POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE OF NATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (NAPEP) IN BOMO VILLAGE OF SABON GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA KADUNA STATE 2004 - 2009.

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DECLARATION

I declare that this project is my original work. All published and unpublished books, articles, journals and other materials used for this study have been appropriately acknowledged.

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CERTIFICATION

This project entitled "poverty alleviation programme and youth empowerment, a case of national poverty eradication programme in BOMO" meets the regulation governing the award of Masters of Political Science degree by the post graduate school A.B.U Zaria and is hereby approved for the contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, the author and the finisher of our faith who saw me through the study.

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Abstract

The work set out to assess poverty eradication and youth empowerment with special focus on Bomo village. The study was derived out of the pathetic condition in which Nigerians are faced with especially in the rural areas. Vast resources has been expended on rural development and agriculture and this expenditure profile continue to increase overtime, but the rural areas keep deteriorating and again huge amount has been expended on poverty alleviation program, OFN, DFFRI, FEAP, e.t.c. Why have all failed to reduce the biting effect of poverty? The hypothesis states that youth are unemployed and disempowered because of wrong policies or inconsistencies in government policies. The impact of Napep on youth unemployment and empowerment in Bomo village is low. Napep can still perform better not only in Bomo but in the country as a whole. It is possible that non of this assumptions may turn out to be correct. Data was collected through interviews and questionnaire on the staff and the inhabitants of Bomo village. The study found out that the programme is bedeviled by some problems which are militating against its' success. This includes poor and inadequate funding of the programme, irregular payment of beneficiaries, bureaucratic bottlenecks, poor monitoring of the programmes, high level of corruption, and lack of commitment on both the participants and the organizers of the programme. Most importantly, there are an insignificant number of trained personnel, consequently creating a very low impact. The loan given to them was not sufficient and did not come in good time. The duration of the training was too short to allow for professionalism as such most of them could not practice well. In addition to all these problems, the study found out that NAPEP has made very little impact in Bomo village insignificant to create a change. The study however recommends that the national poverty eradication programme should be properly funded and monitored, so that many would have access to loan; The training should take long enough to allow for expertise; Government should involve the poor who are the stakeholders in the planning and the implementation stages of the programme; More so, government should involve and ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local and international agencies and the community at large, by creating an enabling and conducive environment for them to participate in poverty eradication efforts of the government. The provision of basic social infrastructure should be ensured. Then finally, government should ensure programme continuity among others.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

OFN – Operation Feed the Nation

MDG – Millennium Development Goal

NDE – National Directorate of Employment

BLP – Better Life Programme

FSP – Family Support Programme

FEAP – Family Economics Advancement Programme

NAPEP – National Poverty Eradication Programme

YES – Youth Empowerment Scheme

RIDS – Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme

NRDCS – National Resource Development Conservative Scheme

NICBIF – National Inventory on Community Based Infrastructure

NAPEC – National Poverty Eradication Committee

SAP – Structural Adjustment Programme

PBN – Peoples Bank of Young

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

PADC – Poverty Alleviation Development Committee

CAP – Capacity Acquisition Programme

MAP – Mandatory Attachment Programme

SOWESS – Social Welfare Service Scheme

SCC – State Coordinating Committee

CHAPTER ONE

1.00 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.01 Background to the study

The description of Nigeria as a paradox by the World Bank (1996) has continued to be confirmed by event and official statistics in the country. The paradox is that the poverty level in Nigeria contradicts the immense wealth, with the endowed resources in the country. Rather than record remarkable progress in national socio-economic development, Nigeria has retrogressed to becoming one of the 25th poorest countries of the world.

The reduction of poverty is the most difficult challenge facing any country in the developing world where on the average majority of the population is considered poor. Evidences in Nigeria show that the number of those in poverty has continued to increase. For example, the number of those in poverty increased from 27% in 1980 to 46% in 1985; it declined slightly to 42% in 1992, and increased very sharply to 67% in 1996. By 1999, estimates had it that more than 70% of Nigerians lived in poverty. That was why the government declared in November 1999 that the N470 billion budget for year 2000 was "to relieve poverty." Before the National Assembly even passed the 2000 budget, the government got an approval to commit N10 billion to poverty alleviation programme. In the 2001 budget, the government has increased the allocation to poverty alleviation programme by 150%. This idea of poverty alleviation was received with high hopes especially given the speed with which this present administration tackled the fuel problem as soon as it came to power. Poverty alleviation was seen as a means through

which the government can revamp the battered economy and rebuild self-esteem in majority of Nigerians who had been dehumanized through past military regimes. The present paper assesses not only the efforts of the current administration in poverty reduction, but also the role played by past administrations so as to identify a more pragmatic approach to poverty reduction in Nigeria.

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No doubt poverty in Nigeria represents a big challenge to successive governments and this is no less so for this present government. The challenge has become even greater in the light of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which now specifically targets the reduction of poverty by half by the year 2015.

Different efforts and initiatives have been put in place by successive regime. The initial austerity measures proved inadequate in redressing deep seated and structural problems. A structural adjustment programme of the Brettonwoods institution was launched in the second half of that decade but until 1994 when the Poverty Alleviation Programme Development Committee (PAPDC) was inaugurated; all efforts at poverty alleviation were basically ad hoc (Farugee 1994). The same qualification goes for laudable schemes as the Better Life Programme (BLP) and its successor, the Family Support Programme (FSP) as well as the programme and projects under the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI). All these laudable programmes failed to yield the expected result.

The government of Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 came up with another programme, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). A Presidential Panel was set and it coalesced in the formation of NAPEP in January 2001. The scheme has been structured to integrate four sectoral schemes. The first is the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES). The second is Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS). The third is Social Welfare Scheme (SEWESS). Lastly, the Natural/Resource Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). (http:/www.nigeriafirst-org/printer-263.shtml).

The aim of the present research is to examine the current attempt of NAPEP at eradicating poverty and how it has been able to empower the youth in Bomo village (a settlement located behind Area 'C' ABU staff Quarters Samaru, Zaria) as well as to identify sources of its setbacks and offer suggestions or recommendations.

1.02 Statement of the Research Problem

Poverty amid plenty is the world's greatest challenge. Poor people live without fundamental freedoms of action and choice that the better off take for granted (Sen., 1999). They often lack adequate food and shelter, education and health, deprivations that keep then from leading the kind of life that every one values. They also face extreme vulnerability to ill health, economic dislocation, and natural disasters. And they are often exposed to ill treatment by institutions of the state and society and are powerless to influence key decisions affecting their lives. These are all dimensions of poverty (World bank, 2001). Indeed, of the worlds 6 billion people, 2.8 billion live on less than $2 a day, and 1.2 billion live on less than $1 a day. In rich countries, less than 1 child in 100 does

not reach its fifth birthday, while in the poorest countries as many as a fifth of children do not. And while in rich countries fewer than 5 percent of all children under fire are malnourished, in poor countries as many as 50 percent are.

Nigeria is poor in terms of the living conditions of its citizens. This makes it a paradox that poverty is prevalent in the country despite its rich resource endowments. Economic and financial crises became manifest in the country in the early 1980s and the initial austerity measures proved inadequate in redressing deep seated and structural problems.

In a national executive report on the inventory of community, it reveals the level of poverty in Nigeria in respect to community based needs. The report reveals that the level of deprivation of potable water is 50.11 percent establishing that 50 percent of Nigerians are yet to be provided with potable water. For electricity Nigeria is only 7.73 percent electrified having 92.3percent deprivation in the power sector. Only 11.47 percent health facilities have been provided with 88.53 percent being deprived. In education, the (NICBIF) found that the level of deprivation of communal educational facilities is still 68.89percentand lastly in the agricultural sector 11.92 percent have agricultural facility meaning that 88.05 percent are yet to be provided with agricultural facilities (FRN 1991 :13).

. The problem of this study is derived from the pathetic condition in which Nigerians are faced with, particularly the decline in the living standard as well as increase in poverty. The problem is why is the incidence of poverty high in Nigeria despite immense wealth? why have previous poverty alleviation program fail to reduce poverty and empower the

youth in Bomo village despite the huge investment on poverty alleviation ? and again how can NAPEP achieve it's objective of empowering the youth and reducing poverty? An inventory on the energy resource base of Nigeria , indicates that Nigeria has 367 million tons of proven coal and 980 million tons of inferred resources proven gas , 2.50 trillion cubic matters crude oil reserve of 16.8 billion barrels, an average of 2,000 KWH/M2 of solar energy received on the ground per annum (Rilwanu 1987:3). One would ask, how much of these resources are translated into actual expenditure? Again it is amazing that facts reveal that huge sums of money have been expended on rural development and agricultural production all in an attempt to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. For instance over ₦3.0 billion was allocated to agriculture and rural development between 1960 and 1980, this expenditure profile continue to increase overtime as explained below.

Between the year 1960-1968, 52.623 million naira was spent by both federal and state governments in the agricultural sector. Between 1970- 1974, 127,286 million naira was spent. Furthermore, between 1974- 1980 2, 301.18 billion naira was spent and in 1981- 1985 8, 327,531 billion naira was spent in the agricultural sector.(Usman 1987 :16).

Despite the huge investment explained above the rural areas have deteriorated. In an attempt to contribute to the debate, Onitiri showed that large sum of resource are generated in rural areas in which the development efforts have been sustained largely by the earnings from export commodities produced from rural areas. Ironically, mass poverty still exists in rural areas side by side with enormous riches and affluence in the country.

One is also puzzled to note that in spite of the amount of resources committed into the poverty alleviation and rural development programmes, no tangible benefits has been recorded as OFN, Green Revolution, DFFRI etc have all failed to address issue of poverty in rural areas. Faruqee (1994) maintains that all poverty alleviation efforts in Nigeria were all adhoc and that the structure and strategy adopted by NAPEP were not different from the previous poverty alleviation programmes that failed.

Hence this research seeks to throw more light on the dark corners of NAPEP at eradication of poverty and empowering the youth in Bomo village. Therefore the purpose of this study is to examine the position of the Nigerian state vis-à-vis the rural development programmes and to unveil the role played by Nigerian state actors in the perpetration of poverty. Thus, our point of departure is that in order to promote rural development and eliminate poverty there is the need to evolve a system of social relations that generates and promotes equity that encompasses every body and make everybody part of the society in order for NAPEP to be meaningful and relevant.

Within this context, specific questions which this study attempts to address include.

- Why are majority of the youth in Nigeria unemployed ?
- What has being the impact of poverty alleviation program NAPEP on youth in Bomo village?
- How can NAPEP achieve its objectives and empower the youth in Bomo village in particular?

1.03 Aim Of The Study

The aim of the study is to analyze the framework of NAPEP and how it works with relevant government agencies in coordinating and monitoring poverty eradication efforts in Nigeria as it affects the wellbeing of the people, to eradicate poverty and empower the youth in Bomo village,near Zaria.

1.04Objectives Of The Study

The objectives of our research are designed

(a) To assess the impact of poverty alleviation program in Nigeria in particular and to determine why the incidence of unemployment more pronounced among youth in Nigeria.

(b) To find out the impact of the activity of NAPEP in Bomo village and how it affect youth unemployment and empowerment in Bomo village .

(c) To make recommendation with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of NAPEP, thereby alleviating poverty, generating employment and empowerment among youth in Nigeria.

1.05 Significance Of The Study.

Poverty as a phenomenon has attracted considerable attention not only from researchers of various discipline but also from technocrat and statement, it is informed by the increasing widening gap that has developed overtime between the rich and poor, between the rural areas and urban areas and even the developing nations and the advanced ones.

In Nigeria with a conservative population of about 140 million (FOS 2008:1), we have 80 percent residing in the rural area and almost on equal numbers wallowing in poverty. It imperative therefore that rural development deserve a critical look to enable us address it much seriously.

Poverty alleviation is an important and critical issue to be taken into consideration in raising the living standard of the population and attaining a sustained socio-economic development. This study is imperative because despite various programmes undertaken by successive regimes, poverty has deepen and expand over the years.

As the government strives once again to make fresh start at tuning the table of pervasive poverty and enhancing the wellbeing of the rural citizen, this research has been largely conceived by the desire to fill in the gap in knowledge.

The relevance is to show how far NAPEP has gone in alleviating poverty and empowering the youth in Bomo village and to provide relevant information on the problems and constrains faced by NAPEP in trying to reduce poverty.

This study also is expected to be a useful addition to the growing literatures and research on poverty alleviation programmes, poverty question and youth empowerment so that those that are concerned with anti-poverty programmes would find it a useful guide in alleviating poverty. The impact of NAPEP in Bomo was not impressive because not many of the inhabitant received training, those that receive the training have no access to loan ,the training again was too short to allow for expertise and lastly most of the youth prefer

to enter into quick money making venture like wheelbarrow pushing, achaba boys, street hawking and even thuggery than to waste there time in receiving any training.

1.06 Hypothesis/ propositions

Our assumptions in this study express that:

1. youths are unemployed and disempowered because of wrong policies and inconsistencies in government policies.

1 The impact of NAPEP on youth empowerment and employment in Bomo village is low.

2 NAPEP can still perform better not only in Bomo but in the country as a whole.

3 It is possible that non of this assumption may turn out to be correct.

1.07 Scope

The scope of the study is limited to poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria with special attention to Bomo village of Sabon-Gari local government area between 2004-2009 there is no gain saying the fact that the problem of poverty has remained a permanent decimal in the menu of development scholars and indeed a source of serious concern and debate amongst technocrats in the last one or two decade. It should be noted that although poverty is attractive for such a study because of Nigeria's, enormous wealth and yet hunger exist amidst plenty

1.08 Limitations

Many poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria are government sponsored and majority of them came about as a result of the structural adjustment program which was

introduced in 1986, as a result of balance of payment of crisis brought about by sudden fall in global oil prices, as such, literatures in the area are rather scanty. The study therefore depends to a large extend on government publications, news papers, magazines and world bank reports on poverty alleviation and the few test books dealing with the subject matter.

Other limitations range from the un-cooperative attitude of the respondent some cannot read and write as such would have to resort through other means of gathering information poor financial condition of the researcher to embark on an elaborate research and the inconsistency and inadequacy of information on areas of variables relevant to the study, how ever in order not to allow these limitation to reduce the credibility and reliability of the findings of the study, we employed the following measures, we tried to cajole the respondent to help fill the questionnaire by assuring them that it will not implicate them in any way and convincing them on the relevance of the study in adding to the growing literature on poverty related issues ,same questions were repeated in various forms to verify the reliability of the work, for those who could not write , we interpreted and wrote down the responses for them.

1.09 Sources and methods of data collection and analyses

The accidental sampling method was used in the collection of data, it is a type of non probability sampling which involves the sample being drawn from that part of the population which is close to hand. That is, a sample population selected because it is readily available and convenient. Simple statistical method such as tabulation and percentages were used in analyzing and presentation of data.

Two sets of Questionnaires were administered in the cause of this research, the first Questionnaires was for the inhabitant of Bomo village, while the second was for the staff of NAPEP, in taking the sample for staff respondents only the senior staff were involved more in the process of policy making and implementation of the programme so, the questionnaires administered is for senior staff only.

Interview method was also used to get more information from some beneficiaries of NAPEP at Bomo village. The technique of percentage table was used in this analysis for determining the results, 50% and above qualifies any issue for acceptance, while 40% and below qualifies for rejection.

The researcher administered a total of 210 questionnaires, 200 to the inhabitant of Bomo village and 10 for NAPEP staff using the accidental sampling method.

A total of 179 or 89% questionnaires were returned from the ones administered to the people of Bomo and 8 or 80% questionnaires returned from the staff of NAPEP while 20 or 6.5% were not returned the researcher was then left with 179 questionnaires. Thus the analysis of data is therefore based on 179 questionnaires or 89.5% for the Bomo inhabitant and 80 or 8% for the staff of NAPEP.

Two methods were adopted in the course of this research for collection of data relevant for this study.

A. Sources of Secondary data collection, this include the extraction of relevant information from NAPEP documents and publications, government official documents,

journals, newspapers, magazine, conference papers, books, radio and television, commentaries etc

B. Sources of primary data .collection was through survey method which entails the use of questionnaires and interviews methods.

The questionnaire method was employed to ensure the reliability of the information obtained from the respondents. Both open-ended and close ended questions allow the respondents to open his/her response with no restrictions. This gives the respondents an opportunity to include all that maybe necessary in answers to the questions.

Interview was used also to enable the researcher gather sufficient Information on the general opinions and feelings of the respondents about the study. This gives room for first hand information and allows for flexibility. The face to face communication also gives the researcher opportunity for direct interaction or thus interpreting unspoken actions gesticulation and facial expression, the face to face communication therefore gives the opportunity for interpreting unspoken actions, gesticulation and facial expression.

1.10 Conceptual Definitions

The following concepts or terms are important for understanding the basis for this research work.

1. Development: Goulet (1974) Visualizes development as "a sustained elevation of the entire society and social system toward a better or more humane life".

2. Poverty: there is no objective definition of poverty, the number differ greatly according to different plausible definition (Stein and Foss 1995) there are however three

broad concept of poverty these are absolute poverty, relative poverty, and subjective poverty.

3. Absolute poverty: means lack of resources to buy a bundle of goods and services such bundle include basic necessity such as food, shelter, clothing etc.

4. Relative poverty: poverty compares welfare of those with the lowest amount of resource with other in the society.

5. Subjective poverty: subjective poverty requires individual (including the poor) to define what they consider to be a decent or minimal adequate standard of living.

6. Poverty depth: the average gap or distance between the income of the average poor and the poverty line more specifically the extent to which the incomes of the poor lie below poverty line.

7. Poverty line: it is the value of income per person or family that is needed to consume food and provide for other basic necessary goods and services required for healthy living, as such any individual or family whose conception or income fall bellow the poverty line is regarded poor, the international poverty line is US370 per annum as at 1985 and the poverty line in Nigeria was N395 a year and consumption rate was 100% kilocalories.

8. Poverty incidence: Also refers to the headcount relation, is define as the fraction of the population below the poverty line, for example, the proportion of people in the total population who fails below N395 a year.

9. Poverty alleviation: poverty reduction measure taken to reduce or eradicate the biting effect of poverty especially as they affect the poor and the less privilege.

1.11 Chapter Outline

Chapter one deals with the general background of the study which includes the statement of research problem, objectives of the study, propositions, scope and limitation of the study, methodology and significance of the study.

Chapter two contains reviews of literature and theoretical framework. The literatures under review are those related to poverty and youth empowerment, Poverty Alleviation and its approaches, and the Nigeria policy on the youth. The theory adopted the Decision Making Theory and the system theory. It also explains the perception of poverty and indicators of poverty.

Chapter three will examine the previous Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria, with a view to situating the current, Poverty Alleviation Programme (NAPEP)in proper perspective.

Chapter four assesses the Poverty Alleviation Programme and youth empowerment in Bomo village within the preview of NAPEP. Data collected will be analyzed and presented.

Chapter five presents summary, conclusion and recommendation based on our findings.

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CHAPTER TWO

2.00 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.01 Introduction

The need to distribute the worlds resources more equitably has been the concerns of governments, international organization as well as communities, inequality in the distribution of the worlds wealth has created the condition of poverty which is present in various part of the world in varying degree. Nigeria is endowed with so much wealth both human and material and yet the country is still poverty – stricken, despite several attempts at reducing poverty. This chapter takes a look at some literatures on poverty issues and also theoretical framework that is, the decision making theory and the system theory which is seen as a theory which could explain the problems and also proffer solutions to the problems.

2.02 Review of related Literature

According to United Nations (1995) and World Bank (1990) poverty has various manifestations which include among others: lack of income and food,150 people live in Absolute poverty in Nigeria: an analysis of the future trend productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate, unsafe and degraded environment and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterised by lack of participation in decision making in civil, social and cultural life.

.Yahie (1993) also reiterates that the causes of poverty include: (i) structural causes that are more permanent and depend on a host of (exogenous)factors such as limited resources, lack of skills, locational disadvantage and other factors that are inherent in the social and political set-up. The disabled, orphans, landless farmers, household headed by female fall into this category; and (ii) the transitional causes that are mainly due to structural adjustment reforms and changes in domestic economic policies that may result in price changes, increased unemployment and so on. National calamities such as drought and man-made disaster such as wars, environmental degradation and so on also induce transitory poverty.

As observed by Obadan (1997) the main factors that cause poverty in include among others: inadequate access to employment opportunities; inadequate physical assets such as land and capital and minimal access by the poor to credit even on a small scale; inadequate access to the means of supporting rural development in poor regions; inadequate access to market where the poor can sell goods and services; low endowment of human capital; destruction of natural resources lending to environmental degradation and reduced productivity; inadequate access to assistance for those living at the margin and those victimised by transitory poverty and lack of participation. That is, the failure to draw the poor into the design of development programmes that affect their lives.

Discussing the consequences of poverty Von Hauff and Kruse (1994) highlighted on three major consequences: consequences for those affected, i.e. for the people affected poverty leads to physical and psychological misery caused by inadequate nourishment,

lack of medical care, a lack of basic education and skills and marginalisation in the labour market; (ii) consequences for the national economies of countries affected, arising through the formation of slums in cities, a worsening of ecological problems particularly as a result of predatory exploitation in the agricultural sector and through the failure to use the available human resources social development of the countries affected. That is, mass poverty tends to preserve or reinforce the existing power structures and thus also the privilege of a minority of the population. In some cases, this involves corrupt elites. These privileged minorities in the population are not generally interested in structural changes for the benefit of the poor population. As a consequence, mass poverty tends to inhibit the development of democratic structure and a higher level of anticipation in decision making that affect their lives.

According to Narayan et. al. (2000) most households are crumbling under the weight of poverty. While some households are able to remain intact, many others disintegrate as men, unable to adapt to their failure to earn adequate incomes under harsh economic circumstance, have difficulty accepting that women are becoming the main breadwinners that necessitates a redistribution of income within the households. The result is often alcoholism and domestic violence on the part of men and a breakdown of the family structure Women in contrast, tend to swallow their pride and go out into the streets to dude meaning jobs, or in fact, to do anything it takes to put food on the table for their children and husbands.

Aku, et al (1997) also observed that with mass poverty there tends to be a general loss of confidence in the constituted authority which generates disrespect and renders government policies ineffective. There tends to be political apathy among contending forces and social disillusion with respect to what the societal objectives are and peoples' responsibilities towards the attainment of these objectives.

We have earlier argued that Nigeria's resource and potentials far out strip her level of development. In other words, we have stated that given the quantum of resources and potentials available in our country, it is surprising to note that high level of poverty still exists among Nigerian population. According to Dunmoye, he maintained that when confronted with this reality, what should attract ones mind should be at least a theoretical plane, the diagnoses that have been postulated for this crisis and the prescriptive remedies (Dunmoye, 1986-22).

S.K.T Williams in his work, Rural Development in Nigeria found himself merely sympathizing with the poor folk in the rural areas. According to him he hopes that his study will engender in the nations policy makers sympathy for the neglected people of the rural area (Williams, 1978:Xiii) this kind of humanistic conclusions could easily be arrived at, when attempts are not sufficiently critical of fundamental basis of poverty.

Baran, in his argument demonstrated the fact that in developing nations as well as advanced countries, rural development is inextricably linked with national development. As far as he is concerned, high attention must be paid to rural people in the scheme of things. He argued that such attention is indispensable in order to satisfy the legitimate

aspiration of the peasantry and to secure the foremast pre-requisite of economic and social development which involve the releases of energies and potentials of rural masses held down and crippled by centuries of degrading oppression and servitude (Baran 1973:308).

According to Todaro, he shows there is a need to adopt a multi sectoral approach to rural development in order to allow a gamut of factors to be examined for meaningful achievement. He outlines what could constitute the major objectives of an integrated rural development. According to him it will involve:

1. Improvement in the level of the living including income, employment, education health, nutrition, housing and variety of social services.

2. Decreasing inequality in the distribution of rural incomes and urban rural imbalances in economic opportunities and

1. The capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of these developments (Todaro 1997.249).

According to Igbozurike, rural development should be geared towards "improving the quality of life of the rural poor through a commitment to increasing their participation in the decision making process and the mobilization of their energies and resources through the adoption and strengthening of community structure and rural organization".(Igbozurike 1980:3).

Arguing along the same line Dagba agrees with Igbozurike that integrated rural development involves "increasing capacity of the rural people to exploit and manipulate their social, economic, cultural and physical environment for their own benefit – it include,

he continues the provision and maintenance of basic amenities and services like education medical and health services pipe borne water, good accommodation, electricity welfare services as well as agricultural inputs, agro-allied industries, stable market and access to good roads",(Dagba 1988:46).

It is often said that the test of theory is in practice with all these debates and theoretical constructs, not much difference can be found in actual practice because poverty has remained with us. This certainly has called to question the rural development and poverty alleviation strategies adopted in various areas concerned. According to Dunmoye, one important question that our analysis has provoked is that given the shortfall in the performance of ADPS so far, why have the state continued to push them as a major agricultural policies.

1. The need by the politicians to distribute the revenue generated from oil boom to all part of the country.
2. The need to be cost effective having spent huge sum on such agricultural projects and
3. The thinking that overtime the programme might be beneficial since already a few progressive farmers have enjoyed it (Dunmoye, 1986:310).

According to Famoriyo, found in Igbozurike's work between 1963-1964 he said, sixteen integrated rural development scheme were set up in the western region and by 1976, the Nigerian River Basin development authority decree No.25 was enacted and was later amended by decree No 87 of 1979. The aim of the project include productivity, rural

electrification provision of water for human and animal need etc, but have all failed to meet the desired needs. (Famoriyo 1976:96).

In spite all of these, nothing much has been achieved. It is the contention of this study therefore, to provide a more helpful pointer in this regard, it must be noted that with an annual investment of over a billion naira on poverty alleviation in 1995, gap still exists between the rich and the poor, between the rural areas and urban cities.

2.03 TRENDS OF POVERTY IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND IN NIGERIA

Poverty in Nigeria is pervasive although the country is rich in human and material resources that should translate into better living standards. According to the survey (2004 National Living Standards Survey) presented by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2007, about 69 million people were living in poverty, which represents 54.4 percent of the Nigerian population. Since the 1980s, the Nigerian poverty situation has been deteriorating The rate of poverty during those years translated to 17.7 million poor people in 1980, 34.7million in 1985 and, not minding the drop between 1985 and 1992 (due to the implementation of the structural adjustment program), about 39 million people were poor in1992. In 1996, however, about 67 million people were poor and despite the drop in incidence between 1996 and 2004, about 69 million people were poor in 2004.The high poverty rates in Nigeria go beyond low incomes, savings and growth because these are compounded by the high level of inequality resulting from unequal access to income opportunities and basic infrastructure. Unequal capabilities due to education and health

status also play a role. According to the NBS (2007), Nigeria has a more unequal distribution of income than Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, Niger, the United States and Sweden. The Gini Coefficient of income inequality for Nigeria was put at 56.9 percent, which is among the highest within the class of comparable countries. Incidentally, the importance of equal access to income opportunities and assets cannot be over emphasized as such access plays an important role in reducing poverty and spurring the economy to long-term.

Nigeria is a country that is richly blessed with vast amounts of human, physical, and natural resources. The natural resource endowment of the country includes petroleum, gas, and several solid mineral resources. There is a wide range of climatic, vegetation, and soil conditions that are suitable for rich agricultural production. The diversity of species of plants and animals is indispensable for both domestic consumption and export. The country is also blessed with a vibrant population, a large proportion of who are highly educated, active, and talented . According to the NBS (2007), poverty exists when a person within a household does not spend up to N23,733.00 per annum. The apparent decline in the poverty headcount in 1992 and 2004 was, partly, due to a relatively faster rate of increase in the population base compared to a relatively slower rate of decline in the number of the poor. Comparable countries are those with similar characteristics in terms of gross domestic product and per capita gross national product and income Given some of the causes and consequences of poverty discussed above, the recent trends in the incidence of poverty in the world seem rather alarming. Apart from the 1960s and the

1970s when major economic advances were witnessed the frontiers of poverty were pushed back and the income of even the poorest countries like Niger, Mali and Bangladesh and people within the countries rose. The 1980s witnessed some discrepancies in development in these countries as economic growth deteriorated*2* with considerable decline. Absolute poverty in Nigeria: an analysis of the future trend individual's well-being. Between 1980 and 1990 the living standard of the people got worse, such that this decade was classified as the "lost decade" as far as development was concerned. Within this period it was estimated that more than a billion people in the world live in abject poverty most of whom are hungry everyday and with almost the same figure not having access to clean water for drinking, bathing and adequate sanitation. Child mortality in less developed countries is ten times higher than in the developed countries with 7 million people dying every year from preventable diseases. Within the period, poverty took on a new dimension with increasing inequality between the rich and the poor within these countries (World Bank, 1990, 1996).

The term youth or young people is used as a statistical artifact to refer specially to those aged 15-25years. Another meaning explains that youth is a transition stage between childhood and adulthood from dependence to independence and from being recipient of society services to becoming a contributor to national, economic, political and cultural development . (World Youth Report 2003 :72)

No one is born a good citizen no nation is born a democracy rather both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime, young people must be included from birth a society

that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifetime it is condemned and bleeds to death" Kofi Anan (2004:3). www.unescap.org/eid/hds/youth/ypo/htm

According to Kofi Anan (2004:3) the over all goal of empowerment is to achieve sustainable development, involvement and participation in the context of continuity of life system and the participation of itself. Development cannot be sustained if youth are not involved that is to say youth participation is a crucial factor in sustaining development.

Empowerment occurs first before development can be sustained empowerment involves developing power with and inside the people, power that comes from and grows inside the person. According to Okweri found in an M.SC thesis by (Danwanzam 2004:32). " This power comes from awareness from knowledge of ones capacity, resources limitation and challenges, once the youth gain power the are able to resist the condition that disempowered them". He says that these should be the highest priority of government for the youth.

2.04 BACKGROUND STUDY ON THE YOUTH POLICY

Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the future leaders; they are, potentially and actually, the greatest investment for a country's development. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country.

Nigeria's population is predominantly young. Therefore, the president Obasanjo,s Administration, having given due consideration to the significance of the youth in socioeconomic and political development, has found it most desirable and necessary to initiate this National Youth Development policy so that there will be a purposeful, focused, well articulated and well directed effort aimed at tapping the energy and resourcefulness of the youth and harnessing them for the vitality, growth, and development of the country well into the 21 st Century. This resolve and commitment to the development of the youth has been reinforced by resolutions of various international organisations which draw attention to the need to concretely address the problems of the youth and empower them, (e.g. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment approved in May 1998). The National Youth Development Policy is an official declaration of the importance of the youth in National development. It is indicative of the readiness of the Federal Government to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth as well as seek solutions to their problems. It sets guidelines for all stakeholders to empower the youth to realize their potentialities and take advantage of the opportunities available to make positive contributions to the well-being of their communities and the society as a whole.

The Policy takes into account the range of problems faced by the youth, anticipates the challenges that they are likely to confront and outlines appropriate objectives, policies, programmes and implementation plans which will be put in place so as to empower the youth to take charge of their own destiny as well as make them active

participants in the shaping of the political and economic destiny of our nation. The Policy also recognizes that youths are not a homogeneous category and that differences exist among them. Therefore, the Policy contains provisions that will address the specific and special needs of each of several identified target groups. Furthermore, the Policy is informed by the provisions of Chapters II (Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy) and IV (Fundamental Rights) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, provisions which demand the involvement of all Nigerians as equal partners and stake holders in the task of building and developing our nation.

Finally, the Administration recognizes that the youth are a particular segment of the national population, that is sensitive, energetic, active and in the most productive phase of their life as citizens. Hence, the Government is committed to this progressive, creative and all-inclusive National Youth Development Policy to generate maximum expression of youthful creativity and productivity, ingenuity and freedom in the context of an appropriate environment for self-expression, self-sustenance and self-actualization by the youth.

a. DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The way in which a nation defines its youth is related to the objective conditions and realities that exist on Multiple Lines Missing persons of ages 18 to 35, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This category represents the most active, the most volatile, and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population socio--economically, emotionally, and in other respects.

b. YOUTH PROFILE

The 1991 Population Census puts Nigeria's population at 88.9 million. At a growth rate of 2.8% per annum, this was projected to be around 115 million in the year 2000. The country's population is predominantly young. For instance, six out of every ten Nigerians are under 25 years of age. The total population of those between the ages of 15 and 34 was about 30 million in 1991; equivalent to one of every three Nigerians; and of these, 14 million (47%) were males while 16 million (53%) were females. It about 38 million, with the male/female ratio almost one to one. The 1991 Census indicates that the total population of those defined as youth in the Policy is 22.5 million, or

one out of every four Nigerians and it was estimated to be around 28 million in 2000 This represents over 70% of all youths and adolescents of the ages 15-34. Forty-four percent (44%) of these are males while fifty-six percent (56%) are females. About 17 million of these, or 61 %, live in the rural areas, while 11 million (or 39%) live in the urban areas, defined as settlements with a population over 20,000. Of these who live in the rural areas, 62% are females while 38% are males. In the urban areas, the gender distribution is fifty-fifty . However, being a vulnerable group with peculiar but un-met needs and aspirations, a majority of the youth faces problems, the highlights of which include the following:

· Inadequate parental care;

· Non-availability of suitable sports and recreational facilities;

· Moral decadence in the society;

· Lack of appropriate role models;

· Religious fanaticism;

· Cult activities

· Political manipulation of youth organisations;

· Unemployment and under-employment;

· Poor education;

· Breakdown of family values; and

· Indiscipline.

To these can be added mounting health and social welfare problems. For example, although between 43% and 53% of youths are sexually active, most lack adequate information and services to promote and protect their reproductive health.

There is also the rapid rate of increase of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and AIDS. Youths are the most vulnerable to infection and to inadequate care and treatment. Similarly, quite a number of the youth are afflicted by all kinds of disabilities. The 1991 census data indicate that one out of every three disabled persons is a young person. These range from the deaf, the dumb, the deaf and dumb, the blind, the crippled, to the mentally disordered. Rehabilitation and vocational training centers for the disabled are grossly inadequate and ill-equipped. In terms of formal education, approximately 33% of all youths have no formal education. When differentiated according to gender, 45% of females have no formal education, while 55% of males have no formal education. Many of these youths without formal education are vulnerable to unemployment and

underemployment as well as to socioeconomic exploitation and deprivation. About 50% of all those in the age category 15 to 34 years are not gainfully employed. Most of those with some knowledge of gainful employment are involved in informal sector, low-level income activities e.g. street hawking of wares and commodities, either for their parents and/or relatives, or for other traders from whom they earn meager commission or remuneration. Consequently, they are the pool from which youth labor is exploited, and they are susceptible to crime, delinquency, and other vices. The range, extent and magnitude of the problems which confront the Nigerian youth require a committed and determined effort on the part of all stakeholders in order to help them achieve their potentiality and make them appropriate partners in the task of national development. And the problems need to be urgently addressed so that they can be adequately empowered and enabled to play active roles as participants in the shaping of their own destiny as well as in the building and development of the Nigerian nation.

d. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH POLICY IN NIGERIA

Since independence in 1960, successive Nigerian governments have initiated programmes and projects aimed at the youth. These range from in-school education programme for physical and mental development of out-of-school programme aimed at shaping the character and behaviour of the youth, as well as promoting competitive spirit and national unity and integration. In-school programme include the formation of clubs, encouragement of sporting activities and other out-door activities, with discipline

instilling organisations such as Boy Scouts, Girls Guide and Man O'War. Out of school efforts include facilitation of the emergency and development of voluntary self-help associations which contribute to community development, skills and vocational training programme, competitive activities and cultural festivals.

In the decades of 1970's and 1980's, the Federal Government elevated programme of Youth Development by the establishment of a Ministry of Youths and Sports for instance. Expanded revenue base of the State, arising from increased petroleum export earnings, resulted in the allocation of substantial resources in the funding of such programme. State Governments were encouraged to establish similar Ministries at their own level and to initiate their own youth, sports, culture and community development programmes. At the Federal level, the National Youth Service Corps programme was launched in 1973, to promote national unity and integration and expose graduates of tertiary institutions to leadership roles and community development projects before joining the job market. The Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, Shere Hills, Jos, was developed and made to intensify its short-duration programmes and courses for youth with potentials for leadership. National sports and cultural festivals were also organised in the 1970's and 1980's as fora for the search, identification and encouragement of talent amongst the youth. However, the first attempt to introduce a National Youth Policy was in 1983. This was followed with the drafting of an inclusive Social Development Policy for Nigeria in 1989, providing the basis for a review of the first Policy on Youth. Regrettably, by the early 1990's, these commendable efforts aimed at youth development started to suffer

tremendous neglect. Besides, the policy attempts hardly provided a concrete framework for addressing the heightened problems confronting the youth. This was partly because the implementation mechanisms of the policy were weak and ineffective, and also partly because the macro-economic and sociopolitical environment was not conducive. Thus, in the 1990's youth development came to be increasingly equated with sporting activities and competition. Even then, these were not given the necessary policy and material support that they required. Programmes for civic education and leadership training suffered a serious set-back. The issue of empowerment was hardly ever addressed. The Federal Government dismantled the Ministry of Youths and Sports, and many State Governments followed suit. Consequently, by the late 1990's it had become evident that Nigerian youths are probably the most neglected by their government, compared to youths in other countries. This was illustrated by growing unemployment and underemployment of the youth, heightened involvement of youths in crimes and delinquency, an increase of preventable diseases and other health related problems among the youth, declining school enrolment and drop-out rates, and so on. Clearly, the prevailing situation should not, and cannot, be allowed to continue, as a nation can only afford to neglect the growth and development of its youth at its own peril. With the return of power to a democratically elected civilian government, some of the constraining factors which have prevented a serious effort at policy formulation and implementation have been reduced, and a conducive atmosphere now exists for the development of a new

policy for our youth. Hence, the Administration embarked on a review of the previous policies, and the development of this new National Youth Development Policy.

e. OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In causing to be prepared a consensus blue print for youth development, the 1999 Administration recognises the youths of the nation as constituting the most vital resources for national development. If correctly guided, adequately mobilized and fully integrated into the fabric of society, they will bring to national development a great reservoir of energy, resourcefulness, creativity, and dynamism; they can also constitute a threat to national stability, even survival, if allowed to drift, remain unemployed, and misguided. The Administration also recognises that the ability and capacity of the youth to derive benefits from, and contribute to, national development depend essentially on the political will of Government, the legitimacy and credibility of the National Youth Development Policy, as well as the appropriateness and adequacy of the institutional arrangements it puts in place to administer the policy and programmes. Administrators, non-governmental bodies, and other stake-holders nation-wide; and attempts to government and parents, are enumerated. Also stated are key strategic areas of thrust of the Policy, such is youth empowerment, youth socialization /education / training, youth recreation/sports, youth employment, and youth organisation. Priority target groups of youths are identified and appropriate priority programme areas firmly indicated. Finally, unlike in previous attempts, this Policy provides for appropriate enabling legislative,

institutional, budgetary/funding and monitoring and evaluation framework for its effective implementation.

f. VISION, MISSION, VALUES, SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH POLICY

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of this policy is one of a positive future role of the youth in national socio-economic development. It is the vision of empowered Nigerian youths to fully realize their potentialities and positively contribute to the overall development of Nigeria.

g. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the policy is to build a youth with a sense of hope, self confidence, imagination, creativity and pride in the nation's heritage; youth who represent hope in the future of Nigeria; youth who are disciplined, well-focused, law-abiding and good citizens; youth full of the spirit of entrepreneurship, self reliance, mutual cooperation, understanding and respect; youth who are not corrupt and self-serving; youth with equality ofopportunity, free from gender and other forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse; youth who imbibe a culture of democracy and good governance; youth who take pride in our diverse cultural heritage and geographic conditions; and youth committed to the ideal of national unity and development as enshrined in the 1999Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

g. VALUES

The National Youth Development Policy is guided by the following value systems which are enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic Nigeria.

· Social' Justice

· Equality of Opportunity

· Transparency and Accountability

· Self-reliance and Selflessness

· Hard-work and Entrepreneurship

· Unity and Cooperation

· Respect for Human Rights

· Democracy and Good Governance

h. SCOPE

A set of clear, firm and formal statements of objectives, targets, programmes and plans of action on the general status, role, well being, growth and development of the youth as a distinct socio-economic category in contemporary Nigerian society, this policy encompasses the processes of continuous improvement of the structures, institutions and programmes designed to create conditions for the propagation, protection and advancement of the rights of the youth, the enhancement of their welfare, and the provision of opportunities for their self-actualisation.

i. OBJECTIVES

· The National Youth Development Policy will pursue and seek to fulfill the following objectives:

· Ensure that all youths are given equal opportunities and guided to reach their full potentials.

· Recognize the rights of youths choose, to make decisions and accept the consequences of theiractions

· Foster appropriate values .and positive attitudes among youths

· Inculcate in the Nigerian youth the virtues of patriotism discipline selfless service honesty and integrity

· Inculcate in the youths leadership and followship values and make them socially responsible and accountable.

· Involve youths in decision making at all levels of government in all matters affecting them.

· Develop and implement a comprehensive programme for youth socialisation so that they can become good and productive citizens.

· Provide opportunities for youths, whether in, or out of school, for vocational training geared towards self-employment and self-reliance.

· Seek and offer solutions to youth problems such as drug abuse and addiction, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, cultism, examination malpractices, etc.

· Inculcate in the youths the spirit of adventure, resourcefulness and inventiveness.

· Promote the development of individual talents and infuse the youths with a keen sense of inquiry and achievement.

· Organise and harness the energies of the youth in the service of their neighbourhoods and communities

· Encourage youth to join voluntary, community-oriented youths organisations and participate actively in their programmes.

· Facilitate interaction between Nigerian youth organisations and similar regional and international organisations.

· Establish and sustain the operations of appropriate structures that will create a healthy and responsible youth fora.

· Advocate, provide and protect the legal, constitutional, and legislative instruments as well as the framework for the implementation of the policy's programmes.

This policy recognizes that Nigerian youth have rights as well as obligations, just as the government and parents have obligations towards the youth, all of which need to be taken together, nurtured and promoted in the overall interest of national development.

j. RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

The rights, responsibilities and obligations of the Nigerian youth are contextualized in the provisions of chapter four of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which itemize the fundamental human rights of Nigerian citizens, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the African Charter of Human and Peoples

Rights. This policy subscribes to all the rights guaranteed by the 1999 Nigerian Constitution and by other international Charters, Covenants, and/or Conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory.

Among the most important of these rights which the youth shall equally enjoy are the following:

· Freedom of opinion and expression.

· Freedom of thought and religion.

· Freedom of association.

· Freedom of movement.

· Right of security of life and property.

· Right to proper education and training.

· Right to leisure, cultural and sporting activities.

· Right to equal opportunities in employment and access to social services.

· Right to adequate shelter, health-care, social and food security.

· Right to be protected from any form of harassment and degrading, cruel and inhuman treatment, and torture.

· Right to protection against the dangers of substance abuse, alcoholism, sexual harassment and exploitation, HIV/AIDS, secret cults, and gender discrimination.

· Right to participate in decision making in matters that affect them.

· Right to privacy, family life and non-interference in personal matters such as correspondence.

· Right to a good and clean environment.

· Right to equal protection under the law.

· Right to participate in National Development including matters that affect them.

· Right to be protected against harmful traditional practices.

· Right to survival and social, economic and cultural development.

· In the case of the disabled, the right to be provided with the special treatment which his/her condition requires .

k. OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH

Every set of rights that a person has a corresponding set of obligations. In order to make Nigerian youths tolerant, caring, responsible, and productive citizens, the policy outlines the following set of obligations to active participation of the youth in the conditions of the Nigerian people:

· Promotion and defence of democracy and civility in the governance of the country and in inter-personal relations with fellow citizens.

· Eschewing ethnic and religious bigotry.

· Eschewing all acts of violence and crimes, such as cultism, armed robbery, street violence, alcoholism, substance abuse, prostitution, and so on.

· Promotion of the principle of gender equality

· Active involvement in the promotion of national unity, national reconciliation, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness.

· Promotion of self-help, self-respectability, cooperation and community development. Promotion of values of tolerance and responsible conduct.

· Conservation and promotion of the environment against pollution and degradation. Respect for and promotion-of all symbols of National unity, such as the flag, the national pledge and the national anthem.

· Promotion of a healthy, responsible and respectable lifestyle free from communicable diseases, alcohol and drugs.

· Strive to be law abiding and respectable and enlightened citizens, knowledgeable about their rights as well as duties and obligations.

· Active involvement in the promotion of national unity and national development.

· Strive to be actively involved in decision making on matters that affect them.

· Be good ambassadors of Nigeria abroad, and promote international peace and harmony.

l . OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TOWARD THE YOUTH

The government, parents and guardians have obligations to ensure that youth are empowered to discharge their obligations to society. The policy accepts that they have a responsibility to create the enabling environment for the right kind of orientation, education and psychological conditioning for the youth.

Their obligations include the following:

· Provide conducive atmosphere for the mental, emotional and physical development of the young persons.

· Nurture the youth in warmth and affection in an atmosphere of peace and harmony

· Constantly provide counseling, support and guidance in accordance with their specific and personal needs

· Provide shining role models for the youths through responsible and ethical conduct and leadership by example.

· Create opportunities for the youth to be involved in making decisions that affect them, the environment and society.

· Teach human rights values, social justice, equity, fairness and gender equality.

· Recognise their capacities, their individualities, according to age and maturity, and allow whenever possible their choice of educational fields and careers.

· Provide adequate funding for education and equal opportunities to be educated.

· Provide adequate funding for sustainable youth development projects.

It is the responsibility of the Government and other stakeholders to constantly identify and address the needs and problems of the youth with the full participation of

Critique of the youth policy

In spite of attempts by successive regimes to improve their lot, the condition of the Nigerian youth still leaves a lot to be desired. A lot more needs to be done to empower them, re-energize them and get them seriously involved with the task of nation-building and **s**ocioeconomic development. Past attempts at addressing the problems of the youth were characterised by much rhetoric and little in terms of concrete action. Even the little that was being done lacked focus such that the result was marginal, when not

counterproductive. The nature of the sociopolitical and economic environment which had prevailed in the country imposed serious constraints in terms of meeting the needs and aspirations of the youth. Indeed, historically, it can be said that Nigerian youths have suffered more neglect than encouragement, and purposeful involvement by the Government. Contemporarily, they suffer from different kinds of socioeconomic deprivations and afflictions, which have been intensified with prolonged military rule and acute economic crisis. Thus, Government's efforts, when made, have generally tended to be too little too late. The institutional framework for, and plan-implementation mechanisms of, public policy have been very weak, inefficient and ineffective, such that they hardly ever facilitated the actualization of desired policy goals.

2.05 Perception of Poverty

Given its multi-dimensional nature, poverty has been perceived using different criteria. Poverty has been defined in the literature from two basic perspectives. The economic perspective defines poverty in terms of the external circumstances that influence a person behavior, especially with respect to economic decisions and transactions like purchase of good, the acquisition of skills and the provision of productive services etc. in this respect, has been defined as a severe constriction of the choice set which is measured by the household's generalized command over real goods and service (watts 1977).

The cultural perspective of poverty describes describe the internal altitude and behavior patterns that a person bring to any particular set of circumstance (World Seminar on

poverty cited in Watts 1976). Poverty however is not a discrete condition since both the economic and cultural aspect of poverty are interconnected Sen's (1987) definition of poverty as the lack of certain capabilities such as being able to participate with dignity; in society lends credence to the above assertion that poverty is a non-discrete condition while the capabilities are absolute the commodities needed are relative and the dignity is cultural. Poverty can thus be said to be state of deprivation in terms of both economic and social indicator such as incomes, education, healthcare, access to food social states, self-esteem and self actualization (Okoh, 1998)

Aluku (1975:10) defined poverty as lack of command over basic consumption needs such as food clothing and/or shelter such lack of resources to meet the basic needs incapacitates the individual in protecting himself against social economic and political deprivations.

Based on this concept, Anyanwu (1997:58) categorized the following as poor especially within the Nigerian contest.

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

b. Households or individuals lacking access to basic services political, contracts and other forms of support.

c. People in isolated rural areas who lack essential infrastructure.

d. Female headed household whose nutritional needs are not being met adequately;

e. Persons who have lost their jobs and those who are unable to find employment as a result of economic reform under structural adjustment programme (SAP) and those who are in danger of becoming the new poor and \

f. Ethnic minorities, who are marginalized, deprived and persecuted economically, socially, culturally, and politically.

2.06 Indicators Of Poverty

Indicator of poverty in general, focuses on measures of economic performance as well as the standard of living of the population. They thus combine measures of income or purchasing power or consumption with those social indicators which highlight availability and access to health care delivery, education basic infrastructure and access to other welfare enhancing facilities in other to define the incidence of poverty how many are poor, the intensity or severity of poverty (how poor are they) and the distribution of poverty within a population.

TABLE 2.1: POVERTY INDEX IN NIGERIA 1980-2010

Table 2 Relative Poverty Headcount from 1980-2010 **Year**	**Poverty Incidence (%)**	**Estimated Population (Million)**	**Population in poverty (Million)**
1980	27.2	65	17.1
1985	46.3	75	34.7
1992	42.7	91.5	39.2
1996	65.6	102.3	67.1
2004	54.4	126.3	68.7
2010	69.0	163	112.47

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. HNLSS 2010

Despite the fact that Nigerian economy is paradoxically growing, the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty is increasing every year as shown in Table 2. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line increased significantly from 1980 to 2004.

According to Okoh (1998), contemporary studies on poverty measurement concentrate on three major issues that is

a. The determination of a yardstick for assessing living standard
b. Defining a poverty line
c. Constructing an appropriate poverty profile.

Poverty line and profile can be compiled from different sources, poverty line is a tool for measuring poverty, it is often based on income or consumption data and represents the level of income that categories the household of a particular size, place and time into poor or non-poor according to the World Bank (1993) poverty lines can be set in relative or absolute terms relations poverty assess the position of an individual or household in comparison with the average income in the country while absolute poverty is the position of an individual or household in relation to a poverty line whose real value is fixed overtime (Ravallio and Bidani 1994)

The need to specify benchmarks against which individual regional and national measures of poverty can be compared has led to the construction of poverty line which represents he value of basic (food and non-food) need considered essential for meeting the minimum socially-acceptable standard of living within a given society. Thus an individual

whose income or consumption falls below the poverty line is regarded as poor and the national poverty rate is the percentage of the population of a country below the poverty line of that country. (Mike Obadan 1996).

However, poverty line will necessarily differ from country to country depending on general price levels the tradable, non-tradable mix in basic needs, exchange rates etc. hence at the international level, there is an international poverty line of US$1.0 a day expressed in 1985 international price and adjusted to local currencies using purchasing power parity exchange rates is ₦ 395 with per-capital income of $240.

Apart from using a poverty line other poverty indices are used to measure the incidence intensity and severity of poverty, the include headcount index the poverty gap index and the squared poverty gap index.

The headcount index computes the percentage of household with consumption per-capital below the poverty line. It measures the incidence and magnitude of poverty. This index has the advantage of being easy to compute and interpret it does not however provide much information about the depth or severity of poverty. (Obadan, 1996).

The poverty gap index measures the income shortfall below the poverty line, it is defined by the mean distance below the poverty line as a proportion of that line it measures the dept or intensity of poverty. (Gillespie: 1990)

The square poverty gap index devise by poster, Greer and Thorbecke 1984 is the mean of the squared proportional poverty gaps formed over the entire population counting the

non-poor as having a zero poverty gap, this index indicates the severity of poverty in the sense that it is sensitive to inequality amongst the poor.

The social indicators of poverty measure the availability and access to health education and welfare facilities as well as basic infrastructure. The health care indicator include those of life expectancy at birth mortalities rate across the age segment of the population, prevalence of malnutrition percentage of the population with access to healthcare safe water and sanitation for education the ratios computed are literacy rate and gross and net enrolment ratios at the primary secondary and tertiary educational levels measure of basic infrastructure includes supply of electric power, telephones, paved road railways etc.

2.07 POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty alleviation has become a global issue reducing or even eradicating poverty will be beneficial to both rich and poor countries, it will reduce a lot of frictions caused by the inequality in the distribution of the worlds wealth.

Fish law (1995) has noted however, that poverty reducing is much more than dealing with income inequality can lead to an increased polarization between the rich and the poor i.e it can widen the gap between the rich and poor. Thus since 1980, much attension had turned away from dealing directly with income inequality to reducing poverty.

Improving the condition of the poor simply means paying attention to their problem. This must be a partnership venture between the poor themselves the government

and non-governmental organization (NGO's) in this regard the poverty alleviation programme development committee (PAPDC) noted this.

The need to improve the provision of infrastructure and delivery of service to the poor requires the effective harnessing of the energy and initiative community members with budgetary and technical resources of government. This can best be promoted through a partnership between government, NGO's, communities and the private sector. Achieving such collaboration will necessitate action in three areas.

a. Making government activities more responsive to local demand.

b. Enabling and supporting NGO's in their development efforts, and

c. Ensuring the coordination of development efforts.

Community groups assited by non-governmental organizations have been an important force in the expansion of local authority. They have been much favoured by bilateral assistance programme. Fish law 1995, has indicated that NGO's in particular have the capacity to reach low-income groups, especially in rural areas. World bank (1996)

2.07 APPROACHES TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION

a. The Economic Growth Approach

The economic growth approach to poverty alleviation is based on the assumption that economic deprivation is at the root of all poverty and that non-economic causes of poverty are only secondary, arising from the primary economic causes. this approach focuses on macro and micro economic policies and programmes that would ensure the rapid growth of the economic measured by per capital GDP or per capital national income, rate of growth

in production rate of employment, consumer price stability etc. this principle holds that as economic growth continues, the effects will progressively trickle down to the core poor and the most disadvantage in the society e.g. favorable tax measures would directly benefit the poor, favorable import tariff would reduce the cost of imported basic necessities to the poor, investment in rural infrastructure would directly benefit the poor and above all various economic incentives emanating from both macro and micro economic policies would benefit the poor and non poor although there is no assurance that most of the core poor can take advantages of opportunities offered by various economic incentives, although it has been argued that the economic growth approach is not a sufficient condition though a necessary one for poverty alleviation.

b. Basic Need Approach To Poverty Alleviation

Under the basic need approach poverty is seen in a broad perspective and policies and programmes are design to tackle the wider causes of poverty. The first requirement is to identify the poor and their basic needs. The basic needs may be described a fundamental necessities which would differ for different types of poverty (chronic or transition) for different parts of a country and over different periods of time. But most components of basic needs would include all or some of such basic economic necessities as food and nutrition, healthcare, education, shelter, clothing, transport and employment from the heterogeneous nature of basic needs. Some would be general while others would specifically target the poor. They should also be broad base covering economic, social and

other dimensions of poverty in an integrated fashion. General basic needs programmes for poverty alleviation would have.

i. Economic component to promote broad base economic growth and create employment and income generating opportunities for both poor and non-poor.

ii. Social services components to provide education health and sanitation services, clean water, nutrition, physical and socio-economic infrastructure, power, supply transport etc.

iii. Safety-net component, to provide relief for the old, disable and destitute and to provide targeted assistance to the transitorily poor.

c. Rural Development Approach to Poverty Alleviation

The argument is that a sector with such a high percentage of the poor deserves special attention, food is the first basic need of the poor and food production is essentially a rural business,the types and mix of resources available for poverty alleviation intervention in rural areas are different from those in urban areas. The rural sector is usually the weaker sector, relative to the urban sector in the inability of it's poor to take advantages of socio-economic opportunities for poverty alleviation. This implies that the rural sector usually requires more intensive effort than the urban sector for poverty alleviation. Economic development in rural areas requires rapid growth in agriculture through the modern inputs and technology and the modernization of farming system and method of farming organization, but equally important is the need to diversify the economy by using rural

resources to develop non agricultural, economic activities especially through rural industrialization (Mike Obadan1975.156)

2.08 Theoretical Framework

This work adopts the decision making theory and the system theory in trying to explain and provide a solution to the problems of poverty and youth empowerment if used properly.

Decision making is a natural phenomenon. The process through which it was articulated into a body of theory is the result of man intellectual quest and advancement centuries before Benoulli was born, the anthenian citizens of Greece had already evolved a workable model of making political decision in furtherance of their Demo by the "Kratia" also the glorified Roman Empire was able to take concrete economic decision that made the emperor the imperial ruler of the world then. (Snder et al 1992)

According to J.R Thackrah (1986) he says a decision is a choice of goals or means at reaching some goals from among those seen to be available as alternative at the time for the purpose of reacting to the requirement of specific complex issue or some situation though likely to occur in the future.

According to Synder, he posits that decision making theory lies at the heart of all political action and therefore it alone provide the common focus under which we can bring together, the political actors, situations and processes for the purpose of analysis he posits that understanding a particular action requires the analyst

a. To ascertain who made the decision that resulted in the action

b. examines the interactive factors that influence the decision maker.

According to him the internal setting includes such variables o f the local society as public opinion, dominant value orientation, organization, dynamic and social structure the external setting consist of such factors as the action and reaction of other actors in the international of national arena and the physical environment. Among the forces which make up the decision making process are the organizational decision of sphere of competence. The flow of communication and the motivation of decision makers.

C.T Allinson on the other hand suggested three model of decision making they include the rational actor model organizational model and bureaucratic model theory. The rational actors model, here, the state is assumed to be a unitary actor, which established goal set option and a logical way of deciding which option best meets its goal the organizational model paradigm suggest that in term of decision making on certain issues, organization in the state plays a vital role because of their knowledge over their specific areas government seek advice from these specific areas. The bureaucratic model decisions are seen as a product of either sub national organization or of bureaucracies by this we mean department or ministries of government. Encyclopedia of social science vol 4

Decision making theory is concerned with the selection of an optional cause of action from among a set of specified alternative cause of action on the basic of a criterion of preference" decision making theory has some striking features or characteristics, these include;

1. The availability of alternative

2. It is process oriented

2. It is suppose to be democratic i.e. it entails a consideration of diverse opinion

3. Communication implementation of opinion or policies and rationalization i.e. if we want to comprehend the dynamic of any action we should be prepared to perceive the word not from our view point alone but also from the perspectives of those responsible for taking decision.

i. It has the internal and external setting the internal setting this refers to the society for which the officials make decision it includes public opinion, etc.

ii. The external setting, this consist of action and reaction of other states and nation e.g. U.S.A Britain can be used as good example since their actions and reactions about contemporary issues in the would wield great influence on decision making especially in the united nation security council

2.09 Strength Of The Approach

1. The decision making approach enable us to make optimal choice from among the many competing lives and action

2. For pattern design and adjustment, the approach or imputes before it for effective decision making

3. Through the good decision making taken by the decision makers the society and its institutions are effectively organized and administrated

4. It is significant not only to the government, but also to individuals, groups, association institution etc.

5. It is capable of handling crisis situation.

2.10 Weaknesses/Limitation

1. It is too rationalistic- it assumes all actions to be rational

2. It is also ideally democratic: it over-emphasizes democracy in decision making.

3. It over-emphasize also the analysis of the process to the neglect of the out come of decision

2. Bureaucratic bottleneck delays policies decision whether at he level of implementation or formulation

SYSTEM THEORY

system theory may be defined as a set of social biological or material partners co-operating on a common purpose. System theory is a philosophical doctrine of describing systems as abstract organizations independent of substance, type, time and space. system theories are connected to both ontological and epistemological views. The ontological view imply that the word consist of "systems" or "interactive levels". The epistemological view implies a holistic perspective emphasizing the interplay between the systems and their elements in determining their respective functions. It is thus opposed to more atomistic approaches in which objects are investigated as individual phenomena. Systems theory developed especially from biology, in which it is difficult to understand the functions of, for example, the sexual reproduction of flowers separate from the functions of the insects. The modern understanding in biology is very much that of ecosystems.

The system theory began from natural sciences.it started with a biological scientist call von Bertalanffy in the 1920s when he began to look at biological being including man by understanding the various part that interact to ensure the functionality of the being. this understanding of system theory David Easton was the first to think of analyzing politics from the point of view of the system analysis in his work political system 1953

System theory exists in different versions and is related to some other fields. We can mention General Systems Theory (GST); The Systems approach; Cybernetics and Operational Analysis. In recent years a version of system theory developed by the German sociologist Niklas Luhmann has been influential.

GST is particularly an approach in philosophy of science, aiming at understanding and investigating the world as sets of systems. Systems approach is the name of a methodology or procedures in which problems are solved from a holistic perspective, nut as bundles of small isolated problems, which one tries to combine. One of the most influential versions of systems theory has been GST developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901 - 1972). He wrote

"…….this shows the existence of a general systems theory which deals with formal characteristics of systems, concrete facts appearing as their special applications by defining variables and parameters. In still other terms, such examples show a formal uniformity of nature." Bertalanffy (1962).

Bertalanffy (1968) and his followers tried to conceive the world as a whole and represent an attempt to oppose the more atomistic and mechanical approaches in science. "The English philosopher Herbert Spencer appears to be the first to set out the general idea of increasing complexity in systems (Spencer 1862). The term itself [the theory of integrative levels] was first used by the English biochemist (and scholar of Chinese science) Joseph Needham (1937). The following quotation from the web source provides an insight into fundamentals of the theory:

(a) The structure of integrative levels rests on a physical foundation. The lowest level of scientific observation would appear to be the mechanics of particles.

(b) Each level organizes the level below it plus one or more emergent qualities (or unpredictable novelties). The levels are therefore cumulative upwards, and the emergence of qualities marks the degree of complexity of the conditions prevailing at a given level below as well as giving to that level its relative autonomy.

(c) The mechanism of an organization found at the level below, its purpose at the level

(d) The knowledge of the lower level infers an understanding of matters on the higher level; however; qualities emerging on the higher level have no direct reference to the lower-level organization.

(e) The higher the level, the greater its variety of characteristics, but the smaller its population.

(f) The higher level can not be reduced to the lower, since each level has its own characteristic structure and emergent qualities.

(g) An organization at any level is a distortion of the level below, the higher-level organization representing the figure which emerges from the previously organized ground.

(h) A disturbance introduced into an organization at any one level reverberates at all the levels it covers. The extent and severity of such disturbance are likely to be proportional to the degree of integration of that organization.

(i) Every organization, at whatever level it exists, has some sensitivity and responds in kind. (Union of Organization 2002)

The idea of integrated levels is widely employed today in comparative psychology, biochemistry, biology environmental science, and many other areas. The Classification Research Group employed it in the UK as a basis for ideas on the development of a new classification Scheme in the 1970s (Wilson, 1972; Foskett, 1978) but it appears to have dropped out of sight in our field since then.

Luhmann thought that the previous attempts to use systems theory in the social science applied cybernetic concepts too directly and suffered from the residual normative orientation. To be rigorous and consistent, systems theory had to drop all reference to actors and their self-interpretations, which were nothing but ‘psychic systems’ that form part of the environment for other systems. In this way systems theory can be generally applicable to every level of social analysis (Luhmann 1976).

Systems theory has influenced many sciences, including technological fields, management science, mathematics, political science, psychology and sociology – as well as Library and information science (LIS).

LIS has especially taken over systems theory from computer science, and there have so far not been any attempt to make an overall integration, historical description or evaluation of systems theory in LIS. Today there is a certain interest in Luhmann's version, e.g. connected to the bibliometric and scientometric communities..

Critique of systems theory

Positively, system theory allows for comparison of political systems. This is the nature and structure of the international system at a point in time may be compared with another. The system theory is a comprehensive theory as it allows for organizations of parts into analytical whole and test how these parts are connected.

However the comprehensiveness, the theory leads to generalization which undermines specificity. The idea of viewing the system from the system approach has been criticized by some scholars on the level of cohesion in the international system. Sesay and Ojo (1988) have argued that the subsystem of the natural biological system are more closely kit and coherent than the counterparts in the state system. Furthermore, this theory has also been criticized on the basis of economics among the units of system than there is in many vital areas.

Again, something may be wrong in one subsystem of the world but still leaves the rest of the international system in a happy mood carrying out normal day to day activities

with only occasional concern about the events in the affected areas. This was clearly the case, for example, during the Vietnam War, the Biafran War, the Middle East Wars and the Iraq war in the Golf. But such relationships with their dominant system in the human body without serious and even fatal consequences for the rest of the body system.

Thus it can be concluded therefore that the system approach is merely a convenient device used by political scientists and students of international relations for analysis because no rigorous intellectual exercise can be undertaken with it, because it contains so many concepts.

The decision making theory and the system theory can be said to be able to explain some problems like why poverty in Nigeria? It might be lack of problems recognition and definition, goal selection, identification of alternatives, people as part of the system in taking decision on matters that affect them and the right choices made, if decision makers do not recognize the problems well set the goal and select the best alternative, involve different groups in the system to take decision on matters that affects them,then the aim of poverty alleviation would not be achieved but of they do, would help reduce poverty to the bearest minimum.

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CHAPTER THREE

3.00 THE STATE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

3.01 Introduction

The collapse of crude petroleum in the international oil market from early 1980 plunged Nigeria into economic crisis the country had to adopt a structural adjustment programme (SAP) which is marked-friendly to revamp the economic and stop the downward trade, SAP had several policies some of which had negative consequence for poverty reduction, for example privatization, commercialization reduction and removal of subsides had negative consequence on some group of the society. Conscious policy effort by government towards poverty alleviation began in

Government therefore designed palliative programmes to take the negative effects of the adjustment and several policies and programmes were put in place for this purpose from 1986, the programmes covered many sectors of the economy and would be treated regime by regime.

The 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 1993 to 1998, more poverty reduction programmes were put in place by government. A summary of various anti – poverty programmes which the government of Nigeria had put in place since 1986 is presented below

3.02 Murtala/Obasanjo and Poverty Alleviation

The attempt of Murtala/Obasanjo regime to tackle the problem of poverty was made in to directions viz: giving adequate attention to the agricultural sector and reducing government overhead cost by removing redundant staff and avoid financial leakages by punishing corrupt government officials. The regime established the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) program. (Danwanzam 2004:56).

The underlying philosophy behind the programme was to improve the well being of the people through food production and increase income. However this attempt did not yield satisfactory result even though the idea was noble, the implementation was not very successful for example, the target implementors were mainly students on vacation who were not themselves agriculturalists, the students were most interested in the allowances been paid than in practical agriculture consequently the programme had no significant impact on agricultural production instead the country experience increase food importation.

3.03 Poverty Alleviation During Shagari's Era.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari attempted also alleviate poverty by re-engineering the agricultural sector, he added an ethical component to the package. The Green Revolution

which implies breeding plants that bear more grains thus increases yields without increasing cultivated crop areas. Although the Shagari administration used the river basin authorities with a number of crop variation. Its success was also limited; the moral reorientation was not quite successful because a hungry population was in no mood for ethical lesson. Indeed the approach was no longer adequate because the problem of rural poverty had reached a magnitude that the green revolution could no longer reverse the deteriorating trend.

3.04 Babangidas Administration and poverty Reduction

Decree No 4 of 1986 established the Directorate for Foods, and roads and Rural Infrastructure. Its chief mandate was the creation of employment in agriculture, building of rural roads and provision of basic infrastructure for the rural areas to ease their suffering and bring development to the grassroots. The programme achieved both success and failures. The CBN (1999) reported that from 1986 to 1993 (when it was scrapped), the agency had constructed 90, 857.4km of feeder roads at the cost of N720 million. 1000communities were provided with electricity at an estimated cost of N193 million. Similarly 22,267 communities were provided with potable water while 2,000 individual were trained and equipped with skills to build the improved type of rural housing. In addition 15000 extension workers were trained.

Despite the seeming impressive performance, the programme was scrapped in 1993. the programme was set up with very good intensions, but its implementation like

many other government programmes in Nigeria was faulty and therefore it could not achieve the desired results.

A. The National Directorate For Employment (NDE).

The National Directorate for Employment (NDE) was another poverty-related agency established in 1986. its major focus was employment generation. Under its programmes, unemployed youths are trained in various skills that will enable them to be self-employed and self-reliant. The president in his 1987 Budget speech directed the new body to "concentrate efforts on the reactivation of public works promotion of direct labour, organization of artisans into co-operatives repairs".

After being trained in entrepreneurship skills an applicant for NDE loans is required to submit a comprehensive feasibility report of the intended business, the amount of loan needed, names and address, of two guarantors and his or her own curriculum vitae. The applicants feasibility reports are then submitted to the participating banks for their scrutiny and approval. Successful applicants are given loans of value ranging from N5,000 to N35,000. Participants are required to submit originals of their certificates and testimonials collateral (Adekeye 1992).

Loans are repaid over 5 – year period with an interest of 13% and varying periods of moratorium.

Before President Ibrahim Babangida, the initiator of the programme left office in 1992 the NDE under its National Open Apprenticeship Programme (NOA) is said to have trained 104,370 people. About 25,000 persons are said to have established their own

business and 200,000 Nigerians have been given entrepreneurship training. Under all its target programmes the NDE is said to have created 1.5 million jobs nation wide (CBN 1999).

With all the achievements, the problem of unemployment is still widespread. Most of the NDE target programmes are no longer functional. The NDE complains of lack of funds, while trainers of the scheme have abandoned the programme by rejecting trainers on the ground that they have not been paid by NDE. Thus despite the lofty idea behind the establishment of scheme, its impact has not been highly felt.

B. The better Life (BLP)/Family Support (FSP) Programmes of Babangida's Wife.

Another poverty alleviation programme, the Better Life for Rural Women was launched by the wife of the then President Mrs. Maryam Babangida in September 1987. Considering that agriculture is the mainstay of the Nigerian economy employing more than 70% of population mainly women in rural areas, this programme focused its attention on rural women. However, with the declaration of 1994 as the International Year for the Family, the Focus changed. The BLP was restructured and expanded to embrace not only rural women but also men and the entire family. The new body, known as family support programme (FSP) was put in a place by the new first Lady, Mrs. Maryam Abacha.

The BLP relied, to a large extent, on financial resources mobilized from members under co-operative thrift and savings societies and also on credit schemes set up by the Government, especially the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). By 1990 the NDE had released the sum of N2.4 million to the Better life programme for disbursement as

loans to qualified rural women towards the development of indigenous arts and crafts for which export markets were to be eventually sought (Sheriff 1990).

Thus the BLP did not enjoy direct Federal government budgetary allocation per se, but depended to a large extent on voluntary assistance from government agencies, international organizations and donors and other philanthropists.

The programme in general impacted positively on the living conditions of rural women and the rural economy of Nigeria. Unemployment rates of mostly illiterate women were also moderated, while marginal improvements were recorded in nutritional and health status of the affected rural people. The health programme increased the over all awareness of the need for family planning and the immunization of children and pregnant women.

However the implementation of the BLP/FSP Programmes has been severally criticized (Faruna 1992) Urban women benefits most from the loans and other activities of the programme. Majority of the rural women did not know the purpose and existence of the programme. Thus the impact, interms of economic empowerment had not been felt among rural communities.

C. The Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN)

The people's Bank was established by the Federal Government in 1989 as a micro-credit institution. It involves in mass-based credit programmes, which provides small loans at reasonable terms to low-income individuals for financing income-generating activities within their established credit groups without insisting upon asset-based collaterals other than group guarantees. The beneficiaries of the People's Bank loans included roadside

mechanics petty traders tailors, plumbers and other artisans. The loans at inception ranged from a minimum of N50 to a maximum of N2000. Recipient provides no collateral and only pays a minimum interest charge of 5% on loans received.

Since its inception in October 1989 as a pilot project, the bank has been growing. The total credit granted rose from N64.2 million in 1989 to N78.2 million in 1992. It further grew to N167.3 million, N350 million and N360.1 million in 1993, 1996 and 1997 respectively (CBN 1999).

Contrary to initial pessimism in some quarters the bank continues to record an impressive repayment rate of 90% on the loans and advances. This figure is significantly higher than what obtains not only in all conventional banks but even in similar banks in Bangladesh and Philippines from where the idea was borrowed.

As at 1999, ten years after its establishment the People's Bank of Nigeria had disbursed a total of N1.7 billion as in house loans with an average repayment rate of 87%. The bank had 280 branches and cumulative number of customers peaking 3.2 million. Over 1 million businesses have been affected by its operations. Net savings deposits amounted to N995.85 million and total number of beneficiaries stood at 603.200 (National Concord).

Despite the apparently impressive performance the impact of the people's bank has not been fully felt by majority of the people. This is because the banks depend mostly on government funds, which is not always forth coming. Also as a government agency and almost a non-profit making organization, it becomes difficult to sustain growth. Even

though total credit granted by the bank has grown tremendously over the years, there is no clear evidence to show that all the credit granted went to the poor as originally intended. This massive poverty still remains with us.

D. The Community Banks

To further enhance the economic base of rural communities, the Federal Government in 1990 introduced the community-banking scheme. It was borne out of the growing need to provide credit facilities for small-scale farmers in rural areas. The Prospectus on community banks (1992) defines a community-bank as "a self-sustaining financial institution, owned and managed by a community or group of communities for the purpose of providing credit, deposit, banking and other financial services to members largely on the basis of their self-recognition and credit worthiness".

The bank was modeled along the 18th century unit banking scheme of USA with objectives similar to the rural banking schemes of India and Netherlands. However, while the unit banks were not limited to rural areas, community banks are restricted mainly to rural communities. The banks can therefore be said to be an institution initiated by the people for the people but only supervised by the National Board for Community Banks.

The Community Banks are not therefore expected to engage in sophisticated banking services like foreign exchange transaction; corporate finance etc, in order to enable them retains their local focus. Only community development associations, corporative societies, farmers groups, popular unions/Clubs age grades and corporate bodies can own a community bank.

With regards to growth, the number of community banks rose from (1) in 1990 to 402 in 1992 and 1,368 in 1996, but fell to 1015 in 1997 following the withdrawal of 353 terminally distressed ones. The total assets of the banks also rose from a modest N126.9 million in 1991 to N5,321.2 million for the 790 reporting banks at the end of 1997. (CBN 1999). This shows a mixed blessing of success and failures of the community bank. Although the numbers has grown astronomically, many have been distressed while others may be sick as indicated by only 790 banks reporting in 1997. When the community Banking idea was sold to the public, there was a great enthusiasm among communities competing to establish their own banks. But eventually most of the promoters who provided the initial take-off capital saw the bank as their own property and so collected loans, which they could not pay back. Also many unqualified persons were placed in management position either because they are member of the community or they are put there by powerful member of the community for their selfish interest. The community banking schemes if properly understood and implemented would have been the best schemes for poverty alleviation, since it is community-based, and therefore is the best position to tackle the peculiar problems of the community.

3.05 Poverty Alleviation by the Abacha Regime

Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)

The poverty-alleviation programmes set up by the government is the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP). It was established in 1997 as an investment

promotion and poverty alleviation programme. The main objectives of the programme include the following (Aliyu 1998).

a. Provide loans to low income group which will serve as basic working capital requirements for small-scale farming and traditional processes

b. Provide facilities for the procurement of machinery/equipment for entrepreneurs to set up and run cottage/small-scale industries.

c. Encourage the design and manufacture of appropriate plants, machinery and equipment.

d. Encourage producers of goods and services at ward level through the establishment of enterprises and pilot projects in wards.

e. Utilize all available local resources for the benefit of Nigerians through improved production, preservation.

f. Provide an enabling environment for private sector and United Nations Agencies participation in the programmed.

At inception, the following targets were set to be achieved:

a. The establishment of at least 10,000 cottage industries in the rural areas every year,

b. Generation of at least one million job opportunities every year.

c. Improvement of growth of the GDP by at least 2% through the impact of the programme alone.

d. Improvements of the quality of life of the low income group and reducing the

percentage of the population living below poverty line to less than 10% by the year 2010.

e. Sourcing locally all the machinery/equipment required to exploit available resources through indigenous efforts for cottage and small-scale industries.

f. Reducing drastically the nation's import bills.

As of May 1999, FEAP has disbursed a total of N2.7 billion in three batches across to more than 18000 co-operative societies across the country, with a fourth batch already in the pipeline. In addition, a total of N57, 510,000 has been approved for disbursement to 185 co-operative societies for families of the Armed forces and Police national-wide. (Aliyu A. pg 53).

3.06 General Assessment of Government's Past Poverty alleviation Related Programmes.

Most government programmes initiated over the past two decades have aimed at improving basic services, infrastructure and housing facilities for the rural and urban population, extending access to credit and farm imputes and creating employment. Almost all the programs have been administered by the Federal Government with some co-financing in cash or kind by the states. Although these programmes were meant to improve the economic conditions of the poor, their implementation was not specially targeted at the poor. Thus the purpose for which they were se up has not be achieved.

It is against the background that in May 1994, the National Planning Commission (NPC) took the initiative to set up a poverty alleviation programme development Committee (PADC). which had representative from government agencies, non-

governmental organization (NGOs). Community Development Association and academic and business communities PADDCs, main task was to advice government on the design co-ordination and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The PADPCs finding with regards to Government poverty alleviation programmes are summarized below (World Bank 1996).

a. Virtually all the programmes lack targeting mechanisms for the poor and do not focus directly on the poor.

b. Frequent policy changes and inconsistent implementation have prevented continuous progress and created a climate of uncertainty, resulting in most operators having very short-run perspectives if the objectives of the programmes.

c. Severe budgetary management and governance problems have affected these programmes, resulting in facilities not being completed, broken down, unsafe and unequipped.

d. Inadequate co-ordination of the various programmes has resulted in each institution carrying out its own activities with little regard for activities run by other institutions, leading to considerable duplication of efforts and inefficient use of limited resources.

e. The scope of the activities of most institutions is too wide and too diffuse as a result, resources are too spread in too many activities.

f. Due to lack of involvement of beneficiaries in the formation and implementation of programmes, they do not identify themselves sufficiently with the programmes and do not

actively support them, either in the form of local resource contribution or in identifying themselves with sustainability of the programmes.

Based on the above findings the PAPDC recommended that

a. To be effective, any national poverty alleviation programme would need to be flexible enough to address the diversity of needs of the poor individuals and communities.

b. Communities must be involved in poverty-alleviation programmes. Communities should take the initiatives for the programmes with budgetary and technical resources of government. Poverty alleviation programmes therefore can best be achieved through a partnership between governmental organizations (NGOs) communities and the private sector.

3.07 The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP).

Despite the plethora of poverty alleviation programmes which past governments had initiated and implemented, by 1999 when the Obasanjo administration came to power a world banks report indicated that Nigeria's Human development index (HDI) was only 0.416 and that about 70 percent or the population was vegetating below the bread line. These alarming indicators prompted the government to review the existing poverty alleviation schemes with a view to harmonizing them and improving on them. Three presidential panels were set up in this regard They were: the Presidential Panel on the Rationalization and Harmonization of Poverty Alleviation and Agencies headed by Alhaji Ahmed Joda; Presidential Technical Committee on the Review of all Poverty Alleviation programmes headed by Professor Ango Abdullahi; and Committees on Youth Policy,

Concept of the youth Empowerment Scheme and the Blueprint for Poverty Eradication Programme headed by professor A.B. ABORISHADE. The finding and recommendations of these presidential panels coalesced in the formation of the Notional Poverty eradication Programme (NAPEP) in January 2001. This new scheme has been structured to integrate four sectoral schemes.

The first is the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), which is concerned with providing unemployed youth opportunities in skills acquisition, employment and wealth generation. To achieve this, the scheme has been further subdivided into Capacity Acquisition Programme, Mandatory Attachment Programme and Credit Delivery Programme. The second is the Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS). The objective of this scheme is to ensure the provision and development of infrastructural needs in the areas of transport, energy water and communication especially in rural areas. The scheme has been broken into four parts; the Rural Transport Programme, the Rural Energy Programme, the Rural Water Programme and the Rural Communication Programme. The third is the Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS} which aims at ensuring the provision of basic social services including quality primary and special education, strengthening the economic power of farmers, providing primary health care, and so on. This third scheme consists of four broad sub-categories which are, the Qualitative Education Programme, Primary Health Care Programme, Farmers Empowerment Programme and Social Services Programme. The last is the Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). The vision of this scheme is to bring about a participatory and sustainable

development of agricultural, mineral and water resources through the following sub-divisions: Agricultural Resources Programme, Water Resources Programme, Solid Minerals Resources Programme and Environment Protection Programme. The target of the National Poverty Eradication Programme is to completely wipe out poverty from Nigeria by the year 2010. The formulators of the programme have identified three stages to the attainment of this ambitious target.

1. The first stage is the restoration of hope to the mass of poor people in Nigeria. This involves providing basic necessities to hitherto neglected people particularly in the rural areas.

2. The second stage is the restoration of economic independence and confidence.

3. The final stage is wealth creation.

In order to ensure an effective implementation of the scheme's objectives an organizational structure has been outlined. The National Poverty Eradication Council. NAPEC) is the apex organ for policy formulation, coordination, monitoring and review of all poverty eradication activities in the country. The participating ministries in the scheme are those of agriculture and rural development, education, works and housing, women affairs and youth development, industry, science and technology, solid minerals development, water resources, health, power and steel, employment labour and productivity, environment and finance. The Chief Economic Adviser to the President and the National Coordinator of NAPEP are also members of the council. The second most

important organ in the structure of NAPEP is the National Assessment and Evaluation Committee. This committee, which serves as a forum for regular monitoring of the activities of NAPEP is chaired by the Vice-president, and draws membership from representatives of the Economic Policy Coordination Committee (EPCC), the National Economic Intelligence Committee (NEIC) the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS), the National Planning Commission, Non Governmental Organizations, the World Bank (Nigeria), the United Nations Development Programme (Nigeria) and the European Union (Nigeria). The National Planning Commission is the secretariat of the council.

The third organ is the National Coordination Committee, which is chaired by the Federal Coordinator of Programmes, is saddled with the task of executing the directives of the National Poverty Eradication Council and ensuring that activities of ministries and agencies involved in the poverty alleviation programme are coordinated. The committee also reports to the council, updates on poverty alleviation efforts in the country. Members of this committee are drawn from representatives of the ministries, parastatals and agencies participating in NAPEP who should not be below the rank of director, president of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, president of the Nigerian Labour Congress, president of the Manufactures' Association of Nigeria. Others are the president of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), President of the National Association of Small Scale Industries, president of the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association, representatives of registered political parties and the permanent secretary of the National Poverty Alleviation

Programme who will serve as the secretary of the committee. There are also state coordination committees in all the 36 states in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The state coordinating committees have chairmen appointed by the president. Similarly, local government monitoring committees have been established in all the 774 local government areas in the country. The National Poverty Eradication Programme is not under any ministry, parastatal or agency, but these bodies are the major executors of its programmes. NAPEP in turn also periodically executes what is called intervention projects to complement the efforts of ministries and agencies that involved in poverty alleviation initiatives.

3.08 AIMS, FUNCTION AND TARGETS OF NAPEP

The national poverty eradication programme (NAPEP) consist of schemes and programmes that are aimed at eradicating absolute poverty among Nigerians. The ultimate target for the national poverty eradication programme is the eradication of absolute poverty in Nigeria. Absolute poverty denotes a condition in which a person or group of persons are unable to satisfy their most basic and elementary requirements of human survival in terms of good food, clothing, shelter, energy, transport, education, healthcare and recreation.

The functions of NAPEP are to ensure that all activities and programmes of all poverty alleviation institutions, agencies and programmes are effectively coordinated. It also seek to ensure policy continuity existence of appropriate institutional framework and sustainability of all the programme.

Accordingly, government established the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) to co-ordinate the poverty reduction related activities of all the relevant Ministries, parastatals and agencies. NAPEC is mandated to ensure that the wide ranges of activities are centrally planned, co-ordinated and complemented one another so that the objectives of policy continuity and sustainability are achieved.

3.09 STRATEGY OF THE PROGRAMME

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) consist of all relevant programmes and projects that are aimed at eradicating absolute poverty among the people of Nigeria. These include programmes on food, shelter employment, healthcare, water supply, transport, education, gender development, recreation etc.

A. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SCHEME (YES)

The (YES) is an empowerment scheme aimed at providing for training opportunities, skills acquisitions, employments opportunities, wealth creation to enhance income generation, improved social status and rural development. The scheme is primarily aimed at economically empowering the youth and shall emphasize Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP), and Credit Delivery Programme (CDP).

The Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) is a short-term skill acquisition programme, which is aimed at empowering all unskilled and unemployed Nigerians through hands-on training on creative activities and services. By participating in the programme, Nigerians would be more equipped for both formal and productive

employment within the public and private sectors or be self-employed to provide affordable quality and create wealth through a secondary programme of micro credit. Participants shall for a limited period of three to six month depending on their trade of interest. To facilitate participation, each participant shall be paid ₦3,500.00 allowance per month for the duration of the training.

The Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) is a long-term work experience acquisition and training programme only for graduates of tertiary institution who must have successfully completed the mandatory NYSC programme. Participants are logically attached to contruction companies, manufacturing companies, banks and other financial institutions for a period of two years. Each participant is paid ₦10,000.00 per month for the period of attachment. After, the training participants are expected to be absorbed by the company they are attached to, other interested organizations, or be resettled with micro-credit for establishing a productive and business enterprise of their choice.

The specially designed YES registration forms both CAP and MAP are obtained at no charge from the following centers.

i. NAPEP National secretariat;
ii. NAPEP State and Local Government Offices
iii. National Secretariats of the Registered Political Parties;
iv. Governor's Offices;
v. LGA Chairmen's Offices;

vi. State Offices of Poverty Alleviation/Eradication Agencies of the Federal Government; and

vii. Members of the National Assembly.

Accordingly (YES) function under the umbrella of the NAPEP is charged with specific mandates to closely plan, monitor and evaluate the relevant activities of NDE, SMIDA, NASCRDB, NIDB and FMBN.

The main targets of (YES) are

i. Job creation and employment opportunities(NDE)

ii. Enterprise Development and Promotion (SMIDA)

iii. Youth participation in Housing schemes (FMB)

iv. Establishment of Youth Centres.

For effective co-ordination and implementation of the various programmes of YES, all the training programmes of the myriad of public establishment having direct bearing on poverty reduction, shall be registered and coordinated by NAPEP. The NAPEP shall therefore, prepare different modules of the various programmes and liaise with relevant agencies of agriculture, communications, science and technology, industry, solid minerals, power and steel, works and housing, water resources and petroleum resources. The identified agencies shall then prepare their respective training programmes in line with NAPEP's modules. The NAPEP is therefore mandated to only mobilize and pull the resource of the training facilities of other agencies but not to take over the functions of the agencies.

B. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURES DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (RIDS)

Infrastructures like power supply, water supply, transportation, housing, communication, land and farm development are to be considered paramount in government's efforts to improve the lot of its citizenry. Hence each implementation agency will be strengthened to actualize the scope and mandates of the RIDs.

The RIDS shall provide the following services.

i. Rural energy and supply;

ii. Potable and irrigation water;

iii. Transportation (urban and rural);

iv. Rural telecommunication; and

v. Waterways and jetties development.

The mandates of the RIDS shall include the following

i. Rural Electrification

ii. Rural energy supply

iii. Rural water supply

iv. Rural feeders roads

v. Development of waterways and jetties.

The widest and most popular means of transportation in Nigeria is by road. Luggage's and machinery and materials are undertaken largely by road. Personnel also move mostly by road. It is therefore not a surprise that there is always a casual effect of road ill-health on the movement of raw materials and the eventual prices of the finished products. Most

valuable raw materials are not properly harnessed because of either non-existence or bad roads.

In order to effectively coordinate the efforts of government and the private sector in the development and maintenance of roads and other public infrastructures, a new agency under the ministry of works and Housing shall be established.

The establishment of this agency which is long over due, will go a long way in enhancing and expediting the implementation of most of the programmes of poverty alleviation. The agency shall also be an important institution for attainment of the goals of RIDS.

C. SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES SCHEME (SOWESS)

In order to achieve full coverage of an all embracing poverty reduction drive, SOWESS shall provide the following services;

- Provide, develop and sustain quality informal education and literacy classes;
- Provide, develop and sustain quality healthcare delivery services;
- Design and rehabilitation programmes for destitute and the disabled;
- Establish public enlightenment campaign and entertainment programmes;
- Develop parks, gardens and communal recreation centers;
- Develop inter-communal parks, markets, motels and rural housing schemes;
- Coordinate and control the activities of NGOs;
- Establish and enforce environmental protection practices;
- Provide other social services, such as credit delivery for all group of citizens;

- Development of rural communications facilities; and
- Development of maintenance culture for rural infrastructure facilities.

D. NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATIVE SCHEME (NRDCS)

This scheme is expected to perform the following functions.

- Improve direct participation in the exploitation of all resources'
- Development of water resources to amplify benefits
- Protection of environment from natural disasters, wastages and pollution;
- Effective management of industrial and domestic waste;
- Reclamation of land water resources;
- Development of marine and aqua culture resources
- Increase the rate and scale of beneficial local participation;
- Improvement of indigenous methods and techniques for sustainable resources development and utilization;
- Enhancing safety of the immediate community; operators enusers and the environment;
- Development of appropriate and compatible environmental protection methods; and
- Grazing reserves and water points for livestock.

NRDC S deals with the harnessing of the agricultural, water, solid mineral resources, conservation of land and space (beaches, reclaimed land, etc.) particularly for

the convenient and effective utilization by small scale operators and the immediate community.

3.10 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NAPEP

The organizational structure of NAPEP in state offices is similar nation wide. In line with the resolution taken at the retreat for the executive governors and state coordinators of NAPEP in June 2001. the state poverty eradication council was established. It is chair by the state governor. They are assisted by other members, which include commissioners whose ministry has a direct mandate on poverty eradication, representatives of NAPEP from the National Headquarters, state coordinator of NAPEP and chairman of state coordination committee (SCC). This is to monitor and formulate policies for the state coordination committee.

A. STATE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

This committee which is established in all state is to coordinate and supervise the execution of programmes under the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) and also provide a structural linkage between the state and federal government.

The composition of the committee is as follows:

Chairman: A state coordinator of programme to be appointed by the president.

Other Members:

i. Head of unit from the relevant federal ministries in the state;
ii. State Directors of Head of Unit of all relevant parastatals operating in the state;
iii. State chairman of the Nigerian Labour Congress;

iv. Three representative from the state government (one from each senatorial District who are civil pubic servants);

v. State chairman of Nigeria union of journalist;

vi. Representative of each of the registered political parties;

vii. Representative of state council of traditional rulers; and

viii. Representative of donor agencies and private sector organizations, who are funding any programme in the state.

The SCC Secretary is the Administrative Head and accounting officer of state NAPEP office.

B. FUNCTIONS OF SCC

The state coordination committee is expected to:

a. Coordinate, supervise and monitor the implementation of federal government programmes;

b. Provide the mechanism for collaboration between the federal, state and local governments, as well as with international donor agencies, NGOs and private sector organizations;

c. Consider and advise on all matters relevant to the successful implementation of the programmes;

d. Consider and make recommendations on new programme initiative;

e. Prepare and submit monthly reports to the National coordinator.

Also a local government monitoring committee is also established by state coordination committee in all local government area of each state to help in coordinating the activities of NAPEP in their local areas.

C. The Role Of Credit Delivery In The Implementation Of The Scheme

In all the schemes described above, effective credit delivery may be central to its success. For the effective credit delivery component of the poverty eradication programmes of the federal government, the following banks shall be strengthened and mandated to provide such services.

i. Nigerian Agricultural, Cooperative and rural Development Bank (NACRDB)
ii. National Bank for Industry (NBI)
iii. Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) and
iv. Urban Development Bank (UDB).

The NACRDB shall provide credit services for all classes of agricultural and rural development projects, while the NBI shall credit facilities for all industrial projects.

The FMBN shall provide credit facilities for housing, recreational centres and other related revenue yielding projects.

The UDB shall provide credit facilities for urban development projects, mass transit and waste management projects.

3.11 Strategy for Monitoring

For each priority area the state coordination committee (SCC) and the Local Government Monitoring Committees (LGMC) shall be required to submit quarterly reports

that provide details on: where we are? Where we want to be? And how do we get there? Such reports shall be collected by the NAPEP secretariat and presented to the federal executive council and National Economic Council and the National Assessment and Evaluation Committee.

There shall be a structural framework for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of all the above poverty eradication programmes and projects. This structure shall follow the uniform administrative structure currently maintained in the country.

a. In every state of the federation, the number of local government areas along with their names shall be recorded.

b. In each local government area, the number of words shall be recorded along with their names and locations.

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CHAPTER FOUR

4.00 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS/ POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND YOUTH EMPOWEMENT IN BOMO

4.01 INTRODUCTION

The national poverty eradication programmes consist of all relevant programmes and projects that are aimed at eradicating poverty among the people, this chapter, therefore present information to what extends NAPEP has been faring in BOMO in terms of poverty eradication and youth empowerment.

4.02 NAPEP intervention in Bomo (Village).

The fundamental reason for creating Poverty Eradication Programs In the State is to improve the living condition of its citizens. Poverty in all its manifestation and ramifications is antithetical to development, inequality and unemployment has been recognized as its major problem. The magnitude and dimensions of poverty will depend on the average on the one hand, and the degree of inequality in the distribution of income as well as in productive resources and locational economic opportunities on the other hand, the more unequal the distribution of income per capita, the greater the incidence of poverty and for a given distribution, the lower the average income level the greater the incidence of poverty.

Poverty projects are one of the main instruments used to channel support and services to the poor they are specific action-oriented interventions that mainly benefit the poor if properly designed, these projects are innovations identified, developed and managed by

other intended beneficiaries or indigenous or international, non-governmental organization. They are designed to achieve special social and economic aims over limited time and space using limited resources.

To eradicate poverty and also to empower the youth, the provision of health services, education, housing, employment sanitation, water supply and adequate nutrition is necessary because the direct supply or provision of such goods and services is likely to relieve absolute poverty more immediately. This basic need approach is most appropriate in alleviating poverty in Nigeria, because the provision of basic need is a form of investment in human capital which may be as productive as investment in the industry and its also the only way to improve and develop communities in which the poor live. It is against this backdrop that we want to take a look at Bomo Village to see how NAPEP has been fearing in Bomo to see in what capacity have they been able to empower the youths in the village or community and to also assess their performance whether it is adequate to eradicate poverty and to empower the youth.

4.03 Bomo, Location, History and Composition.

Bomo is a village located behind Area 'C' quarters, the major road that leads to Bomo is through the Area 'C' quarters, from the Samaru main road at getting to IAR gate, the road that gets into Area'c' quarters by the right through Harry Darline street links to the road that leads to Bomo Village.

Bomo inhabitant were originally said to be from Katsina, they migrated from Katsina to Zauzau Emirate and they first settled at Hunkuyi 500 years ago briefly, later

they discovered that Hunkuyi was not convenient, the moved out and discovered the present Bomo village. Bomo was named after their leader who was a known farmer called Boma.

Having arrived at Bomo they were interested in farming and having interest in rearing of animals, the land was fertile and they had a vast area for rearing of animal, they also engage in other activities like local textile known as rini (dying) as well as (kira) Blacksmithing and other Hausa conventional ways of life Iike Wanzanci (barbing) having things in position they decided to stretch there hands of friendship with neighbouring village like, Biye, Bassawa and Hunkuyi through commercial activities.

The village comprises of six settlements (Anguwa). The main road that cut across the village divide the settlement into east and west,. Those on the Eastern part of the village are Nassarawan Bomo, Anguwan Liman and Anguwanr Katsinawa and those from the West are Anguwar Hakimi, Anguwar Kwari, and lastly Anguwar Nassarawa.

Two sets of Questionnaires were administered in the cause of this research, the first Questionnaires was for the inhabitant of Bomo village, while the second was for the staff of NAPEP, in taking the sample for staff respondents only the senior staff were involved more in the process of policy making and implementation of the programme so, the questionnaires administered is for senior staff only.

Interview method was also used to get more information from some beneficiaries of NAPEP at Bomo village. The technique of percentage table was used in this analysis for

determining the results, 50% and above qualifies any issue for acceptance, while 40% and below qualifies for rejection.

The researcher administered a total of 210 questionnaires, 200 to the inhabitant of Bomo village and 10 for NAPEP staff using the accidental sampling method.

A total of 179 or 89% questionnaires were returned from the ones administered to the people of Bomo and 8 or 80% questionnaires returned from the staff of NAPEP while 20 or 6.5% were not returned the researcher was then left with 179 questionnaires. Thus the analysis of data is therefore based on 179 questionnaires or 89.5% for the Bomo inhabitant and 80 or 8% for the staff of NAPEP.

4.04 ANALYSES OF RURAL POVERTY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN BOMO

Data would be presented and analyze to test the three hypothesis formulated for the research topic poverty alleviation and youth empowerment in Nigeria: A case of NAPEP in Bomo village.

Table 4.1: Gender of the Respondents.

Sex	**No of Respondents**	**Percentage**
Male	131	73%
Female	48	27%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009

Table 4.1 shows that majority of our respondents are male, it therefore represent 131 or 73% of our total sample, however the female respondents from the study area

account for only 48 or 27% of the total sample probably due to lack of education and exposure as such cannot respond to the questionnaire

Thus the male folks were more accessible and might at most cases engaged in the activities that affect their lives and are mostly the beneficiaries of the programme.

Table 4.2: Ages of the Respondents

Ages	**No of Respondents**	**Percentage**
18-28	38	21%
28-38	52	29%
38-48	67	37%
48 and above	22	12%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009.

Table 4.2 indicate that 38 or 21% of the respondent fall between the ages of 18-25, 52 or 29% respondent fall between the ages of 25-32 years, 67 or 37% of the respondent fall between 32-48 years and 22 or 12% respondent fall between 48 and above.

It is observed that over 157 or 88% of the respondent are youth which invariably belong to the most active and productive socio economic group in the society

Table 4.3: Occupation of the Respondent

Occupation	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
Students	40	22%
Civil Servants	22	12%
Artisan	20	11%
Trader	29	16%
Farmer	68	38%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009.

Table 4.3 shows that 40 or 22% of our respondent are students, 22 or 12% civil servant, 20 or 11% of the respondent Artisan, 29 or 16% traders while 68 or 38% farmers.

As it indicate from the table students, public servants and the self employed are the dominant occupation in the study areas only the students and the civil servants require some form of formal education others such as the self employed required training in their various field.

Table 4.4: Have you received any training from NAPEP?

Type	**No of Respondents**	**Percentage**
Yes	62	35%
No	117	65%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009

From the analysis of data presented in table 4.4, 62 or 35% of the respondent admitted to have received some training from NAPEP while 177 or 65% of the respondent have not received any form of training this might be because not all had the privilege to enroll for the program and some would prefer to go for quick money ventures like(achaba boys) and wheel barrow pushing than to waste time on ventures that they were not sure of.

This is to say that majority are yet to feel the impact of NAPEP in Bomo village.

Tables 4.5: **Have you received any credit facility from NAPEP**.

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
Yes	54	30%
No	125	70%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009

Table 4.5 indicates that 54 or 30% of the respondent have received training and loan from the scheme while 125 or 70% have not received any.

This shows that not many have received training nor loan from the scheme and not many have the opportunity to be selected as beneficiaries of the scheme.

Table 4.6: Have NAPEP embarks on any project in your community?

Type	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	97	54%
No	82	46%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source - field survey 2009.

From the above table 4.6, 97 or 54% of the respondent agreed that NAPEP has embarked on a project in their community while 82 or 46% of the respondent disagree to that.

This is to say that majority of the respondent attest to the fact that NAPEP has being able to make some level of impact to the inhabitant of Bomo

Table 4.7: **what has been the economic benefit of NAPEP in your community?**

Variables	No of	Percentage
Improving the quality of life	62	35%
Skill acquisition	86	48%
Increase awareness	07	4%
Self reliance	24	13%
Others specify	-	-
Total	**179**	**100%**

Field Survey 2009.

Table 4.7 shows that 62 or 35% of the respondent are of the view that NAPEP has helped in improving the quality of life, 86 or 48% agreed that NAPEP had helped in skill acquisition, 07 or 4% said that it increases awareness and lastly 25 or 13% of the respondent agreed that NAPEP has helped people to be self radiant. From the analysis above it indicates that majority of the respondent attest to the fact that they have benefited

most from NAPEP through skill acquisition as NAPEP were able to train a few in the community.

Table 4.8: **In your own view have poverty alleviation program yielded much impact to the youth of Bomo**?

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
Yes	57	32%
No	122	68%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source - field survey 2009.

Table 4.8 Indicate that majority of our respondent are of the view that NAPEP has not made much impact to the community with 122 or 68% attesting to that while 57 or 32% shows shows that NAPEP has yielded some impact in the community. This shows that a lot needs to be done by the scheme. To able to attain the desired goal set by NAPEP to alleviate poverty and also to empower the youth.

Table 4.9: To what extend have the scheme met its target?

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
20%	-	-
40%	-	-
60%	2	25%
80%	6	75%
100%	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source staff Questionnaire.

The analysis of table 4.9 shows that 2 or 23% have the view that the scheme has met 60% of its target while 6 or 75% said that the scheme has been able to meet 80% of the target.

It is important to note that the overall target of the federal government is to eradicate absolute poverty among Nigeria. According to Aliyu (2003) this simply implies that all Nigerians are to have access to basic and elementary requirement for human survival. This includes food, portable water , clothing, shelter, primary health care, education and other basic infrastructure

Table 4.10: **How do you identify the needs of the target community.**

Type	**No of respondent**	**Percentage**
Radio/Television	-	-
Through consultation	2	25%
Collaboration with	1	13%
Awareness by field	5	62%
Others specify	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source: staff questionnaire.

From the data presented above in table 4.10, 2 or 25% argued that the scheme identifies the needs of the target community through consultations, 1 or 13% said they do through collaboration with NAPEP staff while 5 or 62% indicates that they identify the needs of the target community through field staff.

The table above suggested that in most cases the target community do not have any impact on the programme of the scheme in their community. This is to say from the analysis that the poor or the inhabitants of the communities do not have an impact on deciding on the needs of the target area, but rather left at the mercy of field staff to decide on what is to be done in every community.

Table 4.11: who are the intended beneficiaries of the scheme.

Type	No of respondent	Percentag
All unemployed person	2	25%
Unemployed youth only	5	62%
Self employed persons needing	-	-
Trained persons needing assistance	1	13%
Others specify	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source: staff questionnaire 2009.

Table 4.11 indicate that the poverty eradication programme is centered on youth empowerment, rural infrastructure development, provision of social welfare service and natural resource development and conservation, it has made focus on youth empowerment by providing employment opportunities, wealth creation through enhanced income generation, improve social status and rural development.

Table 4.12: In what ways have they benefited (Bomo community)

Type	No of respondent	Percentage
Training	7	88%
Loans	1	12%
Employment	-	-
Provision of food	-	-
Provision of infrastructure	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source staff questionnaire 2009

Table 4.12 suggests that 7 or 88% of the inhabitant of Bomo have benefited from the scheme and that they have received some sort of training in various fields. While 1 or 12% of the respondent said that they have received loans to be able to start up sort of trade or business.

Table 4.13: what is the source of funding of NAPEP.

Type	No of respondent	Percentage
Government allocation	8	100%
Self source fund	-	-
Donation from NGO	-	-
Donation from private individual	-	-
All of the above	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source staff questionnaire.

Finance is the bedrock of any organization, the more pervasive the source of funds available to an organization the more it can effectively deliver its service to the citizenry. The researcher found out that the only source of fund is from government allocation, for an important organization like NAPEP, it requires more funding from NGO and other private organization considering the population of Nigerians that suffer absolute poverty, the researcher found out that inadequate funding of the programme has tremendous negative effect on its performance culminating in selection of few beneficiaries, irregular payment of beneficiaries allowance and poor monitory of the programme.

Table 4.14 Do you think the overall service provided by NAPEP is efficient.

Type	No of respondent	Percentage
Yes	8	100%
No	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source staff questionnaire.

Table 4.14 shows that the programme is efficient or adequate in eradicating poverty and improving the well being of the people.

The main goal of government is to enhance and ensure a sustained improvement in the living standard and the general well being of the people. This is done through concerted

efforts directed towards providing income earnings, job opportunities as well as the provision of welfare and social service and infrastructural facilities.

The result on table 4.044 shows that the respondent are of the opinion that the institutional structure put in place and the strategy adopted of the National poverty eradication programme is adequate and effective to achieve the goal of the programme.

Table 4.15 Have inconsistencies in government policies worsen the level of poverty in Bomo.

Type	**No of respondent**	**Percentage**
Yes	134	75%
No	45	25%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009.

Table 4.15 indicate that 134 or 75% of our respondent agree to the fact that inconsistencies in government policies worsen the level of poverty while 45 or 25% of the respondent are negative about that.

Poverty alleviation should not be limited to the life span of any particular government or administration in power but should be sustained to elicit desired objective and impact.

Table 4.16: Does participation of people taking part in decision of development improve their well being?

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
Yes	179	100%
No	-	-
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009.

The respondent attested to the fact that the were not part of the decision on what was to be done in there community as such, From table 4.16, 179 or 100% of the respondent admitted that participation of people in taking part in decision of development improved their well being.

For any effective and sustainable poverty reduction strategy to achieve its objective, the poor who are the main target or stakeholders most be given the opportunity to share in discussing or formulation ideas for the future as such NAPEP should be more grass root oriented.

Table 4.17: Is corruption a constrain to the scheme?

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentage**
Yes	179	100%
No	-	-
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009

Table 4.17 shows that 179 or 100% of the respondent all attest to the fact that corruption is a constrain to the scheme.

Corruption is one of the aspects of bad government. One of the imperatives for the success of NAPEP is to ensure that corruption and other sharp practices are condemned, corruption has various dimension, they include project substitution plan distortion, misrepresentation of project finance, diversion of resource, all these affect the scheme not to function as it should

Table 4.18: What do you think is a major constrain of NAPEP?

Type	**No of respondent**	**Percentage**
Corruption	42	23%
Lack of fund	20	11%
Inadequate staff	12	7%
Lack of problem recognition	23	13%
All of the above	82	46%
Total	**179**	**100%**

Source – field survey 2009.

From table 4.18, it suggests that 42 or 23% believes that corruption is a major constrain of the scheme, 20 or 11% think is a lack of adequate fund, 23 0r 13% believe that lack of problem recognition is a major problem, 12 or 7% said is inadequate staffing of the scheme while82 or 46% attest to the fact that all the problems mentioned above are a major constrain to the effectiveness of the scheme in the crusade against absolute poverty

Table 4.19: What are the major problems faced by NAPEP

Type	**No of Respondent**	**Percentag**
Corruption	-	-
Lack of adequate funding	-	-
Inconsistencies in government policies	-	-
Bureaucratic bottleneck	-	-
Poor planning management	-	-
All of the above	8	100%
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source: staff questionnaire 2009.

Table 4.19 indicates that all the respondent attest to the fact that all the above mentioned problem is a major constrain to NAPEP. The scheme is faced with a lot of intertwining problems, which could militate against success if the issues are not addressed.

Table 4.20: How can NAPEP be made more effective?

Type	No of	Percentag
Implement good strategy	-	-
Increase the funding	-	-
Needs financial contribution from NGO	-	-
Prompt payment of trainers and beneficiaries	-	-
Selection of beneficiaries from the rural/areas	-	-
Prompt monitoring of the programme	-	-
Total	**8**	**100%**

Source – staff questionnaire. 2009

There is the need to allow both staff and beneficiaries of NAPEP to express their opinion on the success and failure of the programme without inhabitations.

Table 4.20 indicates suggestions advanced by the beneficiaries and staff of the programme on ways of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme to achieve its objective. There is the need for both the organizer and the participant to be committed to their own responsibilities in achieving the objective of the programme, the government should increase the funding of the programme, individual NGO's should be encouraged to participate in the implementation of the programme. There is also the need to ensure regular and prompt payment of beneficiaries allowance and the beneficiaries should be selected from the rural areas. Finally, there is the need for proper and effective monitoring of varying activities of the programme, this will ensure that all the activities do not work at a cross purpose. These are the major suggestions advanced by the staff and beneficiaries of the programme on ways to improve the scheme.

4.05 PRESENTATION OF NAPEP EFFORTS IN BOMO

The national poverty programme consist of schemes and programmes that are aimed at eradicating absolute poverty in Nigeria. Absolute poverty denotes a condition in

which a person or group of person are unable to satisfy their most basic and elementary requirement of human survival in terms of good food, clothing, shelter, energy, transportation, education, healthcare and recreation.

The major function of NAPEP are to ensure that all activities and programes of all poverty alleviation institution agencies and programmes are effectively coordinated, it also seek to ensure policy continuity, existence of appropriate institutional framework and sustainability of all the programe.

The youth empowerment schemes (YES) is aimed at providing for training opportunities, skills acquisition, employment opportunities, wealth creation to enhance income generation, improved social status and rural development, the scheme is primarily aimed at economically empowering the youth.

Inspite of the achievement recorded by the programmes, poverty has worsened in BOMO village and the youth are yet to be empowered. There are a lot of problems faced by the youth, unemployment, hunger, lack of infrastructural facilities, no access to health care services, and sound education as such they resort to underground income earning activities such as robbery thurggery stealing, , e.t.c because most of them were left idle, the programme embarked on by NAPEP for the youth in Bomo was not successful because the number of the youth who recieved training were very few not significant enough to make reasonable change, the few that received training do not have assess to the loan provided by NAPEP to start up something tangible, the training was a short term training not long enough to ensure professionalism.

The social welfare service scheme (SOWESS) of (NAPEP) were unable to provide any social service, the quality of education has not improve, no healthcare delivery service, no provision of infrastructural facilities by NAPEP.

on a short note the research has shown that only the youth empowerment scheme of NAPEP (YES) has made some little effort in BOMO but all other schemes of NAPEP has been absent.

The present trend of socio-economic condition on the continents needs to be redressed, to avoid the impoverishment of the people, programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, needs to provide answers to some basic questions about the nature and extent of poverty. These include who are the poor, what are their numbers and propotion in the total population? Where are they located, what do they do for a living and how they survive.

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CHAPTER FIVE

5.00 Summary Conclusion and Recommendations.

5.01 Summary.

Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and material resources but these resources have not been effectively utilized for the benefit of the entire citizens of this country. Real disposable income has declined steeply, malnutrition rates have risen sharply, food production has hardly kept pace with population growth, and the quantity of health and education service have also declined.

Furthermore, despite the large accrued resources from oil over these years, spending by government continued to expand thereby given rise to rapid monetary expansion and excessive government borrowing, the effects of these are high interest rate, hyperinflation rate, and low foreign reserve for the country, the net effect of these economic instability results in low socio/economic indication and the impoverishment of an economic increasing number of Nigerian population.

Successive government since independence embarked on different kinds of programmes to provide basic welfare and social service and to promote agriculture and industry with the hope of ultimately reducing poverty by raising the standard of living of the people, despite these programmes, it has failed to reduce poverty.

This informed the need for this study aimed at assessing the national poverty eradication programme (NAPEP) in terms of its strategies and its impact on the citizenry with special focus on Bomo village of Sabon Gari local government area.

The study made a review of some literature on poverty related issues by some few scholars to give us an insight to issues of poverty and to possibly give some remedies to such problems. The term youth or young people was also defined.

It also explain the concept of government. The study looks at the attributes of poverty which are multidimensional in nature. There are social, cultural and political deprivation. Poverty was defined in terms of low income, inability to provide basic needs of life which include food, clothing and shelter as well as other basic social infrastructure such as transportation, water, electricity, education health and sanitation requirement, poverty could also be absolute or relative this depends on whether the individual or family suffers a total lack of the community.

The study apart from discussing the perception of poverty which include indicators, causative, also discusses the incidence of poverty. The indicators, poverty line, poverty gap index, national poverty rate Gini index and the human development index (HDI), other indicators which are socio economic in nature include income size, purchasing power, GNP per capital and availability and access to health care, education basic infrastructure and welfare enhancing facilities some of the causes of poverty identified include low economic growth, economic instability, corruption, political instability, poor economic management, international dept and environmental factors.

The study also reveals that poverty is more prevalent in the rural areas and its intensity varies among economic groupings and geo political division, the study identified

the need to redistribute wealth to favour the poor, establish programme that create employment increase earning opportunity of the poor increase social services etc.

A theory was used in order to give these thesis a foundation, the decision making theory was used which is concerned with the selection of an optional cause of action from among a set of specified cause of action on the basis of a criterion of preference. If decision maker recognize their problems and set their goals and select the best of the alternative this can help to reduce poverty to the bearest minimum.

The collapse of crude petroleum in the international oil market in the early 1980's plugged Nigeria into economic crisis, SAP was introduce to help salvage the crisis but it failed to do so, several government therefore designed palliative programmes to tackle the negative effects of the adjustment, programmes like OFN, the green revolution, DFFRI, NDE, BLP, FSP, FBN, and FEAP despite these laudable programme poverty is on the increase it is against these background that NAPEP was formed in 2001, this new schemes has been structured to integrate four sectoral scheme, the youth empowerment scheme (YES) the rural infrastructure development scheme (RIDS), the social welfare service scheme (SOWESS) and the national resource development and conservation scheme (NARDCS)

In furtherance to the attainment of the objective of NAPEP state offices were establishes in all the 36 states and their local government areas. In order to generate data for the study, the questionnaire method was employed using the accidental sampling method administered to the staff of NAPEP.

During the survey, it was established that NAPEP through the youth empowerment scheme has not done reasonably well in Bomo village to improve the standard of living, just a handful of the youth have received some training but are yet to receive the credit facility to be able to help the improve there well being.

5.02 Conclusions.

Poverty eradication has become an issue in the world development agenda, it is a problem that is nonetheless of interest in the developing world, available data on poverty confirmed that poverty is very severe among the people of Nigeria, it is noted that some efforts have been made by previous administrations but despite these the menace have been on the increase.

Some apparent reasons for the failure of previous poverty eradication programmes of the government include the multiplication of these implementing institution or agencies, which allows for gross managerial inefficiency, unhealthy and counter productivity rivalries, poorly conceived project, poor staffing and lack of adequate sense of commitment, lack of congruence between national, corporate and individual interest of implementing agencies, waste of public funds human and material resources etc.

Since the above were possible oversight which might have caused current difficulties there is a need to set future targets which may be achieved through correction of the past with a view to solving current difficulties and more forward to ensure a better future. This necessitates the establishment of the national poverty eradication programme

NAPEP as a center-coordinating agency for all poverty reduction efforts of the government.

Again from the findings of this research NAPEP has made little impact especially to the inhabitant of Bomo village, this means that Nigeria must make policies that promote efficient, sustainable, broad based growth and poverty reduction.

Based on the findings of this research using the decision making theory which is the theoretical framework guiding this research, it is concluded that the national poverty eradication programme (NAPEP) has not made much impact on the youth of Bomo village, it has not enhanced the level of productivity because of the short duration of training and inadequate financial resource to empower the youth, this has then not empower or improve the economic well-being of the people in Bomo however, Pye opines that is important to note that a programme that promise to meet a national need but actually meet only small proportion of it may generate bitterness and frustration. T.R.Pye (1978 p 58).

Basic social welfare and infrastructural facilities especially in the rural areas constitute a major impediment to poverty reduction in Nigeria. Thus for any poverty reduction effort to be successful, the poor must have adequate access to such services and facilities like health care service, education, portable water, electricity e.t.c. such service would undoubtedly enhance the well being of the people.

5.03 Recommendations

Having discussed the findings of the study and having drawn some conclusions from the findings, highlighting the problems of the scheme the researcher wishes to offer some suggestions/Recommendations which may help improve the schemes or future similar programmes.

In spite of the concerns past government and the plethora of programmes and policies and poverty reduction, the incidence and scourge of poverty have worsened over the years. the research revealled that not many of the inhabitant had access to be trained and again not all that attended the training had or were opportune to get the loan and lastly the training was to short lo allow for expertise and professionalism. The factors that have constrained the effectiveness of the program and policies have been applying. What are the prospects of achieving the international development goal of reducing by half the incidence of poverty by 2015? This question is pertinent, against the background of the Nigerian economy which is characterized by low economic growth, rapid population growth, mismanagement of available resources and large scale corruption. For NAPEP to make any meaningful improvement there is need for poverty reduction programme to be implemented within the framework of rapid economic growth with equity, control population growth, sound economic management and good governance.

Rapid growth is important for rapid poverty reduction. Therefore, attention must be focused on those macro and micro economic policies and programmes that will ensure the rapid growth of the economy. Economic growth is crucial to conquering poverty because:

- generate income earning generating opportunities for the poor, makes job creation possible, thereby, makes use of the most abundant asset labour.
- Produces additional resources for government to use for social programmes aimed at overcoming poverty and
- Increases the incomes poor people receive as remuneration for their labour.

Growth also must be accompanied by a deliberate policy of redistribution and equity, promoted by participation. In this direction, broad based growth that involves the poor and generate employment is recognized to have a tremendous impact on poverty.

The final panacea for the success of any programmes is political stability. A major cause of the failure of past Poverty Alleviation Programme is political instability as a result of frequent changes in governments as a new government takes over, its dismantles all the programmes of its predecessor without critically scanning the merits and otherwise of such programmes.. This discontinuity in government programme leads to colossal waste of resources this has been the bane of past poverty alleviation schemes they have similar functions and objectives but are never allowed to stand the test of time immediately a new regime comes to power it sets up his own scheme not quite different from the previous one, but with a completely new structure and administrative set up. Fresh funds are committed to the new programme while the assets of the old scheme lay waste, some stability in any poverty eradication scheme may yield a better result.

Corruption, generally has adversely affected previous poverty effort I Nigeria its one of the bad aspect of governance. For any government programme to succeed corruption, must be completely stamped out of the society, corruption has contributed in no small measure to failures of government programmes in Nigeria, As such, NAPEP statement of account should be subject to public scrutiny. The manifestation and problems associated with corruption have various dimension, among these are project substitution, plan distortion, misrepresentation of project finances, diversion of resources to users to which they were not meant for conversion of public fund to private uses etc. the effect of corruption is both direct and indirect on poverty increase, the indirect effect follows from the reduction or misapplication of resources which negatively affect growth rates and growth potentials. When growth is lowered, there will be no output and income to redistribute, so poverty will escalate. On the other hand, the direct effect is that, the poor are denied resources and access to facilities that could have been provided through judicious application of the siphoned and diverted resources.

A related problem is that of lack of social responsibility manifest in the vandalization or willful destruction of facilities that benefit the poor, it is necessary that efforts and resources are committed to security of the facilities.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme should be given adequate and sustained funding thus creating the necessary conducive atmosphere for effective implementation, as such, the annual allocation should be entrenched and specified as a percentage of the national revenue formula and should not be interfered with by any

government in power. Non governmental organizations NGO's and the private sector should also be encourage being involved in the implementation and funding of the programmes. Also, there is the need for an effective monitoring of the entire activities of the programme at all stages of implementation, this way, diversion of resources to other uses as well as mismanagement will be checked.

The essence of micro credit as a useful tool for poverty eradication cannot be outstretched. Accessibility to such credit can substantially promote the economic activities of the poor, increase employment opportunities and raise income level. However, the operation of the credit delivery services should ensure the provision of simple, clear and efficient method of loan application, approval, disbursement and repayment. Credit of loan facilities should not be influenced by any government official, relatives or other influential persons.

For any poverty scheme to succed the poor themselves must be involved in its design and execution. The initiation and design of many poverty alleviation programmes has been based on the false promise that government know what is best for the poor but in reality the poor themselves know what they need, they should therefore be involved in the planning, design and execution of the scheme. In this way, they would feel a sense of belonging. It will be their programme and not government programme and they would be committed to the success of the programme, government in this case would only act as a facilitators organizing and enlightening the poor. While the poor present their needs for the assistance of government.

NAPEP as well as government and private media agencies should make concerted efforts in raising the peoples consciousness on the virtue of self employment and self reliant development. This is necessary, particularly for graduate of tertiary institution who continues to search for white collar jobs which are very scarce.

The importance of industrialization for translating economies of most developing countries has long been recognized. As such government should encourage investment promotion in productive industrial ventures Nigeria is endowed with an extensive landmass that is suitable for a wide range of agricultural production, unemployed youths should be encouraged to go into mechanized farming particularly in the rural areas and credit facilities should also be provided for such purpose.

The issue of political culture and politicization of government programmmes, political difference could be a strong factor in the accentuation of poverty in Nigeria particular area this arises when relevant schemes and programmes are resisted in some regions/zones or states. The point to stress is that poverty is a very critical issue that every one, irrespective of party affiliation and learning should be deeply concerned about its eradication. The idea of sabotaging a scheme simply because it was initiated by a rival political party group should not arise. It is only with such a spirit that a scheme can live beyond it initiators, a factor that is pertinent to the sustainability and continuity of services, perhaps consideration could be given to making poverty alleviation an explicit constitutional matter in view of the fact that no administration can meaningfully bind its successor to it programmes.

However, it can be seen that the nation still has a lot to do to be able to see brighter light at the end of the tunnel, from every indication Nigeria has all it takes to do whatever it likes, it is the belief of the Researcher that the right step has already been taken all that is needed is the joint effort of the implementators of the programme NAPEP. It is anticipated that through NAPEP Nigeria will succeed in the crusade against poverty.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE A

This questionnaire is being use for gathering information for the research on "poverty eradication program and youth empowerment: A case of NAPEP in Bomo village. This is in partial fulfillment of the condition for the award of Masters degree in Department of Political Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. All responses will be treated with absolute confidence and your kind co-operation will be highly appreciated.

Please tick appropriately and write to explain were applicable.

1. Name of community _____
2. State _____
3. Sex (Female) (male)
4. Ages of the respondent
   a. 15 – 25
   b. 26 – 35
   c. 36 – 45
   d. 46 and above
5. Occupation of the respondent
   a. Student
   b. Civil servant
   c. Artisan
   d. Trader
   e. Farmer
   f. others specify _____
6. Have you heard about an Agency called NAPEP
   a. Yes
   b. No

7. Have you received any training from NAPEP
    a. Yes
    b. No
8. If yes, how were you selected?_____
9. If No, why? _____
10. What have these training enable you to achieve in your community
    a. Embark on self help project
    b. Aware of your right
    c. Empower your community
    d. Others specify _____
11. Have you received any credit facility from NAPEP
    a. Yes
    b. No
12. If Yes how much _____
13. What did you use the credit facility for?
    a. purchase of irrigation pumps
    b. Sewing machines
    c. Knitting machines
    d. Grinding machine
    e. others specify _____
14. Has NAPEP embark on a project in your community?
    a. Yes
    b. No
15. If Yes, what is the project they did in your community_____

    _____
16. Have NAPEP helped the youth in your community
    a. Yes
    b. No

If Yes, how? _____

17. What has been the economic benefit of NAPEP in your community
    a. Improving the quality of life
    b. Skill acquisition
    c. Increase awareness
    d. Self reliance
    e. Other specify _____
18. In your own views, have poverty alleviation program yielded much impact to BOMO in view of the huge resources deployed to poverty reduction
    a. Yes
    b. No

    If Yes how? _____
19. Have inconsistencies in government policies worsen the level of poverty in BOMO
    a. Yes
    b. No

    If Yes how? _____

    If No, give reasons _____

    _____
20. Does the participation of people taking part in decision of development improve their wellbeing?
    a. Yes
    b. No

    If Yes, how? _____
21. What do you think is the major constrain of NAPEP
    a. Corruption
    b. Lack of fund
    c. Lack of problem recognition
    d. Others specify _____

22. Do you consider the institutional structure and strategy for implementation adequate to achieve the programmes objectives?

    a. yes

    b. No

    c. I don’t know

23. How do you think NAPEP can be made effective?

    a. _____

    b. _____

    c. _____

    d. _____

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE B

This questionnaire is being use for gathering information for the research on "poverty eradication program and youth empowerment: A case of NAPEP in BOMO village. This is in partial fulfillment of the condition for the award of Master degree in political Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. All responses will be treated with absolute confidence and your kind co-operation will be highly appreciated.

Please tick appropriately and write to explain were applicable.

1. Name of your organisation _____
2. Designation _____
3. Grade level _____
4. How many State have NAPEP been able to cover?
   a. 5 – 10 States
   b. 11 – 15 States
   c. 16 – 20 States
   d. 21 – 36 States
5. What are the objectives of NAPEP _____

   _____

   _____
6. What are the targets of NAPEP _____

   _____

   _____
7. To what extents have the scheme met the target?
   a. 20%
   b. 40%
   c. 60%
   d. 80%

e. 100%

8. How do you identify the needs of the target communities?
   a. Radio/Television
   b. Through consultation
   c. Awareness by field staff
   d. Collaboration with NAPEP staff
9. How are the target communities chosen?
   a. Local Government
   b. State Government
   c. Local survey by NAPEP
10. How many youth have benefited from NAPEP in BOMO village?

    _____

    _____

11. In what ways have they benefited?
    a. Training
    b. Loans
    c. Employment
    d. provision of food
12. What facilities has NAPEP provided in BOMO village?
    a. School
    b. Dispensaries
    c. Electricity
    d. Pipe borne water
    e. Accessible roads
13. Has NAPEP yielded much impact?
    a. Yes
    b. No

14. What is the source of funding of NAPEP
    a. Government allocation
    b. Self source fund
    c. Donations from NGOs
    d. All of the above
15. What are the major problems faced by NAPEP?
    a. Corruption
    b. lack of adequate funding
    c. Inconsistencies in government policies
    d. Bureaucratic bottleneck
    e. Poor planning and management.
    f. All of the above
15. Do you think overall quality of services provided by NAPEP is efficient?
    a. Yes
    b. No
16. Who are the intended beneficiaries of the scheme?
    a. all unemployed persons
    b. unemployed youth only
    c. Self employed persons needed assistance
    d. others specify _____
17. How can NAPEP be improved or made more effective? _____

    _____

    _____