AN EVALUATION OF IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME ON THE YOUTH IN CHIKUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF KADUNA STATE

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis entitle “An Evaluation of the impact of poverty Alleviation Programme in Chikun Local Government Area has be performed by me in the department of Public Administration under the supervision of Prof. Abdulsalami .I. This information derived from the literature has been dully acknowledged in the texts and a list of reference provided.

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CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my late Father **Mr. Williams Ogbeni** of blessed memories who tirelessly struggled for my liberation.

To my younger brother **Alex Ogbeni** for his kind gestures and support

And finally to **Chief** and **Mrs. Mathew Enohuean** who equally bore the hardship occasioned by my Programme.

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is currently one of the most serious problems in Nigeria, the poverty level in Nigeria contradict the immense wealth/resources of this Country such as Human, Agricultural, Petroleum, gas and Solid Mineral to the Nigeria Government at all levels.

It is evident that poverty scourge has assumed an unprecedented upsurge in Chikun Local Government Area.

Our concern is to identify means of stimulating economic growth through engagement of the youth in semi-skilled and unskilled labour. The method of data analysis used in this study involves descriptive statistical techniques such as simple percentage and tabulation, which were used to analyze the data comprehensively. It is undoubtedly known, that government core poverty alleviation institutions have little or no impact on the people (youth). Some apparent reasons for the failure of previous programmes of government include; multiplicity of implementing agencies which allows for gross managerial inefficiency.

Therefore, Government should provide conducive environment and extends infrastructure / social amenities such as good roads, pipe born water, electricity and so on, for the programme to achieve its meaningful objective of reducing poverty and improving the living standard of the citizenry

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.

Local Government is seen as political subdivision of a nation, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs. It is regarded as the third tier of government in Nigeria, created for the purpose of grass-root development (UNO, 1961). In Nigeria the system of local government has over the years undergone series of changes, beginning from when the British colonial administration introduced the native authority system. In 1921 the basic structure of this native authority system features prominently throughout the country and continued until 1950s, the period Nigerians began to participate actively in legislative functions. (Hassan, 2002).

The primary function of every local government is to improve the welfare of the entire grass-root people. In this regard, the effort of the local government is directed towards the improvement of the living standard of the people thereby achieving socio-economic development. These include the improvement of education, healthcare, shelter, provision of food, employment opportunity, access to basic infrastructure and provision of good roads, electricity and water and so on.

Although the various local councils in the country were created in the early 1950s to perform localized function and to bring government nearer to the people and to implement government programmes, many of them were found to be ineffective and evidence of poor performance shown by local government council led to their reconstitution after the country attained independence.

In 1976, a major reform was introduced by the Federal government in response to the recognition that local government should occupy their rightful position in the political

framework of the nation and as a basis for the return to civilian rule. The reform recognized the local government councils as third tier of government in the country. The reform also stressed that local government can only be created within an area with 150,000-800,000 people, the leadership of local government must be democratically elected, and each State should create Local Government Service Board which would oversee the recruitment, training, deployment, promotion and discipline of local government staff within the State. These highlights were incorporated in 1979 constitution.

Following this brief historical development of local government in Nigeria, the question is what has local government council done in alleviating poverty in their various area councils. Poverty affects every aspects of human life, such as physical, moral, psychological part of life. Majority of Nigerians are now living below poverty line (i.e. one dollar per day) and this is extremely unbecoming. Hence there is need for adequate attention to the basic needs of life such as food, cloth, shelter, healthcare, employment, and affordable education to be addressed properly. (Hassan, 2002).

Thus the federal government initiative to execute the poverty alleviation programmes is timely and highly commendable. The schemes are multidimensional and are intended to tackle the multidimensional nature of poverty. The schemes include The Youth Empowerment Schemes (YES), The Rural Infrastructure Development Schemes (RIDS), The Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS), and The Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS). This initiative by the government is intended to spread down through the State and Local Government Areas to the grass root. In this regard Chikun Local Government area council should be poised to embrace and implement full heartedly these programmes as it dives towards development and to

enhance and improve the living standard of the people. This calls for the assessment of the impact of the poverty alleviation programmes in this Local Government Area.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Nobody can convincingly define poverty until he passes through it, for it is better felt than seen. However economic indices focus on poverty as lack of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and cloths and also the general sign of economic stagnation namely; unemployment, low consumption, low purchasing power, low productivity, poor health care, poor education system etc. (Magaji 2005 Pp 33-35).

Government at all levels, be it Federal, State and Local levels are faced with many functions and obligations. One of such obligations, though difficult but indispensable is how to reduce or totally eradicate poverty among its populace.

Basically the main statement of the problem of this research study is the programme implementation and monitoring which are of course heavily politicized, to the detriment of the overall success of the programme in Chikun Local Government Area. This makes Makarfi Kaduna State Governor to attribute the current state of the economy to lack of strong fiscal discipline, weak revenue base and low level of transparency in Government. In his statement Makarfi said “the problem arose from distorted incentives, structures, which promote self seeking activities pre-occupied with cake sharing rather than cake baking, mismatch between effort and reward, a culture of expecting something for nothing and a poor attitude to public resources and services delivering among others, (Makarfi, 2004 p8)

Nonetheless, it is evident that poverty scourge has assumed an unprecedented upsurge in

Chikun Local Government Area due to Government insensitivity to the allocation of resources and to the plight of the poor youth and the less privileged ones.

As a grass root approach, it is evident that the stark reality of poverty and unemployment, robbery prostitution alcoholism are explicitly evident in the rural area, therefore, the situation demanded a pragmatic approach to stamp out the yoke of poverty

In this case Nigeria is poor not because it is a poor country, Nigeria is a very rich country, which is blessed with both human and material resource. Nigeria has earned more than two hundred and filthy million dollars ($250m), considering that huge amount every Nigerian's suppose to live as rich men. But irony is the case, few continue to become rich and majority continues to be impoverished the more.

In another dimension, Nigeria is known to be one of most richly endowed Third World Countries, thus its poverty stand in contrast with its abundant resources. The average Nigerian can be likened to someone struggling to wash his hands with spittle in the middle of the ocean. Therefore how can the State involve the various communities, and non-governmental organizations to ensure reliability and effectiveness of the programmes?

It is undoubtedly known, that government core poverty alleviation institutions have little or no impact on the people (youth). Some apparent reason for the failure of previous programmes of government include; multiplicity of implementing agencies which allows for gross managerial inefficiency, unhealthy and counter productive rivalries, and lack of adequate sense of commitment and haphazard implementation.

1.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Given the magnitude and spread of poverty in Chikun Local Government and the desire to reduce its size and curb the spread, poverty alleviation is seen as a strategy aimed at effecting developmental changes in the area.

Basically, the objectives of this research study are as follows:

1. To find out if the intention of government to alleviate poverty and plan initiative and method of simulating economic growth through engagement of the youth in semi-skilled and unskilled labour in productive activities are being achieved in Chikun Local Government Area in the provision of Job for youth.
2. And to also suggest the need for Government to commit fund on the programmes to facilitate the socio-economic development as well as setting up of monitoring bodies to check the haphazard implementation.
3. To identify the constraints on policies/programmes and suggest possible solution aimed at immediate reduction of poverty in Chikun Local Government

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

It is imperative to examine the level of poverty in Chikun L.G.A (ie lack of education, lack of food, cloths, lack of good healthcare, good road network etc) as a consideration for raising the standard of living on the populace especially the youth. This will help to attain a sustainable socio-economic development. Unless Nigerians began to adequately tap their human resources, many of them may remain in poverty for long. (Adeoye,2005). Simply because Nigeria as a country is richly endowed in both material and human resources, in spite of this, majority of the people still suffer under abject poverty. Also despite various programmes undertaken by successive governments to alleviate poverty, poverty tends to deepen and expand over the years.

As the government strives once again to make a fresh start at turning the table of pervasive poverty and enhancing the well being of the poor populace, especially the youth, hence this research has been largely rationalized by the motivation or desire to fill in the gap in knowledge.

Since the socio-economic development of any nation is measured by the general welfare, the standard of living of the citizen as well as the youth empowerment, thus, the prospect of poverty alleviation initiatives is no doubt bright and would be successful as long as the leadership is willing to change from traditional approach, which so far favoured implementation of lofty programmes.

1.5 HYPOTHESES

The researcher formulated the following hypotheses to guide and be tested in this investigation-

(i) The level of youth economic empowerment will reduce poverty situation and improve the living standard and quality of lives of youths in Chikun L.G.A

(ii) The adequate equipment of the institution and qualified manpower will affect the youth positively.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Our task is to provide a systematic and scholarly examination of the relevance of the programmes in local government administration. For the purpose of this study our unit of analysis will be Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State with the headquarters in Kujama. The area consists of 13 district areas namely:- Kujama, Nassarawa, Gwagwada, Kakau, Matagyi, Buruku, Kasaya Chikun, Narayi, Yelwa, Kuriga, Kamazo,and Gayan.(office information chikun L.G.A)

Chikun L.G. Area is one of the Local Government Areas in Kaduna State and therefore found suitable as a case study in analyzing and understanding national problems. It has a well-developed system of administration in Kaduna State.

Secondly, we shall examine the operation of poverty programmes from 1999 to 2004 i.e. its implementation and effectiveness as well as its impact and relevance to the youth.

1.7 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

In a study of this nature, there is no doubt that the researcher will be confronted with some problems, which may affect the outcome of the research. There is no doubt that the findings and views expressed cannot by any means be exhaustive nor is there any pretension that they are going to be fool proof. In the course of their study we had the following limitations: -

One of such problems that may affect this study is inadequate data. As a matter of fact, there may be dearth of data in this area of study. In fact, no human being has all knowledge except the Almighty God. Precisely, because from a few available articles, may therefore difficult for us to gather data, which would have immense help for critical analysis.

Secondly, objectivity may also be a limitation to this study. In social science, it is difficult to subject any study to critical and empirical analysis in order to be free from emotion and sentiments. But in the spirit of objectivity we try to distance ourselves from phenomenon under study.

Thirdly, at this time of economic crunch and political confusion it will not be out of place to say that financial constraints will serve as a great limitation to this study. This may hinder information and the research's area of coverage.

Fourthly, the attitude of some staff in the local government and the institutions could affect information gathering especially sensitive once and those that we demand their opinion about their authority for fear of being intimidated. As common with studies of this kind however, there are bound to be overemphasize and underemphasize in some of the answers given.

1.8.0. **SOURCES AND METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.**

Research methodology is the procedure of seeking knowledge, having deeper exposition of the problem under study. This consists of both primary and secondly sources of data.

1.8.1. **Source of data:**

Primary source: The primary source of data involved the administration of questionnaires on the trainers and trainees (beneficiaries) and non-beneficiaries within the area under study. This involved also face-to-face structured interview granted by some officers of NAPEP in the area and personal observation.

Secondary source This is the examination of Official document of the L.G Council, NAPEP blue print, textbooks, Journals, newspapers, Magazines, published and unpublished and local and international economic development report.

1.8.2**. Population and sample size:** Chikun Local Government Area is made up of thirteen (13) district areas or towns. Four (4) towns were randomly selected to represent the population of area under study. The population of the four (4) towns is based on the 1991 population census figures given as 91, 692. The four (4) areas are Kujama, Television, Gwagwada and Gayan. The basic characteristic of the people in the areas is homogeneity in nature hence cluster sampling was used. 340 respondents were drawn from the four (4) district areas. The sample size of the study is 340. The sample drawn from each of the towns is a

function of the ratio of the town population to the total of the four (4) towns multiplied by the total sample size. Below is the presentation for ease of appreciation

TOWNS	**POPULATION**	**SAMPLE SIZE**	
Kujama	24, 812	24, 821 / 91693 x 340 =	92
Television	21, 575	21, 575 / 91693 x 340 =	80
Gwagwada	24, 271	24, 271 / 91693 x 340 =	90
Gayan	21, 035	21, 035 / 91693 x 340 =	78
Total	**91, 693**		**340**

1.8.3. Method of data analysis: Descriptive statistical techniques such as simple percentages tabulations were used to analyses the data, so as to make the analyses more comprehensible

1.8.4. Questionnaire administration: In the course of data collection, we find it necessary to employ the following:

Questionnaires. 340 Questionnaires were administered to the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries at the four (4) district areas used as our population. 92 to Kujama , 80 to Television, 90 to Gwaguada and 78 to Gayan. Structured and unstructured questionnaires were used with open ended, multiple choices and explanatory answers.

1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS

To enhance a common understanding of the concept used in this study, we cannot but delve a little bit into some conceptual clarifications. In doing this we will endeavour to be as down-to-earth as it is technically possible in the definition and use of terms. Since the purpose of any research enterprise is to solve societal problem, the society should be guided on how to understand the language employed.

1.9.1 **Poverty:** Harry Johnson defined poverty as a situation when the resources of individuals or families are inadequate to provide a social acceptable standard of living (SPECS, 2001) In other words, individual living below the conventional poverty line demarcating

the poor from the non-poor. To our own study, poverty can be defined as the condition where a person is unable to satisfy the most basic needs and elementary requirements for human survival in terms of food, cloths, shelter, good healthcare, transportation, recreation and affordable education (SPECS 2001).

1.9.2 **Alleviation**: Relieve from a burden which is impinging on the comfort of man, alleviation from health problem, illiteracy, from poor feeding, clothing etc.

1.9.3 **Programmes**: A plan or set of strategies, activities and projects proposed to be put in place to serve a set of related problem to which human, material and financial resources are committed in order to achieve its objective.

1.9.4 **Youth**: This is seen as young people considered as a group, the nation's youth, the youth of today, youth employment. (Hornby, 2000). Also youth is the period of life during which the growing individual make the transition from childhood to adulthood. Encyclopedia American P. 175). To this study, youth can be seen as the people who fall within age of 18 and 45 years.

1.9.5 **Poverty Alleviation Programme**: A democratic society cannot be built when a large number of people are so poor that they are denied their choice due to lack of opportunities to live a tolerable life. Hence poverty alleviation programmes are programmes established by government (Federal, State or Local government) to eradicate of minimize poverty. It is aimed at monitoring and coordinating as well as assisting government in eradicating poverty to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.

1.9.6 **Local Government**: This is the government at the grass-root level, which is nearest to the people. It has been defined by the United Nation office of Public Administration as a political subdivision of a nation or (in a Federal system, State) which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs including a power to impose taxes and to

enact law for prescribed purpose or otherwise locally selected and also they have the power to make bye law (U.N.O, 1961).

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Unless Nigerians begin to adequately tap their human resources many of them may remain in poverty for long. Perhaps nobody can convincingly define poverty until he possess through it. For it is better be felt than seen. However conventional economic indices define poverty as lack of basic necessities of life, voicelessness, powerless and lack of access to productive assets (Maggaji, 2004).

Nigeria is one of the 24th poorest countries of the world, with more than 50% of its population living in less than one US dollars per day. The incidence of poverty has been on the increase since independence and both local and international data showed that Nigerian poor are not doing well, despite the series of poverty alleviation programmes, the major victims of poverty in Nigeria and in many other countries are women, children and youth. (Maggaji, 2004)

World Bank research in 2000 revealed that only 50% of Nigerian population has access to safe drinking water, about 38% of the population does not have access to the primary healthcare, and most Nigerians consume less than 1/3 of the minimum required protein and vitamins, due to low purchasing power (Magaji, 2005,p33). In fact, as it needs not much expertise to identify a full blown AIDS victim, one need not to be an economic expert to know that majority of Nigerians are poor and the economy is stagnant. This is because the general sign of economic stagnation, namely, low purchasing power, unemployment, low productivity, low consumption, low investment, poor health system, poor education system, poor network of transportation system, unstable power supply and so on are visible to everyone.

In view of the development in Nigerian economy which shows that many a times the economy experiences economic growth, the growth that does not reflect in the welfare of its people, it is therefore worth taking a look at some of the indicators of the performance of Nigerian government in the key areas in order to access its performance at poverty alleviation. The indicators include unemployment, low productivity, high population growth rate, poor human resources development, corruption, debt burden, governance, effects of globalization and micro-economic distortion. (Abdullahi, 2002).

Some of the social economic indicators are as follows:

2.1 INDICATORS OF POVERTY:

a. **Unemployment**: Unemployment in Nigeria assumes crisis level in the late 80s and early 90s especially among school leavers and graduates of tertiary institutions. A survey carried out by the centre for Investment Sustainable Development, Management and Environment in 1998 gave the features as follows:-

- Over 70% of the unemployed are relatively unskilled Primary and Secondary School Leavers between ages of 13 – 25 years.
- Graduates unemployment which hitherto unnoticed, started to emerge in mid 80s.

The following influence the rising graduate unemployment.

(i) Nigerian had a total enrolment of about 600,000 students in 149 tertiary institutions in 1996/1997 academic years.

(ii) There were 123,000 graduates in the 1995/1996 session and about 130,000 graduates in 1996/1997.

(iii) Cumulatively, Nigeria produced a total of 1,110,000 graduates from tertiary and

(iv) About 10% i.e. 100,000 got formal jobs; over one million might be openly unemployed or under employed. (Abdullahim A, 2002 Pp14/15).

The unemployment situation was further worsened by the Primary School, Secondary School, and Colleges dropouts and retrenched workers due to the closure of many industries. Although there is no reliable data for all these Unemployed, it is roughly being estimated to be over 50million. All these Unemployment worsened the high level of poverty recorded by FOS in 1996.

High Population Growth Rate: Statistics shows that in 1980, Nigerian population was 65 million; it rose to 88million in 1991 and further increased to 102.3million in 1996. it is estimated that the Nigerian Population is currently about 120million. This in population has over stretched the basic social and infrastructural facilities as well as public goods in the face of dwindling national resources. A situation in which population growth averages 2.83 against GDP growth rate of 2.7% meant that resources meant for investment are consumed with left for development thereby reinforcing the vicious cycles of poverty.

Education: This is very critical to the development of human capital, attainment of higher living standard, social integration and increased labour productivity through the adoption and adaptation of modern technology. With the sheer increase in population, the tiers of government towards raising the level of literacy have committed huge resources.

As proportion of total person in the relevant age groups, gross enrolment for primary, secondary and in tertiary have generally been below the optimum, creating imbalance in education and literacy between genders and among the geo-political zones in the largely urban south, primary and secondary school enrolment are twice those of the North. A more worrisome development is the astronomical increase in the number of school drops out at primary and secondary levels. This is of great concern in view of the attendant cost in terms of increasing unemployment, crimes, drug addiction and prostitution,

among youth, as well as the turn out of Polytechnic and Universities Graduates that face sluggish growth in employment opportunities.

Therefore, unless the Nigeria government put in place a pragmatic approach to the issue of provision of quality education in the country it may be difficult to succeed with any poverty alleviation programmed no matter how well planned.

Debt Burden: What further guaranteed impoverishment in Nigeria is the debt trap. Our leaders in the past were enticed to use foreign capital as an instrument of economic development. There is nothing wrong in using borrowed capital for investment, in as much as the proceeds of the investment can outweigh the cost of capital used. This will lead to net positive return and facilitates economic development and prosperity. However foreign debt in Nigeria was mismanaged, leaving the country to service the debt from the hard earned Foreign exchange. This further impedes investment and welfare function of the government and promotes poverty.

Corruption: Corruption by our leaders, being a post civil war problem, is equally catastrophic in contributing to the poverty scourge. Magaji, 2005 indicates that corruption in Nigeria is perpetuated at higher levels. Through corruption money meant for education, health and other productive sectors are siphoned for private uses. Had it been the stolen money is invested within the economy, it would have at least created employment and increased the Gross Domestic Product, even though it is morally wrong to steal.

Corruption is beyond stealing of money for foreign accounts, but also a lack of modesty. When former President, Late Julius Nyerere of Tanzania retired as a President, he possessed not more than ten jackets and no single personal house. The late President had to request for a three bedroom flat from the government for the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, his Vice-President resorted to teaching English in A Community School. How many Nigerian leaders' posses this quality? Lack of this quality is one of the causes of our poverty (Magaji, 2005).

Corruption is the latest blow of the poor. Through corruption the poor are denied basic necessities of life. Corruption in particular, denied the poor of education and health, thereby making the poor live in want, because they do not know what they want, where they want to go or what to do. Systematically, corruption promotes poverty, but the poor promotes corruption in Nigeria. In the whole of this universe, it is only in Nigeria that somebody who is amassing wealth through a dubious source is entitled to honours, traditional titles and respect of the poor. Hence the society in general and the poor in particular promotes corruption (Abdulsalami I 2006).

Corruption further stimulates the debt crisis. In a corrupt environment it is not clear whether the debt is actually secured, and properly invested to benefit the populace. It is also not clear whether the debt is being double serviced annually, or has been partially repaid not to the creditors, but to accounts of few corrupt officers. When corruption is severe it can equally not be ascertained whether the election we are conducting, the education we are receiving, the news we are hearing, and all the policies we are adopting are not also corrupted. This confusion guarantees poverty at all levels.

Macro-Economic Distortion: Poor macro-economic and monetary policies resulting in low economic growth rate and continuous slide in the value of naira, which depreciated, from N1.0 to #140 to $1.0 between 1986 to March 2001 in parallel market. In this respect for any poverty eradication/reduction to succeed government must ensure low inflation rate, low interest rate, stable national currency, and high Gross Domestic Product growth rate coupled with balance income. The Nigerian economy had experienced some changes

since independence, but as at today, it is still characteristically deistic and monolithic, depending on one primary product for over 90% of its exports as government revenue. The product is still narrow and weak.

After gaining political independence, Nigeria failed to recognize economic development machinery, which is the basis of poverty eradication. On the contrary, the country was divided along tribe's cleaver age, with the three major tribes trying to achieve supremacy over each other. This resulted in wars, lack of trust, disharmony and wanton destruction of life and properties. In fact, poverty in Nigeria today is a product of seeds sowed by tribalism in the past. Instead of Nigerians to use their differences to achieve economic development, they have been using the differences to achieve economic destruction.

In view of this, Gunner Myrdal observed that it is necessary for governments in the developing countries, to seek to improve levels of nutrition, housing, health, education and general culture; to equalize opportunities and increase social mobility; to extend and intensify participation of the people in local as well as national community affairs. Although, these may be regarded as non-economic goals, they are important means of attaining economic development. (Abdulsalami, 1998, p12).

2.2. CONCEPT OF POVERTY

Put more succinctly, poverty is said to exist when income or disposable resources are inadequate to support a minimum standard of living (Ravallion 1994). This was also referred to as primary. The income perspective of poverty definition distinguished between absolute poverty and relative poverty. While absolute poverty is indicative of an income level below which minimum standards of nutrition, shelter and personal amenities cannot be attained; relative poverty is concerned in terms of income inequality

within a stratified society. Relative poverty carries a connotation of inferiority, dependence or exploitation (Alemagiri, 1983; pp40-45).

The cultural perspective of poverty describes the internal attitudes and behaviour pattern that a person brings to any particular set of circumstances (World Seminar on poverty, cited in Watts 1976). Poverty however, is not a dissertate condition since both the economic and cultural aspects of poverty are interconnected.(Sen's,1987), definition of poverty as the lack of certain capabilities, such as being able to participate with dignity, in society, lends credence to the above assertion that poverty is a non-discrete condition. While the capabilities are absolute, the commodities needed are relative, in terms of both economic and social indicators, such as income, education, healthcare, access to food, social status, self-esteem and self -actualization, (Okon, 1998; pp 221-223).

Poverty may be seen as a reflection of glaring defects in the economy as evidenced in mass penury, pauperization of the working and professional class including artisans, mass unemployment and poor welfare services. It denotes absence or lack of basic necessities of life including material wealth, common place regular flow of wages and income and inability to sustain oneself based on existing resources available. In such a state, the means of achieving minimum subsistence, health, education, and comfort are absent (CBN, 1999; p30). That is why Greenwald and Associates defined poverty as a "condition in which income is insufficient to meet subsistence needs"

Similarly, Harry Johnson (1974) defined poverty as "a situation when the resources of individuals or families are inadequate to provide a socially acceptable standard of living" In other words; the individuals live below the conventional poverty line demarcating the poor from the non-poor. The German government in 1992, described poor people as "those who are unable to live a decent life". In line with the above definition, (FOS 1992;

p5), defined poverty as “not having enough to eat, a high rate of infant mortality, a low life expectancy, low educational opportunities, poor water, inadequate healthcare, unfit housing and lack of active participation in the decision making process” (Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development).

2.3 PERCEPTION OF POVERTY

The so-called ‘war on poverty which is being waged all over the world, especially in developing countries seems destined to be one of the longest wars in human history. To wage this war effectively, it is necessary that we are able to identify, define and describe poverty (Anyebe, 2004).

Even though Zweig (1948, p46) point out that it is easier to speak of poverty than to define it, a number of writers on a subject are attempted to define it. Looking at the economics of developing countries characterized by low income, low productivity or outputs leading to low savings and investments consequently there is shortage of capital for development leading to low income. This led Gunnar Myrdal to refer to this situation as visual circle of underdevelopment: “You are poor because you are poor” (Abdulsalami, 2005).

Sam Aluko (1975) defines poverty as “lack of command over basic consumption needs such as food, clothing, and or shelter” Such lack of resources to meet the basic needs incapacitates the individual in protecting himself against social, economic and political deprivations. Also Dons (1996), ASF Atoloye, (1997) and Englama and A. Bamedele (1997), define poverty as lack of basic necessities of life.

Based on these concepts, Anyanwu (1997), categorized the following as poor especially within the Nigerian context:

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

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

(c) People in isolated rural areas that lack essential infrastructures.

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

(e) Persons who have lost their jobs and those who are unable to find employment as a result of economic reform under Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) and those who are in danger of becoming the 'new poor', and

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

Poverty manifests itself in different forms depending on the nature and extent of human deprivation. When the minimum level of consumption to sustain human existence becomes important in distinguishing the poor from the non-poor, the unemployed and low income earners come readily as the stratum of poor households. It is more likely that this group may not have the capacity to provide the basic needs like food, clothing, housing, and transportation for themselves and their teeming dependants. This class of poor people spread across geopolitical divisions, Urban-rural and occupational categories.

Aboyade (1987) hold the view that there seems to be agreement that poverty is a difficult concept to handle, and that it is more easily recognized than defined. Thus, even though it is difficult to be specific about the minimum level of well being for the state of poverty, the poor in any given society usually stands out sufficiently, in terms of severe material deprivations for their wretched conditions to be immediately recognized.

He stated that, in absolute terms, insufficient total lack of necessities and families was food, housing, medical care, education, social and environmental services, consumer goods, recreational opportunities, neighborhood amenities and transport facilities are sufficient indicators of a state of poverty. Pursuing the argument that poverty is more of a relative condition of well being, he stated that people are poverty- stricken when their incomes, even if adequate for survival, fall radically behind that of the community average, they cannot have what the larger community regard as the minimum necessity of decency, and they cannot wholly escape therefore the judgment of the larger community that they are indecent. They are degraded, for in the literal sense, they live outside the grades or categories which the community regards as acceptable". In this conception, what is considered poverty level in one country may well be height of well being in another?

Poverty has income and non-income dimensions. While it refers to lack of physical necessities, it also represents a general condition of deprivation manifesting in social inferiority, powerlessness, isolation and degradation (CBN 1999). According to Abdullahi (1993), poverty may be structural or chronic. Permanent or chronic factor such as limited access to production resources, joblessness or endemic socio-political problems. Poverty may also by transitory or temporary and therefore reversible if it is caused by natural or man-made disaster such as flood, draught, war, environmental degradation or even failure of public policy.

The perception of poverty has therefore, broadened the focus beyond the ability of households to provide food for its members to include its ability and access to other basic social amenities, which impact positively on family welfare.

2.4. MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY

This is to measure 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 infrastructures 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 they are) and the distribution of poverty within a population.

According to Okoh (1998Pp221-222), 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 survey (school, health centers, market 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 survey in the various relevant sector of market agriculture and urban and rural caused of labour may provide rough estimates of income. Social indicator data may be obtained from sectoral ministries in the country, and from United Nation (UN) sources such as the World Bank; Economic and Social Data Base and Annual Publication and the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Setting or defining the poverty line, a tool for measuring poverty, is usually the starting point in poverty. 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.(Nkoh, 1998), 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 assess the position of an individual or household in companion 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, 1994Pp75-120).

Income based measures frequently used include GNP per capital, the purchasing power of real GDP per capital e.t.c. 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 poverty line for that country. Similarly, separate urban and rural poverty line, maybe 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 ratio may be derived.

However, poverty lines will necessarily differ from country to country depending on general price level, the tradable and non-tradable mix in basic needs, exchange rate e.t.c 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 N395. With per capital income of $240, Nigeria is one of the poor countries in the world inspite 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 (1999), 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 part 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, school, 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 is a situation, 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 citizen reached a peak value in 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 the non-poor. It has two aspects:- total household income and 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 base solely on income or consumption data (World Bank (1993). A study may define individual or multiple poverty and different economic or environmental conditions (Gillesple, 1990; Pp52: 1-59)

According to Abdullahi (1999), parameters such as income size and purchasing power can assess poverty at the level of 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 a main distinguishing factor between the developed (or rich) and developing (or poor) countries of the world. And that was the reason why all purposeful government continuously strives to improve and raise the standard of living of its people by providing adequate infrastructural facilities and social amenities.

2.5. CAUSES OF POVERTY

Poverty is of different kinds; this should be explained by theories of poverty. This is one of the major problems of theory. Gallbraith (1950) writes of three kinds of poverty; namely, generalized poverty, island poverty and case poverty. The first is the kind, which yield to the process of economic growth in which the average productivity of labour is increased. The latter two, in their view are mainly caused respectively by inability or unwillingness to move out of low income areas or regions and “some quality peculiar to the individual or family involve mental deficiency, bad health, inability to adopt to the

discipline of modern economic life, excessive procreation, alcohol, insufficient education, or perhaps a combination of several of these handicaps"…

For a developing country like Nigeria, it is clear that the three kinds of poverty that Gallbraith distinguished exist. Most common cause is the generalized poverty version for even with the most equitable distribution of income, poverty and case poverty abound in urban and rural areas of Nigeria and in discussing generally the causes of poverty, the distinction while useful is not overriding. Edozien (1975; Pp38-41:)

In his opinion, Harry Johnson (1996) divided the cause of poverty into three different groups:

(1) Those for whom the economy has failed to provide jobs, which are those who are willing and capable of earning an adequate income. If only jobs were available.

(2) Those who are unable to contribute adequately to the productive process as to warrant an income that would raise them above the poverty line and

(3) Those who have unequal opportunity to participate in the productive process as a result of discrimination with regard to sex, age, race, tribe and experience e.t.c. it might not be easy to fit the poor neatly into one or other of these categories, as such the distinctions are of little practical significance. Along with Galbraith's discussion, it however, serves the purpose of providing a useful background for discussions on causes of poverty and anti-poverty policies.

Different analysts from their individual perspectives have identified the causes of poverty. For instance, in the 1980s an English Industrialist described the position of the poor in Norway as follows:

> "There is no use trying to help these people. These dirty ignorant people are putting to many children into the world. They won't work they have no

> discipline. They misuse every opportunity they get; every time they get some money in their hands it all goes to drinking and senseless waste. All the help we give them is just an incentive to laziness and another opportunity to produce even more children (Burkey 1993:3)"

While this description of the poor may contain some element of truth, the root causes of poverty in developing countries including Nigeria, go beyond this simplistic assertion.

Johnson (1974) in his opinion also came up with two conceptual sources of poverty, namely

(a) The factors which make the number of individuals in the consuming unit (individual or family/household) large relative to the amount of productive services the unit is able to supply, and

(b) Those which make the value of the productive services the household can supply low relative to the household needs.

Under the first categories of factors, Johnson mentioned excessive family size in relation to income as an example. While the second obsolescence of acquired human skill, mental or physical incapacity and discrimination in terms of age, colour, race, or sex.

In his opinion Galbraith (1971) made cursory observation on the causes of poverty in three regions of the developing world. The sub-Sahara Africa, he ascribes poverty 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 the task of economic development. He observed that in this region "people with requisite education, training and honesty for performing public task are unavailable". Consequently taxes are collected in haphazard or arbitrary fashion and public funds are spent inefficiently or for no particular purpose except the reward of the recipients. He sees this situation as a potential source of

instability, as those who do not have access to public income will have a strong incentive to seek out those who do. Furthermore, he noted that law enforcement in sub-Saharan Africa was unreliable and essential public services, which exist, could not only make primitive local trade flourish with the attendant handicaps. But modern or technically advance corporate enterprises, which require more, demanding environment for the protection of their personnel and property cannot operate because their business cannot be transacted in the absence of (efficient) postal service, telephone, security and common carriers transportation.

In another vein, Burkey (1993), Iniodu (1997) summarize the root causes of poverty under four broad headings; environmental, social, economic and political. According to them a proper and realistic identification of the underlying causes of poverty is crucial for the design of effective poverty alleviation strategies that may break the vicious circle of deprivation and poverty.

Much attention has been given to studies on poverty in the Sub-Sahara Africa, which include Nigeria, by the international community in recent years, with the aim of identifying the sensitive factors and providing appropriate solution. The World Bank has been particularly active in this regard. Some of these studies include: “Take Action for Poverty Reduction in Sub-Sahara Africa (1996) and the Social Impact of Adjustment Operation”, (1995). The latter identified the causes of poverty as including; inadequate access to employment opportunities, inadequate physical assets, inadequate access to the means of supporting rural development in poor region, inadequate access to markets for goods and services that the poor can sell; low endowment of human capital, destruction of natural resources endowment, inadequate access to assistance for those living at the margin and those victimized by transitory poverty because of drought, floods, pests, and

war; inadequate participation of the poor in the design of development programmes; and poor maintenance culture or the failure to retain and maintain existing structures, leading to deterioration in rural, urban and highway roads and township slum and squalor.

The causes of poverty in Nigeria as enunciated by Lawrence Ohale (1998) can be summarized in two categories:

(i) Instability of certain key people in the family to get or hold steady well-paying job. This may be due to lack of expansion of productive activities in the economy and under capacity utilization due to excessive dependence on foreign inputs. Allied to the above is the lack of relevant education, skills or talents needed by the existing jobs; and

(ii) Economic forces and changes in labour requirement. For example, inflation reduces the quantity of goods and services a given income can purchase and leads to poverty intensification. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and the fiscal and monetary policies of the government including the exchange rate measure, have served to fuel inflation and worsen poverty situation in the country.

In a study carried out by Central Bank of Nigeria in collaboration with the World Bank 1999 tagged "Nigeria's development prospects; Poverty assessment and alleviation study (1999), they summarized the causes of poverty as follows: the stages of economic and Social development; low productivity; market imperfections, physical or environmental degradation, structural shift in the economy; inadequate commitment to programme implementation; political instability; and corruption.

The various causes of poverty highlighted above are prevalent in Nigeria and hence the problem is very serious, in spite of the country's vast resources. The causes are complex and the consequences often reinforce the causes, leading to further impoverishment.

In a nutshell, the incidence of poverty is still pervasive and significantly high. A large proportion of Nigerians lack access to basic necessities of life, a significant proportion of these Nigerians live a degrading life simply because of poverty. This is worrisome, given the fact that the country is one of the most endowed in terms of human, agricultural, and mineral resources and that from 1970 to1998, Nigeria earned a gross oil revenue of about 250billion dollars. Prudent and sincere management of these enormous capital resources could have made Nigeria an economically developed country with only minute traces of poverty among the people

2.6. APPROACHES TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION:

Why is Africa so poor? There are basically two lines of thinking in the 1950s and early 1960s focused mainly on stages of economic growth. The idea was that development could be seen as a series of successive stages of economic growth, through which all countries must pass. Africa is poor because is a necessary stage that she must go through. It is therefore argued that today's advanced nations have been the right mixture of savings, investment and foreign aid.

The second line of thought emphasizes external and internal institutional constraints on economic development. This approach often called "Structuralism" argues that African Countries are beset by a host of institutional and structural economic rigidities, apart from being caught up in the dependence and dominance relationship to rich countries. This group, led by Latin America economist, view poverty as a result of a dependence relationship in which one group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of others. What is needed, according to the structuralist are to emphasize the structural and institutional reform that would eradicate poverty, create jobs, reduce inequalities and bring about a rise in the standard of living of the people.

There is a third line of thinking that has emerged in the 1980s and 1990s. This new group looks at the reality on the ground and does not ask why Africa is so poor but rather what can be done to fight poverty in these nations. Foremost amongst this group is the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). The definition of poverty, the strategies to eradicate poverty, includes instituting a framework that permit the establishment and sustainability of good economic policies.

In practice, the problem with strategies is that there is a possibility that the benefits may lack sustainability. Furthermore, any redistribution of income from the non-poor to the poor may be at some cost, for instance it may result in a limitation on savings which may lead to retardation in economic growth (Onah, 1996).

The economic growth strategy is an indirect approach to poverty alleviation. It is aimed at achieving an untargeted general increase in incomes, which, it is believed; will invariably lift the average poor above the poverty line. In the short run, income distribution may be positively skewed, but the assumption is that in the long run, through trickle down effect, poverty reduction, both in absolute and relative sense, will be achieved. The approach is noted in the economic efficiency criterion and therefore has the possibility of sustainability. The growth strategy, according to Onah (1996) will take more than decades to achieve the intended objective; a period considered too long and therefore too expensive, a policy option to be adopted by any government. A conclusion reached by Demeny and Savire (1996) from their empirical evidence on African Countries, however, is that the apparent ineffectiveness of the adjustment programme in tackling poverty was due to poor policy implementation. They believe that effective reform programme will result in reducing overall poverty. It must however, be remarked in passing how policy reforms in Africa affects poverty. Even when they are properly

implemented, it will remain a subject of vigorous debate. (Oladeji, and Abiola,1998). Suffice it to say that discussion on the structural Adjustment Programmes in Africa have resulted in conclusion that they are incomplete mechanistic and of too short time perspective and are therefore, limited in scope in addressing human situation concerns, including improved income distribution and poverty reduction (Adedeji et al 1990).

In the World Development Report, 1990, (WDR), the World Bank identified four major measures to increase the income of the poor namely:

(a) Increasing the demand and therefore, the price for those factors of production that the poor own (e.g their own labour);

(b) Transferring physical assets such as land to the poor;

(c) Transferring current income to the poor through cash or food subsidies.

The above are aimed at utilizing the poor factors endowments for improved Income earning and in living standards. In its study taking action for Poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa" the World Bank emphasized the redistribution of wealth such that distrust, inequality, unrest, eventual civil war and the current pressure for political change may not be perpetuated and thereby save the society from social and political unrests that only retard development and result in retrogression. Measures recommended in that study for poverty alleviation include:- growth and development must move paripassau; distribution of the benefit of both, changing the pattern of growth, rural improvement, pursuit of accelerated and equitable distribution of growth.

> "In his opinion Chinsman (1977) holds that the contemporary growth progress in Nigeria does not hold many prospects for poverty alleviation… Nigeria has demonstrated that the hitherto held view that poverty could be tackled by raising general economic standard through the trickle down

> effect of economic growth is faulty…. It is now clear that there is little sense in maintaining growth while allowing the bulk of the population to remain impoverished, jobless, handicapped and excluded in the development process"…. (Chinsman, 1977:2).

This approach blends the growth promoters policy with the poverty focused strategies and is directed at bringing the poor into the main stream of the country's development process. The basic characteristics of the strategy as articulated by Awuwalia 1995 are as follows: -

(a) It is presumed that there is no trade -off between poverty and growth.

(b) The growth to be pursued should not just mean growth of any kind, but that growth process that increase the incomes of the average citizen including the poor.

(c) Employment generating growth should be pursued, supplemented by specific programmes aimed at increasing the earning capacity of certain targeting groups, notable the poor.

The targeting approach, which Nigeria has adopted over the years, involves changing the distribution of assets (in terms of land, physical and human capital) restricting production at the sectional level and labour market access and vulnerability. One of Nigeria's programmes using the targeting approach to poverty reduction is the national Directorate of Employment (NDE), which is aimed at generating adequate remunerative employment opportunity throughout Nigeria to raise both rural and urban income and reduce poverty.

Another programme geared toward the alleviation of poverty in Nigeria was Better Life Programme (BLP) for rural dwellers in general and rural women in particular. This programme was aimed at harnessing the creative energies of women for achievable

goals both as individuals and as groups. BLP's aim is to stimulate and motivate women in rural areas towards achieving a better and higher standard of living and thus improving and emulating family life (Awoseyila, 1990; Pp43). Later the Family Support Programme (FSP) succeeded BLP with little change in content and thrust. Also was the family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) aimed at boasting the productive capacity of rural areas by giving credit facilities to support the establishment of Cottage industries to raise their income and reduce poverty?

Despite the introduction of these programmes in Nigeria, poverty has continued to grow and the standard of living has continued to decline. Bardhan (1996) has argued that even when the State allocates a significant part of its budget for anti poverty programmes, often very little reaches the real poor. He argued that this anomaly occur because there is no organized pressure from the intended beneficiary- the poor and the programmes are administered by a distant, uncoordinated and corrupt bureaucracy which is unaccountable to the rural poor and insensitive to their needs. It appears that no anti poverty programmes can succeed without active and vigilant participation of the poor. Who must be empowered to demand the benefit of the programme as part of their minimum social and economic right Neither the market guided principle nor the State intervention has resulted in poverty reduction in Nigeria, and it has become necessary to adopt a new approach…. Called the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Iniodu (1997; P3:).

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) also known, as Participatory Rapid Appraisal Population or Participatory Development is the process by which beneficiaries take active and influential part in shaping decisions that affect their lives (Oda, 1995; P95). It is an intensive and semi-structured learning experience carried out in community by a multi-disciplinary team, which include the community members themselves. The Institute of

Development Studies (IDS, 1996) described PRA as….a family of approaches, method and behaviours that enables (poor) people to express and analyze the realities of their life and condition, to plan for themselves what action to take and to monitor and evaluate the result. (IDS, 1996).

The PRA provides the means of empowering the poor and enabling them to identify and analyze their problems and determine priorities. According to Oda (1995) the PRA approach promotes greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. For example, Agriculture under PRA system is;

(a) More efficient, because by involving the small holder's farmer a wider knowledge of poor that supports acceptable design and implementation is made available.

(b) More effective, because the farmers interest can easily be identified and addressed in the design.

(c) More sustainable, because farmers are encouraged and are free to apply their knowledge and take initiative.

All these are not limited to Agriculture but transcend all enterprise directed towards poverty reduction. The important element is the participation of the poor at all stages of the development process.

It is important to point out here that the effectiveness of participation and the benefit derived there, depend on the type and level of participation. Seven types of participation have been identified (Iniodu and Okoji, 1996, Burkey 1993): they are interactive participation, passive participation, functional participation, self mobilization, participation in information giving, participation by consultation and participation by material incentives. Only two of these, are relevant in the decision because their inclusion

in decision-making is critical in determining project effectiveness, community empowerment and the strength of local organization and institution (Iniodu, 1997; p306).

In conclusion, it is important to reiterate that top-down planning and poverty reduction strategies adopted in Nigeria since independence appear to have increased poverty in the country instead of reducing it. This, therefore, makes a bottom-up poverty reduction strategy in which the poor themselves must be involved, as matter of urgent necessity. Once the poor become aware that trust is placed in them, they would begin to assume responsibility. The essence of participation is found in an observation that when people feel that they have the freedom to think, act and relate to each other they take on a lot of responsibility.

2.7. THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

Theoretical framework is the lens through which political phenomena is viewed. In this study the 'Elite theory' is adopted. Administrators usually prefer to think of themselves as "men of action" perhaps they are. Elite theory posits that public policy are conceptualize as policy output which reflect only the preference of the governing elite rather than those of the general citizens (masses) (Dye, 1975).

This theory suggests that the people are apathetic and ill informed about public policy, that elite actually shape masses opinion on policy questions more than masses shape elite opinion. Public officials and administrators merely carry out the policies decided upon by the elite.

This could also mean that the structure of political power in the society determines the extent and distribution of poverty among the population. We considered elite necessary because poverty is seen as a necessary features of any situation in which

the few possesses so much political power that they can organize the economic system to their own interest and that poverty will remain prevalent for as long as there is no effective pressure from bellow (masses) to restructure the distribution of political power in society in favour of the many. This theory seems good for explaining much of what is happening in Less Developed Countries (LCDs) like Nigeria. The 'Elite theory' as applied to this study decode a situation where one look at poverty situation in Nigeria in terms of widening in the gap of affluence (rich getting richer, poor getting poorer). The implication of this elite theory is that it does not reflect the demand of the people so much as it does in the interests and values of elites

In the first case Nigeria is poor not because it is a poor country, Nigeria is very rich country, which is blessed with both human and material resources. Nigeria has earned more than two hundred and fifty million dollars ($250m), considering that huge amount every Nigerian's supposed to live as rich men. But irony is the case, few continue to become rich and majority continues to be impoverished the more.

The few who have access to the resources of the country have continued to enrich themselves and other cohorts to the detriment of generality of the populace. It is unfortunate that the bulk of wealth of this country is in the hands of those who do not know the value of investing in their countries. (Abdulsalami, 2005). One wonder why a county like Nigeria, where many cannot afford three square meals a day, few have billion of Naira in their local and foreign account. Even if there is any effort to assist the poor through poverty alleviation programme, such assistance hardly reaches the targeted poor. The few who are in possession of power will still hijack it for their own selfish interest. Any attempt to challenge the status quo is seen as an attempt to overthrow or sabotage the government efforts. Those few in possession of power have continued to organize the

system in such a way that it will continue to favour them, capitalizing on the week economic system to perpetually enrich themselves, their family and their cohorts.

On this note, the poor who are the majority lack the means (will power) to fight or to restructure the system to their own advantage, as well as lack the revolutionary consciousness to resist the elite. This explains the reality of poverty alleviation effort in Nigeria.

A critical look at this theory reveals that elite theory best explains poverty in Nigeria in the midst of plenty.

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CHAPTER THREE

HISTORY, OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NAPEP IN CHIKUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

3.1 HISTORY:

Poverty is one of the most serious problems in Nigeria today. Nigeria is known to be one of the most richly endowed countries of the third world. Its poverty thus stands in contrast with its abundant resources endowment. The average Nigeria can be likened to someone struggling to wash his hands with spittle in the middle of the ocean.

Though successive past governments in Nigeria have demonstrated their commitment in reducing poverty, yet there was no much success. His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, on assuming office as President of this Country was quick to observe the multiplicity of poverty reduction institutions in this country, at the time, the Federal government had 17 core Ministries in addition to about 30 core Parastatals with Poverty reduction related mandates. After considering the Ahmed Joda Panel Report 1999 and Professor Ango Abdullahi Committee Report 2000. And as a result of multidimensional nature of poverty eradication programme in Nigeria and the need to coordinate the activities of the Ministries and Agencies, ensure policy continuity and sustainability of all programmes, a council was established: the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC), which is to ensure that the wide ranges of activities are: centrally planned, coordinated and complementary to one another so that the objectives of the programme are achieved.

This state of affairs informed the need to establish National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as central coordinating, monitoring and intervening body for all poverty reduction effort of government. NAPEP is specifically mandated to coordinate,

intervened institutional activities of the various arms of Government; duplication of function, unhealthy and counterproductive rivalries; haphazard implementation of poorly conceived projects; waste of public funds among others. These include areas that have long been neglected. (Abdullihi, 2002)

3.2 OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF NAPEP

An important objective of NAPEP is to eradicate extreme poverty by the year 2010, generally in line with United Nations Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halfing the proportion of people living in poverty by the year 2015. The programme is designed to implement policies on poverty eradication as formulated by NAPEP. (Abdullihi, 2002)

The major functions of NAPEP are to ensure that all activities and programmes of poverty alleviation institution, agencies and programmes are to ensure effective coordination of all poverty reduction efforts at the Federal, State and Local Government Areas throughout the Federation.

In order to achieve its objectives, NAPEP designed the following schemes:-

i. Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)

ii. Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS)

iii. Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS)

iv. Natural Resources Development and Conservation Schemes (NRDCS)

v. Capacity Enhancement Scheme (CES)

vi. Community Enlightenment and Sensitization Scheme (COMESS)

3.2.1 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SCHEME (YES)

The YES deals with opportunities for training, skills acquisition, empowerment opportunities, and wealth creation to enhance income generation, improve social status

and rural development. YES, is targeted at helping to address the problem of unemployment among the youth of Nigeria. YES does this through the following:-

Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) and Credit Delivery Programme (CDP). (www.napep.com)

The capacity acquisition programme is designed to enable youths acquire skills with which they can establish business of their own. Start up funding for this programme is provided by NAPEP upon acquisition of requisite skills. Participants are logically attached to public or private, practical and hands-on training centres for limited period of three to six months depending on their trade of interest. To facilitate participation, each participant shall be paid N3, 500 allowance per month for the duration of training.

The Mandatory Attachment Programmes (MAP) is a long-term work experience acquisition and training programme only for graduates of tertiary institution who have successfully completed the mandatory NYSC programme. Participants are attached to businesses and Manufacturing Companies, Organization and Construction Companies, Banks and other financial Institutions, for a period of two years. Funding for this programme is a shared responsibility between partners, employers and NAPEP. (www.napep.com)

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

The main targets of YES are:-

i. Job creation and employment opportunities (NDE)

ii. Enterprises Development and Promotion (SMIDA)

iii. Youth participation in Housing Schemes (FMB)

iv. Establishment of youth centres.

For effective coordination and implementation of the various programme of YES, all the training programmes of the myriad of public establishment having direct bearing on poverty reduction, shall be registered and coordinated by NAPEP. NAPEP shall prepare their mode of operation in connection with relevant agencies of Agriculture, Communication, Sciences and Technology, Industries, Solid Minerals, Power and Steel, Work and Housing, Water Resources and Petroleum Resources.

These agencies shall in turn prepare their respective training programmes in line with NAPEP's modules.

3.2.2 RURAL INFRASTRUCTURES DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (RIDS)

The following infrastructure are to be considered paramount in the effort of government to better the lot of citizenry; such as transportation, housing, water supply, power supply, communications, land and farm development and others. Each implementing agency is strengthened to actualize the scope of the RIDS. The scope of RIDS include:-

i. Rural energy and Power supply

ii. Portable and irrigation Water

iii. Transportation (Urban and Rural

iv. Rural Communication; and

v. Development of Waterways and jetties

The mandates of RIDS shall include the following:

i. Rural electrification

ii. Rural energy supply

iii. Rural Water Supply

iv. Rural Feeder roads

v. Development of Waterways and Jetties

The widest and most popular means of transportation in Nigeria is by road. Haulage and Machinery and materials are undertaken largely by road. Personnel also move mostly by road. It is therefore not surprising that there is always a causal effect of road, ill health on the movement of raw materials and the eventual prices of the finished products. Most valuable raw materials are not properly harnessed because of their non-existence or bad roads. (www.napep.com)

In order to effectively coordinate the efforts of government and the private sector in the development and maintenance of roads and other public infrastructure, a new agency under the Ministry of works and housing has been be established.

The target by the year 2003 includes:

- Access to safe water (urban) - 85%
- Access to safe Water (Rural) - 50%
- All State capital to be fully linked to the National grid by 2003
- Rural electrification rate to increase from current 30% to 50% by 2003
- Every L.G.A to have a desk office for Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme (PEP).
- At least 30% of all new houses in rural area to be constructed with more modern and improved materials.

3.2.3 SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE SCHEME (SOWESS)

This scheme is designed to promote projects that improve the social and personal well being of Nigerians. Under this programme, NAPEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Social

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has established several community skills, development centres (CSDC), for conflict prevention management and skills acquisition. (www.napep.com)

The mandate of SOWESS shall include:

i. Provide, develop and sustain quality informal education and literacy classes;

ii. Provide, develop and sustain health care delivery services.

iii. Design and rehabilitation programmes for destitute and the disabled.

iv. Establish public enlightenment campaign entertainment programmes.

v. Develop parks, gardens and communal recreation centres.

vi. Develop inter-communal parks, markets, motels and rural housing schemes;

vii. Coordinate and control the activities of NGO's;

viii. Establish and enforce environmental protection practices;

ix. Provide other social services, such as credit delivery for all groups of citizens;

x. Development of rural communications facilities; and

xi. Development of maintenance culture for rural infrastructural facilities.

3.2.4 NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION SCHEME (NRDCS)

Designed to perform the functions below:

i. Improve direct participation in the exploitation of all mineral resources;

ii. Development of water resources to amplify benefits;

iii. Protections of environment from natural disasters, wastages and pollution;

vi. Effective management of industrial and domestic waste;

v. Reclamation of Land and Water resources;

vi. Development of Marine and aqua culture resources;

vii. Increase the rate and scale of beneficial local participation; and

viii. Improvement of indigenous methods and techniques for sustainable resources development and utilization;

ix. Enhancing safety of the immediate community operators and the environment;

x. Development of appropriate and compatible environmental protection methods; and

xi. Grazing reserves and water points for livestock.

NRDCS deals with the harnessing of the agricultural, water and solid minerals resources, conservation of land and space (beaches, reclaimed land etc) particularly for the convenient and effective utilization by small-scale operators and the immediate community.

3.2.5 CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEMES (CES)

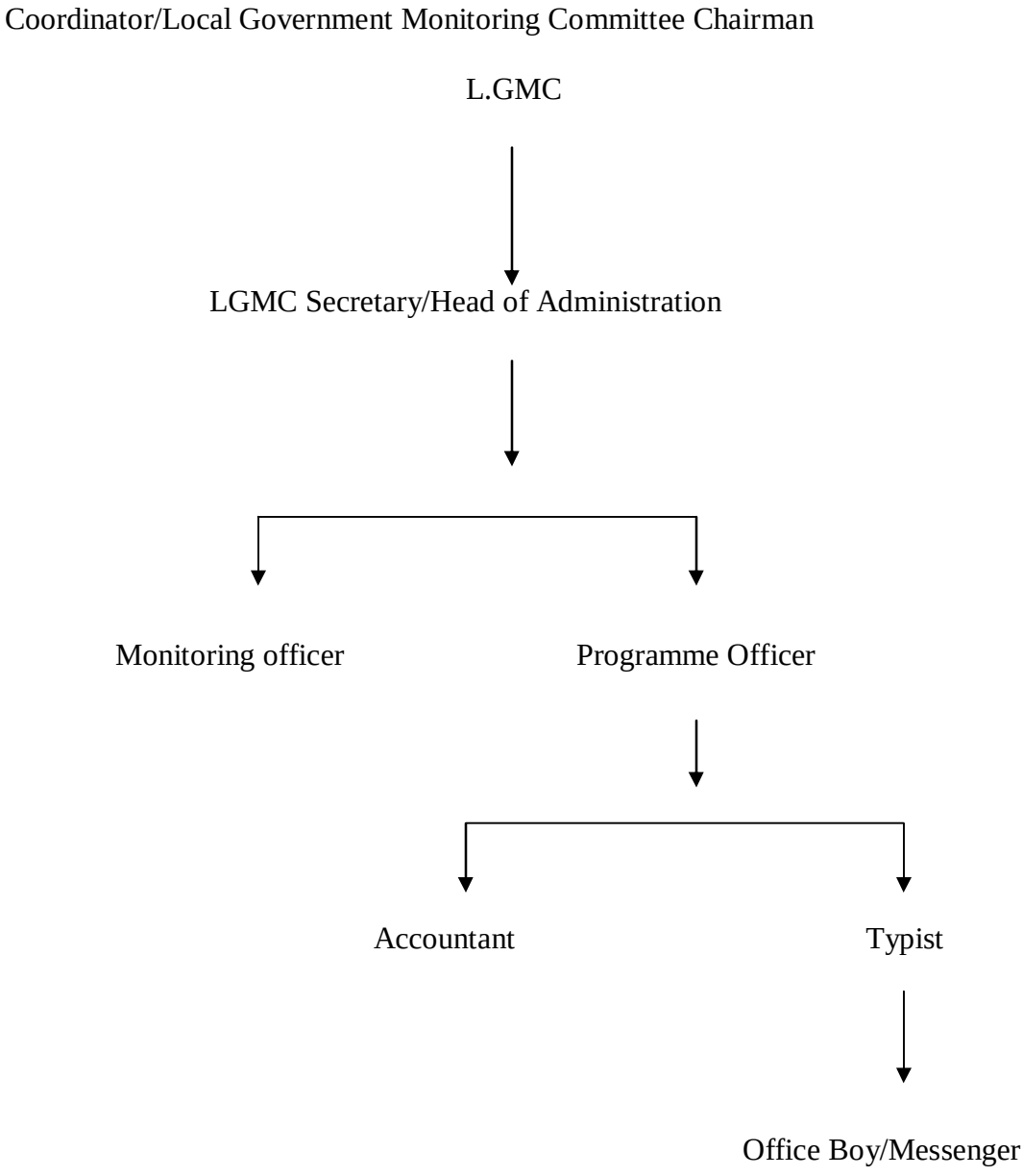
This scheme is designed for people who have basic skills, but need additional resources to avoid poverty and ensure wealth creation. Through CES, beneficiaries are provided with credit, information and tools/equipment needed for their trade, occupation or businesses.

In line with this, micro-credit programmes are planned to assist small businesses through the provision of fund for market and business development. Much of the financial support in this programme is through selected Micro Finance Institutions (MFI's) and Community Banks. (www.napep.com)

In the Keke-NAPEP programme, a beneficiary purchases at a significant discount a 3-wheel passenger vehicle, which he or she must operate for business. They will attend series of seminars and workshops required by NAPEP to strengthen their capacity in the ownership, operation and management of a small-scale transport enterprise.

In line with this, Kaduna State Government under SPAP is also involved in the distribution of buses and distribution of motorcycles to civil servants on loan bases.

3.3. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF NAPEP AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL.



Source: SPAP Secretariat, Chikun Local Government Area

3.3.1 FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS

i. Coordinator/Chairman: He coordinates and monitors the programme and is answerable to the State Chairman of the Coordinating Committee.

ii. Secretary/Head of Administration: Heads and is in charge of all staff of the Secretariat.

iii. Programme Officers: Sources out participants, training centres and makes sure strategies are adhered to.

iv. Monitoring Officer: This officer ensures that the participants are actively participating and objectives are attained.

v. Accountants: Take care of and in charge of every income (in cash and kind) and prompt payments are well handled.

3.3.2 SOURCES OF FINANCE FOR NAPEP

The overall target of Federal Government of Nigeria is eradication of absolute poverty to meet Millennium Development Goals. This means that all Nigerians will have access to good things of life for human survival. These include potable water, food, clothing, shelter, primary healthcare, education, recreations, etc.

On this ground, government budget allocation is assigned to poverty alleviation Ministries and Agencies through Poverty Eradication Fund (PEF), which was established in 2002 and administered by National Poverty Eradication Council chaired by the. President.(Abdullahi, 2002)

3.4 DIFFICULTIES OF NAPEP

The major objectives of NAPEP is to ensure a well coordinated and monitored poverty eradication efforts by the Federal Government. To facilitate this, NAPEP is confronted with lots of difficulty, some of which are the poor policy formulation and

coordination, absence of effective collaboration and complementation among the three tiers of government, lack of involvement of traditional rulers, duplication of functions among institutions and agencies, absence of policy frame work, institutional frame work and delivery machinery and also absence of target setting for Ministries, Agencies and Programmes.

Some other problems are the capacities of the State and Local government Areas offices of the Ministries in processing required data are weak. And lack of facilities and logistics to transport monitoring staff to visit project site, at the wards and villages,(Abdullahi 2000).

3.5. BRIEF HISTORY OF CHIKUN L.G.AREA

In modern time, owing to the popular demand of the masses, the Federal Military government decided to create more Local Government Areas, so as to draw the Government closer to the people and enhance popular participation in decision-making. Local government has been created by different military regime. In 1989, Chikun Local Government Area was created by the then military regime out of the defunct Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Local Government as the third tier of government is essentially created for the purpose of grass root development. As a result the present Chikun L.G.A is one of the Local Governments created in 1989 out of the defunct Kachia Local Government Area (office information). The administration headquarters is situated at Kujama.

According to the 1991 population census (provisional result) Chikun Local Government Areas has a provisional population of Two hundred and Ninety-eight thousand and two (298,002) (1991 census figure) and a land area of about 4456sq/kms. The local

government is bounded in the North West Niger State, in the North, Igabi and Kaduna North Local Government, in the Southeast KajuruLlocal Government Area.

The geographical location is between latitude 10^{o} North and 8^{o} East. It is situated in the Northern Guinea Savannah Zone. It is pre-dominantly Gbagyi, We also have Hausa/Fulani, Kataf, Igbo, Jaba, Yoruba etc. The religions are Christianity, Islam, and traditional religion. (Information from Chikun Local Government Council).

3.5.1 TOWNS AND POLITICAL DIVISION OF CHIKUN L.G.AREA

The local government is made up of thirteen (13) District Areas with one major Traditional ruler Sir, Gbagyi (Chief of Gbagyi's). It also has 13 political wards. The thirteen districts are namely:-

i. Kujama

ii. Nassarawa

iii. Gwagwada

iv. Kakau

v. Matagyi

vi. Buruku

vii. Kasaya

viii. Chikun

ix Narayi

x. Television

xi. Kuriga

xii. Kamazo

xiii. Gayan

(Information from Chikun L G Council)

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CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4. 1. INTRODUCTION:

In this chapter we shall examine testing of the formulated hypotheses of this study with data obtained from primary and secondary sources. This involves the transformations of data collected from the field through classifications and tabulations. This chapter is very essential in research process, which gives focus on revealing the extent of data collection from the field to support or disprove a particular line of thinking. In this view, this chapter is classified into six section; introduction, review of Local Government Council Projects, Questionnaire Administration, testing of hypothesis one, testing of Hypothesis two.

4.2 CHIKUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS THAT TOUCHES LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE;

At various times Chikun Local Government Council has involved itself in Some project to alleviate the suffering of the people. Some of these projects are viewed as follows: -

Health: Upgrading equipment of Kuriga Clinic, Buruku Clinic, Gadani Clinic and Chikun Clinic, as well as the construction of Dutse Dispensary.Construction of public toilet at Ungwa Sunday market.

Water: Boreholes were rehabilitated and has put back state owned Semi-Urban water project, which was vandalized at Kujama.

Education: Common entrance fees were paid for 800 pupils who sat for the last examination. The Local Government is involved in scholarship scheme for student admitted into tertiary institutions.

Rural Electrification: Provision of its part of financial contribution in the tripartite rural electrification of project at Ungwar Romi that has been successfully been completion.

Agriculture: The local government buys fertilizer and sells at subsidized rate to farmers. Also buys and shares grains and resell to the public at subsidized rate (Office information document).

In view of these above it was observed that Chikun Local Government council has put in little effort in addressing poverty situation in the Local Government Area. Due to the fact that the Local Government open up rural areas to increase economic activities to meet the lots of the peoples as well as bringing government nearer to the people and owning to the huge amount the Local Government council has allocated to the programmes, it is observe that only few youth have benefited from it. This means that distribution of these resources has been haphazardly implemented.

4.3 **QUESTIONNAIRES ADMINISTRATION ANALYSIS;** This section deals with analysis of questionnaires that were designed for the study and administer as they relates to Age distribution, Education qualification, population and sample, and rate of returns or responses.

4.3.1 **Age Distribution**: The age distribution of the respondents as revealed in the questionnaires indicate that age ranges between 21 to 30, 31 – 40 constitute 35 percent respondents each, while the age below 20 and above 40 constitute 1. 47 percent and 18.53 percent respondents respectively. This indicates that NAPEP training skill acquisition programme is focused on the youth who logically form the bulk of the unemployed

4.3.2 **Educational Qualification;** This questionnaires indicate that about 35 .59 percent possesses school certification while 27.94 and 20.88 percent are OND/NCE holders and HND/Bsc holders respectively while 15.59 percent posses other qualification. This

reveals that the secondary OND/NCE school leavers constitute the bulk of beneficiaries of NAPEP in Chikun Local Government Area.

4.3.3 **Population and sample**; Chikun L.G.A is made up of thirteen (13) district areas or towns, four (4) towns were randomly selected to represent the population of area under study. The population of the four (4) towns is based on the 1991 population census figures given as 91, 692. The four (4) areas are classified as Kujama, Television, Gwagwada and Gayan. The sample size of the study is 340. The sample drawn from each of the town is a function of the ratio of town population to the total of the four (4) towns multiplied by the total size. Below is the presentation for ease apprehension

Towns	**Population**	**Sample size**
Kujama	24, 812	24, 812/91693 x 340 = 92
Television	21, 575	21, 575/91693 x 340 = 80
Gwagwada	24, 271	24, 271/91693 x 340 = 90
Gayan	21, 035	21, 035/91693 x 340 = 78
Total	91,693	340

Sources:Authors survey, (2006)

4.3.4 Rate of Returns or Responses. These show the relationship between the number of questionnaires administered and number retrieved/returned on the other hand and the numbers of a questionnaires administered and the numbers actually dully completed among those retrieved.

The rate of returns is calculated from Table 4.3.1

Determination of Rate of returns/Responses

Towns	No. of Questionnaires Administered	No. of Questionnaires Retrieved	No. of Questionnaires completed
Kujama	92	85	83
Television	80	70	68
Gwagwada	90	75	73
Gayan	98	70	68
Total	340	300	292

Sources Authors survey, (2006)

$$\text{Rate of return} = \frac{\text{Total No. of Quest. Returned}}{\text{Total No. of Quest. Administered}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

$$= \frac{300}{340} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{300}{34} = 88.2\%$$

$$\text{Rate of Response} = \frac{\text{Total No. of Quest completed}}{\text{Total No. Quest Administered}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

$$= \frac{292}{340} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{2920}{34} = 85.9\%$$

From the table 4.3.1 above and the calculation of the rate of returns, the rate of returns is 88.2 percent. Out of the 340 questionnaires administered on the respondent 300 were retrieved. This differs a little from the rate of returns, out of the 300 returned about eight (8) of them were not dully completed. As can be seen there is inappropriate completion of questionnaires. By implication some of this people are not educated and stand to cause obstacles to issue in the questionnaires.

4.4. TEST OF HYPOTHESIS ONE

One of the major variables that is important to the economy of a nation is employment. It can be stated that the level of employment existing in an economy is a measure of the stability, progress and development of society. This is imperative considering the fact that employment is a means to an end. To an individual, the end of employment is income, which enhances standard of living.

Apparently in line with the foregoing NAPEP designed youth employment scheme (yes) focusing primarily on the provision of training opportunities, skill acquisition, employment opportunities, wealth creation to enhance income generation, improved social status and rural development (NAPEP, 2001).

These informed the formulation of Hypothesis one (1) thus; that level of youth economic empowerment will reduce poverty situation and improve standard of living of the youth in Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna State

To determine youth economic empowerment in testing hypothesis one, the opinion of respondents shall be sought and obtained via questionnaires.

4.4.1. **Economic Empowerment of the youths**;

The purpose of empowerment is income generation, which insulate the earner from economic deprivation and lacks. However, as result respondents were asked whether they have been economically empowered by virtue of employment creation and economic empowerment programmes and the out come is presented in table 4.4.1 below.

Table 4.4.1. Respondents' reaction on their economic empowerment through Employment provided by NAPEP programmes

Response	**No. of Respondent**	**% of total**
Yes	195	66. 8
No	80	27. 4
Undecided	17	5. 8
Total	292	100

Source Author's Survey, (2006)

The above table reveals that 66 .8 percent of the respondents believed that they have been economically empowered via the employment provided through NAPEP programmes while 27. 4 percent held contrary view and only 5. 8 percent were indecisive. In view of this, majority with positive response advanced their capacity to meet basic necessities of life which were impossible while those with contrary view still live very poor

Table 4.4.2 **Level of patronage;**

In any organization or business, there is always patronage without which it cannot empower individuals economically. Were there is no patronages it may be as a result of

inappropriate skill, high services cost prices, poor economic condition of the supposed customers and so no. These questionnaires that sought and obtained respondents opinion in this regard have the result shows in Table 4.4.2 below.

Table 4.2 Level of patronage as held by respondents

Level of patronage	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
Excellent	18	6. 2
Very good	60	20. 5
Good	180	61. 6
Fair	20	6. 9
Poor	14	4. 8
Total	292	100

Source: Author's Survey, (2006)

Table 4.4.2 shows that 6.2 percent, 20.5 percent and 61.6 percent of the respondents saw their level of patronage as excellent, very good and good respectively. Also 6.9 percent and 4.8 percent pitched their tent with fair and poor respectively. It is apparent that those in favour of excellent, very good and good constitute about 88.3 percent of the respondents. By implication the beneficiaries enjoys good patronage

4.4.3 **Job Satisfaction**;

Some occupations are regarded as exclusively preserved of dropouts and never –do-wells. This could dampen the interest and reduce the productivity of those in the occupation. The respondent quizzed on this outcome is show in Table 4.4.3 below.

Table 4.4.3 View of the Respondents whether they are satisfied with Job Status.

Responses	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
Yes	202	69. 2
No	30	10. 3
Undecided	60	20. 5
Total	292	100

Source Author's Survey, (2006)

As we have seen on the table 4.4.3 above 69. 2 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the job status while a small portion of 10. 3 percent hold contrary view.

About 20.5 percent were however indecisive in this direction meaning respondents are satisfied with job status

Table 4.4.4 **Provision of Tools and Financial Support by NAPEP to the Beneficiaries on Completion of their Training**;

It is imperative to provide necessary tools and financial assistance to beneficiaries on completion of training to enable then practice their skill so as to enhance their economic empowerment. This could help to attain the aim of the programmes. The respondents view in this regard in seen **in** Table 4.4.4 below

Table 4.4.4 Respondents reaction on provision of necessary tools or financial support on completion of training

Responses	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
Yes	290	99. 3
No	-	-
Undecided	2	0. 7
Total	292	100

Sources: Authors survey, (2006).

Table 4.4.4 above shows that almost all the respondent agreed that necessary tools or financial support was provided for them on completion of their training which enable then to start practicing their training. Only 0. 7 percent were indecisive

4.4.5 **NAPEP and Provision of Adequate Technical Skill and Training**. Technical skills and training cannot be overemphasized in employment generation sand economic empowerment. This leads to income earning and enhance micro-economic indicators. The respondents views on whether, NAPEP has provided them with adequate technical skill and training is presented in table 4.4.5 below

Table 4.4.5 Respondents views on provision of Adequate Technical skills and Training.

Responses	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
Yes	190	65. 1
No	80	27. 4
Undecided	20	7. 5
Total	292	100

Source Author's Survey, (2006)

Table 4.4.5 indicates that 65. 1 percent of the respondents were of the view that they have been provided with adequate technical skills and training while 27. 4 percent held contrary view. Also only 7. 5 percent were indecisive in this regard.

Analyses above relating to hypothesis one of this study reveal that the beneficiaries of NAPEP employment generation programmes have been equipped with necessary skills and economic empowerment. About 65. 1 percent of the respondents proved that they have been provided with adequate technical skills and training, (Table 4.4.5) which all the rest respondents (almost 100 percent) affirmed that they were provided with necessary tools and training assistance at the completion of their training (Table 4.4.4) which enable then to start practicing their acquired training skills.

In view of the patronage the responses were severally skimmed in favour of excellent, very good, and good which constitute 88.3 percent of the respondents (Table 4.4.2). In a similar vein, 66. 8 percent of the respondents affirmed that they have been economically empowered (Table 4.4.1) supporting their view with their ability to meet their basic needs and financial independence. The respondents on the average, rated NAPEP in the foregoing therefore, validate that Hypothesis one confirmed that level of youths economic empowerment reduces poverty and improve living standard of the youths in Chikun Local Government Area.

4.5. TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS TWO

It is a fact that implementation of NAPEP programmes is a major variable in this research study.Government Institutions both in Federal, State, and Local level play the primary function in the process of implementation. And the success of the programme is determine by successful implementation, this logically informed the formation of Hypothesis two thus; that the adequate equipment of the institutions and qualified manpower for training will affect the youth positively in Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna State.

In other to test the above hypothesis respondents were requested to react to question bordering on NAPEP programmes. Many of the questions were answered by checking one position on a three point scale, that is yes, no or undecided.

4.5.1 Functional NAPEP office in each Local Areas.

NAPEP office in Local Government Area cannot be overemphasized in implementation of NAPEP Policies/Programmes. This leads to efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes. The respondents view whether there is functional NAPEP office in Chikun Local Government Area is presented in Table 4.5.1 below;

Table 4.5.1 Respondents view on functional NAPEP office in Chikun Local Government Area

Responses	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
Yes	202	89. 0
No	30	6. 9
Undecided	60	20. 5
Total	292	100

Source: Authors survey, (2006). As we can see on the table 4.5.1 above 89.0 percent said that have functional NAPEP office in their council. While 6.9 percent were indifferent only 4.1 percent were indecisive meaning. There is a functional office of NAPEP in their local government council.

4.5.2. Allocation Of Budget.

Finance is a major factor in the implementation of NAPEP policies/programmes. These depend on government allocation alone and it ensures success of the programme. The respondents view was sought to know whether the government at all levels have been doing well in budget allocation. This is presented in table 4.5.2 below

Responses	**No. Of Respondents**	**C/o of Total**
Yes	290	99.3
No	-	-
Undecided	2	0.7
Total	292	100

Source: Authors survey, (2006)

Respondents' view in table 4.5.2 indicates that 99.3 percent reveals that government at all levels gives budget allocation on the study under review. Only 0.7 percent was indecisive. This show that institutions has been receiving financial support from the government

4.5.2 **Release of funds to the stakeholders (Trainers and NAPEP officials**).

NAPEP officials and trainers cannot be effective without adequate financial support from the government. They need to pay the trainees to motivate them. On the bases of this respondents view was sough to know whether fund is release to them adequately. This is presented in table 4.5.3 below

Table 4.5.3 Respondents views on whether there is adequate release of fund to the NAPEP officials and trainers

Responses	**No of respondents**	**% of total**
Yes	90	30.8
No	170	58.2
Undecided	32	110.0
Total	292	100

Source: Authors survey, (2006)

Table 4.5.3 indicates that about 30.8 percent were of the view that only small amount of fund is released for them. 58.2 percent gave contrary view, indicating that funds are not release adequately. And only 11 percent were indecisive.

4.5.4 Efficiency of the trainers

Qualified trainers are vital instrument in the achievement of the objectives of NAPEP. They will help to impact good knowledge to the beneficiaries. The respondents were sought on this important and the outcome is shown in table 4.5.4 below

Responses	**No of respondents**	**% of Total**
Yes	200	68.5
No	80	27.4
Indecisive	12	4.1
Total	292	100

Source: Authors survey, (2006)

Table 4.5.4 above shows that 68.5 percent of the trainers are very effective. Only 27.4 show a contrary view, while 4.1 percent were indecisive. This indicates that they have qualified trainers.

4.5.5 Level Employment Generation Activities of NAPEP

The respondents were fundamentally requested to identify level employment generation activities of NAPEP in their area. The respondents view in this regard is seen in table 4.5.5 below

Responses	**No. of Respondents**	**% of Total**
High	30	10. 1
Low	100	1034. 2
Poor	162	55. 5
Total	292	100

Sources: Author's Survey, (2006)

Table 4.5.5 above shows that 10.3 percent and 55.5 percent shows that level of employment is nothing to right how student. This indicates that it is only few that are beneficiaries of the programme.

Analysis on test of hypothesis two above reveals that 89 percent were of the view that functional NAPEP office is cited in their local government council. This indicates that their level of awareness is very high. 99.3 percent equally reveals that a very good amount of budget allocation is pump into this programme to ensure full implementation of the programme. But it is on record in table 4.5.3 that the release of fund to facilitate the programme has not been fair. 58.2 percent indicates that release of fund to the trainers has been very poor. These have affected the programme considerably. Also table 4 .5.4 reveals that 68.5 percent of the trainers work on their compassionate ground despite release of funds. These also have affected the levels of employment generation in the area under study indicating only few beneficiaries.

The non-beneficiaries are willing to be part of these programmes unfortunately they don't have access to then. This is because of the level of economic empowerment of the beneficiaries.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND MAJOR FINDINGS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

The impact of the programmes of (NAPEP) has been assessed and as a result summary, major findings, conclusion and recommendations will be as follows;

5.1 SUMMARY:

Well, it is often posited that past government in Nigeria cannot be said to be oblivious of the depth of poverty in our midst as some programmes were initiated to better the lots of citizenry. Such palliative programmes could not meet its targets. None of them "lofty" programmes could survive the intricacies of corruption and bureaucracy red-tapism inherent in both public and private sector, and as such could not make any meaningful impact on the lives of the rural dwellers.

The consequence of these, prompted President Olusegun Obasanjo at the assumption of office in 1999 to set up National Poverty Eradication Programme to take care of multiplicity of Poverty reduction institutions and agencies in the country, to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target come 2015.

In Chikun Local Government Area, programme of the Federal Government has commenced but in stage by stages and in little way is having impact on individual especially the youth and gradually extending to the whole communities. Also everyone is watching and observing with keen interest how government-implementing officers handle government efforts.

From the research survey the grass roots that is mostly affected by Poverty Syndrome is left out in the Scheme of affairs because most of these programmes are concentrated in

urban areas. The beneficiaries also can be said to be grateful and wish that all were done to at least maintain the present effort in place.

The non-beneficiaries are willing to participate but do not have the opportunity. It is interesting to note that money is not the major motivator for participation in the programme, but their desire to have new skills that would make them self-reliant in future and probably raise them to the level of employers of labour.

Conclusively therefore the government is commended for its effort and should endeavour to be more committed financially.

5.2 MAJOR FINDINGS

a. The programme is being implemented step by step, that is a Scheme at a time; Youth Empowerment Scheme was first implemented. Rural Infrastructures Development Scheme follows. In this case it means that it will take some years before the four Schemes of the programme will be fully implemented.

b. It was found that NAPEP through their programmes, which are employment generation scheme of NAPEP, has not generated significant level of employment in the area under investigation. This situation derives from the rather small numbers of beneficiaries of the employment generation activities of NAPEP in their programme only 600 beneficiaries out of the population of 91693 are found. Though the beneficiaries are very low, they have been empowered economically. This view was supported by their financial independence and basic needs. It is a fact that government is doing well in budget allocation to the budget allocation to the poverty alleviation. But the funds are not adequately release to meet the purpose, which it was allocated for. This has affected the progressive in an untold manner.

c. The non-prompt release of funds from the government affects training and the three months training period makes it impossible to have turned out number of 600 trainees.

d. A good number of people are willing to participate in the training schemes but there are limited slots per set of three months, and so many people who are interested get disappointed because of the balloting system in selection process.

e. At the end of training only few people enjoyed assistance in kind e.g. Sewing Machines at a very subsidized cost and micro-credit on N100, 000.00k were given to few with very strict conditions through balloting.

f. Consequently few youth are empowered who participated in it. As a result if the programme is given maximum concern it will help to reduce poverty and empower the youth economically.

5.3 CONCLUSION

Nigeria is a country blessed with enormous human and natural resources, yet well over two-third of about 130 million inhabitants are wallowing in poverty. This is as a result of mismanagement and illegal embezzling of public funds by public officials and a few others instead of distributing this wealth across every strata of the country. This has left many poor and unemployed youth to roam the street and made them an easy prays for use in political and social unrest for any little token of money given this is because, as the saying goes, (an idle mind is the devil's workshop".

The Nigerian government is an attempt to handle the situation and avoid a worse situation, established the National Poverty Eradication Programme in 1999 as soon as the Obasanjo-led administration came into power. The impact has been gradual judging from

the survey conducted in Chikun Local Government Area and with time the impact would become conspicuous and more so, that, so far only one out of the four schemes has been implemented. All that is needed is time, patience and support of all.

The four schemes touch on individuals especially on the youths. The schemes are the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Natural Resources Development and conservation scheme (NRDS), Rural Infrastructures Development (RIDS) and Social Welfare Service (SOWESS). At the end when all these would have been implemented, a great deal of Poverty would have been alleviated or possibly eradicated. This is the desire of the Nigerian Government to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target come 2015.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The impact of the programmes of NAPEP has been evaluated by the researchers, based on these the recommendations are as followings

a. The programme should not be politicized and there should be proper scrutinizing and supervisory Machinery to ensure that every plan is well implemented. The official should not see the programme as self-seeking activities that involve cake sharing rather; they should see it as cake baking.

b. Going by the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), efforts are now being redirected towards partnerships and collaborations with other agencies and groups to source and allocate resources for productive engagements in the economy. To this end, we strongly suggested that considerable resources should be channeled to rural based activities because a robust rural economy is capable of kick starting and driving the economy to prosperity.

c. We also recommends that the local Chiefs should be involved in sourcing out the poor as this will help to establish the major needs of every community and the appropriate training centre be sited properly. The poor communities and individuals should be involved in programme planning, and implementation in line with the overall Federal Government objectives as this will give them a sense of belonging. This can reduce rural-urban drift.

d. Fundamentally, access to arable land micro credits are vital for proper repositioning of peasant youth in Chikun L.G.A. Functional capital-intensive projects like irrigation dams be encouraged. Institutions like NACRB; Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme should be recapitalized and made to function effectively.

e. Permanent structures and measures should be put in place for the setting up of small scale industries that would continue to absorb young School leavers who are predominantly youth. Even those beneficiaries of government alleviation programmes be encouraged by granting them soft loans, distribute grinding machine, sewing machines as well as welding machines etc. and this will help to empower the youth.

f. Bodies such as Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations and wealthy individuals should be challenged to go back to their various communities to establish poverty alleviation programmes. On the other hand, organizations, wealthy individuals and company should be taxed, and such revenue be used to invest in Poverty Eradication Programmes. There should be proper condition to avoid duplication of efforts.

Conclusively therefore poverty reduction programmes cannot succeed without some levels of education. No nation can adequately tap its human potentials without

adequate education. Hence government should provide free education at primary and secondary school levels for effective implementation of poverty alleviation programme.

If these were done, we would be at the verge of bidding Poverty farewell in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

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APPENDIX I

INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS OF NAPEP

1. When did the programme commerce in Chikun LGA?…….…….
2. How many schemes do you have? …….……
3. Are the schemes of the programme already in place? ……
4. How many training centers do you have? ……..
5. How do you assess the willingness of the people to participate and particularly the youth? …….
6. What criteria do you use in selecting trainees? …….……..
7. Who are the people in charge of selection? ……..…
8. Dose that mean selection process is transparent? ……..
9. Is the programme empowering the youth and the people in general?……. .
10. Would you say that the programme is succeeding? ……..….
11. What are the Major constraints you face in running the programme? …...…….
12. How many youth have you trained since 2000 to 2005? ……
13. What are they trained for? …….……..
14. How do you ensure participation and attendance in training? ……
15. What is the skill you trained them in? ……
16. How much were they paid? …….
17. Do any of your ex-trainees enjoy any assistance after graduation and what are the conditions for assistance? ……..……..…….
18. With the way you look at the programme, would you say by predicting that it would have significant impact in the communities come 2010? …….
19. Will this programme, looking at its success be able to reduce arm robbery, social menace, prostitution etc? ……..
20. Place comment on the programme freely ……..

Thanks.

APPENDIX II

MASTER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, CONGO CAMPUS ZARIA

QUESTIONNAIRES

TOPIC: An Evaluation of the impact of Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Youth in Chikun Local Government Area in Kaduna State

PURPOSE AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of these questionnaires is to ascertain the above topic in various communities in the Local Government Area. You responses will help to determine the impact of these programmes on the youth.

There is no right or wrong answer. All information will be treated as confidential.

Yours faithfully

OGBENI TIMOTHTY

PLEASE MARK "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX PROVIDED BELOW

SECTION ONE

1. Sex: male ☐ female ☐
2. Age: Bellow 20 years ☐ 21-31 years ☐
3. Marital status: Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced
4. Present level of Education: SSCE ☐ OND/NCE ☐
   HND/Bsc ☐ Others ☐
5. How many square do you eat a day? Once ☐ twice ☐ thrice. ☐
6. Are you a dependant? Yes ☐ No ☐
7. Are you aware of Poverty Alleviation Programmes? Yes ☐ No ☐
8. Are you a beneficiary of any Poverty Alleviation (reduction) Programmes? Yes ☐
   No ☐
9. What motivated you to participate? The financial gain promise
   Desire to acquire new skill ☐ Idleness ☐ Indecisive ☐
10. Is the current allowance of N3, 500.00 and 10, 000.00 adequate? Yes ☐ No ☐
    Indecisive ☐
11. Do you receive the allowance regularly in your community? Yes ☐ No ☐
    Indecisive ☐
12. Do you think these programmes empowered the youth economically? Yes ☐
    No ☐ Indecisive ☐
13. Do you think the programmes have help to improve the standard of living of the
    youth and your community in general? Yes ☐ No ☐ Indecisive ☐
14. Have these programmes help in any way to reduce social menace in your
    community? Yes ☐ No ☐ Indecisive ☐

15. Does it have any impact on the youth positively? Yes ☐ No ☐

    Indecisive ☐

16. Do you wish to continue with the programmes? Yes ☐ No ☐

    Indecisive ☐

17. Do you have qualified trainers and equipment in your centers? Yes ☐ No ☐

    Indecisive ☐

18. By your assessment, is government committed to the programmes? Yes ☐

    No ☐ Indecisive ☐

19. Do you think an increase in allowances will encourage more participation? Yes ☐

    No ☐ Indecisive ☐

20. So far, do you see the programmes to be successful? Yes ☐ No ☐

    Indecisive ☐

21. If no do you think it will succeed in future? Yes ☐ No ☐ Indecisive ☐