

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME
IN KOGI STATE**

BY

SALIFU S. NAPOLEON (JP)

PG/MPA/04/35771

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

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CERTIFICATION

This thesis -Poverty Alleviation Programme in Kogi State of Nigeria written by Napoleon Salifu, a post graduate student in the department of Public administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria Nsukka, has fulfilled the requirements governing the award of post-Graduate Degree of Masters of Public Administration (MPA) in University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Prof. (Mrs) C.N. Oguonu

Supervisor

Head of Department.

External Examiner

dean of Faculty.

APPROVAL PAGE

The work has been approved by the Department of Public Administration and Local Government in the Faculty of the Social Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Prof. (Mrs) C.N. Oguonu

Head of Department

External Examiner

Dean of Faculty.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God the creator of heaven and earth.

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Napoleon Salifu
University of Nigeria,
Nsukka.

ABSTRACT

Poverty is general phenomenon in less developed countries including Nigeria. It is a common problem that cannot be easily wiped out but can be alleviated through concerted effort by stake holders. The problem of poverty has brought about low standard of living of people in both rural and urban area that attention of individual, Federal, States and Local Government has been drawn to alleviate it to better the living standard of the rural area. This work was undertaken to look into the poverty alleviation programmes by Local Government in Kogi State of Nigeria. The work was divided into five chapters with each chapter dealing with specific issues on how to alleviate poverty. In chapter one, four research questions and four hypothesis were formulated to guide the study. In chapter two of this work, literatures relevant to the study were reviewed. In chapter three, the location of the area of study and general information was stated. In chapter four, Questionnaires was used as the major instrument for data collection subsequently the data were analysed. The findings of the study showed that poverty alleviation programmes exists in all the Local Government area of the State, but the target people did not benefit from the programme because the structure that will enable them to benefit is not in place. Most respondent complained that the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes stopped at the State Headquarter. The study recommended in chapter five a solid structure that will enable the target audience benefit from the poverty. Alleviation programmes, mass literacy campaign, provision of loans to farmers and reduction in tax as some of the measures that can be taken to alleviate poverty.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Over two decades after independence, unemployment and poverty were not a natural concern in Nigeria as it is today. Agriculture, industries and public sector were able to absorb most of the labour forces. The agricultural sector, for instance generated about 70% of the growth of the GDP (The comet March 23^{rds}, 2000)

The advent of petroleum in the mid 70s further strengthened the economy, government during this period was to achieve much through oil revenue. The ensuing political instability and inconsistencies in the socio-economic politics of the successive government emerged as a factor that led to the manifestation of high level poverty in Nigeria.

Consequently, the challenges facing the Nigeria Government is that of reducing or eradicating poverty and the income disparity between the rich and the poor in the society. Against this background successive government in Nigeria, Federal State and Local Government have demonstrated their commitment in improving the socio-economic well being of the Urban and rural people through various efforts and poverty eradication programmes.

Nigeria is still one of the poorest countries in Africa. Various national and international bodies have documented this high incidence of poverty. The federal office statistics (FOS, 1999) and the United Development Programmes (UNDP, 1999) observed that despite a remarkable decrease in poverty in the 1980s, the drastic increase of poverty in the 1990s was discouraging. Over two decades ago, the country enjoyed relative prosperity but prosperity progressively saw 40% of the population slide into poverty (Adegbte and Akintola, 2002). Ordinarily, poverty is a condition of having little or no money or other endowments and not being able to get the necessary things of life (Fabiya and Idowu, 1999). The concept of poverty is derived from the long and protracted inability to generate productive resources for the proposed of training a desired level of output to enhance the realization of an appreciable income and well being. According to Nguyet (2003), poverty refers to this state of a part of the population, which is not provided with the basic human needs that is in accordance with the socio-economic development level and local habits of the state of being deprived of those opportunities and choice that are essential to human development for a long healthy, creative life; for a reasonable standard of living; for freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect from others.

Poverty according to Ani (1997) can be considered as a condition of life characterized by malnutrition, diseases, illiteracy, low life

expectancy and high infant mortality beyond expectation of human decency. It is a state of want, needs, deprivation, low esteem and lack of actualization for self-development. Poverty also represents a condition of deprivations, lack of economic resources, and loose of capabilities, resulting in the inability of individual, to secure a minimum standard of living for his community or reference group.

Various international and national estimates have shown that Nigeria is one of the poorest countries of the world. Her human poverty index (H.P.I) was 41.6% implying that one out of every two Nigerians was poor. Life expectancy has gradually declined to a little above 50 years (F.O.S, 1999); whereas U.N.D.P (1998) put it at 52 years. The percentage of adult literates is 55% and 45% had access to portable water and health services. The Gini coefficient of poverty increases from 0.38 to 43 at the same time and because worse at 0.52 by the end of the 1990s (U.N.D.P, 1999).

Reducing poverty has been a priority of most governments since the industrial revolution (Lipton and Rovallion, 1995). Government should effectively identify the methods through which absolute poverty can be reduced in order to spare many the unfavourable consequences of persisted and deliberating poverty.

Local governments are critical institutions in the fight against poverty because they are the government nearest to the people. Some of

the problems, which limited the efforts, and effectiveness of the local government system towards rural development and poverty reduction include corruption, lack of accountability, lack of consultation with community leaders etc. in spite of all the orchestrated policies and programmes of successive governments at the local level, the problem of rural backwardness and under-development has remained. This is evidenced by the persistence of agricultural facilities, among others (Tamuno, 2000). Past administration in Nigeria have adopted measures to complement the efforts of local government in rural development and poverty alleviation. Such efforts include:-

- a) The national accelerated food production programmes (N.A.F.P.P) under General Gowon's administration.
- b) Operation feed the nation (O.F.N.) program under General Obasanjo's administration.
- c) Agricultural development project (A.D.P.)
- d) River Basin and rural development authorities (R.B.D.A)

These projects and programmes were established to reduce poverty significantly at the local level. These efforts failed because the local government as well as these efforts were conceived and inspired by the elite class with no consideration for participation at the local level. They were also designed to benefit the rich as the programmes guarantee and stabilize the pro-dominant economic and political power of the rich

people. In all the programmes, both loans, contracts, and other benefits meant for the rural dwellers were taken by top notches of the political party who directed them to their personal uses to the detriment of the rural dwellers. The above views were amplified by Nzimiro (1985:73) who stated that "the ideas of the ruling class are antagonistic to the idea of the peasants who constitute the main residents of the rural areas.

Therefore the failures of the local government to improve the condition of the rural dwellers has received public out-cry in recent times. The focus of this study is to determine the role of local government in the process of poverty alleviation as well as the challenges faced by local governments in their poverty alleviation efforts.

Salisu (2005) listed government efforts at eradicating poverty to include connection of national directorate of employment (NDE) establishment of people's Bank of Nigeria (PBN). Better life program for rural women, family support programme (FSP) family economic Advancement (FEAP) poverty alleviation program (PAP) and national poverty eradication program (NAPEP). These programs were introduced to alleviate poverty in the society.

Over the years, there has been public outcry and expression of worry by government at the federal state and the Local Government over the level of poverty in Nigeria and Ankpa Local Government Area in

particular. Oguche (2004) noted that majority of Nigerian and people of Kogi State in particular are still living in poverty with a very low standard of living. The continue efforts made by various regime and authorities and the fact that the situation persisted necessitate present study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

One of the factors that constitute setback to high standard of living in Nigeria and Kogi State in particular is poverty. Poverty has been described as impediment to socio-economic intellectual and faster development in any nation. The continue presence of any nation will affect development objectives and distracts attempt to move and build the citizenry and the nation.

The major problem of this work is as contained in the following questions.

- a) What are the major poverty alleviation programmes in Kogi state?
- b) What contribution have this programmes made to better the life of the people?.
- c) What are the major weakness/problems facing this programmes.
- d) How can these problems be addressed.

1.3 Objectives of the Study.

The objectives of the study are to identify the major poverty alleviation programmes in Kogi state and how they have solved the problems of poverty. Specifically, the study is aimed at:

- a) Finding out the major poverty alleviation programme in Kogi State.
- b) Examine the contribution of this programme in Kogi state.
- c) Identify the problems facing this programme.
- d) Find out possible ways of solving the problems

1.4 Significance of the study.

This study will be of practical and theoretical significance.

It will determine the extent to which local government administration importance knowledge in the area of poverty alleviation.

Secondly, finding of this study is expected to be of immense importance to strategic planners, policy formulators, national directorate of employment and other stakeholders involved in policy formulations and recommendations, from this it will help in the formulation of policies concerning poverty alleviation.

Moreover, student and researchers will find this work useful; concepts, issues, definitions and references contained in this work help

them to update their work. This work serves as a bank of information to them.

Finally, the study will benefit the general public. Recommendations from this work if adopted by the government and implemented will help the unemployed youth and the poor to be gainfully employed either in the private or public sector. This will have a multiplier effect on their quality of life (QOL).

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study.

The study is focused on poverty alleviation programmes in Kogi state. Kogi state is located in the North central part of Nigeria and ha of? According it is bounded by the federal capital territory, Benue state, Edo state. For effective research, local government headquarters, Ankpa, Kabba, Okene and Idah will be taken as sample for the study. Local government chairmen and executive will be investigated and selected youth men and women will also be investigated from the three senatorial districts. The age range of the people to be investigated is (18) and above and the year of study is 2007. The approach used in one local government may be not be same all over and not be generalized.

Secondly, it took the research repeated visit to cover the questionnaire given to the respondentsø most of them complained of frequent distribution of questionnaire without any meaningful impact on the masses. Some complained that they have not time to complete the

questionnaire, so they complete them in hasty manner. This has negative effects on the final result.

Finally, lack of fund and poor road net-work did not allow some parts of the local government area to be covered. All this has negative implication on the final result.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses the review of literature relevant to the study and the method adopted for this work.

2.1 Concept of Poverty

Poverty according to many scholars is a satanic word that has different perception. To some it is hard to come to a specific definition of poverty.

Haiman as cited in Kure (2002) viewed poverty as the inability to satisfy basic needs required for a decent living, more often those who are considered poor are those whose resources are inadequate to meet the basic necessities of life. Poverty has a vicious circle and breaking away from it is very complex. This is based on the facts that poor families have high probability of staying poor. They have low income, they carry with them high risk of sickness, limited access to education, information and better health care. Hence the cruel legacy of poverty is passed on from parents to children and from generations to generations.

Haiman is cited in Kure (2002) viewed poverty as the inability to satisfy basic needs required for a decent living more often, those who are considered poor are those whom resources are inadequate to meet the basic necessities of life. According to him poverty has a various cycle and breaking away from it is very complex. This is based on the fact that poor families have high probabilities staying poor. They have low income

levels, they carry with them high risk of likeness, limited access to education, limitations of mobility, information and training indeed, poor parents cannot give their opportunities to have access to good health and education which are required to improve their lots and that of their children in the future. Hence the cruel legacy of poverty is passed on from parents to children and from generations to generations. The poor are often illiterates with poor health and have a short span of life.

According to Obason (1997) poverty is a subset of the general condition of deprivation whose dimensions include social inferior, isolation and physical weakness, vulnerability, sustainability and powerlessness and humiliation. Similarly, Oscar as cited in Obadan (1997) observed that social and physical characteristics at the poor include living crowded slums and quarters. Lack of privacy, high incidence of alcoholism frequent into sex and prostitutions, relatively high incidence of the abandonment of mothers and children.

The above expression demonstrates the features of a poverty stricken economy like Nigeria for instance, in most slums area, where the urban poor like, it is common sight to see a whole family squatting and squeezing in a room for accommodation amidst dangers it poses to their health in vulnerable for the people and that all sorts of social vices and their health in some cases, the environment is so odd that living conditions becomes more prostitution, wife beating, rape, robbery, child

abuse and all sorts of things human degradation are a way of live on the city ghetto.

Association with above is the release of second-hand clothing, shoes and bedding etc. with all its associated health hazards. This is simply because the poor can hardly afford new one, even if they are cheap.

I Mc Namara (1978) conceive poverty as a condition of life characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease squalid surrounding, high infant mortality and low life expectance as to beneath human definition of reasonable decency.

Akel et al as cited in Kure (2002), affirmed poverty condition as dehumanizing since it deprive individuals the right to exercise the explanation of their full potentials. In another ways, akumandewa (1997) perceived poverty as a multifaceted deprivation characterized by lack of purchasing power, exposure to risk insufficient access and economy service and limited opportunities to income generation. This is an indication that in spite of the absence of a universally applicable and qualitatively sophisticated interpretation of poverty, the poor in any given society usually sands out prominent in terms of their economic activities, cultural affiliations, social status and other psychological conditions.

Akere Dolu (1975) states that since poverty affect many aspects human condition, the various criteria used for conventionalizing poerty

appear elusive. In this world Anyawu (1974:94) conventionalized poverty to include:-

- a) Poverty as a consequence of deficit goods and services based on the absolutes or conventional economic approaches. This concept is measured by consumer oriented indices which became achievable, consumption levels food supply, medicine and basic needs.
- b) Poverty as a consequence of deprivation and lack of rights. This is based on relative deprivation capacity and entitlement approaches based on indices such as income from wage labour and income from sold assets.
- c) Poverty resulting from insufficient capacity. This is based on capability approach and is measured by indices of market for goods as well as freedom capability; this is based on capability of transferring resources.
- d) Poverty as a consequence of social and economic exclusion mechanism this is based on the paradox of solidarity specialization and monopolization measured by indices of participation, social, economic and political participation, however results in argument that poverty should have both qualitative and quantitative dimensions and should include social economic, and political dimension.

The above criteria for determining poverty could be summarized into three broad measures which are common to all societies. The

measures are both qualitative and quantitative dimensions and should include social economic and political dimensions. The criteria as given by Okunmadewa (1997) are classified under the following:

- a) Absolute measures which consider measures of resources endowment that guarantees minimum basket of essential goods and services.
- b) Relative measure which takes into account the population distribution within define levels of income of the population.
- c) Subjective measure which considered human welfare indicators as defined by selected individual or combination of social welfare parameters including levels of consumption, health availability and portable drinking water.

Dike (1997) define poverty as inability of an individual or population to meet the basic needs of food, education, housing, health security, liberty, individual right to property and access to employment an credit needs.

It is generally, agreed that the process of growth and development is related to the persistence of mass poverty in large part of the glob despite tremendous expansion of the forces of production, poverty is as a result of the mobility of a nation to optimized the use of natural human and materials.

Maxwell (1999) gave a list of the terms with which poverty has been described. These include income or consumption poverty, human (under) development, social exclusion, ill being, (lack of) capacity and functioning, vulnerability, livelihood unsustainability, lack of basic need and relative deprivation.

According to Nguyet (2003), poverty refers to the state of a part of population that is not provided with the basic human needs that is in accordance with the socio-economic development level and local habits of the nation. Undp (1999) views poverty as the state of being deprived of those opportunities and choice that are essential to human development for a long, healthy, creative life; for a reasonable standard of living: for freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect fro others.

The World Bank define poverty according to accessible resources, this is to say, according to monetary income. The poor are, then, those who fall short of certain income threshold and for a certain amount of expenditure for consumption. Kapheth (2003) vies households as those whose resources are sufficient to provide basic nourishment, shelter, and quality of life which arc considered as conventional or ñnormalö in that particular society. This idea of relative deprivation represents an attempt to conceive poverty in sociological terms rather than in the economic framework adopted by most government and by many early academic studies of the phenomenon.

According to Sen (1985), people who lack the capacity to function in society might have lower well being or be more vulnerable to income and weather shocks. Thus, poverty means lack of command over commodities in general (i.e. a severe constriction of the choice set) or a specific type of consumption. (i.e. too little food energy intake) deemed essential to constitute a reasonable standard of living in a society, or lack of "ability" to function in a society.

Poverty is also associated with insufficient outcome with respect to health, nutrition and literacy, leading to deficient social relations, to insecurity, and to low self-confidence and powerlessness. According to World Bank (2002), "poverty" is pronounced deprivation in well-being. Where well-being can be measured by an individual's possession of income, health, nutrition, education, assets, housing, and certain rights in a society, such as freedom of speech. Also poverty is lack of opportunities, powerlessness, and vulnerability defined as the probability or risk today of being in poverty or falling deeper into poverty in the future and is a key dimension of well-being since it affects individual's behaviour (in terms of investment, production patterns, coping strategies and the perception of own situation).

Olaitan et al (2002) defined poverty as the scarcity of basic human needs for existence. He further opined that individual poverty is one of the results from individual misfortunes or inability to obtain the basic

necessities of life like essential clothing, three square meals a day, a habitable house and means of transportation either by land, sea, or air, while a community, group or nation that could not provide basic needs for its members is poor.

Poor individuals live in traditional sub-standard house made up of mud or clay, thatches or straw material without health facilities and their environment is usually filled with human waste especially in the rural areas and disadvantaged outskirts of urban settlements called ghettos (Olaitan, et al, (2002). It is a situation where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his/her basic need of food, clothing and settler, social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment and infrastructure such as education, health, portable water, and sanitation and consequently has limited chances of advancing his welfare to the limit of his capabilities.

Trager (2002) categorized the following as poor especially with the Nigeria context:

- i. Households or individuals below the poverty line and whose income are sufficient to provide for their basic needs:
- ii. Households or individuals lacking access to basic services and other forms of support.
- iii. People in isolated rural area that lack essential infrastructure.
- iv. Female-headed household.

- v. Persons who have lost their jobs and those who are unable to find employment as a result of economic reform under the structural adjustment programmes (SAP) and those who are in danger of becoming the new poor as a result of unemployment especially in urban centres.

Poverty is a word that is used in at least three different ways. Each poses questions, which every society should be prepared to answer. The first usage poses question about hardships, misery and destitution, conditions which are still occasionally found, among lowly-paid workers as well as people out of work. The second usage poses question about the income, wealth and real living standards to different kinds of people: the answer will not provide a scientific measure of subsistence poverty, for that cannot be clearly defined, but they will show whose living standards are the lowest and may suggest the reasons for these pattern. The third usage poses questions about inequality, exclusion, discrimination, injustice and relative poverty. If this third concept of poverty is to have any practical cutting edge, it calls for nothing less than a new morality (Dennison, 1982). This authors view poverty as a standard of living so low that it excludes people from community in which they live. Poverty according to Ani (1997) in Adegbite and Akintola is a condition of life characterized by malnutrition diseases, illiteracy, and low life expectation of human decency. It is a state of want, deprivation, low-esteem and lack

of actualization for self-development. When defined by standard measure of income and expenditure of households, poverty is the inability of any household to attain a level of income necessary to purchase the various goods and services considered by those in the reference group of that household, to be sufficient for living (Nweze, 2002). In terms of non-material/intangible assets, poverty can be seen as lack of adequate access to minimum social amenities, vulnerability to risks and other factors such as infection, and lack of enough and appropriate nutrition etc. statistical agencies and researchers through out the world, responding to different concern, are utilizing two very broad concepts of poverty today. One is the concept of absolute poverty, understood as the minimum set of resources a person needs to survive. The other is the concept of relative poverty, a measurement resources and living conditions of part of the population in relation to the other. Absolute poverty is a matter of acute deprivation, hunger, premature death and sufferings while relative poverty are clearly a matter of social equity (Schwartzman, 1998).

However, Eva and Jackie (1998) were of the view that all definitions of poverty may be fitted into one of the following categories.

- i. Poverty is having less than objectively defined absolute minimum.
- ii. Poverty is having less than others in society in relative terms.
- iii. Poverty is felling you do not have enough to get along.

Poverty according to the first category definitions is absolute, and according to the second category, it is relative. Poverty according to the third category is mixture of absolute and relative poverty which is split into budget standards method and income proxy measure.

2.2 Causes of Poverty

According to world bank (2002), one route for investigating the causes of poverty is to examine the dimensions highlighted by poor people and these include lack of income and assets to attain basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing and acceptable levels of health and education), sense of voiceless ness and powerlessness in the state and society, and vulnerability to adverse shocks linked to inability to cope with them. Jordan (2004) noted that causes of poverty manifest in unemployment, low income inequality while cultural causes include rising rates of divorce, female headed single parent families, teenage pregnancy, drug/alcohol abuse and criminal activities. Schwartzman (1998) also identified different causes of poverty associated with demographic conditions such as family size, unemployment, poor quality jobs, lack of education, social discrimination, lack of "social capital" such as family and community organizations and networks: economic changes, climate changes, natural catastrophes, and war.

In Nigeria, it has been identified that lack of access to income generating opportunities, families system, lack of pragmatism in national education and usage, rural-urban drift and poor policies cause poverty. (Olaitan ET el, 200; Ajekaiye and Adeyeye, 2002). More over, Yusuf (1999) and UNDP (2004) reported that the dominance of the oil sector and the consequent neglect of the agricultural sector in terms of policy and resources result in declining productivity, growth and competitiveness and increased poverty. further-more, Nwaobi (2003) noted that failure to adequately implement programmes geared towards the provision of master plans for future expansion and better physical facilities such as adequate water supply facilities, housing, sewage, electricity and efficient transport and communications network including the establishment of necessary institutions to ensure their maintenance can be seen as the precursor to most of the present causes of poverty in Nigeria. According to Francis et al (2002), local people's perceptions of main causes of poverty include unemployment, poor environment, lack of capital, lack of farm inputs, poor roads, inefficient transportation system, poor crop yields, lack of food over population, conflicts, corruption, poor and unstable output prices and lack of health care services.

The consequences of poverty are numerous. They include prostitution, inefficient and inadequate food production exposure to risks like corruption, robbery, street life, increased unemployment,

malnutrition, low per capital income, overcrowded living conditions, low level of education, human degradation, short span, high infant mortality, fraud, and migration (Olaitan et al 2000). In support of the above, Schwartzman (1998) noted that poverty particularly when associated with war and economic disaster, leads to social unrest, national and international migration and threatens the life styles of those who are better off. Poverty also reduces farmerø's ability to bear risk and are thus less able to invest in high income-generating activities associated with high risk. (Mosley and Verschoor, 2003, Fatchamps, 1997).

In poor countries, like Nigeria, causes of poverty overlap Atonga (1995) sees poverty as a direct result of unemployment and poor income; illiteracy, hunger, ill health, inadequate shelter and according to him do visit the same persons, the same family, the same shanty and slums and the same marginal or rural area.

Kure (2002) stated that several factors account for poverty in rural area and they could be explained from the perspective of government neglect and abuse of government functions and policies. It has been said in the beginning that the majority of the rural dwellers are not given adequate attention by the government to uplift in the living conditions of these rural communities in terms of housing, water supply, road networks electricity and health facility most of which are concentrated in the urban centre. Rural areas therefore suffered neglects particularly during and

after the oil boom of the (190s and early 1980s). The rural sectors was starved of human resources simply because the ruling elites and policy.

Maker (2007) identified with a non rural environment and was led astray by empirical assessors that show a high rate of co-relation between levels of development models which stressed investment industries with little attention to agriculture.

Abu (2001) noted certain cultural practices in Nigeria as some of the factors that caused poverty. Culture and religious affiliation according to him moderate the roles in most hardly have access to education, land and other productive ventures and hence could not acquire wealth and incomes of their own. In such areas women are mostly seen as child manufactures and are fully exploited as such. These attitudes favor rapid population growth without adequate resources to match economically. Where population growth outweighed available resources there is bound to be poverty.

Afonsa and Dusola (1997) noted that in some southern part of the country women have no right to inheritance, cultural belief do not allow them to own properties such as lands are thus reduced to beggars for a piece of land to carry out any activities. To further buttress the above argument, they observed that poverty thus results through discrimination. This implies the unequal opportunity given to people to participate in the

production process on the basis of sex, age, ethnicity and religious consideration aggravates the level of poverty.

In the same vein Okpanachi (2002) sees poverty as a consequence of unequal opportunity in education pursuit, health sanitary, social services, economic and political power have been the cause of poverty in Nigeria. This subjects the majority to not having access to gainful employment that could afford them minimum level of poverty. He added that unequal opportunities in educational pursuit, health sanitation, social services economic and political powers have been the causes of poverty among rural dwellers. This subjects the majority to not having access to gainful employment that could afford them minimum level of income.

Galadima (1999) stated that conspicuous and wasteful life style exhibited by the government officials and they so called elites in our societies is a cause for concern. This category of people mortgage national resources at the detriment of the vast majority and larger part of the national wealth, are kept abroad in their personal account without resources to reinvesting such ill gotten and primitive accumulation of such wealth into the economy. This singular problems has raised the level of unemployment and hence poverty level.

Furthermore, Osborn (1997) noted that capital formation had suffered greatly especially human capital. Inadequate attention paid to

social welfare programmes had made life worse for the large population in this country.

Furthermore, it is often disturbing to note that host government policies are biased towards the poor. No adequate attention and assistance in terms of relief as paid to temporary victims of natural disasters like draught, floods. Fire outbreaks accident and man made disasters such as wars, commercial clashes, religious and political riots are all living witnesses to these, but there are no political will to act decisively in defense of right of the affected people. They are therefore subjected to temporary or permanent poverty because once their resources are destroyed by one of the agents above the hope of acquiring same be very elusive. The situation is made worst by the poor themselves. The poor lack the courage and cohesion to demand for their rights, they are therefore abandoned economically, politically, socially and culturally and conventionally too.

Adamu (1998) stated that in co-operating of the Nigeria state into the capitalist system by the colonialist cannot be delivered as one of the root causes of massive poverty experience in Nigeria today. This has been sustained through net works of factors mobility and trade, which has consistently ensured that one set of countries benefited from the situation (Aka et al 1997) one can also posit that the militarization of Nigeria state by the military Junta enables them to arrogate political and economic

powers top themselves at the expense of the vast majority of Nigeria: this had contributed to the delay in the economy and had raised the level of the poverty in this country.

Civil unrest experienced in different parts of the country is another serious factor that is contributing to enhancing poverty level in Nigeria. For instance since the inception of democracy in May (1999, there has been series of civil in stakes like Rivers, Lagos, Abia, Taraba, to mention just a few. The outcome of this crisis is mention destruction of human lives, houses, business premises, places of worship (Mosques and Churches etc.). Thereby subjecting the victims to dangerous and the quickest factor pushing into poverty in this country and its need to give adequate attention in our contemporary.

Anyanwu (1997) posited that understand the level of poverty in rural areas one may adopt the basic needs approach to the measurement of the poverty. Basic needs consist of the primary and secondary needs. The former comprises of food including water, clothing and shelter, unlike the later consist of economic, social and cultural rights, liberty, freedom of expression and religion, individual right to own properties, access to productive employment, credit etc. these needs are supposed to be met through individual resources or that of the family or community or a combination of both. The absence of these resources lead to powerlessness and despair and thus the inability to protect oneself against

economic, social, cultural and political dissemination, deprivation and marginalization, (Denga 1995) Olowari 1997 noted the geographical spread of poverty. He asserted that the incidence of poverty could be seen among wage earners across the country. He also noted that the level of poverty tends to increase across with the age of the households at age brackets of 56 to 65 and especially those that are in the neighborhood of illiterate households.

2.3 Poverty Incidence in Nigeria

Poverty is a general phenomenon in Nigeria. It is a common problem that cannot be easily wiped out except available basic needs and resources are acquired eventually distributed among the citizens to individuals to shift the status to a more positive direction through training, work and opportunities (Olaitan et al 2000).

The Nigerian poverty profile indicates that the proportion of the poor rose from 28.1 percent (18 million people) in 1980 to 46.3 percent (35 million people) in 1985. This dropped to 42.7 percent in 1992 but catapulted to 70 percent (79 million people) in 1999 (Table 2). The poverty indicator used was low income that tends to be its worst in the rural areas due to malnutrition, lack of education, low life expectancy and substandard housing.

Poverty in Nigeria is pervasive; more than 45% of Nigerians are living below the poverty line, while about 80% of those affected are living in the rural areas of the country (UNDP, 1998). Moreover, recent report by UNDP (2004) indicates that in 2001, the 70% of the population lived below the international income poverty line of \$ 1 a day.

Before the discovery of oil, Nigeria's economy was primarily agricultural and despite its decreased role as a component of GDP, the sector continues to employ about 72% of the labor force. It is not surprising then that 68 percent of the extreme poor are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Most are mainly self-employed or family workers lived in regions with poor infrastructure, poor access services, unfavorable agro climatic conditions, among others (FOS, 1999).

Despite several nationally coordinated programmes for alleviating poverty in Nigeria such as Green revolution, operation feed the Nation, Nation Agricultural and Rural Development authority, Directorate of food, Road and Rural infrastructure, Nation poverty Eradication programmes etc. the population of the poor has continued to rise in Nigeria as shown in table 2.

2.4 Infrastructures and Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria Local Government.

A major element of poverty reduction strategy is to reduce the isolation of poor communities through strengthening socio-economic infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electricity and sanitation. This is so because grossly underdeveloped and inefficient infrastructure have contributed to the deplorable poverty situation in the country especially in the rural communities.

New or improved infrastructure can help reduce poverty by: a) economic growth: this is the process of increasing the productivity of the economy and hence of increasing income. Again, infrastructure provides the environment for productive activities to take place and facilitates the distribution of economic growth. Productive process may be inhibited by the absence of adequate power, water, transport and communication facilities.

The availability of an efficient infrastructural network will stimulate new investment in other sectors while its shortage can raise costs and create disincentive to invest. According to African development bank report, infrastructure and poverty reduction arises through the contribution of infrastructure and the process of pro-poor growth (ADB,1999). This refers to a process of growth that makes the share of the poor in additional income growth higher than the share in existing income, thus making their income grow more rapidly than those of the non-poor. The poor are often identified with inadequate access to infrastructural services

such as motor able roads, potable water, sanitation, educational and health facilities. These are described as 'input indicators' of poverty. The inaccessibilities of these input indicators to the poor will have a negative impact on the output indicator of poverty which consists of life expectancy. Literacy, income and nutrition. In summary, new or improved infrastructure can help reduce poverty channeling the growth towards the poor. Consequently for infrastructural services to lead to poverty reduction there is need to identify a significant number of projects for which a high proportion of the beneficiaries must be the poor. The surest means of achieving this is by the development of equitable distribution of infrastructural services in the rural areas.

2.5 Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria.

The increasing incidence of poverty both within and among locations was in spite of various resources and efforts exerted on poverty-related programmes and schemes in the country. In the light of the present government's deep concern for the widespread and scourging poverty, this paper will review previous and current initiatives at poverty alleviation/reduction in Nigeria.

Until the inauguration of poverty alleviation programmes development committee (PAPDC) by the Nigerian government in 1994, all efforts at poverty alleviation were essentially ad-hoc. It was generally

case that poverty alleviation programmes and strategies were not crystallized and consolidated within the nations overall development objectives. This view is borne out of perusal of the various National Development plans over 1962-82 period and national development/rolling plans from 1990. The main significance of the national development/rolling plans is that they provide much of the framework for the pursuit of development objectives since the attainment of political independence, in 1960. The approach to poverty alleviation that has featured prominently in Nigeria's national development plans is the economic growth strategy. This economic growth presumes the trickling down of the benefits of growth to the poor, and the strategy of rural/agricultural development. Although rural development can be seen as having been central to Nigeria's poverty alleviation strategies, the centerpiece of the rural development policy has been agricultural development complemented by social and economic infrastructures. For a long time now, the growth performance of the country has not been satisfactory, with negative growth in the first half of the 1980s and very low growths since 1992 (an average of 2.5 percent from 1992-1999). Even in periods of favourable economic growth, Nigeria did not experience considerable or commensurate poverty reduction. In 1985-1992, there was slight increase in GDP and per capital income, but inequality worsened and the core-poor did not share in the growth as the

depth and severity of poverty did not improve significantly. This suggests the need for a strategy of growth with equity for poverty reduction.

Poverty is a world wide phenomenon its scourge is more pronounce in the rural areas than urban set-up, poverty is an important aspect of the index of under-development. Kure (2002) stated that the alleviation of poverty in the development countries, especially in Nigeria rural poor is an issue of great concern to the government of the federal republic of Nigeria, the World Bank and other non-international agencies.

A lot has been done through seminars, symposium and workshops to generate ideas aimed at tackling poverty so as to improve the quality of life of those trapped by poverty.

Abubakar (1975) postulated that since 1960 till date, rural development has been on the priorities of most government. He is of the view that the development of the rural areas will help to rescue the indigene of poverty since most Nigerian lives in rural areas.

Ali (1975) support the above view he is of the opinion that agriculture is of the major occupation of the rural people and the heart beat of the rural dwellers. To tackle the problem of poverty, agriculture has to change from crude and primitive method of production to the modern technique of production.

In Nigeria, successive government has tried to improve like of others living in rural by given to agriculture, Eboli, Okoye and Ayichi

(199) listed the following as some of the measure taken by the government to boost agriculture to alleviate poverty especially for those living in rural areas.

- a) National acceleration food programme 1992.
- b) Introduction of Agricultural development programme (ADPS) 1975.
- c) Agricultural credit guarantee scheme of ACDS of (1977)
- d) River basin development authorities RBDAS (1978)
- e) Rural banking scheme (1978)

Apart from the above efforts and others initiated by the federal various programmes, board, farm settlement scheme, rural development authorities, community farm project, were put in place by various regional or state government with various objectives aimed at rural poverty alleviation, as noted (Lele and Adunyako 1991), Okene 1992 (Chamber 1983) in almost all the actions whether national or regional in nature were heavily based towards agriculture as it was assumed that agriculture development was synonymous with rural development. They also noted that despite all the general all the effort to alleviate poverty, the rural areas and people are characterized by general poverty, trap, low income and investment rate set. Unauthorized national resources, rapidly increasing population underdevelopment, low productivity of labour between traditional teachers and limited entrepreneurship, high level of

illiteracy, ignorance, disease and malnutrition, non absence of social and physical infrastructure, political powerlessness, gullibility and high level of vulnerability.

The above factor shows a lot needs to be done in the areas of poverty alleviation.

Akpan and Olaniyi (1993) postulated that about two thirds of Nigerians 88.5 million citizens still live in an estimated 97:000 rural communities, they lives are characterized by poverty misery, morbidity and underdevelopment. The characterized of agriculture and their main occupation had declined overtime. Because 1973 and 1979 positive growth was recorded for agriculture alone. In the other years, the growth of agriculture was negative this affected rural people and hence poverty. Most of the rural people depend directly on agriculture.

As stated earlier in our review, the boldest attempt by government to alleviated poverty is the establishment of agriculture and development programme (ADP) the (ADP) system is designed to impress the traditional system of the production and raise the productivity income and standard of living of the small scale farmers who produce 90% gross domestic food supplies (Olayemi 1980) the system according to Olayemi is based on the premise that any combined efforts applying almost simultaneously can reduce the problems of low productivity of farmers due largely to limited access to credit. Lack of improve inputs and

technologies and inadequate rural infrastructures. In other words, the (ADP) strategy is an integrated approach to agricultural and rural development. It is necessary to state here that while ADP system not involved in direct food production, its main mandate is the creation of enabling environment for the holder farmers to produce efficiently, this will alleviate poverty.

Johnson and Kirby (1975) used the naturally integrated programmes of rural development as a measure to alleviate poverty. The programmes are usually characterized by careful definition of needs and resources of a target population and implementation phasing of multi-sectional components and complete restructuring of related institutions. These programmes have taken place in Japan, China and Korea, Pakistan and Mexico. This helped to reduce poverty in these countries.

Ekpo (1988) stated that despite decades of utilizing both approaches most countries including Nigeria have not been able to positively transform its rural sector. There are several factors which could explain this. This existing orthodox theoretical framework explaining development in general and rural development in particular does not deal with issues like the relation of production power relation within a country. Relationship between the country and the rural people and predominate more of poverty reduction.

He suggested the implementation of comprehensive adjustment in macro and micro economic policies both to respond to various shocks and to rectify inappropriate past policies that have hampered economic activities of which is to restore sustainable economic growth; these shocks have adversely affected rural people.

Ekpo and Olaniyi (1993) stated that the directorate of food and roads and rural infrastructure (DFFRI) was one of the steps taken to alleviate poverty. The objective of DFFRI, according to them was to improve quality of life of the rural people, greater improvement in the quality, value and national balance of their food intakes, raising the quality of rural housing as well as the general living conditions and working environments in the rural area improving the health condition of the rural people and creating greater opportunities for human development and employment especially self empowerment and invariably enhancing rural income levels.

Despite the above laudable objective, the rural sector is devoid of development. Bond (1983) shows that the relatively low, long run price responsiveness to total agricultural output in rural area call for concern and Binswanger (1989) stated that the reason for this can be partly explain on what has been happening to infrastructure ion sub-sahara Africa.

Available evidence suggests that agricultural output is particularly sensitive to both economic and social infrastructure Binswanger (1989; Iles 1996 Morse Bance 1989, Mock 1986 and Jamison and Mock 1984. This is true of the physical infrastructure given the already large transport margin that often applies.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the activities of DFFRI since its establishment in 1986 has not really affected the lives of those living on rural areas and poverty alleviation remains an illusion. Assert

Alkasum as cited in Agbory (2002) asserted that the ruling class in Nigeria accumulated wealth through improving foreign food products, machinery fertilizer, other chemical and agricultural equipments. They embark on food importation for reason other than meeting food products but rather helped to suppress domestic production. This in turn worsens the plight of rural people.

Ogboru (2002) viewed the human tragedy that constitutes rural poverty crises in Nigeria with respect to the domination of rural areas and the proletariat, peasants, several mechanisms and factors defined the essence decimation perpetuated by the rural communities. It is grossly inadequate the distribution of economic wealth, power and social amenities the peasantry is last in the line.

The social consequences of this trend are enormous, firstly, the rural people have little land and because they are denied access to their

means of production, two effects surfaced. One human proletarianisation and two commercialization of labour in the first instance. The hitherto employed labourer now become city dweller with no specific objectives to be considered in the second effects, those who could afford a job, would sell their labour to whosoever could hire it. This job have no security hence they could be hired and fired at will, even though they are being exploited.

Alos (1997) stated that the rural popular mostly the peasantry has no direct dealing with policy workers, finance and research findings. This has further reduced effort at alleviating poverty. They are not involved in eroding a lasting programme of improving their lots, rather, peasant development has become a humanistic obligation on the part of the enlightened who let the benefits of modern technology trickle down to the grass roots and reduce to what the powerful decide to implement for the benefit of the people.

Thus the operation feed the nation, the green revolution, the river basin development projects and all other programmes aimed at alleviating poverty were little known to the consumers and the class producing them can not be said evolution or policies geared towards alleviation of poverty.

On a general note, the policies only enhance the position of ruling class in Nigeria to accumulate wealth to the detriment of the masses.

2.6 Government Programmes and Policies Related to Poverty.

In the light of the government's concern for poverty reduction, numerous policies and programmes were designed at one time and the other, if not to meet the special needs of the poor, but at reach them. The advent of the structural adjustment programmes in 1986 brought out more forcefully the need for policies and programmes to alleviate poverty and period safety nets for the poor. This emphasis arose from an awareness of the unintended negative effects of structural adjustment policies on the vulnerable group in the society. While structural adjustment had its salutary effect on economic growth, it lacked emphasis on development and also accentuated socio-economic problems of income inequality, unequal access of food, shelter, education, health and other necessities of life. It indeed aggravated the incidence of poverty among many vulnerable groups in the society.

As a result of the continuous deterioration of living conditions in the late 1980s, several alleviation programmes were implemented. By the end of 1998, there were sixteen poverty alleviation institutions in the country, in 1994, the government set up a broad-based Poverty Alleviation Programmes Development Committee. The primary objective of the PAPDC was to advise the government on the design, coordination and implementation of poverty alleviation Programmes, its work contributed immensely to the emergence of a new approach to the design

and organization of poverty alleviation programmes culminating in the establishment in 1996 of the community action programmes for poverty alleviation (CAPPA) CAPPA was a community-based approach, which adopted a combination of social funds and social action strategy. CAPPA document drew largely from the past experience on poverty reduction efforts in the country and attempted to ensure that poor are not only carried along in the design and implementation of poverty project projects that affects them but that the poor themselves actually formulate and manage the poverty projects. Various agencies (government, donor and NGOs) involved in poverty alleviation in the country have embraced the CAPPA strategy. Also in 1990, the federal government through the national planning commission produced a national poverty alleviation policy document. It's in the immediate and distant future. However, the fact that the incidence of poverty remained very high the existence of the various programmes notwithstanding, pointed to the ineffectiveness of the failure of past poverty-related programmes and effects. Some of them are:

- e.) Lack of training mechanisms for the poor and the fact that most of the programmes do not focus directly on the poor.
- f.) Political and policy instability resulting in frequent policy changes and inconsistent implementation.

- g.) inadequate coordination of the various programmes resulting in each institution carrying out its own activities with resulting duplication of efforts and inefficient use of limited resources. Overlapping functions ultimately led to institutional rivalry and conflicts. For example, the better life programme had the same functions and objectives as the family support program, and the present National Poverty Eradication Programmes (NAPEP).
- h.) server budgetary management and government problems afflicted most of the programs, resulting in facilities not being completed, broken down and abandoned, unstuff and unequipped.
- i.) Lack of accountability and transparency there by making the programmes to serve as conduit pipes for draining national resources
- j.) Overextended scope of activities of most institutions, resulting in resources being spread too thinly on too many activities. Examples are the directorate for roads and rural infrastructure (DFRR) and better life programmes, which covered almost every sector and overlapped with many other existing programmes. Some government programmes on poverty alleviation are:-
- (i) The national directorate of Employment: which consists of four main programmes, the vocational skills development programmes, the special public works programmes, the small scale Enterprises

Programmes, directorate of Food, Roads and rural; infrastructure, (DFRR) which support mainly rural infrastructure projects; and the better life Programmes, which support a multitude of Programmes targeted at women, including agriculture and extension services, education and vocational training etc.

- (ii) Agricultural sector Programmes:- This includes the state agricultural development programmes, the national agricultural land development authority, the strategic gains reserves programmes. The programme for accelerated wheat production, as well as the development of artisan fishery, small ruminant production, pasture and grazing reserves. These programmes promote utilization of land resources through subsidized land development, supply of farm inputs and services, credit extension to farmers, and institutional support for produce making cooperatives.
- (iii) Health sector Programmes:- These include the primary health care scheme, which aims at providing at least one health centre in every local government: and the Guinea Worm Eradication Programmes. The guinea worm eradicate program supports health intervention to control diarrhea diseases, eradicate Guinea-worm, and promote changes in knowledge, attitude and practices relating to water use, excreta disposal and general hygiene (CBN), 2001).

- (iv) Education sector Programmes:- In the education sector, the nomadic education program development curricula for nomadic education, trained nomadic teachers and provided infrastructure for the nomadic schools, etc.
- (v) Transport sector Program:- In the transport sector, the federal Urban mass transit programmes was established in 1988 to rescue the public transport system from imminent collapse. New buses were put into public use and loan schemes helped cooperative and private operators acquire transport vehicles.
- (vi) Financial sector Program:- include few initiatives which began in 1989/90: the national economic reconstruction fund which provide long-term loans at concessionary interest rates to promote small and medium scale industrial projects, the people's bank of Nigeria which extended credit to the poor etc.
- (vii) Nutrition- related Programmes:- these consists of programmes aimed at improving food security, preventing micro-nutrient deficiencies in children and women, promotion of exclusive breast feeding, deforming of school children and promotion of food quality and safety.

2.7 Current Trend at Poverty Reduction

Since inception in May, 1999, the present administration has shown deep concern about the rising incidence of poverty in Nigeria. The

government realized that if the worsening poverty situation is not checked, the future of the nation would be doomed. Government therefore introduced a number of programmes and measures that aimed at reducing poverty. These include the universal basic education (UBE) programme, the poverty alleviation programme and the constitution of the Ahmed Joda Panel in 1999 and the Ango Abdullahi Committee in 2001. The immediate tasks of the pane/committees were the streamlining and rationalization of existing poverty alleviation institution in the country, and the coordinated implementation and monitoring of relevant schemes and programmes. Some of the programmes include:-

The Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)

This was an interim measures introduced early in 2000 to address the problems of rising unemployment and crime wave, particularly among youths. It aimed at increasing the welfare of Nigerians. The primary objectives of PAP were to: reduce the problems of unemployment and hence raise effective demand in the economy; increase the productivity of the economy; and reduce the crime wave in the society. In order to actualize the objectives of PAP, several measures were taken. Emphasis was placed more on the creation of jobs through public work scheme. To this end, avenues were provided for the gainful employment of 200,000 idle hands. This aspect of the programmes was designed to provide jobs for at least 5000 unemployed in each state of the federation. However, the

implementation of the programme was ad-hoc with little attention to the policy framework. The emphasis on massive construction and other public work projects made it look like a one-off affair than a revolving one.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

This was introduced early in 2001. NAPEP is the current Programmes which focuses on the provision of strategies for the eradication of absolute poverty in Nigeria (FRN, 2001:3) NAPEP is complemented by the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC), which is to coordinate the reduction related activities of all the relevant activities of all the relevant ministries, parastatals and agencies. It has the mandate to ensure that the wide ranges of poverty-reduction activities are centrally planned, coordinated and harmonized policy continuity and sustainability are achieved. The poverty reduction related activities of the relevant institutions under NAPEP are classified into four namely:-

- (i) **Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES):-** which deals with capacity acquisition, credit delivery, technology development and enterprise promotion.
- (ii) **Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS):-** which deals with the provision of potable and irrigation water, transport (rural and urban) rural energy and power support,.

- (iii) **Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS):-** this deals with the special education primary health care services, establishment and maintenance of recreational centres, public awareness facilities, food, youth and student hostel development, environment protection facilities, food security provision, micro and macrocredit delivery, rural telecommunications facilities etc.
- (iv) **Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCD);-** which deals with the harnessing of the agricultural, water, solid mineral resources, conservation of land and space (breaches), reclaimed land, particularly for their effective utilization by small-scale operators and the immediate communities.

2.8 The Local Government System in Nigeria.

Nigeria is a federal state with a directly elected president as head of state and head of government. The president is restricted to serving no more than two-four years terms of office. The national assembly is bicameral comprising the senate, which has 109 members (three from each of the 36 states and one from the federal capital territory) and the House of Representatives with 360 members. The President appoints a cabinet, known as the federal executive council (FEC), subject to the approval of the senate and which must draw members from all states of the federation. Members of the FEC may not serve concurrently as

members of the national assembly and must resign elected office in the legislative to take up positions in the executive. The federation comprises of 36 states and Abuja the federal territory. There are 774 Local Government Areas. (LGAs)

In the federal structure, a local government is created by state legislation with the endorsement of the national assembly. The federal minister of intergovernmental affairs is responsible to the president on all matters relating to legislatures taking place every four years. Each state has commissioners (state level equivalent of minister) with the responsibility for local government. Their role is therefore to develop policy and legislation relating to local government and to provide oversight. Elected local governments are enshrined in the 1999 constitution, which guarantees a system of local government by democratically elected councils. The constitution requires all states to enact legislation providing for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and function of local overnment councils. Each of the 36 state has enacted its own legislation. The core functions of local governments are defined in the constitution, and individual state may augment their responsibilities through legislation. The commissioner responsible for local government in each state is responsible for the administration of these acts.

Local government exists in a single tier in all states. There are 768 local government authorities (LGAs) and six area councils, totaling 774, the area councils are only in the federal capital territory.

Councilors and chairpersons of councils are elected directly by universal adult suffrage (over 18 years of age) for three year terms of office. However here the first round of elections under the current constitution were held in 1999, the second round, in June, 2002, were held in March, 2004. Local Governments are divided into wards. Each ward elects a single member to the council. This system is uniform across Nigeria. Decision making in each council operates through a committee system, however there is a division between the executive body and the legislative body. Councils range in size from 10 to 13 councilors. Legislation in local government requires authorities to establish committees, but these are not specified. Authorities have the discretion to establish other committees on an ad hoc basis in accordance with state legislation. Chairpersons are directly elected and served full time and are remunerated accordingly. Remuneration is set by a federal agency the federal revenue mobilization, allocation and fiscal commission. Council chairperson, with responsibilities determined by state government legislation, constitutes the executive committees.

Local government services commission, a state body; recruits senior staffs while the individual local authorities hire and discipline

staff. Central government does not deploy any staff to local government. Each local authority is required to appoint the director of administration, who is the head of the paid service. Each state has an auditor general to annual accounts. The core functions of local government are pre-school, primary and adult education, public health (including primary care and health protection), cemeteries and crematoria, environmental protection, sports, leisure and open spaces and religious facilities. The association of local governments in Nigeria (ALGON) is the representative body of local government and has the traditional role of providing services to its member authority. It is funded by membership subscription, but is not recognized either in law or in the federal constitution. Elected local governments are therefore enshrined in the federal constitution of Nigeria. At the same time it is established by state legislation. Local government is single-tier and established throughout the country.

2.9 The Functions of Local Government.

To be able to look critically at the functions of local government, it is important to clearly define the concept. According to the United Nations Division of Public Administration (Abubakar 1993:4), local government is a political subdivision of a nation (or in a federal system, a state) which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for

prescribed purposes. The governing body of such entity is elected or otherwise locally selected.

According to the federal republic of Nigeria, (1976:1), local government can be defined as the government at local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise power within defined areas. These staff and institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implant projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal government in their areas, and to ensure thorough devolution of functions to these councils and through the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, that local conditions are maximized. Individuals, non-governmental organizations, and community based organizations in the local government have put up a number of initiatives to positively and effectively address poverty, their focus on human poverty dimension through projects in food security, education, health and income generation has been sharper and proven to be more sustainable. Local Governance is aimed at reducing rural poverty in the following ways:

- a) Building bridges between public administration and investment promotion, private sector investment, traditional authorities and civil society for enhancing wealth creation in rural areas.

- b) To promote grassroots participation in the formulation of policies and programmes, thereby enhancing ownership and appropriate choice of priorities and technologies that would address the needs of the poor.
- c) To ensure transparency, accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms in public expenditure processes, there by making more resources available for pro-poor development.
- d) To enable broad-based civil society and private sector involvement in the provision of public goods and services, thereby ensuring more equitable access to basic needs and services.
- e) To promote civil society capacity to server as an effective counterpoint to the dominance of the central government in decision making and in the promotion of democratic principles; and
- f) Promote popular participation and ownership of the machinery of government by shifting the process of governance from command to consultative processes.

One of the main challenges facing the development of effective local governance processes and poverty reduction programmes is the absence of a phased programmes of strategically prioritized actions, matched with clear set of performance indicators by which progress could be measures and evaluated. Many of the poverty reduction strategies and

local government reform initiatives are comprehensive, broad and generic in content seeking to achieve too much in the life time of a single regime.

Multi-party democracy, with a well-informed and articulated civil society serving as a counter balance to central and local administrations, is relatively new in many Africa countries. The demand for accountability and transparency in the performance of central and local government structures is so weak that public officials do not perform on their mandates, or even account to their constituencies. Allegiance and reporting seems more towards the centre than the local population. There is the absence of clear policy and negotiate agreements on the roles of traditional authorities and NGOs in local development processes in the sharing of powers, functions and resources. The challenges are how to harness the energy of the traditional authorities into the mainstream of public administration, thereby avoiding the parallel governance systems currently in place at the local level. Also how to deal with public concerns about the strong presence of central government at the local level through government-appointed functionaries and officials, and the difficulty of maintaining non-partisan development profiles under a partisan central administration. Private sector and NGO involvement in programme formulations, financing and implementation are difficult; because political party affiliations and allegiance to the ruling party are real rather than perceived qualifications for participation.

2.10 METHODOLOGY

a.) Sampling Procedure

The study was conducted in five Local Government Area of Kogi State of Nigeria.

a.) Method of Data Collection

Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data involved the use of questionnaires. Data were collected from the respective district offices, the selected households and community leaders. Data collected from the district offices included their annual revenue and expenditures, disaggregated by suitable sub-heads, such as agriculture, health sanitation, capital projects, including culverts, roads, bridges, etc. construction. Data were also collected on the poverty-alleviation programs and projects embarked on the each local governments in the last five (5) years, with respect to the type of project (i.e. sector of activity). Duration, number of beneficiaries, level of funding and whether the project has co-funding/support from external agencies.

The data collected from the community leaders included information on the extent of poverty among household in their area, the key cause of poverty among them, and the assistance provided by the local government to reduce their poverty. The community leaders were asked to provide their fair qualitative assessment of the poverty profiles of their people, and what can be done. Most of the community leaders

were serving or former councilors of their respective local governments and as such were in a good position to provide the information being sought. The survey of the community leaders was essentially a key informant survey, intended to provide the required information. The data collection lasted for the (4) months from October, 2001 to March 2006.

CHAPTER THREE

THE STUDY AREA/GENERAL INFORMATION

The work was carried out in Kogi State. It is located in the North central state of Nigeria. It has 22 Local Government Areas. It is bounded by the federal capital territory, Benue state and Edo state to the West, East and South respectively. The major tribes in the State are the Igala, Igbirra and the Okun respectively. By tribe, the level of poverty is very pronounced among the people since most of them depend on subsistence farming for survival, their level of poverty is deepened due to absence of government small scale industry and power supply. Government presence is hardly felt in the rural area and this worsens the poverty situation in the state. The researcher made use of questionnaires to give adequate coverage to people especially those in the rural area. Like any other rural state, it is expected that most people are illiterate and cannot read and write. The questionnaire was interpreted to them. The choice of questionnaire as instrument of data collection was to give adequate coverage to the people scattered in rural settlements all over the state.

The questionnaire was distributed to the major stakeholders in the

Local Government Ares as follows.

S/NO	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	NO DISTRIBUTED
1	ANKPA LOCAL GOV.T	20
2	DEKINA LOCAL GOV.T	20
3	OKENE LOCAL GOV.T	20
4	KABABUNU LOCAL GOV.T	20
5	IDAH LOCAL GOV.T	20
	TOTAL LOCAL GOV.T	100

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary.

Nigeria is today traced with accepted paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty. The major goal of any country is to have a society that can efficiently harness its resources such that nobody suffers from the starvation and every one can meet the basic minimum needs of life. Therefore the task of poverty alleviation requires that Nigerian leaders and concerned citizen needs to appreciate that sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation are the most crucial goal of the governance. This work was carried out to find ó ways and means of alleviating poverty.

The network is arranged into five chapters. Chapter one consist of the preamble where the poverty situation and the problems were stated. In chapter two relevant literatures on poverty and how to alleviate it were reviewed, here views of different scholars on the subjects are examined. Chapter three (3) takes a comprehensive look at the methodology. Chapter four (4) deals with interpretation of data. In chapter five the conclusion, summary and recommendations were dealt with.

Attempt to bring about increase the standard of living of the poor must be on increasing the economic returns on limited factors they posses i.e (labour) and progressively altering all the existing patterns of

concentration of both physical and human capital towards low income group needs and equally needs packages of supporting and complementary policies.

5.2 Conclusion

The crucial fact is that rendering the realizing of any policy package illusory is the political and social structure of the government in power, the alleviation of poverty demands that the classes controlling the destiny of most developing countries cannot be expected to design and execute policies counter to each find all other immediate vested interest. If to appease the restive public, blue prints and progressive measure such as agrarian reform, equitable tax legislation are officially announced they should be willingly enforced, it is only then that indices of underdevelopment such as poverty, disease, hunger, unemployment problems can be alleviated, most importantly in Kogi state.

Africa is no doubt underdeveloped. Africa has remained predominantly underdeveloped not because it lacks resources needed for development or because God ordains it, African backwardness is man made. It is as a result of combination of many factors, most of which are external. Kogi State can fully develop her potential if she utilized all the available resources at her disposal. This will go along way to reduce poverty.

The dilemma of underdevelopment is not removed, it is merely relocated on the part of western capital they face the problem that the economics problems and the political insensitivities at home will really give credibility to the current strategies and performance of development.

Finally, development has become such an obsession that it is easy to forget, that the idea of development is relatively recent. In Africa the idea really started coming into vogue after the early 1960s when many Africa countries had become independent. The colonial government was not much interested in development and did not talk much about it. They were interested in keeping order and maintaining the political and economic conditions for the exploitation of the colony, there must be a change on the part our leaders towards the people in order to alleviate poverty.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings.

- a) A policy or set of policies design to bring about structural changes in the distributions of assets, power and access to education and associated income among the rural people.
- b) There should be a set policy or set of policies designed to modify the size and distribution of income at the upper level through the enforcement of registered progressive taxation in income and

wealth and at the lower level through explained provision of publicly provided consumption of goods and services.

- c) A privacy of set power designed to promote indigenous technological research and development on relevant problems on poverty in Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi state where emphasis is placed on finding efficient method of providing low cost healthy and training services, improved small scale agriculture and expanding rural employment opportunities.
- d) There should be emphasis on processing of perishable crops in Kogi state. For instance vegetable and fruits, tropical and nuts, other handicrafts that are rural based will also be encouraged. Reforms will be made to make investment environment in kogi state women friendly, specially attention should be paid to policies that will make women more relevant in the growth process, this could make a world of difference in the welfare of this house hold.
- e) Encourage Labour wages in the rural areas where the poor are concentrated could be made higher than those in urban establishment. In order to achieve the dual purpose of discouraging urbanization and congestion as well as compensation for the take off facilities made available in the urban centres.

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Questionnaire

Tick the correct answer from the alternative provided.

1. age of respondents
 - a) 0-18 ()
 - b) 19-30 ()
 - c) 31-45 ()
 - d) 46-60 ()

2. Sex of respondents.
 - a) Male ()
 - b) Female ()

3. Occupation of respondents
 - a) Civil servant ()
 - b) Business men ()
 - c) Farmer ()
 - d) Other specify ()

4. Who are the beneficiaries of poverty alleviation in Kogi State?
 - a) Political ()
 - b) Youth ()
 - c) The masses ()
 - d) Civil servants ()

5. What are the poverty alleviation Programmes?
 - a) Keke Napep ()

- b) Youth empowerment ()
- c) Ibro Wahala ()
- d) NDC loan ()

6. Is there any attempt to increase agriculture in the rural areas away of eradicating poverty? If yes how?

- a) Through supplying fertilizer ()
- b) Through supplying herbicides ()
- c) Enough vegetation environment ()
- d) None of the above ()

7. Who benefited from small and medium scale loans meant for poverty reduction?

- a) Party loyalist ()
- b) Youths ()
- c) Retired civil servants ()

8. Is the State making any efforts in reopening up rural areas to enhance transportation of farm products? Yes, where are the roads located?

- a) All senatorial districts ()
- b) Lokoja ()
- c) Provision of funds to farmers ()
- d) Establishing small scale industries ()

- e) None of the above ()
9. What are the major factors that led to high incidence of poverty in the State?
- a) Corruption ()
 - b) Poor leadership ()
 - c) Both A&B ()
10. There adult literacy campaign in the state, if yes, how spread.
- a) Concentrated in the headquarter ()
 - b) Concentrated in the LGA ()
 - c) Concentrated in rural areas ()
11. Are there non-governmental organization fighting poverty in the state?
- a) Yes but at low level ()
 - b) Yes at high level ()
 - c) Not quite ()
12. List the major causes of poverty in your area.
- a) Over population ()
 - b) Lack of Infrastructure ()
 - c) Unemployment ()
13. Comment briefly on the effect of poverty in the state.
- a) Resources purchasing power ()
 - b) Brings about hunger ()

c) Lack of social problems ()

d) All of the above ()

14. Suggest ways the society can alleviate poverty.

a) Provision of fund ()

b) Property disbursement ()

c) Provision of agricultural tool/inputs to farmers ()

d) Reduction in the level of corruption ()

e) Empowering the youth ()

f) A and B ()

15. How has the state government addresses the issue of poverty since the year?

