

# BEHAVIOURALISM, NEO-BEHAVIOURALISM AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INTERROGATING RESEARCH WORKS OF PROGRESSING SOCIAL SCIENTISTS IN NIGERIA

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## Abstract

The last two decades have witnessed a tremendous outpour of litigious discourses between Behaviouralists and post-Behaviouralists social scientists over an appropriate research methodology. Yet, the themes of such conferences and journals are often development-related for scholars' inquiries. This article, therefore, interrogates the actual intention of Nigerian Progressing Social Scientists (NPSSs) in their inquiries on social phenomena. Why progressing social scientists publish peer-review journal articles? Are studies of Nigerian progressing social scientists aimed at solving societal problems or progression in academic ranking? Thus, the paper specifically seeks: (i) the actual intent of progressing social science scholars in publishing peer-review articles; (ii) the utility rate of social science peer-review articles by public policy-makers; and (iii) the actual contributions of social science peer-review articles to national development in Nigeria. The paper sourced its theoretical foundations from the Theory of Dialectical Materialism (primacy of material conditions of living) and employs a hybrid of quantitative and qualitative methods by using the Observation Method in gathering both primary and secondary data. As a result, the article argued that until Nigerian academics are paid better wages and the personal needs of progressing social scientists are synchronized with the goals of national development, research works of progressing social scientists would be primarily aimed at satisfying methodological requirements for peer-review journal publications as a major precondition for progression in academic ranking other than improving the overall living conditions of humanity.

**Keywords:** *Behaviouralism, Neo-Behaviouralism, National Development, Research Works and Progressing Social Scientists.*

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## Introduction

Methodological arguments have taken the centre stage in local and international conferences as well as on the pages of peer-review journals. Two significant trends appear more discernible in such methodological contentions in political science and most social sciences. One is Behaviouralism which emphasizes on the use of scientific methods in the study of society focusing on the individual's political behaviour i.e. fact-based and value-free (empiricism), as a departure from the value-laden, normative and idealistic

traditional approaches that were in vogue before the end the Second World War (1945). Two is Neo-Behaviouralism which deemphasizes too much reliance on methodological technicalities in social science studies but stresses a paradigm shift to societal problem-solving in the study of social phenomena (See Easton 1969, Hein 1981, Johari 1989; Gauba 2003; Chaurasia 2003, Schram and Caterino 2006, Mahajan 2008; Krishna Kanta Handiqui State University 2013). This underscores the lack of a methodological orthodoxy in political science

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and other social sciences.

Social science research like the natural sciences is expected to be a reaction to societal problems. As Kesovich and Bedford (In Michele 2002:35) contended that the role of science is to act as a tool to solve society's problems and recognizes that society needs to be better informed about the benefits of science. This implies that, in Nigeria's present decade of socioeconomic and political crises, studies of progressing social scientists are expected not only to proffer solutions but also to identify the cause-effect relations of the prevailing national security problems in Nigeria as exacerbated by sectarian and ethno-regional violence, the scourge of environmental degradation occasioned by Petrobusinesses through gas flaring and all kinds of petroleum prospecting activities, as well as illegal oil bunkering activities in the Niger Delta region, the fallen educational standards as exacerbated by incessant strikes of Academic Staff Union of Universities, Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities, and Nigeria Union of Teachers (ASUU, NASUU and NUT), poor medical facilities and attendant high infant mortality rate, epileptic power supply and attendant questions of industrialization, dilapidated roads as exacerbated by high rate of auto-crash cases, fallen aviation standards and attendant high rate of plane-crash cases, and so on. The foregoing problems amongst others in Nigeria are begging for solutions in spite of the evolution of Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism contemporary approaches to the study of society. As proponents of Post-Behaviouralism argued that, quantifying is not as important as results, there being, in other words, a tacit agreement that inexact and relevant knowledge is more important than exact and trivial knowledge (Berndtson 2012:4).

Three significant challenges of progressing social scientists, therefore, are: (i)

Societal development and the impact of results of studies; (ii) Question of proper research method; and (iii) Global relations and the question of knowing our place in the whole. This calls for proper institutional funding of progressing social scientists to meet up with their intellectual challenges as in the United States of America and other developed countries. Simon (1986:14-15) in his classic article, *Decision Making and Problem Solving*, confirmed the institutional funding of research in the U.S.A as thus:

Most of the current research on decision making and problem solving is carried on in universities, frequently with the support of government funding agencies and private foundations. ... The National Science Foundation (NSF) provides research grants to the decision and management sciences, political science and the economics programs in the Social Science Division. ... The Office of Naval Research has, over the years, supported a wide range of studies of decision making, including early support for operations research. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Institutes of Health did the same in the department of defense and medicine, respectively.

In Nigeria, social sciences receive relatively little or no institutional support for university-based research and as such, academics in social sciences are often on their own mission. These challenges and the prevailing fallen patronage of higher education in Nigeria and their concomitant adverse effects on the socioeconomic conditions of academics are seemingly producing attitudinal problems amongst progressing social science researchers without recourse to the global trend on methodological contentions in social science scholarship. In the process, some progressing social science researchers are fast deviating from the norms of social scientism of creating a more

informed society through research works with direct applications to solving real-life problems and demystifying social phenomena. As a result, most progressing social scientists are seemingly forced by the excruciating socioeconomic milieu surrounding the Nigerian academic environment to limiting their research works to the methodological requirements of journal publishing institutions other than involving in truly societal problem-solving research works with the application of quantitative and qualitative methods. It seems that, progressing social scientists in Nigeria are more or less predisposed to pursuing the goal of progression in academic ranking through peer-review publications, unilaterally as an antidote to survive the metallic economic conditions haunting Nigerian academics. Thus, in spite of the global order on the methodological goals of social science scholarship conditioned by Behaviouralism and Neo-Behaviouralism, the real intention of research works of progressing social scientists in Nigeria is quite ambivalent. It is this evasive super-ordinate goal of Nigerian progressing social scientists' works of scholarship that this article interrogates.

The problematic of this paper, therefore, is how can progressing social scientists in Nigeria be motivated through better remunerations and research funding towards developing positive attitudes in conducting truly societal problem-solving research works by charting a new course for a conscious research policy that will synchronize the canons of both Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism. Thus, the following main research question is hereby posed to guide our enquiry on Behaviouralism, Neo-Behaviouralism and National Development in Nigeria: Is societal problem-solving the goal of Nigerian progressing social scientists' research works? For effective measurement of variables, the paper raised the following units

of questions from the main research question:

- (I) Are progressing social scientists in Nigeria publishing peer-review journal articles for societal problem-solving?
- (ii) Is there anything stimulating progressing social scientists in Nigeria to conduct studies for societal problem-solving?
- (iii) Are Nigerian public policy-makers utilizing results and policy implications of progressing social scientists' peer-review publications in public policy-making?

The paper, therefore, specifically seeks:

- (i) The actual intention of progressing social scientist in publishing peer-review journal articles.
  - (ii) The comparative salaries of progressing social scientists in Nigeria and the sponsorship of their research works.
  - (iii) The utility rate of social scientists' research works in Nigeria's public policy-making domains.
- This is done within the context of the Nigerian dialectical materialism theoretical perspective.

Clarification of key concepts

For purposes of clarity, the following key words or phrases require conceptual clarification:

- (i) Behaviouralism: - The behavioural approach to the study of political science basically refers to the empirical study of actual human behaviour instead of abstract theories. It derives its foundations from Philosopher Auguste Comte's doctrine of Positivism which theorized that society can be studied

scientifically and incrementally improved with the knowledge gained (Roskin and Cord 2010:28). Behaviouralists, therefore, concentrate on actual behaviour rather than thoughts or feelings. In the 1950s, Behaviouralists started gathering statistics from elections, public-opinion surveys and so on in numerical terms and used same to test, confirm or refute hypotheses for political studies. The behavioural approach to the study of politics records its highest achievements in dismantling the age-old tradition of using unexamined assumptions and as such, boosts an empirical culture in political theory. In this paper, Behaviouralism is an approach that stresses the application of scientific methods in the study of society towards strengthening results of social science research in comparison to results of studies of natural sciences that evolve around experimentalism.

(ii) Neo-Behaviouralism: - In this paper, Neo-Behaviouralism is used as a synonym of Post-Behaviouralism. Neo-Behaviouralism denotes a paradigm shift of focus in political inquiry from the strict adherent to methodological issues to a greater concern with public responsibilities of political

scientists, vis-à-vis political problem-solving. The post-behavioural approach to the study of political science, therefore, is a synthesis of the traditional, behavioural, and other approaches. It calls for the combination of relevance and action as well as the consolidation of political science gains for problem-solving and crisis-management. Post-Behaviouralists argued that methodology without problem-solving will reduce Behaviouralists and/or intellectuals to mere technicians or mechanics for tinkering with society (Strauss, 1957; Kuhn, 1962; and Easton 1969). The post-behavioural approach reminds intellectuals their avowed responsibility to reshape society in their task and quest to identifying, defining and explanation of reality. In sum, Post-Behaviouralism seeks the reintroduction of the concern for values in the behavioural approach and synchronizes value and empiricism in the study of societal reality. In this article, therefore, Neo-Behaviouralism is a movement for self-reflection in the social science profession towards reassessing our methodological nuances and the relevancy of the results of our studies to society. The distinction between Behavioral Approach (BA) and Neo-Behavioral Approach (NBA) is succinctly expressed in table 1.

**Table 1: Distinction between BA and NBA**

S/NO	Variable	Behavioural Approach	Post-Behavioural Movement
1.	Nature of Inquiry	Search for knowledge and theory	Search for applied knowledge and practice
2.	Purpose of Study	Knowledge for knowledge sake – Not interested in action or political problem-solving	Relevance of knowledge to satisfy social needs and action for problem-solving
3.	Focus of Study	Micro-level analysis – Focus on small units – Process of decision-making	Macro-level analysis – Focus on the role of big units.
4.	Attitude towards Values	Value-Neutral	Interested in the Choice of Values
5.	Attitude toward Social Change	Interested in Status Quo: Not Interested in Social Change	Interested in social Change for solving Social Problems

Source: Adapted from Gauba (2003).

(iii) National Development: - This refers to the holistic growth of all sectors of the Nigerian economy e.g. education, health, transport, infrastructure, agriculture, environment, energy, science & technology, commerce & industry, manufacturing, politics, and so on, for the benefit and socioeconomic and political well-being of Nigerians, irrespective of Nigeria's heterogeneous populations.

(iv) Research Works: - In this article, Research Works refer to studies of academics that are published in peer-review journals, locally and/or internationally.

(V) Progressing Social Scientists: - This is coined in this paper to denote all academics in the social sciences that are fallen between the ranks of Assistant Lecturer and Associate Professor. In other words, Progressing Social Scientists here refer to lecturers with minimum qualifications of Master of Science (M.Sc) Degree and/or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree who are employed in the Nigerian Universities/other higher institutions and are pursuing a career in social science scholarship.

#### Theoretical perspective

This paper adapts as its theoretical framework of analysis, the Theory of Dialectical Materialism with specific reference to Claude Ake's analysis on Primacy of Material Conditions of Living and the other two characteristics of the dialectical method viz: the Dynamic Character of Reality; and the Relatedness of Different Elements of Society. The Theory of Dialectical Materialism derived from Marxist philosophical materialism that represents the acme of philosophical thought. Thus, Marx and Engels analyzed the results of all previous philosophies to theoretically sum up the achievements of the natural sciences of their time. Thereafter, they again, combined the materialist doctrine with the dialectical method which emphasizes scientific cognition that regards reality in its development and

contradiction to create an entirely new philosophy called dialectical materialism (See Libman and Borisov 1985:10-12). The Theory of Dialectical Materialism, therefore, has the capacity of revealing the universal laws dictating the development of nature, society and human thought. As a result, it is useful for the understanding and explanation of the actual goals of research works of progressing social scientists in Nigeria. This will be clearer after looking at one of the most relevant characteristics of the dialectical method to this study, as explained by Ake (1981:1-8) in his classic work, *A Political Economy of Africa*. This we now turn to.

**The Primacy of Material Conditions:** - This is the first characteristic of dialectical materialism, and it sufficiently meets the theoretical requirements of this study. It specifically contended thus: That the method gives primacy to material conditions, particularly economic factors, in the explanation of social phenomena. The theory justifies its special attention on economic factors by the assumption that economic need is man's most fundamental need. And that, unless man is able to meet his economic need, he cannot exist in the first place. That, man must eat before he can do anything else – before he can worship, conduct research, pursue culture and/or methodological requirements of his profession, become a social scientists, and so on. The theory argued that when an individual achieves a level of economic well-being such that he can take the basic economic necessities, particularly his daily food and clothing for granted, and off course, the payment of his children school fees, accommodation, mobility, and so on, the urgency of economic need loses its edge. Nevertheless, the primacy remains. And that, the fact that one is not constantly preoccupied with, and motivated by economic needs, shows that the needs are being met, but it does not show they are not of primary importance. It is further argued that just as economic need is the primary need, so economic activity is man's

primary activity. And the primacy of work, i.e. economic productivity, is the corollary of the primacy of economic need. The theory admitted that it is true that man does not live by bread alone. But it is a more fundamental truth i.e. the truth of truths that man cannot live without bread (Ake 1981:1).

In applying this theory to this study, therefore, it implies that scholars of society – social scientists must pay particular attention to the economic structure of society and indeed use it as the point of departure for studying other aspects of society. As Ake (1981:1-2) aptly summarized thus:

Once we understand what the material assets and constraints of a society are, how the society produces goods to meet its material needs, how the goods are distributed, and what types of social relations arise from the organization of production, we have come a long way to understanding the culture of that society, its laws, its religious system, its political system and even its modes of thought.

The relevance of this theory to this study is in multiple folds. These include: (a) its insight into the dynamics of social reality that progressing social scientists study day-in-day-out and its attendant suitability for the study of prismatic societies in Africa which Nigeria is not an exception. (b) its development perspective which is key to this study on how to synchronize the needs of progressing social scientists and goals of national development in Nigeria towards encouraging a societal problem-solving attitude in social science research. (iii) its comprehensive view of society which illuminates the inextricable link between the personal needs of the average progressing social scientist and the permutation of his attitude towards professional and societal challenges. (iv) the theory's treatment of problems concretely rather than abstractly is quite instructive for this study as the paper is keenly interested in advocating for a self-reflective educational policy in Nigeria, whereby, both the patrons and clients of the Nigerian educational system

could reassess their obligations towards the promotion and effective utilization of the best of brains in the social sciences towards solving the numerous problems in the Nigerian federal enterprise.

From the canons of the Theory of Dialectical Materialism, therefore, the following propositions are imperative to guide our further inquiry:

(i) The better the remuneration of progressing social scientists and attendant good conditions of service, the higher their enthusiasm towards conducting societal problem-solving research works. This means that the economic need of academics is extremely important in the development of truly resourceful pool of experts in social science research for effective national development through the results of highly committed progressing social scientists' research works. And this tends to reproduce itself as good research works make lecturers better teachers. The implication is that better teachers are needed to raise a better future generation that will meet the fast-changing techno trends for sustainable development.

(ii) The lower the remuneration of progressing social scientists and attendant straitjacket requirements for career progression in the university/higher education system without strong institutional funding of research, the higher the tendency for negative attitudes of progressing social scientists towards conducting truly scientific research works for solving societal problems. This means that the spirit of being in one's own mission will be rife amongst progressing social scientists. Thus, they will tend to pursue their economic and career progression needs all alone towards the improvement of their debilitating material conditions to the detriment of good scientific research and national development.

(Iii) In so far as there is no improvement in the remuneration/welfare of academics and proper government patronage of higher education through institutional funding of research and development, methodological issues of Behaviouralism, Neo-Behaviouralism and so on, alone cannot establish a self-reflection research culture in the social sciences.

Based on the assumptions of the Theory of Dialectic Materialism and the attendant propositions raised above, it is hereby hypothesized that:

- (a) If progressing social scientists in Nigeria are receiving poor remunerations, the goals of their peer-review journal articles are not likely for societal problem-solving.
- (b) If progressing social scientists in Nigeria are not enjoying institutional funding of their research works, they are not likely to conduct studies for societal problem-solving.
- (c) If the utility of results of progressing social scientists' research works by Nigerian public policy-makers is low, progressing social scientists are not likely to be committed in societal problem-solving studies.

#### Methodology

The paper employs a hybrid of quantitative and qualitative methods. Thus, the observation method is used for the collection of primary and secondary data. An instantaneous-questionnaire method was used to gather data from 60 randomly selected respondents (Lecturers with PhD and/or Master's Degrees) from mainly social and management sciences from Nigerian universities sampled from amongst participants in the 2nd International Social and Management Sciences Research Conference

held on March 25 and 28, 2013, in Kaduna State University, Kaduna – Nigeria. All to find out through structured questionnaire/personal interviews: (a) their real intentions of research and attendant publication of peer-review journal articles; (b) their source(s) of funding for the conference and their research works; (c) their feelings towards the remunerations of progressing academics in Nigerian universities/other higher institutions and the impact on their socioeconomic conditions; and so on. We also consulted relevant books, journals, official documents, the internet, and so on, to find out if progressing social scientists in Nigerian universities/higher institutions are in anyway stimulated to pursue research works for problem-solving and national development. Finally, the simple percentage method and tabular presentations were used to analyze both the primary and secondary data collected for this article.

#### Discussion of findings

In this section, we will present and discuss our findings by way of answering the research questions and testing our hypotheses. We now start with presentation of the primary data collected from our respondents on the real intention of progressing social scientists' research works in Nigeria.

The Intent of Research Works of Progressing Social Scientists in Nigeria  
The results of the primary data collected from 60 conferees in the International Social and Management Sciences Research Conference held on March 25 and 28, 2013, in Kaduna State University, Kaduna – Nigeria through instantaneous-questionnaires/personal interviews revealed that most progressing social scientists in Nigeria embark on research works, attend academic conferences and publish in peer-review journals to fulfill requirements for promotion. This is demonstrated in Table 2 showing the responses and feelings of progressing social scientists in Nigeria.

**Table 2: Responses of Progressing Social Scientists the Intent of their Research Works**

S/N	Variable	Response/Feelings of progressing Social Scientists			Total Respondents
		To Solve Problems in Society	To Meet Requirements for promotion	For the fun of it	
1.	Purpose of Nigerian Progressing Social Scientists (NPSSs) research works.	5 (8%)	40 (67%)	15 (25%)	60 (100%)
2.	NPSSs purpose of attending academic conferences.	2 (3%)	48 (80%)	10 (17%)	60 (100%)
3.	NPSSs primary goal of publishing research works.	3 (5%)	45 (75%)	12 (20%)	60 (100%)

Source: Eseduwo Field Study (2013)

It is observed in table 2 that 67% of academics confessed that they conduct research to meet requirements for their promotion from one academic rank to the other. In the same vein, 80% confessed that they attend academic conferences to meet requirements for promotion. And 75% confirmed that the primary goal of publishing their research works in peer-review journals is to meet requirements for promotion. The pursuit of mainly promotional goals amongst progressing social scientists in Nigeria is not unconnected with the economic factor as most academics revealed that they sponsor their research works, conferences and publications. This is evident in Table 3.

**Table 3: Responses of Progressing Social Scientists on the Sponsorship of their Research Works**

S/N	Variable	Response/Experiences of Progressing Social Scientists				Total Respondents
		Employer (University or Higher Institution)	Government Agencies	Private Agencies	Self-funding	
1.	NPSSs source of funding research works.	2 (3%)	10 (17%)	8 (13%)	42 (70%)	60 (100%)
2.	Sponsorship of NPSSs academic conferences.	12 (20%)	5 (8%)	3 (5%)	40 (67%)	60 (100%)
3.	NPSSs source of funding peer -review journal publications.	10 (17%)	4 (7%)	2 (3%)	44 (73%)	60 (100%)

Source: Eseduwo Field Study (2013)

Table 3 shows that 70% of the respondents said they have been sponsoring their research works all alone, 67% also revealed that they have been sponsoring themselves for academic conferences, and 73% said they have been funding their publications by themselves. Unlike in the U.S.A, government sponsorship of social science research and development (R&D) in Nigeria is very, very poor. Only 17% of respondents admitted that they have benefitted from government agencies' sponsorship on studies relating to oil and gas. One of such agencies was the Petroleum Development Trust Fund (PDTF). If progressing social scientists in Nigeria are funding their research works all alone, then how much do they earn to enable them embark on real scientific research? This situation of social scientists being on their own adversely affects the validity and



reliability of results of social science research in Nigeria. How far can a progressing social scientist's salary take him/her in terms of data collection in a national study and also satisfy his/her basic needs? Table 4 depicts the comparative remunerations of academics in Nigeria and the United States of America (USA).

Table 4: Comparative Remunerations of Academics in Nigeria and U.S.A

S/N	Cadre	Country	Entry-level Educational Qualification	Median Pay as at 2010		
				Salary Per Annum	Salary Per Month	Salary Per Hour
1.	Medical Scientists	U.S.A	Doctoral or Professional Degree	\$76,000.00 (N11,856,000.00)	\$6,333.00 (N988,000.00)	\$36.87 (N5,751.72)
		Nigeria	PhD	N2,090,795.00 (\$13,402.53)	N174,232.92 (\$1,116.88)	N907.46 (\$5.82)
2.	Political Scientists	U.S.A	PhD or Master's Degree	\$107,420.00 (N16,757,520.00)	\$8,952.00 (N1,396,460.00)	\$51.56 (N8,043.40)
		Nigeria	PhD	N2,090,795.00 (\$13,402.53)	N174,232.92 (\$1,116.88)	N907.46 (\$5.82)
3.	Professor	Nigeria	PhD and at least 10 yrs experience with many publications	N4,591,149 (\$29,430.44)	N382,595.75 (\$2,452.54)	N1,992.69 (\$12.77)

Sources: U.S Bureau of Labour Statistics (2013); and Salaries & Wages Commission, Nigeria (2011)

Table 4 shows the big difference between remunerations of U.S.A academics and Nigerian academics. The median pay of a political scientist i.e. lecturer 1 in the U.S.A earns (\$8,952.00, equivalent of N1, 396,460.00), monthly which is far more than what a professor in Nigeria earns (N382, 595.75, equivalent of \$2,452.54), monthly. It is also observed in the data that in U.S.A political scientists earn more than medical scientists e.g. political scientists (social science) earn \$107,420.00 per annum whilst medical scientists (natural science) earn \$76,000.00. The remunerations of Nigerian academics, therefore, cannot fund reasonable field studies and at the same time pay the physiological bills of progressing social scientists. Table 5 further depicts the poor remunerations of Nigerian academics as compared to remunerations of civil servants in the legislative arm of government.

**Table 5: Comparative Remunerations of Professors and Directors in Nigerian Legislature**

S/N	Cadre	Entry-level Educational Qualification	Salary as at 2010	
			Salary Per Annum	Salary Per Month
1.	Professor	PhD and at least 10 years experience with many publications	N4,591,149	N382,595.75
2.	Director on SGL 17/1 in the Legislative Arm of Government	First Degree and 26 years work experience	N5,647,859.88	N470,654.99

Sources: National Assembly Circular Ref. No. NASS/CAN/47/Vol. 4 (2013); Salaries & Wages Commission, Nigeria (2011)

Most academics expressed their dismay over the poor remunerations of the Consolidated University Academic Salary Structure II (CONUASS II) of Nigerian universities. The Nigerian university system, therefore, inexorably produces a weak middle class and attendant slow pace of national development. Table 6 depicts the negative feelings of progressing social scientists over the poor university remunerations in Nigeria.

**Table 6: Responses of Progressing Social Scientists over University Remunerations in Nigeria**

S/N	Variable	Response/Feelings of Progressing Social Scientists				Total Respondents
		High	Moderate	Low	Don't Know	
1.	Assessment of the comparative remunerations of NPSSs.	0 (0%)	3 (5%)	56 (93%)	1(2%)	60 (100%)
2.	Extent of NPSSs meeting their socioeconomic needs with their salaries.	0 (0%)	15 (25%)	45 (75%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)
3.	Extent of NPSSs job satisfaction as academics in Nigeria.	0 (0%)	18 (30%)	42 (70%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)
4.	NPSSs interest of change of job if there is any apart from the lecturer job.	40 (67%)	16 (27%)	4 (7%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)

Source: Eseduwo Field Study (2013)

Table 6 shows the data collected from academics and 93% of respondents rated the comparative remunerations of academics in Nigeria as low. 75% confessed that the remunerations of academics in Nigeria cannot provide their basic needs. 70% confessed their low interest in the academia, and 67% indicated their high interest to change job whenever there is a better job. Thus, the Data in Table 6 depict how ill-motivated progressing social science academics are. Another issue observed was the rate of utilization of results of research works of progressing social scientists by public policy-makers in Nigeria. It was discovered that the rate of utility is low in the eyes of the academics. This is evident in Table 7.

**Table 7: Utility Rate of Results of Research Works of Progressing Social Scientists in Nigeria**

S/N	Variable	Response/Feelings of Progressing Social Scientists				Total Respondents
		High	Moderate	Low	Don't Know	
1.	The utility rate of results of NPSSs research works in Nigeria's public policy-making domains.	3 (5%)	10 (17%)	45 (75%)	2 (3%)	60 (100%)
2.	Assessment of the rate of motivation of NPSSs to pursue societal problem solving research.	2 (3%)	8 (13%)	50 (83%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)

Source: Eseduwo Field Study (2013)

Table 7 clearly demonstrated the low utility rate of results of research works of progressing social scientists in Nigeria. 75% of respondents confirmed that the utility rate of results of their research works in public policy-making circles is low. As a result, 83% of progressing social scientists under review confessed that their enthusiasm to pursue societal problem-solving research is low. Then, what motivates progressing social scientists in Nigeria to pursue societal problem-solving research? Table 8 provides the answer.

**Table 8: Stimulants of Societal Problem-Solving Research in the Social Sciences**

S/N	Variable	Response/Feelings of Progressing Social Scientists				Total Respondents
		Good Pay and Better Conditions of Service	Institutional Funding of Research Works	High Utility of Research Results	None of the Above	
1.	The stimulants of rigorous societal problem-solving research amongst NPSSs.	38 (63%)	10 (17%)	12 (20%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)
2.	The stimulants of thorough application of scientific methods in NPSSs research works.	40 (67%)	15 (25%)	5(8%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)

Source: Eseduwo Field Study (2013)

From Table 8, it is observed that the prime motivators for societal problem-solving research amongst progressing social scientists include 'good pay', 'better conditions of service', and 'high utility of research results' in public policy-making domains, and not even 'institutional funding of research works'. Good pay and better conditions of service also constitute major stimulants for thorough application of scientific methods in social science scholarship. This time around, institutional funding is also a contributive factor. The Theory of Dialectical Materialism, therefore, is right to contend that "economic need is man's most fundamental need. That, unless man is able to meet his economic need, he cannot exist in the first place.... that, man must eat before he can do anything else" (Ake 1981:1). Progressing social scientists in Nigeria have not eaten well; have accommodation problems here and there, backlog of debts of children school fees, mobility challenges, and so on. It is, therefore, not surprising that their main intention of research and attendant publication is to meet requirements for promotion so that they can progress in academic ranks to improve their status and remunerations, ostensibly. Issues of Behaviouralism, Neo-Behaviouralism and national development, therefore, are inexorably murdered on a platter of survival of the fittest.

The revelations from the so-called 'take-home' remunerations of Nigerian academics that cannot take any progressing social scientists home, inevitably point to the growing culture of poverty domiciled in a supposed middle

class (intellectuals) of an oil-producing country. Nigeria's poverty in numbers as reflected in the 2012 poverty profile confirms the phenomenal increase in relative and absolute poverty rates between 2004 and 2012 amidst tremendous outpour of intellectuals into the labour market. Axiomatically, education is no longer an antidote to poverty in Nigeria if progressing social scientists (Employed holders of PhD and Master's Degrees) cannot satisfy their physiological needs. Table 9 depicts the growing culture of poverty in Nigeria.

**Table 9: Poverty in Numbers with 2011 Estimates**

Variable	2004	2010	2011
Estimated Population (Million)	126.3	163	168
Relative Poverty	54%	69%	72%
Absolute Poverty	55%	61%	62%
Dollar Per Day	63%	61%	63%

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria (2012)

S/NO	Country	Budget to Education (%)	Position
1.	Ghana	31.0	1 <sup>st</sup>
2.	Cote d'Ivoire	30.0	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3.	Uganda	27.0	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4.	Morocco	26.4	4 <sup>th</sup>
5.	South Africa	25.8	5 <sup>th</sup>
6.	Switzerland	24.6	6 <sup>th</sup>
7.	Mexico	24.3	7 <sup>th</sup>
8.	Kenya	23.0	8 <sup>th</sup>
9.	United Arab Emirate	22.5	9 <sup>th</sup>
10.	Botswana	19.0	10 <sup>th</sup>

11.	Iran	17.7	11 <sup>th</sup>
12.	United States of America	17.1	12 <sup>th</sup>
13.	Tunisia	17.0	13 <sup>th</sup>
14.	Lesotho	17.0	14 <sup>th</sup>
15.	Burkina Faso	16.8	15 <sup>th</sup>
16.	Norway	16.2	16 <sup>th</sup>
17.	Columbia	15.6	17 <sup>th</sup>
18.	Nicaragua	15.0	18 <sup>th</sup>
19.	India	12.7	19 <sup>th</sup>
20.	Nigeria	8.4	20 <sup>th</sup>

Source: World Bank (2012)

Table 10 unequivocally depicts the extraordinary poor funding of education in Nigeria and clearly underscores the conspicuous poverty circles in Nigerian universities. Of a fact, Ladan (2012) aptly remarked that the N4.9trn budget proposal of 2012 presented to the National Assembly that allocated N426.53bn to the education sub-sector which is just 8.7% of the national budget clearly explains why the nation's universities will continue to suffer the frustration and indignity of very low rating in the world ranking of universities. Ladan (2012) argued that the only way Nigeria would attain its desired sustainable development is to increase the annual fiscal allocation to education to N1.274trn out of the N4.9 budget proposal for 2013, which is only 26% of the total budgetary allocation compared to the 31% allocated to education by the Ghanaian government (Also see Nwosu 2013:29). The bizarre of poor funding of university education, certainly, is principally responsible for the fallen standard of social science research in Nigeria, which is inevitably symptomatic of the lingering question of national development.

#### Conclusion and policy implications

Based on the foregoing findings, the paper concluded that, in spite of global methodological dialectics inaugurated by proponents of Behaviouralism and Neo-Behaviouralism, progressing social scientists in Nigeria invest more on career advancement goals other than pursuing societal problem-

solving research. This is so due to poor remunerations, absence of better conditions of service, low utility of research results, and poor institutional funding of research in Nigerian universities/other higher institutions. As a result, an unbridled culture of poverty exists amongst progressing social scientists which is evoking a spirit of 'everybody-is-on-his-own' mission, in Nigerian social science scholarship. There is a wide gap between progressing social scientists and the patrons of university education. Thus, until Nigerian academics are paid better wages and the personal needs of progressing social scientists are synchronized with the goals of national development, research works of progressing social scientists would be primarily aimed at satisfying methodological requirements for peer-review journal publications as a major precondition for progression in academic ranking other than pursuing national development. This, if not checked, is capable of reducing Nigeria to a country existing at high risk, as academics that are expected to investigate cause-effect relationship of socioeconomic and political phenomena and provide explanations and/or possible answers for multifaceted questions of national development are turning around to pursuing mere personal promotional goals, unilaterally. A country that neglects its academics is like a man that is uprooting the middle pillars of his house with the resultant effect of being buried by the forces of his fallen building.

#### Policy Implications

In line with the conclusion drawn from the results of this study, the following policy implications are essential:

1. A culture of self-reflection should be encouraged in the Nigerian university system instead of the production and reproduction of circles of poverty.
2. Nigerian government should take a cue from the American government for a possible upward review of remunerations of

- academics to promote scientific scholarship towards proffering answers for persistent questions of national development.
3. Government should encourage pure scientific research through institutional funding of research works of progressing social scientists.
  4. Social science research should be aimed at promoting national development through empirical research.
  5. Conditions of service in Nigerian universities should be amenable to global standards other than subjecting progressing academics to 'captives of conscience' reduced to the blinkered pursuit of personal promotional goals other than making useful contributions towards solving the myriad problems of national development through their wealth of knowledge.
  6. Public policy-makers should effectively utilize the results of research works of progressing social scientists towards spurring them to more rigorous scientific studies.
  7. The high-rating social nobility of academics as prime movers and shakers of any society through research, lecturing and publication should be matched with economic nobility
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