AN ASSESSMENT OF POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH MICRO-FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION IN NIGERIA 1990-1999

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ABSTRACT

This study is undertaken to access poverty reduction, through, micro financial intermediation. In carrying out this, the researcher intends to find out the extent to which the financial intermediaries involved, were contributing their efforts towards the success of the programme.

This can be looked from different perspectives like the amount of money committed into the programme and the effectiveness or regularity of these disbursement ,towards areas of financial needs. The implementation and impact created by these institutions since inception.

The modality with which they used to disburse such finances. Because all these will help the researcher to determine whether this is really a worth while venture or an elephant project.

On this note, the related literature were reviewed to find out the opinions of the author of this study. Also to serve as a reference material to other researchers who might like to go into the same related field of study. In this review attention were paid to both the poverty reduction programme and institutional fund channels, through which these funds reach the scheme. And the researcher due to the comprehensiveness demanded of this study delved into both the formal and informal sectors to determine the extent of their involvement, through performance evaluation rating carried out by him.

Data collected using **chi-square**, with specific margin of errors and level of significance. And the researcher relied on the responses of the respondents, empirically to arrive at his decision. This was also proved statistically and not by chance or by rule of thumb. Based on the findings arrived at, through this means, recommendations, were made to both the **government policy makers; the formal sector** and **the informal sector.**

And the following recommendations were made; that adequate fund injection was urgently needed; an effective programme monitoring, decentralisation of the programme official activities to rural areas. Also recommendations was made for effective programme enlightenment campaign. And in the formal sector restructuring and re-engineering of the financial institutions. While in informal sector; informal lenders recognition; mass mobilization, and NGOs encouragement were recommended.

In concluding this thesis, the researcher posited that if the recommendation made were implemented, it will not only aid the extent of progress to be made on the scheme, towards achieving the objectives of this programme; but will also help to determine a balanced economic growth for the nation which will in effect raise the standard of living of its citizenry and reduce the percentage of poverty stricken people in the economy.