

## Poverty Alleviation Programmes for National Security in Nigeria

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**Abstract** - *Poverty is one of the greatest and most complex challenges facing humanity today. It is unfortunately that the message of poverty alleviation programmes are not appreciated by the Nigerian citizens. The after math of the poverty level resulted to unbearable social crises like armed robbery, killings, kidnapping, bombing, religious riot, human trafficking, drug abuse and thurgry, all the crises which constituted great threat to National Security in Nigeria. This paper therefore examined the concepts, causes, problems and government intervention in the poverty reduction efforts and National Security in Nigeria. The study however advocated for the integration of moral and entrepreneurship education into the school curriculum. That, the federal government should intensify efforts in youths' empowerment and free education, at all levels. Finally, private sectors should be involved in the establishment of technical and vocational centres to train the youths in Nigeria. If done, poverty levels would be adequately alleviated and peace and security of Nigerians would be enhanced.*

**Keywords:** *Poverty, Poverty Alleviation, Poverty Alleviation Programme*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the global problems that are threatening the life and properties of the citizens especially in the developing countries including Nigeria. Poverty is described as the root cause of social evils in the society. Poverty is therefore an elusive word which is applicable to individuals as the situation demands and according to individuals' opinion. Adedokun and Adeyemo (2008) defined poverty as a situation where one or more persons fall short of the minimum level of economic welfare and lack the essential means of satisfying their fundamental needs.

Illyasu, Hamidu and Awals (2006) identified the basic needs in life like clothing food, shelter, health, education and recreation. The authors however noted that if an individual fall short of the basic need such individuals in living in poverty. Poverty is also described as the root cause of national security in Nigeria.

Adedokun and Adeyemo (2008) described poverty as in terms of per-capital income that people that are living on average of less than one dollar per day are said to be in absolute poverty with period. The authors also stated that poverty is considered to be undesirable for the paid and suffering for over crowded condition, little hygiene, utility like pipe borne water, epidemics, low standard of living, high rate of malnutrition, poor health care delivery and deprivation of all the essential needs that predict quality of life of an individuals. In Nigeria, poverty had been biting high on life of average citizens. It is observed that many families in Nigeria could not afford three meals per day, many lives in abject poverty. Many could not boast of where to sleep, many live in dilapidated buildings, many could not take care of their health, many live in a hopeless life. Two out of 10 Nigerians live on less than USD 2.00 per day. It is in Nigeria that many university graduates could not get a job, those that get employment are not fully employed. The poor condition of living however, caused food, health political, social and economic insecurities in the country.

Oni (2010) also stated that in Nigeria was ranked high among the countries that was threatened by Nigerian life is characterized by poor housing, malnutrition, unemployment, diseases, lack of portable water, literacy, gender inequality risk failure all which are indicator of poverty. The end result of poverty is insecurity of life properties.

Ogundele (2013) described poverty as the root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Ogundele however noted that Idle hands are devils workshop. That most of the existing national security problems are caused by the available poverty. The insecurity problems like bombing killing, kidnapping, robbery, epidemic, food insecurity, violence, literacy, prostitution, HIV/AIDS lawlessness environmental insecurity poor water management etc are caused by the perpetration of poverty among Nigerian youths.

Olaitan, Ali, Anyemachi and Nwachukwu (2000) defined poverty as the situation whereby the individual members of the society could not cope with the living standard and all those indicator that could provide quality life living to the citizens.

National Teachers' Institute (2008) defined poverty as the various types of situations which unable individual to cope their living standard in term of feeding, shelters, clothings and education in the society.

Mohammed (2009) described insecurity as different events or activities which an individuals are exposed to or undertaken which constitute dangers or unpalatable occurrences to the life and properties in the living environment. Ogundele, Kayode and Odunleke (2013) identified different types of insecurity in Nigeria, Prominent among which are killing, Boko-Haram, Kidnapping cultism, Hooliganism, armed robbery, electoral rigging, embezzlement, due process neglects, frauds, assassin, vandalism and broken of petroleum pipe lines etc. the authors also attributed the social insecurity to the perpetrated absolute poverty in the society. The level of insecurity had become a very big threat to Nigerian National Development and Productivity. Poverty is a big threat because like hands are devils' workshop and for the fact that hungry men is an angry citizens in the recent time, the global insecurity issues had become the order of the day. The studies however revealed that most of the national insecurity problems are perpetrated by the citizens due to their exposure to absolute poverty. Ojo (2004) identified low standard of living as the major types of poverty. The author classified low standard to poor feeding which he said that many Nigerian citizens could not afford to eat three time food. Many forego breakfast for lunch and supper, many forgo lunch for breakfast and lunch, many citizens are not sure of where he or she will sleep daily because they could not afford house rent. Many could not afford sending their children to school because of financial constraints and there is high rate street begging in Nigeria today. All which constitute poverty and of have negative effects on the

national security. This study is therefore inevitable because there is the need to examine the various types of poverty causes of poverty, impacts and various programme that could eradicate poverty in the society in the interest of national security in Nigeria. Indicators of poverty and insecurity in Nigeria.

The following are signs or signals to the perpetration of poverty in Nigeria. Low family support, low life expectancy, availability diseases, low standard of living, low access to reputable utilities, high mortality rates, illiteracy. Afolabi and Olorisade (2008) also identified the following poverty indicators as high mortality rate, inadequate health care delivery, illiteracy, inadequate feeding, epidemics, poor shelters and clothing and low per capital income. The study however revealed that poverty of different types lead perpetration and highly involvement on different forms of national insecurity especially in Nigeria. Ogundele, Oparinde and Moronfoye (2012) also identified the indicators of national insecurity like killings examination malpractices electoral rigging kidnapping cultism armed robbery cheating, corruption bribery, stealing, embezzlement of public funds, high mortality rate favoritism, armed robbery prostitution and low level expectancy rate. Ogundele, Sofoluwe and Kayode (2012) attributed all the perpetrating social crimes and insecurity in the society to high poverty level, the authors however called on the federal government to integrate entrepreneurship skills acquisition into all national youth programme in Nigeria. The authors noted that if entrepreneurship skills are integrated, it will aid job creation self sufficiency youth empowerment and there by reducing poverty and other threats to national security in Nigeria.

### **Causes of Poverty in Nigeria**

Olaitan, Ali, Anyemachi and Nwachukwu (2000) mentioned the causes of poverty in Nigeria as follow: illiteracy, poor shelters, poor health are delivery, epidemics, low per capital income, over crowding living in a dilapidated building etc. The authors however. Identified the following causes of poverty among the citizens in Nigeria.

Over dependency on foreign goods which encourage high importation of goods. The after math of this is the killing of the home based industries in Nigeria.

Educational system developed was not given a focus to the needs and aspiration of the society. Thereby breeding job seekers and frustrated citizens for Nigeria labour market. Unstable currency in Nigeria. National Teachers' Institute (2008) identified the major causes of

poverty which include large family size or extended family, unequal distribution of national resources, careless and unconsolidated spending mass illiteracy which bring about poor quality of life. The after math of the poverty is global National insecurity of the life and properties. Afolabi and Olori Sade (2008) also identified the following causes of national insecurity in Nigeria. The identified causes are: Injustice national wealth and resources political influence on non-supporting citizens. Change in the national and international economic policies fluctuation of the price of essential goods e.g removal of oil subsidiary workers discrimination in the area of salaries and enrolment for instance a school certificate failure counselors earn N156,000 per month and furniture allowance of N1 million naira each whereas, graduate teacher, teaching in secondary school earned N3,000 as a beginner. The discrepancy can lead to outbreak of laws and orders in the society. The result lead to teachers absolute poverty. What the teachers take could not carry them home, talk less of making investment from the salary received.

Poverty therefore, are the major cause of national insecurity in Nigeria. The needs therefore called for the adequate poverty alleviation programmes that will curb the issues of global insecurity especially in Nigeria.

#### **Poverty alleviation programmes and national security in Nigeria**

Poverty alleviation in the series of control mechanisms that are put in place towards eradicating poverty among Nigerian citizens. Ogundele, Sofoluwe and Kayode (2012) opined that Idle hands is the devils workshop, it is therefore important for the youths especially universities graduate to be adequately empowered, towards technical and vocational development. The authors however called on the federal government to integrate the issue of entrepreneurship skills acquisition into the national youths services corps programmes, so that when they complete their service years, they will be equipped with the necessary skills that will help them to be job creator, entrepreneur, employers and the skills acquired will equipped them and keep them busy. When individuals are busy with their skills they will not be used by the undesirable elements in the society to perpetrate social evils which constitute threat to the National Security in Nigeria.

National Teacher's Institute (2011) also identified control measures for the poverty alleviation among Nigerian youths which include. Provision of basic amenities development and acquisition of skills provision of qualification education and micro credit scheme e.g soft loans, to the National Teachers'

Institute when poverty are adequately alleviated among Nigerian Youths the system of education will be accorded high respect in the society.

Ogundele, Oluwalola and Adegbemi (2011) noted that the Federal Republic of Nigeria through the efforts of world assisted banks had distributed technical equipment in Nigeria to train the young ones while in the schools. It should be noted that all efforts proof abortive and the policy failed woefully in Nigeria. Ogundele (2008) noted that the Kwara State under the leadership of Bukola Saraki in a bid to alleviate poverty among the youths, distributed empowerment tools like sewing machine barbing clippers, hair dressing drivers, grinding machine, uses motor cycles, granting of soft loans for small scale industries etc, training of youths on small scale farming rearing of bees, snakes, and poetry and orchards. The governor also stated categorically that the was not interested in political thugs that, every youth should acquire skills and works. The poverty alleviation programme initiated by Bukola Saraki then was laudable and good. Yet all the efforts failed woefully because most of the materials distributed were sold by the beneficiary in the society. The aim of Saraki then, was to eradicate all forms of social crimes such as killings, thugs armed robbery, examination malpractice and prostitutions, HIV/AIDS, kidnapping, Boko Haram, cultism, corruption/fraud discrimination, inequitable distribution of the resources, broken of oil pipeline unrespect to the ethical issues in the society. It should be noted that all the social, social problems constitute threats to the national security in Nigeria. It was however observed that those issues are perpetrated by youth and the root cause is poverty in the society.

The international communities are not happy about the global level of poverty in the developing countries in the world. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (SEEDS) were established with the purpose of equipping the youths towards the eradication of poverty in the society.

Obadah (2013) identified the way forward for poverty eradication programmes so as to promote national security among the youths such programmes include training for small scale industries distribution of tools developing entrepreneurship mind stead in youths, empowerment private sectors involvement in youth empowerment, soft loans for the youths etc and formation of young entrepreneur association while in the schools. According to Obadah, when poverty alleviation programmes are adequately implemented, it

will aid national security in the country and all social problems which constitute threat to national security and unity will be eradicated.

Federal Republic of Nigeria (2008) through the assistance of United Nations Organization Organized Workshops seminars, capacity buildings, entrepreneurs equipment donation, financing of UNDP programmes like SEEDS, NEEDS, MGDs, SESP Health Care delivery, Health education Campaign, Family Support Programmes, universal Basic Education, Job creations and employment. The expectation of federal republic of Nigeria was to eradicate all forms of poverty among Nigerian. Yet the poverty still persist.

The rationale for this study is to find out the level of poverty and National insecurity in Nigeria to determine the extent to which level of poverty enhances National insecurity in Nigeria and finally to investigate the various types of insecurity and the types of poverty alleviation programmes to be adopted to perpetrate National Security especially in Nigeria.

## II. CONCLUSION

It is therefore imperative to introduce various programmes that will eradicate all forms of poverty among the university graduates. If done, it will also aid eradication of social crimes like killings, kidnapping, cultism, examination malpractices electrical rigging frauds prostitution, violence armed robbery Boko Haram and all social problems that constitute threat to the global national security since the threat to national security is attributed to absolute poverty level in the society. The programmes to be inculcate into the mind of the youths should be able to keep them busy for being used by the undesirable elements for the perpetration of evils in the society.

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were:

*Integration Of Entrepreneurship Skills To National Youths Programme*

Entrepreneurship skills should be integrated acquisition into the national youths service crops, Students Working Experience Scheme (SIWES) etc. this will enable the youths to acquire basic skills that make them successful in life.

*Adequate parental care should be given to the youths.*

Parents should give adequate care to their children, they should be supplied with the necessary needed materials and their movement should be monitored both at home and in the school.

*Moral education should be fused into national education curriculum.*

This will help to instill the basic ethical issues in the youths. They will be able to differentiate good from bad and societal development.

*Provision of quality education to cater for mass literacy in the society.*

The Federal Government should invest on moral education with the recovered money that were looted by the undesirable element in the society. This will bring about equitable distribution of National income. *National Security should be joint responsibility of all.* Everyone should serve as the security of his immediate environment to report my culprits. Private sectors involvement in entrepreneurship and national security.

Private sectors should be adequately involved in the entrepreneurship skills acquisition and poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria if done poverty level and social crises in the society will reduce. Also, peace and orderliness will reign in the society.

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