THE EFFECT OF PERSISTENCE POVERTY ON SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The Cross River State of Nigeria came into limelight with the discovery of her inherent potentials of tourists' attractions in the area. Given that the State accounts for so much cultural heritage in Africa and in the world, the Cross River State have been one of the backbones of Nigeria's economy since the end of the Nigerian Civil War. However, despite the significant economic contributions of the state to Nigeria, its residents continue to live in poverty and lack basic amenities. To get justice for what they claim is government negligence. This paper identifies poverty as having a detrimental effect on community development initiatives. It suggests refocusing government policies on involving locals in community development initiatives and changing the derivative formula to benefit Cross River State people.

Introduction

The Abi, Akamkpa, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Bekwarra, Biase, Boki, Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Etung, Ikom, Obanliku, Obubura, Obudu, Odukpani, Ogoja Yakurr and Yala Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria make up the State. It is a region of wetlands covering about *53,590 km*^{2} (20,690 sq mi), with a total population of more than 3 million people who speak different languages and come from different cultural backgrounds but who have been unfairly labeled as minorities by the so-called major ethnic groups of Nigeria. Regarding natural resources, the area is among the richest in the world.

In Cross River State, we have tourist sites such as Agbokim Waterfalls, Slave History Museum, Obudu Cattle Ranch, Tinapa Resort, Drill Ranch, Cross River National Park, and Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. There are other tourists' attraction sites in the rural communities within Cross River State that have not been sufficiently discovered and developed (Akpo, 2021). Despite these enormous potentials in the area which contributes meaningfully to Nigeria's wealth and popularity, the residents continue to live in abject poverty and underdevelopment which cause the inhabitants to bounce on forest resources thereby resulting to environmental degradation and health risks. That the recovery strategies for Nigeria's federating units following the civil war were haphazard in terms of the supply of infrastructure facilities and development projects, going against the principles of a true federation as recognized by the

international community. Nigeria's development was more evenly distributed in certain areas than in others, with Cross River State always suffering the most.

Poverty as ahe basis of violence between communities in Cross River State

According to Inyang (2001), poverty refers to a universally unfavourable human condition that describes various levels of human deprivation in society. Even though there isn't a single, widely accepted measure of poverty, some people use numbers to describe it. Others view it in qualitative terms, i.e., in terms of the incapacity of some members of society to reach a set economic, cultural, social, or other level, rather than quantitatively, i.e., in terms of daily calorie consumption or a specific level of income. It has been noticed that the qualitative and quantitative definitions of poverty lack accuracy, and as a result some researchers have examined it in absolute and relative terms. According to Adi (2020), absolute poverty is human deprivation in its severest and most blatant manifestations and refers to a lack of or insufficient supply of the needs of life, including food, clean drinking water, housing, clothing, and healthcare. Absolute poverty causes people to live short lives, suffer from chronic illness and malnutrition, live in squalor, wear rudimentary clothing, and have no access to healthcare or educational opportunities.

On the other hand, relative poverty, as defined by Ekong (2003), relates to suffering brought on by achieving results that are less desirable than those of pertinent others. While "zero sum poverty" refers to hardship brought on by abuse, usurpation, tyranny, exploitation, and favoritism by powerful others. In Nigeria, rural poverty, particularly in Cross River State sometimes combines all the aforementioned forms. It has been noted that the seizure of oil wells from Cross River State has brought about more than absolute poverty and impoverishment in the area. The blatant lackadaisical attitude of the government officials towards the development of the state has therein become the common denominator of the poor in this area. The attempts by some communities in the state to seek intervention for alleged neglect by the government has failed over time and this has resulted to communal clashes of various degrees accompanied by considerable agitation, tension, and bloodshed.

Marx has noted that tension and violence have been a constant feature of human civilization throughout its existence. The inconsistencies ingrained in society that cause stress and, ultimately, lead to open violence and drastic transformation are what cause social change, not a smooth, orderly process that gradually unfolds in peaceful growth (Akande, 2018). The idea that there exist social groupings with disparate interests is a recurring theme in violence perspective. Social structures will therefore typically favour some groups at the expense of others. Violence between various groups with divergent interests is likely to occur, contributing to some level of social unrest. One may argue that this forms the crux of the strife and violence in the state. Some individuals try to launch community development programs, but these initiatives never materialized because they were purposefully denied operating funds, which is at the root of the grievances of the oil non- producing state. Despite the enormous contribution

that the people of this state have made to the economy of Nigeria, the government has only provided palliative measures to address this injustice and exploitation. Poverty according to many scholars is a satanic word that has different perceptions. To some it is hard to come to a specific definition of poverty.

Haiman as cited in Kure (2002) viewed poverty as the inability to satisfy basic needs required for a decent living, more often those who are considered poor are those whose resources are inadequate to meet the necessities of life. Poverty has a vicious circle and breaking away from it is very complex. This is based on the facts that poor families have high probability of staying poor. They have low income, they carry with them high risk of sickness, limited access to education, information and better xxii health care. Hence the cruel legacy of poverty is passed on from parents to children and from generation to generation. Haiman is cited in Kure (2002), viewed poverty as the inability to satisfy basic needs required for a decent living more often, those who are considered poor are those whose resources are inadequate to meet the necessities of life. According to him poverty has a vacious cycle and breaking away from it is very complex. This is because poor families have high probabilities staying poor. They have low-income levels, they carry with them high risk of likeness, limited access to education, limitations of mobility, information, and training indeed, poor parents cannot give their opportunities to have access to good health and education which are required to improve their lots and that of their children in the future. Hence the cruel legacy of poverty is passed on from parents to children and from generation to generation. The poor are often illiterate with poor health and have a short span of life.

According to Obason (1997) poverty is a subset of the general condition of deprivation whose dimensions include social inferior, isolation and physical weakness, vulnerability, sustainability and powerlessness and humiliation. Similarly, Oscar as cited in Obadan (1997) observed that social and physical characteristics at the poor include living in crowded slums and xxiii quarters. Lack of privacy, high incidence of alcoholism frequent into sex and prostitutions, relatively high incidence of the abandonment of mothers and children. The above expression demonstrates the features of a poverty stricken economy like Nigeria for instance, in most slums area, where the urban poor like, it is common sight to see a whole family squatting and squeezing in a room for accommodation amidst dangers it posses to their health in vulnerable for the people and that all sorts of social vices and their health in some cases, the environment is so odd that living conditions becomes more prostitution, wife beating, rape, robbery, child abuse and all sorts of things human degradation are a way of live on the city ghetto.

Association with the above is the release of second-hand clothing, shoes and bedding etc. with all its associated health hazards. This is simply because the poor can hardly afford new ones, even if they are cheap. I Mc Namara (1978) conceive poverty as a condition of life

characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease squalid surrounding, high infant mortality, and low life expectance as to beneath human definition of reasonable decency.
Akel et al as cited in Kure (2002), affirmed poverty condition as dehumanizing since it deprives individuals the right to exercise the explanation of their full potential. In another ways, Akumandewa (1997) perceived poverty as a multifaceted deprivation characterized by lack of purchasing power, exposure to risk insufficient access and economic service and limited opportunities to income generation. This is an indication that in spite of the absence of a universally applicable and qualitatively sophisticated interpretation of poverty, the poor in any given society usually stands out prominent in terms of their economic activities, cultural affiliations, social status and other psychological conditions. Akere Dolu (1975) states that since poverty affects many aspects of human condition, the various criteria used for conventionalizing poerty appear elusive. In this world Anyawu (1974:94) conventionalized poverty to include: -

Poverty as a consequence of deficit goods and services based on the absolutes or conventional economic approaches. This concept is measured by consumer-oriented indices which became achievable, consumption levels food supply, medicine, and basic needs. Poverty as a consequence of deprivation and lack of rights. This is based on relative deprivation capacity and entitlement approaches based on indices such as income from wage labour and income from sold assets. Poverty results from sufficient capacity. This is based on capability approach and is measured by indices of market for goods as well as freedom capability; this is based on capability of transferring resources.
Poverty as a consequence of social and economic exclusion mechanism is based on the paradox of solidarity specialization and monopolization measured by indices of participation, social, economic and polices participation, however results in argument that poverty should have both qualitative and quantitative dimensions and should include social economic, and political dimension.

The above criteria for determining poverty could be summarized into three broad measures which are common to all societies. The measures are both qualitative and quantitative dimensions and should include social, economic, and political dimensions. The criteria given by Okunmadewa (1997) are classified under the following:

Absolute measures which consider measures of resources endowment that guarantee minimum basket of essential goods and services.

Relative measures which take into account the population distribution within defined levels of income of the population. Subjective measure which considered human welfare indicators as defined by selected individual or combination of social welfare parameters including levels of consumption, health availability and portable drinking water.

Dike (1997) define poverty as inability of an individual or population to meet the basic needs of food, education, housing, health security, liberty, individual right to property and access to employment and credit needs. It is generally agreed that the process of growth and development is related to the persistence of mass poverty in large parts of the globe despite tremendous expansion of the forces of production, poverty is as a result of the mobility of a nation to optimize the use of natural human and materials. Maxwell (1999) gave a list of the terms with which poverty has been described. These include income or consumption poverty, human (under) development, social exclusion, ill being, (lack of) capacity and functioning, vulnerability, livelihood unsustainability, lack of basic need and relative deprivation.
According to Nguyet (2003), poverty refers to the state of a part of population that is not provided with the basic human needs that is in accordance with the socio-economic development level and local habits of the nation. Undp (1999) views poverty as the state of being deprived of those opportunities and choice that are essential to human development for a long, healthy, creative life; for a reasonable standard of living: for freedom, dignity, self-respect, and respect for others. The World Bank defines poverty according to accessible resources, this is to say, according to monetary income. The poor are, then, those who fall short of certain income threshold and for a certain amount of expenditure for consumption.

Kapheth (2003) vies households as those whose resources are sufficient to provide basic nourishment, shelter, and quality of life which are considered as conventional or "normal" in that society. This idea of relative deprivation represents an attempt to conceive poverty in sociological terms rather than in the economic framework adopted by most governments and by many early academic studies of the phenomenon. According to Sen (1985), people who lack the capacity to function in society might have lower wellbeing or be more vulnerable to income and weather shocks. Thus, poverty means lack of command over commodities in general (i.e., a severe constriction of the choice set) or a specific type of consumption. (i.e., too little food energy intake) deemed essential to constitute a reasonable standard of living in a society, or lack of "ability" to function in a society.

Poverty is associated with insufficient outcomes with respect to health, nutrition, and literacy, leading to deficient social relations, to insecurity, and to low self-confidence and powerlessness. According to World Bank (2002), "poverty" is pronounced deprivation in well-being. Where well-being can be measured by an individual's possession of income, health, nutrition, education, assets, housing, and certain rights in a society, such as freedom of speech. Also, poverty is lack of opportunities, powerlessness, and vulnerability defined as the probability or risk today of being in poverty or falling deeper into poverty in the future and is a key dimension of well-being since it affects individual's behavior (in terms of investment, production patterns, coping strategies, and the perception of own situation. Olaitan et al (2002) defined poverty as the scarcity of basic human needs for existence. He further opined that individual poverty is one of the results from individual misfortunes or inability to obtain the necessities of life like essential clothing, three square meals a day, a habitable house and means

of transportation either by land, sea, or air, while a community, group or nation that could not provide basic needs for its members is poor.

Poor individuals live in traditional sub-standard houses made up of mud or clay, thatches or straw material without health facilities and their environment is usually filled with human waste especially in the rural areas and disadvantaged outskirts of urban settlements called ghettos (Olaitan, 2002). It is a situation where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his/her basic need of food, clothing and settler, social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment and infrastructure such as education, health, portable water, and sanitation and consequently has limited chances of advancing his welfare to the limit of his capabilities. Trager (2002) categorized the following as poor especially with the Nigeria context:

i. Households or individuals below the poverty line and whose incomes are sufficient to provide for their basic needs:
ii. Households or individuals lacking access to basic services and other forms of support.
iii. People in isolated rural areas lack essential infrastructure.
iv. Female-headed household.
v. Persons who have lost their jobs and those who are unable to fine employment as a result of economic reform under the structural adjustment programmes (SAP) and those who are in danger of becoming the new poor as a result of unemployment especially in urban centres.

Poverty is a word that is used in at least three different ways. Each poses questions, which every society should be prepared to answer. The first usage poses question about hardships, misery and destitution, conditions which are still occasionally found, among lowly-paid workers as well as people out of work. The second usage poses question about the income, wealth, and real living standards to different kinds of people: the answer will not provide a scientific measure of subsistence poverty, for that cannot be clearly defined, but they will show whose living standards are the lowest and may suggest the reasons for this pattern.

The third usage poses questions about inequality, exclusion, discrimination, injustice and relative poverty. If this third concept of poverty is to have any practical cutting edge, it calls for nothing less than a new morality (Dennison, 1982). These authors view poverty as a standard of living so low that it excludes people from the community in which they live. Poverty according to Ani (1997) in Adegbite and Akintola is a condition of life characterized by malnutrition diseases, illiteracy, and low life expectation of human decency. It is a state of want deprivation, low-esteem and lack of actualization for self-development.

When defined by standard measure of income and expenditure of households, poverty is the inability of any household to attain a level of income necessary to purchase the various goods and services considered by those in the reference group of that household, to be sufficient for living (Nweze, 2002). In terms of non-material/intangible assets, poverty can be seen as lack

of adequate access to minimum social amenities, vulnerability to risks and other factors such as infection, and lack of enough and appropriate nutrition etc. statistical agencies and researchers throughout the world, responding to different concerns, are utilizing two very broad concepts of poverty today. One is the concept of absolute poverty, understood as the minimum set of resources a person needs to survive.

The other is the concept of relative poverty, a measurement resources and living conditions of part of the population in relation to the other. Absolute poverty is a matter of acute deprivation, hunger, premature death and sufferings while relative poverty are clearly a matter of social equity (Schwartzman, 1998). However, Eva and Jackie (1998) were of the view that all definitions of poverty may be fitted into one of the following categories.

i. Poverty is having less than objectively defined absolute minimum.
ii. Poverty is having less than others in society in relative terms.
iii. Poverty is feeling you do not have enough to get along.

Poverty according to the first category definitions is absolute, and according to the second category, it is relative. Poverty according to the third category is a mixture of absolute and relative poverty which is split into budget standards method and income proxy measure.

Causes of Poverty

According to World Bank (2002), one route for investigating the causes of poverty is to examine the dimensions highlighted by poor people and these include lack of income and assets to attain necessities (food, shelter, clothing and acceptable levels of health and education), sense of noiselessness and powerlessness in the state and society, and vulnerability to adverse shocks linked to inability to cope with them. Jordan (2004) noted that causes of poverty manifest in unemployment, low-income inequality while cultural causes include rising rates of divorce, female headed single parent families, teenage pregnancy, drug/alcohol abuse and criminal activities. Schwartzman (1998) also identified different causes of poverty associated with demographic conditions such as family size, unemployment, poor quality jobs, lack of education, social discrimination, lack of "social capital" such as family and community organizations and networks: economic changes, climate changes, natural catastrophes, and war.

In Nigeria, it has been identified that lack of access to income generating opportunities, family's system, lack of pragmatism in national education and usage, rural-urban drift and poor policies cause poverty. (Olaitan ET el, 200; Ajekaiye and Adeyeye, 2002). Moreover, Yusuf (1999) and UNDP (2004) reported that the dominance of the oil sector and the consequent neglect of the agricultural sector in terms of policy and resources result in declining productivity, growth and competitiveness and increased poverty. further-more, Nwaobi (2003) noted that failure to adequately implement programmes geared towards the provision of master plans for future expansion and better physical facilities such as adequate water supply facilities, housing, sewage, electricity and efficient transport and communications network including the

establishment of necessary institutions to ensure their maintenance can be seen as the precursor to most of the present causes of poverty in Nigeria. According to Francis et al (2002), local people‟s perceptions of main causes of poverty include unemployment, poor environment, lack of capital, lack of farm inputs, poor roads, inefficient transportation system, poor crop yields, lack of food over population, conflicts, corruption, poor and unstable output prices and lack of health care services.

The consequences of poverty are numerous. They include prostitution, inefficient and inadequate food production exposure to risks like corruption, robbery, street life, increased unemployment, malnutrition, low per capital income, overcrowded living conditions, low level of education, human degradation, short span, high infant mortality, fraud, and migration (Olaitan, 2000). In support of the above, Schwartzman (1998) noted that poverty particularly when associated with war and economic disaster, leads to social unrest, national and international migration and threatens the lifestyles of those who are better off. Poverty also reduces farmer‟s ability to bear risk and are thus less able to invest in high income-generating activities associated with high risk. (Mosley and Verschoor, 2003, Fatchamps, 1997). In poor countries, like Nigeria, causes of poverty overlap Atonga (1995) sees poverty as a direct result of unemployment and poor income; illiteracy, hunger, ill health, inadequate shelter and according to him do visit the same persons, the same family, the same shanty, and slums and the same marginal or rural area.

Kure (2002) stated that several factors account for poetry in rural area, and they could be explained from the perspective of government neglect and abuse of government functions and policies. It has been said in the beginning that most of the rural dwellers are not given adequate attention by the government to uplift in the living conditions of these rural communities in terms of housing, water supply, road networks electricity and health facilities, most of which are concentrated in the urban centre. Rural areas therefore suffered neglect, particularly during and after the oil boom of the (190s and early 1980s). The rural sectors were starved of human resources simply because of the ruling elites and policy.

Maker (2007) identified with a non rural environment and was led astray by empirical assessors that show a high rate of co-relation between levels of development models which stressed investment industries with little attention to agriculture. Abu (2001) noted certain cultural practices in Nigeria as some of the factors that caused poverty. Culture and religious affiliation according to him moderate the roles in most hardly have access to education, land and other productive ventures and hence could not acquire wealth and incomes of their own. In such areas women are mostly seen as child manufactures and are fully as such. These attitudes favor rapid population growth without adequate resources to match economically. Where population growth outweighed available resources there is bound to be poverty.

Afonsa and Dusola (1997) noted that in some southern part of the country women have no right to inheritance, cultural belief do not allow them to own properties such as lands are thus reduced to beggars for a piece of land to carry out any activities. To further buttress the above argument, they observed that poverty thus results through discrimination. This implies the unequal opportunity given to people to participate in the production process on the basis of sex, age, ethnicity and religious consideration aggravates the level of poverty. In the same vein Okpanachi (2002) sees poverty as a consequence of unequal opportunity in education pursuit, health sanitary, social services, economic and political power have been the cause of poverty in Nigeria. This subjects the majority to not having access to gainful employment that could afford them the minimum level of poverty.

He added that unequal opportunities in educational pursuit, health sanitation, social services economic and political powers have been the causes of poverty among rural dwellers. This subjects the majority not to have access to gainful employment that could afford them a minimum level of income. Galadima (1999) stated that conspicuous and wasteful lifestyle exhibited by the government officials, and they so called elites in our societies is a cause for concern.
This category of people mortgage national resources at the detriment of the vast majority and larger part of the national wealth, are kept abroad in their personal account without resources to reinvesting such ill-gotten and primitive accumulation of such wealth into the economy. This singular problem has raised the level of unemployment and hence poverty level.

Furthermore, Osborn (1997) noted that capital formation had suffered greatly especially human capital. Inadequate attention paid to social welfare programmes has made life worse for the large population in this country. Furthermore, it is often disturbing to note that host government policies are biased towards the poor. No adequate attention and assistance in terms of relief as paid to temporary victims of natural disasters like draught, floods. Fire outbreaks accident and manmade disasters such as wars, commercial clashes, religious and political riots are all living witnesses to these, but there are no political will to act decisively in defense of right of the affected people. They are therefore subjected to temporary or permanent poverty because once their resources are destroyed by one of the agents above the hope of acquiring same be very elusive. The situation is made worse by the poor themselves. The poor lack the courage and cohesion to demand for their rights, they are therefore abandoned economically, politically, socially and culturally and conventionally too.

Adamu (1998) stated that in co-operating of the Nigeria state into the capitalist system by the colonialist cannot be delivered as one of the root causes of massive poverty experience in Nigeria today. This has been sustained through net works of factors mobility and trade, which has consistently ensured that one set of countries benefited from the situation (Aka, 2017) one can also posit that the militarization of Nigeria state by the military Junta enables them to arrogate political and economic powers top themselves at the expense of the vast majority of

Nigeria: this had contributed to the delay in the economy and had raised the level of the poverty in this country. Civil unrest experienced in different parts of the country is another serious factor that is contributing to enhancing poverty level in Nigeria. For instance, since the inception of democracy in May (1999, there has been series of civil in stakes like Rivers, Lagos, Abia, Taraba, to mention just a few. The outcome of this crisis is mentioned destruction of human lives, houses, business premises, places of worship (Mosques and Churches etc.). Thereby subjecting the victims to dangerous and the quickest factor pushing into poverty in this country and its need to give adequate attention in our contemporary.

Anyanwu (1997) posited that understanding the level of poverty in rural areas one may adopt the basic needs approach to the measurement of poverty. Basic needs consist of primary and secondary needs. The former comprises of food including water, clothing and shelter, un-like the later consist of economic, social and cultural rights, liberty, freedom of expression and religion, individual right to own properties, access to productive employment, credit etc. these needs are supposed to be met through individual resources or that of the family or community or a combination of both. The absence of these resources leads to powerlessness and despair and thus the inability to protect oneself against economic, social, cultural and political dissemination, deprivation and marginalization, (Denga 1995) Olowari 1997 noted the geographical spread of poverty. He asserted that the incidence of poverty could be seen among wages across the country. He also noted that the level of poverty tends to increase across with the age of the households at age brackets of 56 – 65 and especially those that are in the neighbor hold of illiterate households.

Poverty Incidence in Nigeria

Poverty is a general phenomenon in Nigeria. It is a common problem that cannot be easily wiped out except available basic needs and resources are acquired eventually distributed among the citizens to individuals to shift the status to a more positive direction through training, work, and opportunities (Olaitan, 2000). The Nigerian poverty profile indicates that the proportion of the poor rose from 28.1 percent (18 million people) in 1980 to 46.3 percent (35 million people) in 1985. This dropped to 42.7 percent in 1992 but catapulted to 70 percent (79 million people) in 1999 (Table 2). The poverty indicator used was low income that tends to be its worst in the rural areas due to malnutrition, lack of education, low life expectancy and substandard housing. Poverty in Nigeria is pervasive; more than 45%of Nigerians are living below the poverty line.

Effect of persistent poverty and violence on sustainable community development programmes in cross river state

Ering (2023) defined development as the process of raising the standard of living for all people in his book "Economic Development in the Third World." Raising people's standard of living, providing environments that foster the development of their sense of self, and expanding the range of their choice variables all fall under this category. According to Egbe (2019),

sustainable development is defined as development that satisfies current demands without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to satiate their own needs.

On the other hand, community development refers to an intentional and focused effort aimed at assisting communities in identifying their needs and taking on a greater share of the responsibility for resolving their issues, so strengthening their capacities to fully participate in the life of the nation (Ekong 2003).
The provision of technical and other services in ways that encourage initiative, effective self-help, and mutual help that meets the needs of the present without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is, therefore, a key component of sustainable community development. This involves active participation by the people themselves in efforts to improve their standard of living, with as much reliance as possible on their own initiative. Community development programs could not be claimed to fit the definition of that term in the State. Without the initiative and involvement of the people, government organizations package and distribute community development programs to some villages living others. Communities that have attraction sites find themselves in direct violence with one another due to hardships and poverty.

One may underline that the hostile environment of conflict and violence that exists amongst those involved in the state is the main obstacle impeding the advancement of community development programs in the state. Since the government has not complied with the demands of the people, locals frequently damage and vandalize public properties.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, it has been established that poverty is an enemy of man a sit humiliates and dehumanizes its victim. The paper looked at poverty and poverty alleviation in Nigeria. It saw poverty as a condition where an individual or organization experiences a situation of lack, a situation with little or no resources to acquire the basic necessities of life. The paper asserted that poverty in Nigeria has gone beyond the levels of abject poverty, absolute poverty, and extreme poverty and currently at the level of poverty qua poverty. The impressionistic efforts at poverty alleviation were identified and discussed. The paper went further to look at the concepts of poverty and poverty alleviation. The challenges of poverty alleviation were identified; the dilemma of poverty on Nigerians was discussed, and recommendations to mitigate the challenges were offered. The paper concludes that urgent actions should be taken by government to address the issues of poverty in Nigeria in order to avoid an impending catastrophic situation.

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