
Poverty Reduction Policy and Poverty Reduction in Plateau State (2003-2009)

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates the impact of National Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as an instrument of poverty reduction in Plateau State, Nigeria. The main objective of the study is to find out whether poverty alleviation programmes put in place, have succeeded in eradicating poverty in Plateau State. A sample size of 124 was used for the study. The respondents were selected using random sampling technique. Copies of questionnaire were administered on the respondents. The collected data were analyzed using chi-square statistics. The findings showed that National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has reduced poverty through creation of self employment, increase level of income and made accessibility to basic needs possible. Recommendations were made in the areas of adequate funding, harmonious relationship among the institutions involved in implementing the policy among others. The research also suggested that specific percentage of financial resource should be allocated to local, state and federal governments to avoid lack of continuity.

Keywords: poverty, poverty reduction, policy, poverty reduction policy, poverty reduction programmes.

INTRODUCTION

It is pathetic to note that poverty is one of the greatest problems confronting the entire world. Out of the world's estimated population of 6.0 billion, about 2.1 billion are said to be wallowing in abject poverty (Shut, 2005). These people do not have access to basic needs of livelihood such as food, shelter, potable water, health, education etc. They are said to be living below poverty line, that is, \$1 a day as per World Bank Standard (World Bank Technical Paper, 1997)

It is also pertinent to note that in Nigeria about 140% million lives in abject poverty, where starvation, misery and deprivation are the order of the day. For operational and analytical purposes, the World Bank Classifies economics according to their Gross National Product (GDP) per capital. (World Bank Technical Paper, 1997). Many people believe that Nigeria has a lot of resources. The 1999 Human Development Index Report of UNDP indicates a human index of 0.416 for Nigeria, which places the country among the 25 poorest nations in the world. (Policy Document NAPEP 2001).

Historically, the problem of poverty dates back to the formation of human society. These early societies were either stratified between the slaves and the slave owners, Feudal Lords and Serfs, or the capitalists and the working class, the 'have and have not's or 'rich' and 'poor'. The rich are of course the better opportune, privileged, educated and sheltered, the healthier and secured social groups, while the poor are the complete opposite-deprived, depressed and diseased. (Yakubu et al 2010). Therefore, poverty is a multi-dimensional issue that affects many aspects of human condition, (Ogwumike, 2002). Some analysts have regarded poverty as a function of insufficient income levels for securing basic goods and services. Poverty has also been viewed as inability of individuals to subsist and to produce for themselves as well as inability to meet basic nutritional needs.

During the Pre-structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era, government only showed concern for poverty reduction indirectly through the launching of many programmes. The programmes included the River Basin Development Authorities, (RBDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), the Rural Banking Programme (RBP) and Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) set up in 1977 among others. However, most of them could not be sustained as many of them failed due to diversion from the original focus, lack of political will and

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commitment, policy instability and insufficient involvement of the beneficiaries in these programmes (Anyanwu, 2004).

During the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era (1986-1998), government designed and implemented many poverty alleviation programmes. Such programmes are the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural infrastructure (DFRRI), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the Better Life Programme (BLP), set up to enhance the quality of life of rural women. Other programmes included the Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN); Community Banks (CB); Family Support Programme (FSP); Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP).

Statement of the Problem

Poverty seems to have become a natural phenomenon in Nigeria. Successive governments in Nigeria have made efforts towards poverty alleviation in Nigeria. It is obvious that most poor people in Africa and particular in Nigeria cannot provide for themselves the basic needs of life. The persistence of poverty in the world and indeed in Nigeria has made it imperative for the federal government to embark on some of the development programmes like family support programmes, free health services etc to ensure improved standard living for the poor masses. Nigeria has always been rated, ten years back consecutively, as one of the poorest country in the world. Nigeria is the only country that presented such a paradox of being both a larger oil exporter and yet amongst the poorest in the world (Shut, 2005). It is against this background that this research work is packaged to find out whether Poverty Reduction Programme so far has actually been effective in alleviating poverty in the study area.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to find out whether poverty alleviation programmes put in place, have succeeded in eradicating poverty in Plateau State.

The specific objectives are:

- (i) To examine National Poverty Eradication Policy packaged by the Nigeria governments.
- (ii) To critically evaluate the various poverty alleviating programmes, reforms and strategies, which had been undertaken by successive Nigerian governments and the reason behind the success/failure of these programmes?
- (iii) To establish the level of rural development as a result of poverty alleviation programmes.
- (iv) To find out the factors militating against poverty reduction programme in Plateau State.
- (v) To proffer appropriate solutions that will help in curbing poverty in Plateau State.

Research Questions

The following research questions are put in place to guide the study.

- (i) To what extent is the National Poverty Eradication policy in Nigeria, well frame?
- (ii) How effective are the programmes of the policy in Plateau State?
- (iii) To what extent have the programmes contributed in poverty reduction in Plateau State?
- (iv) What are the factors militating against NAPEP in the study area?
- (v) What are the suggestions and ways of handling poverty in Plateau State?

Research Hypothesis

In this work, the following hypothesis is formulated and presented to be tested in the study.

HO: NAPEP has not significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State.

HI: NAPEP has significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State.

POVERTY REDUCTION POLICY IN NIGERIA

The thrust of current Nigerian government policy against poverty is to enable the poor and more vulnerable sections of the society achieve sustainable livelihoods. The approach is to economically empower communities, families and individuals through a sustained, well co-ordinate and comprehensive programme of poverty eradication (The Guardian 2001:4).

Poverty is a violation of human right and the 1990 Jamaican conference declared that “Education is a right”, denying anyone the opportunity of being properly educated is one way of resigning the person to a tale of poverty even though not all forms of education result in self-reliance and impart problem solving skills which are hallmark of functional education. Okon and Anderson (1992) agreed that effective education should enable the learner gain skills needed for successful living.

The major aim of the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) Programme was to raise the awareness of Nigerians towards self sufficiency in food production. With all the money pumped into Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), the programme did not produce the expected appreciable positive result at increasing food production. The Obasanjo government promulgated a decree to ensure that land-tenure system was abolished, that all land belongs to the government. The policy was aimed at ensuring that people were not hindered in their attempt to farm. It was believed that with more food production, there would be better standard of living for the citizen. During the second republic (1970-1983), President Shehu Shagari introduced the “Green Revolution”. Though Nigerian forest had been green before the green revolution, the programme again could not go far as there was no zeal and commitment by the operators of the programme. (Joseph, 2006).

In the second Republic, the government introduced “austerity measures”. It was a policy aimed at ensuring that people spend wisely. The austerity measure came in as a result of the extravagance spending of the civilian government of the second republic both at state and at the federal levels. The Babangida Regime in 1986 introduced “the Structural Adjustment Programme” (SAP). It was a programme which was aimed at making Nigeria reliant industrially. Though SAP in principle was a good programme, but the then government of the country was not committed to its faithful implementation. Another major step aimed at poverty reduction in Nigeria is the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) by the Babagida Administration. The NDE’s sole aim then was to reduce unemployment with greater emphasis on self-reliance and entrepreneurship. The programme was very laudable but it was not faithfully implemented. (Ujo, 2008).

The Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was another laudable programme by the Babangida government (1985-1993) which was aimed at alleviating poverty. The main aim of the programme was to open-up rural areas, construct feeder’s roads and bridges, etc. Again, the officials in charge of DFRRI became corrupt and the programme lost focus. The People Bank was another laudable programme of the Administration, which was aimed at giving small loans to small and medium scale enterprises. As laudable as the programme was, it suffered same fate of the “Nigerian Factor” of corruption.

The Olusegun Obasanjo’s regime since inception in 1999 put up a number of measures aimed at alleviating the suffering of Nigerian masses. The government reformed the tariff policies on a number of times with the aim of promoting industrial diversification and economic sustenance. The deregulation of the nation’s economy, which was aimed at returning many government businesses to private individuals, in order to promote efficiency. It is believed that with efficiency, there will be better and more production of goods and services which will improve the living standard of the people. The recent debt reduction/cancellation crusade is another bold step aimed at alleviating poverty.

POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES IN PLATEAU STATE

In Plateau State, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was directly in the office of the Secretary to the state government. This is to enable the government effectively ensure execution of these mandates. The approval was follow up to the release of funds authorized by the governor. A directorate of General Service was created in 2003 to effectively coordinate poverty eradication programme and other donor agency activities, under the office of the Secretary to the state government. Additional function of the directorate includes, serving as a fulcrum, for inter-linkages with relevant stakeholders, ministry and other government agencies involved in poverty eradication activities. The office is managed by a Director and a Deputy Director. National Poverty Eradication Programmes (NAPEP) in the office of the Secretary to the state government also facilitates the dissemination of information from the national to the state, programme implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Since its inception, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the Office of the Secretary to the State Government (OSSG) in conjunction with the federal office in the state and the seventeen local government councils in Plateau State executed the programmes.

A Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) was coordinated in 2001 for unemployed graduates residing in Plateau State. A total of 400 unemployed graduates were deployed to various organizations for a period of six months. Each benefiting candidate was given a monthly allowance of ₦10, 000.00, during the attachment period. The intention of the Mandatory Attachment Programme was to create opportunities for the candidates to be retained in their place of posting. Although a survey was not undertaken to ascertain the number of retained in the organizations that participated, informal report shows that some of the candidates gained employment at the end of their attachment period.

In 2001, the office coordinated a skill acquisition programme called Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), targeted to youths who have not been able to further their education or those who have dropped out of school. A total of 350 candidates benefited from Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP). The candidates were trained in various skills such as tailoring, computer, hair dressing, carpentry and other skills. Each candidate was given an allowance of ₦3, 500.00 for a period of one year. Equally, the training was done by the Federal Office of the National Poverty Eradication Programme in liaison with the Office of the Secretary to the State Government (OSSG) National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) office in 2002. Half year survey on NAPEP in Plateau State was complied by National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), office of the Secretary to the State Government (OSSG) and forwarded to the national office of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Abuja.

In 2003, another programme called Keke-NAPEP was introduced at the federal level during which Keke-NAPEP was sold to the public through open ballot. The NAPEP-OSSG participated as observer during the open ballot, a total of 50 keke-NAPEP were sold to successful candidates in Plateau State. By 2004, the Promise-Keepers Programme (PKP) was executed. The Promise-Keepers Programme (PKP) is a credit facility meant for religious organization such as churches and mosques, in which the leaders (Imams and Pastors) served as guarantors for their followers. A total of ten churches and one mosque benefited from the programme.

The pilot loan scheme of the Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP) in 2005 was executed during which the sum of ₦20, 000.000.00 was disbursed to women group and farmers. The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and office of the secretary to the State Government (OSSG) took part in the selection which was done through open ballot system. In 2006, another credit facility scheme called Multi-Partner Microfinance Scheme (MP-MFS) was introduced. The money was given to some institutions like ECWA Empowerment Programme, Bamshak Women Cooperative Association, African Youth Platform for Development and Quantum, by the federal government for disbursement. The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the Office of the secretary to the state government participated in the selection of the micro finance institutions, (NAPEP Impact/output Assessment Report, 2010).

The government approved a counterpart contribution of ₦50million in 2008 and additional ₦70 million in 2009. The 2008 state government counterpart fund was disbursed to a total of 152 co-operative societies (3520 individuals). 800 individuals benefited from micro-credit and widow's empowerment scheme. Similarly, the federal funds took care of a total of 150 co-operative societies, 850 widows and other individuals through micro-credit and widow's empowerment scheme. The office also carried out a sensitization workshop for the benefit of people in the three senatorial zones of the state. (NAPEP Impact/Output Assessment Report, 2010).

APPROACHES TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION

There are many approaches to poverty alleviation. Some of these are;

Economic Growth Approach: Given the low labor absorption capacity of the industrial sector, broad based economic growth should be encouraged. This should focus on capital formation as it relates to capital stocks and human capital. Human capital formation has to do with education, health, nutrition and housing needs of labor. This is obvious from the fact that investment in these facets of human capital improves the quality of labor and thus its productivity. Thus to ensure growth that takes care of poverty, the share of human capital as a source of growth has to be accorded the rightful place. (Mustapha, 2011)

Basic Needs Approach: This calls for the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, water, sanitation, health care, basic education, transportation etc. Unless there is proper targeting, this approach may not directly impact on the poor because of their inherent disadvantage in terms of political power and the ability to influence the choice and location of government programmes and projects.

Rural Development Approach: This approach sees the rural sectors as a unique sector in terms of poverty reduction. This is because majority of the poor in developing countries live in this sector. In addition, the level of paid employment in this sector is very low. This means that, traditional measures of alleviation poverty may not easily work in the rural sector without radical changes in the assets ownership structure, credit structure, etc. Emphasis in this approach to rural development has focused on the integrated approach to rural development. This approach recognizes that poverty is multi-dimensional and therefore, requires a multi-pronged approach. The approach aims at the provision of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, safe drinking water, education, health care, employment and income generating opportunities to the rural dwellers in general and the poor in particular. One basic problem with this approach to poverty reduction is that it is difficult to focus attention on the real poor given that poverty in the rural area is pervasive. In other words, it makes targeting of poverty reduction programmes very difficult.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research is a survey. In designing this study, the researcher identified the variables that seem to be determinants of the phenomenon being studied, defined the target group of study, collected data from the sampled respondents using questionnaire and analyzed the data.

Area and Population of Study

Plateau State is the state where the study is situated. It is divided into the three geo-political zones. The policy of poverty reduction programme was targeted at the women and youth who are vulnerable to the incidence of poverty in the study area.

Table 1. Area of study by Geo-political zone of Plateau State.

Plateau Geo-political zone	Male	Female	Total
Plateau- North	820,764	807,297	1,628061
Plateau-Central	614,832	630,082	1,244914
Plateau-South	560,439	459,490	1,019923
Total	1996035	1896869	3892904

Source: (National Population Commission, 2006).

Sample Size

The total population size of Plateau State is 3892904, (National Population Commission, 2006). The sampling technique adopted by the researcher is the random sampling. The formula for determining the sample size is shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: N= population n= sample size e= error tolerance i=constant From the above information
 N= 3892904 n= sample size e= 0.009 i.e. 90% mention above

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{3892904}{1 + 3892904(0.09)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3892904}{1 + 3892904(0.0081)}$$

$$n = \frac{3892904}{1 + 31532.5224}$$

n = 3892904

31533.5224

n = 123.4528750267

n = 123

Approximately the sample size was taken as 124.

Therefore the formula to determine the sample size per geo-political zones is calculated as follows;

$$\frac{\text{population per geo-political zones}}{\text{Total population}} \times \frac{\text{Total sample size}}{1}$$

Table2. Sample Size according to Plateau Geo-political zone

Plateau-Geo-political zone	Population	Sample size
Plateau-North	1338327	51.8
Plateau-Central	962071	37.2
Plateau-South	906133	35.0
Total	3,206,531	124

Source. (National Population Commission, 2006)

Method of Data Collection

The two main sources of data collection are:

Primary Data

The primary data were directly from the original sources through the administration of questionnaire on the respondents in the three geo-political zones of Plateau state.

Secondary Data

Secondary data were collected through reports, publications, internet information, journals etc.

Methods of Data Analysis

In analyzing the collected data, simple percentage, statistic, were used.

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

Question 1: Are you aware of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as an agent of poverty reduction?

Table4.1. Aware of NAPEP as an Agent of Poverty Reduction.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	60	54.5
No	50	45.5
Total	110	100.0

Source. Field Work, 2014

From the data above, it is clear that 54.5% of the respondents answered Yes while the 45.5% respondents answered No. This shows that majority of the respondents of the questionnaire administered are not aware of the existence of NAPEP as an agency of poverty reduction.

Question 2: Does National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) exist in your locality?

Table4.2. NAPEP Existence in your Locality.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	62	56.4
No	48	43.6
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The table above shows that 56.4% of the respondents answered Yes, while 43.6% answered No. This means that majority of the respondents of the questionnaire administered attested to the fact that NAPEP existed in their locality.

Question 3: Are you among the beneficiaries of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)?

Table4.3. Benefited from NAPEP.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	82	74.5
No	28	25.5
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The data presented indicate that 74.5% of the respondents had answered Yes while 25.5% answered No. This shows that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire administered are of the opinion that they have benefited from NAPEP.

Question 4: If yes, which of the Programme have you benefited from?

Table4.4. Programme from NAPEP.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Micro-credit	25	22.7
Keke-NAPEP	20	18.2
Skills acquisition	26	23.6
RIDS	8	7.3
None	31	28.2
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The table above shows that 22.7% of the respondents benefited from micro-credit, 18.2% for Keke NAPEPE, 23.6% for skills acquisition, 7.3% for RIDS while 28.2% for none. This shows that majority of the respondents of the questionnaire administered those that have not benefited from the programmes.

Question 5: Do you receive any training from NAPEP?

Table4.5. Receive training from NAPEP.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	50	45.5
No	60	54.5
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The data presented above show that 45.5% of the respondents answered Yes while 54.5% answered No. This means that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire have not received training from NAPEP.

Question 6: Does the Programme embark by NAPEP contributed to poverty reduction in Plateau State?

Table4.6. NAPEP has reduced poverty in Plateau State.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	62	56.4
No	48	43.6
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The data presented above show that 56.4% of the respondents answered Yes while 43.6% answered No. This shows that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire administered agreed that NAPEP has reduced poverty in Plateau State.

Question 7: Does NAPEP Create Self employment?

Table4.7. NAPEP Create Self Employment.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree(SA)	36	32.7
Agreed(A)	51	46.4
Disagreed(D)	12	10.9
Strongly disagree(SD)	11	10.0
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The table above indicates that 32.7% of the respondents answered on strongly agreed, 46.4% for agreed, 10.9% answered on disagreed while 10.0% answered for strongly agreed. This means that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire administered strongly agreed that NAPEP create self employment.

Question 8: Does NAPEP Increase level of Income?

Table4.8. NAPEP Increase level of Income.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree(SA)	15	13.6
Agreed(A)	45	40.9
Disagreed(D)	20	18.2
Strongly disagree(SD)	30	27.3
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

From the data gathered above, we observe that 13.6% of the respondents answered on strongly agreed (SA), 40.9% answered on agreed (A), 18.2% for disagree, while 27.3% for strongly disagree. This shows that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire administered agreed that NAPEP has increased the level of income of the people.

Question 9: Does NAPEP Increase accessibility to basic needs?

Table4.9. NAPEP Increase accessibility to basic needs.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree(SA)	30	27.3
Agreed(A)	10	9.1
Disagreed(D)	50	45.5
Strongly disagree(SD)	20	18.2
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The data presented in the table show that 27.3% of the respondents answered on strongly agreed, 9.1% for agreed, 45.5% for disagreed, while 18.2% for strongly disagree. This attests to the fact that majority of the respondents of the questionnaire administered disagreed that NAPEP has increased accessibility to basic needs.

Table4.10. Suggestions on ways of handling poverty.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sincerity	12	10.9
Investment	50	45.5
Awareness	30	27.3
Nil	18	16.4
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The data above indicate that 10.9% of the respondents answered for sincerely, 45.5% for investment, 27.3% for awareness while 16.4% are for nil. This means that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire administered suggested that investment is a way of handling poverty.

Question 11: What is your assessment on the activities of NAPEP Plateau State?

Table4.11. General assessment on the activities of NAPEP Plateau State.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Excellent	15	13.6
Good	65	59.1
Fairly good	13	11.8
Poor	17	15.5
Total	110	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2014

The above table shows that 13.6% of the respondents answered are for excellent. 59.1% for good, 11.8% for fairly good while 15.5% for poor. This show that majority of the respondent of the questionnaire stated that the general assessment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Plateau State is good.

Test of Hypothesis

H₀: The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has not significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State

H₁: The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State

The statistical technique used was Chi-square expressed as:

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where x²= chi-square

OF= Observed frequency

EF= Expected frequency

E= Summation

NAPEP HAS REDUCED POVERTY IN PLATEAU STATE (NAPEP CREATES SELF EMPLOYMENT).

Variable	NAPEP creates self-employment					TOTAL
		SA	A	D	SD	
NAPEP has reduced	yes	36	26	0	0	62
Poverty in Plateau State	No	0	25	12	11	48
Total		36	51	12	11	110

Source: (Researchers computation using SPSS 20.0)

Chi-Square Test

	Variables	df	Asymp.sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-square	58.180a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	80.024	3	.000
Linear-by-linear Association	53.277	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	110		

Source: (Researchers computation using spss 20.0, field work, 2014)

Decision Rule

From the Pearson chi-square test above, the calculated value of the x² was 0.352. It means that the P-value is greater than 0.05 or 5% level of significance and 3 degree of freedom, therefore the null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected and then the alternative (H₁) is accepted. The result of the test shows that NAPEP has significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State despite the challenges it encountered.

Discussion of Result

The findings in the researcher work show that majority of the respondents are women. This is in line with the finding in the work of Ezirim (2005), who observed that the incidence of poverty is felt by women and children.

Secondly, the study reveals that majority of the population in the study area attested to the fact that they have received training from the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as an institution of government saddled with the responsibility of reducing poverty in Nigeria. Related to this issue, to Summaye (2010) discovered in his empirical finding that in 2001, the office of the National Poverty Eradication Programme in Plateau State has coordinated a skill Acquisition Programme called Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) targeted on the youths and a total of 350 candidates benefited from the programme (CAP). Equally, the training was done by the federal office of NAPEP in liaison with the office of the Secretary to the state Government NAPEP office. The economic growth approach focus on capital formation as it relates to capital stock, and human development. This is obvious from the fact that investment in these facets of human capital improves the quality of labour and thus its productivity. Thus to ensure growth that care of poverty, the share of human capital as a source of growth has to be accorded the right place (Mustapha, 2008).

Also, result indicates that majority of the respondents argued that the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has significantly reduced poverty in Plateau State. This is against the backdrop of the work of Yakubu, Rahila and Abbass (2010), who took a research on the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and poverty alleviation in rural Nigeria; in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State. They discovered in their study area that the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has failed in eradicating poverty in the study area. This would be as a result of environmental factors, project design, opposition from powerful stakeholders etc. These are the reasons for the differences of the two research findings.

Majority of the respondents argued that, they have benefited from the programme of NAPEP. In the studied carried out by Summaye (2010) he observed that, the credit scheme called multi-partner microfinance scheme (MP-MFS) was introduced. The money was given to financial institutions (ECWA Empowerment Programme, Bamshak Women Co-operative Association, African Youth Platform for Development and Guantum) by the Federal Government for disbursement. The governor approved a counterpart contribution of N50million in 2008 and additional N70million in 2009. The 2008 state government counterpart fund was disbursed to a total of 152 cooperative societies (3,520 individuals), 800 individuals benefited from micro-credit and Widows Empowerment scheme. Similarly, the federal funds took care of a total of 150 cooperative societies and 850 widows Empowerment scheme. The office carried out a sensitization workshop for the benefit of the people in the three senatorial zones of the state. The cumulative and cyclical interdependence theory originated from the works of Myrdal (1957) who coined it as “interlocking, circular, interdependence with a process of cumulative causation”. The theory look at individual and their community caught in the spiral of opportunity and problems, hence individual and community resources are mutually dependent. This theory supports the need for equal opportunity in sharing of resources.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Research Findings

The following research findings are derived from the data analyzed.

- (i) The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) had created sufficient awareness and benefits accruing from the scheme is high
- (ii) The people of the study area have received training from the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), which enables them to acquire skills, increased level of income, increase accessibility to basic needs and awareness for participation in the project.
- (iii) The findings also portrays that The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) packages are effective for human development which at the long-run increased the self sufficiency of the people.
- (iv) The research finding revealed that, there are different ways and ideal ways of handling poverty; it would be through investment in agriculture and awareness to generate total support for full participation.
- (v) The general assessment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Plateau State is good, since it is able to transform the lives of the people positively.

Conclusion

The topic of this research work is Poverty Reduction Policy and Poverty Alleviating in Plateau State. In the light of this findings, it can be concluded that the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) activities in Plateau State has recorded tremendous achievement in alleviation the widespread of poverty in the study area through increase in self-employment, increase in the level of income and increase in accessibility of basic needs which improved the living standard of the people, even though most of the population in the study area have heard of the existence of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as an agent of poverty alleviation, they have benefited from its programmes and packages.

However, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has been battling with so many challenges which could mar its overall objectives of the programmes. The failure of policies and programmes in the country is as a result of morally unsound political and leadership base, high and threatening level of corruption, lack of targeting the poor, inadequate funding, poor cooperation and implementation of policies as well as attitudes to work. Finally there is the need for a complete system overall or transformation as constituting the reliable way forward in the problem crisis of poverty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of this investigation, the following are recommended.

The study recommends amongst other things that the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) as an agency of the government with sole aim of coordinating all poverty alleviation programmes in the country, should work in harmony with other government ministries and agencies that are stakeholders in the fight against poverty. In the area of funding, poverty alleviation programmes should be given adequate and sustained funding, then creating the conducive atmosphere effective implementation of programmes. The study suggests that a specific percentage of the local, state and federal government budget be allotted to avoid lack of community.

Full scale reorganization, call for a comprehensive reform and restructure of various government policies and programmes to ensure successful take of by reorganized the National poverty plan linking poverty to national policies, linking international policies to poverty, pro-poor local government. Finally, the wasted fertile land in the rural areas should be used profitably through the provision of good farm implement, improved species, extension services and monitoring. This will go a long way to boost food production that will not only guarantee food sufficiency in rural areas and also in the urban centre.

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