

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY IN NIGERIA: ANALYSIS OF RURAL POVERTY IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA

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Abstract

There has been a growing concern over the years for the need to critically examine the activities and behavior of the youth. This is due to the reoccurring problems of unemployment and lack of means of self reliance for youth. Nigeria has a youth population of close to 70-80 million about 50%-60% of her population and mostly located in the rural areas. Over 80% of the youth in Nigeria lack jobs and a great number (10%) are unemployable. Many scholars have contributed to this problem to extreme poverty in Nigeria. Poverty and unemployment especially among the youth had remained one of the fundamental challenges threatening the economic development of Nigeria. In fact the most widely affected among all the regions in Nigeria are the Northern Regions. The objective of this paper was to establish relationship between poverty and unemployment. This study adopted certain empirical measurements in assessing poverty variables among some selected States and Local Governments in the Northern part of Nigeria. The outcome of Spearman Correlation results revealed positive relationship among poverty variables. Unemployment was positively related to all the poverty variables and the level of significance was relatively very high at both 1% and 5%. This revealed that for unemployment to be solved, other factors such as corruption, illiteracy, health condition and large family size should be taken into consideration. Hence, the paper submits that poverty and unemployment in the Northern Nigeria are driven by many fundamental poverty variables.

Keywords: *Poverty, Unemployment, Corruption, Deprivation and Destitution*

Background to the Study

Poverty in Nigeria is on the rise, particularly among geo-political entities and certain groups. Recent statistics published by National Bureau of Statistics (2012) have indicated that “Despite the fact that Nigerian Economy is paradoxically growing, the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty is increasing every year”. The proportion of population living below the poverty line increased significantly from 1980 to 2004. In 2003/2004, the incidence of poverty was 75.5 percent while in 2009/2010; the perception index of household living in poverty had risen to 92.5 percent. Side-by-side with poverty is the growing unemployment in Nigeria. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has also put the figure of unemployed Nigerians in the first half of the year 2011 at 23.9 percent, up from 21.1 percent in 2010 and 19.7 percent in 2009. Nigeria has a youth population of close to 70-80 million about 50%-60% of her population. Over 80% of the youth in Nigeria lack jobs and a great number (10%) is unemployable due to lack of requisite skills needed in the competitive global employment market.

Poverty and unemployment especially among the youth had remained one of the fundamental challenges threatening the economic development of Nigeria. In fact the most widely affected among all the Regions in Nigeria are the Northern Regions. By all categories of poverty, Northern zones have recorded the highest number of poor people. For instance NBS report (2012) has shown that North-West and North-East

recorded the highest poverty rates in the country in 2010 with 77.7 percent and 76.3 percent respectively. On the other hand, the South-West geo-political zone, according to the report, recorded the lowest at 59.1 percent. The states with highest unemployment rates from the statistics, Yobe recorded the highest with 60.6 percent; Zamfara followed with 42.6 percent; and Niger, 39.4 percent; while Osun, 3.0 percent; and Lagos 8.3 percent, all from South-West recorded the lowest rates by June 2011.

The cumulative effect of increased poverty and worsening unemployment in the Northern Geo-Political Zones is a major break in the transition chain from youth to adulthood. It produces a disconnection from the main stream of the society leading to heightened crimes, drug abuse, and debasement of moral values and general lack of patriotism among the youthful population. Many of the youths in Northern Nigeria have engaged themselves in numerous nefarious activities that pose serious security risk to lives and property in our immediate environment. Poverty and unemployment are constitutive elements of the subject of development; however the empirical analysis of their relationship especially in the Northern Nigeria has not been widely investigated. Why the Northern Zones despites their enormous resources yet poverty and unemployment continued to increase? What most have accounted for this increase? In an attempt these questions, two hypotheses were formulated. These are as follows:

- 1) H_0 : there is no significant relationship between Poverty and Unemployment.
 H_1 : there is significant relationship between Poverty and Unemployment.
- 2) H_0 : corruption and illiteracy are not the intervening variables of poverty and unemployment.
 H_1 : corruption and illiteracy are the intervening variables of poverty and unemployment.

The major objective of the paper was to measure the degree of relationship between poverty and unemployment. Other objective was to examine issues why poverty and unemployment in the Northern Nigeria continued to increase.

Literature Review

In this section, the paper has examined three major areas of literature review. The first is a review of scholars and analysts on poverty and unemployment, the second is an attempt to summarize researches and studies' findings on poverty and unemployment. The third is to provide theoretical framework to examine the relationship between poverty and unemployment in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Poverty and Unemployment

Poverty and unemployment are constitutive elements of the subject of development economic and topical issues of concern among the less developed and backward economies. The desire for development definitely has long term goals of eradicating poverty and providing employment to the large number of youth roaming about in street. In fact many scholars of development economics have attributed lacked of development due to raising level of poverty and unemployment. Dudley Seers for instance posed the basic question about the meaning of development succinctly when he asserted:

The questions to ask about a country's development are therefore: What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all the three have, it would be strange to call the result "development" even if per capita income doubled (Seers: 1969).

The assertion made by Seers affirmed three central issues in the literature of development economic in which every economy is battling to solve. These are poverty, unemployment and inequality. Poverty and unemployment have been a global concern and received a lot of attention of the policy makers and political analysts. According to Economy Watch (2010) "Unemployment and Poverty are two major challenges that are facing the world economy at present. Unemployment leads to financial crisis and reduces purchasing capacity of a nation. This in turn resulted to poverty followed by increasing burden of debt. Poverty and unemployment are the world wide phenomenon, but developing countries including Nigeria are the most seriously affected. President Jonathan (2012) at Nigerian Economic Society's (NES) conference in Abuja lamented that "poverty and high unemployment rate among youths had become pervasive global problems that deserved considerable attention and resources". He further gave a statistic that of the 202 million unemployed people globally, youth unemployment accounted for percent and within the European Union, the average unemployment rate stood at 11.1 percent, while the figure was as high as 25% in some African Countries.

In the remarks of the Nigerian government at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Governing Board meeting held in Geneva on 29th March 2010, "Nigeria noted the steady process of global economic recovery made in the last one year in some advanced and developing countries, but regretted that Sub-Saharan Africa region is still in the economic doldrums as evidenced by the alarming rates of poverty, job losses, unemployment crisis and economic growth imbalances" (Goodluck: 2010). By the same talking UNDP has raised concerns over the increasing rate of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria. The Resident Representative of UNDP, Daouda Toure made the observation in Abuja at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Nigerian Economic Society held 29th August 2012. Toure noted that "for almost a decade now, Nigeria has been recording consistently high economic growth rate that has not produced commensurate employment opportunities and reduction in poverty among its citizens" (Toure: 2012). Umo, a former president of NES emphasized that since employment and poverty crises were intertwined, the movement employment was solved, poverty problem would be simultaneously addressed (NES:2012).

Poverty and unemployment are both social and economic problems that have been the major causes of income inequality between the haves and have not and between rural and urban areas in Nigeria. Growing and persistent unemployment and poverty has a negative effect on social development. Long-term youth unemployment in particular can generate frustration and low self-esteem, and can lead to increased vulnerability among some young people to drugs, disease and crime. There are evidences that unemployment can expose youth to greater risks of lower future wages, repeated periods of unemployment, longer unemployment spells as adults, and income poverty.

Today the Northern part of the country has literally erupted with unrivalled violence, Bomb blasts, kidnaps and killings of Nigerians and others have become the prevailing trend. Despite beefing up of security in these areas, the problems still looms. Even more worrisome is that the Northern part of the country has tended to record worse poverty and unemployment figures compared to the southern part. It is pertinent to ask whether poverty and unemployment particularly in the Northern part of Nigeria are not the vain of contention for this perpetual problem of security insurgency and youth unrest affecting the Northern part of Nigeria. This is the thrust of this paper. In the next sub-section, the paper reviewed the work and studies conducted in this area.

Researches and Studies conducted on poverty and unemployment

The subject of poverty and unemployment has engaged the attention of many researchers and political analysts. This is based on the fact that poverty and unemployment are global phenomenon and pose serious problems of sustainable development. There are varied definitions and perspectives of poverty and unemployment largely because of their adverse effect to human conditions, including physical, moral and psychological. Ajakaiye and Adeyeye (NISER: 2001) gave comprehensive concepts, measurements and causes of poverty. Their arguments stemmed from the global historical trends of poverty. They argued that;

First poverty needs to be understood first and foremost as a problem at the individual rather than the household level. Second is the use of income or food measure of poverty. Third, is the settled consensus that people move in and out of poverty, and that seasonal, cyclical or stochastic shocks are important in poverty conceptualization and measurement. Beyond these areas of agreement, there are different views on whether assets, including social claims, should be counted in poverty matrix, on the importance of vulnerability, and on the relative prioritization of monetary and non-monetary variables.

Based on these conceptual definitions, many empirical studies on the determinants of poverty have identified a number of factors tending to influence individual household level of poverty and welfare. A research conducted by FOS (1996) isolated unemployment as a key factor. In a study covering 140 households drawn from the village listing exercises, Enidun (1996:6) used probit analysis and reported a negative access to regular job and poverty. The study further revealed that households with members that involved in agricultural labour are likely to be included among the poor. In addition the results of the study indicate strong association between farm labour and poverty. The work of Okojie (2002:6) on the basis of the use of household survey data shows that poverty tends to afflict the farming populations more than it does to non-farming population. The findings are closely related to those of Ghazouani and Goaid (2001:11) who found employment as the major cause of poverty, a conclusion on the basis of a 1990 survey of 7,734 households. Furthermore, NEC et al. (2001:11) find a significant positive relationship between employment and household welfare. A study also conducted by Kingdom and Knight (2003:25) also shows negative relationship between unemployment and household subjective wellbeing.

Seemingly the work of Tokunbo (2005) on “Macro econometric Analysis of Growth, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria” revealed that:

There is very high level of poverty in Nigeria. Majority of Nigerians live in object poverty. Unemployment is also a major problem plaguing many Nigerians. Unemployment is highly related with poverty. The estimates of the model of the study, however, show an inverse relationship between poverty level and unemployment rate which implies that increase in unemployment rate reduces poverty in Nigeria, and increase in level of poverty reduces unemployment.

From the analysis so far, there is definitely relationship between poverty and unemployment, but whether such relationship is positive or negative and how strong is their relationship depend to some extent on specific outcomes of researches and conclusions made. In most of researches the paper reviewed take look at the country as whole and make general conclusion therein. There was no attempt to look at specific areas that were severely affected by poverty and unemployment.

A closely related research seemingly under taken was that of Ibrahim (2012). His work centered on youth's idleness and unemployment in Nigeria: An implication for the Northern Nigeria. His paper emphasized the implications of youth unemployment in Nigeria, for the North-East. The implications he discussed were social, economic and political. It was argued in his paper that youth unemployment is potentially dangerous as it sends disturbing signal to all segments of Nigerian society, in particular reference to North-East. He further outlined some positive impacts of youth employment as well as negative impacts of youth unemployment. One of the negative consequences of unemployment was poverty. According to him "when one is idle, there will be no means of earning a living and this will increase poverty in the society, even those that are meant to cater for their family needs will not be able to do so because of lack of funds". Definitely poverty and unemployment are dual problems that require empirical analysis. But instead of looking at them as socio-economic problems of the North-East, he separated them and there was no enough evidence to back up his arguments. North-East in fact faced serious problems of security insurgent and could be associated with youth's idleness and poverty. But his paper has not gone beyond mere saying with no statistical data to prove such relationship.

Despite numerous studies and researches conducted to examine relationship poverty and unemployment, a couple of gaps still remain. Many of the researches conducted were mostly at national level and general conclusion made might not necessary reveal the situation of those that are seriously affected by the problems of poverty and unemployment. Therefore to deal with these intertwined problems of poverty and unemployment micro-level information, particular in the Northern Nigeria is highly demanded. This is partly because the most affected regions among the six-geopolitical regions of Nigeria are the Northern Nigeria. Secondly research at micro-level tends to generate more information from the household's perception on poverty and unemployment.

Review of intervening variables of poverty and unemployment.

Controversies emerged in the literature we reviewed as to the nature of the relationship between Poverty and Unemployment. Many of the authors have the believe that it was poverty that cause unemployment, whereas others accepted that lack of skills and other requirements of gainful employment resulted to poverty among the youth. Opinions therefore differ. For instance, Tokunbo (2005) study further established the reason for inverse relationship between poverty and unemployment from the fact that when people become unemployed in the official sense in Nigeria, many still engage in various types of irregular jobs which are officially not regarded as employment. She further stated that these irregular jobs make many of the workers better-off and increase their quality of life and bring them out of poverty. She further emphasized that some of the workers who become unemployed in Nigeria depend on their non-poor relatives for survival, and in many cases, their non-poor relatives make them to be better-off and bring them out of poverty. Which by implication, according to her, poverty and unemployment are inversely related and many factors have come to play to determine their level of relations. These factors as identified by in her paper included irregular jobs, financial assistance from non-poor family members and acceptance of low wages.

Sabari (2010) investigated the relationship between government expenditures versus poverty and the standard of living of Nigerians. His major finding was that per capita expenditure on health and education have no significant effect on the per capital income of Nigeria, and hence recommended that Nigerian government must have to take into regard several variables that deals with poverty issues and measures

before it can successfully alleviate poverty problems facing its populace. He finally suggested that future researches in this area should be conducted that will incorporate more poverty variables. Thus many factors (variables) have come to play on poverty and unemployment. These are intervening variables or factors that have occupied the mind of political analysts and researchers.

Corruption has been identified by many scholars as the root cause of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria. For instance, Farida Waziri (2010) the former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, Nigeria clearly attributed corruption as one the major effect of high unemployment and the ever-widening gap between the rich and poor. According to Sunusi (2010), the present Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria that;

It has been globally proven that countries which have high incidence of corruption are always associated with poverty as weak corporate governance does not encourage sustainable development. In other words, there is high correlation between corruption, poor governance and high incidence of poverty. It is against this backdrop that we posit that war against poverty must be multi-faceted, i.e. not only through providing finance for the active poor but also ensuring that institutions are transparent, accountable and citizens rights are protected.

Corruption is factored in as one of the major cause of poverty and other social menace in Nigeria. In fact Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria-perspective (2012) listed corruption first among others as the main factor of poverty in Nigeria. Other factors identified were bad governance, debt overhang, unemployment, low productivity, burgeoning population growth, globalization, unfocused government policies and lack of effective skills training. Corruption also has an adverse effect on social and economic development and also nation building. Aliyu (2009) in his seminar paper titled "Poverty and Insecurity in Nigeria: Examining the relationship" reiterated that the negative fall-out of poor economic development inequality and unemployment and those of political development policy inconsistency and corruption nurture and sustain poverty on the largest scale possible in Nigeria.

Functionalist perspective concludes that poverty is inevitable. This perspective argues that lack of skill and training among certain groups (the poor), is a sign that the system is not fully integrated. This is an indication that some people are poor because they lack the skills to contribute to the society for any reward, and such people who perform tasks that are of little use to society or who perform no tasks at all receive few, if any, rewards. For example professional, "professors" "engineers" "medical doctors" etc. earn much because they perform a functionally important task. A cleaner performs an activity demanding little training and gets little pay. From factionalist perspective people with little or no skills are in the poverty bracket, and they are viewed as performing no important tasks for which they receive for rewards. Etzioni has supported this perspective and argues that the poor have a "restricted role repertory limiting their ability to adapt to changing work opportunities". Functionalist argument sees the characteristics of poverty as the work of social structure, not individuals, because occupational skills have not been provided to everyone.

Some theorists contend that the poor participate in a subculture of poverty. This argument is that the poor are said to have evolved certain ways of thinking, feeling and behaving that are different from those of participants in the large culture and that are passed on from generation to generation. Lewis sees the creation of subculture among the poor as an adaptation, an attempt at self defence on the part of people at the bottom of society. His argument shows that, the poor lack success orientation and a change in their

objective situations do not ensure that they will make the effort needed to get out of poverty. As Lewis states, the poor attempt to deal with feelings of discouragement and despaired by creating and subscribing to values, beliefs, and attitudes better suited to their deprived conditions. Lewis is quite explicit on the point that “by school age, children of poverty are so thoroughly socialized in their subculture and so psychologically stunted that they are seldom able to capitalize opportunities they may encounter in later life. Ball sees subculture traits among the poor as an adaptation to the reality of living a denying and frustrating existence like Lewis, he believes that the subculture of poverty becomes a way of life and that it endures even when the conditions that created it no longer exist.

Theoretical Framework

From these varied definitions, perspectives and causes of poverty, Etzioni (1976) has developed two conceptual definitions have emerged. The paper has therefore adopted these concepts as its theoretical framework. These are destitution and deprivation.

Destitution: First that poverty is related to conditions or situations of certain people in our society second, that poverty affects a significant number of people (this is an area for research development) and third, the attitudes that people have toward these conditions may play an important role in determining what should be done about them. Thus, “poverty” is defined as a group condition or situation that the public considers undesirable and in need of remedy through other means of control. This definition contains the subjective aspects, either how people view the condition of poverty as undesirable and feel that something should be done to remedy it. When sociologists speak of social problems in the society, particularly “Poverty” they are concerned with conditions or situations that in one way or another affect group life or certain number of people. In Nigeria, different types of people may view conditions of poverty in different ways. Thus, while some people may define poverty as a social problem other people in the same society may view the same situation as no problem at all. To some people, feeding may be problem while to others it may not be a problem at all. This is a question of “have” and the “have not”.

Deprivation: This study terms poverty a social phenomenon as well as economic phenomenon. Lack of economic success was as a result of social situations in the social structure. For example the concept of deprivation is a result of negative social attitudes toward certain people and the victim is deprived of material things available in the society. The deprived are then unable to secure the necessities of life. These deprived are those who work for very low incomes and as a result are unable to purchase the means for existing at a level considered minimally satisfactory in the society. This is an indication that the unemployed and the underemployed are the likely candidates for the ranks of the poor. In short poverty is relative situation which is unfolded by lack of adequate income, status, lack of access to legitimate methods of increasing incomes and most importantly lack of power to do something about. This concept of “relative deprivation” suggests that it is the comparison which individual makes between his own situation and the situation of others which is critical in determining satisfaction, rather than the objective situation in which he finds himself. This is an indication of inequality among the people in the society. The inequality compares the individuals at the bottom layer of stratified income level with that of more privileged people in the same society. In our society, the poor feel deprived when they know that the society has placed severe limitations on their opportunity to achieve economic success. This means that the poor are not employed in better jobs because of educational deficiencies or lack of occupational skills, or just because they do not have money to bribe their way through.

Methodology

Our research work has been extended to four geo-political zones of the Northern part of the country. Three states each from North-east, North-west and North-central were selected for data collection and analyses. Bauchi, Taraba and Yobe were selected to represent the North-Eastern States; Kano, Kaduna and Sokoto States represent North West; and Benue, Niger and Kogi represent the North-Central zone. In each of the state sampled, two Local Government Councils were selected for in-depth analysis. We have also selected 1595 total sampled households for data used. Many of our sampled households were Farmers-386; teachers-251; businessmen-188; Civil servant-184; professional-76; Cattle rearers-72; Housewives-57 and many other small occupations were represented. The sampled States, Local Government Councils and sampled Households are given in Frequency Table 1.0 and Table 1.1 below.

The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. Two sets of questionnaires were administered. The first set of questionnaire was administered to 1598 households and only 8 households were not returned. The second set of questionnaire was meant for secondary data for federal and state officials working in National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NAPEP). In the first questionnaire we solicit the respondents' views on their occupational background, poverty variables and remedies to poverty and unemployment. Official documents on NAPEP' activities and beneficiaries of States poverty programmes data were also collected through the second questionnaire. The opinions of the sampled households and official documents collected were tabulated in frequencies and used for our analysis section.

The research work has employed both descriptive and analytical statistics to analyze the results. Frequencies, Percentages, Mean and Standard deviation are the descriptive statistics used to explain poverty variables. For analytical statistics of Spearman correlation matrix was used to explain the relation between poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, corruption, health status and family size. SPSS programme was applied for both the Statistics and Correlation Coefficient (Spearman Correlation). The results of the tests conducted were presented in Tables and Matrix for further analysis. Our research hypotheses were tested through the models stated below:

$$\text{Poverty} = F(\text{Unemployment, Corruption, Illiteracy, Health status and Family size}) \quad (1)$$

$$Y = F(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, \dots, X_n) \quad (2)$$

Where Y=Poverty (Dependent Variable)

X_1 =Unemployment

X_2 =Corruption

X_3 =Illiteracy

X_4 =Health Status

X_5 =Family Size

X_n = Other Dependent Variables

$$\text{Then; } Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_{n-1} X_{(n-1)} + \mu \quad (3)$$

Where;

α =Intercept (Other factors of poverty variables that are held constant).

$\beta_1, \beta_2 \dots \beta_{n-1}$ are the coefficients of Independent variables and could be positive or inverse relationship between poverty variables and;

μ =disturbance term.

To test the hypotheses stated in section 1.0, the following procedures were observed;

1. The responses of Households on some selected Poverty Variables are computed in percentage terms and are presented in tabular form. This would help us to analyze factors as identified by the respondents responsible for poverty in the Northern Nigeria.
2. The factors identified in (1.) are further correlated through Spearman correlation to show the relationship among them.
3. ρ Value test is used to test our hypotheses. This process compares the probability, called the **ρ -value**, with the significance level. If the ρ -value is smaller than the significance level, H_0 is rejected. If it is larger than the significance level, H_0 is not rejected. Under level of significance of $\rho=0.05$; $\rho=.01$ are used.

Base on these procedures outlined above, the results of statistics and Spearman Correlation Coefficient were computed and discussed in the next section of the paper.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1.3 shows in percentage term the State Cross-Tabulation of respondents' views of the relationship between poverty and employment. Out of 1531 respondents, 511 representing 33.4% were employed and earned wages/salaries, 651 or 42.5% were self employed and 105 or 6.9 were out of work and were looking for work. We also observed on the same table many of our respondents (264 or 12.3%) were either students, retired civil servants or disabled people. This constituted unproductive labour that depended on others for means of survival.

Table 1.4 presents State Cross- tabulation of the respondents' views on the relationship between poverty and unemployment. Out of 1586 respondents, 366 (23.18%) indicated that unemployment was not the cause of poverty, whereas 1220 (76.9%) have indicated that unemployment should be factor in as the cause of poverty in the Northern part of Nigeria. It was also shown in the same table that Niger (123 or 7.8%) and Kaduna (121 or 7.6%) States had the highest of respondents who said that unemployment was not a cause of poverty. On the other hand, Yobe (196 or 12.4%) and Kogi (192 or 12.2%) States have the highest respondents that indicated that unemployment was the major cause of poverty in the Northern Part of the Country.

The respondents' views on corruption and mal-administration and poverty were presented on table 1.5. In the table, 667(42.1%) respondents out of 1584 respondents interviewed indicated that corruption and maladministration was not a factor for the current poverty situation in the Northern areas of the country. Taraba (121 or 7.6%) and Niger (120 or 7.6%) States supported this position. On the other hand, over 917 (57.9%) of the respondents have indicated that corruption and maladministration was a factor to be considered for the current problem of poverty in the Northern Nigeria. Kogi ((159 or 10.0%) and Kano (142 or 9.0%) of the respondents reiterated this factor.

A close look at illiteracy as a cause of poverty, many of the respondents in all the nine sampled States indicated that illiteracy was not a factor of the current poverty situation. For instance in Table 1.6 only 584 or 36.8% out of 1586 respondents said yes, whereas 1002 or 63.2% indicated no. this means that illiteracy was not considered as cause of current poverty situation in the sampled Northern States. This also concurred

with results we obtained in Table 1.7, where we asked whether Lack of skills was the cause of poverty in Northern Nigeria. Out of 1586 sampled Households, 820 or 51.7% said it was not the problem of skills, whereas, 766 or 48.3% said yes skills should be factored in as cause of poverty in the Northern Nigeria.

Table 1.8 shows the cross tabulation of households income per month among 1504 sampled population. This was to measure the level of income poverty among Households. In the table we found that 437 representing 29.1% of the households had an income far less than N10,000.00 per month. Yobe 85 (5.7%) and Niger 81 (5.4%) recorded highest number of Households with income far less than N10,000.00 per month. Those within income bracket of N10,000.00 to N20,000.00 per month constitute 276 or 18.4% of the sampled households. Those of the respondents with income layer between N20,000.00 -N30,000.00 per month constitute 234 or 15.6% of the total sample households. Within an income bracket of N30,000.00-N40,000.00, few of the households fall, only 162 or 10.8% of the sample households. We have further observed from the same table fewer households as the income bracket increases.

In Table 1.9 we present the results of Spearman Correlation Coefficient and two-tailed significance tests among poverty variables. Unemployment has a positive relationship with corruption & maladministration, Gender induced, Illiteracy and Ill-health and disability, and negatively related with lack of access to farm inputs and large family size. With exception of large family size all other variables are strongly related to unemployment at 1% (0.01) level of significance. In the same table we also found that Corruption & Maladministration has a positive relationship with all poverty variables and except Ill-health and disability all other variables are significance at 1% level of significance. Gender induced also correlated positively with unemployment, corruption and maladministration and large family size, but negatively correlated with ill-health and disability and lack of access to farm input. It was also observed that Gender induced has a very high significance with unemployment, corruption and maladministration and ill-health and disability at 1% significance level but not significantly related with illiteracy and large family size both at 1% and 5% level of significance. Lack of access to farm inputs was significance at 5% level of significance as also indicated in the same table.

By the same token, illiteracy has a positive relationship with unemployment, corruption and maladministration and ill-health and disability, but having a negative relationship with gender induced and lack of access to farm inputs. At 1% level of significance unemployment, corruption and maladministration, lack of farm inputs and large family were strongly correlated with illiteracy but there was no strong relationship between illiteracy and gender induced. But we observed at 5% level of significance, there was strong relation between illiteracy and ill-health and disability. In the same table we found that with exception of gender induces all other poverty variables were positively correlated with ill-health and with exception of corruption and maladministration all other variable had a high level of significance at 1% level of significance.

The Table 1.9 further revealed that lack of access to farm inputs was positively correlated with corruption and maladministration, ill-health and disability and large family size, but negatively related to unemployment, gender induced and family size. All poverty variables have a high level of significance with lack of access to farm inputs at 1% level of significance. It was further observed that with exception of unemployment and illiteracy having negative relationship all other poverty variables were positively related with large family size. We also noted that four of the poverty variables; corruption and maladministration,

illiteracy, ill-health and disability and lack of access to farm inputs having a high significance at 1% level of significance and unemployment and gender induced were not significance with large family size both at 1% and 5% respectively.

Conclusion

This study adopted certain empirical measurements in assessing poverty variables among some selected States and Local Governments in the Northern part of Nigeria. The objective was to establish relationship between poverty and unemployment among states and local governments in the Northern part of the Country. The outcome of our investigation gave useful indications about the nature of this relationship and a set of explanatory factors believed to influence poverty in the Northern Nigeria. Northern States battled with both problems of poverty and unemployment requires adequate and holistic policy to tackle them simultaneously. Intervening factors such corruption and mal-administration, illiteracy; ill-health disability and family size should be factored. Hence, the paper submits that poverty and unemployment in the Northern Nigeria are driven by many fundamental poverty variables and as such their simultaneous solution are recommended. It is the policy recommendation of this paper that Northern States should evolve a system of mass employment of youth through inter-sectoral linkages with emphases on Agro-allied industrial development strategies. Finally there is no doubt that good governance is necessary and sufficient condition for development for the Northern part of Nigeria and the country at large.

Findings and Recommendation

From the analyses so far, the following findings are discernable:

1. Based on the responses analyzed the study has established the relationship between poverty and unemployment in the nine states of the Northern Nigeria sampled. The direction of this relationship as revealed by 1586 respondents was that unemployment was a root cause of poverty in the Northern Nigeria. This result concurred with the position of many of authors mentioned in Section 1.2. This means that the higher the level of unemployment the higher the level of poverty in the Northern part of Nigeria. Thus any attempt to solve the current and future problem of poverty, unemployment should also be taken into consideration.
2. It was revealed that unemployment alone could not adequately explain the current poverty situation in the Northern Nigeria. Corruption and maladministration as indicated in our analysis posed serious challenge to poverty. This single factor was consistently mentioned by both the sampled population and in the reviewed literatures as endemic and the root cause of poverty in Nigeria. Illiteracy and lack of skills even though mentioned as poverty variables but were not strong factors as revealed by our analysis. All these factors impacted positively to poverty and are areas of further study.
3. Spearman correlation results revealed positive relationship among poverty variables. Unemployment was positively related to all the poverty variables. The level of significance was relatively very high at both 1% and 5%. This revealed that for unemployment to be solved, other factors such as corruption, illiteracy, health condition and large family size should be taken into consideration. Unemployment is therefore not only economic phenomena but also a product of mal-administration and sharp practices.
4. Corruption and mal-administration correlated strongly with other poverty variables and a significant factor for the occurrence of other poverty variables. Corruption in Nigeria has been recognized as a single factor that deterred development and widely spread. This factor should be factored in when poverty and unemployment issues are addressed.

Frequency Table 1.1: States sample Population

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
Bauchi	189	11.8	11.8	11.8
Benue	184	11.5	11.5	23.4
Kano	183	11.5	11.5	34.9
Kaduna	187	11.7	11.7	46.6
Sokoto	109	6.8	6.8	53.4
Taraba	175	11.0	11.0	64.4
Yobe	199	12.5	12.5	76.9
Niger	177	11.1	11.1	88.0
Kogi	192	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	1595	99.8	100.0	
Missing				
System	3	.2		
Total	1598	100.0		

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Frequency Table 1.2: Local Government Councils sampled

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
Bauchi	90	5.6	5.7	5.7
Zaki	95	5.9	6.0	11.6
Dange Shuni	108	6.8	6.8	18.4
Kaduna Nourth	43	2.7	2.7	21.1
Kaduna Sourth	57	3.6	3.6	24.7
Kudan	87	5.4	5.5	30.2
Ogori-Magongo	89	5.6	5.6	35.8
Lokoja	103	6.4	6.5	42.3
Kano Municipal	97	6.1	6.1	48.4
Minjibir	86	5.4	5.4	53.8
Nagere	99	6.2	6.2	60.0
Potiskum	100	6.3	6.3	66.3
Kontagora	78	4.9	4.9	71.2
Paikoro	99	6.2	6.2	77.4
Makurdi	94	5.9	5.9	83.3
Gboko	1	.1	.1	83.4
Apa	2	.1	.1	83.5
Gwer-East	87	5.4	5.5	89.0
Lau	46	2.9	2.9	91.9
Ando-Kola	38	2.4	2.4	94.3
Jalingo	91	5.7	5.7	100.0
Total	1590	99.5	100.0	
Missing				
System	8	.5		
Total	1598	100.0		

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.3: State Cross - tabulation of Employment status of the respondents

			State									Total
			Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi	
your current employment status	employed for wages	Count	63	28	76	79	14	89	33	52	77	511
		% of Total	4.1%	1.8%	5.0%	5.2%	.9%	5.8%	2.2%	3.4%	5.0%	33.4%
	self-employed	Count	102	58	84	89	38	55	117	21	87	651
		% of Total	6.7%	3.8%	5.5%	5.8%	2.5%	3.6%	7.6%	1.4%	5.7%	42.5%
	out of work/looking for work	Count	7	8	0	5	16	10	8	40	11	105
		% of Total	.5%	.5%	.0%	.3%	1.0%	.7%	.5%	2.6%	.7%	6.9%
	out of work/not currently looking for work	Count	3	0	0	1	7	0	18	1	2	32
		% of Total	.2%	.0%	.0%	.1%	.5%	.0%	1.2%	.1%	.1%	2.1%
	homemaker	Count	4	13	5	3	2	1	6	42	5	81
% of Total		.3%	.8%	.3%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.4%	2.7%	.3%	5.3%	
Student	Count	4	49	2	2	7	1	3	0	3	71	
	% of Total	.3%	3.2%	.1%	.1%	.5%	.1%	.2%	.0%	.2%	4.6%	
Retired	Count	3	19	14	4	4	0	8	1	7	60	
	% of Total	.2%	1.2%	.9%	.3%	.3%	.0%	.5%	.1%	.5%	3.9%	
unable to work	Count	2	1	0	3	9	0	5	0	0	20	
	% of Total	.1%	.1%	.0%	.2%	.6%	.0%	.3%	.0%	.0%	1.3%	
Total	Count	188	176	181	186	97	156	198	157	192	1531	
	% of Total	12.3%	11.5%	11.8%	12.1%	6.3%	10.2%	12.9%	10.3%	12.5%	100.0%	

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.4: State Cross -tabulation of Unemployment as a cause of poverty

			State									Total
			Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi	
Unemployment	No	Count	20	38	0	121	52	9	3	123	0	366
		% of Total	1.3%	2.4%	.0%	7.6%	3.3%	.6%	.2%	7.8%	.0%	23.1%
	yes	Count	169	137	183	66	57	166	196	54	192	1220
		% of Total	10.7%	8.6%	11.5%	4.2%	3.6%	10.5%	12.4%	3.4%	12.1%	76.9%
Total	Count	189	175	183	187	109	175	199	177	192	1586	
	% of Total	11.9%	11.0%	11.5%	11.8%	6.9%	11.0%	12.5%	11.2%	12.1%	100.0%	

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.5 State Cross-tabulation on Corruption & maladministration as a cause of poverty

			State									Total
			Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi	
Corruption & maladministration	No	Count	49	82	41	124	11	121	86	120	33	667
		% of Total	3.1%	5.2%	2.6%	7.8%	.7%	7.6%	5.4%	7.6%	2.1%	42.1%
	yes	Count	139	93	142	63	97	54	113	57	159	917
		% of Total	8.8%	5.9%	9.0%	4.0%	6.1%	3.4%	7.1%	3.6%	10.0%	57.9%
Total	Count	188	175	183	187	108	175	199	177	192	1584	
	% of Total	11.9%	11.0%	11.6%	11.8%	6.8%	11.0%	12.6%	11.2%	12.1%	100.0%	

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.6 State Cross tabulation: Illiteracy as a cause of poverty

			State									Total
			Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi	
Illiteracy	no	Count	77	111	142	187	55	119	181	98	32	1002
		% of Total	4.9%	7.0%	9.0%	11.8%	3.5%	7.5%	11.4%	6.2%	2.0%	63.2%
	yes	Count	112	64	41	0	54	56	18	79	160	584
		% of Total	7.1%	4.0%	2.6%	.0%	3.4%	3.5%	1.1%	5.0%	10.1%	36.8%
Total	Count	189	175	183	187	109	175	199	177	192	1586	
	% of Total	11.9%	11.0%	11.5%	11.8%	6.9%	11.0%	12.5%	11.2%	12.1%	100.0%	

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of the Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.7 State Cross-tabulation: Lack of entrepreneurship skills as a cause of poverty

			State									Total
			Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi	
Lack of entrepreneurship skills	No	Count	41	156	33	16	100	70	190	153	61	820
		% of Total	2.6%	9.8%	2.1%	1.0%	6.3%	4.4%	12.0%	9.6%	3.8%	51.7%
	yes	Count	148	19	150	171	9	105	9	24	131	766
		% of Total	9.3%	1.2%	9.5%	10.8%	.6%	6.6%	.6%	1.5%	8.3%	48.3%
Total	Count	189	175	183	187	109	175	199	177	192	1586	
	% of Total	11.9%	11.0%	11.5%	11.8%	6.9%	11.0%	12.5%	11.2%	12.1%	100.0%	

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine State of Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.8 State Cross -tabulation of Households income per month

		State									Total	
		Bauchi	Benue	Kano	Kaduna	Sokoto	Taraba	Yobe	Niger	Kogi		
What is your total household income per month	less than N10,000	Count	44	80	26	21	44	31	85	81	25	437
	% of Total		2.9%	5.3%	1.7%	1.4%	2.9%	2.1%	5.7%	5.4%	1.7%	29.1%
N10,000 to N19,999	Count	14	17	31	24	19	17	40	64	50	276	
	% of Total		.9%	1.1%	2.1%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	2.7%	4.3%	3.3%	18.4%
N20,000 to N29,999	Count	19	20	38	25	9	20	30	26	47	234	
	% of Total		1.3%	1.3%	2.5%	1.7%	.6%	1.3%	2.0%	1.7%	3.1%	15.6%
N30,000 to N39,999	Count	12	4	36	31	4	20	17	2	36	162	
	% of Total		.8%	.3%	2.4%	2.1%	.3%	1.3%	1.1%	.1%	2.4%	10.8%
N40,000 to N49,999	Count	15	3	16	14	3	27	15	1	8	102	
	% of Total		1.0%	.2%	1.1%	.9%	.2%	1.8%	1.0%	.1%	.5%	6.8%
N50,000 to N59,999	Count	11	12	15	14	4	18	3	0	14	91	
	% of Total		.7%	.8%	1.0%	.9%	.3%	1.2%	.2%	.0%	.9%	6.1%
N60,000 to N69,999	Count	18	0	9	15	1	11	4	0	4	62	
	% of Total		1.2%	.0%	.6%	1.0%	.1%	.7%	.3%	.0%	.3%	4.1%
N70,000 to N79,999	Count	5	0	2	14	1	8	1	1	6	38	
	% of Total		.3%	.0%	.1%	.9%	.1%	.5%	.1%	.1%	.4%	2.5%
N80,000 to N89,000	Count	9	0	1	7	4	5	0	0	1	27	
	% of Total		.6%	.0%	.1%	.5%	.3%	.3%	.0%	.0%	.1%	1.8%
N90,000 to N99,999	Count	8	9	1	10	0	6	1	1	1	37	
	% of Total		.5%	.6%	.1%	.7%	.0%	.4%	.1%	.1%	.1%	2.5%
N100,000 to N149,999	Count	2	0	8	1	0	6	0	0	0	17	
	% of Total		.1%	.0%	.5%	.1%	.0%	.4%	.0%	.0%	.0%	1.1%
N150,000 or more	Count	3	2	0	10	0	5	1	0	0	21	
	% of Total		.2%	.1%	.0%	.7%	.0%	.3%	.1%	.0%	.0%	1.4%
Total	Count	160	147	183	186	89	174	197	176	192	1504	
	% of Total		10.6%	9.8%	12.2%	12.4%	5.9%	11.6%	13.1%	11.7%	12.8%	100.0%

Source: Field work survey conducted in Nine States of Northern Nigeria (2012)

Table 1.9: Summary of Statistics and Spearman Correlation Coefficient

		Unemployment	Corruption & maladministration	Gender induced	Illiteracy	Ill-health and disability	Lack of access to farm inputs	Large family size
Unemployment	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.292**	.127**	.271**	.122**	-.151**	-.027
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.276
	N	1589	1587	1589	1589	1589	1584	1589
Corruption & maladministration	Correlation Coefficient	.292**	1.000	.175**	.200**	.045	.135**	.094**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000	.000	.075	.000	.000
	N	1587	1587	1587	1587	1587	1582	1587
Gender induced	Correlation Coefficient	.127**	.175**	1.000	-.048	-.110**	-.054*	.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.	.054	.000	.032	.426
	N	1589	1587	1589	1589	1589	1584	1589
Illiteracy	Correlation Coefficient	.271**	.200**	-.048	1.000	.067**	-.127**	-.100**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.054	.	.007	.000	.000
	N	1589	1587	1589	1589	1589	1584	1589
Ill-health and disability	Correlation Coefficient	.122**	.045	-.110**	.067**	1.000	.305**	.120**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.075	.000	.007	.	.000	.000
	N	1589	1587	1589	1589	1589	1584	1589
Lack of access to farm inputs	Correlation Coefficient	-.151**	.135**	-.054*	-.127**	.305**	1.000	.151**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.032	.000	.000	.	.000
	N	1584	1582	1584	1584	1584	1584	1584
Large family size	Correlation Coefficient	-.027	.094**	.020	-.100**	.120**	.151**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.276	.000	.426	.000	.000	.000	.
	N	1589	1587	1589	1589	1589	1584	1589

Source: Field work data analyzed

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