

CARITAS UNIVERSITY AMORJI-NIKE, EMENE, ENUGU STATE**Caritas Journal of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities**

CJMSSH, Volume 1, Issue 1 (2022)

FUNCTIONAL UTILITY OF POVERTY IN NIGERIA**ORJI, OKORO E.****Authors' Affiliation:**

Department of Sociology,
Faculty of Management and Social
Sciences,
Caritas University, Enugu.
08039373821
E-mail: blessedokoroee@gmail.com

Keywords:

Corruption,
Economy,
Functional utility,
Poverty,
Unemployment

ABSTRACT

Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates, averaging 7.4%. Ironically, poverty still remains significant at 33.1%. For a country with massive wealth and a huge population to support commerce, a well-developed economy and plenty of natural resources such as oil and other solid minerals, the level of poverty remains unacceptable. As at 2018, population growth rate was higher than economic growth rate, leading to a slow rise in poverty. By 2018 end, almost half the population is living below the international poverty line (\$2 per day), and unemployment peaked at 23.1%. This paper attempts to locate this paradox on the socio-political and economic administration of the Nigerian people and economy. The paper is organized as follows: Introduction; Literature and Theoretical issues; Political and Economic foundation of poverty in Nigeria; Corruption; Unemployment; Gender inequality; globalization and Conclusion.

Introduction:

The resurgence of poverty to the centre stage of global economic discourse in this dispensation cannot be overemphasized, as its eradication or alleviation has become a cardinal principle of many governments' policies. Available records of the poverty levels in Nigeria are quit alarming. According to the Federal Office of Statistics (2016), poverty was about 15% among the country's population in 1960. An upward trend has since been the vogue. In 1985, it was about 46% and only recorded a marginal decrease to 43% in 1992. As at 1996, it was a dismal picture of 66% of an estimated population of 110million people. As at 1992, only 10 states had more than half of their population in poverty. This can be contrasted with the period 1992 to 1996 where all the states in Nigeria except Bayelsa had more than half of their population in poverty. About 45million Nigerians lived in abject poverty in 1990, and in 2007 about 70% of Nigerian population lives in poverty (World bank, 2016; Elaigwu, 2017).

As at 2004, when the per capita income of the World was estimated as \$7,140, that of Nigeria for the same year was a dismal \$290, making her to rank alongside such countries as Rwanda (\$220), Togo (\$270), and Mali (\$210) (Garba, 2016). This was even at a time when the federal government of Nigeria had established various poverty alleviation programmes, the latest of them being the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) which was established in 2001 and given the mandate to wipe out poverty in the country by the target year of

2010. Paradoxically, not only that NAPEP have failed to wipe out poverty in Nigeria, poverty rate is still increasing. As at 2018 end, the number of Nigerians living in extreme poverty stood at 90.8 million. This constituted a staggering 46.4% of its estimated 195.6 million total populations. As at August 2021 49.8% of Nigerian population have slept into abject poverty (vanguard, 2021). This is despite the fact that the estimated 643.5million people living in extreme poverty all over the world has dropped to 592.7 million in the same period (World Poverty Clock, 2019). 6-8million Nigerians slept into poverty in 2020 alone (Guardiannews paper, 20th August).

Deductively, poverty has remained a development debacle for Nigeria. Factors identified as being responsible for poverty are usually given as: high unemployment rate, bad governance, corruption, high population growth rate, poor human and natural resources utilization, and globalization and macroeconomic distortions. Some of the alleged reasons are obviously superficial and tend to treat the symptoms of poverty as causes. Although internal factors contribute and promote poverty, there is a need to delve into the root cause of the pandemic which may be explicated through recourse to historical experience. The objective of the paper therefore, is to explore the cause of the alarming rate of poverty in Nigeria within the ambit of political economy. Following the introduction, the paper proceeds as follows: literature and historical issues; political and economic foundations of poverty in Nigeria; corruption; unemployment; gender inequality; globalization and conclusion.

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN EXTREME POVERTY	SDG STATUS
South Sudan	93	Poverty rising
Democratic Republic of Congo	77	Poverty rising
Mozambique	61.8	Off track
Zambia	57.2	Poverty rising
Nigeria	46.7	Poverty rising
Tanzania	35	Off track
Uganda	34.2	Off track
South Africa	24.6	Off track
Kenya	30	Off track
Ethiopia	23.4	On track

Adopted from Quartz Africa 2020

Crucially, of those countries in top ten, only Ethiopia is on track to meet the United Nations SDG of ending extreme poverty by 2030. Outside the top ten, only Ghana and Mauritania are also on track with the SDG target. Indeed, of the 15 countries across the world where extreme poverty is rising, per World Poverty Clock data, 13 are currently in Africa. Nigeria rank 5th of the top ten where poverty is rising

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Orji (2019) observed that the poor are not the physically weak nor intellectually dull but those who are deprived of political and economic power. It is the gross lack of the economic means to live a meaningful and healthy life. The poor are those barred by political schemes and from active participations in the sharing of economic benefits of the collective social entity or society.

According to the central bank of Nigeria (2019), poverty is a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his/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 chances of advancing his/her capabilities. Defining poverty seems to be a herculean task. Narayan (2020) opines that the definition of poverty is relative and must be anchored on such factors as age, gender, culture among other economic and social contents. On the other hand, OECD (2018) stressed that poverty as a concept must be comprehensive and should take account of crucial areas in which people of both sexes are deprived as well as perceived as incapacitated in different local and societal contexts. Thus, for OECD, issues relating to the environment, cultural capabilities, economic and human potential must be incorporated in the definition. From the gender perspective the World Bank (2019) maintains that poverty as related to the sex of the person is instrumental. There are instances where utter powerlessness to fulfill expected responsibilities by men as demanded by culture and tradition are glaring.

This is more debilitating in a society as Nigeria where males predominantly are expected to discharge the role of family upkeep. In any case, poverty-inducing processes tend to afflict females in various degrees and that females tend to be more affected than their male counterparts (OECD, 2018). There has been recent discussion about time

poverty related specifically to gender. This refers to the structural gender inequality imposed on women, which results in lack of time on their part to discharge the many economic and social burdens placed on them (OECD, 2017). In terms of categorization, poverty can be seen as relative, absolute or material on the one hand, and transient or permanent on the other hand. Aliyu (2021) opines that absolute poverty is condition in which a group or an individual is not able to satisfy their basic requirements in terms of education, housing, health, transport and so on. Absolute poverty connotes a tendency on the part of an individual to be incapable of providing himself with the basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, portable water, health service, education and transport, all of which lead to deprivation and non participation in the decision making processes which affect the life of the individual (National Planning Commission, 2019).

In terms of material poverty, the World Bank (2020) relates it to the lack of ownership and/or control of physical assets which include land as well as animal husbandry. Relative poverty describes a situation where an individual or group may be able to meet their basic needs but are, on the basis of comparison, poor among the people living in a community. In terms of transient or permanency, poverty can be seen to be transient if it is widespread in a population but its occurrence is of limited duration, while poverty permanency is usually related to distribution of resources in which there is widespread concentration of resources in the hands of a few, a condition that engenders relatively permanent incapacity of the majority to meet their basic needs. The need to specify benchmarks for measuring poverty led to the construction of poverty lines, national poverty rates, urban poverty rates and rural poverty rates. Poverty line, according to the central Bank of Nigeria (2000) represents the value of basic (food and non food) needs considered essential for meeting the minimum socially acceptable standard of living within a given society.

Thus, any individual whose income or consumption falls below the poverty line is regarded as poor. This ordinarily implies that there is a minimum acceptable poverty line at which an individual's income or consumption falls below to be classified as poor. The most common poverty lines for international comparisons are US\$1 a day for low-income countries, US\$2 for middle-income and US\$4 for transition economics. Poverty lines as stated could generate misleading ideas of poverty as most countries amenities if converted to US\$1 will

give significant value that may be greater than what is expected in that country to escape the poverty line. What can be said therefore is that most countries have their own poverty lines reflecting different social economic and climate conditions to determine what an acceptable minimum income should be.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF POVERTY IN NIGERIA

One of the disturbing paradoxes of the Nigerian economy is the increasing amount of revenues earned and the likewise increase in the level of poverty of the people. Hence, it is superficial to attribute the level of poverty to falling revenues. It is indeed perplexing that increasing (oil & others) revenues over the years have resulted in increase in poverty. It is therefore germane to note that to explicate the concomitant causes of increasing poverty level in Nigeria; recourse needs to be taken to the politico-economic architecture which can simply be viewed as representing an edifice stifling attempts at leaving the poverty dragnet and resolving the contradictions of poverty amidst plenty. Although political and economic structures reinforce each other, what can be said about Nigerian state is that the political power largely determines the flow and direction of national resources, and therefore the extent to which any lingering socio-economic quagmire can be solved. One need to dissect the factors usually adduced as causes of poverty in Nigeria to see the political and economic undertones of the pandemic. Some of these factors include the following:

CORRUPTION

Corruption is said to be a major cause of poverty in Nigeria. In fact, Nigeria has in recent times, assumed an enviable position of the most corrupt country in the world. Corruption has not only been institutionalized but also assumed a national dimension. This has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society and accounts for the reason efforts so far made to alleviate poverty have not yielded the desired result. The bulk of the Nation's wealth has been distributed in favour of the few privileged to the detriment of the majority of Nigerians who continually wallow in abject poverty. The country lost N56trillion to the military junta alone starting from the end of the civil war in 1970 (Ribadu, 2015). Nigeria ranked 152 out of 159 countries in the Transparency International's 2015 corruption perception index and placed 94 out of 154 countries in the World Bank's 2016 ease to

doing business. In 2017, Transparency International ranked Nigeria as the 7th most corrupt nation in the world. Corruption and its facets are still a major problem in Nigeria. Political and legal corruptions are still gaining ground in Nigeria. For instance, the Imo governorship race between Ihedioha and Uzodinma; Buhari's certificate sager; EFCC and NDDC Probe revelations are all manifestations of politico-legal corruption with their attendant poverty doom upon the citizenry. What can we say more, ₦160m spent on purchase of biro by ministry of petroleum is clear case of administrative corruption (Vision Africa Radio news 12/12/2021).

Where reforms have been embarked upon, the results have not been particularly favourable to the generality of Nigerian people. Even the cost of doing business in Nigeria is heightened by various forms of bottlenecks, some of which are hinged on overt corrupt practices. One obvious/prong of corruption in Nigeria is apparent lack of transparency and accountability at all levels of governance. According to Bertucci (2014), transparency is a sine-qua-non for fighting corruption. It is imperative for achieving macroeconomic objectives, as evidence in New Zealand, Denmark and Chile; whose economics experience made marked growth due to fiscal transparency. Arne (2011) and Bernado and Angus (2013) considered lack of transparency to be at the heart of grave global economic and financial crisis that drives the masses into irrecoverable abject poverty and crime.

In Nigeria there is an overt display of recklessness in public expending as cited above. According to guardian news paper (2020) Nigeria lost N43billion to corruption. It can be said that the problem of transparency in Nigeria was worsened by the years of military punctuation of political affairs, a situation that has been reinforced and intensified by subsequent civilian regimes. Andrew (2014) overemphasized that blatant disregard of transparency and accountability results in resource allocation, investor apathy, restiveness and general breakdown in community cohesion. Lack of transparency and accountability is a major deterrent for capital inflow, which often augments domestic savings available to grow the economy and wipe out or reduce poverty to a bearable minimum.

Corruption is largely the result of the political and economic anatomy of the country. Corruption in Nigeria especially of the monumental variety has a political colouration. Political office is mostly an avenue for rent-seeking, with politics

being a major and lucrative business venture for many politicians. For instance, many public officials in Nigeria far from the genuine intentions to help the development process rather seek re-election because of the many privileges of holding office such as the direct access to state's coffers, in addition to the immunity from prosecution which the offices offer. To get re-election in a society that has been bastardized by poverty occasioned by massive and serial rape of public treasury, all the politicians need to do, is to mobilize 'the made poor (the youth who had been denied meaningful employment). Use them to buy votes, carry ballot papers and boxes or rig election at the detriment of their lives and future, because they are abandoned at the point of winning or losing election.

The political economy of corruption in Nigeria can be situated within the ambit of the international financial system which allows or permits and helps the illegal transfer of funds. In a study of past and present leaders in Nigeria, Paul Collier of Oxford University's Centre for the study of Africa Economies Concluded that about \$280 billion dollars of the Nigeria's oil proceeds were stolen and stashed in foreign countries, with the active connivance of financial firm like Lloyds, UBS and Barclays. That corruption is the major cause of poverty in Nigeria. The crippling level of underdevelopment in Nigeria and Africa at large is consequent upon corruption. A study of 51 countries by transparent international reveals an inverse relationship between access to safe drinking water and bribery, as people's access to safe drinking water falls as bribery increases, so that the effect of reduction in bribery is synonymous with that of improving access to clean water as household incomes are increased.

Deductively, corruption is a huge tax on the Nigerian economy. Because Nigeria is basically a government-oriented economy as most people are reliant on government services to meet most of their basic needs. Meeting the needs in an environment of corruption has meant payment of various forms of regressive taxes. Socially, corruption apart from undermining poverty alleviation efforts tends to ensure social exclusion, alienation, mass frustration, while undermining the rule of law (UNODC, 2014). Development and Corruption are therefore antithetical. It is a hydra headed monster in Nigeria because the justice system is weak, the legislature is usually an appendage of the executive arm of government, political opportunism and patronage are the norm, applying the rule of law is alien, while the means of holding perpetrators of corruption to account by civil society are lacking

(Lawal, 2017). Because many Nigerians rely on government services, corruption becomes a major impetus to poverty levels in the country. Corruption affects agriculture, health, education, and other aspects of the society. Although there are many facets of corruption in Nigeria, ranging from high-level political graft of monumental scales to low-level bribes to the public officers at checkpoints, It is however the former that exerts the largest financial cost that manifests as abject poverty to the generality of the masses in the country.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is adduced as another cause of poverty. CBN (2012) observed that over the years, there has been a steady increase in the number of people who are jobless. What must be said is that unemployment in Nigeria is significantly influenced by political actions and the structure of the economy. One glaring area of policy summersault is the education system, where the curriculum rarely reflects the dynamics and needs of modern society. A disturbing phenomenon is the predominant inability to transmit skills and training acquired at various strata of the educational system into goods and services. Put differently, the economy is not geared towards producing skills and training reflective of industrial needs. Poverty alleviation goes beyond the rhetoric of quantum leap in educational institutions, funding and the mantra of universal basic education. What is imperative is congruence between the demands of industry and supply of skills by educational and training institutions. Poverty, apart from the many symptoms which are taken as causes, and apart from the many forces which trigger it, is one of the products of policy rascality of the corrupt political elites. In Nigeria, this is systematically maintained to have the poor available for election manipulation, tuggry and assassination services. Besides, any available job opportunity is shared among the political elites for their children and wards.

The National Bureau of statistics (2019) put Nigeria's unemployment rate at 23.1% of which the youth unemployment is 54.4%. This figure has continued to increase yearly as Nigerian institutions keep graduating batches of youth with the prior impression of getting better jobs and opportunities after graduating. No wonder Suleman (2018) opined that anxiety from Nigerian graduates that later turn to frustration and then to aggression on the government is what has fuelled the emergence of most of the security threat in the country. Kilishi (2014) believed that the rising wave of crime in Nigeria has been blamed on the increasing level of

unemployment; idle youth tend to engage in illegal activities in order to meet up with contemporary trend.

GENDER INEQUALITY

In Nigeria, gender inequality contributes to the poverty levels. This is especially so in areas where traditional and/or cultural institutions combine to constrain women from exercising their full potentials and contributing their quota to the country's development. Gender inequality is amply demonstrated in girl-child education, which is not accorded a significant right of place. In politics, Nigeria has not been able to achieve the 30% inclusion of women. Cultural and traditional constraints still pose huge challenge. The structure, processes and actors which precipitate and reinforce the operation of gender stratification in Nigeria exist at the macro and the micro levels each with a feedback on the other (Afonja 2018).

GLOBALIZATION

Economic shifts have been identified as a cause of poverty in Nigeria. This shift is reflected in the relative decline in agriculture, consequent upon political urbanization. A growing number of young and agile Nigerians has tended to move away from agriculture to industrial concerns. This scenario has been engendered by the relative urbanization in the economy, leading to sharp rural-urban migration, with its attendant consequences on employment, social services and fall in productivity in rural-based economic activities. What is instructive is to highlight the increasing congestion of the urban centres, a major feature of which is the divergence between the skills possessed by the bulk of the rural-urban migrants and those required by modern urban industries for employment. Thus, there is a fast rising massive pool of the unemployed and the unemployable and consequently on the number of poor people. A cursory review of the structural adjustment programme (SAP) of 1986 shows a blemish for the sharp rise in poverty levels in Nigeria. SAP was an initiative of the international monetary fund (IMF) and the World Bank. It is quite paradoxical that both institutions are involved in effort towards reducing poverty, with the World Bank sponsoring many researches on poverty reduction. Some scholars opine that the IMF and World Bank prescribed means that nations that are lent money abide by certain conditions such as that they cut social expenditure which is vital for economic growth and development in order to repay the loans. In the light of this, Nigeria was tied

to opening up its economy and being primarily commodity exporters, a situation that leads to worsening terms of trade between the country and the advanced countries of the world. One implication of the structural adjustment programme in Nigeria is incessant hikes in the price of petroleum products, which have negatively impacted industrial productivity, real incomes, resulting in a general deterioration of living standards. The most notorious cases were recorded between 1999 and 2007, when fuel hikes were the norm rather than exception, and where flimsy rather than purely rational reasons were advanced. In early 2002, government announced petroleum price increases from ₦22 to ₦26 per litre of petrol, diesel from ₦21 to ₦26 per litre and kerosene from ₦17 to ₦24 per litre. In September, 2003, the government deregulated the price of fuel which led to a 15% increase in prices. This was after an unsuccessful attempt in June of that year to increase price by as much as 54%, i.e. from ₦26 to ₦40 per litre. This resulted in a sharp reaction by the trade union movement when a strike that lasted for 8 days was embarked upon. At the end, government was compelled to reduce the price from ₦40 to ₦34. An attempt to increase pump prices of petrol occurred in 2007, a day before the new government of Umaru Yar'Adua was to be sworn in. government raised the pump prices from ₦65 to ₦90. A nationwide strike greeted the announcement. At the end, the price was reversed to ₦65. In 2012, the government raised the price of fuel from ₦65 to ₦141 and when labour embarked on industrial action the pump price was reduced to ₦97 per litre. And in 2015/2016 the government again increased the pump price of PMS to ₦145 per litre, in 2020, PMS pump price increased to ₦165 per litre. In 2021, PMS pump price is ₦170 per litre and in 2022 it is about ₦180 per litre. Yet the government is still scheming to increase PMS pump price per litre to ₦380. The cost to the economy of members is high in terms of lower purchasing power, lower productivity and unemployment.

Globalization might have contributed its own quota to the frightening poverty level in Nigeria. It is my submission just as it is the view of some scholars that globalization results in increasing inequality, it maintains the historic unequal rules of trade. In many cases, international political interests have led to a diversion of available resources from domestic needs to western markets. Politics and power-play by the developed countries have therefore meant that Nigeria and her people can be controlled, a situation that has perpetuated dependency. Until a country has

achieved some level of good governance, a revamped industrial base, modest economic growth, fairly efficient public infrastructure and utilities, the gains of globalization are difficult to attain. One pertinent issue with globalization is the globalization of “police making”. Many developing countries are “police takers” in the sense that they have little say in the making of the rules or policies of powerful international agencies, particularly the IMF, World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO), while having to implement the policies at national level. This is impelled and promoted by the overwhelming influence which the developed countries have at the World Bank and IMF due largely to their enormous advantage in the voting system which is weighted by equity shares. This has led to the continual waning of influence of developing countries in decision-making over economic and social issues at the international level with many developing countries being at the receiving end.

TRANSPARENCY THE PANACEA OF POVERTY IN NIGERIA

As I have observed above, among the disturbing paradoxes of the Nigerian economy is the increasing amount of revenues earned and the likewise increase in the level of poverty of the Nigerian people. It is logical therefore to argue that if revenue is increasing, poverty should be decreasing. If this is not the case then something is wrong in the system. I have also observed that one obvious/prong of corruption in Nigeria is apparent lack of transparency and accountability at all levels of governance. Thus, lack of transparency and accountability is the key to the inverse relation between increasing revenue earning and increasing poverty level in Nigeria. To reverse the trend therefore, accountability which a sine-qua-non for fighting corruption must be enshrined in the governance of Nigeria at all levels. Transparency and accountability is imperative for achieving macroeconomic objectives, as it is the evidence in New Zealand, Denmark and Chile, whose economies experienced marked growth due to fiscal transparency.

Transparency has the potential to punctuate institutionalization of corruption in Nigeria and consequently deliver Nigeria from lost of trillion of naira which will be invested in job creation. Job creation will among other things reduce youth restiveness, reduce the unemployment level, reduce the competitiveness of political office which will in turn eliminate political/ legal corruption, votes of voters will begin to count and politicians would be

jotted to their responsibilities and a vicious circle of productivity that will bring poverty to a bearable minimum would be set in motion.

CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATIONS

Unless corruption embed in ethnic conflicts and rivalry is scooped out of Nigeria’s socio-political system to give way for transparency and accountability, the hope of eradicating poverty would remain elusive and unattainable. This is because politicians hid in the veil of ethnic divide and create ‘functional’ unemployment and advance poverty. This situation places the poor and unemployed at their reach for use during elections and electioneering. Ethnicity issues and problems would be cast off from Nigeria social system by blotting out quota system, state of origin/tribe from national/official documents and the replacement of federal character by true federalism where all employments and appointments are predicated on merit and not by representation of idiosyncratic interest.

REFERENCES

- Afonja, S. (2018). *Critical issues in women’s studies in Nigeria: a sociological perspective*. Nigeria: Obafemi Awlowo University press.
- Aliyu, A. (2021). Re-structuring of the poverty alleviation activities of the federal government of Nigeria. Abuja: national poverty eradication programme.
- Andrew, S. (2014). Transparency, accountability and governance in Asian market. *Journal of Africa economies Vol.10, No 2, p143-173*.
- Arne, B. (2011). Poverty, growth and inequality in Nigeria. African economic research consortium.
- Barnado, R. & Angus, C. (2013). *Poverty in a wealthy economy: the case of Nigeria*. London: oxford university press.
- Bertucci, G. (2014). *Transparency and accountability in government financial management*. New York: united nations.
- CBN (1919). Nigeria’s development prospects: poverty assessment and alleviation Study. CBN in collaboration with the world bank.
- CBN (2015). Statistical bulletin.
- CBN (2012). Nigeria profile. statistical bulletin.
- Elaigwu, B. (2017). Economic growth, inequality and poverty in Nigeria. Nigeria: *Journal of social sciences vol. 13, No 2*.

- Federal office of statistics (1916). Socio-economic analysis of Nigeria. Lagos: FOS.
- Kilishi, A.A. (2014). The effect of unemployment on crime in Nigeria: a panel data analysis. *British Journal of Economics, Management and Trade* vol.4, no.1 880-895.
- Lawal, A. (2017). Conceptual and methodological issues in poverty alleviation. Nigerian: *International Journal of Environment and Development, Vol. 5, No. 2* p42-46.
- Narayam, A. (2020). Theories of poverty and anti-poverty programs in Nigeria. RPRC working paper.
- National bureau of statistics (2019). Statistical report on unemployment retrieved: [ttp://nigeriastatgoving/elibring](http://nigeriastatgoving/elibring).
- OECD (2018). National poverty eradication program conception, implementation, coordination and monitoring. Federal ministry of economic planning & policy.
- OECD. (2017). Poverty and the millennium development goals in Nigeria. *Nigeria: educational research and review, Vol. 4 No 9* p405-410.
- Orji, O.E. (1919). Absolute poverty, environmental degradation and affluence in Bornu community. Unpublished undergraduate project work.
- Ribadu, N. (2015). The statistical bulletin.
- Suleman, M.I. (2018). Inter security agency as an impediment to national counter terrorism strategy (NACTEST) African heritage research working paper 003.
- Transparency International. (2015). Poverty in Nigeria. Wikipedia
- Transparency international (2017). Poverty in Nigeria. Wikipedia.
- UNODC (2014). Empirical evidence of poverty and deprivation in Nigeria. *African development Review, Vol. 77, No 1* p12-22.
- Vision Africa Radio News paper review (12/12/2020)
- Vanguard news paper (2021, September 3rd)
- World Bank. (1913). Illegal but lucrative trade in Nigeria. UK:BBC.co
- World Bank. (1916). Poverty in Nigeria. Africa development review.
- World Bank. (1919). Nigeria-country brief. retrieved: <http://web.worldbank.org>
- World Bank. (2016). Nigeria's economy: macro poverty outbreak. World Bank.
- World Bank (2014). Nigeria. Retrieved: <http://earc.africa.org> .
- World Poverty Clock. (2019). Nigeria ends 2018 with 90.8 million people living in extreme poverty. Wikipedia.