International Journal of Operational Research in Management, Social Sciences & Education | IJORMSSE
p-ISSN: 2536-6521 | e-ISSN: 2536-653X
Volume 6 Number 1 April, 2020

Impact of Poverty Alleviation on the Nigerian Economy Growth

[1]Okeme, Ukwumonu Patrick, [2]Isyak Ibrahim Ogirima & [3]Uloko Felicia
[1,2&3]Department of Public Administration,
Faculty of Management Sciences, Kogi State University, Anyigba

Abstract

This paper is on Impact of Poverty Alleviation on the Nigerian Economy Growth. Alleviation of poverty is the most difficult challenge facing any country in the developing world where on the average majority of the population is considered poor. Thus this paper tries to evaluate the impact of poverty alleviation on the Nigeria economy. More so, it tries to ascertain those poverty alleviation programmes, problems and solutions. Among the reviewed programme/institutions for poverty alleviation in the paper are; the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Better Life Programme (BLP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme. In respect to the study methodology used in estimating the model for the study; the paper used three steps methodology. These steps include; statistical Analysis of time series, Cointegration Analysis and Error Correction Mechanism. It was found from the model specified that there exist a unique long run relationship among RGDP, PCI and ACGSF. The absolute value of the coefficient of the error correction term indicates that about 0.18 percent of the disequilibrium in the long run is offset by short-run adjustment within a year. The study recommends that there is need to direct focus on target approach towards poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria.

Keywords*: Agriculture, Economy, Growth, Infrastructure, Poverty*

Corresponding Author: Okeme, Ukwumonu Patrick

Background to the Study

Alleviation of poverty is the most difficult challenge facing any country in the developing world where on the average majority of the population is considered poor. Evidences in Nigeria show that the number of those in poverty has continued to increase. For example, the number of those in poverty increased from 27% in 1980 to 46% in 1985; it declined slightly to 42% in 1992, and increased very sharply to 67% in 1996 when the past administration came to power, estimates had it that more than 70% of Nigerians lived in poverty. That was why this government declared in November, 1999 that the N470 billion budgets for year 2000 was “to relieve poverty”. Before the National Assembly even passed the 2000 budget, the government got an approval to commit N10 billion to poverty alleviation programme (Chinsman, N.I., 2003).

In the 2001 budget, the government has increased the allocation to poverty alleviation programme by 150%. This idea of poverty alleviation was received with high hopes especially given the speed with which this present administration talked the fuel problem as soon as it came to power. Poverty alleviation was seen as a means through which the government can revamp the battered economy and rebuild self-esteem in majority of Nigerians who had been dehumanized through past military regimes.

The study statement of the problem centers on how to tackle poverty. Thus, poverty alleviation is seen as a function of economic growth. The constraints to developing the nation as well as the problems of these critical sectors have come to loom very large. For over four decades in Nigeria, all attempts to put the economy on course of development have failed. Conditions have continued to worsen and poverty has become a major issue in the country in spite of their potentials. Therefore, a major concern to governments, multilateral institutions and policy makers in Nigeria is to identify appropriate tools for poverty alleviation in the country.

The country however, present problems that are a contradictory paradox of its natural resource endowment, as noted by Chinsman (1998), rural communities are seriously marginalized in terms of most basic elements of development. In addition, the inhabitants tend to live at the margin of existence and opportunities. Most communities lack potable water, electricity, health care, educational and recreational facilities and motorable roads. They experience high population growth rates; high infant and maternal mortality, low life expectancy and a peasant population that lacks modern equipment that can guarantee sustainable exploitation of the natural resources on which they live.

To date, poverty situation in Nigeria remains a paradox, at least from two perspectives. Firstly, poverty in Nigeria is a paradox because the poverty level appears as a contradiction considering the country's immense wealth. Secondly, poverty situation has worsened despite the huge human and material resources that have been devoted to poverty reduction by successive governments in Nigeria with no substantial success achieved from such efforts. Nevertheless, since poverty remains development issue, it has continued to capture the attention of both national governments and international development agencies for several decades. Indeed, since the mid-1980s, reducing poverty has become a major policy concerns for governments and donor agencies in all poverty-stricken countries, Nigeria inclusive. Thus, there is need to answer the following questions as they will help to give insight to the research paper. To what extent has poverty alleviation contributed to economic growth in Nigeria? What are the problems and possible solution facing the success of poverty eradication programme?

Objective of the Study

1. To evaluate the impact of poverty alleviation on the Nigeria economy.
2. To ascertain those poverty alleviation programmes, problems and solutions.

Operational Hypothesis

Ho: Poverty alleviation does not have significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Central to the quest for policies and programmes that will reduce poverty is the issue of the conceptualization of poverty. Conceptually, three dominant views are identified as the meaning of poverty in the literature. The first view sees poverty as a severe deprivation of some basic human needs at the individual or household level. Put differently, poverty is a material deprivation and this can be assessed in monetary terms. While this conceptualization of poverty makes the quantitative analysis of poverty straightforward and permits comparisons over time and between countries, it fails to recognize non-material forms of deprivation such as illiteracy and social discrimination among others.

The second view has a direct link with the work of Sen (1999) and it defines poverty as the failure to achieve basic capabilities such as being adequately nourished, living a highly life, possession of skills to participate in economic and social life, permission to take part in community activities to mention a few. This conceptualization forms the basic for the belief that poverty is multi-dimensional. Although, the capabilities framework offers many advantages over the income/consumption conceptualization, yet it is argued that it requires a greater variety of data and that no consensus exists on how capability deprivation at the household level is to be computed.

The third conceptualization of poverty came into limelight in the 1990s and has a fundamentally different approach to the understanding of poverty: subjective poverty assessments. The core of this view of poverty is that poverty must be defined by the poor themselves or by the communities that poor people live in. According to Ekot (2011), the view came out of the work on participatory appraisal of rural projects and has direct relationship with a publication known as '*Voices of the Poor Series*' which has three volumes: *Can Anyone Hear Us*?. Crying out for change, and *From Many Lands*. The subjective view of poverty posits that, poverty has both physical and psychological dimensions. Poor people themselves strongly emphasize violence and crime, discrimination, insecurity and political repression, biased or brutal policing, and victimization by rude, neglectful or corrupt public agencies (Narayan et'al, 1999). Karlsson (2001) presented five conclusions from the *"Voices of the Poor Series"*, these are:

1. Poverty needs to be viewed in a multi-dimensional way. Hunger is part of everyone's understanding of poverty. Equally strong is the sense of powerlessness, voicelessness, and humiliation that comes with being poor.
2. The state has been ineffective people everywhere fear police, they hate corruption, and the trust only their own institutions.
3. Non-governmental organization plays a limited role. People rely on informal networks.

The world Development report (World Bank, 2000) extends the concept of poverty beyond income and consumption plus education and health, to include risk and vulnerability, as well as voicelessness and powerlessness. It is not necessarily the case that shocks affect the poor disproportionately, but it is clearly the case that they are not vulnerable, since their economic margin is slim. The poor are often exposed to highly fluctuating incomes, and particularly, in rural areas, it is common for households to move in and out of poverty (Dercon, 2000, and World Bank, 2000).

The conceptualization of poverty in terms of the risk and vulnerability of those that are poor has emerged at a time when poverty reduction has become an important aspect of the national economic and social policy mix in many developing countries. Indeed, poverty reduction programmes and policies when tied with growth enhancement policies are a high prioritized in national policy design in countries suffering from increasing population pressures and deteriorating living and economic conditions. Thus, there is an implied consensus in the literature that rapid and sustainable poverty reduction depends upon the interaction of a wide range of policy measures.

Tollens (2002), observes that poverty is not an intrinsic attribute of people, but a product of livelihood systems and the socio-political forces that shape them. Thus, poverty reduction is highly desirable. However, some reduction in rural poverty is sometimes accompanied by increased urban poverty as rural poor choose to move to cities, without finding employment and income there. In contrast, successful rural poverty reduction usually works by raising the productivity of the poor, while most urban poverty alleviation efforts are welfare-oriented. Moreover, rural poverty alleviation may reduce migration, thus helping to reduce urban poverty.

Poverty is multidimensional. This suggests that poverty reduction efforts must be multi-targeted and are expected to show wide and diverse dimensions. Solutions to rural poverty have to straddle different disciplines and must encompass economic, social, political and institutional factors. Lifting the rural poor out of their poverty, breaking the poverty circle, through investments in their basic capital stock (physical, human, social) thus appears as sound economic strategy with the added advantage that such economic growth is high quality growth and by definition broad-based and equitable. But, rising out of poverty is no guarantee against falling back into poverty particularly when the centrality of assets for rural poverty reduction is not acknowledged.

Theories of Poverty

According to Akeredolu-Ale (1975) a theory of poverty must identify the forces which govern and determine the pattern of ownership of the factors of production, since it is that pattern that eventually determines the structure of interpersonal and inter-group differentials of wealth and income in the society. Consequently, he has identified four theories, necessity theory; the individual-Attributes theory, the National-Circumstantial theory and the power theory. Some of these theories such as the necessity theory and the individual attribute theory, which is of relevant to the issue of poverty, deal directly with the phenomenon of economic inequality.

The necessity theory has three variants. These are the functionalist variant, the evolutionist variant and that which has been developed in relation to capitalist entrepreneurial theory. The functionalist theory argues that specialization leads to efficiency and that since different roles are differently evaluated; certain role are given better rewards than others. Consequently, those who play such roles are placed high in the economic and social hierarchy in the society. This is also how the poor is almost spontaneous. Some of the questions that readily come to mind which are yet to be answered are who does the evaluation of roles? Is it the society in general or the powerful few? What determines the lowest or the highest reward given to roles in the society?

According to Akeredolu-Ale (1975), what seems undisputable is that the emergence of inequalities and of the poor class is not as spontaneous as claimed by the functionalist theory of stratification. The second variant, which is the evolutionist theory, equally holds the view that the poor in the society arise spontaneously with inequality and poverty acting as eliminators of the last fit. The third which derive from the economic history of capitalist (free enterprise) economics does not support the notion of spontaneity. The variant argues that crude exploitation constitutes a major factor in the emergence of the poor class in the society. In this theory, the crude exploitation can give rise to an increase in savings and aggressive entrepreneurship that will result in industrialization. Though this theory has a valid historical basis in terms of the industrial revolution that took place in western countries, it can equally be argued that economic growth will, to a large extent, also depends on growing income-equality. Infact, high income/consumption inequality tends to lower the marginal efficiency of capital in mass production, and consequently retards investment.

The individual-attributes theory holds the view that the poor in the society are the architect of their own misfortunes. The argument of this theory is that the position of the individuals in the society's hierarchy of income and wealth is assumed to be determined by that individual's motivations, aptitudes and abilities. While we share the view that an individuals attribute can be instrumental to his location to his society's status-hierarchy, we equally assert that these attribute operate only within a structure of possibilities and limits set and defined by forces outside the scope of the individual. These forces are usually determined by the prevailing system of property, class relations and power (Akeredolu-Ale 1975).

The natural-circumstantial theories are generally more directly concerned with the issue of poverty. The focus of these theories is the identification of certain important explanatory variables responsible for poverty. Among these are geographical location and the natural endowment of the individuals environment, unemployment, old age, etc. a major advantage of these theories is that they have a more immediate bearing on policy that the other theories. These theories hold the view that poverty reduction can be attained without substantial changes in the larger economic, social and political environment.

The central argument of the power theory seems to be that the structure of political power in the society determines the extent and distribution of poverty among the population. In other words; poverty is a characteristic feature of a situation in which the few that possessed the political power organize the economic system to suit their own selfish interest. The extent of the success of the exploiting class will depend on the revolutionary consciousness of the subject or oppressed class; on their organizational capacity to resist exploitation and overthrow the oppressive property system (Akeredolu-Ale 1975). The power theory or the theory of exploitation clearly explains what has been happening in the developing countries, where conditions such as a low political consciousness on the part of the masses and a high degree of centralization of natural resources, which the ruling class could exploit co-exist (Hohnson, 1968). A major implication of this theory for policy is that the attainment of pa poverty free society required the radical altering of the structure of power in society. This has made the theory appear glooming because of the envisaged implementation difficulty. Even if it is assumed that the revolutionary solution would emerge in the long run, the question as to what can be done now is not answered.

Programmes/Institutions for Poverty Alleviation

The Agricultural Development Programmes

This was introduced in 1975 in three enclaves but now cover the whole country. The main objective of the ADPs has been to increase production of food and fiber as well as assess the impact of the programme.

The Directorate of Food, roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

The Directorate of food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was created in January, 1986 as an integrated approach to rural development. DFRRI was designed to act as a policy catalyst for the development of the rural areas of the country and lay particular emphasis on the provision of water and the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of an effective rural feeder road network.

Better Lifer Programme (BLP)

In 1987, the Better Life Programmes was first introduced as a programme mainly for rural women by the then First Lady, Mrs. Maryam Babangida. The programme was generally aimed at complementing the existing Federal Government policy to develop the rural areas.

As the implementation of the programme progressed, it was realized that the scope of the programme had to be widened to include urban women and cooperatives where men were members. Thus, the name was changed from Better Life Programme for Rural women to Better Life Programme (BLP). The programmes generally covered many areas that relate to enhancing labour productivity and entrepreneurship development. Areas covered include; health, agriculture, education, social welfare and cooperative. The formation of cooperative in the programme has direct bearing to entrepreneurial development. Numerous fishing, farming marketing, weaving and sundry craft cooperatives were set-up. The cooperatives were supported in terms of access to credit facilities from People's Bank, which owes its existence partly to the Better Life Programme. Thus, a linkage was effectively created between the two agencies.

During the Abacha regime, the programmes appeared to narrow down its activities and was re-named Family support Programme (FSP) with greater emphasis on the health component. However, in an attempt to create a more embracing socio-economic poverty alleviation programme by the regime, a new agency called Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) was established. The FEAP was established to stimulate economic activities by providing loans directly to Nigerians through cooperative societies and informal associations.

National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

This is a skill formation and credit-granting scheme with consequences on accelerating entrepreneurship development. The directorate was set up in 1986 with the underlying philosophy of self-enterprise, which emphasizes self-employment in preference to wage employment. The Directorate implements four core programmes namely, Vocational Skills Development Programme (VSDP), Special Public Works (SPW), Small Scale Enterprises (SSE) and rural Employment Promotion Programme (RPP). The Vocational Skills Development Programme is a skill acquisition programme, which consists of 80 trades spread through it four ancillary schemes.

The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme

In 1977, the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme fund Decree, whose objectives was to provide cover in respect of loans granted for agricultural purposes was promulgated. It was believed that this would encourage commercial banks to loan investment funds to the agricultural sector including the small-scale rural dwellers. However, the main beneficiaries of this programme were the large scale and educated farmers.

Methodology

In estimating the model for the study, the researcher used three steps methodology. These steps include;

i. Statistical Analysis of time series (Test for unit root using Augmented Dickey-Fuller) to ascertain the stationarity or non stationarity status of the data series.
ii. Cointegration Analysis and the estimation of the long run equilibrium models using Johansen (Trace and Max-Eigen Statistics) Cointegration Test.
iii. To obtain the parsimonious short run dynamic model of economic growth through the error correction mechanism which have been shown to better capture the short run dynamics of the relationships. Data for the study were obtained from various CBN Bulletins, Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) which cover the period 1980-2011.

Empirical Model Specification

The model specified, tries to capture the impact of poverty alleviation on economic growth. This implies that economic growth is a function of poverty reduction. The model is specified as follows; implies that economic growth is a function of poverty reduction. The model is specified as follows:

$RGDP = f(PCI, ACGSF)$

The econometric model estimation is of the form:

$RGDP = \lambda0+ \lambda1PCI+ \lambda2ACGSF+\Psi$…………………………..(1)

$\Lambda1>0, \lambda20,$

Where

RGDP = Real Gross Domestic Production, a measure of economic growth
PCI – Per Capital Income.
ACGSF = Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund
ψ= Error term

Empirical Model Specification

The model specified below tries to examine the impact of poverty alleviation on the economic growth in Nigeria. The model implies that economic growth is a function of poverty reduction. The model is specified as follows:

$RGDP = f(PCI, ACGSF)$

The econometric model estimation is of the form:

$RGDP = \lambda0+ \lambda1PCI+ \lambda2ACGSF+\Psi$…………………………..(1)

$\Lambda1>0, \lambda20,$

where

RGDP = Real Gross Domestic Production, a measure of economic growth
PCI – Per Capital Income
ACGSF = Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund
ψ= Error term

Results of poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth
Results of Unit Root test for Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth Model Unit Root Test: Summary
Series: RGDP, PCI, ACGSF

Null Hypothesis: ssD (RGDP) has a unit root
Exogenous: constant, Linear Trend
Lag Length: 0(Automatic-based on SIC, maxlag=0)

Table 1.

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
		-12.12529	0.0000
Test critical values:	1% level	-4.296729	
	5% level	-3.568379	
	10% level	-3.218382	

*__MacKinnon__ (1996) one-sided p-values.

Null Hypothesis: D(RGDP) has a unit root
Exogenous: constant, Linear Trend
Lag Length: 0(Automatic-based on SIC, maxlag=0)

Table 2.

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic		-17.79619	0.0000
Test critical values:	1% level	-4.296729	
	5% level	-3.568379	
	10% level	-3.218382	

*__MacKinnon__ (1996) one-sided p-values.

Null Hypothesis: D(ACGSF) has a unit root
Exogenous: Constant, Linear Trend
Lag Length: 0 (Automatic –based on SIC, Maxlag=0)

Table 3.

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic		-8.166983	0.0000
Test critical values:	1% level	-4.296729	
	5% level	-3.568379	
	10% level	-3.218382	

*__MacKinnon__ (1996) one-sided p-values.

Probabilities for Augmented Dikey-Fuller tests are computed using an asymptotic Chi-square distribution. All other tests assume asymptotic normally.
Source: Authors Computation.

The null hypothesis of non stationarity of all the variables is however rejected at the five percent level of significance after first differences, indicating that all variables are stationarity in their first differences. Given the unit root properties of the variables, we proceeded to establish whether or not there is a long run equilibrium relationship among the variables in the poverty alleviation and economic growth model using the Johansen Trace and Maximal Eigen value test. This is presented below.

The conclusion drawn from the test is that both the Trace and Maximal Eigen Value tests indicate one cointegrating equation each at the five percent level of significance. The null hypothesis of no cointegration relationship among the variables in the model is rejected. This implies that there exist a unique long run relationship among RGDP, PCI and ACGSF. Since there is one cointegrating vector, an economic interpretation of the long-run real Gross Domestic Product and the explanatory variables; PCI and ACGSF can be obtained by normalizing the estimates of the unconstrained cointegrating vector on the specified model. The identified cointegrating equation was used as an error correction term (ECM) in the error correction model. This series forms the error correction variable. So far the result shows that the variables in the poverty alleviation and economic growth model tend to move together in the long run as predicted by economic theory. In the short run, deviations from this relationship could occur due to shocks of any of the variables.

Series: RGDP, PCI, ACGSF
Lags interval (in first differences): 1 to 1
Unrestricted cointegration Rank Test (Trace)

Table 4.

Hypothesized No.of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob. **
None*	0.597727	53.08237	29.79707	0.0000
At most 1*	0.460058	25.76364	15.49471	0.0010
At most 2*	0.215332	7.274851	3.841466	0.0070

Trace test indicates 3 cointegrating eqn(s) at the 0.05 level.
*denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level
**MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-value

The over parameterized error correction model (ECM) shows how the system adjusts to the long run equilibrium implied by the cointegrating equation. This is presented below.

Table 5.

Variables	coefficient	std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-320199.2	39656.19	-8.074381	0.0000
PCI	214.2373	14.05616	15.24152	0.0000
ACGSF	0.003078	0.003794	0.811216	0.4249
ECM(-1)	-0.001815	0.003105	-0.584558	0.5641

R-squared	0.982389	mean dependent Var	386571.4
Adjusted r-squared	0.980275	S.D. Dependent Var	193803.8
F-statistics 464.85			

In the over parameterized model, the error correction term (ECM) is well specified and is of the expected negative sign in the Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) function. The absolute value of the coefficient of the error correction term indicates that about 0.18 percent of the disequilibrium in the long run is offset by short-run adjustment within a year. This implies a low speed of adjustment. In these cases, the full adjustment is achieved and takes twelve months to complete the cycles. In addition to the disequilibrium, the results in the over parameterized model shows that RGDP is influenced by the explanatory variables; PCI and ACGSF. The coefficient of multiple determination (adjusted R^2), in the over parameterized model used in measuring the goodness of fit of the estimated model is -.9803 indicates that about 98 percent of variations of the dependent variable are explained by the joint effects of the explanatory variables. The high value of adjusted R^1 shows that the overall goodness of fit of the model is satisfactory, consequently, the F-statistics of 464.85 shows that the overall regression is significant at the five percent level of significance and is a good fit as confirmed by the P-value (0.000000) of F-statistics.

Conclusion

This research work sought to examine poverty alleviation as a function of economic growth in Nigeria. It advances some views on the causes of poverty in Nigeria which include; lack of capital, corruption, low productive capacity, bad governance, poor macroeconomic policies etc. Poverty contributes to poor agricultural productivity, as many farmers in Nigeria cannot afford to purchase necessary farm inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and improved seeds, which would bring about increased productivity. Also, the ability of poor consumers to purchase food necessary for maintenance of health and productive life is reduced. The over-riding objective of government's poverty alleviation policy is to broaden the opportunities available to the poor and ensure that every Nigerian has access to basic needs of life, food, potable water, clothing, shelter, basic health services and nutrition, basic education and communication. The overall goal is improved living conditions for the poor. The goals are, of course, an array of sector specific objectives to be pursued in order to ensure the success of the policy. Nigerians poverty alleviation is buttressed on the integration of the citizens into an economically, politically and socially sound society with equal opportunities to live a healthier, richer and fuller life. It is now obvious that poverty alleviation cannot be accomplished without ensuring individuals access to resources and opportunities.

In the year 2001, government put in place the national poverty alleviation programme (NAPEP). The programme was aimed alleviating abject poverty in Nigeria. However, there is need to direct focus on target approach towards poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria. These poverty alleviation programmes integrate the following; economic growth approach, basic needs approach, rural development approach etc.

Recommendations

To reduce poverty and achieved economy growth in Nigeria, the study recommended that:

1. A poverty eradication policy for Nigeria should promote .a more nuanced understanding of poverty, participation of poor, empowerment of the poor, good governance, transparency and accountability, combat gender inequity, and promote right-based approach and pro-poor policies.
2. It has been documented that one of the greatest challenges in addressing is that of unequal distribution of resources. Therefore the parliament should legislate on probable ways within which scarce or unequal resources are distributed in order to achieve equal distribution of amenities. A sound and healthy legislative framework is advisable in attacking the poverty scourge which is holding 70% of Nigerians to ransom.
3. The fight against poverty and hunger should be taken to the grassroots where majority of Nigerians live while the present strategies adopted to implement the MDGs need to be redefined and articulated for the commitment of all tiers of government in the implementation of people-oriented programmes.
4. Government and non-governmental organizations should embark on enormous job creation, mass literacy programmes and provision of adequate statistical data that are up to date for tracking the progress of Nigeria in meeting the MDGs by 2015.
5. Government policy on poverty alleviation should follow a multi-sectoral where all the stakeholders are given specific roles to play.
6. Government should determine how the intended beneficiaries are to be identified to ensure that the benefits reach them directly.
7. Summarily, however, the solution to these problems is good governance and policy consistency that would address poverty reduction and improve on the standard of living of the people.

References

Akeredolu-Ale, M. (1977). *Why the poor stay poor: Urban bias in World development*, Abia, 101-111.

Chinsman, N. I. (2003), Integrating Poverty Alleviation Strategies into Plans and Programmes in Nigeria: 50-55, National Centre for Economic Management and Administration, Ibadan.

Dercon, H. H. (2000). *Poverty alleviation and substance of democracy in Nigeria in Uya, O.E. (ed) civil society and the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria*, Calabar: University of Calabar Press, 20-30.

Ekot, E. M. (2011). *Poverty and democracy: A bottom-Up perspective: 30-40*, Uyo: Calabar: University of Calabar Press.

Hohnson, P. (2009). *Understanding poverty (2"" Edition)*, 60-70: London: Macmillan Press.

Karlsson, C. D. (2012), Poverty in Nigeria: Causes, Manifestations and Alleviation Strategies, 40-45: London: Adonis and Abbey Publishers Ltd.

McGee, R. & Norton, B. (2014). *Participation in poverty reduction strategies: A synthesis of experience with participatory approaches to policy design, implementation and monitoring*, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, 120-130.

Narayan, A. (2005). *Gender, poverty eradication and development in Nigeria. In Okeibunor, I. and Anugwom, E. (eds.) The social sciences and socio-economic transformation in Africa: Essays in Honour of Professor D.S Ob*iekeze, Nsukka: 30-40, Great AP Publishers.

Sen, A. (2001). *Participatory poverty assessment: A guide to theory and practice department for international development 102-12*0, London: Macmillan Press.

Tollens, M. (1999). *Putting politics back into poverty reduction: Institute of development studie*s. Brighton: 55-60, Adonis and Abbey Publishers Ltd.