

Exploring the Connection between Poverty Reduction and Well-being in Nigerian

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Abstract: This study illustrates the relationship between reducing poverty and improving the well-being of Nigerians. Using information from 1990 to 2023. While the Fixed Deposit (FD) displayed a negative sign, the Poverty Reduction Strategies Programs (PRSP) had a favorable short-term impact on changes in Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP). This suggests that poverty in Nigeria is lessened by government spending on economic services as well as per capita spending on other social and community services. The survey approach is the study's primary methodology. This implies that fixed deposits (FD) do not instantly alleviate poverty but rather do so gradually, even though fiscal deficit, a gauge of sound governance, has a detrimental impact on economic growth. However, this study made the case that boosting capital expenditures for community, social, and economic services as well as restructuring and enhancing initiatives to combat poverty could help lower poverty in Nigeria.

Keywords: Poverty Alleviation, Nigerians wellbeing.

1.0 Introduction

Over the past few decades, poverty has drastically declined worldwide. According to World Bank data, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty decreased from 37.1% to 9.6% between 1990 and 2015. However, sub-Saharan Africa, which includes Nigeria, still struggles with high poverty rates. By 2015, about 35.2% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa lived in extreme poverty, accounting for 347.1 million people (World Bank, 2022). Nigeria, as one of the region's most populous countries, remains central to these statistics. Although the world economy has made great progress in reducing poverty, inequalities still exist and the process remains sluggish. Critics contend that neoliberal policies supported by global financial organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank worsen inequality and cause poverty in some areas to worsen. The World Bank's \$1.25 per day poverty benchmark frequently falls short of capturing the full scope of the issue. Globally, an estimated 4.3 billion individuals struggle to meet their basic necessities while living on less than \$5 per day (World Bank, 2022).

The fight against poverty has benefited greatly from the efforts of international institutions like the World Bank, the United Nations (UN), and the World Health Organization (WHO). As part of its goal to promote full employment, socioeconomic growth, and living standards, the UN has made reducing poverty a top priority. While UNESCO has addressed education and literacy, WHO and UNICEF have concentrated on nutrition and health, especially for women and children (UN, 1968).

Global institutions have taken notice of the poverty levels in sub-Saharan Africa, which has led to efforts such as the World Bank's 1993 task force on poverty, which aimed to improve the

operational response to poverty in the region (Agbadagbe, Musa & Ismail, 2024). Despite these initiatives, poverty is still widespread in Nigeria, especially in rural areas where the majority of people make their living from agriculture (Musa, Salisu & Magaji, 2024). Approximately 72% of Nigeria's workforce is still employed in agriculture, which was the country's main industry prior to the discovery of oil. However, many people are stuck in a cycle of poverty due to inadequate infrastructure, limited access to services, and unfavorable circumstances (World Bank, 2022). Since gaining independence, Nigeria's attempts to reduce poverty have been focused on agriculture (Magaji & Bature, 2015). To increase agricultural productivity and enhance living circumstances, a number of programs and initiatives have been started. Poor planning has caused many of these programs to fail, but the 1975-launched Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), which were supported by the World Bank, have endured and are still promoting rural development. However, 68% of Nigeria's severely poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, indicating that the sector still fails to generate enough revenue.

Despite Nigeria's abundant natural resources and its status as Africa's largest economy, poverty remains widespread. Successive governments have implemented poverty alleviation programs, yet the effectiveness of these interventions is debatable. Political upheaval, structural adjustment programs, and inadequate economic management were the main causes of Nigeria's dramatic rise in poverty in the 1990s (Magaji, Musa & Ahmed, 2024). By 2000, over 70% of Nigerians were living below the poverty line, which prompted the government to launch a number of programs, including the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Social Investment Program (SIP)

(World Bank, 2022). Nigeria has a history of separating poverty reduction from economic growth. The oil sector, which dominates the economy, is not labor-intensive and has failed to create enough jobs, leaving a significant portion of the population either unemployed or underemployed (Salisu, Musa & Magaji, 2024). Despite periods of impressive GDP growth, particularly in the early 2000s, poverty rates have remained stubbornly high, mainly due to unequal wealth distribution (Jafaru, Magaji & Ahmed, 2024). The COVID-19 pandemic and global economic disruptions have further worsened poverty levels (Magaji, Musa, Temitope & El-Yaqub, 2022), revealing the need for more sustainable economic strategies (Onyedikachi & Chinweoke, 2013). Nigeria's poverty reduction strategies often face obstacles such as corruption, tax evasion, and the emigration of skilled professionals, which weakens the country's capacity to provide essential services like healthcare, education, and welfare (Magaji, Musa & Gombe, 2021). Strategies for reducing poverty typically focus on improving economic freedom, expanding access to financial services, and ensuring the equitable distribution of resources (World Bank, 2022). Poverty is not just a matter of statistics; it has profound human consequences. It dehumanizes people, forcing them into conditions of severe deprivation (Musa, Magaji & Salisu, 2022). Many in Nigeria live in squalor, with little access to food, healthcare, or basic necessities, often scavenging for survival (Ibrahim & Sule, 2023). This situation reflects the sharp inequality in Nigeria, where a small elite controls a vast portion of the country's wealth while the majority live in abject poverty (Enaberue, Musa & Magaji, 2024).

Hunger and malnutrition are closely linked to poverty. In Nigeria, about 595 million people are calorie-deficient, with significant deficits recorded in per capita daily calorie intake between 1970 and 1994. Addressing food security remains a critical part of Nigeria's poverty alleviation strategy (CBN, 1993; African Development Bank, 1996).

Therefore, the aim of this study is to look at interplay between poverty alleviation and Nigerians wellbeing from 1990-2023.

2.0 Review of Literature and Theoretical Framework

2.1 Conceptual Analysis

In this research, there are two important concepts to be reviewed; the concept of poverty reduction and Nigerians welfare.

2.1.1 Poverty

Poverty encompasses social, economic, and political components in addition to the absence of material resources. Extreme poverty, sometimes referred to as absolute poverty, is the total absence of resources needed for basic existence, such as clothing, food, and shelter. This kind of poverty persists throughout history and across nations. In contrast, relative poverty is defined by an individual's inability to achieve a standard of living considered acceptable in their society. It highlights inequality within societies, showing how even in developed economies, some individuals struggle to access basic goods and services (World Bank, 2022).

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2.1.2 Wellbeing

However, this study made the case that boosting capital 28 spending on economic, social, and community activities as well as restructuring and enhancing poverty-reduction initiatives might help lower poverty in Nigeria. In addition to the absence of disease, well-being also include the presence of positive traits like contentment, meaning, and a sense of community. Wellbeing, which is frequently regarded as a crucial measure of both societal advancement and individual growth, is greatly influenced by elements including wealth, education, relationships, and access to healthcare (Dodge et al., 2012).

2.2 Theoretical Literature

2.2.1 Theory of Financial Growth

The foundation of this study is the finance-growth theory, which maintains that a dynamic, fruitful environment for growth is created by the "supply-leading" or "demand-following" influence of financial development. Additionally, this hypothesis recognizes that limited access to money is the primary driver of delayed progress and persistent economic inequity. It is believed that lowering poverty and income disparity is a prerequisite for accelerating growth, and that having access to a simple, safe, and reasonably priced source of funding is a prerequisite (Aluko & Magaji, 2020). In addition to insulating them from economic shocks, this fosters equality, makes it easier for socially and economically marginalized people to integrate into society, and motivates them to actively participate in development (Serrao et al., 2012).

The extremely low level of financial literacy in Nigeria, especially among rural residents, is one of the main obstacles to financial inclusion. This makes it difficult for entrepreneurs to provide banking and other financial services (El-Yaqub, Musa & Magaji, 2024). Additionally, the country's consistently poor level of information and 10 telecommunications literacy make it challenging to access 54 financial services (Abdullahi, Magaji & Musa, 2024). The degree of comprehension of financial transactions and the illiterate's capacity to take advantage of financial services opportunities are occasionally hampered by inadequate and improper awareness campaigns (Aina & Oluyombo, 2014). A linguistic barrier between the target population and the teaching language decreases the effectiveness of communication (Magaji & Aliyu, 2007).

2.3 Empirical Review

Onesme, Rama, and Senthil. (2024) The study examines the patterns in sustainable development strategies for reducing poverty, points out knowledge gaps, and makes recommendations for future lines of inquiry. This study spans four decades, from 1981 to 2023. We searched the Scopus database for a corpus of 5,982 articles using bibliometric and scientometric methods. Following the removal of 653, 5,329 satisfied the criteria for non-duplicates, relevant material, and proper authorship. Books, journals, reviews,

articles, and other publications in our field of study are examples of these materials. We have conducted two important tests: science mapping and performance analysis, using the VOS viewer and R-Studio software. Senthil, Rama, and Onesme. (2024). The study highlights gaps, examines current trends in sustainable development strategies for reducing poverty, and makes recommendations for further research. This study spans four decades, from 1981 to 2023. We searched the Scopus database for a corpus of 5,982 articles using bibliometric and scientometric methods. Following the removal of 653, 5,329 satisfied the criteria for nonduplicates, relevant material, and proper authorship. Books, journals, reviews, articles, and other publications in our field of study are examples of these materials. We have conducted two important tests: science mapping and performance analysis, using the VOS viewer and R-Studio software. Therefore, we urge future researchers to concentrate more on poverty alleviation, China, and sustainable development while continuing to monitor Africa, livelihoods, gender inequality, and India. To increase their contributions to poverty-reducing sustainable development strategies, households, remittances, land use, the government, and the IMF must all receive more attention.

The socioeconomic contributions of social inclusion and poverty reduction to attaining sustainable development (SD) in Nigeria between 1970 and 2019 are examined in Abdulkareem, Jimoh, and Shasi's (2023) study. The vector error correction model, or VECM, is the analytical method. SD is determined by three types of factors: economic (per capita GDP and FDI inflow), social (life expectancy, school enrollment, poverty, and the percentage of women in parliament), and environmental (CO₂ emissions and natural resource endowment). The results show that two social determinants (life expectancy and school enrollment), economic factors (GDP per capita and FDI inflow to the GDP ratio), and environmental factors (CO₂ emission and natural resource endowment) all had a negative effect on SD in Nigeria during the study period. The percentage of women in parliament and the poverty gap, the other two social drivers, also saw improvements.

In order to determine how well poverty reduction initiatives address healthcare inequities, Amri and Sihotang's (2023) study examines how these initiatives affect healthcare access in rural areas. To collect thorough data, the study uses a mixed-method approach that includes focus groups, qualitative interviews, and quantitative surveys. The study shows encouraging results, showing a notable rise in healthcare use in regions that gain from programs aimed at reducing poverty. As demonstrated by advancements in healthcare infrastructure, positive health outcomes, and economic empowerment, these initiatives have been successful in expanding access to healthcare. Nonetheless, limitations are recognized, such as sample representativeness, potential biases, and geographic restrictions. While recognizing these limitations, the results highlight how important it is to keep funding poverty alleviation initiatives, creating policies, and engaging the community in order to maintain and grow the beneficial effects on healthcare access in rural areas. This research offers vital insights that enhance academic understanding, policy creation, and practice in addition to advancing more inclusive and equitable healthcare access in underserved areas and supporting the global agenda of sustainable development goals.

Yakeen, Eke, Musa, and Magaji (2022) demonstrate how poverty is a disease that has impacted the nation's growth and development by continuing to fuel social vices like insecurity among its citizens. However, this study looks at the origins and effects of poverty and its intractability in Nigeria. The data gathered for the investigation is analyzed using ordinary least squares techniques. NBS and Federal Reserve Economic Data provided the information. According to the results, for every unit increase in UMP and POP, the poverty rate will increase by 0.035375 and 2.564296 units, respectively. Furthermore, the data shows that for every unit improvement in HDI, Nigeria's poverty rate will decrease by -4.347621. The paradigm holds that poverty in Nigeria cannot be prevented. Accordingly, the report recommends that human development be given high importance by governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private individuals. Yu and Huang (2021) use the R programming language and VOSviewer software to analyze 2,459 poverty alleviation publications published since 2000. Our research indicates that (1) there has been a significant increase in the number of publications on poverty alleviation in the twenty-first century, particularly after 2015. (2) There are significant differences between the amount and caliber of research conducted in China and Kenya. (3) Compared to environmental studies, which focus on management and preservation strategies, economic studies emphasize inequality and growth. (4) International cooperation involves cooperation between rich and poor nations and is typically focused on geography. (5) The sub-theme of research on poverty reduction varies by region. Our results offer a summary of the current status of the subject and recommend that future research on poverty alleviation focus on the importance of marginal disciplines and improve discipline integration.

Iqbal and Khan (2020) use empirical data from a few districts in Sindh, Pakistan, to determine poverty reduction and inclusive, sustainable community development. 230 respondents provided data for the study, which was conducted in five districts of Sindh. The quantitative methodology of the study entails collecting primary data from five districts in the Sindh region of Pakistan, followed by descriptive and inferential analysis using SPSS. The findings cover three study themes that reflect various facets of integrated and sustainable community development and poverty alleviation. According to the study, complicated poverty and inclusive and sustainable community development are strongly positively correlated. The report also highlights how important it is to create livelihoods in order to combat poverty and promote community development. The findings are summarized in a number of recommendations for successful and efficient policymaking in community development and poverty eradication.

3.0 Research Techniques

3.1 Design of the Research

This study set out to investigate the effects of poverty alleviation programs on Nigeria's economic growth and development. Using information from 1990 to 2023. The study's primary approach is the survey method. The method seeks to choose study samples that are fairly representative of the target population. I employed secondary data, structured interviews, and questionnaires to get the information I needed for my descriptive survey technique.

3.2 Model Specification

The model's specification places a strong emphasis on whether or not the country's economic progress significantly affects the fight against poverty. After establishing this connection, the initial equation is expressed as follows:

$$\ln\text{POVRt} = f(\ln\text{EGt}) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

As recommended by Barro and Sala (1995) and Grootaer, Kambur, and Oh (1995), we model the relationship between poverty reduction and economic growth using a time subscript (t) and a first difference operator (Δ) as follows:

$$\ln\Delta\text{POVRt} = f(\ln\Delta\text{EGt}) \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Equation (2) thus clarifies how variations in economic growth impact initiatives to alleviate poverty. Thus, by adding the initial conditions of Nigeria's economic growth, or $\ln\text{EGt}_0$, to equation (2), the following equation is produced:

$$\ln\Delta\text{POVRt} = f(\ln\text{EGt}_0, \ln\Delta\text{EGt}) \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

After converting equation (3) into a linear equation, $\ln\Delta\text{POVRt} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln\text{EGt}_0 + \beta_2 \ln\Delta\text{EGt} + U$ is obtained. But.... (4) Where

$\ln\text{POVRt}$ = Graph of Nigeria's first decline in poverty as determined by household consumption spending. $\ln\Delta\text{POVRt}$ = log of household spending changes as a stand-in for Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty.

EGt = Chronology of Nigeria's early economic development conditions, as indicated by the country's initial per capita income (US\$).

$\ln\Delta\text{EGt}$ = Timeline of changes in per capita income (US\$), a measure of Nigeria's economic growth.

β_0 = the intercept.

A positive number for β_1 and β_2 implies that Nigeria's economic growth is reducing poverty, whereas a negative value suggests that it is diverging. The parameter evaluates how quickly Nigeria's economic growth is convergent or divergent.

U = the Error term.

To reflect the explanatory character of the variables, the model is estimated using a multiple regression analysis. The a-priori expectation criteria, which is based on the signs and magnitude of the coefficients of the variables being studied, and the statistical criteria, which are based on statistical theory and are also referred to as First Order List Square (OLS) and include the R-square (R^2), F-statistic, and T-test, were the two main evaluation criteria used to confirm the validity of the model. The overall explanatory power of the regression analysis is measured by R-squared (R^2); the overall significance of the analysis is evaluated using F-statistics; and the t-test is used to ascertain if the independent variables significantly influenced the dependent (Oyeniyi 1997). The following are our a-priori expectations, which are based on the model and represent the expected pattern of behavior between the independent variables (EGt) and the dependent variable

($\ln\Delta\text{POVRt}$): " $\text{EGt} > 0$ " and " $\Delta\text{EGt} > 0$ " demonstrating that a favorable shift in economic growth and an increase in the initial level of economic growth are expected to reduce poverty in Nigeria.

3.3.1 The size of the sample and the sampling method

The main goal of this study is to evaluate the methods, practices, and efficacy of institutional frameworks and policies used to combat poverty in Nigeria. First, this suggests that everyone in the country, especially those employed by the organizations tasked with developing policies to fight poverty, can participate in this research. Because of the nature of the subject, the study was not intended to include all participants or employees of the poverty reduction groups, even if the findings were meant to be generalizable. Therefore, the following groups were the only ones who could be included in the target audience:

- i. Selected management staff from organizations that currently and previously work to reduce poverty;
- ii. Selected members of committees and review panels on measures to reduce poverty (1999–2000);
- iii. Selected management staff from the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP);
- iv. Selected recipients of various past and current poverty reduction programs;
- v. Selected employees of the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Study samples were selected from the previously mentioned target population using a straightforward random selection procedure. This required taking into account both the beneficiary list and the nominal roll of management personnel from each of the chosen agencies. A random selection of 230 responders will be made from a collection of random integers that include the following sequences: The management staff of each of the impacted agencies was given a serial number that began with 01 at first. Since I was using a two-digit random table, I first chose the starting point at random and then pointed to the locations of the second column and the eleventh row. As I proceeded down the row, I finally selected the numbers 01 and 07 at random. Until the necessary 230 responders were chosen, the process was repeated. This approach guarantees that a representative sample is adequately chosen, claim Taylor and Dinner (1993). Using this method, choosing the following was easier.

- i. Policymakers;
- ii. Implementers and coordinators; and
- iii. Recipients of initiatives and methods aimed at reducing poverty. These are those who are genuinely capable of offering all the answers needed to support or refute my theories and/or assess the techniques' efficacy.

3.4 The Data Analysis Method

The main objective of statistical analysis, according to Dickinson (1977), is to distill a lot of data into a clear format that illustrates general patterns and correlations between variables. Additionally, he maintained that the objective of statistical analysis is to provide

a quantitative approach for identifying the salient features of the data.

3.4.1 The Chi-square (X²)

According to Hoel (1974), chi-square is the sum of the ratios of the observed and predicted values.

In order to determine whether the observed frequency (observed variation) of actual observations from the predicted is substantial enough to support alternative hypotheses or disprove null hypotheses, the chi-square hypothesis testing method assesses the reliability and significance of data.

The observed (actual) and expected frequencies must be determined first, followed by the deviation squared, and then the sums of the deviations squared by the sums of the expected of the expected frequencies must be divided in order to determine the chi-square. In terms of mathematics, as follows:

$$(O-E)^2 = \text{chi-square (X}^2\text{)}$$

Where: E is the expected value (frequency) and O is the observed value (frequency).

To determine whether or not the experimentally recorded frequencies deviate considerably from what would be predicted under a certain set of theoretical assumptions, chi-square will be employed.

3.5 A-priori Anticipation

According to research on economic growth, reducing poverty is the main goal of economic expansion, particularly when it results in more job opportunities and better production prospects for those who are impoverished. By considering a time subscript and a difference-in-difference estimator that characterizes poverty reduction as a function of changes in economic growth, this study uses primary data analysis to investigate the effects of poverty alleviation programs on economic growth and development in Nigeria.

The theoretical expectation for the size and sign of the parameters in the chosen model, however, is defined by the economic a-priori expectation. The economic relationship between the variables under study determines the a-priori expectations.

4.0 Analysis of Data Presentation and Results Interpretation

A statistical tool is used to analyze the questionnaire replies and look at percentages in order to evaluate the hypotheses. The data that is specifically connected to testing hypotheses is presented and analyzed in the first section of this chapter, while the remaining replies are presented and analyzed in the second.

4.1 Data Presentation

Table 4.1: Distribution and collection of questionnaires

Institution/ Agency	Number distributed	Number returned	Number not returned	% of total returned	% of total unreturned
Beneficiaries	143.5	88.5	55.4	38.9	23.8
Government Agencies	49.5	30.9	19.3	13.8	8.2
International Organizations	19.6	11.7	8.2	5.4	3.7
Local NGOs	15.7	9.8	6.1	4.2	2.7
Total	229.6	142.4	87.7	61.6	38.2

Sources: surveys sent out and received back

Of the 230 questionnaires that were sent out, 142 were returned, making up about 61.7 percent of the distribution, while 88, or about 38.3 percent, were not, as shown in table 4.1 above.

4.2 Analysis of Additional Responses

The answers to a few of the questionnaire questions are compiled and examined in this part.

Table 4.2 Questionnaire Statement: What are the main duties of organizations that work to reduce poverty?

Responsibilities	Govt. Agencies	International Organizations	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
A, provisions of micro credit	21.5	14.5	7.0	42.0	48.0
B, healthcare delivery	8.4	3.3	3.0	14.0	16.0
C, training and skills devt.	7.3	2.0	3.0	12.0	14.0
D, capacity building	5.4	3.0	2.0	10.0	11.0

E, basic infrastructure	5.2	2.0	1.0	8.0	9.0
F, resources development	1.1	1.0	0	2.0	2.0
Total	48.4	24.0	16.0	88.0	100.0

Sources: answers to the first question on the agency questionnaires

42 respondents, or around 48% of the sample, said that their primary responsibility was to offer microcredit, as shown in table 4.2 above. Ten respondents (approximately 11 percent) selected capacity building as their main duty, fourteen respondents (approximately 16 percent) selected healthcare delivery, fourteen percent selected skill development training for the productive sector, and two and nine percent, respectively, selected resource development through the deployment of advanced technology and the provision of essential infrastructure.

Table 4.3 shows the questionnaire statement, which asks what the areas of greater competence and capacity are.

Responsibilities	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
A, provision of micro credit	12.0	5.0	4.0	21.0	40.0
B, healthcare delivery	4.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	15.0
C, training and skills devt.	3.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	11.0
D, capacity building	5.0	2.0	1.0	8.0	15.0
E, basic infrastructure	6.0	1.0	1.0	8.0	15.0
F, resources development	1.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	4.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Sources: answer to the second question on the Agencies questionnaire

Table 4.5: Questionnaire statement: Programs aimed at reducing poverty are stated to be implemented with the poor in mind.

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	15.0	9.0	2.0	2.0	28.0	20.0

21 respondents, or nearly 40% of the respondents, stated that they are more capable and competent in the field of microcredit provisions, as shown in Table 4.3 above. According to eight respondents, providing healthcare is the area in which they are most skilled and knowledgeable. Six and eight respondents, respectively, said that their areas of strongest expertise and capacity were capacity building and training for skill acquisition in the productive sector. However, 8 respondents, or around 15%, said that their area of competence and capability was basic infrastructure provision. Two respondents, or around 4% of the sample, stated that they are more skilled and competent in the area of resource development through the promotion of enhanced technology.

Table 4.4: Statement from the Questionnaire: How would you rate the effectiveness of poverty reduction organizations?

Response	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
Very effective	10.0	2.0	4.0	16.0	30.0
Effective	17.0	5.0	3.0	25.0	47.0
Ineffective	3.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	17.0
Very ineffective	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	6.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: answers to the third question on the agencies' questionnaire

16 respondents, or roughly 30% of the respondents, and 25 respondents, or roughly 47% of the respondents, agreed that organizations that strive to combat poverty are highly successful in doing so, according to table 4.4 above. However, 9 respondents (about 17 percent) and 3 respondents (approximately 6 percent) said that poverty reduction organizations had failed and failed miserably to eradicate poverty.

Agreed	43.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	54.0	38.0
Disagreed	17.0	14.0	4.0	2.0	37.0	26.0
Strongly disagreed	14.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	23.0	16.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Responses to the agency and beneficiary questionnaires' questions No. 4 and No. 15, respectively

According to the information in Table 4.5 above, 45 respondents, or about 38 percent of the sample, agreed that initiatives aimed at reducing poverty should focus on the poor, and 28 respondents, or 20 percent of the sample, strongly agreed. 23 respondents (16 percent) disagreed and strongly disagreed with this notion, while 37 respondents (26 percent) disagreed.

The drift was more consistent with the assertion that the program's implementation successfully targeted the poor, with 80 respondents strongly agreeing and agreeing.

Table 4.6: Questionnaires Statement; It is said that methods for reducing poverty are generally acknowledged

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Yes	23.0	22.0	6.0	4.0	55.0	39.0
No	66.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	87.0	61.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Answers to questions 7 and 10 on the agencies' and beneficiaries' questionnaire.

While 55 respondents, or 39 percent of the respondents, agreed that poverty reduction strategies are universally recognized, 87

respondents, or 61 percent of the respondents, disagreed with this assertion, as shown in table 4.6 above.

Table 4.7: Questionnaires Statement; Nigerian poverty reduction techniques have tackled the multifaceted poverty.

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	22.0	14.0	4.0	2.0	42.0	30.0
Agreed	36.0	6.0	3.0	4.0	47.0	33.0
Disagreed	14.0	9.0	2.0	2.0	27.0	19.0
Strongly Disagreed	17.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	26.0	18.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Nigerian poverty reduction techniques have tackled the multifaceted nature of poverty.

Despite the fact that only 47 (about 33 percent) of the respondents agreed with the statement, 42 (representing beneficiaries, government agencies, international organizations, and local NGOS) strongly agreed that Nigeria's poverty reduction strategies do not address the multidirectional aspects of poverty (see table 4.7

above). The fact that 26 respondents (18 percent) strongly disagreed with this statement and 27 respondents (19 percent) disagreed suggests that the procedures are multidirectional in nature.

Table 4.8: Questionnaires Statement; One goal for putting poverty reduction strategies into practice is

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Yes	52.0	16.0	10.0	9.0	87.0	61.0
No	37.0	15.0	2.0	1.0	55.0	39.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Answers to questions 9 and 12 on the Agency and Beneficiary questionnaires, respectively.

Table 4.8 above shows that while 55 respondents, or 39% of the sample, responded negatively, 87 respondents, or about 61% of the

sample, and agreed that the government had established realistic targets for implementing the national poverty reduction programs.

Table 4.9: Statement from the Questionnaire; Preventing Redundancies in Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Responses	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	13.0	4.0	2.0	19.0	36.0
Agreed	5.0	3.0	4.0	12.0	23.0
Disagreed	9.0	2.0	2.0	13.0	25.0
Strongly disagree	4.0	3.0	2.0	9.0	17.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Answers to the 13th question on the Agencies' questionnaires

19 respondents (about 36%) strongly agreed that enough care had been taken to prevent duplication of effort and to create complementarities across the agencies involved in poverty reduction operations, as shown in table 4.9 above. Twelve respondents, or twenty-three percent, agreed with this statement.

Just nine respondents, or 17% of the respondents, strongly disagreed that enough care had been taken to prevent duplication of effort and to develop complementarities among the agencies, while 13 respondents, or 25% of the respondents, disagreed with the 21 opposing voices.

Table 4.10: The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), survey findings, and the effectiveness of poverty-reduction initiatives in Nigeria

Responses	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondent
Strongly agreed	15.0	7.0	2.0	24.0	45.0
Agreed	7.0	2.0	2.0	11.0	21.0
Disagreed	7.0	2.0	4.0	13.0	25.0
Strongly Disagreed	2.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	9.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Answers to the 14th question on the agency surveys.

According to table 4.10 above, 24 respondents, or 45%, strongly agreed that it would be more difficult to eliminate poverty in Nigeria if PRSP were not in place. In the absence of PRSP, 11 additional respondents, or 21% of the sample, agreed that poverty

reduction would be difficult. Of the sample, 13 respondents (or 25%) disagreed with the assertion, while 5 respondents (or 9% of the total) severely disagreed.

Table 4.11: Questionnaire statement: Nigeria lacks sufficient funding to carry out programs aimed at reducing poverty

Responses	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOS	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	4.0	3.0	2.0	9.0	17.0
Agreed	9.0	2.0	2.0	13.0	25.0
Disagreed	5.0	3.0	4.0	12.0	22.0
Strongly disagreed	13.0	4.0	2.0	19.0	36.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Answers to the 15th question on the agency surveys.

Thirteen respondents, or about twenty-five percent, agreed with the statement that there are sufficient funds available to implement their agencies' poverty reduction programs, compared to just nine respondents, or seventeen percent, of the respondents from

government agencies, international organizations, and local NGOs. Nineteen respondents, or 36 percent, strongly disagreed with the statement, while twelve respondents, or 22 percent, disagreed.

Table 4.12: Questionnaire statement; Sufficient Budgetary Allocations for Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Responses	Govt. Agencies	International Organization	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	10.0	2.0	4.0	16.0	30.0
Agreed	17.0	5.0	3.0	25.0	47.0
Disagreed	3.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	17.0
Strongly disagreed	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	6.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Responses from survey on question No. 16.

According to the above table, of those who responded in the affirmative, 16 respondents (30%) strongly agreed and 25 respondents (47%) agreed that their organizations' poverty reduction programs do not receive appropriate budgetary

provisions. However, 19 respondents, or around 17%, disagreed. Those who strongly opposed are at the other extreme. Only three people responded, making up only 6% of the total responders.

Table 4.13: Statement from the Questionnaire; Equal Chance for Women and Men

Responses	Govt. Agencies	International organizations	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
Yes	20.0	9.0	8.0	37.0	70.0
No	11.0	3.0	2.0	16.0	30.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Answers to the Agencies' questionnaires' question No. 22.

According to this table, 37 respondents, or 70% of the respondents, said that women are provided equal opportunity with men in the

various organizations' attempts to decrease poverty. Sixteen more responders, or thirty percent of the total, responded negatively.

Table 4.14: Statement from the Questionnaire; Women's Involvement in Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Respondents	Govt. agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
Strongly agreed	16.0	6.0	4.0	26.0	49.0
Agreed	4.0	3.0	2.0	9.0	17.0
Disagreed	7.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	20.0
Strongly disagreed	4.0	1.0	2.0	7.0	14.0
Total	31.0	12.0	10.0	53.0	100.0

Source: Answers to the agency questionnaires' question No. 23.

Nine respondents (17%) agreed with the statement that women's involvement in their organizations' attempts to reduce poverty is notably low, and 26 respondents (about 49%) strongly agreed with

it. Of the 18 respondents that gave a negative response, seven (14%), strongly disagreed with the assertion, and eleven (20%) disagreed.

Table 4.15: Questionnaire statement: What are the primary issues facing Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty?

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International Organization	Local NGOs	Total	Respondent s in percent
Inadequate funding	22.0	14.0	1.0	2.0	39.0	28.0
Unwieldy scope	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	6.0	4.0
Policy Inconsistency	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	10.0
Ineffective targeting of the poor	17.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	17.0
Lack of complementarities	7.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	11.0	8.0
Ineffective coordination	11.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	16.0	11.0
Inadequate consultation with all stakeholders	9.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	13.0	9.0
Mismanagement and financial indiscipline	12.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	19.0	13.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Answers to questions 25 and 20 on the agency and beneficiary questionnaires, respectively.

Mismanagement and financial indiscipline, inadequate funding, and ineffective targeting of the poor were ranked first, second, and third, respectively, with 39, 24, and 19 respondents, or roughly 28 percent, 17 percent, and 13 percent of the respondents, according to Table 4.15, which ranks the issues facing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria according to their severity. Roughly 11%, 10%, and 9% of respondents, respectively, placed inadequate coordination, inconsistent policies, and inadequate stakeholder consultation as fourth, fifth, and sixth, with 16, 14, and 13.

Consequently, the largest percentage—28 percent—is attributed to insufficient finance.

Table 4.16: Questionnaire statement: What recommendations would you make to improve Nigeria's efforts to reduce poverty?

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total	% of respondents
Adequate funding	31.0	14.0	2.0	2.0	49.0	34.0
Sustainable policies	8.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	15.0	11.0
Adequate and effective targeting of poor	17.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	26.0	18.0
Adequate and effective coordination	12.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	18.0	13.0
Wider consultation with the stakeholders	9.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	15.0	11.0
Stable macroeconomic policies	12.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	19.0	13.0
Total	89.0	31.0	12.0	10.0	142.0	100.0

Source: Answers to questions Nos. 26 and 21 on agency and beneficiary questionnaires.

Adequate funding, effective and adequate targeting of the poor, and stable macroeconomic policies were ranked first, second, and third, respectively, by 49, 26, and 19 respondents, or approximately 34 percent, 18 percent, and 13 percent of the respondents who attempted to address the issues in their earlier responses. Comprehensive stakeholder participation, sustainable policies, and sufficient and efficient coordination were ranked fourth, fifth, and sixth by 18, 15, and 15 respondents, or 12 percent, 11 percent, and 11 percent of the respondents, respectively.

4.3: Hypothesis Testing

The Chi-square (X^2) is a statistical method used in this section to examine the assumptions that were previously developed in chapter one. To ascertain the anticipated frequency, a frequency table is first created.

The following claims are being tested:

Ho: The attempts to reduce poverty in Nigeria have not been successful;

H1: poverty reduction initiatives have reduced poverty in Nigeria;

Table 4.17 shows how well poverty reduction tactics worked in Nigeria.

Response	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total
Strongly agreed	14	2	0	1	17
Agreed	20	5	2	1	28
Strongly disagree	32	9	4	2	47
Disagree	23	15	6	6	50
Total	89	31	12	10	142

Source: Responses to survey questions No. 16 and No. 24 that were delivered to agencies and beneficiaries, respectively.

Of the respondents, 14 and 20 strongly agreed with the statement that Nigeria's efforts to fight poverty had been successful, while 232 and 23 disagreed. Nine and fifteen of their coworkers strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while only two and five respondents from government agencies strongly agreed and agreed. Only two of the International Agencies' respondents agreed, but none strongly agreed. Nonetheless, four and six International

Agencies' respondents disagreed, and they disagreed strongly. Two and six responses from local NGOs strongly objected and disagreed, respectively, while one respondent strongly agreed and concurred.

Overall, 17 people strongly agreed with the aforementioned reasoning, whereas 50 respondents disagreed with it, while 47 respondents definitely disagreed. Of the 97 responders, 45 strongly agreed and agreed with the assertion, whereas not quite half disagreed or strongly disagreed.

With the help of the aforementioned table and analysis, we can estimate the expected frequency.

Note: After multiplying the row total by the cell's column total, we will divide the result by the grand total to determine the expected frequency for each cell. This can be illustrated as follows:

For cell 1 (Strongly Agreed)

$$\text{Beneficiaries} = 17 \times 89/142 = 1513/142 = 10.65$$

$$\text{Govt. Agencies} = 17 \times 31/142 = 527/142 = 3.71$$

$$\text{Inter. Org.} = 17 \times 12/142 = 204/142 = 1.44$$

$$\text{Local NGOs} = 17 \times 10/142 = 170/142 = 1.19$$

For cell 2 (Agreed)

$$\text{Beneficiaries} = 28 \times 89/142 = 2492/142 = 17.55$$

$$\text{Govt. Agencies} = 28 \times 31/142 = 868/142 = 6.11$$

$$\text{Inter. Org.} = 28 \times 12/142 = 336/142 = 2.37$$

$$\text{Local NGOs} = 28 \times 10/142 = 280/142 = 1.97$$

For cell 3 (Strongly disagreed)

$$\text{Beneficiaries} = 47 \times 89/142 = 4183/142 = 29.46$$

$$\text{Govt. Agencies} = 47 \times 31/142 = 1457/142 = 10.26$$

$$\text{Inter. Org.} = 47 \times 12/142 = 564/142 = 3.97$$

$$\text{Local NGOs} = 47 \times 10/142 = 470/142 = 3.31$$

For cell 4 (Disagree)

$$\text{Beneficiaries} = 50 \times 89/142 = 4450/142 = 31.34$$

$$\text{Govt. Agencies} = 50 \times 31/142 = 1550/142 = 10.92$$

$$\text{Inter. Org.} = 50 \times 12/142 = 600/142 = 4.23$$

$$\text{Local NGOs} = 50 \times 10/142 = 500/142 = 3.52$$

Table 4.18: Computed Expected Frequencies

Responses	Beneficiaries	Govt. Agencies	International organization	Local NGOs	Total
Strongly agreed	10.66	3.18	1.43	1.18	17.0
Agreed	17.56	6.12	2.38	1.96	28.0
Strongly disagreed	29.45	10.27	3.98	3.32	50.0
Disagreed	31.33	10.93	4.22	3.53	47.0
Total	89	31	12	10	142.0

Source: Compiled from table 4.2.15 mathematical analysis of returned questions

Table 4.19: Computation of χ^2

Given the chi-square statistical tool formula as follows;

$$\chi^2 = \sum \left(\frac{O-E}{E} \right)^2$$

Therefore, the computation of χ^2 is given as thus;

Organizations	Responses	O	E	O – E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
Beneficiaries	Strongly agreed	14.0	10.60	3.30	11.20	1.00
	Agreed	20.0	17.50	2.40	6.0	0.30
	Strongly disagree.	32.0	29.60	2.50	6.40	0.20
	Disagreed	23.0	31.30	-8.30	69.50	2.20
Govt. Agencies	Strongly agreed	2.0	3.70	-1.70	2.90	0.70
	Agreed	5.0	6.10	-1.10	1.20	0.20
	Strongly disagree.	9.0	10.20	-1.20	1.50	0.10
	Disagreed	15.0	10.90	4.00	16.60	1.50
International organization	Strongly agreed	0.0	1.40	-1.40	2.00	1.40
	Agreed	2.0	2.30	-0.30	0.10	0.60
	Strongly disagree.	4.0	3.90	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Disagreed	6.0	4.20	1.70	3.10	0.70
Local NGOs	Strongly agreed	1.0	1.20	-0.20	0.00	0.00
	Agreed	1.0	1.90	-0.90	0.90	0.40
	Strongly disagree.	2.0	3.30	-1.30	1.70	0.50
	Disagreed	6.0	3.50	2.40	6.10	1.70
Total		142.0		0		12.00

Source: Compiled from calculated chi-square.

Our contingency table has four rows and four columns. The following is calculated in order to find our degree of freedom (df):

Formula for Degree of Freedom is given as;

$$(df) = (R-1) (C-1)$$

Where: R= Row

C= Column

Thus; df = (4-1) (4-1)

$$df = (3) (3)$$

$$df = 9$$

Level of Significance is at 5%

P = 0.05 at the five percent significance level. Verifying the DF of 9 Under 0.05 level of significance it gives you 16.92.

Therefore; 16.92 > 12.07

4.4 Interpretation of Result

The findings imply that when testing hypotheses using the chi-square (X^2) method, the null hypothesis is accepted if the computed X^2 value is less than the X^2 critical value (obtained from statistical tables). This suggests that the null hypothesis cannot be ruled out due to insufficient data. In this instance, we must accept the null hypothesis based on the results of the chi-square test on Nigerian poverty reduction techniques. This implies that Nigeria's attempts to reduce poverty have not been successful in significantly reducing the level of poverty in the nation.

5.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

The research study has experimentally attempted to examine the impact of actions aimed at reducing poverty: an approach to poverty alleviation and economic development in Nigeria by applying the boundary testing (Autoregressive Distributed Lag, ARDL) to long run analysis. The Wald Test F-statistics and bounds test critical values demonstrate a long-term relationship between poverty alleviation as determined by real per capita spending on economic services and real per capita spending on social and community services on poverty alleviation and economic development in Nigeria. The results suggest that when Nigeria's actual gross domestic product increases, so does government spending on poverty alleviation. The explicit decrease of poverty is one of the primary objectives of programs meant to foster economic growth.

The level of poverty declines as a result of rising GDP and greater spending on poverty reduction. This implies that the country's actual gross domestic product will decrease if government spending on reducing poverty decreases. This could lead to an increase in the poverty rate. According to the study, government policies aimed at reducing poverty should adopt a multisectoral

approach, giving each stakeholder a specific role, determining how to identify the intended beneficiaries to guarantee that the benefits reach them directly, establishing a comprehensive plan for sustaining the programs for a predetermined amount of time, and bolstering government programs for poverty alleviation with extensive public education initiatives in rural areas to draw large numbers of participants.

The study suggests that raising educational standards, ensuring simple access to education for the impoverished, and promoting the growth of small enterprises and entrepreneurship should be top priorities for Nigeria's federal, state, and local governments. Various jobs in different places should be accommodated in programs aimed at reducing poverty. For instance, initiatives to alleviate poverty ought to be put into place in arid and riverine areas to motivate residents to engage in farming and maritime activities. To ensure that all government programs aimed at lowering poverty in Nigeria are successful, a comprehensive response to the problem of corruption is required. Any individual, organization, or company found to embezzle, misappropriate, or jeopardize money intended for rural development and poverty programs should face appropriate and severe consequences from the federal, state, and local governments. The government should also disseminate information about its many programs for reducing poverty and make them accessible to the general people.

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