ASSESSMENT OF EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER ERADICATION STRATEGIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN AKINYELE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study assessed extreme poverty and hunger eradication strategies of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Akinyele Local Government area, Oyo state, Nigeria. The study examined the proportion of employed men, women and young adult, those who earned below $1.25 daily and the strategies put in place to eradicate poverty and hunger in the Local Government Area Of study. The research design adopted was descriptive survey method. The population comprised male and female residents and SDGs officials in Akinyele Local Government, Oyo state. The instruments used for data collection were; Eradication of Poverty and Hunger Questionnaire (EPHQ; r=0.88) and SDGs Officials on Eradication of Poverty and Hunger Questionnaire (SOEPHQ: r = 0.78). The findings revealed that the standard of living of the respondents was low (59%), and the proportion of people who suffered from extreme poverty and hunger are more than average (76.25%). The SDGs officials also admitted from the findings that the eradication programs and activities put in place were not that effective. It was therefore, recommended that more poverty alleviation programs should be put in place, monitored and evaluated from time to time.

Keywords: *Assessment, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Extreme Poverty and Hunger, Eradication Strategies, Akinyele Local Government Area*

Introduction

Globally, poverty caused by economy recession, economic meltdown is an issue and Nigeria is not an exception. The decision to formulate a long term poverty reduction strategy was reached during the United

Nations Millennium Summit held in September 2000, in line with the International Development Target (IDTs) which aimed at improving economic well-being, social and human development. To ensure environmental sustainability and regeneration, all member states, Nigeria inclusive, were mandated to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

The commitment of those leaders at the summit was pledged towards attacking these challenges on poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unsafe water, diseases and urban and environmental degradation. First, within a frame of 2000 – 2015, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators and later Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015 – 2030) with 17 goals of which eradication of poverty and hunger is the first and second. The official document to this effect was adopted on the 25th September, 2015. This document has 92 paragraphs with the main paragraph (51) outlining the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals and is associated with 169 targets (Ohanaka, Udeogu and Agucha, 2016). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and some of their targets are to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030 for all people living below $1.25 a day. The target of Goal 2 is to end hunger by 2030, and all forms of malnutrition, double the agricultural productivity, enhance sustainable food production, maintain generic diversity of seeds, plants and domesticated animals and increased investment through international co-operation and so on. These two goals and their targets among others are to be put in place in all the countries targeted if the eradication strategies of poverty and hunger will be achieved.

Hussain (2005) referred to poverty as a lack of command over basic needs of consumption level; giving rise to insufficient food, clothing and shelter. Yonghyup (2005) defined poverty as a state of long term deprivation of well-being, a situation considered inadequate for decent living. Poverty is the inability to attain a good standard of living. The global incidence of extreme poverty has gone down from almost 100% in the 19th century, to 10.7% in 2013. While this is a great achievement, there is absolutely no reason to be complacent; a poverty rate of 10.7% means a total poverty head count of 746 million people. These figures come from multiplying estimates of total population in those countries. The poverty rate estimates come from

the World Bank, 2016 povcal release using 2013 household survey data.

Ferreira, Francisco, Shaohua, Andrew, Yuri, Nada, Jolliffe and Narayan (2016) gathered information on how International Poverty line has been updated over time. A global 'dollar-a-day ($1)' poverty line was introduced in the World Development Report in 1990 and was subsequently used for the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the commitment to 'halve' between 1990 and 2015, (less than $1 per day). In 2015, the International Poverty line was updated from $1.25 - $1.90 per day. This last update was made in order to incorporate new evidence on relative price level rather than to change the underlying real welfare standard used to define deprivation. It is very clear the poorer countries tend to use lower poverty lines.

Thus, according to the studies, Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world. India has a population seven times larger than Nigeria's (The World Poverty Clock, June 25, 2018). According to the report, Nigeria is struggling to lift more citizens out of extreme poverty which is an indictment on Nigerian governments and our leaders in general.

The graph below shows the ratings per country

Country	People living in extreme poverty (In Millions)
Nigeria	9
India	5
Democratic Republic of Congo	60.9
Ethiopia	3.9
Tanzania	19.9
Mozambique	17.8
Bangladesh	17
Kenya	14.7
Indonesia	14.2
Uganda	14.2

Source: World Poverty Clock, 2018.

The 86.9 million Nigerians now living in extreme poverty represents nearly 50% of its estimated 180 population. It was gathered that, of those countries in top ten, only Ethiopia is on track to meet the United Nations' SDGs of ending extreme poverty by 2030. Ghana and Mauritania are also on track with the SDGs target. According to Vanguard report on the 27th August, 2015, Akintayo Eribake reported that by 2050, Nigeria, currently seventh most populous country in the World would rise to the Fourth spot with an estimated 397 million people. This was based on Population Reference Bureau, Washington Data Sheet.

Further, there is the issue of youth unemployment. Seventy percent of the 80 million youths in Nigeria are either unemployed or underemployed. Taking a look at the Immigration recruitment exercise that happened recently, a lot of these youths were seriously injured and a few died during the process of struggling. Youth unemployment rate has increased to 33.10 percent in the third quarter of 2017 from 29.50 percent in the second quarter of 2017, also, increased to 36.0 percent in January, 2018 (Trading Economics 2017 Report). United Nations declared on June 21, 2017 that Nigeria will become 3rd most populous country by 2050 and that over 40% of the world's poorest will live in Nigeria and Congo by 2050 (The World Poverty Clock, 2018). Today, many job seekers in Nigeria tend to try their hands on low-skill, low-wage, non-full-time jobs, just to make ends meet in the absence of any employment, benefits or social safety net system. Reasons being that many companies wait until many go back to labor market. The current unemployment rate in the country therefore, has greatly affected the Annual productivity of the country and has further driven it away from reducing poverty by 2015 (Falade, 2008), not to talk of sustainability.

In addition, over 20 million Nigerians do not have access to 20 liters of safe drinking water (Adebeshin, 2013). Poverty and hunger in Nigeria is multi-faceted and deeply rooted. More than half of the country live below poverty line and suffer hunger despite Nigeria's enormous resources. In the recent studies, Nigeria's estimated population has risen to 189 million with over 87 million people living in extreme poverty and hunger. These problems could be attributed to over-reliance on the oil and gas sector, dwindling agricultural

productivity, infrastructural deficits, technological gaps, economic recession and humanitarian crises (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2017).

In view of the above, an effective poverty reduction strategy in Nigeria must reflect its multidimensional nature, incorporating economic, social, cultural and political dimensions. First, the Federal, State and Local governments must ensure commitment in the area of fund allocation for provision of social services like food, light, water, good road/transportation among others which are beneficial to the poor; fostering efficient macro-economic and sectorial policies. The government should also recognize and encourage non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be actively involved in a wide variety of activities to help provide development opportunities for grassroots communities. As a constructive way of achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria, the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo made concerted efforts in the socio-economic and political spheres in order to move the country to greater heights. The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDs) is a reform programme designed to consolidate the achievement between 1999-2003 by laying a foundation for sustainable poverty reduction, employment generation, wealth creation and value re-orientation. These coordinal consideration is perceived by economic analysts as the nation's blue-print for development, and as such, represents the framework by which government, private sector, donor agencies and NGOs hope to put Nigeria on the road to sustainable development (Agbu, 2008).

In line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, NEEDs seeks to fight against many strands of poverty through job creation and empowerment of people to success. MDGS had eight goals to be implemented and achieved by the year 2015. In actual fact, most of these goals achieved their objectives especially in the developed countries and this calls for sustainability of these development goals.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) otherwise known as the "global goals", are a Universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. It has seventeen (17) goals and these were built on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs came into effect in January 2016, and will continue to guide UNDP

policy and funding until 2030. UNDP is therefore to help in implementing the goals through some 170 countries and territories. The strategic plan focused on key areas including poverty alleviation, democratic governance and peace building, climate change and disaster risk and inequality among others. Sustainable development is all about achieving a level of quality life that is socially desirable and economically viable. Sustainable development as asserted by David and Heathier (2010) is that development that meets the need of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The present government led by President Muhammed Buhari has embarked on multi-sectoral approach to address poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequality. This is to ensure millions of Nigerian citizens are given dignity promise in the pursuit of the agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Measures put in place, to achieve the goals include; Conditional Grant Scheme (CGS), cash transfer programme, school feeding, women's entrepreneurship scheme and small business growth programme (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2017). The Local Government Empowerment Programme to support poor people in the country, especially from the grassroots has commenced. To this effect, Akinyele Local Government is one of the beneficiaries of this empowerment programme. Some of the development programmes include: free health services, boreholes for markets, provision of school facilities like building structures, empowerment programmes for the youths, men and women. Some of these youths were given motorcycles popularly called 'Okada', Gaari processing industries, soft loans, and vocational skills among others. Recently, Oyo State Government, through office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has partnered with Association of Water-well Drilling Rig Owners and Practitioners (AWDROP), to unveil Project ABIOLA, an acronym, 'All Boreholes in Oyo Live Again'. The project is aimed to rehabilitate, reposition and make all borehole facilities to be more functional, provide new ones and enhance their sustainability because prior to this time, some have not been in good condition, some have even been abandoned according to them. This study is necessary in order to ascertain the effectiveness of all these programmes/activities put in place in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State.

Research questions

1. What is the standard of living of people in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo state?
2. Is there full employment and decent work for all, including men, women and young people in Akinyele Local Government of Oyo state?
3. What is the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo state?
4. To what extent were the eradication strategies put in place to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area in Oyo state effective?

Methodology
Research Design
Ex-post facto design of a descriptive type was used in this study.

Population and Sample
The population for this study comprised the residents in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State out of which 100 samples comprising males and females were drawn using random sampling technique. Five (5) SDGs officials that are in charge of these projects in the Local Government Secretariat also participated in the study.

Instrumentation
Two sets of questionnaire were designed for data collection. The first questionnaire tagged "Eradication of Poverty and Hunger Questionnaire (EPHQ)" was administered on the participants in Akinyele Local Government Area. Section A was designed to elicit information on the participants' demography, while Section B was designed to elicit information about the standard of living, employment rate and level of poverty and hunger among the residents of Akinyele Local Government Area. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument was r= 0.88 using Cronbach Alpha.
The second instrument used for the study was titled "SDGs Official on Eradication of Poverty and Hunger Questionnaire (SOEPHQ)". Section A contained bio data information of the participants. Section B elicited

information about the effects of activities and programme put in place by SDGs, from the officials of SDGs. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was r = 0.78 using Cronbach Alpha.

Data Analysis
The researchers made use of descriptive analysis like frequency count and percentage while mean score was used to answer the four research questions.

Answer To Research Questions
Research Question 1: What is the standard of living of people in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 1.1. : Analysis of Standard of Living of People in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State

Items	SA	A	D	SD
I can easily afford 3 meals in a day	2 2.0%	36 36.0%	61 61.0%	1 1.0%
My feeding or meal most times is regular everyday	- 0.0%	45 45.0%	53 53.0%	2 2.0%
I own my personal apartment where I am currently living	- 0.0%	19 19.0%	66 66.0%	19 19.0%
I earn at least **460 everyday	1 1.0%	58 58.0%	40 40.0%	1 1.0%
Average people living in Akinyele Local Government area are moderately comfortable	- 0.0%	8 8.0%	90 90.0%	2 2.0%
Percentage = 59%				

Source: Oyetade & Alamu, 2016

Analysis of research question 1 is presented in table 1.1., the research question was raised to find out the proportion of people among the sampled respondents who live below $1.25 daily. The result showed that 59% of the respondents were earning $1.25 per day. This implies that the standard of living of people in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State is below the expectation of the goal. The target of these to eradicate the poverty level of citizens living below $1.25 per day is not yet achieved in Akinyele local government of Oyo State.

Research Question 2: Is there full employment and decent work at all, including women and young people in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 1.2.: Analysis of the Responses of the Respondents on Employment Rate and Decent Work for All, Including Women and Young People in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State

Items	SA	A	D	SD
There is Full Employment Among People of Akinyele Local Government area	- 0.0%	1 1.0%	97 97.0%	2 2.0%
High percentage of women in Akinyele Local Government area are gainfully employed	- 0.0%	8 8.0%	84 84.0%	8 8.0%
The rate of employment among youths in Akinyele Local Governments Area is low	13 13.0%	48 48.0%	37 37.0%	2 2.0%
Most of the available works in Akinyele Local Government Area are menial and not decent enough	3 3.0%	81 81.0%	16 16.0%	- 0.0%
The women in Akinyele Local Government Area are empowered through the SDGs programme (soft loans, vocational skills)	4 4.0%	61 61.0%	35 35.0%	- 0.0%
Poverty reduction programme (job creation) in my community reduced unemployment	3 3.0%	18 18.0%	79 79.0%	- 0.0%
Weighted Average = 81.0%				

Source: Oyetade & Alamu, 2016

The findings indicated that about 81% of the respondents were not fully employed. They also indicated that they did not have decent jobs in Akinyele Local Government area of Oyo State. The implication of this is that the second target of the goal to promote full employment and decent work for all, including women and young people is not yet achieved in Akinyele Local Government area of Oyo State.

Research Question 3: What is the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 1.3.: Analysis of the Proportion of People who suffer from Extreme Poverty and Hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State

Items	SA	A	D	SD
Poverty reduction programme have a positive impact in my community	1 1.0%	34 34.0%	65 65.0%	- 0.0%
Majority of residents in my community live in abject poverty	5 5.0%	94 94.0%	1 1.0%	- 0.0%
Majority of people in this community are facing feeding problem	6 6.0%	92 92.0%	2 2.0%	- 0.0%
Majority of the residents in my community are not well to do and not gainfully employed	7 7.0%	6 6.0%	71 71.0%	16 16.0%
People in my community can easily provide shelter for their wards	3 3.0%	37 37.0%	60 6.0%	- 0.0%
The residents of Akinyele local government area find is difficult to send their wards to school and educate them properly	4 4.0%	91 91.0%	5 5.0%	- 0.0%
There are programme like financial assistance, rehabilitation of health centers organized by SDGs in Akinyele Local Government to reduce poverty levels among the residents	- 0.0%	72 72.0%	28 28.0%	- 0.0%
I am aware of different programme put in place by the government to reduce poverty level among the citizens	- 0.0%	70 70.0%	30 30.0%	- 0.0%
Weighted Average = 76.25%				

 Source: Oyetade & Alamu, 2016

The result showed that 76.25% of the respondents suffered from poverty and hunger. This showed that the proportion of people who suffered from extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele local government area is very high.

Research Question 4: To what extent are the eradication strategies put in place to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State effective?

Table 1.4.: Extent of Effectiveness of Eradication Strategies put in Place to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State

Items	Yes	No
How effective are the programmes/activities (soft loans, vocational training) in achieving the objectives	1 20.0%	4 80.0%
Do people in Akinyele community cooperate with SDGs officials in achieving the objectives of the programme	5 100.0%	- 0.0%
Are the activities put in place to empower men, women and young people effective?	2 40.0%	3 60.0%
Are the youths, men and women of Akinyele community gainfully employed?	5 100.0%	- 0.0%
Are the programmes (free health, basic education, infrastructural facilities, skill acquisition, computer training, etc.) put in place to solve unemployment problems among the youths, men and women effective?	1 20.0%	4 80.0%

Source: Oyetade & Alamu, 2016

The results revealed that 73% of respondents (SDGs officials) indicated that the programmes put in place to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State were not that effective.

Discussion of Findings and Conclusion

The study assessed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State. The findings from this study revealed that 59% of the respondents earned below $1.25 per day. This implied that more than half of the respondents used in the study live below poverty level. Yonghyup (2005) referred to poverty as a state of long term deprivation of well-being, accounted for indecent living. Poverty prevents one from enjoying good standard of living. Also, it was gathered from the study that 81% of the respondents were not fully employed neither do they have decent jobs. This findings support the

report of Trading Economics 2017, that seventy percent of the 80 million youths in Nigeria are either unemployed or underemployed. In addition, according to this report, Youth unemployment rate has increased from 29.50 percent in the second quarter of 2017 to 33.10 percent in the third quarter of 2017. It was also gathered from the findings of this study that 76.25% of the respondents suffered from poverty and hunger. Further, seventy-three percent (73%) indicated that the programmes (skill acquisition/vocational skills, computer training, money transfer, infrastructural facilities among others) were not that effective in Akinyele Local Government, Oyo State, which means the two goals in sustainable development to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger are yet to be achieved. According to David and Heathier (2010), sustainable development must be able to meet the need of the present, without compromising the ability of future generation for their needs to be met. Therefore, it is expected that the government, NGOs and more financial collaborators should support the programmes to achieve the expected goals.

Recommendations
Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

1) It is recommended that more poverty alleviation eradication programmes be put in place by the government and NGOs in order to reduce poverty and hunger among the residents of Akinyele Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.
2) Men and women in the rural areas should be empowered the more through different acquisition skills that will make them to be self-reliant.
3) Young people and youths should not only get training (acquisition skills) but be empowered with cash loans, and equipped with materials useful for their vocational training. This will help in reducing unemployment rate among the youths and adults in the community. Also, it will reduce the criminal acts in our society.
4) The maintenance culture or attitude of the people should be improved in proper handling of the completed project in the community.

5) Completed projects in any community should be handed over to the community leaders for proper handling and monitoring. This will enhance the sustainability of such projects.

6) It is now imperative for government at all levels (National, State and Local Government) to ensure adequate provision of the amenities like food, water, good roads, light, quality education among others to the people in the community, if extreme poverty and hunger will be eradicated.

7) SDGs officials should work hand in hand with the government, community leaders and community members in order to achieve the set goals of SDGs.

8) NGOs and experts in the area of SDGs should also help in monitoring the programme of activities set aside by SDGs to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in the study area.

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