

## CHILD POVERTY IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Muhammad Alkali Liman  
Department of Childhood Studies  
School of Education  
University of Leeds  
Email: alkalimal@yahoo.com

Ibrahim Dahiru Idriss  
Department of Primary Education  
Federal College of Education (Technical), Potiskum  
Yobe State, Nigeria  
Email: ibrahimdahiruidriss@gmail.com

Maryam Ajjiya Alkali  
Department of Early Childhood Care and Primary Education  
Federal College of Education (Technical), Potiskum  
Yobe State, Nigeria  
Email: maryamalkali02@gmail.com

Yahanasu Muhammad Abdullahi  
Department of Arabic  
Yobe State University, Damaturu  
Yobe State, Nigeria  
Email: yahanasumabdullahi@gmail.com

---

### ABSTRACT

*This article centred on issues related to poverty in Nigeria with particular focus to the aspect of child poverty. Poverty is an important societal problem that plays role in Nigeria. It has deprived many children the ability to optimize their full potential. In Nigeria, today, children's lives are more at a disadvantage than an earlier generation. Despite that, there is high economic growth in order to address the issue of child poverty in the country, but, still, there is less consensus on how to define, measure, and understand its causes and consequences. This paper aimed to examine how puberty makes an impact on the live with the children because most of the existing works have not been detailed on the aspect. Secondary data were employed for the data collection in conducting this work study. The findings of this study indicate some ways on how to curtail or reduced child poverty in the country with the conclusion that the country is rich. Little evidence found that gross misappropriation of resources, poor management, sociocultural factors and corruption are responsible for the current situation of child poverty in the country.*

Key words: Child Puberty, Causes, Consequences and Deprivation.

---

### INTRODUCTION

Child poverty has devastating effects on children and societies. Addressing child poverty is a key feature of international agreement (e.g Millennium Development Goals 4), and was until recently a policy priority in Nigeria (e.g Child Rights Act, Strategy for Acceleration of Girls' Child Education in Nigeria). Challenges confronting some children show to be more notable in developing countries due to the problems of poverty, political instability, hunger/deprivation, internecine wars and conflicts (Makinde 2015). It is shown that those that sharply felt the discomfort associated by these factors are children (Gordon et al. 2003). Section three (3) of the bill of the rights in Nigerian constitution further established important milestone designed to provide equal opportunity to every child - better standard of living and improvement and protection of the lives of children against neglect, abuse, maltreatment, and labour (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018), which is detrimental or exploitative towards the development and health of children.

The Nigerian constitution identifies a massive state engagement towards children: to cater for their shelter, basic needs, supply of portable water, essential health-care services, nourishment and social services (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Each of these perspectives resonates with the uncertain situation in which children found themselves in Africa: severely depressed economic situations, lack of necessary facilities, extensive experiences of armed conflict and the resultant displacement of peoples. The incidence of child poverty is at its increase in developing countries despite the growing concern of many international organisation and the countries of the world noticeable in programmes formulation and policy implementation, for instance, MDGs 4 targets set by the United Nation (UN) for the nations of the world to decrease the rate of child mortality by 2015.

Most of the children in the developing countries are deprived the rights to basic sanitation and access to portable and clean water in their household (UNICEF 2009). Statistically, in 2009 analysis of developmental research shows that about 600 million children in the world are living under absolute poverty and estimated number of 10 million children between the aged of 0 -5 years die yearly mostly from curable and or preventable diseases (UNICEF 2011). Most of these deaths are among diseases that included diarrhea, respiratory illness, conflict as well as protozoa infections and HIV/AIDS. Stunted growth, malnutrition, lack of access to clean water, poor hygiene and good sanitation remains the key factors of high number of these deaths (UNICEF, 2005). Currently, an estimation of 93% deaths of all children under the age of five years occur in Asia and Africa combined and out of these about 40% occur in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and India (UNICEF, 2008). This evidently entail attention to tackle the high increase of child poverty incidence in the world, more especially in developing countries such as Nigeria that glaringly shows the phenomenon of child poverty.

Nigeria has remained one with high rate of prevalence of child poverty among the countries of the world where most of the children, particularly those that lives in remote areas are faced with challenges like lack of access to quality education, poor health, social insecurity, food and inadequate care. The issue of child poverty is national phenomenon that is not exception to some areas but cover and spread problems widely all over the corners of every country. Most of the poor children are living in rural area and lack the basic resources that they required for human to survive like in the other part of developed world. In most instances, these young children are living in household of more than five persons per room, not having portable water to drink, bad access to good medical health care and facilities, with bad or no access to proper toilet and sanitation, no school attendance or out of school, inadequate or without learning facilities and access to information. This condition is quiet unpleasant for children living under extreme poverty, thus, there is need for Nigerian government and other developing countries alike to address the causes and consequences of poverty among children (Gordon D, et al 2003)

The Nigerian government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991, and also the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of a Child (ACRWC) in 1999 (Okpalaobi & Ekwueme 2015). It is also a signatory under the convention of The International Labour Organisation (ILO) on child labour in which give more concerned on the rights and welfare of every child to have access to quality education and a better standard of living. This act committed the Nigerian Government to reduce the impact of child poverty by 2020. However, this situation is very critical, most notably in the rural area and some part of the urban centre (Adetola & Olufemi 2012). To some measure, the presence of widespread child poverty in Nigeria can be viewed as a result of failure to achieve these rights.

## **CHILD POVERTY- DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT**

The conceptions and measures of poverty differ based on the deepness of deprivation at which poverty is examined (e.g whether absolute or relative measures of poverty), and the breadth of areas that are considered to be component of the condition. The UNICEF (2005a) definition of child poverty as presented in the state of the world's children cited in Minujin et al. (2006:483) has been influential in academic and policy definition, which describe:

“Children living in poverty are those who experience deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society”.

The study of child poverty is highly imperative due to its consequences on the development and well-being of child's adult life, and this supports the motion by Chzhen et al. (2016) and Dunga & Makhalima (2016) that child poverty leads to health challenges and poor academic performance. This circumstance is one of the objectives the research is intended to achieve looking at the issues of child poverty in Nigeria, its effect on socio-economic development, and how it has contributed to insecurity in the country.

By exploring the above objectives through a systematic review of literature, one could agree with Main and Bradshaw (2016) study on child poverty in the UK that children from low-income households are more likely to be in poverty and that child poverty damaging to children's development. Child poverty in Nigeria is a common phenomenon both in urban and rural areas (Adetola and Olufemi 2012).

There are two conventional approaches for measuring child poverty as presented in many research findings such as money-metric and non-money-metric (Dunga & Makhalima 2016; Minujin et al. 2006; Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Minujin et al. (2006) and Dunga & Makhalima (2016) believed that the money-metric approach of measuring poverty is not a suitable parameter and does not fit within the scope for measuring child poverty. therefore, the multidimensional (non-money-metric approach) serves as a better parameter for measuring child poverty; as it

considers households size, gender and age of household members rather than households' income as applicable in money-metric approach. Similarly, Haveman et al. (2015) believe that multidimensional approach to measuring poverty identify households that lack access to medical, proper sanitation, shelter, education, food and in turn deprived the opportunity of socialising with their peers. Meanwhile, Ogwumike & Ozughalu (2018) believe that despite its shortcoming's money-metric approach remain popular. Foster et al. (2013) cited in Main (2018) believe that household income approach remains the standard measure of poverty in the developed countries.

In Nigeria, there is a vast amount of research on general poverty. However, few studies have researched on the aspect of child poverty such as (Adetola & Olufemi 2012; Aliyu & Garba 2012; Bamiduro & Ogwumike 2009; Ogwumike and Ozughalu 2018). The authors as mentioned above used non-monetary approach to measure child poverty that is, it can be deduced that non-monetary approach is the standard parameter for measuring child poverty in Nigeria as applicable from previous studies and based on the current findings. Furthermore, Ogwumike & Ozughalu (2018) research was the first to employed money-metric and non-money-metric approaches to analyse child poverty and deprivation in Nigeria.

## **POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

Poverty is real in Nigeria and over decade or so, the life standard of the average person in Nigeria has progressively nose-dived. Statistically, studies in Nigeria shows obviously how precarious life has become for the average person through suffocating levels of poverty. The poverty situation becomes more pathetic in Nigeria for its citizen when compared with other developing countries in Africa and other less endowed countries in the world. Obadan & Odusola (2001) founds that, for instance, "incomes per capita of Nigeria in 1990 is estimated at \$240 which was well lower than the estimated average of over \$500 for sub-Saharan African countries. The Nigerian's figure was estimated as below that of Cote d'Ivoire (\$6,600), Mauritius (\$3,710), Egypt (\$1,080), Bostwana (\$3,210), and South Africa (\$3,500)".

Despite the various supports and high consideration that has been receiving from United Nations, Western nations and other Non-Governmental organization, still, Nigeria has been continually experiencing a considerable increase in determinant that set growing numbers of children at threat of falling into severe poverty (Rufai et al. 2016). This resurgence is chiefly because of the child deprivation in the country (Abiodun et al. 2019). It is disheartened to note that extreme child poverty and deprivation that characterized Nigeria today are traceable to income inequalities and the wealth gap of many households (Rufai et al. 2016). In 2011, it is considered by the European Union (EU) that children are possibly the greatest vulnerable group in the African continent, which is estimated 27% of these young children were identified as at menace of falling into poverty and undergoing with social marginalization (UNICEF 2011). Based on the UNICEF approximation, stated in the year 2012 about thirty (30) millions of children in 35 under-developed economies countries lived in poverty (UNICEF, 2012).

The menace of child poverty has also continued to exist in Nigeria with a devastating impact on children, despite that the nation remains amongst the economic giant state in the continent of Africa (Rufai et al 2016). The scourge in Nigeria, particularly in the northeastern part of the country, has turn a well-known phenomenon with devastated effects and high rate of child mortality (Rufai et al 2016). It has noted a high number of underperformance on children in school as a result of lack of quality and sufficient nutrition at home which lead to the establishment of school feeding programs and integrated Almajiri schools in some part of the northeastern state in the country, like Borno, Yobe, Bauchi and Adamawa state (Onitada 2015). Children in those states are usually reported as set under the violation to beg on the street and to some extent exploited to child labour in order to support themselves or their family (Aghedo & Eke, 2013). Mostly, for instance, in northeastern part of Nigeria, parents move out from their home to other location of the country to look for work and abandon their children to fend for themselves. This act of abandonment and neglect of parents exposed children to vulnerability and frightened (Aluaigba 2009).

Even though there is high growth of economic in the country, but poverty remains notable since during the British rule (Biodun et al 2016). It is noted that over the last decade that Nigeria has remain among the giant economy growth rate in the world with average estimate of 7.4 percent, with a well-developed level of economy, and abundant oil and natural resources. But poverty has continued in high level, with estimated of 63 percent population living under \$1 every day. This implies a signifying decrease in value to the economy of the country (Rufai et al 2016).

Currently Nigeria has a total estimation of over 198,213 million populations, which becomes the highest in population and fastest growing economic in the continent of Africa (Turnwait & Mayowa 2017). The country largely depends on Agriculture before discovery of crude oil, which is contributing around 45% of GDP that the country totally depended upon. Still it has remained food deficit country and with a large importations of livestock products, fish and grains (Adedipe 2004). Despite the oil wealth and abundant Agriculture in Nigeria, still over two decades there is

prevalent of poverty with an increasing number in the country. Estimated over 70% in the country are now been categorized poor, among 35% are living in severe poverty (Danaan 2018; Ngbea & Achunike 2014).

Poverty has widely spread in Nigeria in the last few decades, the country has drop back from booming in economic to rank in accordance to the British Department for International Development categories of twenty poorest nations in the world (Ngbea & Achunike 2014). It is absolutely doomed that a nation recognized as amongst the highest richest in material and human resources in the continent of Africa and in fact all over the world, and now found in this discreditable position. Since 1970s the country remains among the sixth ranked exporter of crude oil with generated billions of dollars to the economics of the country (Ngbea & Achunike 2014). Despite the hope that the country set on such huge resources to promote rapid industrial and economic transformations, still does not make any benefit. Due to series of bad governance, mismanagement, corruption or high rate of abuse of public office by politicians totally siphoned the hope of the country (Danaan 2018).

This shows that child poverty in Nigeria is highly imperative due to its consequences on the well-being and development of children in the society, and this supports the motion by Chzhen et al. (2016) and Dunga & Makhalima (2016) that child poverty leads to health challenges and poor academic performance. This circumstance is one of the objectives the research is intended to achieve looking at the issues of child poverty in Nigeria.

## **METHODOLOGY**

There is a vast amount of literature on poverty at the global level. However, findings on child poverty are scanty in developing countries and Nigeria in particular (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Therefore, this research will adopt a systematic literature review (SLR) to present available findings by providing an in-depth review in a more transparent and clarify any ambiguity that may arise from research findings. SLR method has been used by different scholars to present research findings especially in a review of the literature and has been confirmed as the best method because of its 'clarity, transparency, equality, accessibility, originality, credibility, trustworthiness and unified' (Pittaway et al. 2006; Sirelkhatim & Gangi 2015). Further, it allows openness and attention to details, and it is commonly used by researchers in health and other well-being related studies. This method is different from literature review – sometimes referred to as narrative review because of its comprehensiveness, limited in scope, biased, and the difficulty to replicate research findings (Sirelkhatim & Gangi 2015). This concept is of importance to this research as it will enable the researcher to provide up-to-date summaries of the causes and consequences of child poverty, by pooling results from some studies in Nigeria and related findings from different countries. Therefore, the findings from the research will give a bigger picture to policymakers and another child's advocacy group.

This SLR will be conducted through different sources by searching journals published in PubMed, EMBASE, MEDLINE, Scopus, Cochrane Library, Web of Science and Google Scholar with searching terms as "poverty", "child poverty", "child deprivation" and "child well-being". There is evidence that researchers mostly ignored the attributes that differentiate child poverty from general poverty (Dunga & Makhalima 2016). One could agree with the above assertion taking Nigeria case, for example, as most of the available research focused more on general poverty as against few studies on child poverty (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Therefore, in this essay, the focus will be more on the issue related to child poverty in Nigeria by trying to understand the cause and consequence it has on the country. Further, this essay will present a more extensive review of relevant literature and theoretical framework designed to support poverty reduction and deprivation among disadvantaged children.

## **CAUSES OF CHILD POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

### **Household size and income**

Household size remains one of the significant factors that contributed to child poverty in Nigeria. This issue refers to a situation where a larger family depends on the income of a single person in the family before they can feed. These children suffered malnutrition as the little income from the household head is usually spent on food. This household size issue has led to a population surge in the urban area. Household size has increased the inflow and outflow of immigrants in the country. The issue of migrants is another area where research is ongoing, and researchers have looked at the relationship between household migrants and remittance as this is said to have direct impact on poverty level (Chiwuzulum Odozi et al. 2014; Kihangire & Katarikawe 2008); and the impact of household size on food security (Obayelu 2012).

### **Unemployment**

In Nigeria, there is a high rate of poverty as a result of unemployment leaving thousands of children engaging in all forms of child labour and exposing them to harassment and abuse. Unemployment has increased child poverty and

hardship on households, and this in one way or the other increases high crime rate. Indeed, there is a correlation between unemployment and poverty.

Nigeria is blessed with both human and natural resources, yet her larger population remain poor. The proceeds from crude oil over the years have been mismanaged by the political elites resulting in high-level corruption and deprivation of her citizens' fundamental needs. Poverty hindered economic development, which leads to a high rate of unemployment (Ogbeide & Agu 2015) and high rate of unemployment shows a weakening economy (Innocent 2014). Government has done little in addressing unemployment issues in Nigeria. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria has resulted in the movement of her citizens to other countries engaging in hard labour when a country blesses with abundant resources and proudly called herself the 'Giant of Africa' is still underdeveloped as a result of the high level of corruption. If unemployment issues are not addressed, child poverty will be on the increase, and child labour is inevitable.

### **Marital status and gender**

Marital status is another factor that contributes to child poverty in Nigeria, especially among single parent. It has been observed that almost 77.36 per cent of married polygamous families' lives in extreme poverty, 69.80 per cent for monogamous, 61.89 per cent for divorced and 54.74 per cent for co-habitant in Nigeria (Anyanwu 2014). Many families suffered as a result of their husband's death leaving the burden of family responsibility on their wives, this in most cases here in Nigeria contribute to child labour; where you find children hawking and doing all sorts of menial jobs in order to supplement the little income from their mother if at all the woman is working.

In some cases, women in some part of Nigeria (most notably in the North) are not allowed to work due to the religion attachment. Child poverty, as a result of marital status, will be more pronounced among divorced parents or widows whose husbands married more than a wife, which is a common phenomenon in Nigeria (Anyanwu 2014). Early marriage is another issue that contributes to child poverty mostly in Northern Nigeria; however, some authors believed that marriage has a positive impact on poverty reduction and increase labour market participation (Okojie 2002; White and Rogers 2000).

On the gender side effect, studies have shown that child poverty is more pronounced in the household headed by women (Dauda 2017). Breaking the cycle of poverty is more a responsibility of a man than a woman in Nigeria because men are seen as the bedrock of the family. The relationship between gender and poverty is more of African issues which are mostly linked to feminisation (Okojie 2002). In an early study on feminisation, Pearce (1978) report that women are more likely to be affected by poverty which usually results to job insecurity, the wage gap and more also likely to be a single parent.

### **Household head educational status**

The educational status of parents determines the level of child poverty/labour. Research has shown there is a high rate of illiteracy in Northern Nigeria than any other part of the country, and this has also contributed to a high rate of child poverty (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). The level of education has an essential impact on family planning (Anyanwu, 2014). The family that is educated will spend more of their income on education and reduce the birth rate. However, the case will be different for the less-educated family that will spend less of their income on child education and still increase child fertility.

The educational status of household head was also linked to gender inequality and most especially bias in women education (Lahiri & Self 2007). The authors' assumption is more rampant in Northern Nigeria, where they attached religion belief to gender education. They give more attention to male education and married off the female counterpart. The high rate of illiteracy in the North is a driver for early marriage and child labour. This issue has contributed to an increase in children on the street begging for alms. There is a high tendency that child poverty will be higher in the rural area than the urban centre if linked with the level of education.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

This section will look at the consequences of child poverty in Nigeria by linking it to the causes identified above. Each of the identified causes of child poverty will be extensively reviewed in order to know the effect on Nigeria and also by helping in providing a way forward in addressing those issues.

### **Household size and income on child poverty**

The household size and income have a significant impact on child poverty. Where there are larger households to cater for, children also contribute to the needs and welfare of the families (Anyanwu 2014). Not only does the size of households contribute to child poverty, but it also becomes more problematic when only one person has a source of

income to provide for larger families. Household size represents the total number of adult and children in the family and poverty level of children is measured by looking at the total share representative of poor children in such household (Chzhen et al. 2015). Furthermore, that households need and decision making also differs between adult and children whereby the children have no say when it comes to spending and consumption decision in the household (Chzhen et al. 2016; Feeny and Boyden 2004).

On child deprivation due to household size, Ademola & Olufemi (2012) state that as household size increases, there is a 5% chance of an increase in child poverty in Nigeria. Also, in Nigeria, Anyanwu (2014) posits that the larger the household size, the higher the rate of child poverty. The author further that, most parents gave birth to more children with the intention that during old age, they will have someone to cater to their needs. That infant mortality also contributes to the high fertility rate among household in Nigeria not minding the economic effect of given birth to many children. The issue of high fertility rate is more pronounced in a rural area than the urban.

There are studies that have linked child poverty to migration of house head (Chukwuone et al. 2012; Odozi et al. 2014; Quartey 2006); this is because one person can be responsible to the welfare of many households putting more pressure on him to provide for the family and the income from migrant workers to the household come through remittance. The money sent by the household worker (migrant) to a country other than his country of birth/resident is called remittance (Chukwuone 2007; Odozi et al. 2014; Quartey 2006) and that income inequality and poverty level decrease in households with remittances than households without remittances (Odozi et al. 2014). Furthermore, low-income households, most notably where a single parent is responsible for the welfare of many children, usually lead to deprivation of money and material dimensions (Adetola & Olufemi 2012). This means of low income from the household has a direct relationship to child poverty. The significant consequence of household size and low income is that they deprived children access to monetary and material dimensions (Chzhen et al. 2016). Chzhen et al. (2016) finding are centred on EU countries. Nevertheless, this also applicable or even more related to Nigeria.

There is a high tendency that larger families with low-income will result in a child living below poverty line (Adetola & Olufemi 2012), and that standard of living of these more impoverished families has not prevented parents from increasing fertility rate (Anyanwu 2014). On the other hand, most of these parents may be thinking of income from pension after retirement in order to meet their essential needs. However, pension saga has contributed more hardship to many retirees in Nigeria.

### **Unemployment on child poverty**

The issue of unemployment for long has formed a significant part of the discussion by academics, industry experts and other stakeholders and mostly its impact on the economy (Ayegba 2015; Nwosa 2014). Nigeria has the highest population in Africa, and the unemployment rate of her citizens remains one of the highest in the world (Ayegba 2015; Nwosa 2014). Furthermore, with the size of the household, the impact of unemployment of household will increase child poverty. Besides, where the responsibility of the household is shouldered on a single parent, there is a likelihood that their children will be deprived of material dimensions. Not only do unemployed parents cannot provide their children financial and material needs, but this also has not stopped them from given birth to more children (Anyanwu 2014). On the other hand, this always affects the education of their children and also exposed them to social vices. Mismanagement of resources and bad economic policies are some of the factors hindering development in Nigeria. There is no social welfare on the government side to assist unemployed parents, and where this available, getting access to it always has some political connections.

Similarly, in China, Xue & Zhang (2003) find that unemployment has put pressure on household migrants, increase urban poverty and income inequality. Nwosa (2014) study examines the impact of government expenditure on unemployment and poverty rate in Nigeria. The author found that government expenditure has no impact on poverty alleviation and advise the government to as a matter of urgency provide programmes to alleviate poverty among her populace. Ayegba (2015) research is centred on the impact of unemployment and poverty on insecurity, particularly Northern Nigeria. The author concludes that unemployment and poverty influenced insecurity in the region.

Unemployment contributed significantly to household poverty and corruption from government officials have undermined the fight against poverty in Nigeria, where billions of naira were stolen through money laundering (Stober 2015). Further, Olotu et al. (2015) described unemployment as the key indicator of poverty and urged the government to encourage entrepreneurship by providing start-up capital. There is no doubt that unemployment contributes to household poverty and deprives children basic social amenities such as water, food, shelter, education and information and if it continues will, in the long run, affect child's adult life (Chzhen et al. 2015; Dunga and Makhalima 2016). It is imperative to know that there are several empowerment programmes in Nigeria. However, the modus operandi employed over the years have not achieved the main objectives of these programmes due to a high level of corruption and over-reliance on oil proceeds by neglecting other sectors that can absorb the unemployed.

### **Marital status and gender on child poverty**

Culture and tradition play some role in a child's welfare in Nigeria and can be associated to increase in child poverty. This act usually occurs among divorced and widowed women who are deprived of the husband's wealth in order to cater for their children (Anyanwu 2014). This practice is common in Nigeria and has put many windows and their children on the street for alms begging and hawking. Another common phenomenon of this act is that it leads to an increase in the number of school dropout and the number of children on the street, mostly in Northern Nigeria.

The issue of child labour needs urgent attention in Nigeria because of its impact on the current security situation ranging from kidnapping, the act of terrorism and abuse of fundamental human rights. Also, the recommendation suggested on gender issues is that there should be more gender disaggregated data to capture the number of women that have benefited from government programmes (Okojie 2002), need to provide equal opportunity for females in labour market; girl child education should be encouraged in the North and also child benefit for children below the age of 10 (Omoruyi 2015). Moreover, that children will suffer material deprivations in a female-headed household (Okojie 2002). Another dimension of marital status is an increase in early marriage a common phenomenon in Northern Nigeria, which has some religion attachment.

### **Household head educational status**

There is an increase in unemployment in Nigeria, and the little jobs available cannot sustain the teeming populace (Ayegba 2015; Nwosa 2014). With the falling of incomes of the households, this has not in any way reduced birth rate, the birth rate is rising in many parts of the country. The level of education in southern Nigeria has drastically reduced the level of out-of-school children and birth rate (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Furthermore, the rate of child poverty in southern Nigeria is insignificant compared to northern Nigeria, where the case is alarming, and which has contributed to insecurity (Ayegba 2015; Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). High illiteracy of household head has a negative impact on the educational status of their children because many of these parents pay less attention to education. This case is more pronounced effects in Northern Nigeria, especially on girl's child education.

Moreover, the importance of education is to allow the households to seek for white collar jobs in order to cater for the welfare of the family. According to Adisa (2019), the author posits that education improves household welfare and reduce poverty. However, the consequence of household head lack of education is that in many cases, it will build on the family generation. This act is one of the reasons there are high cases of kidnapping and insecurity in Nigeria. Also, there is a need for the government to promote adult education in order to reduce the level of illiteracy in the country. On child deprivation in education, Lahiri & Self (2007) report that there is bias against females in some developing countries in the area of education compared to their male's counterpart. Adetola & Olufemi (2012) report a positive impact of education on child poverty if the parents are both educated. The authors document that at 5% significant level, the probability of a child being poor is lower if both parents have secondary education, moreover, at 3% decrease of the mother being dimensional poor with a higher class of education. Meanwhile, at 5% reduction of the father being dimensional poor with secondary education.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The article aimed to provide critical analysis on poverty-related issues, especially child poverty and contribute to current findings in the area of child wellbeing, development and deprivation. Child poverty is regarded as a global phenomenon that has received attention from national and international stakeholders that are championing the fight against child labour and human trafficking in developing countries (Makinde 2015; Ogwumike and Ozughalu 2018). History has shown that the fight against poverty required government at all levels to provide social interventions and policy that are proactive in combatting and alleviating poverty (Ayegba 2015; Makinde 2015; Nwosa 2014).

Also, another level of concern from this research is gross mismanagement of funds meant for championing the cause for poverty alleviation by different stakeholders saddled with the responsibility of rendering succour to the affected households. There are several poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria that are over the years have either as a result of corruption from the coordinators or lack of proper policies got their priority wrong (Abubakar 2019; Ariyo and Olaniyan 2015). Thus, the political elite' syndrome to corruption and total neglect of their subject under-develop the country. They are addressing the problem of child poverty required government providing programmes and policies that will monitor the disbursement of funds and sanctions any erring coordinators found in diverting those funds for personal use (Taiwo & Agwu 2016). Therefore, adequate attention must be paid to education, health, shelter, proper sanitation and other social amenities. These attributes identified are in line with Ogwumike & Ozughalu (2018) findings on the fact that many children suffered material deprivations, and the level of child poverty in Nigeria is very alarming.

Household size has been identified as the primary cause of child poverty in Nigeria (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). This problem also led to population increase and high rate of illiteracy. Government over the years has failed to roll

out programmes that can have a direct impact on her citizens. Moreover, the government are responsible for providing basic amenities to her citizens, especially in the area of health, proper sanitation, shelter and education. Children are grossly affected by the incompetence of the government ranges from societal abuse and deprivation of fundamental human rights (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). This societal abuse resulted in child labour both in the rural and urban centre. There is a need for social intervention programmes for aged parents and incentives to children below the age of 18 as applicable in advanced countries in order to augment the low-income and reduce pressure on the household head. Adetola & Olufemi (2012) find that the rate of child poverty is lower where the household head is male than female.

On the educational aspect, the government should as a matter of urgency provide funds in line with UNESCO and make education free to children from pre to secondary level (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018), even if possibly provide a special intervention funds to those that could not afford the university degree payable in future time which is applicable in other countries. There is also a need for adult education in order to reduce the level of illiteracy among households. The issue of insecurity in Nigeria is as a result of high illiteracy among the household most notably in Northern Nigeria, where they are regarded as a less educational region. If the government can make education, her top priority it will in a long way, solve the problem of insecurity. Also, the issue of unemployment among the teeming youths should be addressed. The government should encourage technical education for self-reliance rather than the syndrome of white-collar jobs.

Further, the action of many families concerning early marriage or low-income family planning also contributed to high rate of child poverty and child labour, and this area needs urgent attention if child poverty is to be alleviated. The government should put in place a tool to draw the attention of family on the importance of birth control and continuous education and child rights advocacy in every geographical part of Nigeria. With abundant human and material resources, the act of mismanagement and corruption has been the primary reasons for the increase in migration and child trafficking (Makinde 2016).

Also, the issue of early marriage is another factor government should look into, as a matter of fact, there is some religious and cultural attachment to early marriage, this act has contributed to increase in child poverty. There is a need for our judiciary and legislative to enact a law that will discourage child marriage, as suggested by (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). Adequate awareness should be put in place in educating the family on the importance of family planning and the effect of early marriage on child development.

This article also laid more emphasis on the issue of insecurity as it influenced by poverty where government neglect her citizens. No nation can develop where there is a high rate of insecurity of lives and property. Social investments should be encouraged by providing adequate funding for education and security. The existing poverty alleviation programmes should be reorganised and monitored so that it will complement the support from national and international donors. Also, it has been revealed that child poverty measured by money-metric or non-money-metric correlate, if there is an increase in money-metric approach, there is a likelihood that child deprivation is inevitable based on non-money-metric in a country (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018).

## REFERENCES

- Abubakar, I.R., (2019). Factors influencing household access to drinking water in Nigeria. *Utilities Policy*, 58, pp.40-51.
- Abiodun, T. F., Onafowora, O., & Ayo-Adeyekan, I. (2019). Alarming rate of child poverty in Northern Nigeria: Implications for national security. *American Research Journal of Humanities Social Science*, 2(1), 1-10.
- Adedipe, B. (2004, June). The impact of oil on Nigeria's economic policy formulation. In *Proceedings of Overseas Development Institute Conference in Collaboration with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group*.
- Adetola, A. & Olufemi, P., (2012). Determinants of child poverty in rural Nigeria: A Multinational Approach. *Global Journal of Human Social Science Research*, 12(12-A).
- Adisa, O., (2019). Why Are some Older Persons Economically Vulnerable and Others Not? The Role of Socio-Demographic Factors and Economic Resources in the Nigerian Context. *Ageing International*, pp.1-21.
- Aghedo, I. & Eke, S. J. (2013) From Alms to Arms: The *Almajiri* Phenomenon and Internal Security in Northern Nigeria. *The Korean Journal of Policy Studies*, 28, (3), pp. 97-123



- Aliyu, S. & Garba, A., (2012). The implications of child poverty on the Nigerian economy. *European Journal of Globalization and Development Research*, 6(1), pp. 360-367.
- Aluaigba, M. T. (2009) *Circumventing or Superimposing Poverty on the African Child? The Almajiri Syndrome in Northern Nigeria*. *CHILDHOOD IN AFRICA*, 1(1), pp 19-24
- Anyanwu, J.C., (2014). Marital status, household size and poverty in Nigeria: evidence from the 2009/2010 survey data. *African Development Review*, 26(1), pp.118-137.
- Ariyo, A. & Olaniyan, O., (2014). Structural Transformation and Inequality: Evidence from Nigeria. *Development*, 57(3-4), pp.531-539.
- Ayegba, U.S., (2015). Unemployment and poverty as sources and consequence of insecurity in Nigeria: The Boko Haram insurgency revisited. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 9(3), pp.90-99.
- Bamiduro, T., & Ogwumike, F. (2009). Child poverty and disparities in Nigeria. A final Report submitted to UNICEFNigeria: Abuja Office.
- Chiwuzulum Odozi, J., Taiwo Awoyemi, T. & Omonona, B.T., (2010). Household poverty and inequality: The implication of migrants' remittances in Nigeria. *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, 13(2), pp.191-199.
- Chukwuone, N.A., Amaechina, E., Enebeli-Uzor, S.E., Iyoko, E. & Okpukpara, B., (2012). Analysis of impact of remittance on poverty in Nigeria.
- Chzhen, Y., de Neubourg, C., Plavgo, I. & de Milliano, M., (2016). Child poverty in the European Union: The multiple overlapping deprivation analysis approach (EU-MODA). *Child Indicators Research*, 9(2), pp.335-356.
- Danaan, V. V. (2018). Analysing poverty in Nigeria through theoretical lenses. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 11(1), 20-31.
- Dauda, R.S., (2017). Poverty and economic growth in Nigeria: Issues and policies. *Journal of Poverty*, 21(1), pp.61-79.
- Dunga, S.H. and Makhallima, J.L., 2016. Perceptions of household heads on the causes of child poverty in Boipatong Township.
- Feeny, T. & Boyden, J., (2004). Acting in adversity: Rethinking the causes, experiences and effects of child poverty in contemporary literature. *Literature and thought on Children and Poverty*, in *Children and Poverty Series Working Paper*, 116.
- Haveman, R., Blank, R., Moffitt, R., Smeeding, T. & Wallace, G., (2015). The war on poverty: Measurement, trends, and policy. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 34(3), pp.593-638.
- Innocent, E.O., (2014). Unemployment rate in Nigeria: Agenda for government. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 3(4), p.103.
- Isiaka, T. O. (2015). A Pilot Study of the Challenges of Infusing Almajiri Educational System into the Universal Basic Educational Programme in Sokoto, Nigeria. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 6(16), 10-16.
- Kihangire, D. & Katarikawe, M., (2008). The impact of remittances on macroeconomic stability and financial sector deepening: opportunities and challenges for Uganda. *BouWorkingPapers[online]*.<http://www.bou.or.ug/bouwebsite>.
- Lahiri, S. & Self, S., (2007). Gender Bias in Education: The Role of Inter-Household Externality, Dowry and other Social Institutions. *Review of Development Economics*, 11(4), pp.591-606.
- Makinde, O.A., (2016). Infant trafficking and baby factories: A new tale of child abuse in Nigeria. *Child abuse review*, 25(6), pp.433-443.

- Michael, T. O., & Odeyemi, M. A. (2017). Nigeria's population policies: issues, challenges and prospects. *Ibadan Journal of the Social Sciences*, 15(1), 103-115.
- Minujin, A., Delamonica, E., Davidziuk, A. & Gonzalez, E.D., 2006. The definition of child poverty: a discussion of concepts and measurements. *Environment and Urbanization*, 18(2), pp.481-500.
- Ngbea, G. & Achunike, H., (2014). Poverty in northern Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol, 2.
- Nwosa, P.I., 2014. Government expenditure, unemployment and poverty rates in Nigeria. *Journal of Research in National Development*, 12(1), pp.77-84.
- Obadan, M. I., & Odusola, A. F. (2001, June). The economy and poverty in Nigeria. In *A Paper Presented at a conference in Kaduna*.
- Ogbeide, E.N.O. & Agu, D.O., (2015). Poverty and Income Inequality in Nigeria: Any Causality? *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 5(3), p.439.
- Ogwumike, F.O. & Ozughalu, U.M., (2018). Empirical evidence of child poverty and deprivation in Nigeria. *Child abuse & neglect*, 77, pp.13-22.
- Okojie, C.E., (2002). *Gender and education as determinants of household poverty in Nigeria* (No. 2002/37). WIDER discussion papers//world Institute for Development Economics (UNU-WIDER).
- Okpalaobi & Ekwueme (2015). United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child: Implementation of Legal and administrative Measures in Nigeria.
- Olotu, A., Salami, R. & Akeremale, I., (2015). Poverty and rate of unemployment in Nigeria. *Ijm*, 2(1).
- Omoruyi, O., (2015). Labor Market, Demographic Patterns and Income Inequality in Nigeria. *Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology*, 6(3), pp.341-354.
- Owolabi, O. B., Adeosun, S. O., Aduloju, S. C., Metu, C. S., & Onyedum, O. (2016). Review on novel application of slag fluxes and salts in metallurgical industry. *American Journal of Chemistry and Materials Science*, 3(1), 1-5.
- Pittaway, L.A., Thorpe, R., Macpherson, A. and Holt, R., (2005). Knowledge within small and medium-sized firms: A systematic review of the evidence.
- Quartey, P., 2006. The impact of migrant remittances on household welfare in Ghana.
- Rufai, A. M., Yusuff, S. A., Awoyemi, T. T., Salman, K. K., & Oyekale, A. S. (2016). Child poverty in rural Nigeria. *Journal of Poverty, Investment and Development*, 20, 40-51.
- Sirelkhatim, F. and Gangi, Y., (2015). Entrepreneurship education: A systematic literature review of curricula contents and teaching methods. *Cogent Business & Management*, 2(1), p.1052034.
- Stober, E.O., (2015). Unemployment scourge: rising to the Nigerian challenge. *The Romanian Economic Journal*, 18(56), pp.181-200.
- Taiwo, J.N. & Agwu, E., (2016). Problems and Prospects of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Management Review*, 4(6), pp.18-30.
- Xue, J. & Zhong, W., (2003). Unemployment, poverty and income disparity in urban China. *Asian Economic Journal*, 17(4), pp.383-405.