and is a product of the elite. It assume that the general citizenry or the masses are apathetic and ill-informed and do not determine or influence policy through their demands or actions. The elite assume that the masses do not know what is good for them and for the country. What can be farther from the reality? How can he who does not wear the shoe know where it pinches more than the wearers? Maybe so, but policy outcome should justify.

d. Group Model

This model recognise that there are different groups in the society and each group struggle to be predominant. Each group tries to put its interests on priority front burner for attention over others. The policy outcome of these contending groups is therefore nothing but compromised point. In essence, the outcome is palliative rather than the needed revolutionary policy needs to actualise positive solutions to societal problems (Ogundipe). Public policy is thus a temporary point of compromise reached in the course of competition between mosaics of numerous interest groups with cross-cutting membership. The ability of the group that is favoured at one point to sustain its gain depends on its power to counteract the powers of other groups that would make efforts to tilt decisions to their favour. It is this type of competition between groups that determine pattern of allocation of

societal resources (Enemu,1999:24). The locus of power in the society changes from time to time, depending upon the group that succeeds in exerting its own supremacy over the others. Accordingly, the power to determine policy direction changes with the changes in the fortunes of each or a combination of these groups. The power to dominate policy decision is dependent on group solidarity and power, the dynamics of the policy process is expected to be more vibrant and fierce in plural societies as in Nigeria than in homogenous ones. In such societies the ability of a group to tilt the policy to its favour depends on a number of factors, prominent among which are:

- I. Wealth
- II. Organisational skill
- III. Leadership quality
- IV. Bargaining skill
- V. Access to decision-makers or in Nigerian parlance “connection
- VI. A modicum of luck
- VII. Majority in parliament

The power of lobby is often complemented by the degree of visibility of the lobbyist. Persons that are well known and respected in society could easily influence decision makers to support their ideas in parliament. In the Nigerian parlance it is said that those with proper “connection” with those in the corridor of power could easily get their request granted by the legislators or by the executive. The connection could be political, economic or socio-cultural in the form of ex-school mates, same ethnic group or religious affiliation. Dahl

observes that the good thing about pluralism is that no single group has monopoly over all these resources (Anderson, 1997). The equilibrium point will thus continue to shift position as different groups manipulate these resources to get public policies to their favour, either singly or in concert with other groups that share common interest with them.

e. Systems Model

Political system is that system of interactions in any society through which authoritative allocations are made and implemented in the form of policies and decisions. Public policy may also be seen as a political system's response to demands arising from its environment. The political system, as Easton defines it, comprises those identifiable and interrelated institutions and activities that are viewed as government institutions and political processes in a society that make authoritative allocations of values (decisions) that are binding on society (Anderson, 1997). Political institutions as the legislature, the executive, the courts, the agencies of government. These are all parts of the institution of government. Inputs into the political system from the environment consist of demands and supports while outputs include laws, rules, judicial decisions, and the like. In other words, systems theory conceives public policy as the response of the political system to demands from its environment.

Anderson opt cite, observed that the usefulness of the systems theory in studying public policy is limited by its highly general and abstract nature. It does not, moreover, say much about the procedures and processes by which decisions are made and policy is developed within the political system. Indeed, systems theory

results are sometimes characterised as input-output studies. Nonetheless, this approach can be helpful in organising inquiry into policy formation, it also alerts us to some important facets of the political process, such as:

- I. How do inputs from the environment affect the content of public policy and the operation of the political system?
- II. How in turn does public policy affect the environment and the subsequent demands for policy actions?
- III. How well is the political system able to convert demands into public policy and preserve itself over time.

f. Institutional Model

One of the oldest concerns of political science and public administration is the study of government institutions since political life generally revolves around them. These institutions include legislatures, executives and judiciary; and public policy is authoritatively formulated and executed by them. This approach concentrates on describing the more formal and legal aspects of government institutions: their formal structure, legal powers, procedural rules, and functions, just as well as the interrelationship between different organs of government in Nigeria,

The primary institutions that would be the focus of policy analysis are invariably the legislative body, the executive and the courts. Institutional structures, arrangements, and procedures often have important consequences for the adoption and content of public policies. They provide part of the context for policy-making, which must be considered along with the more dynamic aspects of politics,

such as political parties, groups, and public opinion in policy study. By itself, however, institutional theory can provide only partial explanations of policy.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As highlighted earlier in this thesis, the United Nations System define sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs while exploiting the natural resources of the environment. This concept demands that it must be done in such a way that the environment can regenerate itself for the use of future generations. The future generations must share in the resources of their environmental eco-system.

Prosperity must not be a passing phase but that which is passed on to the future generations, (Ogundipe).

The goal of Sustainable Development evolves from pursuing the single goal of sustainable use of natural resources to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The representatives of 189 countries adopted the “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, which identified the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the development and elimination of extreme poverty as the focus, including eight key areas and 21 operational targets. These goals became an internationally recognised framework for guiding national development and cooperation over the next 15 years and provided guidance for the development of humanity in the new century.

In September 2015, more than 150 heads of state and government participated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The summit assessed the implementation of MDGs and adopted “Transforming our World — the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The agenda set out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), covering 17 focus areas and 169 specific targets. Compared to MDGs, SDGs changed the traditional concept of development fundamentally. Besides solely pursuing economic growth, SDGs put forward the concept of inclusive growth and Sustainable Development featuring coordinated economic, social, and environmental development.

Types of sustainable development

- a. natural capital,
- b. manufactured capital,
- c. human capital,
- d. social capital .

Development strategies attempt to develop all of the foregoing capital classifications as single units and at the intersection developmental levels. The resultant goal of sustainable development could be scored as Weak, Strong, or Absurdly Strong.

Weak sustainability is a human-centered view that natural capital can be replaced by manufactured capital. Weak sustainability considers the total amount of manufactured capital and natural capital as the most important. Therefore, as long as the total amount of capital increases in the process of development, even if the natural capital degrades to an unrecoverable state, it is still sustainable.

Strong Sustainability is a nature-centered view that natural capital plays an irreplaceable role in production and consumption. This concept is mainly based on the steady-state economic theory that manufactured capital cannot be duplicated without the input of natural capital. Therefore, the process of development should not only require an increase in the total amount of capital, but also require the rationality of the capital structure and not crossing ecological thresholds. Moreover, economic development should not exceed the natural limit.

Absurdly strong sustainability not only believes that natural capital cannot be replaced by manufactured capital, but also believes that the exploitation and utilisation of ecosystems should be eliminated altogether. After the science of sustainable development was developed, some radical environmentalists put forward the view that human beings and other species are equal. They believe that human beings should develop without changing the status quo of nature. Even more extremely, those radical environmentalists advocate a non-development of human society in exchange for the restoration and maintenance of nature, but such concept is unrealistic. The goal is to maintain a balance between human development and the regeneration of the environment, otherwise whatever is termed development by reckless environmental and ecosystem exploitation will be counterproductive to sustainable development, (Ogundipe).

By 2015, the 15-year time limit for MDGs had expired, and unprecedented results have been achieved worldwide, making MDGs the most successful global anti-poverty program in history.

In developing areas, the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 1.9 billion to 836 million; the proportion of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 47% in 1990 to 14% by 2015.

In 2015; the net enrollment rate of primary schools in developing regions increased from 83% in 2000 to 91% in 2015; the global under-five mortality rate dropped from 9% in 1990 to 4.3% in 2015; the proportion of the global population has access to improved drinking water source increased from 76% to 91%. (Source: United Nations 2015 Report).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Based on the experience of MDGs, the UN adopted SDGs in 2015. SDGs incorporate six elements: dignity, human beings, the planet, prosperity, justice, and partnership. SDGs are comprised of 17 goals and 169 sub-goals to guide the Sustainable Development for all regions, including developed and developing countries.

in the next 15 years SDGs can be divided into four aspects: economy (goals 8, 9, 10, and 12), society (goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 11, and 16), environment (goals 2, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15), and governance goal 17.

SDGs have been compared with MDGs by scholars, and the main differences are as follows:

Differences between MDG and SDG

- 1) SDGs are more universal than MDGs. MDGs were mainly targeted at developing countries, while SDGs cover countries with high, middle, and low income.
- 2) SDGs are more comprehensive and specific than MDGs. For example, both of them attached great importance to global environmental security, but MDGs generally put forward “ensuring environmental sustainability”, while SDGs put forward specific goals

such as combating climate change, conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources, etc.

3) SDGs have higher standards than MDGs. For example, the goal of MDGs for poverty is to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”, while the goal of SDGs is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”. Moreover, while MDGs focused on a higher enrollment rate of school, SDGs propose to improve the quality of education.

4) SDGs pay more attention to the bidirectional nature of cooperation than MDGs did. MDGs emphasised sending aid from developed countries to developing countries, while SDGs emphasise subjective initiative and responsibility of all parties.

5) Data revolution. Goal 17 of SDGs proposes to enhance the ability to obtain high-quality, timely, and reliable data. This concept was not mentioned in MDGs.

6) Transformation of the development paradigm. Compared with the MDGs, SDGs call on people who live in extreme poverty in developing countries to not only survive, but also live with dignity.

The core purpose of SDGs is that in the process of achieving poverty alleviation and promoting economic development, people should not survive at the cost of damaging the ecological environment, and must adhere to and implement the concept of Sustainable Development. Stafford-Smith et al, in “Integration: The key to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals”, Sustainable

Science, 2017, vol. 12, pg. 911–919.

Sustainable Development Evaluation: According to The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social

Affairs, over the past three years, the pace of progress in various development fields has been slow and uneven, making SDGs goals difficult to meet by 2030. Moreover, the lack of funding is one of the main obstacles to achieve SDGs. The report shows that in 2017, the net official development assistance was 146.6 billion dollars, a 0.6% decrease compared with that in 2016.

Official development assistance as a percentage of donor countries' Gross National Income (GNI) remained low at 0.31%. Thus, the international community needs to create conditions to mobilise countries to undertake internal tax reform and, on the other hand, the international community needs to combat tax evasion and the illegal outflow of capital. One other obvious critical set back to the progress recorded for SDG is the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19. More statistical authentic data and research is still needed in this regard across the globe but there is already the hint that it has set the wheel of progress recorded before the pandemic outbreak backward for global poverty elimination particularly in sub-Saharan Africa of which Nigeria is a key member, (Ogundipe).

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CHAPTER THREE

Padma Desai of the Delhi School of Economics and Harvard University USA is of the view that the third world, the poor societies is negatively important because of the massiveness of its poverty. The issue is why is it important because of its poverty? Its characteristics will help us to understand why and why we should urgently wage war, an all-round war against poverty.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR COUNTRIES:

Some of the common characteristics of poor countries or poor societies are:

1. Low Income
2. Low levels of living
3. Low levels of productivity
4. High rates of population growth and dependency burdens
5. High rising levels of unemployment and underemployment
6. Significant dependence on agricultural production and primary product exports
7. Dominance/dependence and vulnerability in international relations
8. Social exclusion of significant demographic strata from economic and power access
9. Hunger and malnutrition is the order of the day, the effects are:
 - a. Infant deaths
 - b. Organic brain damage
 - c. Retarded growth and retarded learning rates
 - d. Increased vulnerability to diseases

- e. Frustration and violence that may find outlet on the whole members of the society inclusive of the upper middle and the upper classes who are in the minority in such poor societies.

In underdeveloped nations, countries or societies, general levels of living tend to be very low for the vast majority of the people. This is true not only in relation to their counterparts in rich nations but often also in relation to small elite groups within their own societies. Those in the upper-middle and the upper class in the socio-political-economic life, who appropriate the resources of the nation to themselves, family, friends and cliques.

These low levels of living are manifested in the form of low incomes, inadequate housing, poor health, limited or no education, high infant mortality, low life and work expectancy, sometimes the worst of all, a general sense of hopelessness resulting in prostitution, street gangs and violence, armed robbery and hired assassins, banditry, terrorism, etc., as in Nigeria (Ogundipe 2000).

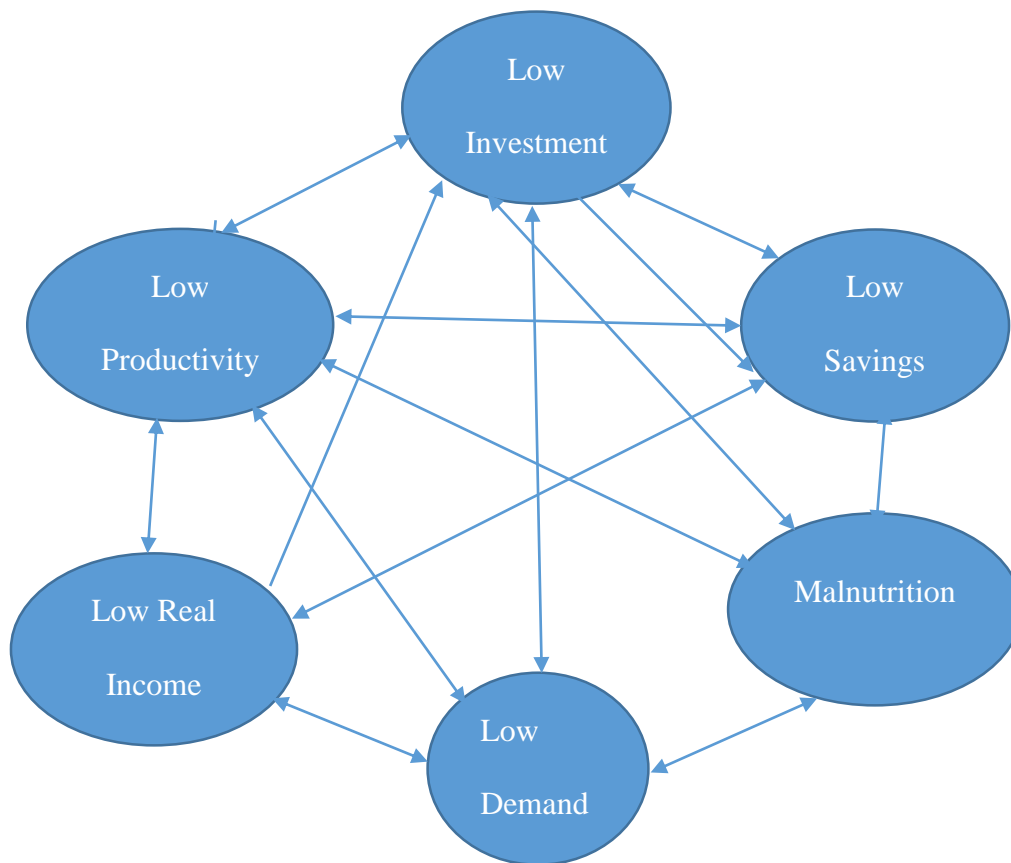
Caution however need to be exercised when classifying poor nations, countries or societies by its income index. Some societies have relatively high income both in terms of national income or income per capita but also on how that income is distributed among the population. Higher per capita incomes do not necessarily guarantee that there is no poverty problem. Extreme form of poverty can be equally serious in country with widely divergent per capita income levels. In addition to struggling on low incomes, many people in poor nations and societies as already pointed out fight a constant battle against malnutrition, disease, ill-health, and high infant/maternal mortality rate. Educational level too fair no better. In some societies, attempts have been made to improve significantly the provision of primary education or basic education. In this wise substantial share of

government budget have been allocated to it, yet literacy levels remain strikingly low compared with the developed nations. Something certainly must be wrong with the whole structure of the educational system that is breeding intolerable and inexcusable high rate of drop-outs. School graduates yet illiterate. The schools are inadequate and often with irrelevant curricular and facilities. In some societies, even the very poor are still required to provide benches and desks, books, teaching materials, etc, without any bursary allowance or subsidy. Teachers are poorly paid and their commitment very poor.

In most poor nations, the income is not only low, but there is equally slow growth rate. The income distribution do not reflect a society that is seriously concerned with human and national development. There is no society that can have a meaningful socio-economic development with the mass of the people excluded from the appropriation of resources but are rather socially, politically and economically excluded. They are made to continue to dwell or be consumed in penury and frustration without genuine hope of socio-political-economic advancement.

Most importantly, it is the interaction of all these characteristics which tends to reinforce and perpetuate problems of poverty, ignorance and disease that restrict the lives of so many people in the poor world and compound vicious circle of poverty.

VICIOUS CIRCLE OF POVERTY



The model only represent a few of the poverty variables or indices that interact with one another and are consequences of each other.

In their own work, Dewa K.S. Swastika and Yana Supriyatna , “The characteristics of poverty and its alleviation in Indonesia”, FORUM PENELITIAN AGRO EKONOMI, Volume 26 No.2, December 2008 : 103 – 115, re-emphasise the characteristics of Poverty in Indonesia as: (1) living in rural areas; (2) their family size are bigger than the Average; (3) their main source of income is agricultural sector; (4) lack of resources; (5) Low quality of human resource; (6) low income; (7) most of income is used for basic Needs; (8) tend to have food insecurity.

Blessing Gwashangwe and Hasharina (2020), assert that poverty has multiple dimensions; financial, economic, social, health, environment, and seasonal, which interlink with and reinforce each other.

According to the United Nations System, poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. In 2015, more than 736 million people lived below the international poverty line. Around 10 per cent of the world population (pre-pandemic) was living in extreme poverty and struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation, to name a few. There were 122 women aged 25 to 34 living in poverty for every 100 men of the same age group, and more than 160 million children were at risk of continuing to live in extreme poverty by 2030.

United Nations Poverty facts and figures:

According to the most recent estimates, in 2015, 10 percent of the world's population or 734 million people lived on less than \$1.90 a day.

Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 32 million and 26 million people, respectively, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic.

The share of the world's workers living in extreme poverty fell by half over the last decade: from 14.3 per cent in 2010 to 7.1 per cent in 2019.

Even before COVID-19, baseline projections suggested that 6 per cent of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of ending

poverty. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to push over 70 million people into extreme poverty.

One out of five children live in extreme poverty, and the negative effects of poverty and deprivation in the early years have ramifications that can last a lifetime.

In 2016, 55 per cent of the world's population – about 4 billion people – did not benefit from any form of social protection.

While pre-pandemic global poverty rates had been cut by more than half since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic could increase global poverty by as much as half a billion people, or 8% of the total human population.

Up to 42% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa continued to live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day while 70% live below \$3.20 per day. Female discrimination, government exclusion and access to education and work is still of great concern .

PROBLEMS OF POVERTY

From scholars conceptual framework on poverty to its characteristics, it has been established that the problems of poverty are numerous and multi-faceted. Problem of poverty is cyclical and not just lack of income, it's a systemic problem that affects all its structure. Treating only one aspect of the problem without attention paid to the whole is a systemic catastrophe that will soon breakdown. In the words of Ogundipe (2022), it is like treating a chronic disease symptoms without drastic attack on the virus. Poverty is not only an economic virus, it is also a social virus that consume a community or society with all kinds of maladies. The worst of poverty syndrome is that it could also be intergenerationally passed on from one generation to the other unless a radical cure by

way of drastic target policies to break away from its firmly gripped shackles are successfully implemented with positive results of sustainable prosperity. On the contrary, what is observed in the developing world is that government or even individuals are too cosmetic in their approach to poverty solutions. At best, such policies are only directed at scratching the surface of the huge poverty problems. They cannot eliminate need, poor income, social injustice, access to qualitative education, high tech skills acquisition, gender equality and inclusion. They do not adequately solve the problems of exclusion of marginalised social groups in the society such as the youths, the aged, religious groups and geographical areas different from that of the political elites in power from economics and governance, from access to good health, full employment, etc, the problems are just too numerous and affect each other.

Social, political and economic mobility of the poor is the only guarantee to true national development and prosperity, happiness and peace, stable government, genuine economic growth, security, democracy and private investments. Programmes for implementation must have a target and have within it an inbuilt mechanism to measure success or failure or even sabotage or corruption by the powerful elite groups who may refuse to understand the implications of societal dislocation through mass poverty. The limit of every programme must be realised in order for other programmes to be targeted at other social groups.

The failure of the private sector in most poor countries is the consequence of the failure of public sector. More discuss of this in chapter 6 of this thesis.

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CHAPTER FOUR

GLOBALISATION EFFECT ON POVERTY

It is a fact of history that humanity now live in "one big global village". Although, this is now being threatened by the Neo-Cold War between the US/West Alliance and Russia/China Cooperation bipolar blocs power rivalry. However, no nation or region of the world can survive economically in isolation from the other in the world of unipolar global market economy. Is unipolar system in itself a democratic market system of free choice? Does it respect healthy competition without warlike rivalry and punitive sanction against those in other trade and financial bloc? Is the concept of free entry and free exit without sanction real in a unipolar world. Whose world is unipolar? Is bipolar not a better alternative? Is it not more democratic respecting freedom of choice of trade and financial alliances? Is unipolar not the economic equivalence of political one party system instead of the more democratic two party system? It is apparent that Russia and China and many other developing nations are struggling to cope with unipolar world economy. These are countries outside the western regional blocs. They are complaining that the global free market system is heavily weighted to the advantage of the western bloc and their domination of the system. That the free market system is not free after all.

In a unipolar world of economic capitalism, any country that is outside this economic system may be worst off in poverty terms. Unfortunately however, the gains of unipolar economic world capitalism of free market system after the cold war era is now being reversed by power rivalry for world domination between the West and the East once again because in my view the post cold war relationships between the West and the East was not properly managed. There was too much emphasis on victor-vanquished syndrome

creating master and servant relationship hated deeply by Russia and China bloc. Hence the call for resuscitation of balance of power in world trade and finance relations, in bank payment system, in transport infrastructure without one having the predominant advantage of shutting the door against the other at will thereby ruining the wheel of global free market system and the concept of equality and equity in global free trade amongst nations of the world without negative encroachment of politicking based on political ideological differences and hate where politics of hate destroy world economy. The greatest negative impact of free trade disruptions are not the political elites but the poor. It is hoped that Russia and China on the one hand and US and the West on the other hand will close this existing warlike relationships that hinder free trade and investment. It is said that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffer. In this case, it is the poor developing world that will be hurt the most with the consequence of poverty increment. Unipolar world perhaps ought to mean world market integration promoted by free trade with equal access from different economic blocs and regions with equity but is this the case? The right world order doesn't seem to have emerged as believed. Could the solution be Chinese model of two systems in one? The Chinese entrance into world economic capitalism is creating the emergence of a viable alternative to western bloc brand of capitalism. The Chinese bloc of what I here describe as SOCIAL ECONOMIC CAPITALISM appears to be more fascinating to the developing world than the western model. It has brought with it world prosperity and elimination of poverty acknowledged by United Nations System. The goodness of the Chinese model of capitalism is that it converge at a central point with the western model. The only contention is that there is too much of monopolistic and dictatorial control of the management of the world economy

by the West through its Institutions and Agencies including even the United Nations itself in spite of the structure of the Security Council. Is democracy democratic without fair and healthy competition?

Is it possible to attempt to separate political system from economic system in International Relations? Can the world economic community be integrated without political empire dominance but create one where joint and equality of membership participation is guaranteed and is seen by regional blocs to be so in practicality? Is this a reality or a mere dream? The benefits of free trade is immense. It is what brought out close to a billion people out of extreme poverty before the covid19 pandemic outbreak. The regress is now being worsened by Russia/China vs US/West unhealthy rivalry, trade wars. No war of any kind is compatible with the agenda to bring out people from poverty. It not only worsen it, it creates it. Unipolar war of trade and financial exclusion against another emerging trade, financial, economic bloc is against world programme of global elimination of poverty not promoting it. The diverse wide world cannot all be under one bloc . What is important is for different blocs to competitively but be integrated together at a central convergence level of world economic capitalism while still giving room for political differences. Capitalism does not mean economic dictatorship but economic fair competition not threats and exclusion of competitors.

However, Henry Kissinger (1975), US Secretary of State, was excited in 1975. He made this statement: "I believe that with all the dislocations that we are now experiencing, there also exists an extraordinary opportunity to form for the first time in history a truly global society, carried by the principle of interdependence".

This global village is facilitated by the internet technology, and the information systems.

In this global village, there is the need to examine if there is a level play ground for all the competing actors within the social, political and economic environment to actualise themselves without one being disadvantaged or poor groups being subservient to other more prosperous ones.

1. Can the poor countries actively pursue policies to eliminate poverty and promote equality while remaining open to and dependent upon the public financial resources, private investments, imported products, the values, symbols, ideals, attitudes and institutions of advanced industrial countries?
2. Can growth with equity be realistically be pursued in isolation?
3. Can poor countries collectively become more self-reliant, masters of their own economic, social and political destinies while still actively participating increasingly interdependent, yet unequal global system?

In fact, Pius Okigbo (1998), noted “that globalisation carries with it three incipient that must be recognised:

1. Members of the global economy are unequal, hence the gains accruing to each partner will be unequal.
2. Players with inadequate purchasing power will be excluded from the so called free market.
3. Labour is debarred from operating globally as the developed countries set stricter barriers to entry of labour from the poor countries. “

In spite of all these problems, can the poor countries dare isolate themselves as Nigeria did under the military regime of of Abacha and countries like Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, finding it increasingly difficult to sustain socialism as a viable ideological

concept for economic growth? The answer is obvious from the experience of these cited cases - the consequence will be increased mass poverty. The sympathetic state of the poor who will bear the brunt of an all round sanctions against their impoverished and mismanaged countries will be great. Sanctions will be unleashed from the more affluent nations and their credit institutions such as IMF, World Bank, the Paris Club, etc, . Capital flights and Cold War on such countries are inevitable and disastrous to their economies. Even if it is possible to isolate a country from the global village, can government centralisation of the economy be an alternative to private sector led economy with its local and foreign private investments and arguably efficiency in resource management and allocations?

Ijewere (1999), was concerned with this problem. He argued that “in spite, of the four National Development Plans in Nigeria and many Rolling Plans that have been drawn since independence in 1960, not much has been achieved over time as many of the projects were either abandoned or found to be uneconomic after completion while Nigerians still live below the global poverty line in the midst of its abundant natural endowment If the principle of 'Shared Growth' is embedded in our system, if economic growth is designed to raise the standard of living of all citizens (including the poor), everyone must not only participate in the process of making it happen, they must be convinced that the distribution of the benefits will be equitable”.

Eze (1998), added that economic growth and development can only occur in a country through the joint efforts of its citizens (and this must include the majority poor) and the inflow of direct foreign investments.

While the proponents of globalisation hinges on the advantages of free trade and creation of wealth to all the participants, those in the poor regions are not so convinced. They believe that the advantages is skewed heavily in favour of the technologically advanced nations who benefits greatly from the expansion of market for their industrial goods.

Julia Heinze (2020), quoted this statistics provided by Martin Wolf in “Financial Times” – global economic integration made both poverty and inequality fall over the past two decades for the first time in 150 years, “a decline of people in the absolute poverty, fall from 31% of the world’s population to 20%” (Held and McGrew 2016, 441). This is further extended, as “between 1981 and 2001 the percentage of rural people living on less than \$1 a day decreased from 79 to 27 per cent in China, 63 to 42 per cent in India, and 55 to 11 per cent in Indonesia” (Bardhan 2006). Providing such data, one could conclude that globalisation has strongly contributed to the improvement of the economic and living situation in developing countries.

Nonetheless, it’s worth pointing out that China and India include over a third of the world’s population and are an example of the fastest growing developing countries. China is currently ranked as the second largest economy in the world with rising first class infrastructures. Through their rapid growth they succeeded in fighting poverty and reducing undernourishment, meanwhile in looking at sub-Saharan Africa there is still 23% of people living undernourished. Following this, if we take China out, the global economic situation has worsened in other parts of the developing world. For example, the poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa has risen from 290 million to 415 million and “at the end of the nineteenth century, the ratio of average income in the richest countries to middle income

in the poorest was 9 to 1” (Martell 2017, 138). In Sub Saharan Africa poverty is increasing not decreasing as in China and India.

MULTI-DIMENTIONAL APPROACH TO POVERTY ELIMINATION

For economic development or national prosperity to be relevant to the mass of the people its definition has to be refocused. This is the accepted position of modern scholars and well-meaning policy makers. Socio-economic development should be seen only in terms of the reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the context of a growing economy. How for instance has economic growth help to redistribute the national or societal resources to enhance the social and economic development of all its people including the poor in such a way that their humanity is protected and their productivity and purchasing power enhanced. It is in the interest of industrial growth to allow for high turnover of goods and services through the improvement of the life of the poor.

Prof. Dudley Seers (1969), contribution to the meaning of development at the 11th World Conference of the Society of International Development, New Delhi, suggested three fundamental questions to be asked about a country or society's development.

1. What has been happening to poverty?
2. What has been happening to unemployment?
3. What has been happening to inequality?

If all three of these have declined from high levels, beyond doubt, this 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 three have, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income doubled.

The importance of this contribution is that development or prosperity must be conceived of as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and elimination of poverty or abject poverty.

Prof. Goulet et al, opt cite, in his own contribution suggested three basic components or core values as a conceptual basis and practical guideline for understanding the inner meaning of development or prosperity.

1. Life-sustenance
2. Self-esteem
3. Freedom

The three core values according to him represent common goals sought by all individuals and societies.

Attaining these three core values is a state of:

- a. Rising per capita incomes,
- b. The elimination of abject poverty,
- c. Greater employment opportunities and
- d. Lessening income inequalities.

But all these constitute the necessary, but not the only conditions for development or prosperity. Development or prosperity is both a physical reality and a state of mind in which society has secured the means for obtaining a better life. Three objectives of development or prosperity therefore must be:

1. To increase the availability and widen the distribution of basic live-sustaining goods such as food, shelter, health and protection to all members of society.
2. To raise levels of living, including in addition to higher incomes, the provision of more jobs, better education and more attention to cultural and humanistic values.
To raise individual and societal or national self-esteem.
3. To expand the range of economic and social choice to individuals and nations by freeing them from servitude and dependence not only in relation to other people and nation-state but also to the forces of ignorance and human misery.

Aggregating Prof. Seers' and Prof. Goulet's contributions aroused three broader questions on development and societal prosperity.

1. Have general levels of living expanded within a nation to the extent that poverty i.e. deprivation of live-sustaining goods, the degree of inequality in income distribution, the level of employment and the nature and quality of educational, health and other social and cultural services have all improved?
2. Has economic progress enhanced individual and group esteem both internally vis-à-vis one another and externally vis-à-vis other nations and regions?
3. Has economic progress expanded the range of human choice and freed people from external dependence and internal servitude to other men and institutions, or has it merely substituted one form of dependence e.g. economic dependence for political dependence or cultural dependence?

If the answer to all the foregoing questions is yes then, these phenomena constitute real development or prosperity and the nation or society in which they are manifested can unquestionably be called developed or at least is on the road to becoming one.

The socio-economic change require the support of elite groups, the power brokers in the public as well as in the private sectors of the nation or society. Persuasion should be a better option but coercion cannot be ruled out in the overall interest of the stability of the socio-political-economic system.

Ogundipe (2000), Economic and social development and indeed political development or democratic development will be impossible without corresponding changes in the social, political and economic institutions of a state e.g.:

1. **Land allocation system** – such a way that both large scale farmers who are genuine and small scale peasant farmers have access to arable land. In Nigeria, the present land use act will have to be repealed or amended to suit the real purpose of decreeing it by the military regime of General Obasanjo in Nigeria in 1978 so as not to neglect the interest of independent peasant farmers. The displacement of peasant farmers have caused grievous socio-economic problems such as:
 - a. Mass exodus to Urban Centres where they live in worst off conditions,
 - b. High death rate, a certain consequence of abject poverty,
 - c. Low agricultural output in spite of the so called land acquisition for mechanised farming in the Third World which are hardly functional. Such land acquired are often in many cases diverted to other uses by land speculators.
2. **Educational structure:** It is obvious that a lot is wrong with the structure of education in poor countries. The system is still public sector oriented, the

graduates at all levels of education are hardly well-equipped for employment and integration in the formal and informal private sectors.

- a. A pertinent question is why should an indigent brilliant student drop-out of school on account of poverty?
 - b. Why should even a drop-out student not have a positive alternative opportunity to realise his or her innate potentials for his or her betterment and that of the general society?
 - c. Why must such drop-out from formal educational system degenerate into a menace and danger to the larger society?
 - d. When he or she does become one, why should there not be a well structured reformatory system to take care of such problems?
- 3. Labour market functions:** Emphasis is over-concentrated on the formal labour market. In a poor country or society where mass of its people can hardly fit into the system. The question again is:
- a. What is happening to the informal sector of the economy?
 - b. Why should a poor country rely on capital intensive mode of production and not labour intensive? Who are they competing with for industrial goods – the developed Western technologically advanced nations? Perhaps, they could open up their nations to be attractive as factories for genuine foreign manufacturers to gain technological transfer.
- 4. Distribution and control of physical and financial assets:** How for instance is government building projects executed and allocated? At what cost and to whom

is it allocated? Are social infrastructural and economic infrastructural projects well distributed to benefit the poor target group?

5. **Laws of taxation and inheritance:** Taxation system must be progressive to redistribute income and to take care of the welfare and social advancement of the poor.
6. **Provision of Credit:** Particularly micro-credit to the poor who have no collateral except perhaps their poverty and who cannot benefit from the existing formal and commercialised financial institutions. The fear has always been that such beneficiaries divert such funds into non-productive use. The problem however is that such credit often goes into wrong hands, not the abject poor. The risk factor of non-repayment of loan is least for the abject poor than it is for any other social groups. But the method of cooperative societies as a mechanism of group control and monitoring must be adopted.
7. **Provision of infrastructure:** Particularly constant and uninterrupted supply of electricity. The multiplier effect on self-employment generation for the artisans and others and even the formal private sector employment generation is great. Provision of functional and efficient, reliable communication system. We live in an age where economic prosperity is not possible without effective communication technology otherwise known as information technology and its applications. Good road network and transportation system is a sine-qua-non to generate mass employment.

Solutions to developmental problems is surely a very complex task than the over-simplified economic theories would lead us to believe. Increasing national production,

raising levels of living and promoting widespread employment opportunities are as much a function of the values, incentives, attitudes, beliefs, and the Institutional and power arrangements of a society, as they are the direct outcomes of the manipulation of strategic economic variables such as:

- a. Increased savings
- b. Increased investments
- c. Increased exports.

All aspects of the political structure, the social structure, religious structure and institutions must change and respond positively to the welfare and social mobility of the poor members of the society.

In poor countries, the poor are overwhelmingly in the majority. A truly democratic government cannot be in place without their support. But over the years where some rudiments of democratic institutions are in place, have they truly deliver to elevate the lot of this mass of underprivileged? Has it not been a case of paying lip service to better their lot? OR has the magnitude of the problem overwhelmed them?

The technological and economic system of the society, the power, authority, political institutions, the religious and educational institutions, the family structure, the social stratification of the society, the system of law, ethnicity and tribalism, urbanisation, politics, etc have they not all disappointed the poor masses? Has there been significant social change to respond to the need for restructuring?

These are key issues for attention. Without these radical changes in poor countries, social organisation and orientation in favour of the poor majority, economic development will continue to be a desired elusion. Ogundipe 2022.

Gwashangwe and Hassan (2020), in “Defining the characteristics of poverty and their implications for poverty analysis” assert that poverty has multiple dimensions – financial, economic, social, health, environment and seasonal – which interlink with and reinforce each other. Their observation agrees with all that have earlier been discussed.

POLICIES OPTIONS FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION

Again, the question is why do we need to attack poverty? Adam Smith (1776), answer is still relevant today and tomorrow it will still be relevant if poverty refused to be eliminated or all humanity refuse to eliminate it. Adam Smith postulated that “No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which by far the greater part of the members are poor and miserable”.

Montek S. Ahluwalia, a former staff of the World Bank realised that “the fact of poverty is not new: what is new is the suspicion that economic growth by itself may not solve or even alleviate the problem talk less of eliminating it.

Mahbub ul Haq (1971), of Pakistan in an article “Employment and Income Distribution in the 1970s: a new perspective in Development Digest” reminded us that in the old school “we were taught to take care of our Gross National Product (GNP) as this will take care of poverty. In simple terms, it was believed that once the Gross National Product increases, it is automatically a sign of national prosperity for all and poverty reduction. Is this always the case? This thesis examine it.

In all our economic plans, projects, act or what we do, socio-political organisation, the outcome must always be how does it better significantly the standard of life, in all totality, of the poor masses.

The major problem as have been highlighted is that the magnitude of abject poverty results from a combination of low per capita incomes and highly unequal distributions of that income. Theoretically, the higher the level of per capita income, the lower will be the numbers of the absolutely or abject or chronic poor but ironically higher levels of per capita income are no guarantee of lower levels of poverty.

An understanding of nature of size distribution of income, is central to any analysis of the poverty problem in poor countries and subsequently on how to attack the problem.

Direct attacks on poverty by means of poverty focused policies and plans appear to be more effective both in the short and longer runs but one cannot attack poverty directly without detailed knowledge of its location, extent and characteristics.

It is believed that about 75-80% of all target poverty groups are located in the rural areas of Africa and Asia and about 70% in Latin America. They are primarily engaged in agricultural and associated activities. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the poor scratch out their livelihood from subsistence agriculture either as small farmers or low-paid farm workers. The remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ are located partly on the fringes and marginal areas of Urban Centres where they engage in various forms of self-employment such as street-hawking, petty trading, petty services or small-scale commerce.

It is an irony of great concern that in spite of this rural concentration of abject poverty, the largest share of government expenditure has been directed towards the relatively affluent modern manufacturing, commercial sectors, residential areas whether in the realm of directly productive economic investments or in the fields of education, health, housing and other social services. This urbanisation approach, the urban modern sector bias in

government expenditure is at the core of many developmental problems. The approach is elitist and the benefits are for the elites.

Modern scholars in the fields of development and management now realise that unlike theories of economic growth rates, there is relatively little consensus on the strategy that can eliminate or greatly reduce the incidence of poverty. Problems of poverty and income distribution are largely political and institutional in origin, but also because the theoretical determinants of income distribution are poorly understood in developed countries towards which the bulk of existing socio-political-economic and management theories have emanated and directed, let alone the poor countries of the world.

The choice of development objectives in order to eliminate poverty is not between more growth and more equality but concerns the type of economic growth to pursue. Is it one that principally benefit the very rich or one in which the benefits are more widely distributed?

A principal development objective should be to generate a desired pattern of overall and broad-based income growth with special emphasis on accelerating the growth of incomes of target poverty groups.

Policy needs to tackle poverty is not for one or two isolated policies to scratch the surface, but for a whole lot of package of complementary and supportive policies including this thesis suggestions that:

1. A policy or set of policies be designed to correct factor price distortions. Getting the price right should help to contribute to greater productive efficiency, more employment and less poverty. However, care must be exercised not to overprice beyond affordability levels, otherwise, the exercise become counterproductive.

2. A policy or set of policies be designed to bring about far-reaching structural changes in the distribution of assets, power and access to education and associated income-earning opportunities. Such policies touch on the whole social, Institutional, cultural and political fabric of society as pointed out earlier. Introduction of such policies must be through established political processes without which the chances of significantly improving the living conditions of the masses of rural and urban poor will be highly improbable, perhaps even impossible.
3. A policy or set of policies be designed to modify the size distribution of income at the upper levels through the enforcement of legislated progressive taxation on incomes and wealth and at the lower levels through expanded provision of publically provided consumption of goods and services, through various methods of subsidy on such goods and services consumed by the targeted poor.
4. A policy or set of policies be designed to promote indigenous technological research and development on relevant poor world problems where emphasis is placed on finding efficient but mostly, labour intensive methods of providing low-cost health, housing and training services, improving small-scale agriculture and expanding urban and rural employment opportunities through efficient electricity supply, good communication network and good transportation network, etc.
5. A policy or set of policies be designed to give access to the masses of rural and urban poor to obtain micro-credit for self-employment and self-actualisation.

6. A policy or set of policies be designed to rehabilitate the able-destitute, social deviants and integrate them back into the society as responsible members of which he or she belongs and less crime and disorder.
7. A policy or set of policies be designed to encourage foreign investments and ease of doing business.
8. A policy or set of policies be designed to encourage diaspora investments in the economy, infrastructures private investment participation, etc, .
9. Developing countries as Nigeria key into SDG programmes to create sound policy frameworks at national and regional levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to ensure that by 2030 all men and women have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, entrepreneurship, etc, .

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CHAPTER FIVE

POVERTY IN AFFLUENCE IN NIGERIA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GOVERNANCE CORRUPTION.

Poverty in affluence is terminology I use here in this thesis to define Nigeria as a very rich country swimming in poverty it inflicted on self. Although, apologists of misgovernment, of mismanagement, of massive corruption of Nigeria's abundant natural and human capital resources will continue to shift the blame of underdevelopment on external factors.

Capacity of Nigeria's Economy

It is pertinent to examine the capacity of Nigeria's economy at this juncture.

The economy of Nigeria is classified by the World Bank as a lower middle-income, mixed economy and emerging market, with expanding manufacturing, financial, service, communications, technology and entertainment sectors. It is ranked as the 27th-largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP, and the 24th-largest in terms of purchasing power parity. Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa. The country's emerging manufacturing sector became the largest on the continent in 2013, and it produces a large proportion of goods and services for the region of West Africa.

The Atlas, a global economic analyst institution reported that Nigeria is known for its status as the largest country in Africa by population. Additionally, with a GDP of about \$1.118 trillion, the country has the largest economy on the continent and among the largest in the world. The largest industries which drive the country's economy and account for the bulk of its annual GDP are its petroleum, tourism, agriculture, and mining industries. The biggest industries in the country also employ a large number of the country's workforce with the agricultural industry alone employing about 30% of the

country's total labour force. These industries are also responsible for the bulk of the country's exports. The chief export commodities from Nigeria include petroleum, chemicals, palm oil, and cocoa. The total exports from the country are valued at \$40.81 billion each year. After emerging from a brutal and violent past and despite currently grappling with rampant corruption in government institutions, the country is on an upward trajectory, and its economic growth is a manifestation of this growth.

Petroleum Industry

The largest and most economically important industry in Nigeria is the country's petroleum industry. The country is among the top ten largest producers of oil globally and is the largest oil producer in the continent. Crude oil and petroleum products are the country's chief export commodities which account for over 98% of the country's annual exports. Oil exports generate an estimated 14% of Nigeria's GDP and are responsible for about 83% of the government's revenue. The prominence of the petroleum industry in Nigeria is evident on the immense oil deposits found in the country which are estimated to be over 16 billion barrels. Some sources have proven oil deposits in the country to be as high as 35 billion barrels. Oil was discovered in the country in the 1950s, but the history of oil exploration in the country goes back to the turn of the 20th Century. The bulk of the oil produced in the country is sourced from the Niger Delta region. The huge oil deposits found in the region has attracted giant multinationals to the country including Royal Dutch Shell whose oil production in Nigeria represents 50% of the country's total production. Other companies which have a presence in the country's petroleum industry include Agip, Chevron, Exxon-Mobil, and Total.

Problems Facing The Petroleum Industry

One problem that the industry currently faces is the theft of oil which is believed to cost the country potential revenues valued as much as \$10.9 billion. The industry also loses a significant amount of oil from oil spills. Old corroded tankers and pipelines are responsible for an estimated 50% of all the oil spills recorded in the country. Another reason behind the oil spills witnessed in the country is sabotage through the taping of oil pipelines by saboteurs who sell the oil in the black market. This illegal extraction of oil can lead to the destruction of the pipeline.

Tourism Industry

One of the key foreign exchange earning industries in Nigeria is the country's tourism industry. The country's diverse landscape and wildlife make it a prime tourist destination in West Africa. The southern part of the country consists of sandy beaches and tropical forests. The forests of the Yankari National Park are home to herds of elephants which are a rare spectacle in a country where elephants are critically endangered. However, the tourist attractions can also be found in the country's major cities.

More data about Nigeria

In addition, the debt-to-GDP ratio was 16.075% as of 2019.

Lagos is the financial and business centre of Nigeria. Its Currency is the Nigerian naira (NGN, ₦). It is affiliated with the following Trade organisations

AU, AfCFTA, ECOWAS, WTO.

Country group - Developing/Emerging

Lower-middle income economy

Population - 200,963,599 million

GDP - \$514.076 billion (nominal, 2021 est.); \$1.116 trillion (PPP, 2021 est.)

GDP rank - 26th (nominal, 2021); 24th (PPP, 2021)

GDP growth - 2.2% (2019); -3.0% (2020 est.); 1.5% (2021 est.)

GDP per capita - \$2,432 (nominal, 2021 est.); \$5,280 (PPP, 2021 est.)

GDP per capita rank - 162nd (nominal, 2021); 172nd (PPP, 2021)

GDP by sector - agriculture: 21.96%; industry: 23.65%; services: 54.39% (2020 est.)

Inflation (CPI) - 22.4% (2021 est.)

Population below poverty line - 40% (2020)

Gini coefficient - 35.1 medium (2020)

Human Development Index - 0.539 low (2019) (161st)

Labour force - 90,471,000 (Q3 2018)

Labour force by occupation - Accommodation, food, transportation and real estate: 12.2%

Education, health, science and technology: 6.3%

Farming, forestry and fishing: 30.5%

Manufacturing, mining and quarrying: 11.3%

Retail, maintenance, repair, and operations: 24.9%

Managerial, finance and insurance: 4.2%

Telecommunication, arts and entertainment: 1.8%

Other services: 8.8%

(2010)

Unemployment - 32.1% (Q1 2021)

Main industries:

cement, oil refining, construction and construction materials, food processing and food products, beverages and tobacco, textiles, apparel and footwear, pharmaceutical

products, wood products, pulp paper products, chemicals, ceramic products, plastic and rubber products, electrical and electronic products, base metals: iron and steel, information technology, automobile manufacturing, and other manufacturing (2015)

Ease-of-doing-business rank - 131st (medium, 2020)

External Exports - \$53.617 billion (2019)

Export goods

Petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, vehicles, aircraft parts, vessels, vegetable products, processed food, beverages, spirits and vinegar, cashew nuts, processed leather, cocoa, tobacco, aluminum alloys

(2015)

Main export partners

India 18%

United States 14%

Spain 9.7%

France 6.0%

Netherlands 4.9%

Germany 3.6%

(2017)

Imports - \$47.369 billion (2019)

Import goods

Industry supplies, machinery, appliances, vehicles, aircraft parts, chemicals, base metals

(2015)

Main import partners

China 28%

Luxembourg 8.9%

Netherlands 8.3%

South Korea 6.4%

United States 6.0%

India 4.6%

2017

FDI stock - \$116.9 billion (31 December 2017 est.); Abroad: \$16.93 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

Current account - \$10.38 billion (2017 est.)

Gross external debt - \$85.9 billion (31 December 2020 est.)

Public debt - 25.6% of GDP (2020 est.)

Budget balance - deficit

Credit rating - Standard & Poor's:

B+ (Domestic)

B+ (Foreign)

B+ (T&C Assessment)

Outlook: Stable

Fitch ratings: BB-

Outlook: Stable

Foreign reserves - \$38.77 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

Main data source: CIA World Fact Book

All values, unless otherwise stated, are in US dollars

NIGERIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES: What are natural resources?

Natural resources are commonly defined as the sources of wealth which appear naturally and are used by humans. They can be classified as renewable and non-renewable. Examples of renewable resources are animals and plants, while non-renewable resources are minerals, soils, and fossil fuels. Non-renewable resources are usually of fixed amounts, diminishable with their exploration. If at all, it can take ages for the earth to produce the new ones. The supply availability for these resources depends not only on natural deposits but for some require intensive high technology to explore them.

Mineral resources in Nigeria and their locations : Here is the list of the most frequent mineral resources in Nigeria, and the states where they usually can be found:

Bitumen – Lagos, Edo, Ondo, Ogun.

Coal – Ondo, Enugu.

Oil and gas – Akwa Ibom, Abia, Bayelsa, Edo, Delta, Rivers, Imo.

Gold – Edo, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Ijesha, Oyo.

Iron ore – Benue, Anambra, Kogi State, Kwara, Delta State.

Lead and zinc – Ebonyi, Benue, Ogoja, Kano.

Salt – Akwa Ibom, Abia, Ebonyi, Cross River.

Tin – Jos, Bauchi.

Limestone – Ogun, Kogi, Sokoto, Kano ,

Agricultural resources in Nigeria and their locations

Agricultural resources are extremely important for the country's economic purposes just like the mineral resources. They are classified as Cash crops as primary raw materials

for industrial production and Food crops that are not only used for export like the mineral ones, but they also can be consumed directly by Nigerian people for nutrition.

These agricultural resources can be found in these locations within Nigeria:

Cocoa – Edo, Anambra, Imo, Kwara, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Oyo.

Coffee – Kwara, Bauchi, Osun.

Cotton – Katsina, Kano, Niger, Kwara, Sokoto.

Groundnut – Ebonyi, Katsina, Sokoto, Kano, Niger.

Kola nut – Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Kwara.

Oil palm – Akwa Ibom, Imo, Anambra, Oyo, Aba.

Plantain – Ogun, Oyo, Osun.

Rubber – Delta, Cross River, Ogun, Edo.

Sugarcane – Sokoto.

Timber – Edo, Ogun, Delta.

Nigeria ranks sixth worldwide and first in Africa in farm output. The sector accounts for about 18% of GDP and almost one-third of employment. Nigeria has 19 million head of cattle, the largest in Africa. Though Nigeria is no longer a major exporter, due to local consumer boom, it is still a major producer of many agricultural products, including: cocoa, groundnuts (peanuts), rubber, and palm oil. Cocoa production, mostly from obsolete varieties and overage trees has increased from around 180,000 tons annually to 350,000 tons.

Major agricultural products include cassava (tapioca), corn, cocoa, millet, palm oil, peanuts, rice, rubber, sorghum, and yams, eggs, milk, beef and cereal, poultry, and pork, respectively. In the same year, the total fishing catch was 505.8 metric tons. Roundwood

removals totaled slightly less than 70 million cubic meters, and sawnwood production was estimated at 2 million cubic meters. The agricultural sector suffers from extremely low productivity, reflecting reliance on antiquated methods. Agriculture has failed to keep pace with Nigeria's rapid population growth, so that the country, which once exported food, now imports a significant amount of food to sustain itself. However, efforts are being made towards making the country food sufficient again.

Nigeria produced in 2018:

59.4 million tons of cassava (the largest producer in the world);

47.5 million tons of yams (largest producer in the world);

10.1 million tons of maize (14th largest producer in the world);

7.8 million tons of palm oil (4th largest producer in the world, second only to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand);

6.8 million tons of sorghum (2nd largest producer in the world, second only to the United States);

6.8 million tons of rice (14th largest producer in the world);

4 million tons of sweet potatoes (3rd largest producer in the world, second only to China and Malawi);

3.9 million tons of tomatoes (11th largest producer in the world);

3.3 million tons of taro (largest producer in the world);

3 million tons of plantains (5th largest producer in the world);

2.8 million tons of peanuts (3rd largest producer in the world, second only to China and India);

2.6 million tons of cowpeas (largest producer in the world);

2.2 million tons of millet (4th largest producer in the world, second only to India, Niger and Sudan);

2 million tons of okra (2nd largest producer in the world, second only to India);

1.6 million tons of pineapples (7th largest producer in the world);

1.4 million tons of sugarcane;

1.3 million tonnes of potatoes;

949 thousand tons of mangos (including mangosteen and guava);

938 thousand tons of onions;

833 thousand tons of papayas (6th largest producer in the world);

758 thousand tons of soy;

747 thousand tons of green peppers;

585 thousand tons of melon

572 thousand tons of sesame seeds (4th largest producer in the world, losing only to Sudan, Myanmar and India);

369 thousand tons of ginger (3rd largest producer in the world, losing only to India and China);

332 thousand tons of cocoa (4th largest producer in the world, second only to Ivory Coast, Ghana and Indonesia);

263 thousand tons of sheanut;

In addition to smaller productions of other agricultural products.

Oil and Gas:

Nigeria's proven oil reserves are estimated to be 35 billion barrels (5.6×10⁹ m³); but its greatest asset is yet to be fully commercially tapped. This is Liquefied Natural Gas which reserves are well over 100 trillion cubic feet (2,800 km³). If well managed, Nigeria can generate huge National Income from Gas exploration for domestic consumption and for export earnings for economic infrastructural developments and stimulating massive job creation as in Dubai UAE if not for maladministration and economic mismanagement by the political power elites as persistently emphasised in this thesis. There is no reason for Nigeria to be importing refined petroleum products and by-products. This critical issue will be examined further in the next chapter 6.

NIGERIA'S HUMAN CAPITAL RESOURCES

Human resource has been identified not only as a major growth determinant and a channel to ease poverty but it is also very important in building or improving the quality of human beings in general (Kaseem, 2010). Human capital development is the bedrock of all other developments. It is the fast track to poverty solutions.

Nigeria is blessed with abundant human resources. The population is estimated to be in the region of 210 million as of 2021 and still counting. Though some believe that the human capital development index fall short of the environmental requirements. Nigeria is rather characterised by under-investment in human capital development through the two major tracks: education and health; Oladeji A. O (2015); Olalekan O. (2014). The problem is systemic. Lack of adequate investments in education and trainings, especially in science and technology.

As of 2019, Nigeria's HDI (Human Development Index) is ranked 161st at 0.539. The comparative value for Sub-Saharan Africa is 0.547, 0.926 for the US, and 0.737 for the world average.

The value for the education index is 0.499, compared to the average in the US of 0.900. The expected years of schooling in Nigeria is 10.0 (16.3 in the US), while the mean years of schooling for adults over 25 years is 6.7 years (13.4 years in the US). Additionally, Nigeria is also facing a relatively high inequality and female gender exclusion in the core Islamic Northern region of the country, worsening the problem of human capital formation.

Table 3 - Nigeria's Human Development Summary Statistics by Zones, 2008

Zone	Human. Dev Index	Human. Poverty Index	Gender Dev Measure	Gender Emp. Measure	Inequality Measure
North Central	0.490	34.65.	0.478	0.244	0.49
North West	0.420.	44.15	0.376	0.117	0.44
North East	0.322	48.90	0.250	0.118	0.42
South West.	0.523	21.50	0.507	0.285	0.48
South East	0.471	26.07	0.455	0.315	0.38
South South	0.573	26.61	0.575	0.251.	0.41

SOURCE: UNDP (2009) Summary of Human Development Report for Nigeria: 2008-2009.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING IN NIGERIA

The manufacturing industries in Nigeria is an economic sector that brings approximately 10 percent of total GDP (Gross Domestic Product) each year. Manufacturing activity is concentrated in large cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Ibadan, in the south of the country. Millions of people are involved in producing household goods, consumer products, automobiles, agriculture, mining, cement and building materials etc. The Nigerian manufacturing sector is dominated by the production of cement and building materials, food and beverages, tobacco, chemicals and fertilisers, wood, and textiles. Out of all, only 3 subsectors (food & beverage, cement, and textile) account for 77% of manufacturing output generating the greatest value. Also, breweries and flour mills contribute well in the manufacturing sector.

The Nigerian manufacturing sector has been performing well in recent years as compared to previous years. The incentives by the government are also beginning to encourage greater interest, to encourage more output in manufacturing sector the government has been making it cheaper for consumers to purchase locally manufactured goods, making the foreign alternatives prohibitively expensive or totally unavailable through import bans, facilitation of cheaper funding, discriminatory foreign exchange policies, high import tariffs and so on.

Manufacturing in Nigeria is beset with quite a few challenges, chief among them is power supply, most firms rely on “emergency” power generators to run seamless operations eventually adding to costs. The country’s physical infrastructural deficiencies are also a major constraint, difficult access to credit, and the cost of imported raw materials and skilled labour being the additional challenges.

The global supply chain has been deeply disrupted as China, which is the second largest economy in the world, is a major supplier of inputs for manufacturing companies around the world, Nigeria inclusive. Many manufacturers and service providers in the country are already experiencing acute shortage of raw materials and intermediate inputs. This has implications for capacity utilisation, employment generation and retention and adequacy of products' supply to the domestic market.

Future of manufacturing in Nigeria post COVID19 pandemic

The COVID19 pandemic has already accelerated several consumer trends, what most of us consider normal has already fundamentally shifted. Manufacturers in Nigeria who would understand and act on this new normal will have ample opportunities for growth. The COVID-19 pandemic hit manufacturers in an unexpected and unprecedented way. For the first time in modern Nigerian manufacturing history, demand, supply, and workforce availability are affected globally at the same time. Only those companies that provide and deliver vital goods like personal care, food and consumer goods, beverages, paper and pharmaceutical etc. are struggling to meet demand driven by panic buying while other manufacturers of non-essential items are experiencing dramatic drops in demand and extreme pressure to cut operational costs.

Those countries as Nigeria which were dependent on offshore supplies for basic needs are now seeing the downside. Now, Governments are almost certain to use domestic manufacturing as part of their plan to build up strategic resilience in the aftermath of the current crisis. Hence, there will be ample of opportunities for the people willing to work in the manufacturing sector and Nigeria indeed has the population and human capital

capabilities. Beyond population, Nigeria needs a critical ingredient to make use of the chance to succeed presented by this pandemic.

Anticipated trends to the industry

Automation will be a key component of the effort to revive domestic manufacturing. Automated manufacturing will not only bring back demand for low-skilled labour but will create many new jobs and opportunities for digitally savvy workers.

Learning from the current manufacturing scenario, manufacturing sector will be undergoing new trends like a more elastic workforce, digitally enabled workplace, differentiated supply chains by customer segment, resilient and distributed IT infrastructure/ systems, more digital channels, and E-commerce platforms.

Job opportunities in the manufacturing sector in Nigeria

With all the above in mind, there is the anticipation for continuing demand for skilled talent in the manufacturing sector. Furthermore, there will be a greater demand for engineers, automation experts, digital specialist and E-commerce executives. Here is a great demand for human capital development.

SOURCE: www.selectglobal.co.in

NIGERIA STATE MANAGEMENT

Igbokwe-Ibeto C. J. et al (2019), describe the Nigerian State actors as social groups that seek to control the state, they are weak, underdeveloped, and lack the basis to develop independently. There is no hegemonic class in Nigeria since the economy is controlled by foreign interests amidst the intense struggles of fractions of the local dominant class to access and control state structures and institutions. The state is repressive,

authoritarian, and lack consensus on its core political and ideological interests. The state is over bearing and it is perceived by the exploited and dominated social groups as alienating and malevolent. It is a contested terrain where the similar and dissimilar interests of the social classes are articulated, canvassed, and pursued. The post-colonial state, therefore, represents itself since it turns out to be the means of acquiring political and economic power for private accumulative purpose. This presupposes that the state is not differentiated from the dominant social classes and its interests are co-terminus with those of the exploiters.

The foregoing analyses provide the backdrop with which to explain the Nigerian public sector in terms of nature and character. The Nigerian state evolved to serve the interests of the exploiter class and lacks autonomy in the absence of a hegemonic class to mediate the intra and inter social class struggles over its wealth and power.

What Igboke et al are saying here agrees with the general popular opinion in Nigeria that the politicians and their cronies in government and in the private sectors only represent their self interests and not that of the masses. They care less of the penury of the masses and their exclusion from the resources of the nation. They loot the treasury and share the sovereign wealth amongst their small but very corrupt cliques. Invoices are over inflated or outrightly never execute infrastructural projects but pocket the budget.. Foreign loans and aids are delicious cakes to them. The rule of law is the rule of the political elites over the ruled to dominate them. The repercussions of all these are mass poverty and chaos, social disintegration, social disequilibrium and crises as banditry, kidnapping, anti-social rebellions of the youths.

Chapter 6 will examine how poverty trend is managed in Nigeria.

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CHAPTER SIX

Poverty Management Approach in Nigeria

Poverty is a very serious social and economic problem in Nigeria. With a population of hundred and ten million people of whom almost half are in absolute poverty category, yet the government policies to cure this socio-economic malady is very weak, disjointed, piecemeal in approach.

In “Tackling poverty in multiple dimensions: A proving ground in Nigeria?

JONATHAN LAINTARA VISHWANATH JANUARY 07, 2021” argued just as many of us as scholars for multi-dimensional approach policies to eradicate poverty. The approach must be targeted at eradicating poverty not just alleviating it. Eradication involves multi-dimensional radical targeted policies. This is the approach of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs as already highlighted in this thesis just as in China and other South East Asian nations with remarkable excellent results.

Nigeria aspires to lift 100 million people out of poverty by 2030. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, around 4 in 10 Nigerians were living in extreme poverty, based purely on a monetary measure. However, projections suggest that the combined effects of the COVID-19 crisis and natural population growth could leave 100 million 50% people living below the national poverty line by 2022, rationalising the government’s ambitious poverty reduction aspirations. Since Nigeria is home to the largest number of poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa—the world’s poorest region—lifting Nigerians out of poverty is vital for “moving the needle” and reducing global poverty. Poor people themselves say that non-monetary factors—including food security, housing, health, education, and security—matter directly for their wellbeing. Human capital, housing, and basic infrastructure are

also key correlates of monetary poverty. According to the Multidimensional poverty indicators, including the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index produced by the United Nations Development Programme, Nigeria is the largest contributor to multidimensional poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region experiencing the highest levels of deprivations in multidimensional poverty. Meeting regional and global targets on non-monetary poverty—as well as monetary poverty—therefore hinges on Nigeria.

In recent times, based on the poverty line of \$1.90 per day, an estimate of the World Poverty Clock even indicate 46.5% of Nigerians as extremely poor before the covid19 outbreak, naming Nigeria, 'the poverty capital of the world'. According to the World Poverty Clock (2019), extreme poverty in Nigeria is increasing by almost six persons per minute.

World Data Lab. (2019). The Percentage of Nigerians Living in Extreme Poverty could Increase by 2030. www.worldpoverty.io/blog/index.php

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Nigeria is a federal republic with 36 component states with a federal capital territory as the seat of central government. The federal government formulate its own poverty reduction policies while the states also do theirs. The approach of all these levels of government is poverty reduction not elimination. Poverty elimination target requires a more concerned national radical multi-dimensional policies than the mediocre poverty charity handouts to a few political party supporters.

Chimere O. Iheonu and Nathaniel E. Urama (2019), in their work, Africa Heritage Policy Brief No. 21 , Addressing Poverty Challenges in Nigeria pointed out that despite the various poverty alleviation programmes adopted by various governments in Nigeria, over 93 million Nigerians still live in poverty, with at least three million sliding into extreme poverty between November 2018 and February 2019 (Olayinka, 2019). This is a clear indication of the ineffectiveness of government policies and programmes, which is attributable to corruption, high level of inequality in income distribution, low literacy rate and poor skill set, political instability, conflict, and poor leadership. It is therefore clear that for there to be an effective poverty alleviation programme in the country, there is a need for corruption to be adequately tackled on all facades; invest largely in quality education by increasing budgetary allocation to education and reviewing the curricula to capture the required skill set. The political system should be restructured to ensure effective and stable governance that cares for the poor. This will increase the population of middle-class in Nigeria, increase demand for locally made goods and services which will in turn, boost local productivity, and ultimately increase employment.

Approaches to Poverty Alleviation

KOLAWOLE, Roseline J. work in EVALUATION OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA: THE DEMAND DRIVEN APPROACH PERSPECTIVE, International Journal of Development and Management Review, Vol. 16, No. 1 June, 2021 AND Fidelis O. Ogwunike, "An appraisal of poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria", Central Bank of Nigeria Economic and Financial Review, Vol. 39, No. 4 reviewed various conceptual approaches to poverty elimination. These are:

Economic Growth Approach This approach focuses on capital formation as it relates to capital stock and human capital. Human capital formation has to do with education, health, nutrition and housing needs of labour. This is obvious from the fact that investments in these sources of human capital improve the quality of labour and thus its productivity (Misana, 1995; Sazama and Young, 2006; Edralin, et.al., 2015). Hence, to ensure growth that takes care of poverty, the share of human capital as a source of growth in output has to be accorded the rightful place. This was thoroughly dealt with in chapter four of this thesis. Economic growth without growth in the quality of life of the poor majority must be avoided by policy makers.

Basic Needs Approach This calls for the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, water, sanitation, health care, basic education, transportation etc. unless there is proper targeting, this approach may not directly impact on the poor because of their inherent disadvantage in terms of political power and the ability to influence the choice and location of government programmes and projects (Ogwumike, 2002).

Rural Development Approach This approach sees the rural sector as a unique sector in terms of poverty reduction. This is because majority of the poor in developing countries live in this sector. In addition, the level of paid employment in this sector is very minimal. Hence, traditional measures of alleviating poverty may not easily work in the rural sector without radical changes in the assets ownership structure, credit structure, etc. Emphasis in this approach to development has focused on the integrated approach to rural development. This approach recognises that poverty is multi-dimensional and therefore, requires a multi-pronged approach. The approach aims at the provision of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, safe drinking water, education, health care,

employment and income generating opportunities to the rural dwellers in general and the poor in particular. One basic problem with this approach to poverty reduction is that it is difficult to focus attention on the real poor given that poverty in the rural area is pervasive. In other words it makes targeting of poverty reduction programmes very difficult (Oladimeji and Abiola, 1998).

Target Approach This approach favours the directing of poverty alleviation programmes to specific groups within the country. This approach includes such programmes as Social Safety, Perspective Nets, Micro Credits, and School Meal programme (Oladimeji and Abiola, 1998) as in Nigeria. This approach requires proper identification of the target group so as to minimise leakages. Globally, in recent times the concern over increasing income inequality and poverty levels especially in the developing countries and the need for its alleviation as a means of improving the standard of living of the people has led to shifting from Supply Driven Approach to Demand Driven approach through the conceptualisation and implementation of various Community Driven Development (CDD) programmes. Since targeting the poor has been one of the challenges of development and emergency response programmes (Farrington and Salter, 2006), it is argued that using CDDs could improve targeting since the CDDs use better local knowledge to define and identify the targeted groups (Mansuri and Rao, 2004).

Community Driven Development (CDD) Approach - CDD is broadly defined as giving control of decisions and resources to community groups. CDD approaches, by contrast, treat poor people and their institutions as initiators, as collaborators and as resources on which to build. World Bank (2003) defines CDD as an effective mechanism for poverty reduction, complementing market- and state- run activity by achieving immediate and

lasting results at the grass roots level. CDD can enhance sustainability and make poverty reduction effort more responsive to demand. It has also been shown to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts; it has the potential to occur simultaneously in a very large number of communities, thus achieving far-reaching poverty reduction impact.

The Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach has become one of the key development strategies used by both government and development assistance programmes (Mansuri and Rao, 2004; Platteau, 2004; Gillespie, 2004). The CDD popularity has been propelled by its potential to develop projects and programmes that are sustainable, responsive to local priorities, empower local communities to manage and govern their own development programmes, and are better targeted toward poor and vulnerable groups (Dongier, et al., 2001; Gillespie, 2004).

Khwaja (2001) observed that projects managed by communities were more sustainable than those managed by local governments because of better maintenance. However, Cleaver (1999), Kleimeer (2000), and Mosse (1997) found that CDD projects that lacked external institutional, financial, and technical support were not sustainable. Targeting the poor has been one of the challenges of development and emergency response programmes (Farrington and Slater, 2006). One argument in favour of CDD asserts that it can improve targeting because CDD projects make better use of local knowledge to define and identify the targeted groups (Mansuri and Rao, 2004). However, there has been mixed empirical evidence concerning the effectiveness of targeting using the CDD approach. A review concluded that in heterogeneous communities with high social inequality, the performance of CDD projects in targeting has been worse than that of

externally managed programmes (Conning and Kevane, 2002). However, the review also revealed that in egalitarian communities with open and transparent systems of decision making, targeting was better with CDD than with development approaches using external project management. Alkire, Bebbington, Esmail, Ostrom, Polski, Ryan, Van Domelen, Wakeman, and Dongier (2001) also defined CDD as a demand driven approach which recognises that poor people are prime actors in the development process, not targets of externally designed poverty reduction efforts. In CDD, control of decisions and resources rests with community groups, who may often work in partnership with demand-responsive support organisations and service providers, including elected local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and central government agencies. Experience has shown that, given clear rules of the game, access to information, and appropriate support, poor men and women can effectively organise to provide goods and services that meet their immediate priorities. Not only do poor communities have greater capacity than generally recognised, they also have the most to gain from making good use of resources targeted at poverty reduction (Alkire et al., 2001).

CDD's potential is increasingly recognised. Individual studies have shown that CDD can increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of projects or programmes, making them more pro-poor and responsive to local priorities. Other objectives include developing capacity, building social and human capital, facilitating community and individual empowerment, deepening democracy, improving governance, and strengthening human rights (Mansuri and Rao 2003; World Bank, 2021).

How has Nigeria approached the issue of poverty elimination? What policies and strategies has Nigeria put in place? What has been their effectiveness? This is handled in the next section.

Nigeria Poverty Elimination Policy Strategies and its Assessment

Pre- Structural Adjustment Programme (Pre-SAP) Era

The attempt by the Federal Government of Nigeria to poverty elimination policies was not originally a targeted focus as instrument of national development. The focus was on increasing just the national income. The attempt of government at national development can be grouped into many phases. This thesis will attempt to highlight them exhaustively. The first phase is the terminalised as the Pre-SAP era. SAP meaning Structural Adjustment Programme of the economy authored by the World Bank. In Nigeria, poverty reduction was never the direct focus of development planning and management during the Pre- SAP era. Government only showed concern for poverty reduction indirectly. During this era, Nigeria had prepared and executed four national development plans as follows:

The four rolling plans in Nigeria. First National Development Plan 1962-68, Second National Development Plan 1970-74, Third National development Plan 1975-80 and the Fourth National Development Plan 1981-85.

During this era, many of the programmes which were put in place in Nigeria by the government (either wholly or in association with international agencies) had positive effects on poverty reduction although the target population for some of the programmes was not specified explicitly as poor people or communities (Onyenwigwe, 2009;

Iheanacho, 2014). Some of these programmes are farm production enhancement programmes which tended to facilitate and support farmers in their production.

One of the first such programmes was the Farm Settlement Scheme (FSS) of the old Western region of Nigeria. The FSS was intended to put more lands under farming by engaging young school leavers in farming communities where they were expected to live together and share facilities and responsibilities (Olatunbosun, 1964; Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe, 2012). Also after the civil war in 1970, Federal Military Government of Nigeria became more involved in initiating these programmes borrowing from its success in the western region of the country. These programmes include: the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP); the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) and the Green Revolution Programme (GRP). These were intended to improve the food situation in the country after the debilitating civil war of 1967-1970. NAFPP was a general-purpose food production programme, which was intended to make more resources available to farmers on their turfs through mobilisation of extension workers. OFN was an awareness of programme intended to educate people generally to engage in food production around their homes, schools and on any available piece of land (Jibowo, 2005). GRP was initiated as a comprehensive development programme designed to revolutionise not only food production but also export tree crops production (Iwuchukwu & Igbokwe, 2012). Several instruments were considered in implementing GRP, but the most significant in terms of scope and financial commitment was harnessing of the water of Nigeria's river basin for food production (Antonio & Akinyosoye, 1986). This led to Nigeria's River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs). In addition to the activities of RBDAs, the Agricultural Development Project (ADPs) became a major initiative for supporting the agricultural

sector and rural economy of the nation in the 1980s. ADPs were to provide extension services, technical input support and rural infrastructure services. They also provide temporary role in providing advisory services (Antonio & Akinyosoye, 1986).

The most serious intervention in developing a modern agricultural marketing system in Nigeria was the establishment of the marketing boards for the major crops of the country between 1947 -1986 to serve as buyer of last resort, at fixed prices and held strategic or buffer stock. The marketing boards functioned as para-public sector organisations, otherwise known as parastatals. They enjoyed a certain level of administrative autonomy but were still under close government supervision (Idachaba & Ayoola, 1992). Marketing boards in Nigeria were characterised by many ills generally associated with government business concerns. They suffered from bureaucratic nuisances, very large staff size, most of them not qualified for the positions they held and poorly-paid. Excessive intervention in their management, relative insecurity of tenure and high operating costs contributed to the low level of efficiency in the boards (Olubanjo Akinleye & Ayanda, 2009)

Other programmes during this era included the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), the Rural Banking Programme (RBP), Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE) set up also in 1977, Green Revolution established in 1980, and Low Cost Housing Scheme under General Yakubu Gowon and President Shehu Shagari. Most of these programmes were designed to take care of such objectives as employment generation, enhancing agricultural output and income, and stemming the tide of rural – urban migration. These programmes made some laudable impacts; they enhanced the quality of life of many Nigerians. Despite this, they could not be sustained due to lack of political will and commitment, policy instability and insufficient

involvement of the beneficiaries in these programmes (Ogwumike, 1987, 1996, and 1998; CBN, 1998; Akinyosoye, 2005; Nnadozie, 2014; Iheanacho, 2014).

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) Era

Conscious policy effort by government towards poverty alleviation began in Nigeria during the era of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). The severe economic crisis in Nigeria in the early 1980s worsened the quality of life of most Nigerians. The government made determined effort to check the crisis through the adoption of SAP. However, the implementation of SAP further worsened the living conditions of many Nigerians especially the poor who were the most vulnerable group. This made the government to design and implement many poverty alleviation programmes between 1986 and 1993. Also under the guided deregulation that spanned the period of 1993 to 1998, more poverty reduction programmes were put in place by government.

Some of the programmes under this era included Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Better Life Programme (BLP), People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Community Banks (CB), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), and the Strategic Grains Reserves Programmes (SGRP), the Primary Health Care Scheme (PHCS) and the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme.

The Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI) was the first rural infrastructure development initiative in the country which was created in 1986 to act as catalyst for rural development by providing rural areas with various items of infrastructural services from the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of rural feeder roads, rural

market places, rural electricity installations and rural potable water installations for rain water catchments and ground water exploitation. DFRRRI programme only touched the lives of very few rural dwellers and people saw it as largely political as they did not internalise the ideas of self-development embedded into this seemingly revolutionary concept in rural transformation (Idachaba, 1988).

National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was initiated with the mandate to expand land under cultivation by creating large farm communities similar in concept to the old Western Region Farm Settlement Scheme FSS. Other programmes that were initiated in the 1990s were Agricultural Land Resource Management Programme. The objectives of the programme are the selection of suitable lands for the production of specific crops through soil surveys and land evaluation; monitoring and improvement of their qualities through soil fertility management; and ensuring the conservation of the fertility of the lands through rehabilitation. The project was not implemented due to limited financial resources and lack of technical personnel (Ayoola, 2001).

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RUWASSAN) took off in 1995; the aim was to assist States to attain at least 50 per cent national coverage for rural water supply by 2000. The problem with RUWASSAN is similar to that of other rural programmes that are executed without regard to existing organisations. RUWASSAN provided services that the State Water Supply Agencies and Health institutions were established to perform. During this era, some rural household empowerment programmes were also implemented. One of such programmes was Better Life for Rural Women Programme (BLP). It was established to alleviate poverty and eliminate ignorance among rural people,

particularly women. The programme metamorphosed into the Family Support Programme (FSP) in 1994 under a military government. By 1997, another variant of the BLP and FSP had been designed by the Federal Government and was called the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP). This is an empowerment programme designed specifically for locally based producers of goods and services and potential entrepreneurs in the cottage industries. The

programme is aimed at improving the standard of living of the low-income groups by stimulating appropriate economic activities in the various wards of each local government area in the country (Obasi and Oguiche, 1995).

In 1993 Presidential election campaign, the issue of poverty eradication was the main manifesto of the frontline candidate Chief M.K.O. Abiola. He won the election convincingly but the military regime in power for no justifiable reason thwarted this attempt at Democratising governance in Nigeria.

In 1999 when the country eventually had a democratically elected president, all these previously established programmes were consolidated into the Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs) by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

All these old and new programmes follow the same approach of micro credit and promotion of rural-based Small-Scale Enterprises (Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe, 2012). The programmes were not well thought-out and the various programme activities not planned for. They were long on propaganda (if not noise-making) but short of substance. Sustainability was not built into their planning; hence programme names changed anytime a new government came on board. Institutions created to manage the programme only benefitted the managers of the programme. The programmes were

deceptive rather than empower rural households to develop self-sustaining enterprise as they thrust on them a dependency syndrome with a —beggarly mentality that did not prepare the rural people to have the needed market and political power to demand for and get their entitlements from government (Akinyosoye, 2005; Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe, 2012).

Democratic Era (Post-SAP)

During the democratic era, governments also designed and implemented various programmes and strategies to alleviate poverty.

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and Seven Point Agenda were the strategies initiated during this era.

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) was Nigeria's home-grown poverty reduction strategy (PRSP). NEEDS was a medium term strategy (2003-07) but which derived from the country's long-term goals of poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation and value re-orientation. NEEDS was a nationally coordinated framework of action in close collaboration with the State and Local governments (with their State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, SEEDS) and other stakeholders to consolidate on the achievements of the 1999- 2003 democratic dispensation (World Bank, 2010). NEEDS has four key strategies: reforming the way government works and its institutions; growing the private sector; implementing a social charter for the people; and re-orientation of the people with an enduring African value system (Ejumudo, 2013; Iheanacho, 2014).

Reforming Government and Institutions - The goal of NEEDS is to restructure, right-size, re-professionalised and strengthen government and public institutions to deliver effective

services to the people. It also aimed at eliminating waste and inefficiency, and free up resources for investment in infrastructure and social services by government. Growing the private sector - NEEDS is a development strategy anchored on the private sector as the engine of growth for wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction (Iheanacho, 2014). The government is the enabler, the facilitator and the regulator. The private sector is the executor, the direct investor and manager of businesses. The key elements of this strategy included the renewed privatisation, de-regulation and liberalisation programme. Implementing social charter - NEEDS was about people; it was about their welfare, their health, education, employment, poverty-reduction, empowerment, security and participation. This is the overarching ultimate goal of NEEDS (World Bank, 2010).

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), the economic development blueprint, developed by Obasanjo's regime, influenced the creation of his successor in office President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's 7-Point Agenda; an articulation of policy priorities to strengthen the reforms and build the economy, so that the gains of the reforms are felt widely by citizens across the country. The Seven Points Agenda was on the following areas power and energy, food security, wealth creation, transport, land reforms, security, education (Federal Ministry of Information and Communications, 2007; Dode, 2010). All of these agenda just appeared on the pages of newspapers; however, they were not fully realised.

Community-Driven Development Programmes Era in Nigeria

During this democratic era, several CDD projects have been implemented and some are still on or about to be implemented. These include Local Empowerment and

Environmental Management Programme (LEEMP), Community based Poverty Reduction Programme (CPRP), Community and Social Development Project (CSDP), Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project, Community Based Natural Resources Management Project, Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP), a Community Driven Development Project that became effective in 2004 is being implemented in nine states. The participating states included Adamawa, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Enugu, Imo, Katsina, Niger and Oyo (Ojoawo, 2013). LEEMP has been designed to establish an institutional mechanism for transferring investment resource to communities, so that they can finance their own investment priorities. In addition, it emphasised the management of the environment as a prerequisite to sustainable livelihoods and development. It is financed by the International Development Association (IDA), state governments and participating beneficiary communities. It seeks to reduce poverty, stimulate growth and empower people using a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach, which emphasises social, natural resources and environmental management.

LEEMP engenders social inclusion through gender equality and people's participation. It creates job opportunities and wealth through the provision of support for various income-generating activities. It provides support for policy and legislative reforms in the environmental sector and for communities to engage in sustainable agricultural practices, improve access to market, and mainstreaming the environment (NISER, 2007). The problems of unsuitable management of the rural environment, poor utilisation of natural resources; extremely rural and urban poverty and highly centralised government are addressed in Nigeria by these projects (Onah et al., 2013).

LEEMP operates within the strategy of Community-Driven Development through the promotion of participatory decision-making, integrated multi-sectoral planning and sustainable environmental impact control among micro-project communities (Nnabuike, 2014)

Perspective Community – Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP)

The development objectives of this project include the improvement of access of the poor to social and economic infrastructure and to increase the availability and management of development resources at the community level. The output of the project is to improve services and infrastructure in poor beneficiary communities; Increased capacity of federal government to support, monitor and evaluate poverty reduction activities; increased capacity at state level for implementing community-driven projects; Establishment of effective agencies in 12 states for financing community-generated projects and the activity; Input of the project is capacity-building which was designed to strengthen federal, state and local government capacity for poverty reduction policy design and dissemination, advocacy and sensitisation of stakeholders

(Babagana, 2002; Mansuri and Rao, 2003; Federal Ministry of Finance, 2008).

Community and Social Development Project (CSDP)

This is a Community Driven Development project that was initiated on July 2008 to end on December, 2013. CSDP is a five-year Sector Investment Loan (SIL) to allow for (i) the scaling up of the CDD approach from the CPRP and LEEMP states, to other states in Nigeria, (ii) the institutionalisation of the CDD approach in the planning approaches adopted by the three levels of government, (iii) response to the challenge of human development at the grassroots level in a sustainable and participatory manner and (iv)

improved sustainable natural resource management. The project aims to sustainably increase the access of poor people to social and natural resource infrastructure services through supporting (i) the empowerment of communities to develop, implement and monitor micro social infrastructure projects (public and common pool goods) including natural resource management interventions and (ii) strengthening the skills and capacity of local government authorities and sectoral public agencies to support communities and build a partnership between them. The CSDP has four major components.

These include (i) Federal Level - Coordination and Program Support (\$10m) (ii) LGA/Sectoral Ministries Capacity and Partnership Building Component (\$20m); Community-Driven Investment Component (\$170m) and Vulnerable groups livelihood investment grants/transfers component (World Bank, 2006; African Development Bank (AfDB), 2009).

Fadama Project

Fadama is a Hausa word for low-lying flood plains; usually with easily accessible shallow groundwater. Fadama is typically waterlogged during the rainy seasons but retain moisture during the dry season. Fadama also refers to a seasonally flooded area used for farming during the dry season. It is defined as alluvial, lowland formed by erosional and depositional actions of the rivers and streams (Qureshi, 1989). They encompass land and water resources that could easily be developed for irrigation agriculture (World Bank, 1994). These areas are considered to be of high potential for economic development through appropriate investments in infrastructure, household assets, and technical assistance. When Fadama spread out over a large area, they are often called wetlands (Blench and Ingawa, 2004; Nkonya et al, 2007). Wetlands

are recognised by the RAMSAR convention (Ramsar is a place in Iran where the convention was signed) and it is of worldwide significance because of the biodiversity they support. Nigeria is a signatory to this convention. The Ramsar convention of 1971 defined wetlands as areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters. Land currently used in crop production in the developing countries (excluding China) amounts to some 760 million hectares of arid and hyper arid land used for production through irrigation (FAO, 1995).

The desire to realise the full potential of Fadama resources in Nigeria led to the design of the National Fadama Development Project, mainly funded by the World Bank, with counterpart funding by the federal and benefiting state governments. Fadama-I (phase I of the National Fadama Development Project) was implemented during the 1993-99 period. Fadama-I focused mainly on crop production and largely neglected downstream activities such as processing, preservation, and marketing. The emphasis of Fadama-I was on provision of simple credit arrangements aimed at boosting aggregate crop output (NFDO, 2005).

The Fadama expansion program is considered to be an instrument for technical transformation in agriculture which would empower the small holder farmers to get out of the poverty trap.

On the evaluation of success of Fadama-I, according to World Bank (2003); Onoja (2004) and NFDO (2005), this phase 1 failed to attend to some key sectors of the economy as explained below:

1. Fadama-I project helped producers increase output, but not to store, preserve and market their surpluses. As a result, much of the output was either not sold at all or sold at low prices due to supply glut, that is, the design of Fadama-I did not allow for rural infrastructure to ensure the efficient transportation of farm output to markets.

2. It did not involve and empower key stakeholders such as producer organisations, local government organisations, the private sector and civil society organisations in designing and implementing projects and in providing advisory services. It thus raised concern about project ownership and sustainability.

3. Fadama-I did not address mechanisms for conflict resolution in the Fadama project areas. It failed to adequately consider the needs of other users of Fadama resources (such as livestock producers, fisher folks, pastoralists, hunters, etc.) other than sedentary farmers. As a result, conflict sometimes broke out between the sedentary farmers and pastoralists who found their traditional routes to water and pasture blocked. These confrontations resulted in physical injury and destruction of properties.

4. Fadama-I gave little support to the establishment of rural non-farm enterprises. It narrowly focused on crop production neglecting opportunities of values addition through processing and other activities. The drawbacks identified in the Fadama I project led to emergence of Fadama II.

The Second National Fadama Development Project (NFDP-II) is a follow-up on the first phase (1992-1998). The main objective of NFDP-II is to sustainably increase the incomes of the Fadama users through expansion of farm and non-farm activities with high value added output.

The project, which was declared disbursement effective on May 27, 2004, is funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the tune of US\$ 100 million and US Perspective \$ 30 million respectively. It covers eighteen states including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Out of the 18 participating states, 12 of them are assisted by the World Bank. The states include Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, FCT, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Oyo and Taraba (NFDO, 2007). The project was designed also to assist project contracted facilitators and participating Local Government Areas to undertake project related activities at the level of Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and other beneficiary groups of Fadama User Groups (FUGs).

Fadama-II was designed to operate for six years (2004-2010) with a goal of contributing to poverty reduction in Nigeria. However, actual implementation did not begin until September 2005 (Nkonya et.al, 2007).

The direct beneficiaries are the 2 million rural families living in the participating states that are now pursuing their livelihoods in the Fadama lands. These are not only farmers, as a significant aim of the project design was to ensure that the various Fadama User Groups (FUGs) learn to accept each other's rights to a common resource pool which they share as well as take individual decisions. Thus keeping in mind the impact such actions may have on others and on the Fadama environment at large. In the past, Fadama use has been dominated by sedentary farmers who are the majority group and also the most vocal and influential. A primary aim of this project was to ensure that other less dominant Fadama Users (Fisher folks, Pastoralists) and even marginal Users (hunters, gatherers) were recognised as Fadama Users and that their role in maintaining these lands are

acknowledged and respected. Moreover, vulnerable sub – groups such as widows, elderly, etc. were targeted to ensure that they are beneficiaries of project – funded activities. Such an approach was aimed at avoiding situations of elite capture and conflict (formal and informal) - a primary obstacle to the success of the first Fadama Development Project (Ingawa et al, 2004).

Moreover, the basic strategy of the project was that of a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach with strong emphasis on stake holder participation, especially at the community level. Facilitators supported under the project helped in organising the Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and guided them through an intensive process of group decision - making using a range of participating techniques.. In this manner, the project ensured that every activity funded by the project was conceived after informed discussion by the whole community, which resulted from consensus building and social inclusiveness (Ingawa et al, 2004).

The National Fadama Development Project (Fadama-II) came into existence with the aim of federal government, to expand the achievements of Fadama-I scope and size which is a major instrument for achieving the government's poverty reduction objective in the rural areas of Nigeria. The project was able to achieve its set targets at the end of its six year period. To achieve these outcomes, the project designed five components. These include: Capacity Building, Rural Infrastructure Investment, Pilot Productive Asset, Demand-Responsive Advisory Services, and Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (NFDO, 2005). The tools employed for effectiveness of the programmes are local framework (logframe),

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Local Development Plan (LDP).

However, the success of Fadama-II has led to extension of the project to other states of the country in 2010 called Fadama-III. The aim is to reduce poverty among the beneficiaries in the entire 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.

The Role of Actors in Poverty Alleviation in an attempt to alleviate this problem, three actors are identified in the literature as being involved in any given country namely government, bilateral or multilateral international organisations, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), otherwise known also as Civi Society Organisations (CSO).

First, at the government level, poverty can be alleviated by directing public expenditure to the most vulnerable groups in the population. However, within the contemporary market philosophy of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in Nigeria, not only is obtaining basic necessities of life increasingly becoming a subject of individual economic power, there is a search for ways to make optimal use of the very scarce government resources. Large public sector deficits also make it necessary to reduce government social services or impose fees on them. The reduction has affected the access of the poor to these services, creating a critical and declining standard of living (Adebayo 1997).

Second, the bilateral or multilateral international organisations, especially the World Bank have immensely contributed to poverty alleviation in human resources development, through renewed investment and policy changes in education and health services, and to alleviate the conditions of the poorest groups of the population, through targeted nutrition and employment programmes. Recently, the World Bank Group (WBG) discussed a new five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) from 2021 to 2024 and approved a \$1.5-billion package to help build a resilient recovery post-COVID-19. This is part of the efforts to boost poverty reduction in Nigeria (World Bank Group, 2020).

Third are the Non Government Organisations NGOs or Civil Society Organisations CSOs which operate under different names and different guises in both developed and developing countries. NGOs are considered to play a role in correcting the failures of the state and the market (Edwards, 2009). The NGOs perceived as the alternative for development, offering innovative and community-centered development approaches to service delivery, advocacy and community empowerment (Nader & Foundation, 2016). These organisations help empowering people thereby leading more effective and sustainable local development services than those promoted by the government (Bassey, 2008). When the assistance provided by private, and non-profit groups is considered, one may safely assume that their contributions are indispensable to poverty reduction.

Masoni (1985) is of the opinion that the presence of NGOs or CSOs within the local community and their special commitment to the betterment of the lives of vulnerable group make them the only practicable link between large-scale investments and the farmers or the city dwellers to whom the investments are directed. He added that the target groups must be reached in ways that can be connected with their lives and work. In relative term, he stated that the sensitivity of NGOs to such concerns and their local knowledge and operations cannot usually be matched by government departments. Therefore, the NGOs or CSOs have enjoyed considerable success over the last three decades; and are now universally accepted as having an effective role to play in poverty alleviation and elimination.

Poverty alleviation programme is the target of Nigerian government not its elimination. Unfortunately, poverty eradication or elimination is the only mechanism that can transform Nigeria vast population into middle class Nation of prosperous people as China. It only

entail the discipline of government actors, institutional reforms that is amenable to development.

What is present in Nigeria are policies of government that are expected to benefit the poor by reducing their poverty but due to the corrupt approach employed by government functionaries in the implementation of these programmes majority of them failed to address poverty. Also it was discovered that most of these programmes were not pro-poor.

According to the literature already examined in this thesis, it was observed that most of the programmes that employed CDD were pro-poor but not for the very poor (Nkoya et.al, 2007; Akinlade, Yusuf, Omonona and Oyekale, 2011). This could have accounted for the persistence of poverty in the country.

If the Community Direct Development Approach CDD could be properly employed by all the programmes to target the very poor there would be significant reduction in poverty in the nation. The impact of some of these programmes was not felt among the poorest of the poor. The few that trickle down are shared by the local leaders to improve their own living . They are not directed at Community general transformation into development and prosperity.

For this to be possible there should be prevention of elite capture through proper targeting in any CDD project.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA FOR PROSPERITY.

In the 1960s Nigeria's economy was at par with that of the South-Asia and the Middle-East nations but while those other countries have accelerated their economic development, Nigeria remain retrogressive with increasing mass poverty that has made it to be tagged as discussed in chapter six as the poverty capital of the world. Nigeria is poor not because of lack of resources but because of poor public management of these resources.

In spite of all the programmes that have been instituted by Nigeria over the years as highlighted in chapter six, Nigeria and Nigerians remain poor but the politicians and the public officials continue to amass the national sovereign commonwealth resources to themselves and their family members only. Whatever the politicians do claim to have achieved in government has not been enough to bring Nigeria and Nigerians out of poverty but it has only succeeded in getting themselves assets stored all over the world to the penury of the masses.

This decadence of Corruption is the single major cause of poverty in Nigeria. According to Transparency International, Nigeria is ranked the 144th least corrupt nation in the world, out of 180 countries. This portrays the high level of corruption in the country. Corruption undermines the rule of law and threatens socio-economic development. It as well increases poverty by retarding investment and employment opportunities. It reduces revenue from tax as well as the effectiveness of government intervention programs.

According to Ajisafe (2016), corruption diverts government spending away from socially valuable goods such as education and health.

Jebin MacLean Felix et al (2014) paper examines the question **why have efforts to end poverty in Nigeria Failed?** The paper contends that the various poverty alleviation or eradication programmes and measures put in place failed because they are directed at the fruits of poverty and not poverty itself. It further argues that poverty eradication is not all about handouts and meeting needs but creating enabling environment that allow the individuals to exercise their inherent traits to better their lots. The enabling environment is not possible to be created because the rich oppressors of the oppressed poor will not want anyone or anything to change the status quo. Hence efforts to end poverty will continue to fail because the real issue is not addressed. They contend that the high incidence of poverty in Nigeria amidst plenty is a pathetic case and call for concern. About two-third of the Nigerian people are poor, despite living in a country with vast potential wealth. (NEEDS 2004). Although revenues from crude oil sales have been on the increase over the past decades, the citizens of the country have been falling deeper into poverty what an irony. In 1980, an estimated 27 percent of Nigerian lived in poverty. By 1999, about 70 percent of Nigerian has income less than \$1 a day and the figure have risen since then (NEEDS 2004).

The ugly scenario was corroborated by ex-president Olusegun Obasanjo, when he owned up in his media speech that he was aware of the great sufferings of Nigerians. Poverty levels vary across the country, with the highest proportion of poor people in the northwest and the lowest in the southeast. It is this pathetic situation we find ourselves in; that informed Forukanmi a Nigerian scholar to describe the situation as follows:

."The stench of poverty is visible on the faces of Nigerians, in the nature of our living conditions, in the decaying morphology of our towns which are over congested and ragged, on the roads which are prone to erosion, untarred with imported junks referred to as motor vehicles..... dearth of drugs in our clinics..... collapse of tertiary education dearth of employment opportunities for able bodies and educated youths most of whom are for want of gainful employment involved in armed robbery and in other unwholesome activities" (FORUKANMI 2003:41).

In this thesis I also ask **Why is Nigeria and Nigerians still in abject poverty?**

The first problem with government poverty relief packages is that the government has adopted a top-down distribution system which has been poorly coordinated and highly exclusive.

In addition, the requirements for accessing poverty relief packages were unclear, fraught with secrecy or too restrictive. In the case of unconditional cash transfer, grain distribution and credit loan scheme for households and businesses, selection methods were also vague.

The poor and vulnerable could not fulfil some of the bank related requirements for accessing the credit facility by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Though, social assistance programmes in Nigeria include national cash transfers but these funds are hijacked by the politicians and the managers. These funds were aimed at financial support for the poor and vulnerable whose incomes or livelihoods are at risk due to natural, human or economic crises such as during the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown. Youth employment and community social development

projects, like the home-grown school feeding programmes to address poverty and hunger were just on paper to many of the poor people.

A number of factors have contributed to the failure of past poverty-related programmes efforts. Such as:

The government failed to ensure the successful implementation of the various programmes and policies. They made the incidence of poverty to loom large, the phenomenon has continued to spread and deepen. Too many factors have tended to compound the poverty situation, among which are slow economic growth, economic mismanagement. infrastructural deficiencies, weak political commitment to poverty alleviation programmes and measures, and a host of macroeconomic and sectoral problems such as inflation, rising unemployment, exchange rate depreciation, external debt overhang, etc (Central Bank of Nigeria, 1999:68-73).

These problems are also acknowledged by the government as follows:

- a) Poor macroeconomic and monetary policies resulting in low economic growth rate and continuous downwards slide in the value of naira from 1986;
- b) Dwindling performance of the manufacturing sector which has the capacity to employ about 20 million people but currently employs only about 1.5 million by all the 2,750 registered members of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN);
- c) Increasing foreign debt overhang of almost US \$93 billion, requiring huge annual servicing from national income that fall short of national budget that continues to be serviced by further external borrowing.
- d) Poor management of the nation's resources, coupled with large-scale fraud and corruption, most of which has been siphoned out of the country in hard currency;

- e) Poor execution of Government Programmes and projects especially those aimed at the provision of social welfare services and those aimed at the provision of economic infrastructure.

In his own work, Obadan (2001) also enumerated similar reasons as the factors that have contributed to the failure of poverty related programmes and efforts. They are:

- i. Lack of targeting mechanisms for the poor and the fact that most of the programmes do not focus directly on the poor.
- ii. Political and policy instability have resulted in frequent policy changes and inconsistent implementation which in turn have prevented continuous progress.
- iii. Inadequate coordination of the various programmes has resulted in each institution carrying out its own activities with resultant duplication of effort and inefficient use of limited resources. Overlapping functions ultimately led to institutional rivalry and conflicts.
- iv. Severe budgetary, management and governance problems have afflicted most of the programmes, resulting in facilities not being completed broken down and abandoned, unstaffed and equipped.
- v. Lack of accountability and transparency thereby making programmes to serve as conduit pipes for draining national resources.
- vi. Overextended scope of activities of most institution, resulting in resources being spread too thinly on too many activities. Examples are DFRRI and Better Life Programmes which covered almost every sector and overlapped with many other existing programmes.

- vii. Inappropriate programme design reflecting lack of involvement of beneficiaries in the formulation and implementation of programmes. Consequently, beneficiaries were not motivated to identify themselves sufficiently with the successful implementation of the programmes.
- viii. Absence of target setting for ministries, Agencies and programmes.
- ix. Absence of effective collaboration and complementation among the tiers of government.
- x. Absence of agreed poverty reduction agenda that can be used by all concerned - Federal Government, State Government, Local Governments, NGOS, and the International Donor Community.
- xi. Most of the programmes lacked mechanisms for their sustainability.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION IN NIGERIA.

It has been established universally by International Institutions and by all domestically in Nigeria that the single major cause of the failure of government to eliminate poverty is corruption. It is the major cause of underdevelopment of Nigeria. Corruption breeds nepotism, embezzlement of national funds. It is a product of greed, selfishness, unpatriotism, lack of nationalism. The Nigerian political elites claim to be nationalistic but they are very far from it. They are only patriotic to what they can get out of the system not the transformation of Nigeria from poverty, from backwardness to prosperous, developed nation where the majority are not poor but middle class.

China is the current model of a once underdeveloped nation transformed into a prosperous one with mass elevation of its people from poverty, want, low class to super

rich and middle class societies of happy and patriotic people. What is the magic that China adopted that Nigeria lack? It is killing corruption. China has zero tolerance for corruption. The penalty could be as heavy as death sentence. In Nigeria, the political elites swim joyously inside it. Corruption is their major contribution from top to bottom approach in keeping Nigeria underdeveloped and thereby inconsequential in global arena. Nigeria is the biggest economy in Africa, the most populated black nation in the world yet most Americans and Europeans often wonder if it is part of Ghana or South Africa.

What is the way forward for Nigeria? Kill corruption. Establish strong state institutions, increase national productivity through the promotion of mass entrepreneurship amongst its populace, citizens productivity must increase through genuine enabling environment for them to do so, manufacturing sector must grow just as service sector where Nigerian youths have established a prove of acumen in Information Technology, Entertainment industry, etc, The government must create enabling environment for businesses, for production, for wealth creation. Massive infrastructural development is a sine-qua-non. Affordable cheap loans to promote business startup with quality mentoring and supervisory and advisory services to cottage, small and medium enterprises.

The educational sector need transformation to technological age that will produce entrepreneurial servy youths into industries, produce industrious youths.

Nigeria experienced a remarkable economic growth under the watch of Madam Ngozi Okonjo Iweala a former managing director of world bank and currently the director general of world trade organisation as the then nation's minister of finance and economic coordination. The country topped other African nations in Gross Domestic Product. Unfortunately however, this 6% growth rate was not matched with equal growth in higher

living standards of the people. They were indeed worst off in poverty terms. Inflation, unemployment, lack of energy to power the economy, poor transportation, poor infrastructures generally were and still the order of the day in Nigeria. The economic growth experienced in this period and is still is, only ensure that the rich become richer while the poor become poorer. Nigeria national currency - Naira as of now have been battered with massive devaluation that is further worsening the lot of the majority poor masses. One US dollar \$1 is now about 500 Nigeria Naira. A reduction in value that used to be once upon a time at par. The repercussions of this is very expensive foreign goods affecting mostly the imported raw materials for production or for value added enablement. For economic growth to be meaningful in Nigeria, income redistribution must happen by the system. The situation where national income are located in very few hands is unsustainable for poverty elimination from Nigeria, rather it will continue to incubate it. Economic exclusion from the resources of Nigeria by the majority poor is no longer tolerable and can no longer stand in the way of sustainable economic and social development of the poor and of Nigeria.

How would Nigeria kill corruption, its number one enemy? China did so by what I propound here in this doctoral thesis as **autocratic nationalism** by compelling obedience to rules for socio-political-economic cohesion of its dictatorial one party system of government of communism and state. The leadership dictate the goals and objectives for development which every citizen must key into or face the wrought, the fury, the anger of the state. No room for indolence, the state ensure that the citizens are equipped with enabling environment to thrive. They are assisted to cope and thrive in a capitalistic economy. The result is huge increasing national productivity, national income, surpassing

individual European nations, Japan and South Korea while US struggle to maintain their number one position. Great achievements by China in national elimination of poverty, promoting sustainable development for all its appreciative people.

What is my alternative proposition to Nigeria? I propose for a concept of **democratic nationalism** where the leadership of Nigeria will be truly a democratically elected government of the people by the people and for the people. These leaders must lead righteously by example not just by autocratic dictate from the top to the bottom. They must be highly nationalistic not by self accolade but must be seen by the general populace of whom the majority are the poor to be truly nationalistic and patriotic to the core and very loyal to the nation and to the national flag not to themselves. A democratic nationalist will be dead to self but alive to the upliftment of Nigerians from poverty to affluence. Democratic nationalists will be very competitive with other prosperous nations in development, they are not beggarly people looking for foreign aid to embezzle, mortgaging their conscience to illegal wealth accumulation through fraudulent means. They will have zero tolerance for corruption and nepotism. Their focus is not in making themselves super rich but in making Nigeria an advanced nation of prosperous middle class citizens across board not just a few of their cronies. A democratic nationalist is one that subject himself to the rule of law and realise that he is equal with citizens before the law and if he transgress the law he will face the same consequence as the led. The joy of a democratic nationalist is seeing his country highly respected and revered by the international community and not just himself or herself portraying and carrying himself as bigger than life personality, or a god father.

Above all, a democratic nationalist must also be a sacrificial leader for his or her people and the nation. In other words, the concepts of **democratic nationalism** and **sacrificial leadership** are mutually inclusive.

Under the leadership of democratic nationalist who is also a sacrificial leader and goal oriented, an nAchiever , Nigeria's goal of Sustainable Economic Development and Social Development of prosperous people is achievable. National economic prosperity without translating into prosperity for all its people is meaningless to them. The effects could breed different kinds of negative consequences including societal dislocations but prosperity for all will breed national cohesion and make the citizens to be proud of their nation. They are transformed too as nationalists. Thanks to their democratic nationalists and sacrificial leaders.

Trade Unions and Poverty Elimination

In discussing solutions to poverty elimination in Nigeria, it is incumbent on me to point out the relevance of Trade Unions when formulating policies to address poverty issues to achieve sustainable development. The importance of Trade Unions in development process is key to sustainability.

My persuasion in the relevance of Trade Unions in development is better framed in the words of Alan Gladstone of the International Institute of Labour Studies Geneva. He opined that development however defined and regardless of the development path chosen, trade unions in developing societies has an impact on the economy and is affected by the way in which the economy works.

Development commentators have for long realised the duality role of trade unions in developing countries as Nigeria:

1. That of protecting, furthering the sectorial and occupational interests of members and those of the working classes in general – which constitute a small percentage of the economically active population and
2. The wider interest of society as a whole, that of massive reduction of economic dependency rate through employment generation policies and programmes just as the concept of 'living wage' is as equally important because of its multiplier effect on poverty reduction and elimination. But the possible incompatibilities between these two roles has generated a lot of concern to many interest groups.

Trade Unions representatives in democratic societies must be a part of policy making bodies especially on matters that affect workers welfare and employment generation in the formal and informal sectors. It is an established fact in industrial relations that industrial peace and workers' sense of belonging and contributions directly and indirectly towards the elimination of poverty from the entire society. In Nigeria, trade unions associations play a key role as pressure groups in cooperation with civil society groups to mount pressures on government for equitable wage and even in relevant political policies for proper governmental management of the economy and political participation in inclusive public policy formulation.

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CHAPTER EIGHT

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this thesis, the theoretical framework on poverty have been reviewed, so also that of policy and sustainable development as intervening variables in the fight for the elimination of poverty. How all these concepts have been adopted in Nigeria to deal with the problem of poverty and how effectively that have been done or otherwise was exhaustively treated.

This thesis propose that poverty cannot be allowed to continue to thrive and be institutionalised in an underdeveloped society as Nigeria. Social, political and economic mobility of the poor is the only guarantee to true national development and prosperity, happiness, and peace, stable government, genuine economic growth, security, democracy and private investments. Poverty elimination policies and the implementation of programmes need to be addressed as priority of government in the poor world.

For any programme on poverty alleviation and elimination to achieve result, the war on corruption must be fought with all vigour without fear or favour. There must be zero tolerance for corruption. In Nigeria, looting of the treasury, over-inflation of invoices, abandoned projects, non-accountability, etc, must be eliminated within the institution of society.

Programme for implementation must have a target and have within it an inbuilt mechanism to measure success or failure or even sabotage by the powerful elite groups who may refuse to understand the implication of societal dislocation through mass poverty. The limit of every programme must be identified in order for other programmes to be targeted at other social groups.

The failure of the public sector in most poor countries is the consequence of the failure of private sector caused by its centralisation of resource allocation policy. In Nigeria, the capacity utilisation of most of the few industrial plants is between 20-35% at best. Most have collapsed outright and liquidated or moved to other lesser market than in Nigeria due to harsh economic environment for doing business. This trend cannot and must not be allowed to continue by the policy makers who are privileged to have in their hands the destinies and lives of the citizens through their actions and deeds.

Conducive environment must be created through adequate provision of infrastructures targeted at the poor for the growth of the informal private sector just as the formal private sector participation is being encouraged most especially such ones that are labour intensive. There must be good pricing of goods and services and factor pricing in such a way that the majority poor can benefit and have improved life.

This thesis suggest for strong institution to monitor and coordinate all programmes on poverty alleviation and elimination under different government departments and agencies. Disjointed and uncoordinated programmes as meaningful and well concerned as they may be cannot achieve the objective of delivering or rescuing the mass of the poor in Nigeria from the devastating consequences of poverty. Most of the poverty elimination projects are poorly organised and executed because the targeted beneficiaries are the people in the corridor of power, their family members, allies, social, political and economic cliques.

This thesis posited that indeed, it is possible to conquer poverty if the whole world is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Programmes highlighted. If

there is the will and commitment of all to such a massive project, “the objective of total victory” according to President Johnson would be realised.

It is my strong view that poverty is a chronic disease. However, if the world could conquer some epidemic or pandemic diseases, poverty can be conquered. The world was already on the road to victory to conquer poverty but for the outbreak of COVID-19 that retarded progress and the West/ Russia-China world dominance unhealthy rivalry that has resulted in hot war in Ukraine with its massive dislocations of people in millions. The world cannot afford any form of war be it trade war or hot war in the quest for elimination of poverty from the world. The world war should be against poverty not regional unhealthy political rivalry for the soul of the world economy and political domination of others. World friendship must be promoted not politics of hate.

In the fight for poverty elimination, we must not fail, it is in the interest of the world prosperity, increased commerce, for the purchasing power of the poor citizens of the world to increase to and above the world universally set standard. The national government must take the lead in their countries in the fight against poverty, the state or regional governments including local governments must all join in the fight.

According to Prof. Denis Goulet opt cit in this thesis – “chronic poverty is a cruel kind of hell”.

Community Development Groups and Civil Society Groups have a role to play in the fight against poverty. They must drive down poverty reduction and elimination projects and programmes to the grassroots where the poor are located. They must ensure that they mount maximum pressure on government to eliminate the issues of:

1. Aid dependency, massive public debt and servicing, misappropriation of public funds and Aid diversion/embezzlement by the power elites.
2. Environmental degradation which impact more on the poor.
3. Conflicts in poor countries that breed refugees intra and inter borders further worsening poverty, malnutrition and its vicious circle. The refugee crises in conflict zones is what the world does not need at all in the fight against poverty.
4. Marginalisation in international market.
5. Lack of stable democratic government and particularly government accountability.
6. Ethnicity, tribalism and nepotism.
7. Drainage and wasting of foreign reserves.
8. Diversion of resources to non developmental projects.
9. Brain drain.

This thesis posited that these are problems that must be confronted and solved before any meaningful development in poverty elimination. The thesis also reminded us of the basic indices of prosperity or development that need to be radically increased.

They are:

1. Income and social justice in its distribution.
2. Diet
3. Clothing
4. Housing
5. Health and sanitation, medical services
6. Education
7. Energy and consumption

8. Transportation
9. Information technology and communication efficiency
10. Industrialisation and manufacturing.

In conclusion, Nigeria is a blessed and potentially wealthy nation. Job creation, jobs, jobs, jobs creation must be the major focus of government and the citizens. Nigeria has the potential of becoming a medium power in the world but for this to be achieved, corruption must first die from every fabric of the society. The end must come to mediocre leadership in government and in the private sectors. **Democratic nationalists** who are also **sacrificial leaders** must emerge to transform Nigeria from poverty and backwardness, underdevelopment to a prosperous, sustainable developed nation. Nigeria must be transformed as the pride of black nations and of the world. If the South East Asia Giants can do it, Nigeria can.

Suggestion for further research:

- I suggest for further research how Trade Unions and Employer Associations can contribute to the societal objective of sustainable poverty elimination.
- I suggest for further research an assessment whether unipolar market economic system is more democratic than bipolar global market economic system with higher opportunities for world economic growth, greater participation and inclusion in world prosperity for all and elimination of poverty in developing world?

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