

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328347048>

Groping In the Dark (Poverty): The Nigerian Experience

Article · October 2012

CITATIONS

0

READS

190

1 author:



[Michael Oseni](#)

The Polytechnic, Ibadan

25 PUBLICATIONS 163 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Groping In the Dark (Poverty): The Nigerian Experience

OSENI, Michael*

OYETUNJI, Oyelami I. O.‡

OGUNLADE, Olabamiji†

SANNI, M. Rotimi§

*[Corresponding Author], [Department of Accountancy, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria], [osenimike@gmail.com], [+2347033312225]

†[Department of Accountancy, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria], [labanjog@yahoo.com], [+234830838894]

‡[Department of Accountancy, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria], [femiisoye@yahoo.co.uk], [+2348055264840]

§[Department of Accountancy, The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria], [babasanni@yahoo.com], [+2348035629290]

Groping In the Dark (Poverty): The Nigerian Experience^{**}

OSENI, Michael; OGUNLADE, Olabamiji; OYETUNJI, Oyelami I. O.; and
SANNNI, M. Rotimi

Abstract

In 1985, poverty incidence in Nigeria had risen to 46.3% from 27.2% in 1980. This later rose to almost 70% in 2010. The problems of poverty were found mainly from misuse of resources the country is endowed with. The rising poverty trend is also traceable to people orientation about governance. More than four billion barrels of crude oil were sold between 2004 and 2010 and at an exchange rate of ₦120/\$ and \$70 dollars per barrel, the total proceeds would have been at least ₦32 trillion. For a transformation agenda to work in all its ramifications, 2% of the population should not be cornering 80% of the nations' resources as it is presently in operation by the top echelon public servants. Poverty alleviation programmes to the present time were reviewed and shortcomings were highlighted. It was found out that governments at all levels are not doing enough to combat poverty as it is being done in developing countries. The paper then recommends that infrastructural facilities like power, good roads, health care and effective educational systems should be provided adequately and improved.

Keywords: Alleviation, Poverty incidence, Millennium Development Goals, Transformation agenda
Conditional cash transfer

**** Acknowledgment**

Nil

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is unbelievable that man can be thirsty in the middle of water. Water here and there but there is none to drink. Some have argued that the story of Nigeria is one of the paradoxes since the beginning of the 1980. Nigeria, according to Obadan (2002) is endowed with human, agricultural, petroleum and large untapped solid mineral resources and earned over US\$300 billion from oil during the last three decades of the twentieth century. But the country had retrogressed to become one of the 25 poorest countries at the threshold of twenty-first century whereas she was among the richest 50 in the early-1970s. Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and the biggest oil producer. While Nigeria is a major oil producer on the global market, the country imports gasoline because it is unable to refine its crude oil at home. More than half of Nigerians are poor despite living in a country with potential wealth. Revenues from crude oil have been increasing over the past decade but Nigerians have falling deeper into poverty.

Presently, Nigeria produces more than two million barrels of crude oil a day. The National Bureau of Statistics in its poverty report says 69 percent of all Nigerians made less than \$1 a day in 2010. This is 10 percent higher than the last poverty study in 2004, and the report notes that income inequality has also increased since then. The poverty incidence which was 27% in 1980 had risen to 69% in 2010. In real

terms, 17 million that were regarded poor in 1980 had risen to 112 million in 2010. The present democratic dispensation started in May 1999 and all along the usual thing being dished out to the people by the ruling class is the dividend of democracy. How this dividend is being given to the people is another thing entirely. Earning less than one dollar a day by majority of Nigerians certainly make the country to be poor. When the present civilian administration came to power in 1999, more than 70% Nigerians lived in poverty and this resulted to budgeting N470 billion by the government to fight poverty in 2000 (Ogwumike, 2002). In 2001, the government increased its budgetary allocation to poverty alleviation programme by 150%.

The primary duty of the governments at all levels is to provide essential things of life to ameliorate the sufferings of the people. The government in its bid to alleviate poverty introduced many types of poverty eradication programmes. Individual regime/administration has its own identifiable programmes which often are only meant only for that administration. Spouses of the heads of governments (not recognized by the constitutions of the country) have their own programs with the aims of reducing poverty. Some of these programmes are Better Life Programme (BLP), People' Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Family Support Programme (FSP) and National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). A special poverty alleviating program

known as YouWin which is targeted at youths between the ages of 18 and 35 and who already own businesses or have strong business plans had been put into place. The YouWin 2013, according to President Jonathan is targeting only women entrepreneurs (Jonathan, 2012).

But governments at all levels appear to have lost the steam and focus in doing this. They are, according to Okereh, (2012) merely groping in the dark or even grandstanding by touting all sorts of ineffectual poverty alleviation programmes.

Poverty in Nigeria has been traced to many issues among which are corruptions, bad governance, debt overhang, unemployment and low productivity (Obadan, 2002)

Poverty alleviation has been carried out in some other countries whereby the economies improved after initiating programmes meant to improve the welfare of their people. The efforts in Nigeria seemed not to give any fruitful results. There were instances when fertilizers were given to political parties to distribute to their members who are farmers or out-rightly allocating bags of fertilizers to air-conditioned farmers who has never seen a piece of farm land.

The British Government enacted some laws to combat poverty. To reduce poverty at all levels, Welfare Reform Act 2007, Equality Act 2006 and Childcare Act 2006 were enacted. (Collin, 2007).

Nigeria is a federation comprising 36 states, 774 Local Government Areas and the Federal Capital Territory, (FCT) Abuja. The local government council areas are the nearest government to the people. Personal emolument of these government officials are more than 70% of the budget leaving a paltry amount for capital development. Recently there was a hue and cry about the emoluments of members National Assembly. It was alleged that less than five percent of the country's population are getting more than eighty percent of the country's resources. Capital investments embarked upon by these three tiers of governments are not enough to ameliorate the suffering of the people.

Nigeria has subscribed to the Millennium Development Goals of 2015. The reality on ground in respect of more than 100 million people living below poverty line indicates that government has a lot to do in respect of fulfilling the aspirations set by Millennium Development Goals of 2015.

Government revenues that are in few millions of pounds in 1960's which later rose to hundreds of millions in 1970's through 1980's are now in trillions of naira. Revenues are rising rapidly but the poverty incidences of the people are also rising. One would expect that the rising revenue of the government would correspondingly have a positive impact on the citizenry of the country.

The relationship of these government revenues with the poverty incidence in Nigeria will be the focus of this paper. The rest of the paper is divided into four sections. Section two is on conceptual framework and literature review while section three is on model specification and research methodology. Section four is on findings and discussion. Section five summarizes, concludes and recommends.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND LITEATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Framework

2.1.1 Poverty

Inability to achieve a certain minimal standard of living according to Aigbokhan (2000) is poverty. Narayan *et al*, (2000) posit that poverty is humiliation, the sense of being dependent, and of being forced to accept rudeness, insults, and indifference when help is being sought. This is termed to be a condition of deprivation or want in which somebody is not able to satisfy the minimum basic human needs like food, housing and clothing in order to ensure a decent life or existence. Poverty is a relative term in the sense that the population that will be regarded as poor in Western Europe may have level and pattern of living that would be regarded as materially well off in many of the less developed countries.

The Central Bank in collaboration with the word bank in its report in 1999 on Poverty Assessment and Alleviation study in Nigeria views poverty as a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his or her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter; is unable to meet social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, portable water, and sanitation; and consequently, has limited chance of advancing his or her welfare to the limit of his or her capabilities

It is also described by the Wikipedia as pronounced deprivation of wellbeing or inability to satisfy one's basic needs because one lacks income to buy services or from lack of access to services. There is a need to differentiate absolute poverty from relative poverty. The former refers to the state of severe deprivation of basic human needs which commonly includes food water, sanitation, clothing shelter, health care education and information while the later is being below some relative income threshold which may differ from country to country.

2.1.2 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation involves improving the living conditions of people who are already poor.

Poverty reduction measures are intended to raise and enable the poor to create wealth for themselves as a

means for ending poverty forever. Poverty occurs in both developing and developed countries. Some people undertake voluntary poverty (which is outside the scope of this paper) due to religious or philosophical beliefs. For example, Christian monks and nuns take a “vow of poverty” by which they renounce luxury. Poverty alleviation measures have no role in regard to voluntary poverty. Historically, poverty has been accepted as inevitable as non-industrialized economies produced very little while populations grew almost as fast making wealth scarce.

2.2 Literature review

Nigeria subscribed to the UN-inspired Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of halving global poverty by 2015 and in an attempt to achieve the goal, it has embraced the process of outlining its own Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP) which will eventually bring its anti-poverty efforts into the mainstream of the new global thinking that fighting poverty needed to be driven by some acceptable principles.

At the inception of the present civilian dispensation, the present administration established the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as a central coordination point for all anti-poverty efforts from the local government level to the national level by which schemes would be executed with the sole purpose of eradicating absolute poverty. Schemes

like Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES). They provide better lives for people in form of giving aids and finance.

Nigeria’s national development plans and planning aim to alleviate poverty by intensifying rural and agricultural development (Obadan, 2002) Indeed, rural development could be viewed as having been central to Nigeria’s poverty alleviation strategies. And the center-piece of the rural development policy has been agricultural development, complemented by social and economic infrastructure.

The dominance of oil in the country influences all tiers of government to spend far more than they earn. This has resulted to hindrance to progress thereby making people becoming poorer. (IMF, 2005)

Poverty may be measured with some intrinsic parameters. Parameters like inadequate access to government utilities and services, environmental issues, poor infrastructure, illiteracy and ignorance, poor health, insecurity, social and political exclusion are measures that clearly depict poverty (NBS, 2010). In rural areas poverty manifests itself more in the agricultural sector and food security. In response to the development challenges of Nigeria, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) was created in 2003. It was according to the initiators, the first a home-grown reform programme, which will lay a solid foundation for sustainable poverty reduction, employment

generation, wealth creation, and value reorientation (Obasanjo, 2003).

Omonona (2010) is of the opinion that the major causes of Nigeria's poverty go beyond low incomes, savings, and growth - which are usually associated with a poor country. Causes of poverty include high level of inequality attributable to unequal access to income opportunities, basic infrastructure, poor education and health status.

The real and perceived increase in the level of poverty in the country according to Aigbokhan (2000) was as a result of severe economic shocks that rocked the Nigerian economy during the early 1980s. Factors that contributed to the shocks were declining prices of oil, the country's main export, and rises in real international interest rates that compounded the external debt. However, the major underlying reason was domestic policy mistakes of economic reforms introduced in 1986 in a structural adjustment programme. He is of the opinion that contribution to poverty tends to be higher in the north than in the south. The north constitutes the bulk of the poverty problem in the country.

Oyemomi (2003) opined that the high level of prevalence in the country, which has attained an endemic nature, is becoming worrisome. Poverty has made Nigeria to attain an unenviable status such that no Government (no matter the level), Organisation, Community, Clan or Family can survive effectively

without introducing one kind of poverty reduction effort or the other. He was of the opinion that the problem was not that of programme introduction but effectiveness of such programme and strategies so adapted in poverty reduction efforts. Obadan (2002) asserted that the increasing incidence of poverty was partly as a result of ineffective and ineffectual execution of the poverty-related programmes, both within and among locations in spite of resources and efforts committed by the various agencies.

Poverty reduction according to Ogwumike (2002) is a herculean challenge that a country in any developing world where the average majority of the population is considered poor. He was of the opinion that evidences in Nigeria show that the number of those in poverty has continued to increase. For example, the number of those in poverty increased from 27% in 1980 to 46% in 1985; it declined slightly to 42% in 1992, and increased very sharply to 67% in 1996.

Nigeria's economy is projected to continue growing but poverty is biting harder as the gap between the rich and the poor continue to widen. Those who can afford the essential things of livelihood (food, shelter and clothing) rose to 60.9% in 2010 compared with 54.7% in 2004. Kale (2012) is of the opinion that it remains a paradox that despite the fact that the Nigerian economy is growing, the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty is increasing every year.

This trend may increase further if the potential positive impacts of several anti-poverty and employment generation intervention programmes are not taken into account (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012)

Political instability in Africa has been linked to corruption which naturally nosedived to poverty. Aliyu (2002) was of the opinion that takeover of government through military coup, embezzlement, nepotism, looting, bribery, vote buying and abuse of office are very common thereby impoverishing the populace. Nevertheless, the incidence of poverty was also not a monopoly of the unstable countries. In 2004 there were 68.7 million Nigerians regarded as poor which later became 112.47 million in 2010 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012).

It is of the opinion of Anyanwu (2012) that poverty increases at old age as the productivity of the individual decreases and the individual has few savings to compensate for this loss of productivity and income

In Nigeria, the level of education is an important determinant of poverty. It was found out that household heads with no education have a higher proportion of poverty than those with at least primary education. So also polygamous household heads experienced the highest level of poverty with respect to civil status (Anyanwu, 2012)

Ndume (2012) is of the opinion that the country was more challenged with hunger than poverty.

According to him, the nation is also faced with chronic diseases such as HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis which he described as being rooted in poverty. He then concludes that if poverty is addressed properly then gender inequality, child and maternal mortality will also be addressed.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND MODEL SPECIFICATION

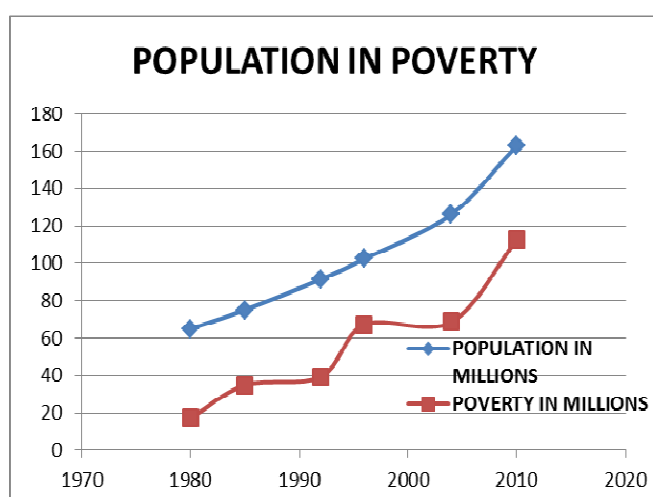
3.1 Research Methodology

The paper made use of secondary data. The data are on Relative Poverty Headcount from 1980-2010. These data were sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics. Descriptive statistics is used to analyse data sourced. Justification for using this period rests on the ground that the beginning of the second republic was October 1, 1979 (1979/1980) and prior to that, it was believed that the problem of Nigeria was not having cash but how to spend it (Mobolaji, 2004). Thirty years later, salaries are unpaid as at when due and pensioners who were probably starting their careers in 1970s are not sure of getting their pensions (Wakili, 2012).

NIGERIA PROVERTY PROFILE

Year	Poverty incidence (%)	Estimated population (million)	Population in poverty (million)
1980	27.2	65	17.1
1985	46.3	75	34.7
1992	42.7	91.5	39.2
1996	65.6	102.3	67.1
2004	54.4	126.3	68.7
2010	69	163	112.47

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2012



4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Statistical data from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that by 1980, poverty covered about 27.2% of the population of Nigeria and rose to 46.3% in 1985. It dropped marginally to 42.7% in 1992 but rose to 65.6% in 1996. By 2010, the poverty incidence in Nigeria was 69%. We then need to discuss reasons for the decrease or increase of poverty incidences during these periods.

The problems of poverty in Nigeria are mainly from the utilization of the proceeds from the natural resources the country is endowed with. Nigeria has sold no less than 4 billion barrels of crude oil at an average rate of 1.5 million barrels per day between 2004 and 2010. At a modest exchange rate of N120/\$ and \$70 per barrel, the total proceeds would have been at least N32 trillion.

The rising poverty trend according to Sule (2012) is traceable to people orientation about governance. The belief that it is mandatory for public officials to execute developmental projects is not sacrosanct. People belief that public offices are investments outlets specifically meant to enrich the pockets of public officers. Public officials, on assumption of office, are given chieftaincy titles and get regular invitations to donate money at public functions thereby making them to completely forget the purpose of governance.

On the yearly corruption index, Nigeria ranks highly. In 2011, Nigeria scored 2.4 on a scale of 10 which shows that the country is highly corrupt. The recent subsidy probe is a testimony where contradicting figures were rolled out by different government MDAs as the volume of petrol (PMS) consumed on daily basis. The trial of suspected oil thieves is also an indication of the rot that led the country to be poor.

In a courtesy visit by the then World Bank Vice President for Africa in 2007, the late President Umar Musa Yar'Adua revealed that \$10 billion invested in the power sector between 2000 and 2007 had failed to produce power (Isakpa, 2012)

Poverty (Andori, 2012) is linked with unemployment. The Nigerian economy is not creating new jobs and the few existing jobs are being lost by factory closures arising from high cost of production. Many factories are relocating to the neighboring countries in which the local labour is gainfully engaged to the detriment of Nigerian workers. The finished goods of these companies are then exported back to Nigeria for final consumption. The epileptic power supply is one of the reasons for companies making such relocations (Sanni, Oseni and Gbadebo (2012). The production of electricity by the country is very abysmal. While South Africa, Egypt and Algeria produced 268,100 GWh, 143,500 GWh and 45,200 GWh respectively in 2010, Nigeria only produced 20,130 GWh in the same period (Wikipedia, 2012). Lack or inadequate power had made many factories to relocate and many individuals now depend on electric generators to carry on simple vocations from barbing to grinding pepper.

Some cultural practices in the country which are archaic in all manners also contribute to the high rate of poverty. The Almajiri system in certain parts of Northern Nigeria continues to produce armies of

unskilled labour that can hardly be productively engaged in modern means of wealth creation.

There is a frightening gap between the rich and poor in the country. There is no longer the middle class. You are either in the class of the rich or in the class of the poor. The former U.S. President, Bill Clinton is of the opinion that the widespread poverty in Nigeria is responsible for the violence that is tearing the nation apart. He pointedly laid the blame on equality which is euphemism of poverty (Clinton, 2012)

You (Nigeria) can't just have this level of inequality persist. That's what's fuelling all this stuff (violence). You also have to give people something to look forward to when they get up in the morning.

Nigeria's GDP had increased but the growth rate of the economy had not affected Nigerians positively basically because the government did not care. Poverty rate might continue to increase despite economic growth if governments do not focus on policies that would have direct impact on job creation and the welfare of the poor (Teriba, 2012). Creation of poverty is squarely put on the shoulders of chief executives of states. Allocations given to them are diverted to their personal use. If allocations given to them are used to develop their various states, the

level of poverty would not be as gargantuan as it is now. Some governors are only interested in collecting their monthly states allocation and disappearing again till the following month. (Ibrahim, 2012)

At the 45th anniversary of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the former president, Olusegun Obasanjo, said developed nations are tired of stories of poverty and unemployment in Africa. African leaders should harp on developmental issues that would generate wealth and employment.

I have been told and I am taking heed. I will no more speak on poverty and unemployment. I will rather talk and concentrate on issues on wealth creation and employment generation. These are my task and advice on African leaders.

The dependence on oil and gas has made Nigeria not to have economy that could easily create jobs. Manufacturing sector is in comatose and many factories have relocated to neighbouring countries due to unfavorable conditions in the country. According to Utomi (2012), the situation exists because Nigeria has a jobless economy. The world has changed and we have to start changing our economic focus.

Governments in power often seek to introduce their own policy and in the process, any other policy inherited from successors are gradually either abandoned absolutely or rendered impotent. The transformation agenda being carried out by the present administration as far as poverty reduction is being concerned is nothing but a lip service. It is more of politics than that of reality. Jemie (2012) wondered how a transformation agenda could work for a nation of 150 million people using 25% of the country's resources while consuming 75% mostly in good for approximately 2% of the population comprising only top echelon public servants.

The budget for 2013 made provision of N5.5 billion naira payments to ex-presidents and their vices. But the chairman of the senate committee on federal character, senator Smart Adeyemi asked the former leaders to sacrifice their 'perks' for the development of the country. According to him, the hospitals have no drugs, the roads are bad, there is no electricity and most graduates are unemployed (Adeyemi, 2012). Similarly the Heads of service of the Federation and permanent secretaries will take home N2.5 billion collectively. A vote of N15 billion was made for job creation but the number of jobs to be created was not mentioned (Ameh and Fabiyi, 2012).

Okonjo-Iweala the Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance recently told the world in Tokyo, Japan that Nigeria is indeed

reformable. Nigeria, according to her is not as difficult as has been widely perceived and therefore can be “fixed” with the right political will and commitment. This was contained in her experience while implementing the structural reforms she initiated and pulled through between 2003 and 2006

Conditional cash transfer program which aims to reduce poverty has not been popular in Africa though it has proved to reduce poverty in Latin America. Anyanwu (2012) opined that conditional cash transfer will produce double dividends which are poverty reduction and better access to formal jobs. Condition cash transfers are unique in seeking to help the current generation in poverty, as well as breaking the cycle of poverty. But to be successful, CCTs require sufficient infrastructure because poor education and health systems limit the benefits derivable from them.

The Millenium Development Goal office attached to the Presidency has planned to urgently alleviate poverty among rural dwellers. A sum of N5 billion is to be provided by the department and the balance of N5 billion will be provided by the participating states. Twenty four states are to participate in this scheme. The selection process would be targeted at local governments and wards, mostly hit by hunger, low literacy and especially families that could hardly afford N200 per day. This Conditional cash transfer program scheme is capable of reducing crime,

promoting high literacy in rural communities as well as tackling hunger in the country (Gbeneol, 2012)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through its secretary admitted that poverty has become a weapon of mass destruction. In other countries of the world, people talk of nuclear weapons as weapons of mass destruction, but in Nigeria today, poverty has become a weapon of mass destruction (Angwe, 2012). Vast majority of people cannot access drugs because of lack of money, they are malnourished due to poor feeding habit with direct roots or link with poverty and millions do not also have access to shelter.

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In this paper, we have been able to identify reasons why poverty still looms large in the society. If Nigeria is to reverse this trend, corruption must be tackled concertededly and projects which have been found to improve the standard of living of the people should be given urgent attention. Paramount among these projects are power, good road networks, and agriculture. The federal government, as a matter of urgency, should declare a state of emergency in these sectors now.

Statistical data from the National Bureau of Statistics indicate that by 1980, poverty covered about 27.2 of

the population of Nigeria and rose to 46.3% in 1985. It dropped marginally to 42.7% in 1992 but rose to 65.6% in 1996. By 2010, the poverty incidence in Nigeria was 69%.

By United Nations, definition of a poor nation person, in dollar terms shows that 51.6 % of Nigerians were living below US\$1 per day in 2004 but this has increased to 61.2% in 2010.

One of the limitations to this work which must be pointed out is the lack of data in respect of poverty incidence for all the years from 1980 to the present time. Another one is that of inconsistencies between National Bureau Statistics and Word Bank in respect of poverty incidences for the years under review. If data were available the result and conclusion might be different.

The rising cause of poverty in Nigeria can be traceable to people's orientation to governance. Many do not believe that that it is mandatory for public officials to execute developmental projects. Rather, constituencies' allowances being collected by legislators are often than not used for purposes they are not meant for. 2% of the population, i.e. the legislators and the executives are cornering more than 80% of the resources in the country. This inevitably creates avenue for poverty to loom in the land.

Serious attention in terms of creation of offices specifically designed for poverty alleviation can be created like that of Delta state where Anthonia Ashiedu is presently holding forth as the commissioner for poverty alleviation in the state.

The operations of the poverty alleviating programmes are not to be left to the middlemen. Many civil servants and politicians are known to be collecting fertilizers and other inputs that are meant for farmers and later sold these to the real users at higher prices thereby defeating the aims of the succor being given. The intervention funds which are to be given to the recent (October, 2012) flood victims should be given directly without wasting much of what is meant for them to the middlemen. Oritsajafor (2012) the president of Christian Association of Nigeria advised government agencies to channel the funds through Federal Government committee set up for that purpose and not through Ministries , Departments or Agencies.

Infrastructural facilities like power, good roads and good health care should be improved upon. Many artisans had abandoned their professions due to unavailability of power. Many had taken to emergency transporters as motor bikes operators. Many factories shut down due to power shortage will then be able to bounce back thereby unemployed youths will have something to do. The relocated

factories to the neighbouring countries may then come back if power is guaranteed.

This paper then recommends that infrastructural facilities like power, good roads, health care and effective educational systems should be improved upon.

REFERENCES

- [1] Adeyemi, S (2012) *FG to splash 5.5 billion on ex presidents, ex-vps in 2013 budget*, Punch Newspaper October 16, p2
- [2] Adonri, D. (2012) *How government impoverished Nigerians, poverty on rampage*, Retrieved from <http://www.vanguardngr.com/> on Friday August 3, 2012
- [3] Aigbokhan B.E. (2000) *Poverty, Growth and Inequality in Nigeria: A Case Study*, African Economic Research Consortium Nairobi, Kenya
- [4] Ameh, J and Fabiyi, O. (2012) *FG to splash 5.5 billion on ex presidents, ex-vps in 2013 budget*, Punch Newspaper October 16, p2
- [5] Angwe, B (2012) *Nigeria: Poverty - A Weapon of Mass Destruction in Nigeria?* Retrieved from <http://www.leadership.ng/> on Sunday August 4, 2012
- [6] Central Bank of Nigeria, (1999) *Nigeria's Development Prospects: Poverty Assessment And Alleviation Study* Central Bank of Nigeria in Collaboration with the World Bank.
- [7] Clinton B. (2012) *How government impoverished Nigerians, poverty on rampage*, Retrieved from <http://www.vanguardngr.com/> on Friday August 3, 2012
- [8] Collin, C. (2007) *Poverty Reduction Strategies in the United Kingdom and Ireland*, Retrieved from, <https://www.guardian.co.uk/socet/2002> on Thursday 30, 2012
- [9] Gbeneol, P (2012) *Govt to spend 10billion on 56,250 poor families*, Punch Newspaper October 16, p16
- [10] Ibrahim, I (2012) *How Northern governors create poverty and insecurity* Retrieved from <http://www.vanguardngr.com/> on Sunday July 15, 2012
- [11] International Monetary Fund (2005) *Nigeria: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper -National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy* IMF Country Report No. 05/433
- [12] Isakpa, P (2012), *A house of failed, harebrained probes*, Businessday Newspaper October 15, p 68
- [13] Jemie, O. (2012) *Madness and sanity in governance*, Businessday Newspaper October 9, p 48
- [14] Jonathan, G. E. (2012) *Fiscal Consolidation with Inclusive Growth*, Nigeria 2013 Budget Speech, pa 34
- [15] Mobolaji, E. A (2004) *Oil as Nigeria's Wealth*, Retrieved from <http://www.blackeconomics.co.uk/nigeria> on Thursday 27, 2012.
- [16] Narayan, D. et al (2000) *Voices of the Poor: Can Anyone Hear Us?* World Bank, New York.
- [17] Narayan, D. et al (2000) *Voices of the Poor: Crying Out for Change* World Bank, New York.

- [18] National Bureau of Statistics (1997) *The Statistical Profile of Nigerian Women, 1997* Abuja
- [19] Ndume, A (2012) *Govt to spend 10billion on 56,250 poor families*, Punch Newspaper October 16, p16
- [20] Obadan, M. I. (2002) *Poverty reduction in Nigeria: The way forward*, CBN Economic & Financial Review, vol. 39 No. 4
- [21] Obasanjo, O. (2012) *The World is tired of poverty in Africa*, Retrieved from <http://www.thisdaylive.com/> on Tuesday 10, 2012
- [22] Ogwumike, F. O. (2002) *An appraisal of poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria*, CBN Economic & Financial Review, vol. 39 No. 4
- [23] Okonjo-Iweala, N. (2012) *Nigeria is reformable*, Businessday Newspaper, October 15, p 8
- [24] Omonona, B (2010) *Quantitative Analysis of Rural Poverty in Nigeria*. Nigeria Strategy Support Programm Brief No.17 pp 1-5
- [25] Oritsejafor, A (2012) *Don't use middlemen to disburse funds*, Punch Newspaper October 16, p16
- [26] Oyemomi, E. O. (2003) *An assessment of poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria (1983 – 2002)* An unpublished dissertation submitted for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Management) of The St Clements University pp 34-56
- [27] Sanni, Oseni and Gbadebo (2012) *The 2005 Debt Cancellation and Foreign Direct Investment Nexus in Nigeria: Curse or Blessing?* European Journal of Globalization and Development Research, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2011 pp 234-245
- [87] Sule. T (2012) *Rising poverty level in Nigeria*, Retrieved from <http://www.businessdayonline.com/> on Sunday September 30, 2012.
- [29] Teriba, A. (2012) *Economists blame government for poverty among Nigerians*, Retrieved from <http://www.punchng.com/> on Tuesday September 4, 2012
- [30] Wakili, I. (2012) *Nigeria: Pension scam-N273 billion looted in six years*, Retrieved from <http://dailytrust.com.ng/> on Tuesday August 21, 2012
- [31] Wikipedia (2012) *List of countries by electricity production*, Retrieved from, <https://cia.gov/library/publication> on Tuesday August 21, 2012.