

Poverty as a Weapon of Mass Destruction: An Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Programmes of the National Directorate of Employment in Combating Poverty in Oyo and Ogun States

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Abstract

Poverty is a global phenomenon which affects nations and people differently. It affects people in various depths and levels and at different times and phases of existence. This study is an assessment of the poverty alleviation programmes of the National Directorate of Employment in combating poverty with focus on Oyo and Ogun States. The study gathered data from both primary and secondary sources, while descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data gathered. The study notes that successive governments in Nigeria have tried to address the problem of poverty through various programmes having identified poverty as one of the major obstacles to national development in the country. Yet, Nigeria has deteriorated into one of the poorest countries of the world despite several poverty alleviation policies. It therefore argues that the poverty alleviation programs were mostly not designed to alleviate poverty because they lacked clearly defined policy frameworks with proper guidelines for poverty alleviation. The study observes that though the NDE has improved the living conditions of people in Oyo and Ogun states, there is still need for improvement in the programmes of NDE to effectively address the challenge of unemployment and poverty. Findings of the study have proven that the NDE has reduced the extent to which citizens would have been more negatively affected. It also recommends among others the need for adequate financing and motivation of NDE official. The study concludes that the NDE needs to put in more efforts particularly in Oyo state in making poverty alleviation more holistic and uniformed by ensuring that every citizen in need of economic empowerment benefits or maximizes from its poverty alleviation programmes and reducing the poverty level.

Keywords: *Poverty, Unemployment, Poverty Alleviation, Employment, Development*

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Background to the Study

The severity and magnitude of poverty in Nigeria is an aversion and has become a serious cause for repugnance nationally and globally. This detestable phenomenon has become extremely detrimental to the development of the nation (Ogunshina & Badru, 2014). In Nigeria, people are no longer “suffering and smiling”, as Fela Anikulapo Kuti sang but suffering and perishing. Hence, the growing incidences of poverty and its accompanying problem. These are indeed critical issues of concern and contention (Iwuoha & Obi, 2012). Sadly, Nigeria is a country that is tremendously blessed with abundant human and natural resources. Paradoxically, the citizens are living in penury in the midst of abundance. According to Awoniyi, Mufutau and Oladeji (2014) however, in 1999, United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) declared that out of 182 countries surveyed using indices such as life expectancy, education, income and purchasing power, Nigeria was ranked 158th in position. In 2013 another survey was conducted among 186 countries using the same indices, Nigeria was ranked 153rd. This is far below her rank in 1998. Again, the UNDP in 2016 classified Nigeria as the 152nd poorest nation on human development index. By 2010, the percentage of Nigerians living in poverty rose to 60.9%. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS,2016) 67.1% of Nigerians are living below poverty line out of a total population of 112 million. This revealed that Nigerians now live below poverty level as global poor hits one billion mark.

Over the years however, successive governments in Nigeria have tried to address the problem of poverty through various programmes having identified poverty as one of the major obstacles to national development in the country. In a bid to tackle this impediment to development ,the Nigerian government of various administrations embarked on different poverty alleviation programmes such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) of 1979,under the military administration of General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Green Revolution (GR) of 1982 under the military administration of General Shehu Shagari, Directorate of Foods ,Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DIFRRI) under the military administration of General Ibrahim Babangida, Youth With Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN),under the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan, the Seven Point Agenda under the administration of Late President Musa Yar'Adua, Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) under the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) under the administration of General Olusegun Obasanjo were all attempts made by various governments in the country to curb the menace. However instead of advancing economically, Nigeria has deteriorated into one of the poorest countries of the world despite several poverty alleviation policies (Igbokwe, Ighodalo and Oteh, 2012). More and more people are becoming poorer every day. For instance, in 1960,the poverty level in the country was about 15% and by 1980 it reached 28.1%.In 1985,the poverty level was 46.3% but dropped to 42.7% in 1992.In the 1999 and 2000 UN Development Reports ,Nigeria rather than advancing had degenerated further as 87% of the population was below poverty line and Nigeria was rated 154 on the world's marginal poverty index out of 172 countries (Igbokwe, Ighodaloand Oteh, 2012).This development is extremely threatening, considering the socio political consequences that would result. It is against this background that this study finds it essential to evaluate how the National Directorate of Employment has been able to curtail poverty in relation to its stated targets in Oyo and Ogun state.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, the incidence of poverty has reached a dangerously alarming and worrisome dimension that engulfs a large portion of the Nigerian society. The phenomenon of poverty is one of the forces militating against the socio-political and economic developments in the country as well as one of the factors responsible for anti-social behaviors which are antithetical to the peace and stability of the country. The consequences or manifestations of this plague include the emergence of criminal gangs who are viable tools and instruments for violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, car snatching, illegal bunkering and armed conflict (militancy in the Niger Delta and currently Boko Haram crisis), wide spread of hunger, disease, ignorance, malnutrition, child mortality, untimely death, pervasive illiteracy, unquenchable corruption in every facet of society, unemployment, frustration, hopelessness, unbridled rage, aggression, human trafficking, prostitution, drug trafficking, social upheaval, recurring trend of kidnapping, ethnic strife, anarchy, political tension and insurgencies (Udofia & Mkpia, 2016, Sambo & Bawa, 2017).

However, according to the United Nations Multi-Dimensional Index Report (2014), the South West of the country accounts for a high incidence of poverty despite the relative peace it enjoys vis-à-vis the Northern and South-South parts of Nigeria. Specifically, the Multi-Dimensional Index Report (2014) revealed that in Oyo state 29.4% of Nigerians are living in poverty while in Ogun state 26.1% are living in poverty despite the various poverty alleviation programmes of successive governments to reduce poverty. These programmes are: National Accelerated Food Production Programmes (NAFPP, 1972-1975), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN, 1979-1983), Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN, 1985-1993), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI, 1986-1993), the Better Life Programme (BLP, 1987-1993), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP, 1998-2000), Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA, 1992-2000), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP, 2001-2004), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS, 2004-2007), Seven Point Agenda (2007-2010) (Nwosuji & Chukwu, 2017). In all of this, all of the poverty alleviation of successive administrations since political independence have yielded very little fruit. Fatile and Adejuwon (2013) argued that the poverty alleviation programs were mostly not designed to alleviate poverty because they lacked clearly defined policy frameworks with proper guidelines for poverty alleviation. The Programmes suffered from political instability, interference, policy and macro-economic dislocations, unsustainability. They are also riddled with corruption, political deception, outright kleptomania and distasteful looting. It is against this background that this study finds it necessary to evaluate the performance or extent the National Directorate of Employment has achieved poverty alleviation in relation to its stated targets in Oyo and Ogun States, Nigeria.

Objectives of Study

The primary objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in alleviating poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States. The specific Objectives are to:

1. Interrogate how sustainable the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes have been in reducing poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States.
2. Identify how the NDE activities have impacted on the socio-economic and political development in Ogun and Oyo States.

Research Questions

1. How sustainable were the NDE Programs in reducing poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States?
2. In what ways has the NDE activities impacted on the economic development in Ogun and Oyo States?

Literature Review

Concept of Poverty

Poverty is a global phenomenon which affects continents, nations and people differently. It affects people in various depths and levels and at different times and phases of existence. There is no nation that is absolutely free from poverty. However, it is more ghastly and repelling in developing nations (Sambo & Bawa, 2017; Anumudu, Umar & Madu, 2013). Dauda (2016) emphasized that poverty occurs when individuals do not have access to adequate shelter, water, food, amenities and services that could enable them to live and work effectively and to conform to customary behaviors in the society. Essentially, poverty is a state in which a person is having insufficient spendable resources to maintain a standard of living deemed by international standards to be adequate. Nobert (2005) reiterated this position when he stated that poverty is a condition or situation where persons or groups of persons are unable to access basic elementary requirements for human survival in terms of food, clothing, shelter, health, transportation, education and recreation. Yunus (2016) corroborated this position by stating that the poor are individuals or groups who lack or are deprived of food, shelter, health facilities and freedom to achieve the inherent potential of their capabilities, which determine their present and future existence and survival. He further reiterated that poverty is the absence of a certain level or at least a minimal level of affordability to health care, nutrition, sanitation, rest, shelter, literacy, intellectual aspirations, positive freedom, enjoyment, dignity and security. The totalities of these values determine a good standard or otherwise.

Poverty: A Weapon of Mass Destruction

Poverty and lack of quality education for children of the poor force many of them to work as laborers and other menial jobs at the lowest income levels. Many of them engage in street vending and hawking. They hawk mostly household goods, cheap clothing, drinks and water packed in polythene bags. Their low income experiences such as health and safety hazards, housing problems and material deprivation thus propels them to venture into violent crimes. For instance, Yunus (2016) sees the emergence of the bokoharam insurgency in the Northern Nigeria as a consequence of pervasive poverty. He noted that majority of the youths that really engage in violence and mass killings are those from poor backgrounds who had no opportunity for western and genuine Islamic education. They are mostly children of poverty stricken illiterates with no hope for the future. Essentially, poverty is the exposure and vulnerability to risks, street life, squalor, high infant mortality, acute malnutrition, short life

expectancy, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings and human degradation as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency (Maimunatu, 2009). Furthermore, it chips away an individual's sense of dignity and ultimately drives individuals into hopelessness. The poor do not only undergo painful bouts of hunger arising from having little or nothing to eat and enduring long work hours, they also on a daily basis go through emotional pain that comes from ill-treatments and humiliation occasioned by their dependency and lack of power (Egbide, 2015). In essence, poverty has a lot of destructive implications that requires dire governmental and non-governmental efforts towards its eradication. These destabilizing effects of poverty impacts negatively on individuals, the economy and the society at large. We shall therefore examine the ways it has become an instrument for mass destruction at various levels:

Personally: poverty impinges on the ability of individual members of the society to attain self-actualization. Most people seek education, wealth, influence, etc as a means of attaining this virtue, poverty poses a big barrier to their actualization. The individual may end up feeling deprived, frustrated, withdrawn, vulnerable, depressed and experience a total lack of personal worth which may result into some form of socio-psychological problems and disorientation expressed in violent crimes and other anti-social behaviors.

Economically: High level of unemployment has been identified as one of the correlates of poverty. One of the major factors that determine the overall output of an economy is its effectiveness in manpower utilization. Poverty negatively affects the development of the full human resources potential of any economy since the acquisition of skills, knowledge and other forms of human resources development depends to a large extent on the economic ability of the individuals to pay for such training. Where the poverty level is high, these development input cannot be afforded and their lack in members of the society naturally denies the economy the benefits of higher gross domestic output.

Socially: Anarchy, insurgencies and other violent criminal tendencies has often been associated with wide spread poverty where members of the society find it difficult to meet their basic survival need. In the attempt to survive, some resort to fraudulent activities and other forms of crime. Also, famine, wars, outbreaks of diseases and epidemics, high infant mortality, low life expectancy and such other social disorder characterize most poor nations of the world. In addition, the inability of most members of the society to rise reasonably above poverty levels make it difficult for them to contribute meaningfully to the development and advancement of their societies both in terms of ideas and resources. Social advancement is often hampered by the disadvantaged position of a good number of people who may not have access to points where they can make meaningful contributions to their societies. No matter how intelligent they may be as individuals, high level of poverty often limit their access to the social and political structure where crucial decisions are taken (Yunus,2001; Chikeleze, 2005).

Theoretical Review

The study is anchored on the culture of poverty alleviation theory. The culture of the theory of poverty was propounded by Oscar Lewis in 1959, also known as the vicious circle of

poverty and this theory argues that living in conditions of pervasive poverty will result to the development of a culture or subculture that is adapted to those conditions. The culture is characterized by pervasive feelings of helplessness, dependency, marginality and powerlessness. Furthermore, Oscar Lewis (1959) described those living within a culture of poverty as having little or no sense of history and therefore bereft of the knowledge to alleviate their conditions through collective actions, instead focusing solely on their troubles. Dauda (2016) corroborated this position by stating that the poor are those trapped in a culture of poverty which they tend to adapt to and cope with. The poor behave in a particular way and their major idiosyncrasies are strong feelings of marginalization, vulnerability, dependence and inferiority. They also possess attributes such as low intelligence, laziness, in access to education and jobs and can be identified where they live and the class they belong. The emphasis of this theory is that even if the poor have the ample opportunities for improving their welfare, they lack the initiative and diligence needed to take advantage of such opportunities. They need voluntary support to psychologically gear them up to take advantage of the opportunities that may come their way. For instance, in Nigeria, there are voluntary associations like the Community Based Organizations (CBO's), Cooperative Societies and Youth Associations. These groups are in existence to provide self-help in alleviating poverty, but the poor rarely show interest in these groups, thus accentuating their poverty. However, this theory has been criticized under the premise that poverty does not come about solely from accepted cultural lifestyle.

This theory is relevant because it explained the reasons for poverty and why poverty alleviation schemes have not helped the poor. It basically analyzes the consequences of accepted cultural norms which unknowingly aggravates their poverty. This theory therefore suggests that their accepted socialization process and cultural lifestyle are the fundamental reasons for generational poverty and that those who are caught in the cultural web of poverty have resigned to their fate and is passive towards self-help programs established by government in alleviating their poverty. It recognizes that poverty is a collective decision caused by accepted cultural standards.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted survey design method which undertook a multi stage model of a quantitative and qualitative research. The essence of survey research was to enable the researcher gather firsthand information from the key stakeholders in the study.

Population of Study

The population of the study was drawn from two groups. First, the officials of the NDE, beneficiaries of the Vocational Skills Development Programme, Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in the two states under study: Oyo and Ogun. The second group of the population as stated in NDE Official Report are 388 in Oyo State which comprises 286 beneficiaries of Vocational Skill Development Programme (VSDP), 81 benefited from the Rural Agricultural and Training Development Programme (RATDP), while 21 benefitted from the Entrepreneurship

Development Programme (EDP) between 2011-2015(National Directorate of Employment Official Report,2017).In Ogun State, the NDE Official Report (2017) indicates that 684 people benefited from the three programmes of the NDE comprising 300 beneficiaries of the Vocational Skill Development Programme (VSDP),284 benefited from the Rural Agricultural Development and Training Programme and 100 people benefited from the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE (National Directorate of Employment Official Report, 2017).In all, a total of 1,072 benefited from the various programmes of the NDE in the 2 States. Therefore, the population of the study included 150 staff of NDE in the 2 states and 1,072 beneficiaries of NDE in the two states. Table 3 present the population size of the study.

Table 1: Population of the Study (Sampling Frame)

National Directorate Programme	Beneficiaries	Sample Size (Oyo)	Beneficiaries	Sample Size (Ogun)	NDE Officials Oyo	Sample Size (Oyo)	NDE Officials Ogun	Sample Size (Ogun)
	Oyo		Ogun					
Vocational Skill Development Programme (VSDP)	286	143	300	150				
Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme (RATDP)	80	40	284	142				
Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)	20	10	100	50				
Total	386	193	684	342	78	39	72	36

Source: National Directorate of Employment, 2017

Method of Data Analysis

The analysis of the primary data collected was done using descriptive statistics. The demographic characteristics were presented using frequency counts and percentage distribution. The formulated objectives were analyzed using frequency counts and percentage. Also, the guided oral interview was utilized in the discussion of findings to buttress the analysis.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question 1: How sustainable are the NDE Programs in reducing poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States?

Table 2: Respondents Reaction to Sustainability of NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Ogun and Oyo State

Survey Items	Ogun state					Oyo state				
	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)
The NDE Programmes has been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment over the years	10 (1.6)	12 (2.0)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	11 (1.8)	6 (1.0)
The assistance rendered by the NDE Programme has been effective in reducing Poverty and unemployment over the years	15 (2.5)	5 (0.8)	1 (0.16)	6 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	2 (7.78)	2 (0.3)	8 (1.3)	10 (1.6)
The NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes is strictly directed at the poor over the years	14 (2.3)	10 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	7 (1.1)	13 (2.1)
The NDE Programme has been a good instrument in job creation over the years	24 (4.1)	6 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	12 (2.0)	5 (0.8)
The women were actively involved in the training Programme of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programmes over the years.	19 (3.1)	7 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	15 (2.5)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.03)	3 (0.5)	3 (0.5)
The NDE Programme has been limited or strictly for persons without formal education, school leavers, school drop outs or persons with special needs over the years	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	20 (3.3)	10 (1.6)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	10 (1.6)	5 (0.8)

The NDE Programme has been limited or strictly for unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions who desire to acquire vocational skills, matured persons, women, prospective farmers, Entrepreneurs ,Artisans or craftsmen over the years	6 (1.0)	7 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	10 (1.6)	10 (1.6)	5 (0.83)	6 (1.3)	4 (0.6)	10 (1.6)	5 (0.8)
The NDE Programme has helped in improving the standard of living over the years	14 (2.3)	3 (0.5)	1 (0.16)	5 (0.8)	1 (0.16)	1 (0.16)	7 (1.1)	5 (0.8)	9 (1.5)	8 (1.3)
The NDE Programme has helped in reducing or curbing idleness or social vices amongst youths over the years	10 (1.6)	11 (1.8)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	4 (0.6)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.8)	7 (1.1)	9 (1.5)
There will have been more insecurity and more involvement in crime if NDE was not in existence over the years	12 (2.6)	13 (2.1)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	7 (1.1)	5 (0.8)	5 (0.8)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)
The existence of the NDE Programme has motivated or encouraged the increase in self-employment rather than over reliance on government for jobs over the years	9 (1.5)	12 (2.6)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	8 (1.3)	14 (2.3)

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2018)

The above presented data on the Sustainability of NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Ogun and Oyo States it was revealed that (22 respondents representing 3.6%) acknowledged that the NDE Programmes have been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment in Ogun state, while (6 respondents representing 1.0%) disagreed on this and (2 respondent representing 0.3%) was undecided about the NDE Programmes been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment in the state. In the same vein, (4 respondents representing 0.6%) in Oyo state indicated that the NDE Programmes have been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment, (17 respondents representing 2.8%) disagreed while only (3 respondent representing 0.5%) was undecided. This shows that more respondents in Ogun state observed that the NDE was more sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment over the years than in Oyo state.

Data on item two in table fifteen indicated that (20 respondents representing 3.3%) in Ogun state agreed that the assistance rendered by the NDE Programme has been effective in reducing Poverty and unemployment over the years, (8 respondents representing 1.6%) disagreed on this while (1 respondents representing 0.16%) were undecided about the NDE Programme being effective in reducing Poverty and unemployment over time. Similarly, (5 respondents representing 0.8%) in Oyo state agreed that the assistance rendered by the NDE Programme has been effective in reducing Poverty and unemployment over the years, (18 respondents representing 2.9%) disagreed and (2 respondents representing 0.3%) were undecided. This apparently revealed that majority of the respondents in Ogun state believed that the NDE Programmes have been sustainable in reducing Poverty and unemployment than in Oyo state over a long period of time. On item three it was revealed by (24 respondents representing 3.9%) in Ogun state that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes has been strictly directed at the poor over the years (2 respondents representing 0.3%) disagreed meanwhile no respondent was undecided about the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes being strictly directed at the poor over the years. In like manner, (7 respondents representing 1.1%) in Oyo state stated that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes have been strictly directed at the poor over the years, (20 respondents representing 3.2%) disagreed and (1 respondent representing 0.16%) was undecided. The implication of this was that a higher percentage of respondents from Ogun state acknowledged that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes have been making effective efforts in directing their programmes to meeting the needs of the poor over a long period of time compared to that of Oyo state. Data obtained indicated in Item four that (30 respondents representing 5.4%) in Ogun state observed that the NDE Programme has been a good instrument in job creation over the years, (3 respondents representing 0.5%) disagreed on this, while (2 respondents representing 0.3%) were undecided about the NDE Programmes being a good instrument in job creation over the years.

In Oyo state also, (2 respondents representing 0.3%) noted that the NDE Programme has been a good instrument in job creation over the years, (17 respondents representing 2.8%) disagreed meanwhile no respondent was undecided. The implication of this was that the larger part of the respondents who are from Ogun state agreed that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes has made an impact in curtailing the high level of unemployment and consequently poverty over a period of time compared to that of Oyo state.

On item five on table fifteen about (26 respondents representing 4.2%) in Ogun state admitted that the women were actively involved in the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programmes over the years. (3 respondents representing 0.46%) disagreed on the fact that women were actively involved in the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programmes while no respondent were undecided. In the same vein, (17 respondents representing 2.8%) in Oyo state acknowledged that the women were actively involved in the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programmes over the years. (6 respondent representing 1.0%) disagreed while no respondent was undecided. This revealed that there was gender equality and /or gender representation as far as of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programmes were concerned particularly in Ogun state than in Oyo state. On item six it was revealed by (5 respondents representing 0.8%) in Ogun state believed that

the NDE Programme has been limited or strictly for persons without formal education, school leavers, school drop outs or persons with special needs over the years, (30 respondents representing 4.9%) disagreed that the NDE Programme has been limited or strictly for persons without formal education, school leavers, school drop outs or persons with special needs over the years while no respondent were undecided. Similarly, in Oyo state, (2 respondents representing 0.3%) signified that the NDE Programme has been limited or strictly for persons without formal education, school leavers, school drop outs or persons with special needs over the years, (15 respondents representing 2.4%) disagreed meanwhile (2 respondents representing 0.3) were undecided. This showed that more respondents in Ogun state compared to Oyo state acknowledged that there was no bias or segregation on the basis of educational qualification or physical challenge by the NDE over a period of time On item seven on table fifteen (13 respondents representing 2.1%) in Ogun state stated that the NDE Programmes were limited or strictly for unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions who desired to acquire vocational skills, matured persons, women, prospective farmers, Entrepreneurs, Artisans or craftsmen over the years. (410 respondents representing 45.5%) disagreed on this while (6 respondents representing 0.6%) were undecided.

In Oyo state also, (11 respondents representing 2.1%) agreed that the NDE Programmes were limited or strictly for unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions who desired to acquire vocational skills, matured persons, women, prospective farmers, Entrepreneurs, Artisans or craftsmen over the years, (15 respondents representing 2.4%) disagreed and (4 respondents representing 0.6%) were undecided. The implication of this was that majority of the respondents in Ogun state compared to Oyo state believed that every beneficiary was given equal access or chance by the NDE Poverty alleviation Programme to be self-employed and be empowered to create business opportunities for others thus reducing the propensity for unemployment and poverty particularly in Ogun state even than in Oyo state. Data obtained indicated in Item eight that (17 respondents representing 2.8%) in Ogun state noted that the NDE Programme has helped in improving the standard of living over the years (6 respondents representing 0.96%) on the other hand disagreed on this while (1 respondents representing 0.16%) were undecided about the NDE Programme improving the standard of living over the years. For Oyo state (8 respondents representing 1.26%) stated that the NDE Programme has helped in improving the standard of living over the years (17 respondents representing 2.8%) disagreed meanwhile (5 respondent representing 0.8%) were undecided. This therefore meant that the NDE Programmes particularly in Ogun state have made noticeable and visible efforts in improving the standard of living thereby checkmating the high incidence of poverty compared to that of Oyo state going by the reactions of the respondents.

Data revealed on Item nine that (21 respondents representing 3.4%) in Ogun state agreed that the NDE Programme has helped in reducing or curbing idleness or social vices amongst youths over the years, (2 respondents representing 0.3%) disagreed on this on the other hand, (4 respondents representing 0.6%) were undecided about the NDE Programme playing a role in reducing or curbing idleness or social vices amongst youths over the years. In like manner, (6 respondents representing 0.9%) in Oyo state also agreed that the NDE Programme has helped in reducing or curbing idleness or social vices amongst youths, (16 respondents representing 2.6%) disagreed and (5 respondent representing 0.8%) were undecided.

The resultant effect therefore meant that a larger percentage of the respondents in Ogun state believed that the NDE has made an impact in checkmating high rate of idleness or social vices amongst youths over the years than that of Oyo state. Item ten showed that (25 respondents representing 4.7%) in Ogun state agreed that there will have been more insecurity and more involvement in crime if NDE was not in existence over the years meanwhile (3 respondents representing 0.5%) disagreed on the fact that there will have been more insecurity and more involvement in crime if NDE was not in existence over the years while (2 respondent representing 0.3%) was undecided.

Similarly, 12 respondents representing 1.9%) also agreed that there will have been more insecurity and more involvement in crime if NDE was not in existence over the years, (7 respondents representing 1.1% disagreed) and (15 respondents representing 0.8) was undecided. The consequence of this according to the data obtained in both states was that majority of the respondents particularly from Ogun state were of the opinion that the existence or presence of the NDE Poverty Alleviation programmes has played a significant role in restraining the escalation of higher crime rates or the number of people who will have been involved in crime than in Oyo state. On item eleven (21 respondents representing 4.1%) in Ogun state stated through data obtained that they believed that the existence of the NDE Programme has motivated or encouraged the increase in self-employment rather than over reliance on government for jobs over the years. (3 respondents representing 0.5) disagreed on this while (3 respondents representing 0.5%) were undecided about this. Lastly in Oyo state, (7 respondents representing 1.1%) agreed that the existence of the NDE Programme has motivated or encouraged the increase in self-employment rather than over reliance on government for jobs over the years, (22 respondents representing 3.6%) disagreed and no respondent were undecided. This consequently meant that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programmes have made a great influence according to the data revealed in creating multiplying effects on employment and business generation particularly in Ogun state through their programmes and have thus succeeded in reducing the high spate of unemployment and poverty compared to Oyo state.

Research Question 2: In what ways has the NDE activities impacted on the Socio-economic Development in Ogun and Oyo States

Table 1

Survey Items	Oyo State					Ogun State				
	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)
The Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has encouraged the rise in small scale businesses amongst youths	5 (0.8)	8 (1.3)	3 (0.5)	8 (1.3)	11 (1.8)	17 (2.8)	10 (1.6)	3 (0.5)	1 (0.16)	0 (0.0)
The knowledge of agriculture via the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped you in generating more income in your crop production and livestock business	2 (0.3)	4 (0.6)	4 (0.6)	13 (12.1)	5 (0.8)	15 (2.5)	14 (2.3)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)
The knowledge of agriculture via the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped women in being financially empowered and less dependent on their husbands	11 (1.8)	9 (1.5)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	15 (2.5)	17 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.6)	2 (0.3)
The knowledge gotten from the training scheme of Entrepreneurship Development Programme has produced more financially independent and empowered youths	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	4 (0.6)	10 (1.6)	6 (1.0)	18 (3.1)	13 (2.1)	2 (0.3)	7 (1.1)	3 (0.5)
The existence of NDE Programmes has reduced the level of public insecurity and social vices like armed robbery, insurgencies, drug peddling, prostitution, kidnap, rape, internet crime, human trafficking and other fraudulent activities in the society by diverting the attention and energy of youths to training Programmes	4 (0.6)	6 (1.0)	3 (0.5)	12 (2.0)	8 (1.3)	15 (2.5)	10 (1.6)	1 (0.16)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.8)
The Start Your Own Business Programme has reduced to the barest minimum rural-urban migration	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.8)	7 (1.1)	4 (0.6)	19 (3.1)	7 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	6 (1.0)	8 (1.3)
The training you derived from the Entrepreneurship Development Programme has helped in realizing and maximizing your potentials in generating income for you	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	4 (0.6)	11 (1.8)	10 (1.6)	12 (2.6)	8 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	7 (1.1)	7 (1.1)
The NDE Programmes are still relevant in poverty alleviation and employment generation	3 (0.5)	16 (2.6)	1 (0.16)	7 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	14 (2.3)	18 (3.1)	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	1 (.16)
The NDE Programme has helped reduce the vulnerability of idle and unemployed youths to slave labor, physical and sexual abuse, street begging ,prostitution and pick pocketing over the years	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	7 (1.1)	13 (2.1)	10 (1.6)	15 (2.5)	17 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	2 (0.3)

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2018)

Responses to Item one on table 5.12 revealed the responses of the respondents in Oyo and Ogun state. Essentially, (13 respondents representing 2.1%) in Oyo state were of the opinion that the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has propelled an increase in small scale businesses in Oyo state, while (19 representing 3.1%) disagreed and (3 respondents representing 0.5%) were undecided. In like manner, (27 respondents representing 4.4%) also noted that the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has encouraged the rise in small scale businesses amongst youths in Ogun state, (1 respondents representing 0.16%) disagreed and (3 respondents representing 0.5%) were undecided.

This implied that the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has created a fertile ground for the increase in businesses particularly in Ogun state than in Oyo state. Concerning the knowledge of agriculture acquired via the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme in generating more income for crop production and livestock business (6 respondents representing 0.9%) in Oyo state agreed that the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has generated more income for crop production and livestock businesses in Oyo state. On the contrary only (18 respondents representing 2.9%) disagreed while (4 respondent representing 0.6%) were undecided. Similarly, in Ogun state (29 respondents representing 4.8%) stated that the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has been relevant in generating more income for crop production and livestock businesses, (7 respondents representing 1.1%) disagreed meanwhile (2 respondent representing 0.3%) were undecided. This data confirmed that the knowledge of agriculture acquired from the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has generated more income for crop production and livestock business for farmers in Ogun state than in Oyo state. This in essence meant that the NDE Programs have been effective in curtailing poverty through Training and Development Programmes in agriculture and consequently facilitating agricultural development more in Ogun state compared to Oyo state. Responses to Item three revealed that (20 respondents representing 3.3%) in Oyo state agreed that the knowledge of agriculture via the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped women in being financially empowered and less dependent on their husbands, (6 respondents representing 2.0%) disagreed on the fact that the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped women in being financially empowered and less dependent on their husbands while (2 respondent representing 0.3%) were undecided.

In Ogun state also, (32 respondent representing 5.3%) agreed that the knowledge of agriculture via the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped women in being financially empowered and less dependent on their husbands, (6 respondents representing 0.9%) disagreed and no respondent were undecided on the fact that the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme has helped women in being financially empowered and less dependent on their husbands. The implication of this was that in Ogun state many of the women who were beneficiaries of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme have been empowered enough to be financially independent and stable compared to Oyo state. Hence this invariably means the NDE poverty alleviation programmes has visibly impacted on the gender balance of men and women particularly in Ogun state than in Oyo state in alleviation of poverty as revealed in the data obtained. On the

issue of knowledge gotten from the training scheme of Entrepreneurship Development Programme (3 respondents representing 0.19%) in Oyo state agreed that the knowledge gotten from the training scheme of Entrepreneurship Development Programme produced more financially independent and empowered youths, (16 respondents representing 2.6%) of respondents disagreed while (4 respondent representing 0.6%) of respondents were undecided.

In the same vein, (31 respondents representing 5.2%) in Ogun state agreed that the knowledge gotten from the training scheme of Entrepreneurship Development Programme produced more financially independent and empowered youths, (10 respondent representing 1.6%) disagreed and (2 respondents representing 0.3) were undecided.

This shows that the NDE Poverty Alleviation of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Ogun state has been impactful over the years in reducing the high level of financially dependent and poor youths by training them pragmatically in ways that gives them financial freedom and reduce or checkmate poverty than in Oyo state. Responses from Item five stated that (10 respondents representing 1.6%) in Oyo state acknowledged the fact that the existence of the NDE Programmes has reduced the level of public insecurity and social vices like armed robbery, insurgencies, drug peddling, prostitution, kidnap, rape, internet crime, human trafficking and other fraudulent activities in the society over the years by diverting the attention and energy of youths to training Programmes, (20 respondents representing 3.3%) disagreed on this while (3 respondent 0.5%) were undecided. This therefore implied that the NDE Poverty alleviation program has made tremendous impact over the years particularly in Ogun state compared to Oyo state in checkmating the propensity for the breakout or escalation of social disorder, insecurity and violent crimes.

Data obtained from Item six noted that (7 respondents representing 1.1%) in Oyo state agreed that the Start Your Own Business Programme has reduced to the barest minimum rural-urban migration while (67 respondents representing 7.4%) disagreed and (11 respondent representing 1.7%) were undecided. In Ogun state also, (26 respondents representing 4.2%) agreed that the Start Your Own Business Programme has reduced to the barest minimum rural-urban migration while (14 respondent representing 2.3%) disagreed and (3 respondent representing 0.5%) were undecided. This showed that majority of the respondents in Ogun state than in Oyo state believed that the NDE Poverty Alleviation Programme has reduced to the barest minimum the influx or exodus of people moving from rural areas and overcrowding or over populating the urban centers by providing business opportunities in the rural areas to reduce the tendencies of over populating the urban centers in search of business opportunities. Thus this gave room for socio- economic development of the rural areas in Ogun state than in Oyo state through business opportunities and programmes.

Responses from Item seven stated that (7 respondents representing 1.1%) in Oyo state respondents agreed that the training derived from the Entrepreneurship Development Programme has helped in realizing and maximizing potentials in generating income for beneficiaries over the years for, (21 respondents representing 3.4%) disagreed while (4

respondent representing 0.6%) were undecided. In Ogun state (20 respondents representing 1.6%) agreed that the training derived from the Entrepreneurship Development Programme has helped in realizing and maximizing potentials in generating income for beneficiaries over the years for, (14 respondents representing 2.2%) disagreed and no respondent were undecided. This suggested that the NDE Poverty Alleviation programmes in Ogun state has helped developed and channeled potentials into the right channel for the empowerment of beneficiaries in such a way that they are able to contribute to the socio-economic development of their state compared to Oyo state. Data obtained from Item eight revealed that (19 respondents representing 7.1%) in Oyo state agreed that the NDE Programmes are still relevant in poverty alleviation and employment

While (7 respondents representing 1.1%) disagreed and (1 respondent representing 0.16%) were undecided. In Ogun state also (32 respondents representing 5.4%) agreed that the NDE Programmes are still relevant in poverty alleviation and employment, (4 respondents representing 0.66%) disagreed and (1 respondent representing 0.1%) were undecided. This revealed that a larger percentage of the beneficiaries in Ogun state compared to Oyo state still considers the NDE Poverty alleviation useful, which means the NDE Poverty Alleviation programmes have clearly made an impact in the lives of its beneficiaries in Ogun state than in Oyo state. Responses from Item nine stated that (5 respondents representing 0.8%) in Oyo state believed that the NDE Programme has helped reduce the vulnerability of idle and unemployed youths to slave labor, physical and sexual abuse, street begging, prostitution and pick pocketing over the years, (23 respondents representing 3.7%) disagreed on this and (7 respondent representing 1.1%) were undecided. Lastly, In Ogun state (32 respondent representing 5.3%) agreed that the NDE Programme has helped reduce the vulnerability of idle and unemployed youths to slave labor, physical and sexual abuse, street begging, prostitution and pick pocketing over the years, (8 respondent representing 1.3%) disagreed while no respondent was undecided. This implied that the NDE Poverty Alleviation programmes in Ogun state have made visible impact in reducing the tendencies for social vices which are capable of threatening the socio-economic development than in Oyo state through its programmes over the years.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of findings was based on research questions and responses from interviews in the study. The result from the field showed that more respondents in Ogun state indicated that the NDE Programmes have been more sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment than in Oyo state. This apparently is evident because there is a lower level of poverty in Ogun state and a higher level of poverty in Oyo state. Which suggests why the respondents believed that the NDE Programmes have been more sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment because they felt the programmes have helped them over the years in generating self-employment businesses have been continuous in reducing unemployment and consequently poverty in Oyo state than in Ogun state.

However, according to Osefiana, Kalu and Ejime (2017) they emphasized that the NDE has been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment by placing emphasis on its

commitment to self-enterprise which produces a multiplying effect on self-employment and self-reliance and this is pursued through policy planning and well-articulated programmes such as the Vocational Skill Development Programme, Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme and the Entrepreneurship Development Programme. These programs are also set up across all the 36 states of the nation in order to meet the peculiar needs of the poor, unemployed and disabled in ensuring the programmes are fine tuned to meet each peculiarities of the poor. These programmes are often designed in such a way that every category of the unemployed are able to acquire skills and produce marketable products that will keep them in business are also able to generate employment for others. These are the ways the NDE programs have been sustainable in reducing poverty and unemployment because they ensure no category of the unemployed is left out. Be it on the basis of gender, religion, physical disabilities or educational qualification.

Specifically, findings from question two revealed that 2.1% of respondents were of the opinion that the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has propelled an increase in small scale businesses in Oyo state. In like manner, 4.4% of respondents also noted that the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes has encouraged the rise in small scale businesses amongst youths in Ogun state. These findings therefore implied that that one of the fastest ways of encouraging a state to be cosmopolitan is focusing on entrepreneurship, since entrepreneurship plays a significant role in helping petty businesses become industries. This in essence meant that the NDE Programs have been effective in curtailing poverty through Training and Development Programmes in agriculture and consequently facilitating agricultural development more in Ogun state when compared to Oyo state. Hence, this revealed one of the reasons why poverty was lower in Ogun state than in Oyo state. In an interview with the HOD of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme in Oyo state, he emphasized that the Rural Agricultural Training and Development have been able to checkmate the tendencies for upheaval, civil unrest, unemployment and insurgencies in the state which chokes socio-economic development by channeling the potentials and energies of poor and unemployed individuals particularly in the rural areas who have flair for agriculture into training programmes in the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme to discourage rural-urban migration and contribute their own quota to the development of agriculture in rural areas and consequently economic development in the state. According to Zibah (2014) he argued that for any poverty alleviation programme to have an impact in the socio-economic development in a state agricultural development cannot be overlooked. He stated that to emancipate the rural communities from the poverty trap, agricultural training programmes cannot be ignored because it propels economic development and reduces hunger in a state.

Conclusion

Following subsequent assessment of the NDE from empirical data gathered, it is of necessity to understand that poverty has various dimensions such as lack of adequate food, shelter, education, vulnerability to ill health, economic dislocations as well as lack of voice in matters concerning them. Until the adequate understanding of all the multi-dimensional nature of poverty is put into place and brought into play, all strategies may end up addressing only one

dimension or at best, some dimensions of poverty. To be able to effectively achieve the objective of alleviating poverty to a considerable low level, efforts or strategies formulated and directed towards poverty alleviation needs to be holistic in nature. Therefore, based on the findings of this research, it is concluded that the level of poverty is higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state. However, the outcome of this study has proven that the NDE has reduced the extent to which citizens would have been more negatively affected. In view of the above, the study therefore concludes that the NDE needs to put in more efforts particularly in Oyo state in making poverty alleviation more holistic and uniformed by ensuring that every citizen in need of economic empowerment benefits or maximizes from its poverty alleviation programmes and reducing the poverty level. In essence, if the NDE has made significant efforts in reducing poverty level in Ogun state and has not reduced poverty in Oyo state, its efforts or performance will continually look poor. Therefore, for poverty alleviation to be all rounded and effective in curtailing poverty, the NDE especially in Oyo state needs to raise more publicity or public awareness through the media and other outlets. Awareness creation will enhance the participation of a large number of the unemployed and foster job creation. In alerting the people about the existence of NDE, some potential beneficiaries especially the illiterate and those living in rural areas may be unaware of the existence and roles of the NDE thus miss out on the poverty alleviation Programme. Hence, reaching out to them and identifying their peculiarities in alleviating their poverty through the NDE Programmes is important. Such identification could be done by encouraging community leaders to compile and submit to the NDE the communities categorized as poor alongside their needs. This is because an under studying of the peculiarities of the poor will provide a focus for designing appropriate poverty alleviation programmes that will not only help them to tackle their problems but also enable them take advantage of available opportunities in their environment.

Recommendations

In accordance, with the conclusion of this thesis, the following recommendations which arose from the study were proffered as a means of ensuring an effective poverty alleviation by the NDE. On this basis, this study has proposed some recommendations that if well taken would ensure complete poverty reduction. This study has explored a wide range of theoretical, empirical and policy issues. To this end, the following recommendations are made for policy intervention.

1. To be able to effectively achieve the objective of reducing poverty to a considerably low level in Oyo and Ogun state, there is need for the NDE to refocus on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. Poverty cannot just be alleviated with an open door job creation program. There is need for the NDE to cover a wider range of the poor and the unemployed through involvement of the civil society and/or community based organizations in creating awareness or publicity of the presence and role of the NDE so that the NDE will reach out to as many targeted poor as possible.
2. For the NDE to combat mass unemployment in Oyo and Ogun states there is need for the NDE to engage in regular assessment or appraisal of the poverty alleviation Programme in each state to see how effective their poverty alleviation programmes that checkmate unemployment have been. Basically, the NDE has to make

comparative reviews at state level yearly to see how far they have gone in reducing unemployment. That way, they can know whether their programmes are effective at reducing unemployment or not and make room for improvement where they are lapsing.

3. For the NDE to have more impact on the economic development of the states, particularly in Oyo state, there is need for some government officials to change their values, orientation and mindset with respect to public resources. If they do not see public funds meant for the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes as an opportunity or avenue of satisfying parochial interests, much of the NDE objectives of poverty alleviation would have an impact on the economic development of the states.

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