

An Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT: Poverty in Nigeria is so prevalent because more than half of Nigerian lives below poverty line of one dollar per day going by the United Nations standard. This has necessitated the introduction of several poverty alleviation programmes both by the government and non-government organizations to properly address the issue of poverty in the country. It is to this extent that the objective of this research work is to properly identify and analyze the causes of poverty. It is also the objective of the research to properly assess the impact of the various poverty alleviation programmes on workers in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and finally, to examine the problems hindering the proper implementation of the various poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. The data for achieving these research objectives were sourced using both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data was generated through questionnaire administration while the secondary data was obtained through reports, government publications, newspapers, journals and other library materials. The simple percentage was used to analyze the data in the questionnaire. In all, one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were distributed out of which one hundred and forty were completed and returned representing 94.7% of the sampled population. The responses of these 142 respondents were used for the analysis of the study. This research work revealed that though, there has been various poverty alleviation schemes in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, the MMC still does not have a well designed and articulated poverty alleviation scheme that recognizes and properly takes care of the diverse needs of the target population – physically disabled, elderly, children etc who are the most vulnerable group to poverty in the society. This has contributed to the increasing rate of poverty in the MMC. The research work also discovered that MMC is characterized by urban poverty which is caused by high level of rural-urban migration as well as migration from neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon. This has led to mass unemployment in the MMC which is the most fundamental cause of poverty in the MMC. It also reveals that the failure of most of the poverty alleviation schemes is due to poor funding, management and implementation. This research work further recommends that for poverty to be tackled, the most vulnerable group in the society should be targeted so that they can benefit from the scheme and that government should adopt decentralized poverty alleviation approach which emphasizes that the approach to tackling poverty should not be generalized. Rather, the approach to poverty alleviation of each society should be such that it will be able to take care of the peculiar needs of that society. It also recommended that rural-urban migration should be properly checked by providing infrastructural facilities and creating employment opportunities at the rural areas and also ensuring proper checking of migration from neighbouring countries through the involvement of appropriate agencies.

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The history on poverty alleviation programme is very wide due to its vastness; it is believed that, there is no general consensus of any single definition of what it amounts to what can be called poverty. This can not be unconnected to the fact that poverty affects many aspects of human condition which can be physical, moral and psychological. However, some renowned analysis agreed with the conventional view of poverty as a result of insufficient income for securing basic goods and services, Sen (1981), Amis and Rakodi (1994). Other analysts view poverty in terms of education, health, life expectancy, child mortality, etc (Balami, 1999). For the purpose of this study, this researcher is concerned with poverty in terms of meeting the “basic needs” of the people such as food, health care, education and shelter. There are many types of poverty as the definition of poverty will further entail absolute poverty as quote dby Balami (1999) refers to the lack of the minimum physical requirements of a person or a household for existence, so extreme that those affected are no longer in a position to live “a life worthy of human dignity”. Relative poverty refers to a person or household whose provision with goods is lower than that of other persons or households (Balami, 1999). The concept of relative poverty states that because of the distribution structures in a society, certain economic subjects are disadvantaged to an unacceptable extent. As quoted by Balami (1999) conjunctural poverty is a temporary phenomenon into which normally self-sufficient individuals are through in crises while structural poverty is long term and normally caused by individual circumstance. Poverty is also categorized as either chronic or transitory. A chronically poor household is poor throughout but if it is only some of the time then it is transitory poor.

On the other hand, poverty has been classified into generalized poverty, island poverty and case poverty. Generalized poverty refers to pervasive poverty which is common. Island poverty is that which exist in the midst of plenty such as Nigeria's which the World Bank (1996) considers a paradox. Poverty in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council can be associated with case poverty which is associated to urban and urban poverty which are due to slumps, ghettos and shanties which are largely caused by environmental degradation, inadequate welfare service, social deprivation, low per capital income, overcrowded accommodation, low level of education, low level of capital resources and non-formal capital for business, Balami (1999). Also, the weather condition within the metropolis has contributed largely to the poverty level, for instance, during the month of March to June the weather condition is too hot for normal economic, social and political activities thereby living at the mercy of essential activities to the opportune few who can afford hence, making life unbearable to the densely populated city. During this, period most of the local cottage industries do not function properly. The rainfall within the metropolis is too short. Even when it comes, it is usually accompanied by a poor distribution that only short duration crops could thrive there. This contribute to seasonal employment to the large influx of people trooping to the metropolis because farming activities is not much lucrative in the rural areas, thus affecting the income level of people within the metropolis negatively. The indiscriminate influx of foreigners from neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon into Maiduguri metropolis in search of employment has added more problems to the indigenes both in terms of employment, security and cost of living. There is little encouragement to investors where the state of insecurity by foreigners abounds largely. This is as a result of the free movement agreement of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). These aliens take up jobs sometimes at lower wage rates than could have been taken up by the indigenes in the metropolitan council. Worthy of mentioning are noted areas within the metropolis which are associated with rural poverty, places like Bulumkutu, Bulabulin, Ngomari gana, Custom area, etc. these are poor residential areas characterized by inadequate supply of pipe borne water and electricity, poor sanitary conditions, high rates of crime and overcrowded accommodation among others. There is also distinct contrast to the above, with place like the G.R.A. and shehu's Palace. It is also worthy of mentioning that the neglect of agricultural sector and consequent mass exodus of able bodied youths from the rural areas to the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council in search of the non-existing white collar jobs has contributed much to the poor standard of living within the metropolis. This had further reduced employment and putting pressure presently in Maiduguri metropolis.

II. STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Nigeria is ravaged, not with war this time, but poverty. In the 60s, when our economy was purely based on agriculture, our poverty level was measured by the absence of food in our homes. And of course, there was no poverty for there was always food as our farmers had nothing else to do than to produce enough food for themselves and others around them. No one was hungry. Everybody had enough to eat and sell to the extent that much of our agricultural products were even exported to other African, American and European countries. The discovery of oil and solid minerals changed what used to be an agricultural country to an oil rich nation. Our agricultural sector was then neglected because of our newly discovered natural resources and so poverty assumes a proportion that only the poor could see.

Today, our streets are filled with men, women and even children fronting for their parents in begging for money and even food. The poor who operate behind the scene have taken to armed robbery, gambling, 419 and cheating in their offices. Everybody seems poor. Many families cannot afford one good meal in a day. Children are withdrawn from schools. Families resort to herbal medicine for treatment each time a member of the family falls sick. There is massive unemployment from peasant to university graduates. There is corruption even in high places. There are religious riots and ethnic clashes to contend with trouble here and there. The governments at the three levels have realized these problems and in an attempt to alleviate poverty, designed the poverty alleviation schemes. These include:

- 1) Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)
- 2) National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND)
- 3) Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)
- 4) Agricultural Projects Monitoring & Evaluation Units (APMEU)
- 5) National Commission for Mass Literacy Adult and Non-Formal Education (NCEMLAE)
- 6) Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation NAIC)
- 7) Family Support Programme (FSP)
- 8) Better Life Programme (BLP)
- 9) National Poverty Eradication Commission (NADEC)
- 10) Poverty Aleviation Programme (PAP)
- 11) Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN)

III. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The primary objective of this project is to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programmes in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. Other specific objectives include the following:

- i) To identify and analyse the causes of poverty in the area under study
- ii) To examine the impact of the programme on the people of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council
- iii) To examine the problems inhibiting the efficient implementation of poverty alleviation programmes

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In view of the fact that there has been growing skepticism about the success of the poverty alleviation schemes, the researcher believes that a study of this nature will contribute to knowledge by revealing the truth and clear the doubt usually expressed on the performance of the schemes. The mounting criticism that the poverty alleviation programme are deceit programmes to siphon government treasury rather than poverty reduction will also be assessed. In the policy significance, a research of this kind will reveal the actual success of the poverty alleviation programmes. With this, government and other policy makers will have a conceptual framework towards designing policies relating to poverty alleviation matters. The study also contributes to the knowledge of those who are willing to conduct similar researches in the area.

On a general note, a study of this kind tends to reveal the extent of success and failures of the programmes and further give suggestions on how the poverty alleviation schemes can be meaningful so that Nigerians can benefit and live a worthy life.

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Poverty in Nigeria has been seen as the main cause of almost every social problem namely unemployment, crime, prostitution, corruption and diseases. However, Nigeria has never fallen short of attempts at alleviating poverty. Previous governments devised several schemes to alleviate poverty in the land but virtually in all cases the attempts fall short of expectation. Many people have shown great concern for the alarming rate of unemployment in the country, in spite of the various poverty alleviation programmes. This has been a matter of concern not only to Maiduguri Metropolitan Council but to Borno State and Nigeria as a whole. The mounting criticism of the programmes by Nigerian society led many concerned citizens to write about the scheme. Thus, the following available literatures and other evidences give the assessment of the poverty alleviation scheme. Osamar (2000) public relation officer of the Federal Civil Service Commission has this to say: "Unemployment is yet to abate, about 90,000 forms had been given to first degree holders at the Abuja headquarters of the Commission and the state but there seems to be no respite for the applicants as yet". He said the 52 ministries and extra-ministerial departments have failed to declare their vacancies or those agencies as directed by the Commission by recruiting staffs directly on ad-hoc basis initially and later regularizing them. The situation he said, has made it difficult for the Commission to carry out its function of giving jobs to the applicants. Rhoder (2000) is also critical of the poverty alleviation programme. According to him, the scheme from the beginning is a child of shortcoming. For instance, the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) by General Ibrahim badamasi Babangida former president, in 1986 was to promote skill acquisition and self-employment. But the project failed to achieve the set objectives due to inadequate funding and corruption on the part of its officials.

Other poverty alleviation programmes like Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Nigerian Agriculture and Co-operative Bank (NACB), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and national Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), have similarly failed to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. Balogun (2000), Chairman Senate Committee on National Planning is equally critical of poverty alleviation programme. In his contribution to the debate on the Budget 2002, Balogun said "if government is to create drive and increase capacity utilization, manufacturing plants must be given renewed attention through the manipulation of appropriate policy tools". The former Minister of works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih (2000) disclosed that the government had recruited 5,000 unemployed youths in each state of the federation and that the huge expenditure was manifestation of democracy dividends for participants of poverty alleviation programme. The phases of the programme is still being planned and is intended to provide long-term jobs for skilled and semi-skilled personnel. Notwithstanding, Chief Anenih's assurance, the loud criticism that have greeted the poverty alleviation programme since its take off early 2000, would suggest that not much impact has been made in alleviating widespread poverty foisted on the nation by protracted misrule by the past regimes particularly the military. The former Chairman, House of Representative Committee on Poverty Alleviation Programme Mr. Abayomi Shoba said that poverty alleviation programme by technical committee would ensure that beneficiaries acquire skills and are mobilized with funds for self-employment instead of the current unproductive

handouts to individuals having little or no service to render to society. He went on to say it is regrettable that a laudable people oriented scheme like poverty alleviation programme now appears set to discredit itself and suffer the fate of similar failed programmes ostensibly designed to help the poor during the past 15 years. The poverty alleviation predecessors include NDE, DFRRRI, BLP, FEAP each without exception ended a failure. He added that the poor performance of these previous efforts should have advised, cautioned as well as articulated policy in the case of poverty alleviation programme. Perhaps, the federal Government was in such a hurry to tackle the problems of mass poverty headlong that it has fallen into the trap of throwing away good money.

Daniel (1988), Chairman, Oturkpo Local Government in Benue States needs convincing that DFRRRI does more than make wild claims its performance. He told Newswatch that DFRRRI existed more on paper and on publicity. For instance, these roads they claimed to have constructed in my local government area, you will only find trace of work there. Certain areas have been bulldozed and others graded by the roads are not usable. Again, a United Nations Development Project Technical Adviser, Rashid believed that the high failure rate of such anti-poverty programmes shall be blamed on direct or too much government involvement in the schemes. According to him, the industry, agriculture and energy sector by the previous administrators is responsible for the high rate of poverty in the country. The result is that an average Nigerian ironically is three times poorer today than he was 20 years ago despite the oil boom. He concluded that a well-articulated and comprehensive policy that will revive the key sectors will yield democracy dividend than the handouts of the poverty alleviation programmes. Another expert, who requested anonymity told Newswatch that Obasanjo's poverty alleviation programme is faulty in many ways, she said the job creation strategies would not work because the jobs to be created by the scheme are non-productive and the salaries to be paid to beneficiaries are such that they will not guarantee alleviation above poverty line. It is widely believed that the money voted for the programme is only sufficient to pay about 200,000 workers in the unskilled sub sector for only twelve months. What would the government do after the twelve months? Will there be approval for another ₦10 billion? If not, its reality becomes questionable. Miringaa (2000) a member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Maiduguri has this to say "PDP leaders beginning with the wards right up to the state executive were known to have forwarded list of party faithful, cronies and family relations for inclusion in poverty alleviation programmes and at the end of the month, they are paid 3,500 for doing nothing. There is no visible programme of training or employment for the participants to justify their being paid that kind of money. I don't think that was the intention of people who planned the scheme.

Asaju (2002) reported that 'since 1980, poverty level has been on the rise in Nigeria. The Federal Office of Statistic's profile of Nigeria published in the year 2000 showed that the level of poverty rose from 28.1% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985 but dropped slightly to 47.7% in 1992. it rose sharply 65.6% in 1996". According to the report, the estimated number of the poor rose from 18 million in 1980 to 35 million in 1985. it further rose to 39 million in 1992 and to 65 million in 1996. The report showed that poverty was at a higher level in the rural areas than in the urban areas because 70% of Nigerians live in the village. Balami (1999) in his paper reported that one of the reasons for the failure of the poverty alleviation programme is the adoption of universal poverty programmes. He went on to say that the adoption of universal poverty alleviation programmes has failed to reduce poverty significantly because the nature, causes and characteristics of poverty varies over space and time. Thus, if the provision of physical assets like land for instance, reduces poverty in one area, it does not necessarily mean that it will also reduce poverty in another area where perhaps land availability is not their problem.

Poverty Alleviation Schemes Established In Nigeria

Poverty in Nigeria is pervasive. Equally grim is the status report on Nigeria's hunger and misery index, as read out by President Obasanjo (Ishiekwene, 2000) that 'about 60 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line, 50 percent of the population has no access to safe water, about 38 percent do not have access to primary health care and most Nigerians consume less than a third of the minimum required protein and vitamins intake because they cannot afford it." The increasing level of unemployment and poverty were compounded by the over two decades of political instability, macro-economic policy inconsistencies, low capacity utilization in industries and massive turn out of school leavers and graduates by the educational institutions. The overall situation now is that most Nigerians goes hungry because they cannot afford to buy food. Below are organizations and agencies involved in the poverty alleviation schemes:

Poverty Alleviation Schemes initiated by the Federal Government

- [1] Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)
- [2] Green Revolution (GR)
- [3] Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)
- [4] National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

- [5] Family Support Programme (FSP)
- [6] Peoples Bank
- [7] Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)
- [8] National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)
- [9] Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)
- [10] National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

The aim of governance is to ensure that social and economic well-being of the people is guaranteed and it is in line with this that each administration tries to formulate policies that will help in molding the living conditions of the governed. Nigeria has witnessed many of such policies in the past administrations. General Olusegun Obasanjo in 1978 introduced the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) with the aim of producing more food in the country. Alhaji Shehu Shagari in 1979, also introduced the Green revolution (GR) as to have abundant food in the country. When general Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida came to power, he also introduced the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). The two years Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which was in effect between July 1986 and June 1988, has been acclaimed world wide as a bold attempt to avert economic collapse. It is a programme which will affect the lives of all Nigerians and which hopefully was supposed to put the economy on the course of quick recovery. However, to many Nigerians, SAP has not achieved the better life promised to them rather it led the continuation of deprivation, hunger and low productivity and nothing more. The National Directorate of Employment was also established during the regime of general Babangida on the 22nd November, 1986 to among other duties, design and implement programmes to generate employment opportunities in the country. The agency's establishment was a direct response to the fact that the problems of unemployment in the country has grown in magnitude over the years and has in fact become almost intractable. It also gave loans to traders, artisans, peasant farmers and market women. The NDE has over the years evolved strategic programmes and schemes which essentially were geared towards the promotion of a culture of self-employment. It has, for instance, and to large extent provided skills acquisition for school leavers and dropouts, sensitized youths to the culture of entrepreneurship accomplishment, granted soft credit facilities and assisted in job placement, guidance and counseling. Despite these efforts, the project has failed to achieve the set objectives due to inadequate funding and corruption on the part of its officials and lack of continuity of successive administrators. All the successors introduced their own different poverty alleviation schemes giving little or no attention to the preceding schemes.

The Federal Government has again established other bodies with the sole aim of alleviating poverty in the land, especially among the rural folk. These bodies include the Family support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) which was initiated by the former First lady Mrs. Maryam Abacha. While the FSP was more or less a project, the People's Bank (PB) and the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) gave out one form of loan or the other to finance micro enterprises. Although, it is true that all these agencies like NDE, PR, FEAP gave out loan, the People's Bank and the FEAP are primarily poverty alleviation agencies whose main objective is to address a short-term problem in society while the role of NDE is a continuous one since no economy in the world has ever freed itself totally from the problem of unemployment. National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) is another poverty alleviation scheme under the chairmanship of late Prof. Olukoye Ransome-Kuti. This scheme hoped to provide functional health centres by giving the grassroots where the people are, where diseases are, medical services could be at the door step of every citizen of the country. The PHC structures put in place during the third National Development Plan (1975-1983) and the (1985-1993) had crumbled, the present government of General Obasanjo was interested in revitalizing the PHC. The basic thrust of the newly repackaged PHC system was to make health care acceptable and affordable and community-oriented as to make health care available for all. On assumption of office in May 1999, general Olusegun Obasanjo took upon himself the major task of redressing the twin problem of poverty and employment generation. To demonstrate its commitment towards the achievement of this task, the Government earmarked the sum of ₦10 billion for the creation of 200,000 jobs in the year 2000. Each state of the federation including the Federal Capital territory Abuja was to engage 5,000 persons to carry out activities in their respective states.

By this, a total of 185,000 hitherto unemployed persons were to be engaged. The balance of 15,000 was shared among the trouble spots which included Maiduguri, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Yenogoa, Aba, Warri, Onitsha, Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Benin, etc. The general overall objectives of this program are providing direct and sustainable jobs for 200,000 unemployed persons and stimulating production within the period of one year. However, the scheme has been criticized and seen as a wasteful venture for payment of ₦3,500 to unemployed youths for 12 months and dropping them after one year. Besides, the employment has been politicized. In almost all the states, the politicians hijacked the employment and only party faithful were employed. This

shows that the scheme is yet to reach the door steps of the common man which the programme was intended to serve. PAP was faced with several implementation problems with corruption on top of the list. It is regrettable indeed that such a laudable people oriented scheme like PAP now appears set to discredit itself and suffer the fate of similar failed programs designed to help the poor. The PAP predecessor such as FEAP, FSP, NDE, BLP and SAP each without exception ended a total failure hence its effect is yet to be felt by the mass population nationwide. However, all the above organizations were rationalized by the present regime to form a National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The Federal Government recruited for the new poverty alleviation scheme, which had a three-long approach involving about seven ministries:

- (i) Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)
- (ii) Universal Basic Education (UBE)

DFRRI was set up by the Babangida administration in February 1986 in conjunction with state and local government councils and the people through their development associations or other appropriate organizations. The objective of setting up the scheme was to transform rural Nigeria and improve the lot of the peasants. Under the provision of rural infrastructures, DFRRI takes charge of rural feeder roads, rural water, sanitation and rural housing, food and agriculture, rural industrialization, rural technology and resources development and exploitation were also part of the scheme. Whatever may be the achievements of individual state directorates, certain operational and conceptual problems have cropped up. One of these lack of fund to either start or continue with roads and water or electricity projects. Another major problem of the Directorate is the lack of uniformity in the execution of its programmes in the states. The basic thrust is that local communities should be involved in the execution of the projects. Perhaps this gave rise to Agebu (1988) funding formula – 75 percent federal government, 15 percent state and 7 percent local government and 3 percent communities. However, this formula has not been adhered to nor are local government and the communities involved in the manner envisaged by the National Directorate. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) is another scheme introduced by the Obasanjo regime to eradicate illiteracy by ensuring that all children of school age are enrolled. The three tiers of government were involved in the implementation of the programme. The aim of this programme is to eradicate illiteracy by making free and compulsory education up to junior secondary school level. That is why the Federal Government intended constructing UBE classrooms in all 774 local governments in the country. Education remains the best legacy parents can bequeath to their children and no society could achieve any meaningful development without an enlightened citizenry. However, the programme could have made some differences by now if it had been well-packaged, programmed and delivered.

Borno State Poverty Alleviation Schemes

- (i) Girl-child Education
- (ii) Nomadic Education

The Girl-child education was introduced because traditionally parents especially in the northern part of Borno State prefer male child education to female ones. Greater attention is given to the education, economic and social upliftment or enhancement of the male child than the female one. Girls are generally relegated to that background and are given out for marriage at immature age at their health risk. The mass adult literacy education was also introduced by the State Government with the aim of eradicating illiteracy among the adult populous. Adults who are less privileged to have gone to formal schools when due, were given opportunity to enroll into the programme. Training such as sewing, knitting, craftwork, carpentry etc are part of the programme being embarked upon the agency has been set-up in all the Local Governments of Borno State. The mass adult literacy education is still more of a mere fantasy than reality due to lack of proper management by both the local and state governments.

Local Community Poverty Alleviation Scheme

The local community has been doing well in alleviating poverty in their localities especially the time DFRRI was introduced. They have helped in constructing feeder roads, local wells and also in building schools. A good example of that were former Bui and Uba Community Day Secondary Schools. The construction of trunk C road was a commendable effort by the communities in Askira/Uba Local Government Area. The Dille community in Askira/Uba communal effort of buying poles to generate power supply for its community is also a case in point.

Donor Agency's Collaboration with Government to Alleviate Poverty

- [1] United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA)
- [2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- [3] United Nations children's Fund (UNICEF)
- [4] International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- [5] International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- [6] German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)
- [7] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- [8] International Development Association (IDA)

The population Family Life Education Programme in Nigeria was sponsored by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to create awareness for the people with the purpose of developing in them, in a more national and a more responsible behaviour towards improving the quality of their life now and the future. To improve the quality of life of the people there must be better reproductive health, sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation and the advancement of gender quality. To that end, the organization has been donating in cash and kind to improve the quality of life of the people. UNFPA is also playing great role in the war against HIV/AIDS. Generous contributions have been given by UNFPA to save countless lives and to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. It is of utmost importance that a population should be healthy a population that is piqued with incidences of sexually transmitted disease (STDs), Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and drug abuse is certainly not a healthy one and hence the UNFPA in collaboration with the Government are doing their best to educate people on these. The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is another strong body that has been assisting Nigeria greatly in funding education. Presently, they are negotiating with the Federal Government to find areas of assistance to ensure a successful implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme. To reduce poverty in the country, the International Development Programme (IDA) has given the sum of \$60 billion credit to the Federal Government to be used in projects that would alleviate poverty. The Federal Government in collaboration with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has done well in terms of health. There has been tremendous improvement especially in immunization against the childhood killer diseases. Their campaigns and vaccines have reached the doorstep of most common man.

UNICEF has also assisted the country in fighting against HIV/AIDS through enlightenment campaigns, adequate education and provision of protective measures such as condoms. The International Planned Parenthood Federation is involved in enlightening parents on their responsibilities of providing good education, food, housing and clothing as well as warmth and affection to their members. It is the message of the IPPF that parents need to be physically and emotionally matured to procreate and they also need to be socially and economically stable to raise children in a responsible manner.

Regret like “I should have stopped at four, now I cannot cope” is what the IPPF is preaching against. Other international bodies like the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) are complementing the efforts of the government at providing industrial attachment opportunities for the trainees of the NDE under BOAS. The GTZ has assisted the NDE since then with the provision of facilities at skills training centers. These facilities have greatly assisted in skill acquisition and upgrading among unemployed youths. The aim of this agency is to implement the Germany contribution to projects and programmes in partner countries. The GTZ has achieved this through strengthening some trade under the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) by the use of relevant facilities and emphasizing on theory and practice during training. The GTZ had also assisted the NDE by donating materials, equipment, training modules, books and technical expertise to strengthen both the theoretical instructions and practical training.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an international donor agency that liaises with state government for specific projects like water scheme, health services, roads construction and agricultural services like BOSADP and Chad Basin Development Authority. Despite the huge amount of money given by UNDP for assistance, the effect of the projects has not been adequately felt due to poor management.

Poverty Alleviation Initiated By Non-Governmental Organisations (Ngo)

1. Operation Heart to Heart Project in collaboration with Global Initiative Nutritional Therapy (GIANT)
2. Child Care Trust
3. Women organizations such as
 - i) National Commission for Women
 - ii) National Council for Women Society
 - iii) Naval Officers Wives Association (NOWA)
 - iv) Nigerian Army Officers Wives Association (NAOWA)
 - v) Nigeria Air Force Officers Wives Association (NAFOWA)
 - vi) Police Officers Wives Association (POWA)

Miss Jennifer Olanrenwaju lee, Coordinator of the Operation heart to Heart in Nigeria in collaboration with the Chairman of Global Initiative for Nutritional Therapy, Ambassador Young former United States Ambassador to United nations feel that if people do not feed properly and do not take enough protein they can contract any disease. The aim of Operation Heart to heart is to muster collective efforts at raising awareness in schools, market places, motor parks and communities about HIV/AIDS. Beyond this, HIV/AIDS victims are offered free medical examination, free support services and counseling. The mission is to fight against HIV/AIDS and rehabilitate people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. The Child Care Trust is another poverty alleviation scheme initiated by the late First Lady, Mrs. Stella Olusegun Obasanjo. The aim of the scheme is to help the less privileged children in the society such as abandoned, orphans and the disabled ones. The Child Care Trust is a non-governmental organization. This organization is utilizing money received from kind-hearted individuals and donor agencies like ILO and UNICEF but projects like FEAP, BLP and FSP use government money.

FEAP was disbursing government money as part of family support; Better Life also functioned in full with government money. Similar projects were also embarked upon by wives of State Governors and Local Government Chairmen to reduce the poverty levels among the less-privileged women and they also donate money to people with special ailment. They give interest free loans to widows. FEAP give out money to cooperative societies not to individuals but the aim of this programme is to single out individuals that needed help and give them loans knowing that these people don't have what it takes to go to banks and borrow or borrow from any other source. The potential beneficiary must be somebody already doing small business but who can't afford to raise capital on her own. What the people's Bank did was almost like what FEAP was doing, they gave out money not to individuals but to cooperative bodies to be paid back with small interests.

VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Background of Study Area

Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) was one of the newly created local governments in 1976 under the leadership of late General Murtala Mohammed. It was the former capital of the north-eastern states comprising of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa and Gombe States. The metropolitan city of Maiduguri is occupied by many ethnic groups and other people of the federation who do business in the region. However, the Kanuri tribe constitutes the major ethnic group and most of their inhabitants are rural dwellers. The people cultivate and grow different types of crops such as millet, maize, rice, wheat, beans and guinea corn. Apart from agriculture which is major economic activity of the people, they also engage in small-scale industries such as petty trading, handcrafts such as pottery, hide and skin work, blacksmithing and lots of others. Maiduguri is located in semi-arid zone with a pronounced two seasons of short rainy season that last for barely four months which is from June-September. The topography is considerably desert-like with short and high rainfalls. Significantly, the area is flat with sandy soil and accompanied with hot climate most of the year. The hottest months are April and May with temperature ranging from 39°C to 44°C. The vegetation of Maiduguri is sahel savannah which composed mainly of grass that covers more than 80 percent of the ground. Maiduguri is true grassland because it is located at the North-Eastern corner of the country. Trees are rare and wherever they exist, they are short shrubs and grasses which dry up completely during dry season and the land remain dried. The poor soil texture has compounded the problem of poverty in this area. Only short duration crops can grow there. This affect the income level of the people negatively and hence extent of poverty. The cosmopolitan nature of Maiduguri has encouraged rural-urban drift thus adding more pressure on employment and cost of living.

Research Design

For the purpose of this research data was sourced using both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data was sourced through questionnaire administration and supplemented by face to face interview with some few staff of the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. The questionnaire is the most widely used and most reliable survey method of data collection where questions are written down for the respondents to answer by writing their responses or ticking against the appropriate alternative. The questionnaire included both closed and open ended questions. The close ended questions were expressed in either "Yes or No" or "True or false" format while the open ended questions allowed the respondents to freely express themselves by writing down what they feel about a particular question. The interview gave the researcher the opportunity of having face to face discussion with the respondents and it also gave the researcher the opportunity of asking follow-up questions that are not contained in the questionnaire.

The secondary data involve the use of existing literatures such as reports, government publications, journals, newspapers and other internet and library materials available to the researcher. The research found

these materials to be helpful as well as time and cost saving. It is therefore, the aim of this chapter to give details of how the data for this research work was gathered using various techniques and sampling methods.

Research Instruments

In this research we made use of questionnaire, interview, internet and the literature as the instruments for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two sections; the first section contains the demographic data of the respondents while the second section contains questions that bother on the research topic. The interview was unstructured and was conducted with few respondents.

Sampling Procedures

Of the 3,786 staff of the Maiduguri metropolitan Council, 150 workers were administered with the questionnaire for the purpose of this research work. The stratified random sampling technique was used for the administration of the questionnaire. One hundred and fifty respondents were selected from the five departments of the MMC and they included 100 male and 50 female respondents from both the senior and junior cadres in the MMC.

VII. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The questions in the questionnaires were presented in a tabular form and their simple percentage calculated. This was done in order to reflect the findings of the research work which will be used to make recommendations, conclusion and for further research work.

Background of Study Area

Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) was one of the newly created local governments in 1976 under the leadership of late General Murtala Mohammed. It was the former capital of the north-eastern states comprising of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa and Gombe States. The metropolitan city of Maiduguri is occupied by many ethnic groups and other people of the federation who do business in the region. However, the Kanuri tribe constitutes the major ethnic group and most of their inhabitants are rural dwellers. The people cultivate and grow different types of crops such as millet, maize, rice, wheat, beans and guinea corn. Apart from agriculture which is major economic activity of the people, they also engage in small-scale industries such as petty trading, handcrafts such as pottery, hide and skin work, blacksmithing and lots of others. Maiduguri is located in semi-arid zone with a pronounced two seasons of short rainy season that last for barely four months which is from June-September. The topography is considerably desert-like with short and high rainfalls. Significantly, the area is flat with sandy soil and accompanied with hot climate most of the year. The hottest months are April and May with temperature ranging from 39°C to 44°C. The vegetation of Maiduguri is sahel savannah which composed mainly of grass that covers more than 80 percent of the ground. Maiduguri is true grassland because it is located at the North-Eastern corner of the country. Trees are rare and wherever they exist, they are short shrubs and grasses which dry up completely during dry season and the land remain dried. The poor soil texture has compounded the problem of poverty in this area. Only short duration crops can grow there. This affect the income level of the people negatively and hence extent of poverty. The cosmopolitan nature of Maiduguri has encouraged rural-urban drift thus adding more pressure on employment and cost of living.

VIII. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This chapter assesses the performance of poverty alleviation schemes in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council using data obtained through questionnaires administered to the workers of the MMC. The data obtained shall be presented, interpreted and analyzed. The chapter intends to give a descriptive statistical analyzes of data obtained using simple percentages. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were distributed to both senior and junior staff of MMC – 110 for senior staff and 40 for junior staff. Out of this number, eight were not returned, leaving a total of 142 completed and returned questionnaires – 105 senior staff and 37 junior staff. This figure represents about 94.7% of the sample. The responses of the 143 completed and returned questionnaires were used for the analysis of this study. The questionnaires distributed cut across both male and female sex in the organization. The questionnaire is divided into two sections, i.e. section ‘A’ which contain the demographic data of the respondents and section ‘B’ which contains questions related to the subject matter. Most questions in the questionnaire shall be presented in tabular form after analysis shall be subsequently made while some few questions will just be explained without tables. This will be done in order to reflect the findings of this research work.

Section ‘A’ – Demographic data of respondents

Table 4.1: Sex of correspondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	17	60	78	74.3
Female	20	54	27	25.7
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

From the table above, 46% of the junior staff respondents are male while 54% are female. For the senior staff the table shows that 74.3% are male while 25.7% are female. This clearly indicates that the male respondents are more than the female respondents for there are more male workers in the service of the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

Table 2: Rank of respondent

Responses	Number	Percentage (%)
Junior	37	26.1
Senior	105	73.9
Total	142	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Table 2 shows that 26.1% of 142 total respondents are junior staff while 73.9% are senior staff. This indicates that there are more senior staff respondents than junior staff. The choice of the researcher to involve more senior staff respondents than junior staff was to enable the researcher have more detailed and well explained response which can be gotten more easily from the senior staff than the junior staff.

Table 4.3: Marital Status of respondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Single	22	59.5	8	7.6
Married	15	40.5	97	92.4
Widow	-	-	-	-
Divorced	-	-	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Table 3 above shows that there are 22 single junior staff, 8 single senior staff, 15 married junior staff and 97 married senior staff. However, none of the respondents was either a widow/widower or divorced. This shows that there are more single junior staff and more married senior staff in the MMC. However, when both junior and senior respondents are put together, the table shows that there are more married workers in the MMC as they account for about 112 as against 30 junior respondents of the 142 senior and junior respondents put together.

Table 4.4: Department of respondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Administration	12	32.5	52	49.5
PHC	4	10.8	12	11.4
Finance	7	18.9	8	7.7
Agric	5	13.5	4	3.8
Works	9	24.3	29	27.6
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Table 4 shows the various departments of the respondents. Twelve of the junior respondents are in the administration department while 52 of the senior respondents are in the administration department; 4 of the junior respondents are in the primary health care department while 12 of the senior respondents are also in the primary health care department. 7 junior respondents and 8 senior respondents are in the finance department. The agric department has 5 junior respondents and 4 senior respondents. The works department has 9 junior

respondents and 29 senior respondents. From the table above, it is clear that there are more respondents from the administration department in both the junior and senior cadre than in any other department of the MMC. The administration department recorded 32.5% and 49.5% of the junior and senior staff respondents respectively.

Table 4.5: Age of respondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
18-25	15	40.5	-	-
26-35	12	32.4	60	57.1
36-40	5	13.5	30	28.6
41 & above	5	13.5	15	14.3
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Table 5 shows the age of respondents; of the 37 junior staff 15 were between the ages of 18-25; 12 were between the ages of 26-35; 5 were between the ages of 36-40 while 5 were between the ages of 41 and above. In the senior cadre, none was in the age bracket of 18-25, 60 were between the age brackets of 26-35; 30 were between the age of 36-40 while 15 were in the age group of 41 and above.

The table indicates that there are more respondents who fall in the age bracket of 18-25 in the junior staff cadre and there are more respondents who are in the age bracket of 36-45 in the senior staff cadre. This further reveals that the MMC has more young, strong and agile staff in the service of the MMC as the age bracket of 18-25 account for about 40.5% of the junior cadre while the age bracket of 26-35 account for about 57.1% of the senior staff cadre

Table 4.6: Educational qualification of respondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Degree/HND	-	-	82	78.1
OND/NCE	22	59.5	23	21.9
SSCE	15	40	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

This table shows the educational qualifications of the respondents while none of the junior staff has degree/HND as their qualification, 82 of the senior staff have degree/HND as their educational qualification, 22 junior staff has OND/NCE as their qualification while 23 senior respondents have OND/NCE as their level of educational qualification, 15 junior staff have secondary school certificate as their educational qualification while none of the senior staff has secondary school certificate as their highest educational qualification. From the data presented above, it can be seen that the highest number of junior workers in the MMC are OND/NCE holders as they account for about 59.4% of the junior staff while degree/HND holders have the highest number of senior workers in the Metropolitan Council.

Table 4.7: Period of service of respondents

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1-6 years	22	59.5	-	-
7-11 years	8	21.6	15	14.3
12-16 years	7	18.9	53	50.4
17-20 years	-	-	22	21
21 & above	-	-	15	14.3
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table 7 above shows that 59.5% of the junior respondents has spent between 1 to 6 years on the job, while none of the senior staff respondents have spent less than 6 years on their job. 21.6% of the junior respondents have spent 7-11 years on their job while 14.3% senior respondents have spent 7-11 years on their job, 12-16 years recorded 18.9% junior respondents and 50.4% senior respondents respectively, none of the

junior staff respondents have worked for the period between 17-20 years while 21% senior respondents indicated that they have spent between 17-20 years on their job. None of the junior respondents indicated that they have spent 21 years and above in the service of the metropolitan Council while 14.3% senior respondents indicated that they have served for between 21 years and above in the Metropolitan Council.

The period between 1-6 years recorded the highest percentage of junior staff respondents (59.5%) while the period 12-16 years recorded the highest percentage of senior staff. This indicates that the MMC encourages continuity of their workers.

SECTION B:

Table 4.8: Level of satisfaction with the living standard of the physically disabled, elderly, child-care and the ill in the MMC

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Very satisfied	-	-	15	14.3
Satisfied	30	81.1	30	28.6
Not satisfied	7	18.9	60	57.1
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table above shows that none of the junior respondents responded that they are very satisfied with the living standard of the physically disabled, elderly, children and the ill in the metropolis above. 14% of the senior respondents indicated that they are very satisfied with the living standard of these categories of people, 81.1% of the junior respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the living standard of less privileged in the MMC while 28.6% of the senior respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the living standard of the physically disabled elder, children and the ill in the MMC. Again, 18.9% of the junior respondents indicated that they are not satisfied with the living standard of these categories of people while 57.1% of the senior respondents said they are also not satisfied with the living standard of the people. It can therefore be deduced that a majority of the junior staff are satisfied with the living standard of the physically challenged and the ill in the MMC while majority of the senior staff are not satisfied with the living standard of these categories of people. On the whole, however, when both senior and junior respondents are put together, it can be said that both senior and junior workers in the MMC are not satisfied with the living standard of the physically disabled, elderly, children and ill. This is because these categories of people constitute the group that is more vulnerable to poverty in the society and the poverty alleviation schemes that existed in the MMC both in the past and present does not adequately cover and provide for these categories of people who are the less privilege of the metropolis. This is why these groups of people abound on the streets of the metropolis as beggars.

Table 4.9: Maiduguri Metropolitan Council as characterized by urban poverty

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
True	30	81.1	75	71.4
False	-	-	23	21.9
Don't know	7	18.9	7	6.7
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table above show that a total of 81.1% of the junior respondents said that the MMC is characterized by urban poverty while 71.4% of the senior respondents indicated that the MMC is characterized by urban poverty. None of the junior respondents believes that the MMC is not characterized by urban poverty while 21.9% of the senior respondents indicated that the MMC is characterized by urban poverty. About 19% of the junior staff responded that they don't know if the MMC is characterized by urban poverty or not while 6.7% senior respondents indicated the same. Looking at the percentages therefore, it is clear that the respondents feel the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council is characterized by urban poverty.

Table 4.10: Level of poverty in the metropolis

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
High	15	40.5	75	71.4
Average	-	-	30	28.6
Low	22	29.5	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table above shows that 40.5% of the junior respondents said that the level of poverty in the metropolis is high while 71.4% senior respondents felt that the level poverty in the MMC is high. While none of the junior respondents agrees that the level of poverty in the metropolis is average. 28.6% of the senior respondents agreed that the level of poverty in the metropolis is average. Above 60% of the junior respondents said that the poverty level in the metropolis is low while none of the senior respondents responded that the poverty level of the metropolis is low. From the above analysis, it can be said that poverty level in the MMC is high. It was further revealed in an interview that the major reason for the high rate of poverty in the metropolis is basically due to the negligence of the poverty alleviation schemes to properly take care of the most vulnerable groups to poverty in the society. These groups of people are the elderly, physically disabled, children and the ill.

Table 4.1: Poverty is still on the increase despite the establishment of poverty alleviation programmes

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
True	37	100	90	85.7
False	-	-	15	14.3
Don't know	-	-	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table above show that all the junior staff said that poverty is increasing at an alarming rate in MMC despite the establishment of various poverty alleviation programmes. Above 86% of the senior respondents agreed with this while 14.3% of the senior respondents disagree that poverty is on the increase despite the establishment of poverty alleviation programmes. One can therefore say that poverty is one the increase in the MMC despite the establishment of various poverty alleviation schemes. This is because the various poverty alleviation schemes in existence have not been properly designed to serve the interest of the actual people. For example, the disabled, elderly, beggars and the ill have not been benefiting from the NDE schemes of giving out loans and job creation opportunity. This is because they are believed not to be physically sound to be involved in any of the opportunities. Therefore, the NDE cannot alleviate the poverty of this group of people.

Table 4.12: NDE has done a lot of poverty alleviation through self-employment, giving out loans and job creation

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
True	7	18.9	83	79.0
False	15	40.5	15	14.3
Don't know	15	40.5	7	6.7
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

From the table above it can be seen that 18.9% of the junior staff and 79.0% of the senior staff said that the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has done a lot in poverty through self-employment, giving out loans and job creation. For instance, a senior staff indicated in an interview that the NDE has trained many unemployed youth as mechanics, typists, carpenters, shoe makers etc after which they receive loans to set up their own business enterprise. This has created jobs for many youths and has made them self-employed above 41.6% of the junior respondents and 14.3% of the senior staff do not believe that NDE has done a lot in the poverty alleviation of the people in the metropolis. Further, 40.5% and 6.7% of the junior and senior respondents respectively said they don't know if the NDE is significant or not in alleviating the poverty of the people of the

metropolis. One can therefore say that while the senior respondents see the NDE scheme as being significant in poverty alleviation, junior respondents see the NDE scheme as not playing significant role in alleviating poverty of the people. However, when both senior and junior respondents are put together, it can be said that the NDE scheme has done a lot in poverty alleviation as 90 of the total number of 142 of both senior and junior respondents agreed to this.

Table 4.13: Level of satisfaction with NDE programmes by the people of MMC

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Very satisfied	8	21.6	22	21
Satisfied	-	-	38	36.1
Not satisfied	22	59.5	45	42.9
No response	7	18.9	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

On the opinion of their level of satisfaction with NDE programmes table 13 shows that 59.5% of the junior respondents and 42.9% of the senior respondents are not satisfied with the NDE programmes while 36.1% of the senior respondents were satisfied with the NDE programmes. Further, 21.6% and 21% of the junior and senior respondents are very satisfied with the NDE programmes. Only 18.9% of the junior staff did not give any response. 59.5% of the junior respondents and 42.9% of the senior respondents who indicated they are not satisfied and 42.9% of the senior respondents who indicated that they are not satisfied with the NDE programmes explained that most of those trained by the NDE are not in business because of lack of fund to continue in business. Therefore, one say that workers of the MMC are generally not satisfied with the NDE programs.

Table 4.14: If you have ever benefited from any poverty alleviation scheme

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	-	-	7	6.7
No	37	100	98	93.3
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

The table above indicates that none of the junior staff respondents have benefited from any poverty alleviation scheme while only 6.7% of the senior respondents have benefited from any poverty alleviation scheme. Therefore, it can be said that workers in the MMC have not benefited from any poverty alleviation scheme since its inception in the MMC. In a follow-up question (question 15), the 6.7% of the senior staff respondents that said yes were asked the various types of benefits they have gotten from the various poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. Though their responses could not be tabulated because of the nature of the question, it can be generally said that the beneficiaries from the NDE scheme benefited in the form of sewing machines, grinding machines and motorcycles given to them as loans, further those trained under the open apprenticeship scheme are not self-employed as carpenters, mechanics, plumbers, welders, etc. Again, those who benefited from the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) were given temporary employment for a year before their employment is terminated.

Table 4.15: Level of satisfaction with poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Very satisfied	-	-	-	-
Satisfied	7	18.9	23	21.9
Not satisfied	30	81.1	82	78.1
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

On respondents' level of satisfaction with poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC, none of the senior or junior respondents indicated that they are very satisfied with the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. Above 19% of the junior respondents and 31.9% of the senior respondents indicated that they are satisfied with

the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC while 81.1% and 78.1% of the junior and senior staff respectively indicated that they are not satisfied with the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. From the presentation above, it is clear that workers in the MMC are not satisfied with the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. This fact was further confirmed in an interview when all the respondents agreed that the various poverty alleviation schemes like their predecessors have a common characteristic of failure. This, they say, is due to their failure to meet up with the needs of the most vulnerable groups to poverty in the society which are the physically disabled, elderly, children and the ill and these group of people have taken to begging on the streets of the metropolis thus worsening the case of poverty in the metropolis.

Table 4.16: Reasons for the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Poor funding and management	15	40.5	38	36.2
Corruption on the side of officials	8	21.6	15	14.3
Lack of proper supervision, monitoring and evaluation	7	18.9	23	21.9
Unqualified personnel	-	-	-	-
All of the above	7	19	29	27.6
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Regarding the reason for the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC, 40.5% of the junior respondents and 36.2% of the senior respondents said it is due to poor funding and management; 21.6% of the junior respondents and 14.3% of the senior respondents said it is due to corruption on the side of the officials; 18.9% of the junior respondents and 21.9% of the senior respondents indicted lack of proper supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the schemes; none of the junior or senior respondents indicated unqualified personnel as the reason for the poor performance of poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC while 19% of the junior staff and 27.6% of the senior staff respondents that all of the above mentioned reasons are responsible for the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. From the above table, it can be seen that while all these factors mentioned above have contributed in one way or the other to the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC, however, the major contributing factor to the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC is poor funding and management of the schemes.

Table 4.17: Decentralized poverty alleviation scheme has to be adopted if the poor are to be truly uplifted

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
True	30	81.1	83	79
False	7	18.9	22	21
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

Decentralized poverty alleviation refers to a process whereby the poverty needs of each society shall be addressed according to the peculiar needs of the society. Table 17 shows that 81.1% of junior respondents and 79% of senior respondents are of the view that the best way to alleviate poverty is through decentralized poverty alleviation approach while 18.9% of the junior respondents and 21% of the senior respondents indicated that poverty can be alleviated without being decentralized. It can therefore be said that the best approach to poverty alleviation is through decentralized poverty alleviation approach which emphasizes alleviating poverty according to the peculiar poverty needs of each society.

Table 4.18: Poverty alleviation schemes has succeeded in alleviating poverty

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	7	18.9	15	14.3
No	30	81.1	90	85.7
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

In the table above, respondents were asked if poverty alleviation schemes have succeeded in the MMC. About 19% of the junior respondents and 14.3% of the senior respondents indicated that poverty alleviation schemes have succeeded in alleviating the poverty of the people in the metropolis while 81.1% of the junior respondents and 85.7% of the senior respondents indicated that poverty alleviation schemes have not succeeded in alleviating the poverty of the people in the metropolis. This was further buttressed by a respondent when he said that poverty has not been alleviated and shall never be alleviated as long as there is no proper identification of the beneficiaries. A good example is the case of Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) that was politicized.

Table 4.19: The major cause of poverty in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
High influx of people in the MMC	-	-	8	7.6
Employment	22	59.5	45	42.9
Lack of land for agric production	7	18.9	7	6.5
Unequal distribution of social and economic infrastructure	8	21.6	30	28.6
Inadequate skill on the important Education	-	-	15	14.3
Others	-	-	-	-
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

In response to the question on the general causes of poverty in the MMC, high influx of people in the MMC recorded 7.6% for the senior respondents, unemployment recorded 59.5% for junior respondents and 42.9% for senior respondents; lack of land for agricultural production recorded 18.9% for junior respondents and 6.7% for senior respondents; unequal distribution of social and economic infrastructure recorded 21.6% for junior respondents and 28.6% for senior respondents, inadequate skill on the importance of education recorded 14.3% for senior respondents. The analysis indicates that unemployment in the MMC is the major cause of poverty in the MMC.

Table 4.20: The performance of NDE is below expectation

Responses	Junior		Senior	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
True	30	81.1	83	79
False	7	18.9	22	21
Total	37	100	105	100

Source: Field work, 2014

As regarded the performance of NDE, 81.1% of the junior respondents and 79% of the senior respondents agreed that the performance of the NDE is below expectation while 18.9% of the junior respondents and 21% of the senior respondents indicated that the performance of the NDE is not below expectation. Those who said that the performance of the NDE is below expectation explained that factors such as poor management, political instability over the years, inadequate funding, etc are some of the factors that has affected the effective performance of the NDE over the years. Based on the table above, one can therefore say that the NDE has generally performed below expectation over the years. Finally, respondents were asked to provide solutions to the problems of poverty alleviation in the MMC. The respondents of both senior and junior respondents are summarized as follows:

- 1) Government should create more job for the unemployed people of the MMC particularly the youths, elderly and the disabled.
- 2) Professionals should be selected to handle the issue of poverty alleviation in the MMC.
- 3) Government should establish and fund a standard skill acquisition centre in the MMC.
- 4) The MMC should provide an agency that will give soft loan to the people in order to benefit from its outcome.
- 5) The MMC should provide poverty alleviation materials which will alleviate and empower the people to sustain themselves.

Summary of the Findings

This research work discovered that the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) does not have a well designed and articulated poverty alleviation scheme that recognizes and properly taken care of the physically disabled, children and the elderly who are the most vulnerable group of people to poverty in the Metropolis. They are commonly found on the streets of the metropolis as beggars. It was also discovered that the MMC is characterized by a high level of urban poverty which is caused by a high level of rural urban migration from neighbouring countries and rural areas to the metropolis in search of employment which is not adequate for even the metropolitan dwellers/indigenes. This research work has also revealed that though many attempts has been made to alleviate poverty through the various poverty alleviation programmes that exists in the MMC, however, the issue of poverty is still not low rather, it is on the increase in the MMC. The NDE has played a vital role towards poverty alleviation in the MMC by providing loans and self-employment opportunities for the people said it was however discovered that the NDE has generally performed below expectation due to poor funding and management. Again, it was discovered that majority of workers in the MMC has not benefited from any of the poverty alleviation schemes. Most workers in the MMC are not satisfied with the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. This is because the way and manner in which the scheme managed is very poor such that the opportunities it should provide are not available for the workers to access. Indeed, there is high politicization of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC. Various reasons for the poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes were discovered, they include poor funding and management of the scheme, corruption and politicization of the scheme by its officials, poor supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the scheme; employing unqualified personnel to handle the affairs of the scheme etc. however, the major cause of poor performance of the poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC is poor funding and management. The research discovered that the decentralized poverty alleviation approach which emphasizes that the poverty alleviation approach should not be generalized rather the poverty alleviation approach of each society should take care of the peculiar needs of that society, if this approach is taken, it will greatly alleviate poverty in the MMC. Based on question 19 in the questionnaires, it was discovered that poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC have generally failed. Finally, in this research work it was found that the poverty in the MMC are high influx of people into the MMC, unequal distribution of social and economic infrastructures in the MMC, poor education etc but the major cause of poverty in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council is high rate of unemployment.

Summary, Conclusion And Recommendations Summary

This research work was undertaken with the objective of assessing the impact of poverty alleviation programmes on the people of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council. In terms of poverty alleviation, it is common to hear that the scheme has failed to alleviate poverty. This is because the actual poor people have not been identified due to poor implementation of the schemes. They have not been properly targeted to ensure that the only group that actually benefits from the scheme are the poor in the society, hence its failure to alleviate poverty. It is this perceived questionable performance of the poverty alleviation schemes that has prompted the researcher to assess the impact of the various poverty alleviation schemes on the people in the MMC. In the cause of this study, the interview and questionnaire method were used as primary source of data collection and was complemented by other secondary sources of data collection such as journals, newspaper reports and other library materials. A total of 150 questionnaires were administered to workers in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council using the stratified random sampling technique (100 to senior staff and 50 to junior staff) out of which 142 was completed and returned (105 senior staff respondents and 37 junior staff respondents). The researcher tabulated the response of the respondents and made use of the simple percentage in analyzing them, about 67% of the 142 total senior and junior respondents were male while 33.1% were female. The findings of this research confirmed that majority of the respondents (81.1% of the junior staff and 78.1% of the senior staff) expressed their total dissatisfaction with the various poverty alleviation schemes that exists in the MMC. Also on the general performance of poverty alleviation programmes in the MMC, 81.1% and 85.7% of the junior and senior respondents expressed that the general performance of the poverty alleviation schemes has been below expectation. Findings of the research revealed that despite the various poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC, the MMC is still characterized by high and increasing rate of urban poverty caused by the failure of the scheme to identify and target the actual poor people in the MMC.

IX. CONCLUSION

In concluding this research work, this research finally agrees/supports the following statements. People are not satisfied with the living standard of the physically disabled, elderly, children, beggars and the ill because the government in its attempt to alleviate poverty has targeted these categories of people who are the most vulnerable to poverty in the society. It is also the submission of this work that the various poverty alleviation

programmes have not alleviated poverty. Indeed, they have performed below the expectation of the masses. Despite the numerous poverty alleviation schemes in the MMC, poverty is still not reduced, rather it is on the high increase. In fact, statistics showed that the level of poverty in the metropolis rose from 47.7% in 1992 to 65.6% in 1996. This is why there is high number of youths, elderly and physically disabled all over our streets in the metropolis. The highest cause of poverty in the metropolis is high rate of unemployment among the working age group in the society (youths and the elderly). Indeed, this is so pronounced that youths who are supposed to be working are found roaming about the streets in idleness and most at times, they end up being used as thugs or agents of social vices in the society. Other causes of poverty in the MMC include unequal distribution of social and economic infrastructure, inadequate knowledge on the importance of education, high influx of people into the MMC from the rural areas, neighbouring states as well as neighbouring countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The universal approach to poverty alleviation which emphasizes that all poverty alleviation schemes should take the same form/approach irrespective of the peculiar needs of the people in the society should be discarded and done away with because it has failed in its entirety to tackle the issue of poverty in the society. There has been poor funding and management of the various poverty alleviation schemes; lack of proper supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the schemes, corruption and politicization on the part of the officials and also the use of unqualified personnel in running the scheme.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are hereby made based on the findings of this research work. These recommendations if carefully considered will help a long way in improving the plight of the poor in the MMC.

- 1) It is recommended that poverty alleviation schemes since they are established to improve the living standard of the poor and the less privileged in the society should be properly funded and well managed to ensure that its goals are effectively implemented and they get to the targeted group in the society. This can be done by employing professionals such as sociologists, economists and so on to head the schemes. Situations where such schemes are headed by non-professionals always result in poor coordination and implementation.
- 2) The adoption of universal poverty reduction approach has failed to alleviate poverty significantly therefore, a decentralized poverty alleviation approach should be adopted since the nature, causes and a characteristic of poverty varies over space and time. Hence, there is a need to adopt the decentralized approach to poverty alleviation as against the universal approach.
- 3) Before the impact of any poverty alleviation scheme can be well felt, such poverty alleviation scheme should properly target its beneficiaries (i.e. the poor) in order to ensure that only the targeted population really benefits from the scheme, hence the beneficiaries must be properly identified so that the benefits of the scheme do not get to the non-targeted group or the non-poor.
- 4) For the poverty alleviation scheme to really succeed, it should create more self-employment opportunities, set up small-scale industries and also give out loans to meet the demands of the mass unemployed.
- 5) Welfare programmes should be designed and adopted for the physically disabled, the elderly and the ill to take care of them since they constitute a population that cannot benefit from employment opportunities or increase income earning.
- 6) Poverty alleviation schemes that provide basic infrastructural facilities necessary for life such as sinking of boreholes, digging of wells, construction of roads, building of hospitals, electricity etc should be embarked on. These social services are of paramount importance to the less privileged since they render services which everybody will benefit from, instead of schemes that benefit only the well to do in the society.
- 7) The issue of high influx of people particularly from the neighboring countries also contributed to the high rate of poverty in the metropolis. The Nigeria Immigration Service should therefore as a matter of importance decongest the metropolis of illegal immigrants who have no business staying in the metropolis.
- 8) Government should focus on an economic growth approach so as to increase the income received by the people, expand employment opportunities and also provide social services which aims at overcoming poverty.
- 9) There should be constant and proper supervision, monitoring and periodic evaluation of the various poverty alleviation schemes so that errors can be quickly dictated and corrected.
- 10) Poverty alleviation schemes should make effort at investing into human capital in the areas of education, health and nutrition. This is very crucial in the elimination of poverty, hence nutrition programmes and health education programmes should be encouraged so that people's mind can be developed and they can think positively.

The recommendations for a topic of this magnitude cannot be exhausted, however, if the few suggestions given above are implemented, poverty would be greatly reduced to a minimal level not only in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council but also in the State and country at large.

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