Musa (2026). *AJBSS, 1*(4)
ISSN 3083 1709 (Online)
ISSN 3083 1717 (Print)

Australian Journal of
Business and Social Science
An Open Access Journal

Review of the Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria: A Study of Fourth Republic (1999-2025)

Musa, U. F.
Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Saadu Zungur University, Bauchi State.
umarfmusa@basug.edu.ng

Abstract

Poverty is a global peril affecting the overall development of many developing countries across Asia, Latin America, other African states and the federal republic of Nigeria in particular, hence, measures to address its effects were captured in the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals. Despite all these economic, political, social strategies; out of school children, malnutrition, inadequate access to means of survival among others had rendered most of the reduction programs ineffective. Similarly, the indices of deprived health care services and joblessness were glaring. Consequently, the main objective of this study is to review the strategies adopted by the government in mitigate this social evil. In achieving these, a qualitative research approach was applied and collected data from secondary sources, mainly, journal articles and other internet resources. Content analysis was adopted in the presentation of the results. Findings from the study indicated that in spite of the attainment of uninterrupted democracy in the year 1999 till date, the indicators of multidimensional health care, unemployment, education and living standard in addition to other pointers had pushed families to misery. For instance, cooking fuel, water, floor, sanitation, assets and electricity are scarce especially in the rural areas. Furthermore, these malfunctions of the governance apparatus had manifested into kidnappings, insurgency, banditry, extra-judicial killings, farmers-herder's conflicts, resurgences of separatist movement, tribalism and religious struggles bedeviling the democratic rule. These situations tarnish initiatives, enthusiasms, self-control, ambition, love, discourage friendship, manmade disaster and un-patriotism, it also leads to economic, personal and political insecurity. The results identified good governance, anti-corruption policies, review of the policies and programs and introduction of agribusiness initiatives, food security and employment opportunities. The article recommended individual, community, states and national strategies. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders from Nongovernmental organizations and the organized private sector and attitudinal changes.

Keywords: Poverty Reduction Strategies, Challenges, Fourth Republic, Nigeria.

I. Introduction

Poverty is a global peril affecting humanity at the developed and developing countries, despites the achievement of democratic system of government among the community of nations. The dreams and aspirations of the of the people worldwide became a mirage. The advent of governments by the majority have led to higher expectations for good governance, efficiency, effective public administration especially in the developing countries (Alidu & Musediq, 2017).

Again, the World Poverty Clock estimated that 626 million people are globally living in extreme poverty, 382 million may not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SGD 1) targeting the eradicating poverty by the year 2030. Indices also indicated that many parts of Southeast Asia and Africa states had swift economic growth to poverty reduction through infrastructural development and job opportunities (Yaqub, 2024). However, in India despite the right to vote and be voted for, barriers do exist in the country especially the caste system contradicts equality, freedom of express, speech, association and participation in the governance process. Thus, poverty, corruption, gender discrimination, illiteracy and communalism were observed as some of the barriers to development (Kumbhar, 2025). These indices revealed the appearance of multidimensional poverty in spite of the people-oriented government.

In the African context, substantial numbers of countries suffered from the scourge, with eight African nations coping with most extreme levels of poverty, for instance 61-79% of the people living below poverty line. These countries include South-Sudan (79%), Malawi (73%), Burundi (78%), Madagascar (67%), Eritrea (67%), Mozambique (66%), Central Africa Republic (67%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (61%) (Action Against Hunger, 2023). The distressing aftermath of violent conflicts, food insecurity, high cost of food prices, irregular rainfall, drought and persistent economic challenges are pervasive particularly in Sub-Saharan African countries. These conditions had further impoverished the people already battling with poverty.

Scholars have noted that the return to democracy in the year, 1999 to date had ravaged the federal republic of Nigeria with multidimensional poverty, forcible rape, unemployment, child abuse, prostitution, hawking, broken homes, homelessness, street begging, insecurity of lives and properties, economic stagnation, electoral malpractices, executive lawlessness, poor infrastructure, poor standardized educational system and unfulfilled political promises as well as underdevelopment (Akindele, 2005; Omotola, 2006; Nye, 2009; Alo, 2015). The Nigerian political terrain is equally characterized by intimidation of the electoral officers, thuggery, skyjacking and vandalization of the electoral materials, wrong selection of the candidates and evidence revealed that state governors hijacked local governments and organize incredible elections to pave ways for their loyalists to manage the affairs of local governments as well as mismanagement their federation allocations (Omodi, 2007; Omotola, 2008; Otusanya, 2013).

Accordingly, the National Bureau of Statics portrayed the incidences of poverty in the country commencing from 1980 showing that the poor had 17.9 million people; by 1985 it rose to 34.7 million; in 1992 it also risen to 39.2 million; by 1996 it also increases to 67.1 million. By the year 2004 the figure rose to 68.7 million and in the year 2010 it goes up to 112.47 (Njokua & Sidhub, 2021). The continues alarming increase indicated the malfunction of the poverty reduction strategies. Based on this background this study reviewed of the Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria: A Study of Fourth Republic (1999-2024). Consequently, it is structured into introduction, propositions, methodology, literature review, results, discussion, recommendations, conclusion and references.

A. Propositions

The return to democracy especially the fourth republic (1999-2025) has led to increase poverty rate in Nigeria.

What are the better ways to mitigate the phenomenon of poverty in the Nigerian`s fourth republic?

B. Methodology

This study uses literature collected from secondary sources most journal articles, textbooks and internet resources. The results obtained were interpreted through content analysis. Thus, facilitated the achievement of the stated objectives.

II. Literature Review

This section of the article reviewed the relevant literature on the phenomenon under study. The concept of poverty is multidimensional, non-specific and denotes the insufficiency or absence of basic and fundamental needs. For instance, the World Bank (1999) stated that poverty is hunger, inadequate shelter, inability to attend school, unawareness, poor access to portable drinking water, unsecured future, inadequate freedom and representation in addition powerlessness (Foli & Béland, 2014). These indicate that poverty include denial of medical facilities, uncertainty, low income and illiteracy. Hussaini (2014) specified that poverty is the inability to accomplish political, economic, social and psychological wellbeing. Furthermore, the political aspect of poverty demonstrated weaknesses of power, denial of rights, inadequate decision-making processes and inadequate political participation. Furthermore, the social perspective of poverty entails low self-esteem, isolation, feelings of mediocrity, recognition and weakness (Jerome, 2011). The World Bank (2023) defined poverty through the monetary parameters and viewed that it is the state of living below USD 2.15 a day.

The declaration is based on the principle of purchasing power parity (PPP, 2023). Similarly, multidimensional poverty comprises of dimensions of living standard, education and health care which comprises of ten indicators. Specifically, health dimension includes family`s access to nutrition and child mortality, access to household medical insurance. Again, education dimension includes the key domains of human capital which is linked to productivity (Alkire & Santos, 2010). Poverty is also defined as a situation of insufficiency of infrastructure, health, nutrition, self-esteem, Poverty is also, seen as situation of inadequate infrastructures, nutrition, health, intellectual development, self-esteem and inability to attend economic, political, social, environmental as well as low per capita income (Aliyu & Chukwudi, 2015).

Literature indicated that poverty is category into five types, specifically, firstly, absolute or severity which occurs due to denial or absence of means of livelihood or basic needs such a substantial income to access health care, food, safe drinking water, education, sanitation and information. Secondly, relative poverty means the position of families or individuals compared to the living standard of a country. Thus, it explains the income, disposable and low income. Thirdly, structural/chronic poverty shows that poverty might be constant on long time, it occurs due to the possibility of permanent and longtime due to perpetual reasons such as poor productivity, inadequate skills, lack of vocational skills, wide cultural and socio-political factors. Fourthly, speculative evolution, meaning that poverty is provisional or temporary for a short period due to artificial, natural disasters caused by war, harsh policies that lead to loss of jobs and value of earnings, drought and other environmental factors. Finally, poverty is also set to be due to location, area or geographical setting as those affected areas became prone to environmental dilapidation, inadequate welfare services, low per capita income and denial of social services (Lame & Yusoff, 2015).

Furthermore, Akpomuve (2014), gave five main denials which subjected poverty, and these include: firstly, political denial, caused due to illiteracy which compliments certain conditions of domination, mistreatment and deficit. Thus, people are politically deprived and occupy lower status physically and economically. Physical and personal denial; these deficiencies are manifested in through health challenges, illiteracy, poor nutrition, lack of self-confidence and deficiency of education. Economic denials entail inefficiency of access to properties, income, assets, finance and other factors of production. One of the identified factors which show the manifestation of poverty include insufficiency of access to essential necessities for human survival.

Similarly, social deprivations include hindrance to economic, political and social life while cultural denial comprises of values, knowledge, beliefs, orientation and information. The poor are thus, placed at the disadvantage of political and economic chances (Akpomuvie, 2010). Accordingly, the phenomenon of poverty has direct effects on the economy of many Nigerians in the aspect of inability to participate in decision making, productivity, employment, attainment of school and access to ta good medical services. Ucha, (2010) stated that these factors contributed to increased crimes, child mortality, homelessness and short life expectancy. consequently, the aforementioned denials deserved robust policies especially in the federal republic of Nigeria.

A. Global Poverty Reduction Strategies

The end of the Second World War (WWII) ushered in the rise for the worldwide issue of poverty due to the increasing inequality between nations across the globe. This idea was influenced by many factors such as growing interplay on the economy between countries, thus, the roles of international organizations especially the World Bank (Cole, 1981). Literature has indicated that these organizations were established upon the end of Second World War focuses on national reconstruction, poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth as the central policy mandate, (Sindzingre, 2004). Similarly, the United Nations General Assembly also committed poverty alleviation, inequality and promotion of modernization, these led to the declaration of 1960 and 1990 as period for development decades. In earlier periods, the pre-structural adjustment epoch was featured by minimal involvement by the Bank on poverty reduction. Categorically, there was shift from lending on infrastructural development especially power and transportation to housing, rural development, education and more bold poverty reduction (Sanford, 1988).

Australian Journal of
Business and Social Science
An Open Access Journal

The World Poverty Clock estimated that 626 million people are globally living in extreme poverty, 382 million may not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SGD 1) targeting the eradicating poverty by the year 2030. Indices indicated that many parts of Southeast Asia and Africa had swift economic growth to poverty reduction through infrastructural development and job opportunities (Yaqub, 2024). Categorically, five Asian countries India, Indonesia China, Vietnam and Bangladesh indicated levels of performance on economic growth, income inequality, poverty reduction and labour market (Aivas et al., 2025). This indicated a vigorous economy driven by foreign direct investment, industrialization and growing domestic markets. Reports stated that China and Indonesia achieved significant poverty reduction and better living standards.

Nevertheless, disparity in poverty alleviation rates is explained by social safety net programs, policy effectiveness and the inclusiveness of economic growth (Aivas et al., 2025). However, upon the achievements recorded, different countries have their peculiar challenges which show some elements of poverty for instance, India suffered from deforestation and air pollution. Its Gross Domestic Product GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent fast urbanization, poor air quality, industrialization and environmental degradation are some of the challenges pushing the citizens to poverty (Ismaeel et al., 2019). Others include the practical manifestation of poverty, corruption, gender discrimination, illiteracy and communalism were observed as some of the barriers to development (Kumbhar, 2025).

B. Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa

A large proportion of African`s population (30% as at March 2024) faces the trapped of extreme poverty, with substantial regional differences. For instance, North Africa specifically indicated lower rate (under 3%), whereas Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is battling. The statistics indicated only Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius and Cabo Verde reduced poverty (under 3%) in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, eight African nations are coping with most severe levels of poverty, 61-79% of the people living below poverty line. These nations include South-Sudan (79%), Malawi (73%), Burundi (78%), Madagascar (67%), Eritrea (67%), Mozambique (66%), Central Africa Republic (67%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (61%). The World Poverty Clock show that South Sudan recorded the worst and highest proportion of its population experiencing extreme poverty cases compared with other 53 African countries. As early as 2023, the Food and Agricultural Organization nineteen states exhibited extreme manifestations of armed conflicts with eleven out of them identified as hunger prone (Action Against Hunger, 2023). Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the DR republic of Congo, South Sudan and in the Sub-Sahara Africa hosted extreme hunger which shows that poverty still lingers in the continent. Many factors were identified such as insecurity, high food prices, drought, irregular rainfall and other economic challenges.

C. Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

The government of the federal republic Nigeria had implemented different poverty alleviation programs since the attainment of political independence in the year 1960 for the overall socio-economic development in the aspect of capacity building, employment generation to the underprivileges and graduates to acquire skills to reduce the effects of extreme poverty in the rural and urban areas of the country (Aminu & Onimisi, 2014). Poverty reduction measures were categorized into two period, the pre-Structural Adjustment and Post-SAP era: The Pre-SAP comprises Operation Feed the Nation (OFN); Green Revolution; Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE); Federal Low-Cost Housing Scheme, River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA); National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA); Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme and Strategic Grains Reserve Program; Rural Electrification Scheme (RES); Agricultural Development Program, Rural Banking Program (RBP) (Hussaini, 2014a).

The severe economic crisis experienced in Nigeria the 1980s has affected the lives of many Nigerians (Sulaiman, Migiro, & Aluko, 2014). The efforts to cushion these effects led to the implementation of Structural Adjustment Program; consequently, SAP also worsen the economic conditions of the people, specifically the poor who are vulnerable as per head income, retrenchment of workers, poor educational system, inflation, industrial strike action contributed in making the country sorrowful (Boboye & Ojo, 2012). Other effects include many Nigerians could not afford to basic needs, high unemployment due to withdrawal of subsidies, incompetent political leadership, demonstration, corruption and strong opposition by the interest groups were witnessed (Nwagbara, 2011).

The second category of the poverty alleviation programs was the post-SAP; these programs were implementation to cushion the implementation of SAP, these include the National Directorate of Employment (NDE); Community Banks Program (CBP); National Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI); People`s Bank of Nigeria (PBN); Better Life Program (BLP); Family Support Program (FSP) and Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP) were executed. Contrarily, most of these programs failed to achieve their objectives as results of political and policy instability, lack of transparency and accountability, weak mechanisms of sustainability, inadequate coordination, policy mechanism failure and budgetary management (Arogundade, Adebisi, & Ogunro, 2011; Hussaini, 2014a).

In the year 1999, on the return to democracy the government of the federal republic of Nigeria discovered that about 70 % of Nigerians are living in abject poverty, Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) was launched in order to provide jobs to 200,000 people, despite this attempt, poverty remained high across states in the country (Ogwumike, 2002). Similarly, a National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) was launched for the purposes of the coordination of all poverty alleviation programs from the National level to the local levels in the country. For effective functioning, NAPEP was structured into four schemes: I. Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES); Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS) and IV. Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). In achieving the stated objectives of the program, a sum of N, 6,000,000:00 naira were appropriated during the year 2001 budget. The government intended to eradicate poverty.

The major disparity between NAPEP and other prior programs is that it was established to coordinate with other related ministries, agencies and parastatals nationwide with all these efforts poverty level remained unchanged as many Nigerians did not benefit from its impact. Afterward, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS) was launched to be implemented through four main stages: Transforming government agencies to fight corruption, ensure transparency, rule of law and enforcement on contracts. It was also established to promote private sector participation as apparatus for wealth and job creation. NEEDS gave emphasis to social welfare on employment, health care, education, security, participation, poverty reduction, youth empowerment and strategic value orientation. The program was implemented with national outlook across the 36 states and all the 774 local governments in the country.

Thus, the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) and the Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (LEEDS). The implementation necessitated collaboration and coordination between the federal, states, non-governmental organizations, private sector, civil society organizations, donor agencies and other relevant stakeholders. NEEDS is described as the Nigerian`s model of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, lack of proper implementation weakens the activities of the program, and it took a medium-term program (Ojo, 2014). In the alternative, the Seven Points Agenda was initiated to enable the federal government of Nigeria to tackle the predicaments of food insecurity, energy and power, education, wealth creation, the transportation, land reforms and security in the Niger-Delta. Despite the massive resources committed for the implementation of the program, the policy was characterized by policy inconsistency, politicization by the stakeholders and poor funding to the targeted beneficiaries, these policies failed to achieve its goals (Aliyu & Chukwudi, 2015). Furthermore, the politicization of the programs, political instability, regime oriented, corruption and duplication of agencies were identified as the challenges to poverty reduction in the federal republic of Nigeria (Jacob & Onwughalu, 2015).

D. Empirical Review

This section of the study reviewed previous studies on poverty reduction in various democratic systems across the globe for instance Adamu, (2020) conducted research on the poverty and democratic consolidation in Nigeria: Issues, challenges and the way forward using secondary and collected data from articles, books, magazines and newspapers. The results from the study indicated that the failure of the previous governments in the country to harness the abundance of human and materials to improve the living standard of the people led to severe, hunger and starvation. The study suggested good governance, proper use of resources, improvement of critical infrastructure, provision of social amenities, ensure periodic free and fair elections. The promotion of transparency and accountability to reduce poverty. However, the study is weakened by poor presentation of the results, thus, future study should articulate the findings to address the problem under study.

Kumbhar (2025) carries out a study on the Challenges to Indian Democracy: Analyzing Through the Lens of Human Security using secondary collected from published documents and presented the results that the country`s democracy despite being the larges across the globe. It faces the challenges of economic and social inequalities, unemployment, poverty illiteracy, human insecurity, communalism, multiculturalism, regionalism, population explosion, castes, corruption and terrorism which makes the democratic system faulty. The article also faces the weaknesses of methodological, thus, makes it lack other robustness of an article.

Nwachukwu, (2023) studied Democracy and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic, 1999-2023 using qualitative research approach using secondary data, collected from textbooks, journals and other internet resources. Findings from the study revealed that major hindrance to the poverty reduction in the country comprises of ineffective coordination, corruption, and lack of local government. Other factors include fragmented approach leading to waste, financial misappropriation and diversion of the funds. The article recommended integrated approaches, capacity building, transparency and effective targeting the beneficiaries. The study also faces the defies of methodology and its components, thus, the article lacks merits in the process of data collection and analysis.

E. Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the theory of resilience in explain the Nigerians strategies to overcome poverty, it elaborates the ability to cope and adjust with a distress associated it especially from the return to uninterrupted democracy, the fourth republic. The theory stated that building resilience entails assisting people, communities and states as well as global institutions to prevent, cope, anticipate and recover from adversities and shocks in addition to bounce back to its earlier stage before the shocks happen. (Béné, et al, 2012). Resilience theory is applicable to risk and recognizes communal ability to withstand a natural calamity; ensuring individual resistance to adversities, trauma and dangers; management of ecosystem and environmental management, creating institutions that can overcome individual challenges, uncertainty and change. The theory is used by researchers and practitioners to establish processes that can address complex perils affecting communities, systems and people with shocks and adopt to it.

A resilient direction addresses human capital formation especially school, nutrition and health care as means of building sustainable and creating virtuous circle for development. Furthermore, Béné and colleagues (2012) stated that resilience theory has three dimensions adaptive, absorptive and transformative capacity. Adaptive capacity means coping skills used by households and communities to adjust or moderate to shocks and continue with the new conditions of life. Adaptation is usually used in the event of climatic change and adjustment to the effects of stress and transformation capacity means the ability to create a new system; in connecting the theory to the study, national level programs and policies established by the government became precondition for household coping. Again, the development of individual resilience to man-made disasters for instance Civilian-Joint Task Force in Borno state could be seen a process of building resilience to insurgency. Other Individual, states and national programs such as Social Security, Trader Moni, Market Moni and Conditional Cash Transfers were some of the coping strategies adopted in the country.

Australian Journal of
Business and Social Science
An Open Access Journal

III. Results

The study discovered that poverty especially in the federal republic of Nigeria are propelled by firstly, the indicators of multidimensional of health care, unemployment, education and living standard in addition to other pointers had push families to misery. For instance, cook fuel, water, floor, sanitation, assets and electricity are scarce, especially in the rural areas. These rural areas have inadequate access to means of supporting the development of these parts of the country. Literature revealed further that poor infrastructure, increased population, threats of pollutions, the water corporations across the country, totaling 37 and the twelve river Basin Development Authorities provided low capacity of water for the consumption of the people in different states (Yakubu, Anigbogu & Daniel, 2016). Other manifestation of multidimensional poverty includes poor equipment and electricity to pump water (Merem el al, 2017). Similarly, unemployment, especially among the youths, challenges of health and inadequate access to basic medical facilities. Khan and Cheri (2016) stated that 80 percent of parents in some northern states of Katsina, Bauchi, Kebbi, Gombe, Sokoto and Jigawa make nearly impossible for parents to enroll and maintained their children in schools.

The results also revealed the malfunctions of the governance apparatus leading to kidnappings, insurgency, banditry, extra-judicial killings, farmers-herder's conflicts, resurgences of separatist movement, tribalism and religious struggles bedeviling the democratic rule. Studies indicated that human rights violations, acute food shortage, environmental degradation, lack of access, decaying infrastructure, unemployment and political marginalization (Ginwala, 2002) were rampant. Furthermore, climate change, inadequate infrastructure, acute shortage of water, armed robbery, communal conflict, poor governance and religious conflicts (Lawal and Mbiba 2020) all contributed to the manifestation of poverty especially during the fourth republic. Similarly, the period under discussion faces the challenges of inadequate payment of pension and gratuity to the retired civil servants who had served the government in various capacities but the failure of the state to pay them had resulted public demonstration, violent and other forms of criminal behavior thus, worsen the poverty situation the country (Hassan & Casmir, 2015). Supporting these Ogunode, et al, (2021) affirmed that the activities of militants in Niger Delta, farmers-herder's conflicts, ethnic conflicts, religious misfortune and kidnappings had contributed to the increase poverty in the country.

On insurgency, the report of the ways to Recover the Northeast Nigeria in collaborate with WB, the United Nations and FGN stated that on the property valued at US$9 billion were destroyed as results of the insurgency (Vanguard, 2016a). Other socio-economic, psychological, political, human insecurity and environmental consequences were evident in the northeast, Nigeria.

The results identified good governance, anti-corruption policies, review of the policies and programs and introduction of agribusiness initiatives, food security and employment opportunities as the strategies to reduce poverty in the country. Literature further stated that governance is the way of organizing and mobilizing resources both human and material resources to realize common goal (Odeh, 2015). Thus, one of the crucial ways to mitigate poverty in the contemporary period in the country is the principles of civil participation, accountability, transparency (Akhakpe, 2014). Food security and employment opportunities. Food security entails that everybody access food stuff at all the times and possess the financial capability to obtain it, it means that food with enough dietary and nutritious requirements are obtainable and accessible to individuals for offer them the opportunity to carry out their daily lives (Lawal and Mbiba 2020). Therefore, food security in the dimensions of availability, accessibility, stability and consumption are integral strategies for poverty reduction.

IV. Discussion

In discussing the findings, a recap of the first proposition stated that the return to democracy especially the fourth republic (1999-2025) has led to increase poverty rate in Nigeria. The results showed that Multidimensional Poverty Indicators of health care, unemployment, education and living standard in addition to other pointers had pushed families to misery. For instance, cook fuel, water, floor, sanitation, assets and electricity are scarce, especially in the rural areas. These rural areas have inadequate access to means of supporting the development of these parts of the country. Previous studies supported these results, recently, due to the outburst in the people identified as poor and the occurrence of hunger, low living standard, poor nutrition, deprivation, poor electricity, illiteracy, inadequate access to portal drinking water especially in rural areas and health care system had signaled manifestation of poverty. The country also witnessed other indices such as electoral violence, terrorism, crimes, and insurgency in the northeast. Similarly, increase in unemployment, cybercrimes, illiteracy and maternal mortality had shown the upsurge of poverty in different dimensions (Shola, 2023).

In a study conducted with 395 respondents in Lagos, Nigeria, Akinyetun et al, (2021) discovered that multidimensional poverty is glaring among the youth between ages 25-34 years due to limited access to education and unemployment. It further revealed that inadequate access to health care services, water, housing facilities and electricity push these people to improvements as well as a number of the houses in rural are dilapidated and poorly constructed. Furthermore, the devastating mayhem on the people by insurgents especially in the northeast through destruction of critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and telecommunications masts leading to increased poverty and unemployment in the region (Abdullahi, et al, 2024). These divest manifestation has portrayed the levels and narratives on poverty in the Nigerian`s fourth republic.

The second proposition stated that what are the better ways to mitigate the phenomenon of poverty in the Nigerian`s fourth republic? In answering this assumption, the results identified good governance, previous study opined that participatory activities in which all the relevant stakeholders contribute to poverty reduction. The capability of mobilizing resources for the general benefit of the people. Promoting gender balance and equity, transparency, equality, rule of law, efficient and effective use of resources and promote service oriented (Omolumen, 2014). Others include popular sovereignty, efficient legal framework, popular participation in the process of decision making based on social and political pluralism. Election of credible and qualified candidates into various positions from the national to the state and local governments will go along way in establish policies that will better the lives of the poor.

Another strategy identified by the results is the anticorruption on political, bureaucratic and electoral corruption should addressed while the political corruption leads to harmful policies such as budget padding with consume much of the national resources into the pockets of individuals rather than the masses and bureaucratic corruption delay in the implementation of good and people-oriented policies especially disbursement and payments to the poor. These could ensure smooth operation in schools, ministries, hospitals, agencies and departments of the government (Odeh, 2015). Furthermore, anti-corruption approach to elections includes waging war against electoral violence, ballot snatching, godfatherism, election of incompetent public officials into public offices leading to poor provisions of dividend of democracy (Dike, 2005). In reviewing the policies and programs on poverty reduction, studies have revealed that agribusiness policies especially land cultivation, livestock, poultry, fisheries, had accelerated food security, Gross Domestic Product as well as poverty reduction in United states, China, Brazil, Canada, Germany, and Holland among other states (Musa & Musa, 2019). Literature suggested that poverty is multidimensional funding and increase budget provision on education, health care, education and provision of more employment opportunities as well as improvement of the welfare of the workers were opined (Musa, et al, 2018). Prior studies in Asia attested that infrastructure especially water, housing, electricity, water, energy, sanitation had contributed to the educational pursuance health care system, and the overall socioeconomic development thereby facilitated poverty reduction (Ali & Pernia, 2003). Therefore, poverty reduction in the Nigerians fourth republic required all hand on deck to achieve good results, the study put forward the following suggestions to policy makers.

V. Recommendations

The study recommended for individual, community, states and national strategies as poverty has been a phenomenon bedeviling the development of Nigerian state. Individual approach includes personal initiative, community efforts on training and cooperation to minimize its effects on the affected areas while states as well as the federal government should improv budgetary provision in addition employment opportunities via multi-sectoral approaches. Secondly, diversification across various sectors of the economy such as Information and Communication Technology, manufacturing, agriculture, water resources, solar resources and vocational educational Thirdly, the involvement of all relevant stakeholders from Nongovernmental organizations and the organized private sector to provide employment opportunities and attitudinal changes by individuals through personal innovations, creativity and initiatives. Fourthly, a synergy of policy initiation, coordination and implementation between the three levels of government in the country. Finally, the election of credible candidates and suitable leaders in the country, people with integrity into public offices who will manage the public funds and offer transparent, responsive and responsible leadership in the country will eradicated the challenges of insecurity and other socioeconomic challenges.

VI. Conclusion

Literature indicated that despite the various poverty alleviation and reduction measures implemented in the country a combination of challenges still affects Nigerians especially, inequality, insecurity among others. The country is still home to world largest population living in extreme poverty with 40 percent living below the standard poverty line. In achieving the stated objectives of this study two propositions were offered and the results from the literature gave some suggested for instance malfunctions of the governance apparatus leading to kidnappings, insurgency, banditry, extra-judicial killings, farmers-herder's conflicts, resurgences of separatist movement, tribalism and religious struggles bedeviling the democratic rule and the strategies of good governance, anti-corruption policies, review of the policies and programs and introduction of agribusiness initiatives, food security and employment opportunities as the strategies to reduce poverty in the country. Future research should study Social Investment Program in Nigeria.

References

Abdullahi, Y. M, Abdulkadir, M., Isyaku, A. D (2024). Boko Haram Insurgency and Socio-Economic Impact on Host Communities in Adamawa and Borno States, Nigeria. *Journal of Asian Geography*, 2024,3 (1), 36-43. https://doi.org/10.36777/jag2024.3.1.5.

Action Against Hunger. No matter who's fighting, hunger always wins: How violent actions drive food insecurity, 2023b. 1-19. Accessed on 3 June 2024.

Adamu, A (2020). Poverty and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward. *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy*, 10, 25-32.

Aivas, S.A., Fatah, N.A., Bayz, H.A., Karem, L.E., Salih, H.H. and Hussein, K.Q.Y., (2025). Critically Discuss Epistemological Issues by Examining the Claim to 'Truth'.

Akindele, S.T. (2005) A Critical Analysis of Corruption and Its Problems in Nigeria. *Anthropologist* 7(1): 7 -18.

Akinyetun TS, Alausa JA, Odeyemi DD, Ahoton AS (2021) Assessment of the prevalence of multidimensional poverty in Nigeria: Evidence from Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos State. *Journal of Social Change* 13(2):24–44.

Ali, I., & Pernia, E. M. (2003). Infrastructure and Poverty Reduction-What is the Connection? Policy Brief Series Economics and Research Department, 13.

Alidu, K. O and Musediq, L. (2017). Poverty and Democratization Process in Nigeria: Lesson from the Fourth Republic. *Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 335-347.

Alkire, S., Kanagaratnam, U., and Suppa, N. (2024). 'The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2024 disaggregation results and methodological note', OPHI MPI Methodological Note 59, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.

Aminu, Isa, & Onimisi, Timothy. (2014). Policy Implementation and The Challenges of Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies,* 3(4), 295.

Arogundade, KK, Adebisi, SO, & Ogunro, VO. (2011). Poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria: A call for policy harmonisation. *European Journal of Globalization and Development Research*, 1(1), 42-52.

Béné, C., R. Wood, A. Newsham, and M. Davies (2012). Resilience: New Utopia or New Tyranny? Reflection about the Potentials and Limits of the Concept of Resilience in Relation to Vulnerability Reduction Programmes. Centre for Social Protection Working Paper 6. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

Boboye, Lawrence, & Ojo, Michael. (2012). Effect of external debt on economic growth and development of Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 3 (12).

Cole, J. P. (1981). The development gap: A spatial analysis of world poverty and inequality. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Dike, V. (2008). Corruption in Nigeria: A new paradigm for effective control. African Economic Analysis. FAO and WFP. Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, June 2023 to November 2023 outlook. Rome, 2023a. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6206en

Ginwala, F. (2002) 'Parliaments Uniting for African Unity Conference'. A Paper Presentation at a Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

Hassan, I. A, Casmir, O. C. (2015). Political Democracy, Managing Poverty and Development in Nigeria. *International Letters of Social and Humanistic Sciences*, 55, 24-34. https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/ publications/no matter-whos-fighting-hunger-always-wins/

Hussaini, Mustapha. (2014a). Poverty Alleviation Programs in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges. *International Journal of Development Research*, 4, (3), 717-720.

Ibeanu, O., & Orji, N. (2020). Poverty, insecurity, and sustainable development in Nigeria. African Studies Review, 63(2), 214-234. Office of the National Security Adviser. (2019). National Security Strategy 2019. Federal Government of Nigeria.

Ismaeel, K.S., Hamafarj, K.H., Harun, R. and Muresan, I., 2019. Productivity Gains from Training: The Views of Beekeepers in Sulaimani City. ProEnvironment Promediu, 12 (39).

Kumbhar, S (2025). Challenges to Indian Democracy: Analyzing Through the Lens of Human Security, *International Journal on Science and Technology*, 16 (1), 1-7.

Lawal, L.A. and Mbiba, B. (2020) Human Security in the Northeast Nigeria: Some Conceptual Reflection. In International Conference on Engineering, Applied Sciences and System Modeling (pp. 397-409). Springer, Cham.

Musa, U. F & Musa, U. A (2019). Strategies for the Exploration of Agribusiness Policies and Initiation for Poverty Reduction in Nigeria Finance, Accounting and Business Analysis, 1 (1), 78-90.

Musa, U. F, Abdullah, M. A. I & Wahid, R. (2018). Exploring the Causes of Multidimensional Poverty Indicators in Bauchi State and its Mitigation Strategies. International Journal of Advanced Studies in Social Science & Innovation, 2 (1), 126-143.

Njokua, E.C and Sidhub, J.S (2021). Beyond religious fundamentalism: Multidimensional Poverty and Boko Haram's Appeal among Northern Nigerian Youths. *Malaysian Journal of International Relations*, *9,* 68-87.

Nwachukwu, N. F (2023). Democracy and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, 1999-2023, Interdisciplinary Journal of African & Asian Studies, 11 (2), 1-5.

Nwagbara, Eucharia Nwabugo. (2011). The Story of Structural Adjustment Programme in Nigeria from the Perspective of the Organized Labour. *Australian Journal of Business and Management Research,* 1(7), 30.

Nye, J.S. (2009) Corruption and Political Development: A Cost–Benefits Analysis. Political Corruption: A HandBook, 61: 281.

Odeh, M. A. (2015). The effects of corruption on good governance in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability, 4 (3), 292-307.*

Ogunode N. J., Okwelogu, I. S, Elechukwu J. E. & Yahaya (2021) Academic Staff of Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria and the Problem of Insecurity. *Middle European Scientific Bulletin*, (17) 206-217.

Omodi, S.M. (2007) Poverty Alienation and Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria. A Case Study of Keffi Town in Keffi local Government Area of Nassarawa State, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Abuja.

Omolumen, D. E (2014). Accountability and Good Governance at the Grassroots Level in Nigeria: Option for Rural Poverty Alleviation. *Global journal of human-social science, 14 (5), 56-64.*

Omotola, J.S. (2006) "Through a Glass Darky: Assessing the 'New War Against Corruption in Nigeria. *African Insight*, 36(3-4): 214 -229.

Otusanya, O.J. (2013). A Socio-Political Economic and Historical Analysis of Corruption in Nigeria: 1960–2007. *International Journal of Critical Accounting*, 5(4): 415-449.

Peters, B. G. (2001). *The future of governing.* University Press of Kansas, Lawrence

Sanford, J. E. (1988). "The World Bank and poverty: The plight of the world's impoverished is still a major concern of the international agency." *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 47(3), 257 275.

Shola, T. A (2023). Multidimensional Poverty in Nigeria, In Global Encyclopedia of public Administration, public policy and governance. Cham Springer Publishers.

Sindzingre, A. (2004). "The evolution of the concept of poverty in multilateral financial institutions: The case of the World Bank." In M. Bøas & D. McNeil (Eds.), Globlising institutions and development: Framing the world? (pp. 164–177). New York: Routledge.

Stoker G (1998) Governance as theory: five propositions. *International Journal of Social Science*, *50*(155), 17–28,

Sulaiman, LA, Migiro, SO, & Aluko, OA. (2014). The structural adjustment programme in developing economies: pain or gain? Evidence from Nigeria. *Public and Municipal finance*, 3 (2).

UNICEF. (2021). Nigeria education sector analysis. United Nations Children's Fund. World Bank. (2022). Poverty and equity brief: Nigeria. The World Bank Group.

Vanguard, 2016a. Boko Haram insurgency cost North-East $9bn – report. Vanguard Newspaper. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/04/626605/ (Accessed 13 July 2024).

World Bank (2023). Global poverty revised estimates. World Bank Blog, Washington, DC.

World Data Lab. People in the world living in extreme poverty, 2024. Accessed on 5 March 2024. https://worldpoverty.io/

Yaqub, K.Q., (2025). Analysis of Nominal and Real Exchange Rates in the Iraqi Economy (1970-2013). British Journal of Interdisciplinary Research, 2(3), 17-41.