

Mass Poverty as a Threat to National Security: An Overview of the Role of National Directorate of Employment

¹Olojede, Bosede &

²Oni, Michael Abiodun

*Department of Political Science
and Public Administration*

*Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo,
Ogun State*

Abstract

The objective of the paper is to examine the influence of mass poverty on national security and the role of National Directorate of Employment in addressing the challenges of unemployment which is one of the causes of poverty in Nigeria. The paper notes that poverty is one of the forces militating against the socio-economic and political developments in Nigeria as well as one of the factors responsible for raising wave of insecurity. Adopting a qualitative approach, relevant information was sourced from secondary data. It observes that national security and poverty are the biggest problems facing most nations of the world today, whether they are developed or developing. The paper argues that the most pathetic feature of the Nigerian society today is that an elite minority of its citizens are living in affluence, while the majority is wallowing in poverty which has significant influence on national security. It therefore suggests among others that there is need for government to complement the efforts of the NDE at state level through provision of funds and infrastructures that will help in the realization or actualization of alleviating poverty. The paper concludes that poverty is a social menace in Nigeria and constitutes a threat to national security.

Keywords:

Development,
Employment,
Insecurity, National
Security, Poverty,
Unemployment

Corresponding Author:

Olojede, Bosede

Background to the Study

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 & Mkpaa, 2016, Sambo & Bawa, 2017).

However, according to the United Nations Multi-Dimensional Index Report (2014), the South West part 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.

National security is of prime concern to all responsible states and citizens in view of the paramount importance it occupies in survival, peace, stability and development of every state. All governments commit huge human and material resources towards the protection and improvement of national security and no amount of such resources can be

too much except that there should be proper focus and channeling of the aspects to which the resources are to be committed (Ekoku& Vogt 1990). National security and poverty are the biggest problems facing most nations of the world today, whether they are developed or developing. They are impediments to social progress, and lead to waste of human and material resources. However, it is believed that security strategies remain incomplete as long as they do not address the increasing wave of poverty.

Methodology

Data were generated through secondary sources like journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers and internet materials. The study is purely historical and descriptive in nature.

Poverty and National Security: Conceptual Explanations

Poverty is the condition or quality of being poor and the condition of having little or no wealth. It is the deficiency or inadequate supply, meaning that there exists lack in the face of need. Taiwo and Agwu (2016) reasoned that poverty is a condition in which people live below a specified minimum income level and are unable to provide the basic necessities of life needed for an acceptable standard of living. Haralombos and Herald (1980) defined poverty as absolute issues which involve human needs and are measured in terms of resources required to maintain health and physical efficiency. Poverty according to Mbaegbu and Gbandi (2014) is considered from two different perspectives: poverty of lack of money and poverty of lack of power. A man is poor if he has insufficient cash and in adequate resources to satisfy his basic needs as a human being. He is also poor because he lacks the power or opportunity to change his situation in life. People in this station in life, according World Bank, live below poverty line of \$1.00 (one dollar) a day.

Egbide (2015) however observed that standard of living in itself is determined by several factors of which income is chief. This presupposes that defining poverty in terms of standard of living is invariably defining it in terms of income. Doma, Ibrahim and Ahmad (2014) on the other hand emphasized that poverty is a situation of not having enough to eat, poor drinking water, poor sanitation, unfit shelter ,high mortality rate, low life expectancy, poor environmental conditions, low level energy consumption, low educational opportunities, poor health status due to inadequate health care, lack of productive assets ,general lack of economic infrastructure and lack of active participation in the decision making process either as it affects individuals or national arena (be it management or political).The above reveals that poverty is the exposure and vulnerability to risks, corruption, street-life, squalor, high infant mortality, acute malnutrition, short life expectancy and human degradation. In this sense, poverty may be understood as the deprivation of essential goods and services. Consequently, poverty can be seen as a situation of social exclusion, dependency and the inability to participate in society. Particularly in education and information (Nemezu, 2014). Abdullahi, Sadiq and Adamu (2014) further expatiated the phenomenon of poverty as a living condition in which an entity is faced with economic, social, political, cultural and environmental involuntary deprivations to which a person, household, community or nation can be subjected.

Caleb (2015) also substantiated this fact by arguing that poverty is a lack of command over basic consumption needs. That means the poor have inadequate level of consumption giving rise to insufficient food, clothing and/or shelter and moreover the lack of certain capacities such as being able to participate with dignity in society. For, the World Bank (2003) they noted that poverty is pain, it feels like a disease. Poverty consumes a person not only on material terms but also morally. It chips away one's sense of dignity and ultimately drives one into hopelessness. Poor people not only undergo painful bouts of hunger arising from having little or nothing to eat and enduring long working 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.

Poverty therefore is a condition of being poor; deficiency; inadequacy, or scarcity. Poverty is a condition of having insufficient resources or income. In its most extreme form, poverty is a lack of basic human needs, such as adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing and health services.

National Security:

National security is the protection, assurances, a state or sense of safety or certainty, and not being exposed to danger. Security implies a stable, relatively unchanged atmosphere in which individuals or groups may pursue their ends without fear of loss or injury" (Deutsch, 1968). Nigeria's handling of national security has been poor and negligent of many strategic components as noted by Ekokuand Vogt (1990:226) that Nigeria has been a victim of security issues approach through (conservative and coercive approach to internal security management) as distinct from the positive non-coercive plan and response which tries to remove the causes of threats and internal strife through minimizing socio-economic hardship and inequities.

National security means protection of nation from danger: the protection of a nation from attack or other danger by maintaining adequate armed forces and guarding state secrets. It is the mission of the liberal state to guarantee security, prosperity and overall growth of its own part of the global society of citizens and civilians socially. But Nigeria has failed to do so socially by sustaining unequal access to education, employment and social opportunities. This failure signifies a direct threat to the legitimacy of the political establishment, and national security (Alexis 2011). The Nigerian experience shows that unemployment increasingly leading to poverty which also results hunger, increase of criminals and crime rate; diseases and epidemics leading to death

Theoretical Framework

The paper is anchored on social exclusion theory of poverty alleviation. The advocate of the social exclusion theory is Sophie Bessis (1995) and this theory argues that Social exclusion is the specific or deliberate continuous effort in which persons or groups are methodologically blocked from or denied complete accessibility to various rights, opportunities and resources that are usually available to members of a different group and which are indispensable to social integration within that particular group e.g. shelter,

employment, medical care, civic engagement and democratic participation. Alienation or disenfranchisement emanating from social exclusion can be as a result of an individual's social class, race, skin color or educational level. Basically, whoever appears to derail in any way from perceived norms of a particular group can become socially excluded. The outcome of social exclusion is that affected individuals or communities are prevented from participating fully in the economic, social and political life of the society in which they live and therefore cannot enjoy or maximally benefit from the poverty alleviation Programmes because they do not fit into a particular group based on social class, education or race. Social exclusion is fundamentally an issue of 'exclusion' and lack of what others have by the poor within the society and which they consider as *de facto* or normative rights and entitlements (Dauda, 2016). According to Ighodalo and Igbokwe-Ibeto (2012:371)

This certain people include mentally and physically challenged individuals, the elderly, abused children, junkies, deviants, single parents and social misfits. Furthermore, these group of excluded people are usually kept out or disempowered from achieving secure livelihood, permanent employment, properties, credit or loans, lands, housing, minimal prevailing consumption level, education, skill acquisition, justice, active involvement in the democratic process, humane treatment, respect and personal fulfillment provided by the state. This implies that social exclusion are privileges, policy Programmes or opportunities provided by government but denied or hijacked from certain or particular class of people in a society because they are subjected to a combination of terrible vicious cycles such as ill health, involvement in crime or high level of illiteracy.

In essence, these categories of people are often placed in a position of inferiority in relation to centers of economic empowerment, resources and prevailing opportunities. Mike Rann, the then Prime Minister of South Australia argued that social exclusion is usually invented by harsh and unfair economic invented by harsh and unfair circumstances, worsened by tough social environments and complicated by unfriendly government policies and care free attitude. In the light of this, social exclusion incorporates a broad range of social inequalities. The factors linked to social exclusion range from exclusion from social processes. For instance through racial harassment or exclusion because of poor education, poor health, homelessness, disability, poor social networks, lack of access to informal contacts to availability of jobs, lack of access to credit facilities and loans. However, this theory has been criticized as being too broad in scope that just anyone can be considered socially excluded.

This theory is relevant because Bessis, the propounder of this theory analyzed the causes of exclusion and the reasons for some people not gainfully employed. In essence, social exclusion theory explains the roles individuals play in fueling or contributing to their own deprivation and consequently poverty. Implying that someone may be poor because he or she has failed to adopt strategies that could have been used to improved his or health wellbeing. This research study is well suited to social exclusion theory. The social exclusion theory throws light on the existing poverty and poverty alleviation

efforts of both the government and the individuals' citizens who are unemployed or poor.

Mass poverty as a threat to National Security

Poverty can be described as a threat to human survival and national security. Poverty has a lot of destructive consequences to national security that requires dire governmental and non-governmental efforts towards its eradication. These destabilizing effects of poverty impacts negatively on individuals, the economy, the security as well as the peace and development of the society.

Poverty is largely blamed for the intractable security challenges in Nigeria. More worrisome is that population growth adds 4.5 million youths into the labour market every year that largely begs for the public sector attention as presently conceptualized. There is need to link poverty to the matrix of national security in order to find explanatory framework for this study. McNamara (1968) who posited that security is development and without development there can be no security further reinforces the nexus between unemployment and insecurity. Poverty can impact negatively on Nigeria's national security. National security is a phenomenon (observable fact) which can be affected by so many factors. Poverty is one critical element that can easily affect the quality of lives of the people. Nwolise (1985:68) argued that:

A country may have the best armed forces in terms of training and equipment, the most efficient police force, the most efficient customs men, the most active secret service agents, and the best quality prisons, and yet be the most insecure nation in the world, as result of defence and security problems from within – bad government, alienated and suffering masses, ignorance, hunger, unemployment, or even activities of foreign residents or companies.

The most pathetic feature of the Nigerian society today is that an elite minority of its citizens are living in affluence, while the majority is wallowing in poverty. These skewed economic relations do not reflect the geographical spread of resource endowment. It is rather a product of greed, injustice and selfishness. Stolberg (2012) work showed that though there might be some similarities in the ways nations craft their national security but some nations incorporated more elements of civil society and domestic national security than others. This underscores the importance of assessing critical issues that can pose threat to national security. The major problem Nigeria is confronted with is the internalized notion that it must have public sector infrastructures to accommodate citizens seeking to work in the public sector.

The Role of the National Directorate of Employment

The Objectives and Mandates of the National Directorate of Employment

The laws establishing the National Directorate of Employment in curtailing poverty according to the NDE annual report (2014) presents its mandates as follows:

- a. To design and implement Programmes to combat mass unemployment
- b. To articulate policies aimed at developing work Programmes with labor intensive potentials

- c. To obtain and maintain a data bank on employment and vacancies in the country with a view to acting as a clearing house to link job seekers with vacancies in collaboration with other government agencies and
- d. To implement any other policy/ policies as may be laid down from time to time by the board established under section 3 of its enabling act.

The NDE derives its routine functions from this mandate. The main function is to combat poverty and unemployment through skill acquisition, self-employment and labor intensive work scheme. (NDE annual report; 2011) However, to ensure wide coverage, the NDE articulated four pragmatic Programmes, each operating as a separate department as discussed below:

1. National Youth Employment and Vocational Skills Development Programme
2. Small Scale Industries and Graduate Employment Programme
3. Agricultural Sector Employment Programme
4. Special Public Works

These Programmes are backed by the necessary administrative, monitoring and support personnel, thus enabling optimum use of resources and prompt response to the requirement of the public (NDE annual report, 2012).

Youth Employment and Vocational Skills Development Programme

This Programme emanated from the realization that the majority of the unemployed and the poor are youths who possess productive and marketable skills. Hence, the three main schemes of these Programmes are concerned with skill acquisition with the aim of empowering youths for wealth creation for themselves. This Programme is usually carried out in the form of the following schemes:

National Open Apprenticeship Scheme: This is aimed at providing unemployed youths with basic skills that are needed in the economy with the aim of alleviating poverty. This was achieved by attaching them as apprentices to companies, ministries, parastatals and professional craftsmen and women. Some of them are given admission into vocational training institutions or centers to learn a trade (NDE annual report, 2014). All participants in this scheme are required to register with the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labor and productivity's local labor exchanges prior to being accepted as trainees. This formal registration enables accurate tracking of employment trends and labor statistics which is required for realistic national planning. Upon completion of their apprenticeships these participants will possess the necessary skills that are considered valuable by potential employers or enable those with entrepreneurial skills go into self-employment (Ezeanya, 2013).

Approved training organizations and individual craftsmen are a paid a fee for imparting their skills to the beneficiaries of this scheme. Each participant is paid a monthly stipend towards his or her maintenance whilst in training (NDE Annual Report, 2010). Furthermore, under this Programme, the various artisans in the cities and villages are

being organized into cooperative societies to facilitate the provision of financial and other assistance from the government and the organized private sector. Over 700,000 previously unemployed poor and unemployed youths were benefitting from this scheme by December, 1987 (NDE annual report, 2013:10). Furthermore, the skills provided by the department for learning include auto mechanical training, electrical/electronic maintenance, welding/foundry/metal fabrications, plumbing works, carpentry and joinery, leather works, photography, interior design, architectural draught man ship, printing, computer operation, catering/bakery/confectionary, hairdressing/barbing, auxiliary nursing, typing and shorthand, tailoring, fashion designing and modeling and some example of trainer organizations include: SCOA (Nigeria) limited (auto mechanics),Leventis Technical Limited (general maintenance skills), Lexmay technical (air condition repair and maintenance), Federal Ministry of Works (general technical services), Nigeria telecommunications limited (electrical/electronic),UTC Technical(general technical services, Continental Merchant Bank Limited (Banking operations),Vicy tailoring (sewing and fashion design) and Julius Berger, Lagos Transport Corporation. In addition, the NDE was in partnership with 500 trainers nationwide as at 2011 and is continuously scouting for more organizations to join them.

Waste to Wealth Scheme: The scheme is created to encourage the conversion of hitherto neglected raw materials and other scrap and waste materials into useful, marketable products. For example, by sheer inventiveness, it is possible to use snail shells, corals, cane materials, coconut shells and other scrap materials to make furniture items, house décor objects, ashtrays, apparels, containers, toys and other functional items. Apart from crafting employment opportunities for those concerned, this scheme will help in developing a culture of inventiveness and self-reliance in resource use, thereby curtailing wastefulness and importation of items that can be produced locally. The period of orientation is two weeks. After training, the participants are given small loans to set up on their own. Participants can establish on individual basis or operate together as cooperatives (NDE Annual Report, 2014)

Schools on Wheels Scheme: The directorate has recognized that there are few companies in the rural areas capable of offering apprenticeship and consequently creating the danger of encouraging urban migration. To avert this and give equal opportunity to the poor rural youths, the directorate developed the school on wheels' scheme. The school on wheels' scheme was designed to extend the skills acquisition training Programme to the poor and unemployed youths in the rural areas, where informal training outlets are deficient or nonexistent (NDE annual report, 2013). This training is carried out through the deployment of well-equipped Mobile Training Workshop (MTW) to designated rural community for a period of three months. The SOWS covers some specific skills based on the employment needs of the rural community (NDE annual report, 2015).

Disabled Work Scheme: The directorate has initiated schemes to bring the disabled into the main stream of the gainfully employed by providing them with special facilities. This is to enable them acquire appropriate skills and training which will lead to self-

employment or gainful employment. Many disabled people lack only ambulatory capability but usually possesses full mental and manual dexterity. They can therefore be trained in high technology and information management skills such as assembly of electronic equipment and computer operations.

Small Scale Enterprise Programme Department

The Small Scale Enterprise Department provides business training and facilitates the establishment of micro-businesses as a means of job generation and wealth creation. The business training Programme provided by the National Directorate of Employment under the Small Scale Enterprise Department covers Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) which introduces NYSC members to the opportunities for self-employment and identification of business opportunities as well as business startup and improvement Programmes for school leavers and retired persons (NDE annual report,2013).The department further empowers graduates of the business trainings with soft loans as “business startup capitals”. Furthermore, the Small Scale Enterprise Programme Department is implemented through five schemes

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP): The Programme is specifically for National Youth Service Corps members at the orientation camp. It is meant to sensitize them on available opportunities outside paid employment and how they could obtain assistance to set up their businesses. The department conducted a special advanced EDP training in 2013 for unemployed graduates of tertiary institutions in ICT. The training included the use of the internet for business, web design and development, Google technologies, social media techniques, business process outsourcing, link building and bulk SMS/text messaging. The training included such topics as project evaluation, business risk analysis, and feasibility study report, managing the small business process outsourcing, link building and bulk SMS/text messaging. The training included such topics as project evaluation, business risk analysis, and feasibility study report, managing the small business failures and business sustenance and growth. It was held from the 28th of January to the 2nd of January, 2013 at two centers simultaneously- Asaba and Kaduna States. Kaduna State involving 56 participants (40 males and 16 females) (NDE Annual Report, 2014).

Entrepreneurship Start-up Development Training Scheme (ESDTS): This is an advanced EDP scheme for Graduates of tertiary institution desiring to take up self-employment by becoming young entrepreneurs. The scheme modules. This is a prerequisite to access loans under the Enterprise Creation Fund of the Department. While some states executed this training under Entrepreneurship Start up Development Training Scheme (ESDTS), some did it under Start your own Business and some conducted specialized business training in ICT. A total of 366 graduates were training in the various business training Nationwide (NDE Annual Report, 2013).

Enterprise Creation Fund for Graduates: This is a Programme that essentially carries out provision of credit to graduates of the training Programmes whose project's feasibility studies have been assessed to be viable. Start-up capitals were provided to a total of 112

graduates (71 males and 41 females) of tertiary institution who participated at the ESDTS as soft loans (NDE Annual Report, 2013).

Basic Business Training (BBT): In the year under review, a total of 6,888 school leavers and artisans were given rudimentary business training under Basic Business Training. Out of the number trained, three thousand eight hundred (3800) operators of micro enterprises made up of one thousand and eighty-four (1,084) male and two thousand seven hundred and sixteen (2,716) female operators of micro enterprises spread across the 36 states and FCT Abuja were empowered with micro loans amounting to a total of seventy-four million (74,000,000.00) in order to empower them under Micro Enterprise Enhancement Scheme (MEES). The selected operators of micro enterprises included such as petty trading, road side food sellers, sales of GSM telephone, recharge cards, road side sales of plantain and fish roasting, sales of akara, kunu and so on. A further 652 were empowered in collaboration with other agencies, National Assembly members, cards technology and Shell Petroleum Development Company Nigeria Limited (SPDS) (NDE annual report, 2011).

Women Employment Promotion: This involves the training of women and vulnerable persons in business skills to enable them to establish specific skill based enterprises with the shortest possible time. They are further provided with seed funds to set up and practice the skills they have acquired. In this way, wealth is created as well as employment generated. Within the year under report, a total of 350 unemployed women in 35 states were trained in various income generating ventures and finally empowered financially with seed money to practice their newly learnt trades. The women received cash via their respective banker's loan totaling N17, 500,000.00 (Seventeen million, five hundred thousand naira only) at N50, 000.00 per woman. However, Lagos state within the year had a special training and empowerment for 60 women in income generation ventures. Also Oyo State in collaboration with an NGO to empower additional 33 women trained in 2012. Thus, while a total 410 women were trained within the reporting year, 443 women were empowered to start their income generating ventures (NDE Annual Report, 2013).

In addition, the Small Scale Enterprise support service described in this study are provided by the small scale industries and Graduate Employment Programme (SSI and GE). Some aspects of the Programme were based on preexisting schemes in the country even though such schemes had not been systematically implemented and followed through. For example, both Federal and State Governments had established a Small Scale Industries Credit Scheme in the early 1970s for financing small scale industries and some states were still operating the scheme by the time the NDE was created. In addition, the Federal Government had since the early 1970s opened Industrial Development Centers in the states to provide extension services to small scale industries not able to pay for the services of private consultants. The state Ministries of Commerce and Industries had also been providing advisory services to small scale industries through their small scale industries Division. All these services are still being provided across the country today (Ezeanya, 2011).

Similarly, training in the form of an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) was first suggested to the NDE upon its inauguration by the Centre for Management Development (CMD), which had designed and organized a similar Programme under the auspices of the Bendele State Government between November 1985 and December, 1986. The CMD had adapted its own EDP model from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India. The primary motivation for establishing the new enterprise support services under the auspices of the NDE was the existence, as noted, of desperate and alarming levels of unemployment among young people, which posed a serious threat to national security and peace. It was a major policy decision by the government to create the NDE as a parastatals agent of the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labor and Productivity. The aim of the small scale Industries and Graduate Employment Programme under the Directorate was to train and assist young graduates to set up small scale enterprises and to generate employment for others. The idea of incorporating training packages in the form of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes into the Programme, as suggested by the CMD, was warmly welcomed by many vocational and tertiary institutions. Almost all the young graduates who were unemployed needed training Programme to re-orientate and inspire them into self-employment and self-reliance. But they also needed financial assistance (under soft and concessionary conditions) to set up enterprises, and having done so, they would need management support services to sustain the effects of the training and financial assistance (Ezeanya, 2011).

Agricultural Rural- Employment Promotion Programme

This Programme is designed to provide self-employment in agriculture for school leavers and graduates with degrees, HND, NCE and OND in agriculture or related disciplines. Those who are interested in farming are given the relevant training and orientation and provided with land and loans to start farming ventures. The NDE implements its agricultural Programmes at the state level in collaboration with the state government. Each state has an NDE Agricultural Programme Committee which sees to the organization and implementation of the Programme. The state government recruits the participants and also provides the land needed for farming. (NDE annual report; 2012). Rural communities also provide the land through the appropriate local governments. In each case, land allocation certificates are issued to the NDE for land acquired. The cost of land clearing is borne equally between the NDE and the state government. The state provides about 500 hectares of farmland for the Programme each year

School Leavers Agricultural Scheme

These are two options open to school leavers within this scheme. For those untrained in agricultural methods the NDE has arranged that each state provides two fully staffed training farms of 250 hectares each. These farms can train up to 500 young farmers per annum each, the NDE paying trainees a monthly stipend during their twelve-month training period (NDE annual report, 2013: 22). Those successfully passing out of the NDE training Programme in farm institutes and farm schools will undergo only a 2-weeks orientation period, after which suitable candidates will be allocated 2.5 hectares of

land each within a farming cooperative of 375 hectares. Each allottee will then be provided with a farm loan package (Ezeanya, 2011). The NDE agricultural department is also involved in joint reactivation of neglected state farm settlements and similar agricultural project in the states to generate employment. States wishing to reactivate such farm project can obtain a loan at 9% interest rate from the NDE. The Agricultural Department also promotes employment in the rural areas in farm and non-farm activities. It promotes the use of improved technologies in food processing and preservation among small farmers in selected pilot project areas (NDE annual report, 2015).

Special Public Works Programme

This Programme is designed to provide immediate temporary employment to a large number of the unemployed. The objective is to utilize the valuable manpower resource in carrying out necessary public works using labor intensive techniques and enable the participants obtain short term employment whilst acquiring new skills and trade experience. The Programme encourages the development of a maintenance culture nationwide. The state government identifies the projects to which participants are deployed, usually with the active involvement of its Local Government Authorities (NDE annual report, 2010). Examples of the kinds of public works project bring executed are: Construction and maintenance of roads, buildings and other infrastructure, tree planting, environmental sanitation and land clearing and other farm support services. The Programme is meant for both graduates and non-graduates. The initial participants in each state totaled 1,000. These were 200 graduates and 800. The non-graduates, among whom are secondary and trade school leavers, are given a monthly wage of N150, while the graduates receive N200 per month. The NDE pays the wages while the State Government provides the tools and materials used by the participants, as well as general supervision of the works. The target of employing 20,000 persons in 1987 under this Programme, 1000 persons from each state and Abuja (Federal Capital Territory), has been met. Efforts are currently being made to increase the number of participants in each state from 1,000 to 2,000 (NDE annual report, 2012).

Concluding Remarks

From all indications, poverty is a social menace in Nigeria and constitutes a threat to national security. Evidently, unemployment creates poverty and poverty lead to insecurity. It therefore follows that both poverty has implications for national security. It is noteworthy that Nigerians are poor not because the country is poor but because of lack of correlation between the endowed resources, the proper exploitation of such and poor distribution of the endowed resources/nation's wealth.

Poverty issues cannot effectively be addressed in isolation of social norms, values and customary practices at different levels of the family, community, state, region or nation. Essentially, Poverty alleviation cannot be successful, if constant assessment or appraisal is not made in gauging how far each state have gone in reducing poverty through its poverty alleviation programmes. In view of the escalating nature of poverty and

attendant security threats in Nigeria there is the need for government to restructure and redesign approaches that will permanently reduce poverty through the provision of basic infrastructures and services that are efficient.

There is need for government to complement the efforts of the NDE at state level through provision of funds and infrastructures that will help in the realization or actualization of alleviating poverty. In making its effort work, there is also a need to ensure that there is a monitoring agency at the state levels that checks or monitors funds to ensure that the funds are used for its intended purposes in alleviating poverty and are not diverted or misappropriated for pecuniary purposes.

Government should not presume that they know what will benefit the poor better than the poor themselves. Projects should be embarked upon because the people need them, not because some contractors (who stand to profit from the projects) are pushing for them. That government at all levels should put in place and sustain programmes and policies geared towards reduction of poverty level via supporting National Directorate of Employment in reducing poverty in our society.

In ensuring further sustainability of the NDE in reducing poverty and unemployment it is recommended that government should ensure that the staff of the NDE are paid salaries commensurate with their efforts and creativity or initiative in alleviating poverty. This will motivate them for optimal performance and consequently contribute to sustainability of the NDE programmes because when salaries are paid, the NDE staff will become more industrious, possess ingenuity skills and creativity in developing workable and sustainable poverty alleviation programmes relevant to the peculiar needs of the people in each state.

References

- Alexis, G. (2011). Unemployment as a national security threat, *RIEAS Publication*, 11, pp.49, September.
- Deutsch, K. W. (1968). *The analysis of international relations: Foundation of modern science series*, Harvard University, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc
- Doma, A, Ibrahim, S & Ahmad. A. (2014). Relevance of business education in reducing unemployment and enhancing poverty alleviation in Nigeria. *Vocational Business Educator: A Publication of Business Educators Association in Vocational Education*, 2 (2)
- Egbide, B. (2015), *Public budgeting and poverty reduction in Nigeria*. (Doctoral thesis, Covenant University, Ota).
- Ezeanya, E. (2011) *Evaluation of the national directorate of employment as an instrument of Job Creation in Enugu State*. (Master's thesis, University of Nigeria, Nsukka).

- Fatile, J. & Adejuwon, K. (2013). Millennium development goals and poverty question in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*. 504-516. A Joint Publication of Babcock and Valley View Universities (Singapore).
- Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) (2001). *The Obasanjo reforms: National poverty eradication programme*, Abuja: Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation
- Haralambos, M. & Herald, R. (1980). *Sociology: Themes and perspective*, Slough: University Tutorial Press
- Igbokwe, I., Akhakpe, I., & Oteh, C. (2012). Poverty and sustainable socio-economic development in Africa: The Nigerian Experience, *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, (2) 2, 367-381
- Ighodalo, A. (2012). Poverty and sustainable socio-economic development in Africa: The Nigeria Experience, *European Scientific Journal*, (8), 26.
- Mbaegbu D. & Ogbeifun, M. (2008). Unethical practices in the Nigerian banking industry: The challenge of CBN. *Journal of Business Administration*. University of Ilorin. 7 (1).
- McNamara, R. (1968). *The essence of security. Reflections in Office*. New York: Harper and Row.
- Mustapha, H. (2014). Poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria: Issues and challenges. *International Journal of Development Research* 4 (3) 717-720
- National Bureau of Statistics. (2010). *Nigeria Federal office of statistics bulletin*, Government Printer: Abuja.
- National Directorate of Employment (2011). *Annual report. Planning, Research and Statistics Department*, Abuja.
- National Directorate of Employment (2012). *Annual report. Planning, Research and Statistics Department*, Abuja.
- National Directorate of Employment (2013). *Annual report. Planning, Research and Statistics Department*, Abuja.
- National Directorate of Employment (2014). *Annual report. Planning, Research and Statistics Department*, Abuja.
- National Directorate of Employment (2015). *Annual report. Planning, Research and Statistics Department*, Abuja.

- National Directorate of Employment (2017). *Annual report*. Planning, Research and Statistics Department, Abuja.
- Nemezu, C (2014). *Policy implementation of national poverty eradication programme (NAPEP) and women empowerment in Ogun State 2001-2011* (A PhD thesis, Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo, Ogun State).
- Nwolise O. B. C. (2013). *Implications of the Arab-Spring for national security in the West African sub-region: The role of the Nigerian army*. Ibadan: Gold Press Limited
- Nwosuji, E & Chukwu, F. (2017). Poverty eradication in Nigeria: An overview of NAPEP in Enugu State. *Journal of Arts and Management*, 2 (1)
- Sambo, F & Bawa, G. (2017). Youth unemployment deprivation and educational planning intervention in Nigeria. *Continental Journal of Education Research*, 10 (1), 2141-4181
- Stolberg, A. G. (2012). How nation-states craft national security documents. US Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute. Monograph.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria Report (N.d) The Obasanjo Reforms: National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Production, Publication and Documentation Department.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria Report (N.d) The Obasanjo Reforms: National Poverty Eradication Programme me (NAPEP). Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Production, Publication and Documentation Department.
- Uma, K. E. & Eboh, F. E. (2013). Corruption, economic development and emerging Markets: Evidence from Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Management Sciences and Education*, 2 (3), 56-67.
- Umar, F, Mohammad, A & Ratnaria, W. (2016). Politics of poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria: challenges and prospects. *Journal of Education and Social Sciences*, 4 2289-9855.
- United Nations. (2017). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. A/RES/70/1.
- World Bank (1990). *World development report: Poverty*. Washington DC: World Bank Group
- World Bank (1996). *Nigeria: Poverty in the midst of Plenty. The challenge of growth with Inclusion*. Washington DC: World Bank
- World Bank (2002). *Measuring poverty*. Retrieved from <http://web.worldbank.org/>. York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company Inc.