1.1 Introduction
The rising profile of poverty in Nigeria is assuming a worrisome dimension as empirical studies had shown. Nigeria, a sub-saharan African country, has at least half of its population living in abject poverty according to Ojo, 2008. Similarly, the publication of the Federal Office of Statistics (1996) reveals that poverty has been massive, pervasive and engulfs a large proportion of the Nigerian society. Abiolaa and Olaope (2008) also state that, the scourge of poverty in Nigeria is an incontrovertible fact, which results in hunger, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, poor access to credit facilities and low life expectancy. Nwaobi (2003) in his opinion asserts that Nigeria presents a paradox in which the country is rich, but the people are poor. As noted by Omotola (2008), Nigeria is richly endowed and the country’s wealth potentials manifest in the form of natural, geographical and socio-economic factors. With this condition, Nigeria should rank among the richest countries of the world that should have no business with extreme poverty. However, Ope and Abu (2009) specifically remark that Nigeria has witnessed a monumental increase in the level of poverty. According to them, the poverty stood at 74.2% in the year 2000.

Looking at the records from the Federal Office of Statistics as documented by Garba (2006), it reveals that about 15% of the Nigerian population was poor in 1960 but the figure rose to 28% in 1980 and by 1996, the incident of poverty in Nigeria was 76.6 million people. In the present decade, the issue of poverty alleviation is once again in the international limelight. To the International Labour Organization (ILO), poverty is not a new agenda. Since 1944, the ILO has held fast to its declaration that "poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere" stressing the importance of poverty alleviation to the world attention. A number of other international bodies are now paying much more attention to poverty, for instance the World Bank.

The Inter-American Development Bank has intact actually adopted a policy that half of its loans have to contribute directly to poverty reduction. The recent of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) constitutes a yet more the poverty alleviation campaign in most developing countries lately. Against the background of Economic Adjustment Policy which is largely growth a need to have a thorough examination of various challenges experienced so far in alleviating poverty for a better futuristic approach to be put in place.

1.2 Statement of the Problem
Poverty alleviation is a task for economy policy and to reach the poor effectively; anti poverty programmes are really vital in Lagos state. Besides, statistics shows that 70% of the population of 9 million people lives below 1 dollar per day in which there is inadequate housing, epileptic enemy supply, lack of portable water, low agricultural output, decayed educational system, partial health care under capacity utilization of the industrial sector, weak financial among others.

Lagos state is a contradiction of sorts, unarguably it is a State well endowed with abundant
human and natural resources, the condition of the society is a viza viza development and the welfare of the people leaves much to be desired. Therefore, Lagos State government has risen up to the challenge of this disease known as poverty. The State Government knew that solutions could not be achieved through personal efforts therefore; embark on organizing various social programmes. In essence, the fundamental focus of this study is to examine the various programmes that the Lagos State Government has organized in order to alleviate poverty in the state and the challenges and the prospects of those programmes.

1.3 Aim and Objectives
The aim of this study is to examine the challenges and prospects of poverty alleviation programmes in Lagos State.

Objectives
The objectives of this study are to:

i. Examine which programmes put in place by Lagos State Government in alleviating poverty in State.
ii. Identify the various beneficiaries of such programmes and the extent to which the programme has helped in alleviating poverty in the State.
iii. Assess people's opinion on the government's effort in alleviating poverty in the state so far.

1.4 Research Questions
This research question were set in order to have better understanding about the issue of poverty in order to be able to trace the various techniques put in place in alleviating poverty both in international, national and state levels. The latter which have really been the major focus of this project work.

i. What is poverty?
ii. Who are the vulnerable of poverty?
iii. What are the categories of poverty?
iv. What are the various programmes put in place and their effectiveness in alleviating poverty in the State?
v. What are the problems facing in achieving poverty alleviation in the State?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1
H1: There is a significant relationship between Lagos State Poverty Alleviation Programmes and the rate of poverty among people in the State.
H0: There is no significant relationship between Lagos State Poverty Alleviation Programmes and the rate of poverty among people in the State.

Hypothesis 2
H1: There are challenges and prospects being encountered in alleviating poverty by the Lagos State Government.
H0: There are no challenges and prospects being encountered across in alleviating poverty.
by the Lagos State Government.

**Hypothesis 3**

H_1: There are challenges and prospects being encountered in alleviating poverty by the Lagos State Government.

H_0: There are no challenges and prospects being encountered in alleviating poverty by the Lagos State Government.

1.6 The Research Methodology

The study will employ the chi-square analysis method to measure the degree of effectiveness of the embarked-on by the Lagos State Government in Ikeja Local Government Area of the State.

Chi-square is defined as (O-E/E)^2

1.6.1 Methods/Sample Size

For this study, Ikeja Local Government Area was used as a case study. From this Local Government Area, four major areas were administered with questionnaire. These areas include Opebi, Allen Avenue, Balogun and Toyin Street. A total number of 100 questionnaires were randomly administered to the people living in the four selected study areas.

1.6.2 Source of Data

For this research study, both primary and secondary data were consulted for information.

**Primary Data:** In collecting data through this method, both structured questionnaire and interview guide were used. The structured questionnaire was used to collect information from the people living in the selected areas within the study area. Also, the interview guide was used to gather information from Lagos State Women Affair and Poverty Alleviation Department. This is to obtain information on their opinion about Lagos State Poverty Alleviation programmes put in place.

**Secondary Data:** These were obtained from journals, conference and seminar papers as well as review of various studies and literatures on poverty.

1.6.3 Statistical Tools of Data Analysis

The data collected from this survey were analyzed using descriptive and inferential tools to enhance further illustration. Also, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used for analyzing data collected and Chi-Square was used to test for the three hypothesis set.

1.7 The Significance of the Study

This study makes possible the understanding of how government has intervened in the alleviation of poverty in the State using Ikeja Local Government Area as a case study. Moreover, this study also looked at the various challenges facing the government in achieving its objectives and its prospect so far in the state.

The results of the findings were used in providing recommendations towards effective policymaking as regards poverty alleviation programmes in the Lagos State.

1.8 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on Ikeja Local Government Area in Lagos state. It examines some of the
activities of the government in alleviating poverty as regards development in the Local Government Area. However, the findings gave a vivid account of both problems and success encountered far in establishing poverty alleviation programmes in the State.

1.9 Definitions of Terms

FOS - Federal Office of Statistics
ILO - International Labour Organization
NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations
DAC - Development Assistance Committee
LAWMA - Lagos State Waste Management Agency

1.10 Organisation of the Study

The project work is divided into (5) chapters. Chapter one consist of Introduction, Statement of the problems, Aim and objectives of the Study, Research Questions, Research Hypothesis, Research Methodology, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Plan of the Study.

Chapter Two consist of Literature Review while Chapter Three includes, Research methodology, the Study Area, the Sample Size, Target Population, Method of Data Analysis and Research Hypothesis. Chapter Four consist of the Research Methodology, Data Analysis and Interpretation of the results with Chapter Five focusing on the Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations.

REFERENCES


THE CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN LAGOS STATE A CASE STUDY OF IKEJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
The complete project material is available and ready for download. All what you need to do is to order for the complete material. The price for the material is NGN 3,000.00.
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