

**ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) ON WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT IN OREDO AND ESAN NORTH-EAST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF EDO STATE**

BY

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ZARIA**

JUNE, 2018

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P13ADPA8012**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER
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JUNE, 2018

DECLARATION

I declare that this Dissertation entitled “Assessment of the Contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on Women Empowerment in Oredo And Esan North-East Local Government Areas of,Edo State is written by me in the Department of Public Administration and that it is a record of my own research work. All quotations indicated and information derived from literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this dissertation was previously presented for another degree at any University.

Franca, Imhande Obomese

Signature

Date

CERTIFICATION

This Dissertation entitle “ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN OREDO AND ESAN NORTH-EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF EDO STATE”, by Obomese Franca Imhande meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of M.Sc (Public Administration) of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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zDEDICATION

To my Family Dr, Silas F, Anyio,(Husband), David T, Anyio, Damian G.O. Anyio, Peace Z, Anyio, and Pearl Z.I, Anyio.

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ABSTRACT

The global nature, incidence and the devastating effects of poverty has not only raised concerns within government circles, but equally among stakeholders and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on how to tackle the menace. The basic concern is how to improve and or uplift the living conditions of the poor around the globe and Nigeria in particular. The failure of government in programmes like FEAP, UBE, OFN, Green Revolution, NACA etcetera necessitated a collaboration or partnership with NGOs to help address the problem. This study assessed the contribution of NGOs (Lift Above Poverty and the Girls Power Initiative) by empowering women towards in poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East Local Government Areas of Edo-South Senatorial District of Edo State. The study is an attempt to ascertain the extent to which Lift Above Poverty (LAPO) and Girls Power Initiative (GPI) has reduced the incidence of poverty amongst women in Edo State. Data were collected from the primary source through questionnaire, interview as well as observation methods. Secondary data were sourced from official publications of the LAPO, Reports and News Letters from GPI, publications and official websites of LAPO, complemented our primary data. Using the Spearman Rank Order Correlation (r_s), at Level of Significance (α)= 0.05%, the study found that LAPO recorded better performance in the areas of agriculture, Health, education and skills acquisition both in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas than its counterpart the GPI. The study also found that both LAPO and GPI enjoy funding from international partners even though such funding is not direct to beneficiaries in order to achieve the desired level of poverty reduction. The study recommended that there is need for collaboration between LAPO and government on women legislation, large scale farming to affect, immediate communities, the country at large and a step up in GPI's activities through education, human trafficking prevention in order to create the desired empowerment.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	-	Akassa Development Foundation
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBD	-	Community Based Development
CDD	-	Community Driven Development
CEF	-	Courage Education Foundation
CSOs	-	Community Services Organizations
CDP	-	Community Development Project
CPD	-	Community Partners for Development
CSDP	-	Community and Social Development Project
EPI	-	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERA	-	Environmental Right Action
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEAP	-	Family Economic Advancement Programme
FADU	-	Farmers Development Union
FEI	-	Friends of the Earth International
FMOH	-	Federal Ministry of Health
GPI	-	Girl Power Initiative
HDI	-	Human Development Index
IAD	-	Institutional Analysis and Development
ICCR	-	Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund

LAPO	-	Lift Above Poverty Organization
LARDI	-	LAPO Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative
LDCs	-	Less Developed Countries
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
NACA	-	National Agency for the Control of Aids
NDDC	-	Niger Delta Development Commission
NEEDs	-	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NDPF	-	Niger Delta Peace Foundation
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
NPOs	-	Not-for-Profit Organization
PPP	-	Purchasing Power Parity
RHF	-	Ray of Hope Foundation
SAP	-	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SBRI	-	Statistics Brain Research Institute
SPDC	-	Shell Petroleum Development Company
SSA	-	Sub-Saharan African
STDs	-	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UN	-	United Nations
UNAIDs	-	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programmes
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	-	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Poverty reduction in recent times has become an area of concern to countries around the globe. This is central to the attainment of a nation's development. The idea of improving the living conditions of the poor worldwide informs concerted efforts made by governments and other stake holders if not to eliminate, but reduce poverty to the barest minimum. Consequently, the growing incidence and devastating effects as well as efforts to reduce poverty have become an issue of great concern to both government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

In Nigeria, the network of NGOs has been on the increase since the 1980s, and in recent times, NGOs are networking with national and international agencies, with the aim of meeting National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. NGOs contribute to national development in the areas of poverty reduction, primary healthcares, STDs/AIDS, democracy and good governance, women development and other health related matters, education and functional literacy, the development of the girl child, environmental issues, conflict resolution, drug abuse and human rights (Akpanudoedehe, 2006).

The Statistics Brain Research Institute (SBRI 2014), in its Human Development Report observes that 50% of the world's population live below poverty line (i.e \$1.50 per day), while more than one quarter of the world's population live below extreme poverty line (i.e. \$1.25 per day). The report, added that poverty to wealth ratio statistics given by the (SBRI), shows that poverty has been on the increase throughout the last twentieth and twenty first centuries (SBRI 2014). This shows that poverty has become a growing issue of global concern. Furthermore, the UNICEF observes that 22,000 children die each day due to poverty,

3805 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat, 1 billion out of 2.2 billion children of the world live in poverty (UNICEF, 2015).

Agba et al (2009) quoted UNDP (2008) as having corroborates this strongly when it observes that the wave of poverty, economic backwardness, dearth of infrastructure, health problem unemployment, and natural disaster in rural and urban areas are currently some of the most serious problems in the world and that over 1.5 billion people of the world's population live below the poverty line of one dollar per day, out of which 250 million people are from Sub-Saharan Africa. The Federal Office of Statistics report indicates that about 15 per cent of Nigerians in 1969 were poor, this number increased to 28 percent in 1980 and in 1985, it was 46 percent but dropped to 43 in 1992. The estimated incidence of poverty in 1996 was 66million out of 120 million Nigerians. It was also reported in 2003 that 41.6 percent of Nigerians are poor, of which majority are in rural communities (Aliyu, 2003).

Accordingly, as hunger, disease, outbreak of wars, incidence of kidnapping, natural disaster and massive poverty ravage the Nigerian Federation, government, international agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are leaving no stone unturned in fighting these social monster (Mohammed, 1991, Akpan udoedehe, 2006; Agba, Agba, Okoro & Agba, 2010). Just as Globalization and international trade affects societies, NGOs have become increasingly influential in world affairs. They have become major players in the field of international development. Since the mid-1970s, NGOs in both developed and developing countries have experienced exponential growth.

The World Bank (2001), Akpan udoedehe (2006), observes that from 1970 to 1985, development aid disbursed by international NGOs increased by ten-fold. In 1992, international NGOs channeled over 7.6 billion us dollars of aid to developing countries. NGOs are also consulted by governments and international organizations like; the United Nations (UN), which have created associative status with them. NGOs are not directly

affiliated with any government but often have a significant impact on the socio-economic and political activity of a country or region involved. They are private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interest of the poor, protect the environment, provide development programme. NGOs are non-profit organizations that are independent from government. They are typically value-based organization, which depend in whole or in part on charitable donations and voluntary services. It was estimated that, the number of NGOs are somewhere between 6000 and 30,000 in developing countries (World Bank 2001; Akpan Udoedehe, 2006).

Their quest to pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interest of the poor, protect the environment, provide development programme through provision of social amenities, cannot be overemphasized since they had been regarded as factors of growth and development particularly in developing economies like Nigeria since independence. To this therefore, government, felt it was the only organized agent capable of using its machinery to induce, promote and manage socio-economic development by providing this infrastructure (Anyio, 2014). Therefore, individual community members or groups, who support the community in areas of felt needs, have become pivotal in influencing government and other development agencies not only to sitting poverty related projects in their communities but equally through empowering such communities.

Due to government's inability to continually provide social welfare programmes that are geared towards the reduction of poverty, like electricity, water, health, roads etc, the need to boost governments efforts becomes inevitable. Omofonmwan and Odi (2009), posits that the provision of these social amenities can be attained through a number of ways which includes, the government, Community Development Associations, Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs) which are nonprofit making and self-governing, willful volunteers set out to ameliorate the plight of people in dare need of life sustaining facilities in the society

whose success can only be measured through these organizations' efficiency and effectiveness.

NGO's are groupings that are outside the domain of government in the areas of formation, funding, management and the processes and procedure in which it carries out its sets objectives geared towards cultural, socio-economic and political transformation of all facets of the society. NGOs function alongside the government as well as profit-based enterprises in the delivery of social services for the upliftment and well-being of the society. They are therefore referred to as the third sector, which evolved from experiences, interests, idea and innate zeal to respond to or remedy the observed phenomenal desire in the society. (Ehigiamusoe 1998). NGOs specifically focus in areas of skill acquisition, economic empowerment, disease control and management: Adult literacy scheme and capacity building and information driven charity, conflict resolution and peace promotion. Lift Above Poverty and Girl Power Initiative (GPI) are the areas this study seeks to address in Edo State.

Akpan Udoedehe (2006), observes that NGOs have been active in Nigeria since the 1930s, but were mostly limited to social clubs and organizations established by various missionary institutions operating in the country. It went further to state that, they were not officially classified as NGOs, and the Nationalist Movements were the precursors or contemporary Community Services Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria. The Nigerian Network maintained that the idea of a formalized collaboration between the Federal Government of Nigeria and NGOs was first mooted at a meeting organized by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) for NGOs active in the Health sector in 1987. And that between 1990 and 1991, the FMOH held consultative meetings to mobilize NGO's to support the Federal Government in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Drug Abuse, and subsequently in the HIV/AIDS campaign, thus widening the spectrum of CSOs, collaborating with the Federal Government

and in 1992, sixty NGOs with the collaboration of the FMOH established the Nigeria Network of NGOs

According to Mansuri and Rao (2003) Community Based Development (CBD) and its more recent variant, Community Driven -Development (CDD), are among the fastest growing mechanisms for channeling development assistance and have also become crucial, hence the provision of infrastructural facilities geared towards poverty reduction. It is one of the three strategies which have been adopted for rural transformation by many developing countries alongside agricultural extension and integrated rural development, (Williams. 1978). NGOs in consonance with various communities are utilizing the rural people to develop themselves through self –help initiative and motivation, with minimum assistance from government. For example, Akinbode and Laogun (1981) perceived the process of collective action by community members to fight poverty include participation by the people themselves in efforts to improve their standard of living through their own initiative and the provision of technical and social services in ways which encourage initiatives, self-help, and mutual understanding.

Edo State is one of the thirty-six (36) states in Nigeria and in the South-South geo-political zone with over a hundred (100) NGOs operating in the state (Omofonmwan 2007). These NGOs are either funded individually or depend largely on donations and funding from international donors for the execution of their projects and programmes, with the aim of improving the people’s welfare various forms of empowerment. Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) and Girls Power Initiative (GPI), are among some of the NGOs to be examine in Edo state.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Over the years, poverty reduction in Nigeria has been a serious concern to Government, International Organizations as well as NGOs. Apart from the traditional role played by government; numerous institutions and policy frameworks were set up by government in order to address the situation in the country. These include Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) of 1997 that targeted households, Universal Basic Education (UBE) of 2004 that is aimed at making basic education free and accessible to all pupils, and National Agency for the Control of Aids (NACA) whose objective is to control the spread of AIDS. Others are the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) of 2004 aimed at ensuring standard and accessible health services to all Nigerians at all levels, National Policy on Immunization that fight the spread of polio among children and other associated diseases in the country among others. The dismal performance of some of the institutions (and social forms of empowerment), policies, programmes and projects coupled with increased spade of poverty incidence in the country over the years necessitated collaboration or partnership between government and third sector (usually referred to as NGOs) to address the problem of poverty not only in Nigeria, but Edo state in particular..

To tackle the incidence of poverty, several NGOs came on board in the quest to reduce poverty generally and or among women. In the case of Edo state, Lift Above Poverty (LAPO) which is a non-profit organization, as its basic objective, is actively involved in community programmes and mobilization among women, health and sanitation awareness, child right law promotion / fight against child labour (particularly the girl child), human trafficking, rescue and resuscitation of accident victims. Be that as it may, it appears the impact of these programme is not felt among the citizenry with increasing poverty. For example, human

trafficking has been and will continue to be a recurring decimal in Edo state if care is not taken (Osakwe, 2015).

Besides, LAPO has within the period 2004-2014 executed and completed one hundred and thirty (130) micro finance bank projects in Edo South Senatorial District, forty (40) projects currently in progress as well as eighteen (18) continuous running programmes bothering health, education, social empowerment and legal aid (LAPO Handbook, 2013). In spite of this, not so much of the effects is felt, as these programmes have been impinged by low coverage, funding, inadequate facilities (both health and education) just to mention a few in Oredo and Esan North-East of Edo South Senatorial District (LAPO Handbook, 2013).

In a Similar vein, the Girl Power Initiative (GPI) from 2004 to 2013 is said to have facilities in over thirty (30) schools in Edo South Senatorial District, and has equally trained 384 teachers and stakeholders from the district. It has equally re-enrolled 642 dropout girls in primary and secondary schools, it has also provided scholarship to eighty (80) out of school girls within and outside the country. Among these figures, eighty (80), fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) have graduated with National Certificate of Education (NCE), National Diploma (ND), twenty two (22) and nine (9) graduated with Higher National Diploma Degrees respectively, sixteen (16) are presently in school. Not withstanding, the desired effect is yet to be felt particularly in the aforementioned areas as it touches on the girl child education and poverty reduction in the two local governments under study (GPI's Activities Report, 2015).

Even though LAPO and the GPI seem to enjoy funding, through partnership with both local and international organizations, the concern of this study is what extent this has been able to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living of women in Edo-South Senatorial District.

From the above, the following research questions became pertinent.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. To what extent have the implementation strategies of Lift Above Poverty (LAPO) reduced the incidence of poverty among women in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District?
- ii. To what extent have the implementation strategies of Girl Power Initiative (GPI) reduced the incidence of poverty in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District?
- iii. To what extent have the funding of NGO Programme (LAPO and GPI) reduced the incidence of Poverty in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The central objective of this study is to assessed how NGOs have empowered women towards Poverty Reduction in Edo-South Senatorial District of Edo State from 2006-2016. Specific objectives are to;

- i. Examine to extent to which the implementation strategies of Lift Above Poverty (LAPO) reduced the incidence of poverty among women in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.
- ii. Examine how the implementation strategies of Girl Power Initiative (GPI) reduced the incidence of poverty in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.
- iii. Determine how the funding of NGOs programmes (LAPO and GPI) helped reduced the incidence of poverty in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.

1.5 Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested;

- i. H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between the strategies of LAPO and Poverty Reduction among women in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.
- ii. H_{02} : There is no significant relationship between the strategies of GPI and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.
- iii. H_{03} There is no significant relationship between Funding of NGOs and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.

1.6 Significance of the Study

There have been studies on poverty and the activities of NGOs in Nigeria covering various dimensions. This study apart from examining the causes of the failure of previous anti-poverty initiatives will also identify major pitfalls that could hinder government efforts through NGOs in reducing poverty. This will help in improving on the success achieved and effecting correction in those areas that are deficient.

The significance of poverty reduction in the quest for national development cannot be overemphasized. Since government alone cannot adequately cater for issues bothering development in all communities within her boundaries, direct or indirect effort from stakeholders and organized bodies (such as NGOs) to stimulate, and foster development becomes a necessity. In a study carried out by Adebayo (1997), findings revealed that among NGOs in Nigeria, those focusing on development related issues dominated. Unfortunately, Adebayo's study did not in specific terms to mention which studies, methods used, what aspects of development and the NGOs involved. Our study is particular on women

empowerment through different strategies employed by LAPO and the GPI; an aspect of social development.

As Nwoye (2002) puts it, Nigerian women as a group of social actors, have tremendous capacity of human resources. If participatory development is to benefit from women's contribution and meet the particular needs of women, a range of strategic and practical measures must be taken (empowering women through entrepreneurialship) to overcome the barriers limiting their progress. And overcoming these systematic biases requires a proactive approach. Experience in participatory development has made clear that, specific steps must be taken to ensure the equal participation of men and women, where women are often excluded.

Similarly, a study by Chiazor (2002) in Akwa-Ibom state observed that LAPO organized health awareness campaign for rural dwellers on women and child-health problems and that its activities were specifically focused on reactivation of health programmes, water, sanitation and mass awareness campaign. Accordingly seminars, workshops and symposia were organized by LAPO to cover areas such as immunization against polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough, and tuberculosis, management of cases like diarrhea, child nutrition and birth spacing. Even though Akwa-Ibom and Edo states are within the same South-South Senatorial Zone, there may still exist some environmental peculiarities and approach. Secondly, Chiazor study is too general and has in providing not only specific categorization but also programmes targeted at women. This study is significant because it does not only examine the activities of LAPO in Edo South Senatorial District of Edo State, but Girls Power Initiative (GPI); a grass root approach to empowering women and girls.

This study is significant because it does not look at rural transformation as a mere process of raising the rural sector per capita income, but improved standard of living of the rural people through various forms of empowerment..

Education remains and will continue to be a vital tool to rural transformation in Nigeria. A study by Akomolafe, (2001) and Ofoegbu,(2001) reveals that not only are Schools very few in Nigeria especially in rural areas, but Scholarship are not adequate, many students drop out of school because of finance coupled with poor teaching facilities. This precarious situation of the education system especially in rural communities, informed the intervention of NGOs. This study is significant because it looks at how the GPI initiative respond to empowering women and the girl child through education thereby reducing the incidence of poverty in the state which no other study has really looked at. This is the gap this study tends to fill.

Furthermore, the outcome of this study shall assist such NGOs in their quest to reduce poverty, especially improvement of the programme's performances and increasing its benefits to the target group. This study will also serve as a spring board or a point of reference for other researchers, students and practitioners who are interested in solving the problem of poverty through women empowerment in Nigeria, management and staff of NGOs as well as beneficiaries of its various schemes would benefit greatly from this study because, the study would expose areas of strengths and weaknesses of the programme for future action.

1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study examines the implementation strategies of Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) and Girl Power Initiative (GPI) on poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District. In this study, specific period under focus is 2006-2016. This period is justified because of the increase in the number and activities of NGOs especially in Benin City the state capital and other local governments particularly from 2006. Equally, the impact of any development programme would become visible thus making for necessary adjustment for sustenance and continuity. The role of the NGOs is assessed within this time frame to ascertain how strategies were implemented by LAPO and GPI towards effective poverty reduction in the local governments under study. It

is also the believed of the researcher that the said time frame (Ten Years), is sufficient for making inference. The particular choice of Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas is informed based on the fact that Oredo urban while Esan North-East is rural. The essence is see if a particular level of success or failure of activities or programmes is recorded among LAPO and GPI on the premise of one local government being urban rural and or over concentration of activities in one than the other.

Like every other study, this study certainly has limitations. There were obvious constrains in terms of dearth of information in generating primary data. This was often manifested in the uncooperative attitude of community members in filling the questionnaire distributed and some of the community leaders slated for the interview whose line of thought usually is that such information would be used for purposes other than the research, Other obvious limitations as time and financial resources were major hindrances to enable the researcher go round some remote communities within the area of study to get the needed information.

1.8 Operational Definition of Concepts

The following concepts were employed in this study in accordance with the operational definitions specified below.

1.8.1 Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs): The term NGOs has no specific universal definition as different bodies and authorities view it from their perspectives. However, for the purpose of this study NGO is an organization that is neither a part nor opposition party of a government nor a profit-making business. NGOs in focus in this study include Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) and Girls Power Initiative (GPI).

1.8.2 Poverty: Poverty refers to a situation where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his basic needs (such as food, clothing, shelter. Most recent definitions of poverty include health. It could also be explained as a situation where an individual

or family lacks the command to meet their social and economic obligations. This command could be in terms of employment, skills and an income to meet the above needs. Poverty is characterized by intolerable conditions such as poor nutrition, lack of portable drinking water; poor shelter; inadequate employment opportunities etcetera.

1.8.3 Poverty Reduction: Poverty reduction cannot be understood aside the meaning of poverty. By poverty reduction, we are looking at the strategies or intervention programmes adopted by individuals and or governments to fight the poverty scourge. This is said to be achieved when the living conditions of individuals in a given society is uplifted by reducing their condition of “lack”; through social intervention programmes like food, shelter, education and or any other form of intervention.

1.8.4 Funding: Funding involves the flow of resources (specifically funds or monies) for execution or implementation of programmes and projects geared towards poverty reduction. These funds are usually provided by international partners or donors like the World Bank, United Nations, Charity Organizations, Philanthropists and other local donors.

1.8.5 Women Empowerment: This involves the creation of an environment for women to enable them make decisions for their personal benefits as well as society. Women empowerment also involves increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of women to improve their living conditions and or ensure equal rights to women.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter attempts to review relevant literature on poverty with respect to the role played by NGOs in reducing poverty. The essence of literature review is to ascertain the relevance of major contributions in the area of the study and also provide indications about existing gaps that need to be filled. In this regard, this work will review conceptual and empirical literature on the concept of poverty, indicators of poverty, causes of poverty, incidence of poverty and as well the various role played by NGOs in poverty reduction on a general note and more specifically to Edo State. Poverty is a global phenomenon which affects continents, nations and peoples differently; no nation is free from poverty. As such, poverty as a concept has no single, unified, acceptable definition.

2.2 The Concept of Poverty

Poverty remains a multi-dimensional concept, as it does not lend itself to a single, universally accepted definition (UNECA, 2005). Hence, the literature is replete with definitions reflecting the peculiar perceptions of various researchers and policy makers, as well as the circumstances prevailing in different regions of the world (Igbinedion and Igbatayo, 2007). For instance, many analysts conceive poverty in terms of individual or family insufficiency of assets and income.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) views poverty as an unacceptable human condition that can and must be eliminated by public policy and action (Guntur, 2007).

In discussing poverty, it is more reasonable to focus from four categories of people, often considered poor:

- a. Those who acknowledge they are poor and are willing to do something about their position, what they intend to do and how
- b. Those who feel they are poor and are unwilling to do anything to improve their position
- c. Those who are considered poor by observers' eyes yet they are internally contented
- d. Those who are poor but do not believe they are and are indifferent in reacting to any alleviation programme (if any)

Poverty is invariably defined in terms of inadequacy of income (or more generally of disposable resources) to support a minimum standard of decent living. The term thus refers to some materialistic components of people's standard of living. A number of problems arise in this definition, three of which at least are worthy of some discussion. To begin the question could be asked as to whether is the actual or potential components of standard of living that matter. We may draw the poverty line on a series of scales that measure the level of nutrition in terms of various food requirements, the standard of housing etc. These components of standard of living may be represented as a composite whole by real income, or income expressed in naira. But an income may be large enough to provide all the items of consumption that are regarded as necessary for the avoidance of poverty and still not been used for the purpose for which it was conceived. A person may gamble constantly and unsuccessfully or hoard money or ride a car he can ill-afford and at the same time suffer malnutrition and have inadequate housing. Given this person's preference map and his available resources, this may be optimal conduct and any reallocation of his resources which involves less gambling and less hoarding of money or no car might reduce him to a lower level of welfare in his own elevation. The question arises, is a person poor if he lacks things that most people regard as necessary for a decent standard of living, even though he could afford them? Or is he in poverty only when he cannot afford them? To complicate matters,

assuming in the latter case that a person has assets as well which could be realized to yield the requisite standard of consumption, is this too insufficient of income enough to define poverty?

In sum, is poverty a matter of the size of a person's resources or how he uses them?

In the second place, there is the inevitability of arbitrariness in drawing a poverty line. Having established an individual's actual or potential standard of living by means of a single index or a set of indices do we need to determine the cutoff point or point below which lies poverty?

The decision must be arbitrary and value judgment must play a role here.

There is the additional problem that needs differentiation between individuals and family groups. The ages of people, their states of health, the size of their family, the location of their dwelling – all these affect needs whether such needs are defined in terms of the standards actually attained in particular in terms of consumptions or in terms of standards attainable by appropriate use of the individual's or family's resources. If the latter approach is used, the point on the income scale at which the poverty line is drawn for an individual should be determined in accordance with his needs and desires and with the prices of goods and services that are required to satisfy them. Since the needs of individuals and their corresponding prices will not be the same, simple money income may not be a good index of relative levels of poverty.

Consequently, Jega et al (2002) defines poverty as the totality of a state of being where individuals, households or communities are unable to fulfill the basic necessities of life such as food, including water, clothing and shelter as well as other economic and social obligations.

The concept of poverty includes different dimensions of deprivation. In general, it is the inability of people to meet economic, social and other standards of well being. The World Bank has defined poverty as unacceptable human deprivation in terms of economic opportunity, education, health and nutrition as well as lack of empowerment and security. The

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has introduced two relevant concepts. Human development defined as a process that enlarges peoples' choice including freedom, dignity, self respect and social status and human poverty which refers to deprivation of essential capabilities such as a long and healthy life, knowledge, economic resources and community participation Jegga (2002:).

There is no objective definition of poverty and no objective way of measuring how many people are poor. The numbers differ greatly according to different plausible definitions (Stain and Foss 1955). There are however, three broad categories of poverty, absolute poverty, relative poverty and subjective poverty. Subjective poverty which is the most recent category is less widely used.

- (i) **Absolute Poverty:** It means lack of resources to buy a bundle of goods and services, such a bundle of goods and services may contain what could be considered as an objective minimum which includes basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing etc. Two basic questions arise from this objective definition first what do we include in this objective minimum? Second how do we set minimum standard for basic necessities like clothing and transportation etc. which may depend on individual taste and the prevailing socio-economic conditions within a given society? Even if they agree on a certain minimum bundle of goods and services such a minimum may not be relevant over time even when we adjust for price change. Absolute poverty also has been defined by the appropriate maximum which refers to the maximum proportion of income that a family spends on certain subsistence goods (Watts, 1967), for example, if a family or household spends more than the specified maximum share of their income on basic needs such as foods, housing, health care etc, then they are considered poor. Obadan (2003:).

- (ii) **Relative Poverty:** Relative definition of poverty compare the welfare of those with the lowest amount of resources with others in the society – for example a level of income below say 40, 50 or 60 percent of the average or medium income of the population. Other researchers define relative poverty in relation to the bottom 10, 15 or 20 percent of the income distribution. Other studies have used relative shares of expenditure/ consumption instead of income. Although a relative measure of poverty takes into consideration changes in living standards, it also poses serious problems, particularly in policy implementation. Relative measures of poverty have been criticized for being too much of moving target. Not only is it difficult to reduce relative poverty, it is also almost impossible to assess the effectiveness of transfer programmes. In addition, establishing the cut-off income/expenditure is quite arbitrary, (Obadan 2003)
- (iii) **Subjective Poverty:** This definition of poverty requires individuals (including the poor) to define what they consider to be decent or minimally adequate standard of living. Such definitions are complex to apply because of the divergence in responses given the difference in individual utility functions and circumstance. Obadan (2003:57).

2.2.1 Causes of Poverty

The understanding of the causes of poverty is critical on its alleviation, just like the diagnosis of an ailment is to the treatment of a disease. However, using causal analysis is confused by the fact that there are many plausible causes of poverty. In most cases writers tend to discuss causes of poverty mostly from the vantage point of their areas of profession, region or gender; there are basic factors that enable the prevalence of poverty. These basic factors, including macro-economic distortions, effects of globalization, governance, corruption, debt burden, low productivity, unemployment, high population growth rate and poor human resource

development etc, may differ from country to country depending on the level of economic development. There are however, many issues involved when looking at the causes of poverty.

Many causes of poverty identified by the poor ranged from unemployment to lack of social services and infrastructures and to issues of weak social capital. Lack of water, unemployment, limited access to education, health facilities and productive inputs and markets are the major problems of other urban and rural poor. The poor recognizes their vulnerability to shocks – the death of a bread winner, harvest problems, weather changes, divorce, widowhood and even changes in government policy (such as the devaluation of naira) as well as their lack of access to justice and vulnerability to corruption, violence and crime. They therefore invest in ownership of assets – houses, farms and farms input or insurance – savings, investments, children and membership of local organizations (See World Bank Voices of the Poor, Narayan et al, 2000).

Several factors acting alone or in combination have accounted for poverty in the LDCs which include Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries.

- i. Low savings and investments
- ii. Weak institutions of government
- iii. Poor infrastructure and structural weaknesses in the economy
- iv. High population growth outstripping low income
- v. High external dependence
- vi. Political and social instability which manifest in social strife,
- vii. Lack of technological capacity to deal with environmental challenges like disease epidemics, floods, drought, pest outbreaks etc.

Adverse effects of globalization in terms of capital flight vis-a-vis inflow of capital, capital flight stock in Nigeria are estimated at US\$100bn more than twice the size of Nigeria GDP.A

careful assessment of the above causes will indicate the multidimensional nature of poverty. This indication will no doubt provide a better approach for effective attack on poverty. Aliyu (2002:30) in his own contribution cited other factors as effects of globalization, governance, corruption, debt burden, low productivity, and host of others as causes of property.

The World Bank in its study; *Consultation with the Poor* (1999:17) posits that, “the impact of a range of possible shocks, trends and cycles were seen to be important influence on local vulnerability and helped to differentiate the vulnerability from the more secure”. The report went further to state that “the risks were linked to a number of key aspects of security that affected the poor at different levels of social organization, from the individual to household to entire communities”. Specifically, the report linked poverty in some instances to some perceived pathologies such as reckless spending and non-payment of compensation for land acquired by government.

Galbraith (1971) as captured by the CBN (1999:12) observed causes of poverty differently in three developing regions of the world; the sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia. He attributed in Sub-Saharan Africa to the “absence of opportunity rather than absence of aptitude” as the countries of this region” have had only a few years” of independence to face task of economic development. He observed further “*people with requisite education, training and honesty for performing public tasks are unavailable.*” Consequently, “*taxes are collected in haphazard or arbitrary fashion and public funds are spent inefficient*”. Another area being noted was in the area of law enforcement, which was unreliable, and essential public services, which if they existed, could only make primitive local trade exist with attendant handicaps. Though the above assertions were very much relevant at the time they were made, it is doubtful if all are still relevant today. For instance, it may not be absolutely correct to state that in present day sub-Saharan Africa “people with requisite education, training and honesty for performing public tasks are unavailable”. Furthermore, his classification of two broad

categories of poverty (case and insular poverty) in United States of America is relevant in the present day Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the same vein, the characteristics of case poverty where he listed some characteristics of the individual or his family in the United States of America to include: “mental deficiency, bad health, inability to adapt to the discipline of modern economic life, excessive procreation, alcohol, insufficient education or perhaps a contribution of several of these handicaps” are quite typical of the present day Sub-Saharan Africa. Further search of causes of poverty may lead us to greater disparity; the CBN (1999:13) suggested a summary of the causative factors of poverty, which tried to acquire all the pertinent issues raised as:

- i.* Low productivity;
- ii.* Market imperfection
- iii.* Physical imperfection
- iv.* Structural shift in the economy;
- v.* Inadequate Commitment to Programme Implementation’
- vi.* Political instability; and
- vii.* Corruption

These causative factors are usually crisscrossed or intertwined. For instance, most of the causes could be linked to or stemmed from corruption. Aliyu (2003), linked political instability in Africa to corruption when he stated that, “in Africa, illegal takeover of government through military coup, embezzlement, nepotism, looting, bribery, vote buying and abuse of office are very common.” In fact, Nigeria has, in the recent times, assumed an unenviable position of the most corrupt country in the world. Corruption has not only been institutionalized but also assumed a national dimension. This has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society and accounts for the reason why efforts so far made for alleviating or reducing poverty has not yielded much results as through it, the bulk of the nation’s wealth have been

distributed in favour of the few privileged to the detriment of the majority of Nigerian's who continually wallow in abject poverty.

Another causative factor of poverty in Nigeria is the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. One may view this as an irony of fate because both institutions are involved in efforts toward reducing poverty. In fact, the World Bank has sponsored so many researches on poverty and its reduction strategies. It has also elevated the issue of poverty and its reduction to a level of global consciousness where government, NGOs and individuals are being sensitized to the consequences of poverty and the need to make concerted efforts towards tackling the malaise. The SAP, in spite of its promise to stem the decline in the country's fortune and restore the economy to the path of growth, it simply led to decline, thereby becoming an integral factor in the continuation of the national economic crises. The massive and repeated devaluation of the naira, side by side with the liberalization of prices, interest rates and trade, as well as spirited efforts to curb public expenditures and reduce costs, had the net effect of further weakening the national manufacturing capacity. This eroded what was left of the social gains of the post-independence period in all departments and diminished the capacity of the state to deliver public goods.

Shah (2001) argued that the "IMF and World Bank – prescribed structural adjustment policies means that nations that are lent money are done so on condition that they cut social expenditure (which is vital for economic growth and development) in order to repay the loans". He further stated "many are tied to opening up their economies and being primarily commodity exports, which for poorer nations lead to a spiraling race to the bottom as each nation must compete against others to provide lower standards, reduced wages and cheaper resources to corporation and richer nations.

He concluded “this further increases poverty and dependency for most people”. In Nigeria, unemployment is assuming a crisis-level. Though there are no reliable data for ascertaining the exact number of unemployed Nigerians, it is however evident that unemployment rate is growing at geometric progression based on number of graduates and secondary school leavers without job (CBN Annual Reports 2003, 2004). This further aggravates the poverty situation. The rapid population growth in the country is seen as compounding the poverty situation. It is estimated that the population of Nigeria by 2003 is about 120 million (FOS 2004) and currently is about 170 million. The burgeoning population growth has overstretched the basic social and infrastructural facilities as well as public goods in the face of non-rehabilitation or constructing of these facilities as a result of dwindling national resources coupled with insensitivity on the part of political leadership of the nation. It is more disturbing when it realized that the population growth average 2.83% as against GDP growth rate of 2.7%. It therefore means that resources meant for investment are consumed with little left for development thereby reinforcing the vicious cycle of poverty.

Globalization which is vigorously being touted as panacea to economic problems is on the other hand perceived by some as contributing to widening the poverty gap in most developing countries. Shah (2001) accuses globalization of increasing inequality in the world as it maintains the historical unequal rules of trade. He maintains, *‘around the world, inequality is increasing, while the world is further globalizing. In many cases international political interests have led to a diversion of available resources from domestic needs to western markets’*. He further stated: “Historically, politics and power play by the elite leaders and rulers has meant that people and their land can be controlled, which has further increased poverty and dependency. These have manifested themselves in wars, hot and cold, which are mainly trade resource-related”. Aliyu (2003) approached the effect of globalization from another perspective entirely though he agreed that it puts developing economies particularly

Nigeria in a disadvantaged position. He succinctly put it thus: “given Nigeria’s political and socio-economic disposition globalization presented more challenges to the country as it lacks what it takes to be relevant or adapt and/or cope with it. Until the country can achieve certain level of good governance, a revamped industrial base, modest economic growth, fairly efficient public infrastructure and utilities, Nigeria shall remain at the receiving end of globalization”.

In all, the causes of this state of poverty in the country can be summarized to include:

- i. Corruption
- ii. Debt overhang
- iii. Low productivity
- iv. Burgeoning population growth;
- v. Globalization;
- vi. Unfocused government policies; and
- vii. Lack of effective skills training

With the above divergent factors expressed as being the causes of poverty, it therefore, becomes imperative to find a common base for measuring poverty.

2.2.2 Incidence of Poverty in Nigeria

Nigeria is blessed with mineral resources and rich in crude oil. Ironically, the citizens are hungry and poor in the abundance of plenty. The UNDP has classified the country as 141 poorest nations on human development index. In its report, Nigeria is considered one of the 20th poorest countries in the world with 70% of the population classified as poor and 54.4% living in absolute poverty (UNDP-HDI, 2006; Ekugo, 2006:12). Available evidence shows that poverty has been a serious problem confronting the Nigerian nation since independence.

Nigeria instead of advancing has lately degenerated into one of the poorest countries of the world. In fact, more and more people are becoming poorer every day. In 1960, the poverty

level in the country was about 15% and by 1980 it reached to 28.1%. In 1985, the poverty level was 46.3 but dropped to 42.7% in 1992. Perhaps, the drop may not be unconnected to the coming elections slated to hold in 1993. Nonetheless, with the termination of the democratic processes by the military government, the poverty level rose to 43.6% in 1995. A year after, about 65% of the population was below poverty line, that is, about 67.1 million Nigerians. In the 1999 and 2000 UN Development Report, Nigeria had degenerated further as 87% of the population were below poverty line and rated 154 on the world's marginal poverty index out of 172 countries (Ekpu, 2004).

As observed, poverty in Nigeria has geographical perspective. According to the Nigeria's Draft Report on Millennium Development Goals, the Northern part of the country accounted for the higher incidence of poverty which largely predominated in the rural area. Specifically, the report showed that the rate of poverty was as high as 84% in states like Zamfara, Sokoto, Gombe and Bauchi during the period 1980 - 2004. In the Southern part, poverty had increased between 1980 but dropped in 2004, apart from the South-south zone that dropped in 1992. In fact, all states except Bayelsa had more than half of their population in poverty circle (Akintunde and Amaefule, 2005:5). Comparatively, while poverty showed as high as 72.2% in the North-east, it has the lowest in the South-east with 26.7%. This confirmed the findings by the World Bank study in Nigeria which showed that there were differences between the North and South with more concentration of the poor in the Northern zone (cited in National Bureau of statistics, 2005).

During the period 1980 - 2004, the incidence of urban poverty also has been on the increase, an indication that poverty is not only seen in the rural areas but also co-existed in urban cities of the country. In 1980, poverty rose from 28.3 to 51.4% in 1985 but declined to 46.0% before it rose again to 69.3% in 1996 and fell to 63.3% in 2004 (Tomori et al., 2006). Thus, the inflation rate which stood at 15% in 1960 had risen to 28% in 1980. In 1985, the figure

was put at 46%. Seven years later, it came down to 43% only to shoot up to 66.4% in 1996. The federal government claimed to hack down the fleeting inflation rate from its awesome 54.4% in 2004 to 50%. It attributed the reduction in the trend to the institution of democracy and touted benefits of the economic reforms of the time (Duru, 2008:B3). As Soludo pointed out, the Nigeria's per capita income had always been in the deficit since independence. However, between 1999 and 2005, it has risen to over 3 percent.

He further said that the Gross Domestic Product had grown at 10.2% in 2003 as against an average of 2.9% in the immediate past decade while the nation's external reserves stock had risen from US\$ 7.68 billion to over \$ 20 billion as at January 2005 (Punch, 2005:9). Comparatively, there is improvement, yet Nigeria has failed to live up to nationhood aspirations at independence. A few African countries like Botswana and Mauritius have achieved a high growth. These countries belonged to those that were poorer than Nigeria at independence. With the much vaunted status parity in 2004, Nigeria's GDP per capita stood at paltry \$1000 as against South Africa's \$11,000, Kenya's \$1,100, Angola's \$2,100 and Cuba's \$3000 (Idowu, 2005:15). Presently, Nigeria is a shadow of its promise in 1960 when it ranked higher than a number of today's leading nations in all major development indices. A situation attributed to the social, political and economic environment in the country.

Indeed, it is all traceable to the activities of political locusts called rulers. It was no surprise therefore that about 54.4% of the nation's citizens go to bed hungry every night. In the same picture of gloom, over 5 million Nigerian youths are estimated to be unemployed. In fact, in the heat of the ongoing economic depression, many workers were retrenched in both the public and private sectors. In the absence of any national security system to cater for jobless persons, people resort to crime. In similar vein, over 7 million primary age school children are out of school. More pathetic is the disclosure that 201 out of

1000 Nigerian children stand the risk of dying before the age of 5. Women, of course are not spared of the unsettling development as 800 out of 100,000 of their folks are estimated to lose their life during child birth. The rising incidence of prostitution is an index of the escalating poverty level in the land. Also, compounding the shock is that an estimated 4.4 million Nigerians are living with HIV/AIDS (Daily Independent, 2008).

2.2.3 Indicators of Poverty

Indicators of poverty, in general, focus 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 healthcare delivery, education, basic infrastructure and access to other welfare-enhancing facilities in order 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.

According to Okoh (2008), 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 lines and profiles can be compiled from different data sources. The most important consideration in assembling such data is to obtain information, which will be useful for policy analysis. Information on household income or consumption levels, employment, occupational status, education, nutritional and health status, non-farm income, assets, housing facilities etc. can be obtained from household surveys. Community surveys are also useful sources of information for poverty profile construction. A number of important components, which affect the standard of living, include markets for labour and commodities consumed by

the poor, access to clean water, sanitation, health, education and transportation. Administrative surveys and institutional surveys (schools, health centres, markets, and so on) are also useful sources of information; an eclectic approach could also be used to obtain data. In many developing countries where up-to-date and comprehensive household data are not available, data is sometimes obtained from micro surveys in the various relevant sectors of markets, agriculture and urban and rural casual labour may provide rough estimates of income. Setting or defining the poverty line, a tool for measuring poverty, is usually the starting point in poverty measurement. It is often based on income or consumption data and represents the level of income that categorizes the household of a particular size, place and time into poor or non-poor. Okoh (2008), it is also intended to designate equivalent levels of deprivation (Watt, 1977a). According to the World Bank (1993), poverty lines can be set in relative or absolute terms. Relative poverty assesses 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 over time. Poverty lines also establish the welfare comparability of nominal expenditure or income across the poverty profile (Ravallion and Bidani, 1994). Income-based measures frequently used include GNP per capita, the purchasing power of real GDP per capita, etc. The need to specify benchmarks against which individual regional and national measures of poverty can be compared has led to the construction of poverty lines which represents the value of basic (food and non-food) needs considered essential for meeting the minimum socially-acceptable standard of living within a given society. Thus, any 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 living below the poverty line for that country. Similarly, separate urban and rural poverty lines may be

constructed since the cost of living in the rural areas tends to be cheaper than in urban areas. From these, the corresponding urban poverty rates and rural poverty rates may be derived. However, poverty lines 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 prices, and adjusted to local currencies using purchasing power parity exchange rates is ₦395. With per capita income of \$240, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world in spite of its enormous human and natural resources, because the living standard of the generality of its people falls below the poverty level.

According to Abdullahi (2009), the criteria for measuring or assessing poverty naturally vary from place to place according to the overall level of development of the people. In some parts of Nigeria, poverty is measured in terms of lack of ownership of fertile farmland, food, money and housing. In some other parts, the lack of infrastructural facilities such as access roads, pipe borne water, schools, hospitals, electricity, telecommunication services and agricultural services are considered as more attributes of poverty. At some other instances, a common criterion is the total amount of earnings that accrue to the individual within, say, the year. He however, argues that in situations, as we have in Nigeria, where income, particularly salaries and wages, is not responsive to inflation, the use of earning, as an indicator of poverty may be grossly misleading. He however, concluded that the purchasing power is a better criterion for assessing poverty. Here, purchasing power is defined as net income over a period of time normalized by the rate of inflation over the same period. In Nigeria, the purchasing power of the citizens reached a peak value in the mid 1970s after which it underwent rapid decline until recently when positive measures are recorded.

The standard of living is another important index employed in the distinction between the poor and non-poor. It has two aspects; total household income and the social milieu in which

the household is situated. Data on expenditure tend to be more reliable indicator of well being than income; these are complemented with social indicators like life expectancy, infant mortality, nutrition, literacy and access to primary education, healthcare and safe drinking water. However, due to problems of aggregation and comparability, most poverty lines are based solely on income or consumption data (World Bank, 1993). A study may define individual or multiple poverty and different economic or environmental conditions (Gillespie, 1990).

According to Abdullahi (2009), parameters such as income size and purchasing power assess poverty at the level of the individual while the standard of living is better suited for assessing poverty at the communal or national level. Indeed, disparity in the average standard of living is the main distinguishing factor between the developed (or rich) and developing (or poor) countries of the world. And that was the reason that all purposeful government continuously strives to improve and raise the standard of living of its people by providing adequate infrastructural facilities and social amenities.

Apart from using a poverty line, other poverty indices are used to measure the incidence, intensity and severity of poverty. They include the headcount index, the poverty gap index, and the squared poverty gap index. The headcount index computes the percentage of households 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 (Gillespie, 1990, Ravallion and Bidani, 1994). The poverty gap index measures the income shortfall below the poverty line, that is, the amount required to bring the poor above the poverty line. It is defined by the mean distance below the poverty line as a proportion of that line. It measures the depth or intensity of poverty. Thus, it has an advantage over the headcount index (Gillespie, 1990, Ravallion and Bidani, 1994, Ravallion and Sen, 1994).

The squared poverty-gap index devised by Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) is the mean of the squared proportionate 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 (Ravallion and Bidani, 1994, Ravallion and Sen, 1994). This method is said to be more computationally convenient in normalization, as it implies that the aggregate measure across any number of subgroups is simply the population weighted mean of the subgroup values of the poverty gap. The additive property also guarantees that measure poverty is subgroup monotonic, i.e., if poverty increases or decreases (Ravallion et al, 1991).

The social indicators of poverty measure the availability and access to health, education and welfare facilities as well as basic infrastructure. The health indicators include those of life expectancy at birth, mortality rates across the age-segments of the population, prevalence of malnutrition, percentage of the population with access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation. They also include the number of hospital beds and physicians per unit of population, availability of reproductive health facilities and access to child immunization. For education, the ratios computed are literacy rates, and gross and net enrolment ratios at the primary, secondary and tertiary educational levels, disaggregated by gender, and expressed as a percentage of the relevant age group within the population. Measures of basic infrastructure include supply of electric power, telephones, tarred roads, railways, air traffic etc, per unit of population. Social indicator data may be obtained from sectoral ministries in the country, and from United Nations (UN) sources such as, the World Bank's Economic and Social Data Base and annual publications by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNESCO, The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Finally, a recent development in computing indicators of poverty is the initiative of UNDP to provide a composite quantitative measure of both the economic and the social indicators of

human development called the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI combines a measure of purchasing power with measures of physical health and educational attainment to indicate progress or retrogression in human life. The building blocks of the HDI are data on longevity, knowledge and income. Longevity is measured solely by life expectancy at birth, while knowledge is measured by the adult literacy rate and means years of schooling weighted at 2:1 respectively. For income, purchasing power parity (PPP) (based on real GDP per capita adjusted for the local cost of living) is used. These three measures are combined in a 3-step process to arrive at an average index. The HDI sets a minimum rate for each measure, and then shows where each country stands in relation to this range, expressed as a value between 0 and 1. The main limitation of the HDI as a composite socio-economic indicator is the fact that, like all averages, it conceals the wide distribution inequalities within a population.

2.2.4 NGOs and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

Although rural communities in time past engaged in self-help projects, like communal training, markets, village squares, village halls, road construction etc, modern approach or strategy to poverty reduction among rural communities in Nigeria started in the 1920s by the British Colonial government. Since then, several development efforts have been geared towards accelerating the pace of transformation in rural communities (Ebong, 1991). The antecedence of rural development in Nigeria was further widen owing to the rapid changes from the country's independence in October 1960, one of which is the fast losing of traditional functions of rural areas to provide all the food required for consumption in towns, because most imported food were serving as substitutes. Consequently, retail and market centers in rural areas declined. The lack of attractive job opportunities and the virtual lack of social and public facilities in most rural areas caused a continuous drift of young rural population to urban areas in search for employment This situation forced the then Eastern

Nigeria Government to look into agriculture as a recipe to the problem of rural-urban migration and rural unemployment. Farm settlements were established to curb poverty, raise the standard of living and to divert attention of rural areas. The farm settlement scheme developed new farming communities trained in the most modern and scientific techniques. The scheme ushered in a new positive attitude towards farming which generated an increase on the overall agricultural produce in the then Eastern Region. It also created employment opportunities for an expanding rural population (Owuamalam, 1981).

To achieve the objective of transforming our rural communities, government embarked upon a number of laudable programmes/projects which include among others – farms settlement scheme for school leavers, River Basin and Rural Development Authorities; Better Life for Rural Women, Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (Agba, Ushie, Ushie, Bassey & Agba, 2009). These efforts yielded little or no success because of corruption (Ndubusi, 1991; Ottong 2006), lack of active participation of the masses (World Bank, 1996), lack of continuity of government programmes among others (Agba, Ushie & Agba, 2007).

The focus and concern of every society (Governments inclusive) should as a matter of fact include the socio-economic transformation of its citizens that gears towards poverty reduction. To ACARTSD (1980:7-9), social development is concerned with the transformation of society in its totality, making humans the focus of the development effort and seeking to develop its potentialities in a total sense. More specifically, it aims ultimately at the maximum improvement of the material, cultural, social and political aspects. Social development embraces programmes and activities, which enhance the capacities of members of society to fulfill existing and changing social roles expectations and accomplish their various personal goals. It entails the democratization of the development process and the orientation of development effort to the needs and interest of the masses. It ensures equitable

sharing in the benefits and burdens of development, the recovery of self-confidence and delineation. More concretely, social development involves comprehensive human resources development; raising living standards and quality of life, improving health and human welfare, ensuring social justice and equality, and providing adequate social security for all segments of the population (ECA, 1985:11). Social development include- reduction or elimination of poverty, equitable distribution of income and wealth, employment creation, health and nutrition, education and training, housing and ancillary services, social security and welfare (Mohammed,1991:20). As pungent as this arguments sound, little can only be achieved with the collaborative efforts of both the donors and beneficiaries.

Ajaero (2005) observes NGOs have remarkably done well in the areas of environmental human rights protection; reconciliation and peace in Nigeria. For instance, Environmental Right Action (ERA) and Friends of the Earth International (FEI), is impacting very much in the environment of the Niger Delta Region through her campaign in the following areas: reducing greenhouse-gas emission, reducing oil spillage, improving oil exploitation technologies, environmental education and awareness, ensuring environmental law enforcement and conservation of nature. ERA and FEI embarked on multidisciplinary programmes that encourage technology innovation, safety compliance, pollution prevention, community outreach, conservation, advocacy and training. In terms of peace, Niger Delta Peace Foundation (NDPF) is dedicated to reconciliation and development of the Niger Delta region. NDPF had over the years negotiated between the Ogoni people in the Niger Delta, the Federal Government of Nigeria and oil multinationals. In 2005, several efforts were made by NDPF to bring Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), the Ogoni people and the Federal Government to dialogue as to reach lasting solution to their face-off, which emanated from SPDC exploitation of crude oil in the region. (Ebabor, 2005),Scokunbi(2006), also observe that the Ray of Hope Foundation (RHF) is a notable NGO that had achieved

tremendously in the area of child/human rights with regards to back to-school programme for street children. And that so far, hundreds of street children have benefited from the programme, and the organization is still making effort to place an average of 35 percent of street children in various schools in Lagos State. One pitfall in this study is that it has failed to show clear collaborative efforts between communities and donors on true community needs.

NGOs' have also embarked on enlightenment programmes in collaboration with UNAIDS not only across African but equally in Nigeria on programmes such as World AIDS Campaign with Young People (UNAIDS, 1999). Placing the programme the issue of HIV/AIDS among young people on national and international agendas, and has brought significant attention to the force for change that young represent in reversing the course of the epidemic especially in rural areas. It raised the profile of young people in the discussions about HIV/AIDS, and increased their participation in events, programmes and decision-making bodies (Pilot, 1999). In like manner, the Civil Society on HIV/AIDS in Cross River State Nigeria (CISHAN) partnered with the state government on the campaign against the spray of HIV/AIDS which since 2003 recorded significant milestone in the State. (Uneze, 2005).

In education, Akomolafe, (2001) Ofoegbu, (2001), observe surprisingly there were very few schools in Nigeria especially in rural areas that can genuinely claim to have adequate school physical facilities for teaching and learning Scholarship are not adequate, many student drop out of school because of finance. This is an indication that government alone cannot adequately fund education (Sowunimi, 2004). This precarious situation of the education system especially in rural communities, informed the intervention of NGOs. In spite of activities like those of Courage Education Foundation (CEF) in Lagos State, there still exist a dearth of such interventions and collaborations. There is no gainsaying that one of the most effective ways for poverty reduction among rural communities is education. This is largely

lacking. Impliedly, much is still needed to be done if the living conditions of community people will improve in the near future.

The philosophy of economic transformation, wealth and job creation dominate the activities of most NGOs the world over. This revolves around the economic principle that poverty can effectively be eradicated if people are economically buoyant. According to Chevron (2003), acute unemployment is a fact of life in many remote communities in Edo State inclusive. A study carried out in Delta State, Nigeria reveals Chevron partnership with IFESH created technical skill acquisition centers in Warri, Delta State and that the centre has provided community youths with self-sustaining job, and skills; the project offers a full year training in metal work, computer processing and office support in preparation for starting a business or finding a job NGOs interventions in job creation and economic transformation of rural and urban communities had alleviated the suffering of some rural dwellers in Imo State, Nigeria Network of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) programme on economic and social empowerment of rural communities established poultry farms and trained women for self-employment. Similarly, Ohonyeta Care Group otherwise known as solution NGO gave out micro-credit facilities to rural dweller to aid people start business and reduce the scourge of poverty in Nigeria (Kanu, 2003). The above shows much efforts by the NGOs towards transforming rural communities but not much is said about continuity. There have also been similar reports in Udi Aken Community on cassava-processing, promoting self-employment in small income-generating activities through micro-credits facilities with the belief is that, credit is a vital and potent weapon for fighting poverty in rural areas with activities as petty trading, tailoring, food processing, and farming. (Chiazor, 2002).

In Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria, for example Community Partners for Development (CPD) is building partnership at various levels in collaborative efforts to provide a more integrated form of intervention for development in its operational communities. Specifically CPD

objectives Include among others to – strengthen organizational capacity of partner groups, increase access to credit and income generating opportunities for members of rural communities, ensure the empowerment of women, provide services and information dissemination on issues that enhances the development of society, enhance individual sources of livelihood as well as ensure financial sustainability of community development projects (CPD, 2005). Since its establishment in 1997, CPD had embarked on a number of projects ranging from micro credit scheme, integrated rural healthcare, enlightenment and youth programmes, as well as gender issues. CPD organizes integrated micro project for the poorest in Akwa- Ibom State. CPD uses economic empowerment and poverty alleviation programmes to address the issue of poverty in rural communities in Akwa- Ibom State. Its credit scheme is built out of the existing traditional saving and loans system (Osusu). This loan aimed at providing and enhancing individual source of livelihood, as well as harnesses the efforts of communities and affords them alternative income generating source (CPD, 2005)

2.2.5 Effectiveness of NGOs towards Poverty Reduction among Rural and Urban Community

In spite of these potent efforts, unfortunately, studies have revealed that Africa lags behind in terms of social development. For example, families and individuals in absolute poverty are found in Sub-Sahara Africa; the greatest concentration is in the least developed countries of Africa. Out of 1.5 billion people that are poor in the world over, more than 250 million, which is about 17 percent, are from Africa (Aliyu, 2003). The situation is not better in Nigeria, inequality in the distribution of income and wealth widen social gaps between the poor and the rich. Consequently, unemployment, poverty, social insecurity, illiteracy, and health problems are very obvious in rural and urban areas (Aliyu, 2003; Agba, Ushie & Agba, 2007; Agba, Ushie, Basse & Agba 2009). One other way of assessing the role of NGOs is effectiveness in the discharge of their activities and or collaboration with the various

communities to ensure spread in projects that has direct bearing to alleviating the suffering of the people. Brown (2008); Ebrahim & Weisband (2000) and Unerman & O'Dwyer (2006), observes among practitioners in the not-for-profit or non-governmental sector (NPO/NGO), the issue of effectiveness has recently taken on additional urgency because of increasing demands for accountability, transparency and financial responsibility. Bishop & Green (2008); Brest & Harvey (2008), also observes that the domestic and international visibility of NPOs/NGOs increases, concerns about their impact as a core ingredient of legitimacy are likely to remain a central issue in the future. NGOs and NPOs do not only function within funding environments, but the domain must closely reflect the systems resource approach, which frames effectiveness as the ability to secure resources, anticipate change, and build social networks to protect against threats. In addition to resource mobilization, effectiveness also entails resisting co-option from forces in the environment or avoiding policy fads that derail the mission. Research domain must of a necessity focus on the influence of the donor system on effectiveness.

For example, Hudock (1999) explains that “the way in which financial resources are channeled to NGOs, and the nature of relationships forged in the process, determine NGOs’ capacity”. Impliedly, this is key to empowering rural communities in all facets. According to Obidike (2011), inadequate financial power and poor access to it are some of the characteristics of rural communities. Rural communities at individual level often lack the funds to establish a business or create employment. The formation of co-operatives provides start-up finance; the existing ones are eligible to apply for loans and grants from a number of government agencies designed to support co-operative development. These can provide significant sources of low cost start-up and operational funds for new co-operative businesses. In addition, other non-governmental financial intermediaries such as co-operative banks can provide relatively low cost loans to co-operatives (Zeuli, 2002)

A study by the World Bank (2000), reported obvious conclusions that: (1) Gender inequality is both an economic and a social issue; and (2) That greater gender equality could be a potent force for accelerated poverty reduction in Africa (Dear 2000). Dear further stated that women are development agenda that seeks to reverse over three decades of economic decline in Africa. As Kofi Annan aptly stated,

Study after study has shown that women do not play a central role. When women are fully involve, the benefits can be seen immediately; families are healthier and better fed; their income, saving and reinvestment go up. And that what is true of families is also true of communities and, in the long run, of whole countries..... (Kofi Annan 2003).

One other key aspect or focus of our literature is empowerment through education. The Girl Power Initiative is of particular interest because women education is a multidimensional process involving the empowerment and transformation of the economic, socio-psychological, political and legal circumstances of the powerless. According to Sako (1999), it is the process of strengthening the existing capacities and capabilities of women in the society to enable them perform towards improving themselves, their families and the society as a whole. Women empowerment through education involves creating an atmosphere that enables women to be self-reliant. Hence, Fadeyiye and Olonegan (2001) viewed women education as a process of enabling women to develop the capacity to actualize their potentials. It involves all effort that is geared towards harnessing the hidden or untapped potentials in women. Women should thus be looked at as individuals that possess some hidden potentials to contribute to national development. There is the need therefore to encourage them to develop their fullest potential through education. For example, a study carried out by Nwosu (2008), observe through Umuahia Education in Abia state, Umuahia women contributed immensely to the sustenance of the economy through their critical role in agriculture, production and distribution of goods and services and have also assumed a critical role in the sustenance of

traditional agriculture in the zone as a result of the large scale exodus of able bodied men to the urban centers for wage labour.

To Achume (2004), the inability of women to have been involved initially in medicine, politics, engineering, law and environmental studies thus have resulted in shortage of qualified women for top level leadership posts, and denied those opportunities in formal employment for years. Consequently, women's overall development has been characterized by a traditional gender bias in economic empowerment which has by and large locked them into types of work that accord low economic status. The situation affected their value in the society and also prevented their movement towards better remunerated jobs. The situations also deprived women opportunities to maximally contribute their own quota to national development. This phenomenon and other harmful cultural practices in Nigeria such as the preference of male child to female child did not help matters with regards to women education. This contributed in causing retrogression in women education as many parents preferred withdrawing their daughters as to give room for their son's education (Adedokun, 2011).

From the foregoing, women education connotes empowerment of women for self-reliance so that they can be fulfilled in life and be able to contribute to the society. The introduction of Universal Basic Education in 1999, the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which goal 3 specifically addresses the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, and incentives from various levels of the government and non-governmental organizations to boost women education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

2.2.6 Review of Empirical Studies on NGOs and Poverty Reduction

Taejeong Park's (2013) study carried out on sustainable poverty reduction in South Korea with special focus on village communities reveals that Community participation is not only key but usually rooted in urgent needs of such communities. The study, focusing on the dual

income of about 20 families for almost 20 years to access suitable child care in Sung-Mi-San further reveals how the first cooperative childcare facility in South Korea was formed and that its success was attributed clearly to a bottom-up participation. A serious weakness with this study is that the particular methodology used to have articulated success in childcare access was not spelt out. Secondly, a study of such magnitude on health care as important as health is, should have focus many communities for generalization. Our study examines various empowerment strategies used by Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) and Girl Child Initiative (GPI), in Oredo and Esan-North East of Edo South Senatorial District, Edo State. The two programmes are of paramount importance hence recent strategies on poverty reduction include basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter and good health and education. In another study by Mwangi et al (2013) on Analysis of Community-Driven Development in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region particularly on the use of the institutional analysis and development (IAD) framework, the study evaluates the factors that contributed to the success of the Akassa Development Foundation (ADF), a bottom-up, community-poverty driven development project involved in developing local capacity to manage development activities in the Niger Delta. The study reveals that majority of the respondents (the heads of households surveyed in Akassa) were satisfied with the design and implementation of the ADF. A probit model was employed to empirically test the evaluative criteria of the Akassa Development Foundation in order to determine what aspects of the poverty projects have a positive or negative impact on the likelihood of successful outcomes. Unfortunately, even though respondent or respondent's households were involved in the project design and implementation; and setting goals of the project; this study fail to specify the type and nature of projects that positively and significantly brought satisfaction with the design and implementation of ADF. We expected, that a study of this nature on the Niger Delta should have been more specific on particular programmes initiated by the ADF that did not only

transform but to a great extent impacted the lives of those communities. Our study is particularly interested in activities enshrined in LAPO and the Girl Child Initiative towards reducing poverty in Oredo and Esan-North of Edo South Senatorial District.

A study by Okoji (2013), which sought to assess the influence of Multinational Oil Corporation, development programmes on socio-economic empowerment of women in Niger Delta area of Nigeria with specific focus on vocational skills and educational development ascertained a positive correlation between the programmes and socio-economic empowerment of women in the area. However, it revealed that very few of the women who are beneficiaries of these programmes have been empowered. Okoji, asserted that failure of these programmes to have enormous impact on the socio-economic lives of women in the area is majorly a result of non-involvement of the women in the planning, execution and monitoring of these programmes. The study, a descriptive survey employed multistage sampling techniques (ie simple random, purposive, stratified and proportional sampling techniques) and used quantitative data generated in Akwa-Ibom and Rivers state respectively.

A study by Vidal (2001) on Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) a Faith-Based Organization in community development examines the economic development aspects of National denominations and their affiliates. The study provides some indirect support towards poverty reduction among communities through their social investments. The study discovered that the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), an affiliate of the National Council of Churches, took the lead in fostering faith-based work on corporate responsibility and social investing. At that time, the early efforts by churches to invest in poor neighborhoods were experiencing substantial difficulty. The ICCR found that these investments were commonly treated as "ancillary to the church's basic mission," that churches invested little strategic planning or discipline in the investment process, and that they had unrealistic expectations about risk and seventy percent of the programs studied were defunct

or in the process of being dismantled at the time of the study, and 55 percent of all debt and equity investments made by the ten programs studied including housing, health, food provision, employment, substance abuse and clothing were either considered poor performers or had been written off as bad debt (Nowak, et al., 1989). The study was carried out among 1,236 numbers of congregations in the U.S. The particular methodology and sampling procedure used for the selection of 1,236 numbers is not stated. Secondly, Faith Based Organizations may not possess true reflection characteristics of NGOs hence they are religious based organizations as it may not be all communities that will accept such charity. Besides, this negative experience gave social investing something of a bad name in the religious community, and limited its range.

Another study by Agba, Ogaboh, Akpanudoedehe, & Ocheni (2014), on Financing Poverty Reduction Programmes in Rural Areas of Nigeria: The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) This study investigated the operations of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in relation to the socio-economic development of rural areas in AkwaIbom State, Nigeria. Abiakpo in ObotAkara, Four Towns in Onna, and Okpo NduaErong in Ibesikpo Asutan were selected for the study. The study elicited data from 1,250 respondents who were purposively and randomly selected from the four rural communities. The data were subjected to analysis using Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistical technique at 0.05 level of significance with 1,248 degrees of freedom. Results revealed that NGOs contributed immensely to rural poverty reduction in Akwa-Ibom State in the areas of health, education, economic and job creation. One major flaw of this study is that, the participatory approach to encourage active rural involvement in development project was largely lacking which should have made result more encompassing. Our study places greater premium on this.

One other study by Ogbeide (2015); on assessment of co-operative society as a strategy for rural development in Edo State of Nigeria. Selecting one hundred and fifty respondents using the convenient sample technique drawn from three local government areas of the State, a structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. Statistical analysis was accomplished by means of frequency distribution, percentages and Chi square. The result of the analysis showed that the co-operative society strategy is successful and should indeed be encouraged in the development of the rural communities. The study also showed that there is a significant relationship between the co-operative society and the growth in size of the rural business in the rural community and that there is also a significant relationship between the growth in the co-operative society and the creation of employment in the rural community. Unfortunately, the study fails to specify the degree of relationship of growth in the rural business and or creation of employment among the rural communities. Secondly, the study lacks generalization due to the small number of co-operatives used and the convenient sample nature of the selected respondents.

Another study carried out by Oghenekohwo (2014); Empirical Evidences of the Impact of Community Education and Social Development Projects on Rural Bayelsa, Nigeria. The Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) is a conceived development intervention that builds on two existing poverty-reduction oriented programmes which are the poverty reduction project and local empowerment and environmental management project which came into effect in 2004. The study found, out that, CSDP has contributed to the development of community capacity to respond appropriately to their immediate but essential needs such as, water, health, sanitation, education through literacy promotion, and social integration of members. However, since the inception of the CSDP in Bayelsa State, little or no empirical research has been carried out to determine the impact on poverty reduction in rural Bayelsa.

Omonmwan and Odia (2009), investigated the role of NGOs in poverty reduction with focus on Edo State. The study examined some of the strategies for community development and adopted interview, observations and intensive local field studies as the methodology for investigation. According to the study, students, teachers, NGO functionaries, fire bunt victim and head of households were interviewed. Findings from this study include;

- a. That a number of these NGOs warfare into various aspects of community development such as community mobilization, environment, health and sanitation awareness creation, promotion of child right law, human trafficking among others;
- b. That a handful of the NGOs warfare self-financed while others rely on support from donor agencies such as World Bank, European Union and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and some individuals; and
- c. That only five (5) NGOs activities are prominent in the state. The study further suggested that NGOs should collaborate with each other so as to have their efforts fully appreciated by majority of those in need of their services and also urged the government to participate in the funding of NGOs activities. It concluded that NGOs are having positive approach to rural poverty reduction. It was unclear why no theory was adopted for this study and why no statistical model was used to analyze data gathered in the cause of investigation. Selected development projects by NGOs in Edo State in partnership with the European Union focused only on 2005-2007 which is too short a period to assess the benefit of a project in terms of its contribution to development in a state.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

A theory should provide a guide for behavior in very specific circumstances bearing on women empowerment and poverty reduction and norms or prescriptions for the practitioners.

2.3.1 The Empowerment Theory

In this work, some theories were considered for adoption as theoretical framework in order to logically assess and explain the role of NGOs in empowering women towards poverty reduction. The Empowerment theory was found to be more appropriate in explaining relationship amongst variables and norms and perceptions in examining the importance of community development and poverty reduction.

2.3.2 Components of the Empowerment Theory

The **Empowerment theory** as explained by Douglas Perkins and Mare Zimmerman (1995) is a psychological process in which individuals think positively about their ability to make change and gain mastery over issues at individual and social levels. This should include interventions on individual well-being with the larger social environment and the notion of sufficiency i.e perception of competence, personal control and positive self-image with the aim of ameliorating problems, provide opportunities for participants to develop knowledge and skills with professionals as collaborators. Rappaport (1981) offered this advice: “when most people agree with you, worry”. We are worried, not because people agree with us, rather because empowerment has perhaps become so ubiquitous that it is actually difficult to avoid as the construct covers multiple disciplines such as community, environmental, developmental, public – health, political and social issues.

Maton and Salem in Zimmerman (1995) observe empowerment enables individuals, through participation with others, to achieve their primary personal goals. This notion does not only emphasize individual motivation, but also and collective action across a variety of community

groups, organizations and settings. They also observe this particular approach has been applied in religious fellowships, mutual help organizations education programmes for urban African Americans. This is found useful and applicable to our study viewing the activities of LAPO and GPI especially education programmes and other related activities among social circles in Oredo and Esan-North East local government areas of Edo South Senatorial District. Maton and Salem's emphasizes key characteristics like motivating and challenging positive group believe systems, structures that capitalize upon members' different strengths, an and array of economic and social supports.

Rich et al equally in Zimmerman (1995), from another angle, observe instrumental empowerment is an effective action by the individual for citizen's participation. They examine the types of policies (public or private) and institutions that influence both the ability of a community to mobilize initially, the outcome of empowerment and the implications of a partnership approach to community decision making and community building. Perkin's review covers citizen's participation in community development which provides clearer and more effective examples of empowerment. More centrally to the empowerment theory is the partnership approach that uses coalitions of nonprofit organizations to bring government and private service agencies into cooperative relationship with local communities as observed by Rich et al and Rappaport (1987). To this, empowerment either from private or government angle is pivotal as it should promote activities that placed man at the centre of all human activity

2.3.3 Relevance of Empowerment Theory to the study

UNICEF (2004) report reveals that the areas with highest poverty level in most developing countries are the rural communities. This brings into the platform the importance of community development projects. Perkins and Zimmerman and Rappaport's postulation was adopted to explain the perception that true development involves empowering people or

communities through skill acquisition, increase in literacy, improvement in health systems in other to eliminate poverty. In other words, the purpose of empowerment is to reduce poverty, inequality, and unemployment by the initiation of community development projects amongst rural communities in Edo South Senatorial within the period under study.

Akin to the above is Kaunda's egalitarianism, when he stipulates, that certain things in life should not be rationed by money or power. He argued that things like education, health service, and other socio-economic and political variables should not go to the highest bidder, but that all people have a moral right to equal opportunities (Kaunda, 1967). From this averment, impliedly, when more members of community are empowered, it will reduce poverty to a great extent. He added that development, especially "poverty reduction among rural communities" is seen from the human angle; where institutions such as education, agriculture, health, economic, politic, social including NGOs are established to better the lot of the people.

Development is a holistic activity, which must reach the rural as well as urban dwellers through effective poverty reduction. Any effort to bring about development that does not reach the common man especially those in rural areas through empowerment, does not encourage equitable distribution of goods and services, promote the general well-being of the people cannot be regarded as development. NGOs are such bodies through collaborative efforts that provide services to the generality of people of Africa at little or no cost. NGOs render service to the public especially the poor of the earth who are dominant in rural areas at no cost. Therefore, NGOs should center on empowering individuals and thus place man's welfare at the centre of its activities.

The concern for Less Developed Countries (LDCs) is how these countries should address the issue of underdevelopment through citizen's participation in community development that provides clearer and more effective examples of empowerment towards addressing poverty, a

key improving the standard of living. In our area of focus for example,(Edo and probably other states in Nigeria), most activities geared towards transformation (poverty reduction) are concentrated mostly around the urban centre's thereby depriving the rural areas of the benefit of socio-political and economic improvement. The government, in other words, has initiated, over the years, the top-down approach in development activities (Enemu, 1990). For Sen (1999), cited in Nafziger (2000), development involves reducing deprivation or broadening choice (this is definitely through empowerment). He further explained that deprivation represents a multidimensional view of poverty that includes hunger, illiteracy, illness and poor health, powerlessness, voiceless-ness, insecurity, humiliation and a lack of access to basic infrastructure.

According to Finger (1994) (cited in Nafziger 2000), the best approach to development is the introduction of the bottom-up approach (the participatory approach) so as to diminish the high-handed, top-down approach and to increase community participation, grassroots movement and local decision making. This Nafziger (2000) maintained has been defined and operational zed in terms of a set of indicators such as:

- (a) Awareness building efforts of NGOs,
- (b) People's participation in projects and
- (c) NGOs' efforts in creating people institutions (SIC).

He explained further that in terms of awareness building, the wider contention among grassroots NGOs is that the people should be aware of their problems and share the responsibility for the benefit of the community and locality. Rich et al and Rappaport (1987), shares strongly this assertion of the partnership approach through coalition of nonprofit organizations of government and private service agencies into cooperative relationship with local communities.

LAPO's objective and goal is to eradicate poverty, from the grass root, and equally among women. As observed by Nwoye (2007), Nigerian women who engage in micro and small enterprises started their businesses to overcome gender discrimination and economic disadvantages including the challenges of poverty and its consequences. Hence these group of entrepreneurs find it more convenient even though the self-employed earn less than their counterparts in paid employment, self-employment offer them greater independence and flexibility. LAPO and GPI activities over the years have included health services, social empowerment, financial empowerment, legal aid, and infrastructure. These activities, directly or indirectly, are geared towards improving the literacy level and or reduce inequality in communities within the period under study.

As further observed by Nwoye (2007), a situation that is attributed to factors such as; low levels of education, lack of opportunities for training; as well as meager financial and human capital, are some of the driving forces behind them starting a business include; household subsistence needs: like food, cloths, education of children, unemployment; family pressures on girls to earn their own living among others.

A World Bank study (2000), reported obvious conclusions that; (1) Gender inequality is both an economic and social issue: and (2) That greater gender equality could be a potent force for accelerated poverty reduction in Africa (Dear, 2000). Dear further stated that women are development agenda that seeks to reverse over three decades of economic decline in Africa. Giving the dire prospects for poverty reduction in Africa, the continent must exploit all available opportunities for reducing poverty. Successful strategies include promoting the private sector and women enterprise development as well as reducing gender inequality, with women comprising 52% of Africa's estimated 805 million people, women's empowerment is imperative for Africa's sustainable growth. As Kofi Annan (2003) has aptly stated,

Study after study has shown that women do not play a central role. When women are fully involved, the benefit can be seen immediately: families are healthier and better fed; their income, savings and investment go up. And what is true of families is also true of communities and, in the long run, of whole countries.....

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology discusses the design or an outline of what the researcher intends to do, it determines the success of the study and provides the basis for drawing up inferences and conclusions. This will further be discussed under the following captions to include, the Research Design, Population of the Study, Sampling Technique/ Sample Size, Sources of Data, Administration of instrument and Methods of Data Analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted the survey method of research consisting of the use of questionnaire, interview and observation methods. The rationale for the choice of survey research can be justified on the ground that it enables the researcher to generalize from a sample to a population so that inferences and conclusions can be made. Again, the perception of respondents was expressed in quantitative terms, the responses of the respondents was measured based on five point Likert scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and undecided as well as very effective, effective, ineffective, very ineffective and undecided.

3.3 Population and sample size of the Study

The population of this study is drawn from the entire population of the two local governments of Edo South Senatorial District that is, Oredo 374,515 and Esan North East 121,989 according to the 2006 census. However, only the numbers of the beneficiaries of LAPO totaling (81,053) as well as those of GPI (1106) in all the selected local government areas of Edo State were picked. These numbers of beneficiaries is justified particularly for LAPO considering number of years of its existence compared to the GPI, hence a study this nature has not been conducted in Edo State. Interviews were specifically conducted among community leaders, Heads of family, youth leaders, women leaders and staff of LAPO and the

GPI. This was carried out with the help of research assistants. Since it is not possible for the researcher to cover the entire population, a representative sample is deemed representative enough for making inferences.

Bailey (1982) posits that adequate population, is that in which 10% of the entire population is chosen for a study. Odoh (2012) asserts that the more representative a sample is, the more credible the research is likely to be. As such, order to determine the sample size for the study, the study adopts Krejcie and Morgan method of determining sample size.

Table 3.1: Population and Sample Size Distribution

Programmes	Total Number of Beneficiaries (Oredo and Esan North East)	Sample Size of Beneficiaries
LAPO	81,053	384
GPI	1106	285
Total	82,555	669
Other Stakeholders; LAPO, GPI officials, Community Leaders and Family heads	-	7

Researcher's Survey 2016

Hence, the sample size for this study is 384 for LAPO beneficiaries in both Oredo and Esan North local government and 285 of the GPI beneficiaries equally in both local governments totaling 669. Krejcie and Morgan 1970 (see Appendix II).

Interview was schedule and conducted among seven individuals as mentioned already.

3.4 Sampling Technique

This study adopts the simple random sampling technique of probability sampling method because the population under study is known. The choice of this technique is basically to avoid bias or absence of systematic variance. In a random sampling, every subject in the population is given equal and independent chance of being included in the sample. However, for the interviewees, purposive sampling was used

3.5 Sources of Data

This research work strictly utilized data generated during the research to test hypotheses of the study. Both primary and secondary data are needed in every valid research. Therefore, both primary and secondary data were utilized in this study. This can be justified on the basis of its validity and reliability as data that were obtained from secondary sources complemented the one that was generated from the field.

3.5.1 Primary Sources of Data

This is first hand data that was generated through field work by the researcher. The three major instruments that were used in generating these data are questionnaire, interview and observation. Through these, both qualitative and quantitative data were captured in this study.

1. Questionnaire

Close and open ended questions were designed in the questionnaire and were directed to beneficiaries of LAPO as well as those of GPI in Edo State eliciting information on suitability of the various programme strategies to their needs and, accessibility and impact of these intervention programmes on their welfare.

2. Interview

Our interview was also used as one of the primary investigative techniques which permit the researcher to get firsthand information concerning the respondents' perceptions, experiences, and attitudes and believe on the role of NGOs and community development. In this research, structured interview questions were used. Selected respondents for interview included community leaders, NGO staff especially Head of Operations/Programmes, consultant, Heads of families, youth leaders, women organization leaders and field workers of the NGOs playing key roles in community development. This method was useful as an explanatory device that permits follow up questions that the questionnaire may not allowed.

3. Observation

Observation method was employed to observe projects carried out by GPI as well as those of the LAPO programmes of the NGOs in the community, and various training centers of the programme. This in essence is simply because, observing these projects and centers is not only to verify or authenticate their existence in reality but to examine proper execution of these projects, attitudinal dispositions of field officers of the programme, beneficiaries and other stakeholders of the programme were equally observed.

Checklist

- i. Size of farms
- ii. Farming tools and equipments.
- iii. Skill acquisition centres and activities in such centres.
- iv. Type of equipment/facilities used in such centres (modern or obsolete) i.e sewing machines, mixers, fishing line, pendants etcetera.
- v. Catering schools, type and quality of equipment used.
- vi. Quality of text books and other writing materials.
- vii. Quality of teachers.
- viii. Quality of drugs and other health facilities.

4. Secondary Sources of Data

These are second hand data already generated and stored in texts, files or even in published form. The secondary sources of data in this study include information from materials retrieved and reviewed. Others include World Bank Report, CBN Report, National Bureau of Statistic, IMF Report, Official publication of NGOs. The data obtained from the secondary source is critical to this study because most of these documents provided evidence to support data from the questionnaire and interview.

3.7 Administration of Instruments

The need to use a combination of statistical tools for analysis of data cannot be overemphasized in a survey research of this kind. Therefore, Tables, Frequency Counts and Percentages were utilized to present and analyze data collected in this study. The Spearman Rank Order Correlation analysis was used to test hypotheses postulated in chapter one of this study.

The Spearman Rank Order Correlation was found suitable for this study because it is a non – parametric statistical tool. Non- parametric statistical tools are not concerned with the distribution of variables of a population parameter. Thus, they are distribution free statistics. Non – Parametric test are used for researches that seek to make inferences about a population parameter without rigid mathematical assumptions about their distribution.

Another reason for adopting the Spearman rank order correlation is that it measures or determine the relationship and association between two or more variables of interest i.e. independent and dependent variables (Lapo, Gpi, Funding and women empowerment) as postulated in this study. Direct responses on these variables was equally sort based on respondent opinion from the questionnaire and interview as compared to Pearson product moment correlation

The formula for the Spearman's rank correlation (rho) is stated below:

$$\rho = \frac{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2 - \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Where ρ = Spearman's rank correlation coefficient

x = independent variables (LAPO, GPI & Funding)

y = dependent variables (Women Empowerment)

All calculations on responses from the independent and dependent variables were done electronically using Microsoft Excel, 2016 and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20.

Decision Rule

Reject null hypothesis where p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance.

Accept the null hypothesis where p-value is greater than 0.05 level of significance.

CHAPTER FOUR

HISTORY OF EDO STATE, LAPO AND GPI

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, a brief history of Edo state is discussed. The history of the LAPO, GPI, their objectives and achievements are equally discussed.

4.2 Overview of Edo State

Edo South Senatorial District is one of the three Senatorial Districts of the State. It has seven (7) Local Government Areas out of the eighteen (18) LGA of the state and has the largest population of about 58% (57.54 percent) out of the three million, two hundred and thirty-three thousand, three hundred and sixty-six (3,233,366) people living in the state (NPC, 2006), Eighty (80%) of the population in this area of Edo South Senatorial District share a common culture and tradition and speak a common language, Edo (Bini).

The focus of this study is Edo south senatorial district, Edo State Nigeria. It is one of the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Edo State was created on the 27th of August, 1991 as a result of the split of the defunct Bendel State into Edo and Delta States. Edo state is located in the heart of the tropical rain forest and it lies between longitude 5.15oE and 6o45"E of the Greenwich meridian line and latitude 5o45 and 7o30"N of the Equator. Edo state has a total land area of 19281.93 square kilometers. Politically, the state is divided into eighteen (18) Local Government Areas.

Edo state is a low-lying area except in the northern part where it is characterized by rolling hills rising to a peak of about 572 meters. Edo state has a tropical climate with two major seasons – the wet and dry seasons. Vegetation is deciduous within the low land rain forest belt of the south and forest savannah in the north.

There are abundant natural resources in the state. Virtually all species of hardwood can be found. Such as Iroko, Obeche, Mahogany etc. The state produces a significant proportion of the country's Rubber and Crepe. Other resources available include Limestone, Marble, Lignite, Clay, Crude Oil, Gold, Granite, etc. (Omofonmwan 2007).

Agriculture remains the mainstay of the state's economy, Edo people are mainly farmers, producing cash and food crop as cocoa, rubber, palm trees, vegetables, cotton, rice, etc. There are many small scale industrial undertakings such as carving, saw milling, brewing and flour milling, etc. There are however potentials for high industrial growth.

Edo state is subdivided into eighteen (18) local government areas as shown in Table 1. The 18 local government areas are organized into 3 senatorial districts as follows – Edo South, Edo Central and Edo North.

Fig 1: Edo state showing the 18 local government areas, their headquarters and some projects location by EU-MPP6 in partnership with NGOs.

S/No.	L. G. A	Headquarters
1.	Akoko-Edo	Igarra
2.	Egor	Urelu
3.	Etsako west	Auchi
4.	Etsako central	Fugar
5.	Etsako east	Agenebode
6.	Esan west	Ekpoma
7.	Esan central	Irrua
8.	Esan northeast	Uromi
9.	Esan southeast	Ubiaja
10.	Igueben	Igueben
11.	Oredo	Benin City
12.	Owan west	Sabogidaora
13.	Owan east	Afuze
14.	Ikpobaokha	Idogbo

15.	Ovia south west	Iguoboazuwa
16.	Ovia north east	Okada
17.	Orhionmwon	Abudu
18.	Uhunmwode	Ehor

Source: Ministry of Lands and Survey, Benin City 2007.

4.3 Overview of Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO)

LAPO was founded by Dr. Godwin Eseiwi Ehigiamusoe in 1987 while working as a rural cooperative officer in Ogwashi-uku, Delta State. LAPO is a non-governmental organization committed to the social, health and economic empowerment of the poor and vulnerable in Nigeria. Over the years, the organization has demonstrated uncommon commitment to Poverty Alleviation through the implementation of innovative credit and non-credit empowerment programmes on targeted groups (particularly women). LAPO's vision is committed to a healthy and informed society characterized by prosperity, justice and equity. LAPO is out to promote health, rural development and social justice for sustainable livelihood, justice and equity among target groups.

4.3.1 LAPO's Corporate Objectives include:

- (i) Promote access to basic and quality health care services through referrals and partnership.
- (ii) Promote the culture of regular check-up for early detection of health conditions.
- (iii) Identify and redress gender discrimination among target beneficiaries.
- (iv) Improve the socio-economic and health conditions of women.
- (v) Improve the implementation of existing policies in target states.
- (vi) Research into social issues militating against sustainable development of targeted population.

- (vii) Create access of target population to relevant products at affordable rates.

One of LAPO's aims is to take advantage of the abundant resources, the entrepreneurial, energetic and enterprising population to fight poverty particularly by empowering the vibrant and youthful (women) growing population as millions of Nigerians live under \$1.25 daily (United Nations 2014). LAPO believes that poverty is not just an issue of lack of funds but more fundamentally a function of exclusion from life transforming opportunities like education and skills.

4.3.2 LAPO's Achievements

Since 1987, LAPO has been working assiduously with government and critical stakeholders to change social structures, legislations, policies and practices in favour of women and disadvantaged groups. LAPO programmes addresses the root causes and manifestation of poverty such as poor health, economic powerlessness, discrimination, ignorance, poor nutrition, social exclusion and gender inequality. LAPO also assist in the development of micro and small businesses through training on financial management. LAPO also set up a few subsidiaries to help tackle poverty in Nigeria. These include LAPO Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative (LARDI), Micro Investment Support Services (MISS) and Academy for Microfinance and Enterprise Development (AMED).

LARDI was established to improve the lives of the rural poor. It helps to generate youth empowerment to promote infrastructural development, to facilitate farmers' access to capital and physical inputs such as credit, storing and processing facilities, to acquire information on relevant farming issues and to improve the farmers and rural households' health.

Micro Investment Support Services (MISS) was set up to provide microcredit services to the poor for income generating purposes. And the Academy for Microfinance and Enterprise

Development (AMED) was established to provide training and technical services to LAPO Group and other microfinance institutions (LAPO Handbook, 2013).

Over the years, LAPO has empowered more than one million individuals in target communities with her services and hope to do more in years to come.

LAPO among its key accomplishments claimed 181, 529 benefited from its health programme, from its social programme 68,756 benefited and 2,602 from Legal Aid Services in 2015. Other accomplishments include, 300,068 beneficiaries who received financial literacy, health messages via Short Messages Service (SMS), discussions on “Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria” at the organization’s 23rd Annual LAPO Development Forum.

Most of LAPO’s activities are located around Edo, Warri, Agbor (Delta State), Enugu, Lagos 1, Lagos 11, Rivers, Ibadan and Abuja.

Micro project in this context means project whose bill of quantity (BOQ) financial value do not exceed the sum of five million six hundred thousand naira (N5,600,000) about thirty five thousand Euro (Euro 35,000) while the benefiting community contributes about 25 percent of the cost of executing the project which is managed by the community members upon completion.

4.3.3 LAPO’s Sources of Fund:

LAPO is funded majorly by the World Bank and other international and local organizations like; European Union/MPP6, Cordiad, Netherlands, Oxfam/Society for family Health (SFH), Canada, European Union (EU), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), USAID Action Aid International Nigeria, HAF/Edo State Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (SACA), just to mention a few.. (Tweets by LAPO NGO,

4.4 Overview of Girl Power Initiative (GPI)

GPI is a Nigeria Non Governmental, not for profit Organization founded in 1993 by Bene Madunegu and Grace Osakue to address the challenges facing girls in the Nigerian society and equip them with information, skills and opportunities for action to grow into self actualized young women, The GPI philosophy was muted from the idea of celebrating the African Child. For example, June 16th every year is celebrated all over Africa as a day set aside in honour to those who participated in the Sweto uprising in South Africa in 1976 where thousands of students marched for miles to demand for their right in the Apartheid Regime. After that eventual uprising in the Sweto the day became recognized and celebrated yearly with various themes to mark the day. Girls Power Initiative (GPI) a nongovernmental Organization joined millions of Africans yearly in celebrating the day adding values to the lives of children in Nigeria. (GPI's Activities Report 2015).

4.4.1 GPI Objectives include:

- Provide avenue to reach out the adolescent girls who cannot physically come to the centres due to distance, lack of funds, parental consent, time, poverty, etc.
- Enlighten and educate more adolescent girls on gender, sexuality issues and personal empowerment.
- Reduce teenage pregnancies, school drop out rates, violence against girls and sexual exploitation through passage of information, education and skills development.
- Increase the number of girls who would in turn impact on their peers and communities to meet the long term social goal of gender equality.
- GPI usually have interactive session with authorities on issues predominant among those raised by students who utilize the question boxes that have been provided by GPI in their schools and also trained teachers to carry on the GPI clubs and lessons in their schools (GPI Handbook, 2014).

4.4.1 GPI Achievement:

The organization created a Gender Development Institute to increase public awareness and promote gender equality discussion among several sectors of stakeholders including NGO functionaries, technocrats, teachers, government functionaries, media practitioners, private sector and politicians both female and male. This institute has proved to be an important opportunity for creating understanding of the concepts of gender equality and gender mainstreaming which have been largely misunderstood and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

GPI in 2015 celebrated the African Child day with students from five schools namely Arroy Day Junior Secondary School; Eubareke Grammer School; Eweke Junior Secondary School; Asoro Grammer School; and Iyabo Girls Collge all in Benin City the Edo state capital in Erodo Local government.

GPI has facilities in over 30 schools in Edo South Senatorial District and have trained 384 teachers and stakeholders from the district. The organization has succeeded in re-enrolling six-hundred and forty two (642) drop outs girls in primary and secondary schools. Eighty are said (80) having gained admission into tertiary institution on scholarship within and outside Nigeria educational institution. Among these eighty (80) fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) graduated with National Certificate of Education (NCE) and National Diploma (ND) respectively; twenty –two (22) and Nine (9) graduated with Higher National Diploma and Degree respectively; sixteen (16) are in school at the time of this study(GPI Handbook, 2014).

GPI has equally graduated 83 students from GPI's School outreach programme, took steps to train 1,260 peer educators and preventive actions against Human trafficking (GPI's Activities Report 2015).

4.4.2 GPI's Sources of Fund:

Programmes and activities of GPI are mostly funded by UN Women, Oxfam International, EU, NDDC, among others. GPI also work with other NGOs state (GPI Handbook, 2014).

4.5 Achievements of LAPO and other NGOs

Other studies by Chiazor, (2002), reveal that LAPO in Udi Aken Community bought and commissioned cassava-processing machines in 1996. LAPO also promoted self employment in small income-generating activities among women through micro-credits facilities with the belief is that, credit is a vital and potent weapon for fighting poverty in rural areas. LAPO credit facilities were given to income generating activities such as petty trading, tailoring, food processing, and farming.

In a similar vein the Community Partners for Development (CPD) in Akwa Ibom State, has been building partnership at various levels in collaborative efforts to provide a more integrated form of intervention for development in its operational communities. Specifically CPD objectives include among others to – strengthen organizational capacity of partner groups, increase access to credit and income generating opportunities for members of rural communities, ensure the empowerment of women, provide services and information dissemination on issues that enhances the development of society, enhance individual sources of livelihood as well as ensure financial sustainability of community development projects

(CPD, 2005). The CPD since 1997 had embarked on a number of projects ranging from micro credit scheme, integrated rural healthcare, enlightenment and youth programmes, as well as gender issues. CPD organizes integrated micro project for the poorest in Akwa Ibom State. CPD uses economic empowerment and poverty alleviation programmes to address the issue of poverty in rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. Its credit scheme is built out of the existing traditional saving and loans system (Osusu). This loan aimed at providing and enhancing individual source of livelihood, as well as harnesses the efforts of communities and affords them alternative income generating source (CPD, 2005). Also, the establishment and licensing of micro finance institutions such as the micro finance banks in both urban and rural communities help to reduce the impact of poverty on the rural community through the provision of soft loans to finance small scale industries thus encouraging skill acquisitions and job creation for the ever increasing number of unemployed graduates.

Similar studies by Chiazor (2002), Ojo (2003), Kanu (2003), Chevron (2003), CPD (2005), Akpanudoedehe (2006), Njiogu (2006). Revealed NGOs activities influence health development in rural communities of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, creates a functional relationship between NGOs and health development in rural areas, creates awareness and mobilize people in rural areas on means of preventing and reducing HIV/AIDS infections in Akwa Ibom State. Students are trained to serve as youth peer facilitators. People living with HIV/AIDS are trained to acquired basic skills to enable them feed and sustain themselves. For instance, CPD trained vulnerable groups in Abiakpo, Okop Ndua Erong and Four Towns on basic skill acquisition to pull them away from being commercial sex workers (CPD, 2005). LAPO also organized health awareness campaigns for rural dwellers on women and child-health problems. LAPO activities focused on reactivation of health pogrammes, water, sanitation and mass awareness campaign, seminars, workshops and symposia in areas of

immunization against polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tuberculosis, management of cases like diarrhea, child nutrition and birth spacing (Chiazor2002).

Kanu (2003) observed that, Ohoyeta Care Group (OCAG) worked with women living with HIV/AIDS, organized sexual and reproductive health programme, provide care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Otukpo, Benue State. Arguing further Ojo (2003) asserted that GPI in Cross River State recorded remarkable achievements in girls' health both in rural and urban areas. According to Ojo (2003), GPI activities focused primarily on information and education of the girl child on issues about sexuality, reproductive health and health rights. According to Chevron (2003), the activities of NGOs in rural transportation in the Niger Delta region cannot be over emphasized. For example, Chevron Nigeria Limited in partnership with NGOs, embarked on HIV/AIDS programmes in areas of education, voluntary testing, counseling and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS.

It obvious, therefore, that without NGOs participation in the health sector, the health problems of rural communities in Nigeria and Akwa Ibom State in particular would have escalated. It also revealed that government alone cannot adequately fund the health sector and carter for the health problems in rural communities. It further shows that the health development of rural communities in Akwa Ibom State lies to a great extent on the effectiveness of NGOs.

Similarly, Kanu (2003) equally revealed that, NGOs embarked on programmes that radically transformed rural economies in Imo state. NGO economic and social empowerment programmes for rural communities in Imo state include – establishment of poultry farms, provision of micro credit facilities and training programmes on how to start small and medium scale business. Again, the activities of NGOs revealed that, rural dwellers are trained to acquire skills for employment and basic skill to start small and medium scale business. NGOs serve as complementary agent to government rural economic transformation drive (Akpanudoedehe, 2006). It is observed that unemployment remains a fact of life in Nigeria

and government alone cannot deal with the problem, NGOs are actively involves in solving this problem especially in remote communities.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, both data collected from primary and secondary sources were analyzed. The analysis is based on data gathered from , corroborated by secondary sources to determine how NGOs have been able reduce poverty in Oredo and Esan North in Edo South Senatorial District through the activities LAPO and GPI.

5.2 Data Presentation

Our data is collected from responses of questionnaires administered to 384 respondent beneficiaries of LAPO and 285 beneficiaries of GPI in the two local governments under study. From this total, 274 representing 71% of LAPO and 209 representing 73% of GPI were duly filled and returned. While 29% and 27% respectively for both LAPO and GPI did not return. These responses from the questionnaires are duly corroborated with other secondary sources and interview.

The rate of return of questionnaire is represented in frequency table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Frequency Table on Rate of Return of Questionnaire by Respondent Beneficiaries of LAPO and GPI

S/N	NGO	Total No. of Questionnaire Administered	Total No. of Questionnaire Retrieved & Screened	Percentage (%) of Questionnaire Returned
1	LAPO	384	274	71%
2	GPI	285	209	73%
	Total	669	483	72.19%

Source: Survey 2016

5.3 Data Analysis

From the methodology chapter, the Spearman Rank Order Correlation was found suitable for this work.

The formula for calculating the Spearman Rank Order Correlation (rs) is as follows:

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6\sum d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Level of Significance (α) = 0.05%

Degree of Freedom (df) = n-2

However, all calculations are done electronically using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 20.

Decision Rule

Where the p-value (Sig. two tailed) is greater than 0.05 level of significance, we reject the null hypothesis and accept its alternate.

Where the p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance, we accept the null hypothesis.

5.2.1 Hypothesis 1

1. H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between LAPO and Poverty Reduction Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.

LAPO's Respondents Profile

Table 5.2 Respondents Sex

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	120	43.8	43.8	43.8
Female	154	56.2	56.2	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From tables 5.2, 120 representing 43.8 % of the respondents are males. While 154/56.2% of the respondents are females. From the table, males are equally represented even though the programme targets more of women. This is so because the poverty issue and its reduction is not the prerogative of only one sex. Secondly, the LAPO's programme particular target on women activities. As captured in objectives and key accomplishments, LAPO canvasses equal opportunity for women. LAPO equally enjoins parents to shun all forms discrimination against women, especially girl-child education.

Table 5.3 Respondents Age

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
16-25 years	159	58.0	58.0	58.0
26-35 years	72	26.3	26.3	84.3
36-45 years	18	6.6	6.6	90.9
Valid 46-55 years	14	5.1	5.1	96.0
56 years and above	11	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.3, most of the respondent's ages fall between ages 16 and 55. Only 11 representing 4.0% of the respondents are 56 and above. Our basic reason of capturing the ages

of respondents is to be able to ascertain the specific focus LAPO's activity targets. As can be seen most of LAPO's activities target more of the youth and the middle age (women) which makes for effectiveness and efficiency.

Table 5.4 Respondents Educational Qualification

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BSc, HND and above	61	22.3	22.3	78.8
NCE/OND	65	23.7	23.7	56.6
SSCE	90	32.8	32.8	32.8
Valid First School Leaving Certificate	16	5.8	5.8	84.7
Others	42	15.3	15.3	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

Form table 5.4, 232 representing 84.6% of our respondents' possess one form of educational qualification or the other ranging from First Degree to First School Leaving School Certificate. Even though no former education per se is required for engaging in activities geared towards poverty reduction, education to a great extent is needful and probably a prerequisite in initiating certain projects and programmes geared towards poverty reduction among both women and men.

Table 5.5 LAPO most of the time consult the Community before projects are carried out

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	33	12.0	12.0	12.0
Valid Agreed	135	49.3	49.3	61.3
Disagreed	48	17.5	17.5	78.8
Undecided	58	21.2	21.2	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.5, 168/61.3% of our respondents concurred that LAPO have always consult the immediate communities before executing projects. 48 representing 17.5% disagreed with such opinion. While 58 representing 21.1% of the respondents are undecided. From the responses, LAPO no doubt usually consult concern communities before executing their projects. Further LAPO claims 181,529 benefited from the health programmes, 68,756 from the social programmes while 2, 602 from Legal Aid services. Others include the LAPO Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative (LARDI) which LAPO is said to have disbursed N1.5 billion to 33.469 farmers. (Tweets by LAPO NGO, Mindshare Communications, Tuesday, May 31, 2016. P 10-38).

Interview Report: Interview with community leaders of Ikpoba-Oha and Uselu in Oredo confirms this assertion. These community leaders when asked “to mention areas LAPO activities impacted their communities” revealed some of the projects include Water projects (for communities generally), Farm Loans, Housing Loans, Asset Loans, Medical screening and Malaria treatment, Writing materials to pupils and Business Loans. From the report, there is a direct attempt by LAPO to create employment must particularly from agricultural activities and particularly among women

Table 5.6 Activities of LAPO have contributed remarkably in empowering members of the communities with small loans for their businesses.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	34	12.4	12.4	12.4
Agreed	163	59.5	59.5	71.9
Valid Strongly Disagreed	6	2.2	2.2	74.1
Disagreed	22	8.0	8.0	82.1
Undecided	49	17.9	17.9	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

In table 5.6, 193 representing 71.9% of our respondents agreed that LAPO have made remarkable contributions in empowering women in communities with small loans. 28/10.2 is of the opinion that LAPO did not contribute in any provision of loans. 49/17.9 is not aware if LAPO have supported some members of their communities with loans for business. LAPO claim to have empowered 70,819 Farmers with #11.7billion in 10 years between 2007 and July 2016 (Tweets by LAPO NGO, Mindshare Communications, Tuesday, May 31, 2016. P 10-38)..

The respondents' when further asked how this activities have truly impacted their lives responded LAPO have contributed by giving loans to members of the community in areas of businesses like Farming, Soap making, making of Beads and other small and medium businesses. Further **Interview** with community members and women leaders in both Oredo and Esan North-East reveal that LAPO assisted in the development of micro and small businesses and equally on training and prudent financial management. **Richard Ehi** a community leader in Esan North-East revealed that LAPO Agricultural and Rural

Development Initiative (LARDI) have led to Fish farming, poultry and rearing of animals both among men and women. As could be seen from some of the objectives of LAPO as pointed out in table 5.5, not much is said about housing and asset loans as claimed by the community leaders. But on a general note, these activities to some extent have raised the income and provided employment to community members.

Table 5.7 Members of the community are conscious of health related issues due to the programme message of LAPO

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	34	12.4	12.4	12.4
Agreed	188	68.6	68.6	81.0
Valid Strongly Disagreed	2	.7	.7	81.8
Disagreed	6	2.2	2.2	83.9
Undecided	44	16.1	16.1	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From the table 5.7, 222 representing 81% of our respondents opine that community members have become more conscious of health related issues as a result of NGOs activities. Only 8 representing 2.9% of the respondents disagreed while 44/16.1% hold none of the opinions. Sources from LAPO revealed from January and September 2015 not fewer than 181,529 beneficiaries benefited from the LAPO Health Programmes (women and children in particular). LAPO equally claim to have empowered 286,520 community members with social, Health, training between January and April, 2016 to enable them address the socio-cultural determinants that underpin a healthy life and not fewer than 200,000 women were screened for Cancer, under the LAPO Community Campaign for Cancer Control (LAPO-C4)

Project in Nigeria. (Tweets by LAPO NGO, Mindshare Communications, Tuesday, May 31, 2016. P 10-38).

Obviously from the responses, many respondent beneficiaries revealed they have benefited from the Health Programmes. This include creating more awareness on Malaria prevention (World Malaria Day), distribution of treated Mosquito Nets, detection and free Malaria treatment, free medical checkups and treatment of minor cases like issuing of Eye glasses for the impaired. Here we can aver there is poverty reduction (hence poverty reduction also means good health). For cancer relation cases, not many were willing to own up possibly due to stigmatization. The researcher generally concludes not much was achieved in this area.

Table 5.8 Benefits of Health Programmes and Projects

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	76	27.7	27.7	27.7
Agreed	162	59.1	59.1	86.9
Valid Strongly Disagreed	3	1.1	1.1	88.0
Disagreed	2	.7	.7	88.7
Undecided	31	11.3	11.3	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

In table 5.8, 238/86.8 of the respondents agreed that the LAPO health programme and projects have benefited their communities greatly. 5 representing 1.8% disagreed while 31 representing 11.3% hold no opinion. Promoting of the culture of regular check-up for early detection of health conditions like the HIV is one of the corporate objectives of LAPO. From respondents' perspective, even though table 5.8 corroborates those in table 5.7, just as in the case of cancer, affected individuals were unwilling, to reveal their identity due to stigmatization.

Table 5.9 Beneficiaries of Skill Acquisition

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	50	18.2	18.2	18.2
Valid Agreed	177	64.6	64.6	82.8
Disagreed	12	4.4	4.4	87.2
Undecided	35	12.8	12.8	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.9, responses show that 227/82.8% of the respondents have benefited from skills acquisition. 12 representing 4.4% of the respondents don't seem have benefited. 35/12.8% of the respondents are undecided. From the responses, many of the respondents (mostly women) seem to have benefited from or acquired one skill or the due to the activities of LAPO. Research revealed skills have been acquired in the area of Soap making, Beads making, Tailoring, Hairdressing, Catering and other forms of entrepreneurial ship.

Interview Report: Question. Mention the areas activities of NGOs have impacted on your community. Interview with Osakwe Oghaene, a family head of eleven (11), who has lived in Idumosa community of Esan North-East local for 17 years confirm some members of his family have benefited from Soap making, Bead making and Hair dressing through LAPO's entrepreneurial activities

Table 5.10 Improved Standard of Living as a Result of Skill Aquired

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	33	12.0	12.0	12.0
Agreed	163	59.5	59.5	71.5
Valid Strongly Disagreed	3	1.1	1.1	72.6
Disagreed	15	5.5	5.5	78.1
Undecided	60	21.9	21.9	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.10, 196 representing 71% of the respondents agreed members of the community's living conditions have improved through the entrepreneurial skills they have acquired from LAPOs. 18/6.6% of the respondents disagreed while 60 representing 21.9% of the respondents is undecided. From responses on the table above, some community members living conditions seem to have improved but from the 18 disagreed and 60 undecided one doubts if much has improved in terms of the peoples living conditions through the LAPOs entrepreneurial activities.

Table 5.11 Payment for Training

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	14	5.1	5.1	5.1
Agreed	42	15.3	15.3	20.4
Valid Strongly Disagreed	3	1.1	1.1	21.5
Disagreed	88	32.1	32.1	53.6
Undecided	127	46.4	46.4	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

Form tables 5.11, 56 representing 20.4% of our respondents opine that participants on skills acquisition usually bear the training cost. 91/33.2% disagree with the assertion. 127 representing 46.4% of the respondents are undecided. It is clear from the table that training for skills acquisition is usually pioneered and paid for by the NGOs (in our case, LAPO).

Table 5.12 Positive Impact of LAPO’s Activities on Education

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	76	27.7	27.7	27.7
Agreed	128	46.7	46.7	74.5
Disagreed	9	3.3	3.3	77.7
Valid Undecided	61	22.3	22.3	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.12, 204 representing 74.4 of the respondents affirm that the educational activities of LAPO have impacted positively on the communities. 9/3.3% of the respondents disagreed while 61 representing 22.3% were not in favour of any of the options. It is very clear from the respondents and interview with some family heads that LAPO educational activities impacted positively on communities in Oredo and Esan North-East of Edo South Senatorial District. Respondents confirm LAPO distributed free exercise books and other writing materials to pupil of primary and students (both males and females) in secondary schools in Eguare-Uromi, Utako, Igbobi, Ughoton, Ukoni Egbele, Gelegele, Egbaton and Orogo communities of Oredo and Esan North local government areas of Edo South Senatorial District. As captured by in one of its key objective, LAPO canvasses equal opportunity for women (LAPO enjoined parents to shun all forms of discrimination against women, especially girl-child education. From the above, much effort could be seen in the fight against poverty and other forms of inequality through the activities of LAPO.

5.2.2 Statistical Test of Hypothesis 1

Our first hypothesis states thus; that “ H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between LAPO strategies and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”

Table 5.13 Correlations

			Poverty
Spearman's rho	LAPO	Correlation Coefficient	.748**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
		N	274

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: Computer Product of SPSS Version 20.

From table 5.13, the Spearman rank correlation (rho) gives a coefficient of 0.748 which is positive and strong. This implies that there is a very strong positive relationship between the activities of LAPO and poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local government areas of Edo South Senatorial District. As such, an increase in the strategies of LAPO will lead to a reduction in poverty to a greater proportion.

However, the significance of this will be assessed through the probability value of the coefficient as given by the Sig. two tailed in table 5.13. The p-value being 0.000 is less than 0.05 level of significance and thus indicates that we have enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis at 95% confidence level.

Decision Rule: Based on the above, we therefore, reject the null hypothesis which states that “There is no significant relationship between LAPO strategies and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District” and accept its alternate hypothesis which states that “There is a significant relationship between

LAPO strategies and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”.

Discussion of Results: From the test of our first hypothesis, we accepted the Alternate hypothesis (Hi) which states that “There is a significant relationship between LAPO strategies and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”. Form our findings, LAPO has impacted communities in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas through its LAPO Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative (LARDI) in areas such as farming, poultry rearing of animals, fish farming, making of soaps, beads and others areas like free medical screening (Cancer, HIV), free malaria treatment and distribution of mosquito nets and other skills such as catering, hair dressing and distribution of books and writing materials to pupils. Even though some of these activities re in place, there is the need to improve some of the facilities in the centres

5.2.3 Hypothesis 2

Our second states that: “H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the strategies GPI and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”

GPI Respondent Profile

Table 5.14 Respondent’s Gender

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Women	65	31.1	32.8	32.8
Valid Girls	133	63.6	67.2	100.0
Total	198	94.7	100.0	
Missing 0	11	5.3		
Total	209	100.0		

Source: The Survey 2016

Form tables 5.14, 198/94.7% of the respondents are females. The dominance of female in the GPI's is not farfetched. The GPI as the name implies has young girls and young women as its main specific target.

Table 5.15 Respondents' Age

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 15-24 years	135	64.6	65.5	65.5
25-34 years	37	17.7	18.0	83.5
35-44 years	18	8.6	8.7	92.2
55 years and above	16	7.7	7.8	100.0
Total	206	98.6	100.0	
Missing 0	3	1.4		
Total	209	100.0		

Source: The Survey 2016

Our 172/83.5% of respondents' in table 5.15 confirms our earlier assertion of the GPI target group in table 5.14. The GPI programme specifically targets young girls.

Table 5.16 Respondents Educational Qualification

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid BSc, HND and above	88	42.1	42.1	42.1
NCE/OND	31	14.8	14.8	56.9
SSCE	60	28.7	28.7	85.6
First School Leaving Certificate	8	3.8	3.8	89.5
Others	22	10.5	10.5	100.0
Total	209	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.16, 88 representing 42.1% of the respondents are holders of Degrees and Higher National Diploma. 91/43.5% are holders of National Certificate of Education (NCE), Ordinary

National Diploma (OND) and Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE).from our table, even the GPI programme is women friendly, our table frequency of 60/28.7% is indicative enough to prove that the GPI particular focus is those in secondary schools.

Table 5. 17 How many members of your family have benefited from the Girls Education programme

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	74	35.4	35.4	35.4
1	34	16.3	16.3	51.7
2	41	19.6	19.6	71.3
3	21	10.0	10.0	81.3
4	24	11.5	11.5	92.8
5	3	1.4	1.4	94.3
6	4	1.9	1.9	96.2
7	4	1.9	1.9	98.1
10	4	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	209	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From the table 5.17, we are interested in knowing the number of girls from families that have benefited from the GPI Girls Education programme. As could be seen from the table, for 0 numbers, 74 representing 35.4% of girls in families said they have not benefited from the GPI education programme. For 1 numbers, 34/16.3% have benefited, 41/19.6% have benefited for 2 numbers, 21/10.0% for 3 numbers, 24/11.5% for 4 numbers, only 3/1.4% for 5 numbers, while for 6,7 and 10, 4 representing 1.9% each have benefited. From our responses, 74/35.4% is high enough to infer that many families do not seem have benefited from the GPI Girls Education programme. Education is a long term investment geared towards poverty reduction and other forms of inequality in the long run. From the forgoing, this implies the empowerment of girls who should have benefited is scuttled and their ability to fight poverty is equally scuttled.

Table 5.18 Females / Girls benefited the most from the GPI Education programme in the communities

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	64	30.6	30.6	30.6
Agreed	96	45.9	45.9	76.6
Valid Strongly Disagreed	4	1.9	1.9	78.5
Disagreed	27	12.9	12.9	91.4
Undecided	18	8.6	8.6	100.0
Total	209	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.18, 160 representing 76.5 of the respondents confirm girls benefited most from the GPI programme. 31/14.8% disagreed, while 18 representing 8.6% of the respondents were undecided. The responses on the table 5.18 further affirm or corroborate the GPI’s target group. GPI is said to have graduated 83 students (girls) from GPI’s School outreach programme and trained 1,260 peer educators (GPI’s Activities Report 2015).

Table 5.19 Females / Girls benefited from Agricultural programmes organized by GPI

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agreed	29	13.9	13.9	13.9
Agreed	97	46.4	46.4	60.3
Disagreed	37	17.7	17.7	78.0
Undecided	46	22.0	22.0	100.0
Total	209	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.19, 127 representing 60.3 said they have benefited most from the GPI’s agricultural programme. 37/17.7% disagreed, while 46 representing 22.0% of the respondents were undecided. From the responses on the table 5.19, there seem to a strong opinion that the

target group have benefited from the GPI agricultural programme. But our cumulative percentage suggest otherwise. Our open ended back up question corroborates this further. When asked to mention specific programmes by the GPI, there was a slight departure in responses from agriculture as respondents knew more of programmes of rehabilitation and empowerment of the destitute, vulnerable children, prevention of human trafficking (for example, GPI Benin organized a Town Hall Meeting in 2015 on Human trafficking preventive actions against Human trafficking), (Osakwe August 06 2015) and skills acquisition and confectioning. The Town Hall meeting was organized with the support of the Belgium Immigration Authority as part of the activities in the awareness raising campaign on human trafficking and irregular migration in Edo south senatorial District. This means in the area of agriculture, not much effort done by the GPI here in terms of employment generation.

5.2.4 Statistical Test of Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis H₀₂: states that “There is no significant relationship between the strategies of GPI and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”

Table 5.20 Correlations

			Poverty
Spearman's rho	GPI	Correlation Coefficient	.031
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.542
		N	209

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Computer Product of SPSS Version 20.

From table 5.20, the Spearman rank correlation (rho) gives a coefficient of 0.031 which is positive but very weak. This implies that there is a positive relationship between GPI and poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government local government areas.

However, the coefficient being so close to zero, indicates that there is almost no correlation between the activities of GPI and poverty reduction in the two local government areas. As such, one cannot boldly say that an increase in the activities of GPI will lead to a reduction in poverty to a greater proportion.

Decision Rule

However, the significance of this will be assessed through the probability value of the coefficient as given by the Sig. two tailed in table 5.20. The p-value being 0.542 is greater than 0.05 level of significance and thus indicates that we do not have enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis at 95% confidence level. Based on the above, we therefore, fail to reject the null hypothesis which states “There is no significant relationship between the strategies GPI and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”

Discussion of Results: Based on the statistical test of our second hypothesis we fail to reject the null hypothesis. Impliedly, we reject the alternate hypothesis which states “there is a significant relationship between the strategies of GPI and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”. Obviously, not much has been achieved by the GPI even though responses seemed to have suggested there is impact in the area of agriculture. More so, there seem to be an overlap of the GPI activities by LAPO in agriculture, education and health. The claim that (GPI) owned facilities in over thirty (30) schools in Edo South Senatorial District, trained 384 teachers and stakeholders from the district, re-enrolled 642 dropout girls in primary and secondary schools, scholarship to eighty (80) out of school girls within and outside the country between 2004 to 2013, is not

really a true reflection of what is on ground as research discovered. Our findings revealed that GPI made more efforts human trafficking prevention, skills acquisition and confectioning.

5.2.5 Hypothesis 3

Our third H_{03} states thus; “There is no significant relationship between Funding and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”.

Table 5.21 LAPOs Poverty related programmes are partly funded by the community

Response	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	11	4.0	4.0	4.0
Agreed	40	14.6	14.6	18.6
Strongly Valid Disagreed	15	5.5	5.5	24.1
Disagreed	88	32.1	32.1	56.2
Undecided	120	43.8	43.8	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.21, only 51/18.6 of the respondents agreed that LAPOs poverty programmes are partly funded by the community while 103 representing 37.6% disagree with the assertion. 120/43.8% is undecided on any of the opinions. From the table, obviously LAPOs poverty programmes enjoy very little or no support from the communities in which their programmes are situated. LAPO has partner or worked with no fewer than thirteen (13) likeminded organizations like Action Aid International Nigeria, World Bank HAF/Edo State Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (SACA), Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (EED) Germany, Novib Netherlands, European Union/MPP6, Cordiad, Netherlands, Oxfam/Society for family

Health (SFH), Foundation of Partnership Initiatives in Niger Delta, Development and Peace, Canada, European Union (EU), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), USAID and LAPO microfinance Bank Limited just to mention a few. (Tweets by LAPO NGO, Mindshare Communications, Tuesday, May 31, 2016. P 10-38). **Interview** with Mr. Gedion Ugbeye an Executive Director with LAPO confirms how LAPO access funds via services offered in partnership with these development partners as well as services provided to LAPO Micro Finance Bank Limited.

Table 5.22 The community benefits immensely from the LAPO’s Micro Credit facilities

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	33	12.0	12.0	12.0
Agreed	94	34.3	34.3	46.4
Strongly Disagreed	3	1.1	1.1	47.4
Disagreed	31	11.3	11.3	58.8
Undecided	113	41.2	41.2	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.22, 127 representing 46.3 of the respondents benefited from LAPO’s Micro Credit facility. 34/12.4% said they have not benefited from any facility (loan) from the LAPO’s Micro Finance Bank, while 113 representing 41.2% of the respondents are undecided. From the table, most of the beneficiaries have access soft to loans from the LAPO’s Micro Finance Bank to enable them fight poverty. Incidentally most of funds provided by the Bank are provided by the LAPO development partners as already discussed in table 5.21.

Table 5.23 It takes a long process and time for beneficiaries to access the LAPO's Micro Credit facilities

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	22	8.0	8.0	8.0
Agreed	83	30.3	30.3	38.3
Disagreed	78	28.5	28.5	66.8
Undecided	91	33.2	33.2	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.23, 105 representing 38.3 of our respondents opinion is that long processes are usually involve in accessing credit facilities in from the LAPO's Micro Finance Bank, 78/28.5% disagreed, 91 representing 33.2% of the respondents seem not to be aware of such. From the responses, even though the LAPO Micro Finance Bank should give soft loans without stringent conditions, some of the processes involve makes it difficult to access the loans such as screening, selection of beneficiaries, delay in advancement of such loans and since these funds come from development partners and not disbursed directly to beneficiaries through intermediaries, there is the possibility that such funds are hijacked and don't seem accessible by the poorest of the poor. Impliedly, some of the beneficiaries don't even get funds at the end of the day which means the objective of empowering individuals towards poverty reduction is not really achieved.

Table 5.24 Conditions attached to the credit facilities make it difficult to access

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	21	7.7	7.7	7.7
Agreed	72	26.3	26.3	33.9
Valid Strongly Disagreed	2	.7	.7	34.7
Disagreed	59	21.5	21.5	56.2
Undecided	120	43.8	43.8	100.0
Total	274	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.24, 93 representing 34.0% of the respondents have difficulties in accessing LAPO's credit facilities. 61/22.2% disagreed, 120 representing 43.8% of the respondents were undecided. From the responses on the table 5.24, there aren't any stringent conditions for accessing credit facilities except for some of the issues already mentioned in table 5.23

Table 5.25 Funds are raised partly by the community to support the GPI

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agreed	14	6.7	6.7	44.0
Agreed	35	16.7	16.7	16.7
Valid Strongly Disagreed	51	24.4	24.4	100.0
Disagreed	66	31.6	31.6	75.6
Undecided	43	20.6	20.6	37.3
Total	209	100.0	100.0	

Source: The Survey 2016

From table 5.25, 49 representing 23.4% opine that the community to some extent raised funds to support the GPI activities. 117/56.0% disagree with the assertion, while 43 representing

20.6% is undecided. Just as we saw in the LAPO’s case, the GPI is equally supported by development partners.

5.2.6 Statistical Test of Hypothesis 3

Hypothesis H₀₂: states that “There is no significant relationship between funding and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”

Table 5.26 Correlations

			Poverty
Spearman's rho	Funding	Correlation Coefficient	.190**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
		N	274

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Computer Product of SPSS Version 20.

From table 5.26, the Spearman rank correlation (rho) gives a coefficient of 0.19 which is positive but weak. This implies that there is a positive relationship between funding and poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District. As such, an increase in funding will lead to a reduction in poverty, although this increase will be very minimal.

Decision Rule

However, the significance of this will be assessed through the probability value of the coefficient as given by the Sig. two tailed in table 5.26. The p-value being 0.000 is less than 0.05 level of significance and thus indicates that we have enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Based on the above, we therefore, reject the null hypothesis which states that “There is no significant relationship between funding and Poverty Reduction in Oredo

and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District” and accept the alternate hypothesis which states that “There is significant relationship between funding and Poverty Reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District”.

Discussion of Results: From the statistical test of our third hypothesis we had to reject the null hypothesis. This is to say that There is significant a relationship between funding and Poverty Reduction in the local government areas under study. From our study, LAPO and GPI do enjoy funding from development partners (even thou more of LAPO). LAPO enjoys funding from Action Aid International Nigeria, World Bank HAF/Edo State Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (SACA), Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (EED) Germany, Novib Netherlands just to mention a few. The GPI equally partners with the Belgium Authority. Mrs. Phil Inusa Head of Admin of GPI, in an **Interview** confirmed the organization (GPI) is mostly funded by UN Women, Oxfam International, EU, NDDC, among others. GPI also works with other NGOs at the state level and the Belgian Authorities by reason of partnership in Human Trafficking (GPI Handbook, 2014).

Our major challenge with funding arises from the delays in the disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries and hence these funds are usually channeled through third parties or intermediaries, like the Micro Finance Banks, women organization, community and youth leaders and not direct to beneficiaries, the tendency is that such funds are usually being hijacked and not easily accessible by the poorest of the poor.

5.3 Major Findings

- (i) LAPO recorded better performances the areas of agriculture, Health, education and skills acquisition both in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District than its counterpart the GPI due to wider/broader coverage and more encompassing activities.
- (ii) LAPO through (LARDI) impact on communities in farming, poultry, rearing of animals, free medical screening, education and other forms of skills acquisition, has to some extent help improve the living conditions of people in Oredo and Esan North-East Local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District yet much is needed to be done, particularly in farming (mechanize farming and not the usual shifting cultivation) crude farming techniques, vocational and skill acquisition centres, quality of text books, storage and processing facilities, information on relevant farming issues and rural households, health just to mention a few.
- (iii) Not much has been achieved by the GPI in terms of skill acquisition, health, education even though responses seem to have suggested otherwise in agriculture due to overlapping activities by LAPO. From our findings the GPI is more into to human trafficking prevention which is a threat particularly to the girls and equally portends the danger of effectively empowering them in the future. The GPI has not been very effective in skills acquisition and other forms of empowerment.
- (iv) Both LAPO and the GPI enjoy funding from international partners. But as we have seen, hence funds from international partners is not direct to beneficiaries but through mediums like third party (Micro Finance Banks, women organization, community and youth leaders), the implication is that the funds are not available to the poorest of the poor.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary and conclusions reached on the role of NGOs (LAPO and GPI) on poverty reduction in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District of Edo State. In validating our hypotheses, it became necessary to make recommendations on how LAPO and GPI could operate to better the lives of communities in Edo South Senatorial District. These recommendations were made strictly based on the findings.

6.2 Summary

Findings made in the course of this study were presented in this chapter. The study sets out to establish the extent to which NGOs (LAPO and GPI) helped to reduce poverty through empowering women in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District of Edo State. The study found out that even though some measure of success is somehow recorded through LARDI in agriculture, health, education by LAPO and human trafficking by the GPI, more is needed to be done to better the lives of women among communities in the South Senatorial District of Edo State. On the funding of LAPO and GPI activities, it is clear the poorest of the poor's (i.e. beneficiaries) living conditions would better, if funds are disbursed directly without passing through third parties.

Our study also revealed that the GPI's impact is not much felt possibly due to the overlapping activities of LAPO in agriculture, education and health. Even in education, where the GPI's activities seem to have been more pronounced, not much of the impact has been felt. One cardinal objective of NGOs like LAPO and GPI has been looking into social issues militating

against sustainable development of targeted population in communities and Creating relevant programmes, projects and products geared towards improving the living conditions of such communities which to some extent could to be said to have been achieved particularly with the LAPO.

6.3 Conclusions

LAPO and GPI's objective have been to eradicate poverty by empowering women at the grass root, through the concentration of programmes and projects like (health services, social empowerment, financial empowerment, legal aid, education and infrastructure.) that could effectively improve the living conditions of communities in Oredo and Esan North-East local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District. Although LAPO seem to have recorded better performances in agriculture, health, education, skills acquisition and through its (LARDI) programme than the GPI, much is still needed to be done particularly in mechanize farming; vocational and skill acquisition centres still poorly equipped; obsolete and inadequate health facilities centres ill equipped with modern equipments. This has made the desired impact not truly felt. Stigmatization particularly on HIV related cases has and is still making it very difficult to record good success in HIV treatment.

The GPI has not really achieved much in skill acquisition and health, and even though focused centrally on education and human trafficking prevention, much of these results are not feasibly neither the impact felt as findings revealed. Educational facilities and infrastructure are still poor as our findings revealed. Curbing human trafficking (modern slavery), is a serious challenge in Edo State as the heinous practice has continue to posed a threat to human capital development (particularly among young girls) the GPI's very focus. This may be due to the believe among culprits and families that these newly found trade is more lucrative in income empowerment especially when lucky young women find themselves

in Europe after crossing the Mediterranean successfully and not actually seeing the destructive side to human resource in the nearest future.

Funding to both LAPO and GPI beneficiaries from international partners has not been more direct. The medium role played by third parties (Micro Finance Banks, women organization, community and youth leaders), has always made it difficult for the poorest of the poor to access funds which has not only delay but scuttled effective empowerment.

6.4 Recommendations

From our findings, the study recommends;

- i. One area LAPO needs to improve upon is a closer work with government on legislation, practices and discrimination against women as captured in its basic objectives. This has not much been achieved because women are still being discriminated in work places, gender base violence, education and in other spheres of life. LAPO of a necessity must improve on mechanize or semi mechanize farming through stronger partnership with government and other stake holders not only to improve the living conditions of individuals in the area of study but to also feed Nigerians.
- ii. A step up in GPI's activities in education and human trafficking prevention is needful in order to create the desired impact. Improved educational facilities and infrastructure is equally needful besides curbing the trend of human trafficking which portends danger to human capital development especially among young girls. The federal government of a necessity must rise to the challenge by bringing culprits to book (beneficiaries from such activities) irrespective of who they are and regardless of whose Ox is gored.

- iii. That funding by both local and international partners should be more direct to the poorest of the poor or the disadvantaged groups if effective empowerment would be achieved particularly among women in the area under study.

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APPENDIX 1

Department of Public Administration,
Faculty of Administration,
Ahmadu Bello University,
Zaria.
23rd March, 2016.

Dear Respondent,

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

I am an M.Sc. student of the department of Public Administration ABU, Zaria, I am undertaking a research entitled “An Assessment of the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on Community Development in Edo State”. This is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of M.Sc. Degree in Public Administration.

The attached copy of the questionnaire, therefore, is meant for the collection of data for the research subject matter. I shall be glad if you can assist me in this respect by completing the questionnaire.

Your responses will be treated with utmost confidence. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Franca Imhande Obomese.

APPENDIX 11

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF NGOs POVERTY PROGRAMMES

SECTION A

Biodata of Respondents

Please tick () as appropriate in your answer to the following questions.

1) Name (optional)

2) Sex: Male () Female ()

3) Age range:

16-25 ()

26-35 ()

36-45 ()

46-55 ()

56 and Above

4) Educational Qualification:

Bachelors degree, HND and above ()

NCE/OND ()

SSCE ()

First School Leaving Certificate ()

Others

specify.....

SECTION B

5a) NGOs, most of the time, consult the community before projects are carried out.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

b) Please kindly mention some of the projects Ngos have initiated through the communities direct initiative

.....
.....

6) Activities of NGOs have contributed remarkably in empowering members of the community with small loans for their businesses.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

7) Poverty related programmes are partly funded by the community.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

Please can you commend further.....

8a) Members of the community are more conscious of health related issues due to the programme message of NGOs in the community.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

b) Which of the health programmes have you benefited from ?

.....
.....
.....

9) Health programme message and projects of the NGOs are of great benefit to the members of the community

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

10) The community benefits immensely from the Micro Credit facilities of the NGOs.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

11) It takes a long process and time for beneficiaries to access the NGOs Micro credit facilities.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

12) Conditions attached to the Credit facilities make it difficult to repay.

- Strongly Agreed ()
- Agreed ()
- Strongly Disagreed ()
- Disagreed ()
- Undecided ()

13) Members of the community benefit from skill acquisition programme organized by the NGOs.

- Strongly Agreed ()
- Agreed ()
- Strongly Disagreed ()
- Disagreed ()
- Undecided ()

Programmes like..... are specifically design to towards acquisition

14) Many individuals in the community now earn a good leaving as a result of the entrepreneurial skill acquired from the NGOs skill acquisition programme.

- Strongly Agreed ()
- Agreed ()
- Strongly Disagreed ()
- Disagreed ()
- Undecided ()

15) Participants of the skill acquisition training pay for the training programme.

- Strongly Agreed ()
- Agreed ()
- Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

16) The activities of NGOs, have positive impact on education in the community.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

SECTION C

17) Females / girls benefit the most from the education programmes and activities of NGOs in the community.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

18) Males / boys benefit the most from the education programmes and activities of the NGOs in the community.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

19) Girls equally benefit from Agricultural programmes organized by the NGO.

Strongly Agreed ()

Agreed ()

Strongly Disagreed ()

Disagreed ()

Undecided ()

20) Are there other specific programmes organized by the NGOs besides education programmes geared towards promoting the girls welfare.....
.....?

21) Are there other special skills design for girls by the NGOs for particular type of education towards enhancing their growth
.....
.....?

SECTION D

Interview Questions

Please tick () as appropriate in your answer to the following questions.

1) Sex: Male () Female ()

2) Age range:

16-25 ()

26-35 ()

36-45 ()

46-55 ()

56 and Above

3) Highest Academic Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree, HND and above ()
- NCE/OND ()
- SSCE ()
- First School Leaving Certificate ()

Others

specify.....

- 4) How long have you live in this community?.....
- 5) How many are in your family.....
- 6) What position do you occupy in your family?.....
- 7) Do know the existence of Non-Governmental Organization in the community?.....
- 8) Can you mention the NGOs you know and familiar with?.....
- 9) How would you describe the activities of these NGOs in your community?.....
- 10) Mention the areas the activities of the NGOs have impacted on your community.....
- 11) Was the community involve in any the projects carried by any of the NGOs in your community?.....
- 12) Do you have any idea on how these projects were funded?.....
- 13) Do you consider the projects carried out by the NGOs as community development projects?.....
- 14) How have you benefited from the projects carried out by the NGOs directly or indirectly to reduce povert?.....

15) Do you prefer the NGOs continue with their activities or they should
leave.....
.....

APPENDIX III

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Question 2	274	1	2	1.56	.497	-.251	.147
Question 3	274	1	5	1.71	1.063	1.673	.147
Question 4	274	1	5	2.47	1.396	.613	.147
Question 5	274	1	5	2.86	1.409	.440	.147
Question 6	274	1	5	2.59	1.315	.927	.147
Question 7	274	1	5	3.97	1.201	-1.017	.147
Question 8	274	1	5	2.41	1.226	1.367	.147
Question 9	274	1	5	2.09	1.155	1.640	.147
Question 10	274	1	5	3.35	1.572	-.144	.147
Question 11	274	1	5	3.49	1.417	-.367	.147
Question 12	274	1	5	3.68	1.445	-.563	.147
Question 13	274	1	5	2.29	1.196	1.397	.147
Question 14	274	1	5	2.66	1.377	.865	.147
Question 15	274	1	5	3.99	1.246	-1.107	.147
Question 16	274	1	5	2.46	1.487	.886	.147
Valid N (listwise)	274						

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Question 2	198	1	2	1.67	.471	-.737	.173
Question 3	206	1	4	1.59	.942	1.477	.169
Question 4	209	1	5	2.26	1.323	.722	.168
Question 5	209	0	10	1.83	2.066	1.614	.168
Question 6	209	1	5	2.23	1.254	1.020	.168
Question 7	209	1	5	3.26	1.452	-.316	.168
Question 8	209	1	5	2.88	1.439	.386	.168
Valid N (listwise)	195						

APPENDIX 1V

Correlations

			LAPO	Poverty
Spearman's rho	LAPO	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.748
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	387	387
	Poverty	Correlation Coefficient	.748**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	274	387

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlations

			GPI	Poverty
Spearman's rho	GPI	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.031
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.542
		N	387	387
	Poverty	Correlation Coefficient	.031	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.542	.
		N	209	387

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Correlations

			Funding	Poverty
Spearman's rho	Funding	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.190**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	387	387
	Poverty	Correlation Coefficient	.190**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	274	387

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

APPENDIX V: Krejcie and Morgan

TABLE 1
Table for Determining Sample Size from a Given Population

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size.
S is sample size.

APPENDIX VI

Profile of the interviewees

Name	Profile	Date and Time of interview
Mr. Osazuwa Obasuyi 09031827052	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ikpoba – Oha Community. - Community Leader - Oredo LGA 	4:30 – 6.00pm 09/09/2016
Johnson Orobosa 08072281555	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uselu Community - Community Leader - Oredo LGA 	2:00 – 3:00pm 13/09/2016
Richard Ehi 08035047822	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Leader. - Esan North-East LGA. 	5:00 – 5:45pm 08/10/2016
Osakwe Ogheanero 08184877193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Head - Idumosa Community - .Esan North-East LGA. 	3:00 - 4:00pm 10/10/2016
Mr. Gedion Ugbeye 09053446349	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LAPO Executive Director.. 	12pm - 2pm 11/09/2016
Mrs. Phil Inusa 08073042499	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Admin GPI 	12 :00pm – 12:45pm 07/10/2016

