

Research Article

Evaluating the Challenges of Rural Poverty Reduction, Nasarawa State

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Abstract: This paper discusses the challenges of rural poverty reduction in Nigeria with Nasarawa State as a focus. It gives a clarification of “rural” and “poverty” as concepts. The paper looks at various poverty reduction strategies by successive governments in Nigeria and agreed that such strategies did not yield the desired results as more than half of the country’s population wallows in poverty. Nasarawa State being one of the poorest States in the country with a poverty rate of 66% is faced with challenges militating against rural poverty reduction efforts. Some of these challenges are poor educational system, ethno-communal conflicts, herder-farmer conflicts, corruption as well as unemployment. The paper concludes that for poverty to be effectively tackled in Nigeria there should be effective and workable apparatuses put in place to fight corruption, genuine selection of purposeful leadership to provide good governance that would bring about massive transformation of infrastructural development to grow the economy to generate employment as well as ensuring that there is peace where people can co-exist harmoniously pursuing their economic activities.

Keywords: Rural, Poverty, Reduction, People’s Bank of Nigeria and Nasarawa State.

Introduction

Poverty is a global problem and no country in the world is completely free from it only that its severity differs among nations. Out of the world population of 7.6bn people, more than 1.5bn people are poor and live below the poverty line of less than one dollar per day. Out of this figure Africa alone accounts for more than 250 million people representing about 17% of the world’s total poor population (Iwara, 2007).

In Nigeria, more than 100 million people from the country’s estimated population of 200 million are living in abject poverty (Vanguard News, October 18, 2016). The incidence of poverty is growing day by day as evidenced in the figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics; that about 100 million Nigerians are said to be living below 1 dollar a day (NBS, 2012).

For example, according to (Okhiria and Obadeyi, 2015) “.....about 70 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line”. Poverty has remained one of the most serious challenges in Nigeria today and is widespread in rural communities where more than half of the country’s population resides. People do not have access to good food, clothing, shelter, sanitation facilities, pipe-borne water, education, good healthcare etc. Despite various efforts of government from independence to date to combat poverty, it has been on the increase. Nigeria’s proportion of the poor has doubled over the last two decades, during which time the

country received \$3000 billion in oil and gas revenue (Oyemorni, 2003). Indeed it is a paradox of poor people in rich country, in other words “poverty in the midst of plenty”. Statistical data available indicates that by 1960 the poverty level in Nigeria covers about 15% of the population and by 1980 it rose to 28%. In 1985, the poverty level was 46% and dropped to 43% by 1992. By 1996, the Federal Office of Statistics estimated poverty level in Nigeria at about 66% (Oyemomi, 2003).

In Nigeria poverty is extreme in rural areas, where up to 80 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, and social services and infrastructure are limited. Despite Nigeria’s plentiful agricultural resources and oil wealth, poverty is widespread in the country and has increased since the late 1990s. Majority of the rural poor are located in areas resourcefully poor, ecologically vulnerable and very limited or poor infrastructure. They have no land asset, little or no capital and very limited employment opportunities besides farming and fishing (Roberts, 2012).

The high level of poverty in Nigeria, which has attained an endemic nature, has become worrisome. Poverty has made Nigeria to attain an unenviable status as one of the poorest countries in the world, such that no government (no matter the level), organization, community, clan or family can survive effectively without introducing one kind of poverty reduction strategy or the other. The problem is essentially not that of programme and strategies so adapted in poverty reduction efforts. Nigeria has not been known to lack in such efforts; yet she is still ranked among the world’s 25 poorest nations (Ibrahim, 2015).

Nasarawa State with a population of 1,869,377 people according to 2006 population census, is one of the poorest States in Nigeria, was the 22nd poorest State in the country with poverty rate of 66.1% in 2003/2004, 32nd poorest State with poverty rate of 78.4% in 2009/2010 (NBS, 2010) and the 20th poorest State in 2014 with poverty rate of 52.4% according to The United Nation’s Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index Report (March 27, 2017). Taking the average of these statistics, Nasarawa State poverty level is 66%. Despite numerous poverty reduction strategies put in place by both successive State and Federal governments; abject poverty still remains a fundamental challenge in Nasarawa State, particularly among the rural population. This is a problem area that needs investigation.

Objective of the study

The objective of this study is to examine the factors militating against poverty reduction in Nigeria, particularly Nasarawa State and to provide the way forward.

Conceptual Clarification

Rural

The word “rural” means different things to different people at different times. For example, The American Bureau of Census classifies a group of people living in a community having a population of not more than 2,500 people as rural, whereas in Nigeria, the Federal Office of Statistics defines a community with less than 20,000 people as rural.

Afolayan (1995) sees rural areas as easily identified by other various criteria, apart from population. Such criteria include:

a) Level of infrastructural development-road networks, educational institutions, water supply, electricity, health facilities, communication, etc. The rural area lacks most if not all of these infrastructures and where they are available the quality as well as quantity is usually below desirable standard;

- b) Occupational differentiation: Most rural dwellers earn their living by engaging in subsistent agriculture production;
- c) Housing: Housing in rural areas is generally below the standard an average person will be proud of;
- d) Extent of community planning: Community development activities in the rural areas are often carried out with little or no planning at all, such that future development activities cannot be undertaken without interfering with the existing structures;
- e) Arising from the combination of the above factors is a characteristic abject poverty when related to the economic buoyancy of urban centers.

A rural area according to (Olatunbosun, 1975) and (Omale, 2005) is an area with a population lower than 20,000, occupationally specific, locationally removed from an urban area in terms of services e.g. water, health, electricity, etc. Measured by the index of demography, Nigeria is 80% rural.

Poverty

Poverty, like most concepts is not easily amenable to a straightforward definition. It has been defined by various authors in different ways. Agbiokoro (2010), poverty can be defined as a condition in which an individual or a group of individuals or community are unable to meet their basic material needs such as foods, potable water, clothing, shelter, basic health care, education, lack of participation in the prevailing social standard of living, dignity and having limited chance of advancing their welfare just to the limit of their capabilities.

Poverty is hunger, poverty is lack of shelter, poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom. Poverty is a state of being without resources across a wide range of circumstances (Aidelunuoghene, 2014).

The Central Bank of Nigeria (1999:1) views poverty as: a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his or her basic needs of foods, clothing and shelter; is unable to meet social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, portable water, sanitation and consequently has limited chance of advancing his or her welfare to the limit of his or her capabilities.

Rural Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Nigeria

No Nigerian Government, be it military or civilian has come without introducing and leaving behind one form of poverty alleviation or reduction programme meant to reduce the level of poverty, give hope and succor to the poor and, or move towards some sort of wealth creation for the overall goal of rural development of the nation. Strategies, policies and plans were articulated; programmes and projects were formulated and executed over the years. Successive Governments in Nigeria since independence have embarked on various programmes aimed at tackling poverty in the country, yet the problem of poverty in Nigeria still persists.

Ayo, (2012) in (Abdu, 1992), (Afolabi, 1999), mentioned the following among others as some of the various poverty reduction programmes the Nigerian Government has embarked upon at different times for the purpose of rural development, they include:

Better Life for Rural Women

The Better Life Programme was mostly gender specific; it was meant to improve the life of rural women. The programme was initiated by the late Maryam Babangida. Harnessing the potentials of the rural women in order to boost their economic activities and improving their incomes were the goals of the programme.

However, the programme was hijacked by position-seeking individuals. The resources were used for personal aggrandizement rather than pragmatic in its objectives. Family Support Programme (FSP), the successor of Better Life for Rural Women, was beset by the same problems suffered by its predecessor, and therefore, could not achieve its objectives.

Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

The establishment of DFRRI in 1986 by the Federal Military Government was intended to bring development to the rural areas where over 70% of Nigerian population resides and works primarily as farmers. It was initially funded with savings from petroleum subsidy reduction which was estimated to yield a total of about N900m in 1986.

People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN)

The Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN) was another effort of the Nigerian Government to promote rural financial intermediation with the objective of tackling poverty and promoting rural development. In fact, government had come to the realization that the increasing pauperization of the micro-entrepreneurs, mostly rural dwellers and women, was lowering the standard of living of the people.

Policy makers and commentators also recognized that this group of people lacked the collateral that could secure them the loans that are usually obtained through conventional commercial banks. The enabling law specifically charged the bank to meet the credit needs of small borrowers who cannot satisfy the stringent collateral requirements normally demanded by conventional banks.

Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)

FEAP was established in 1997. It was meant to address the various problems associated with the utilization of the abundant natural resources in the rural areas. These problems include post-harvest cost of agricultural output, inappropriate conservation techniques and an accessibility of rural community to market. FEAP was established to achieve among others, the utilization of all available resources for the benefit of Nigerians through improved production, storage preservation, processing, recycling, packaging and marketing and as well as the improvement of the living standard of the people.

National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was established in 1986 by the then Military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida to tackle the problem of mass unemployment. Specifically, the directorate gave loans, trained the unemployed and assisted small-scale entrepreneurs in various ways.

The National Directorate of Employment, at creation was given the following mandate: to

- ✓ Design and implement programmes to combat mass unemployment in Nigeria;
- ✓ Articulate policies aimed at developing work programmes with labour intensive potentials;
- ✓ Obtain and maintain a data bank on employment and vacancies with a view to acting as a clearing house to link job seekers with vacancies in collaboration with other agencies; and

- ✓ Implement any other policies as may be laid down from time to time by the board established under the enabling Act.

The National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP)

The National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) was launched by the Federal Government in 1972 and was the first major attempt by the government to promote agricultural development at the farmer's level in Nigeria. The programme was implemented at the field level mainly by the state extension workers. The aim of the programme was to accelerate the production of high-yield varieties such as rice, maize, guinea-corn, millet, wheat, cassava and cowpea through the introduction of insecticides, herbicides, high-yielding seeds, fertilizers, credit facilities, marketing and storage facilities for produce in order to achieve food self-sufficiency.

The National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)

The failure of the agricultural development strategies resulted in the creation of vast pool of unemployment and marginally men and women of Nigeria's rural majority with the consequent underutilization of our abundant land and other physical resources. The National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was established in 1991 with the goal of ensuring the optimal use of the nation's land and human resources to uplift the quality of rural life.

Agricultural Development Programme (ADP)

Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) is a World Bank-assisted programme. It was executed jointly by the World Bank, the Federal and State Governments. Its principal aim was to boost the productivity of the peasant farmers through farm inputs supply extension services and construction and maintenance of rural roads. The achievement of ADP was quite sizable. It taught farmers modern techniques of farming as well as supply of necessary farm implements practice the research output of various agricultural research institutions through pilot farms.

Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) and Rural Banking Scheme

In order to encourage banks meet the target set for commercial and merchant banks by the Central Bank of Nigeria as regards their loan portfolio that must be channeled to agriculture, the Federal Government established the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund in 1977. Under the scheme, the ACGSF provides up to 75% level of guarantee to defaulting farmers. This is because of the reluctance of the banks to extend credit to farmers on account of high default rate.

The scheme guarantees loans to individuals, to a limit of N50,000.00 while for companies, co-operatives, organizations and other corporate bodies, the minimum is N1,000,000.00. In addition, the Federal Government introduced the Rural Banking Scheme (RBS). The primary aim of rural banking scheme was to develop rural banking habit.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) and Green Revolution

The Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) was essentially a political programme for the mobilization of the teeming population for the attainment of high agricultural production and better agricultural practices. It was a special programme instituted by the Military Government and consequently not rooted in the Third national Plan, which was being implemented at that time of its launching. This is one of the principal failures of the programme, among other reasons.

The Green Revolution in Nigeria, unlike the movement in other parts of the world, was actually a change of nomenclature from the OFN; it was therefore, short-lived and suffered similar circumstances. In a nutshell, the Green Revolution Programme, like its predecessor, the OFN, suffered from rather disjointed, short-term and ad-hoc planning, which made no serious impact on either the agricultural sector in particular and the rural sector in general.

Department of Rural Development

The specific role of the Federal Government is to define national policy and ensure that all relevant agencies work harmoniously and effectively towards the attainment of objectives. It has the responsibility to provide leadership, direction, support, coordination to the entire national rural development effort. In order to give priority attention and focus to this role, government has strengthened the Department of Rural Development under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The principal mandate of the Department of Rural Development is to coordinate all rural development programmes in the country.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was set up in 2001 by the Obasanjo's administration. NAPEP's goal was to train youths in vocational trades, to support internship, to support micro-credit among others. The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was set up mainly to streamline other previous strategies put in place in fighting poverty in Nigeria and then charged the agency with the co-ordination of various efforts by the government in poverty reduction and eradication.

The target of NAPEP was to completely wipe out poverty in Nigeria by the year 2010. There were three stages to the realization of this ambitious target which have been identified as follows:

- ✓ The first stage is the restoration of hope in the mass of poor people in Nigeria. This involves providing basic necessities to hitherto neglected people particularly in the rural areas.
- ✓ The second stage is the restoration of economic independence and confidence.
- ✓ The final stage is wealth creation.

Challenges of Rural Poverty Reduction in Nasarawa State

Despite the foregoing and other numerous strategies to reduce rural poverty the problem of rural poverty reduction in Nigeria especially, Nasarawa State still remains unsolved. What are the challenges then? Nasarawa State like any other State in Nigeria is bedeviled with challenges affecting rural poverty reduction in the State. Some of these challenges are discussed below.

Poor Educational System

Education plays a major role in reducing poverty. It promotes economic growth, national productivity and innovation, and values of democracy and social cohesion. In Nigeria, the population with no education account for most of the poor.

For example (Bakare, 2015) stated that 65 million Nigerians are illiterate. The current educational system (6-3-3-4) in Nigeria can be regarded as a failure because of its non-functionability compared to other countries in the world. The Nigerian educational system does not equip its products especially, at lower levels for self-employment. Education in another way can reduce economic inequalities thereby promoting economic growth and development.

Ethno-Communal Conflicts

The concept of conflict is not new to humanity, as we live in a world that constantly faces disputing circumstances. In the midst of varying ethnicities in Nasarawa State, there has always been intra and inter-ethnic clashes among the people. Few months after the creation of the State, there were bloody clashes between the Igbira and Bassa in Toto local government over chiefdoms and chieftaincy (Ugwu and Enna, 2015).

Nasarawa State has experienced a number of armed violence between the Egbara and communities in Toto Local Government Area, the herders and farmers, the Tiv and Kwala ethnic groups in Azara, Awe Local Government Area, and the Eggons, Herders and Gwandara violent conflicts, which climaxed on the 7 May, 2013 incident in Alakyo, at the outskirt of Lafia, where about 74 security operatives were murdered by Ombatse militia. It is claimed that about 534 persons were killed in some communities across the State between 2012 and 2013. On Tuesday, 7 May, 2013, a joint security team, composed of the Police and Operatives of the Department of State Services were deployed to seal-up, search and recover all arms, dangerous weapons and ammunitions in the possession of the Ombatse militia group in *Alakyo*, in Lafia LGA. It was in the course of carrying out the assignment that all members of the team were ambushed and brutally murdered (Tukur, 2013). The most militant group then in Nasarawa State was the Ombatse militia. The group has been involved in a number of armed violence, even before the 7 May incident. Between 30 May and 1 June, 2012, the *Ombatse* militia attacked the *Alago* community in *Assakio* and killed fifteen (15) people, as well as destroyed about four hundred and six (406) houses. Similarly on 21 November, 2012, the *Ombatse* militia attacked the *Migili* community of *Agyaragu* in Obi Local Government Area, and killed nine (9) people, as well as destroyed their houses and other property. Furthermore, in January 2013, the Ombatse attacked a number of communities, including: Iggah in Nassarawa Eggon Local Government Area; Burum-burum in Doma Local Government Area; Yelwa-Bassa in Kokona Local Government Area as well as Kwandere in Lafia Local Government Area. On 13 January, 2013, the Ombatse militia attacked and shot some Army personnel at Awonge, along Lafia-Doma road and also at the military check point along Akwanga-Keffi road.

In another bloody and violent conflict between the Tivs and some ethnic groups in Awe, Keana, and Obi Local Governments of the State. This led to the gruesome beheading of the Sarkin Azara, Alh. Musa Ibrahim on the 12th of June, 2001. Thereafter, the first civilian Governor of the state had this to say:

“...our state has been convulsed in an orgy of inter-ethnic violence. Friends and neighbours have suddenly become enemies. Men, women and children have been slaughtered in cold blood. People were not just killed; they were butchered. Movable and immovable properties of our own brothers and sisters have been destroyed or looted. Hundreds of people have been turned into hapless and hopeless displaced people in their traditional homes. This crude and senseless violence has neither rhyme nor reason. This explosion of bottled fury and frustration threatens to set us back and retard our progress in the development of the state”.

The ethno-communal conflicts in Nasarawa State have accounted hugely to the pauperization of indigenes of the State especially, farmers and other rural dwellers as most of them have been displaced from their communities and as a result abandoned their economic activities from where they hitherto earned income for their living and now taking refuge in communities and places alien to them. Ethno-communal conflict is one the major challenges militating against poverty reduction in most of the rural communities in Nasarawa State.

Herder-Farmer Conflicts

A sister factor linked with ethno-communal conflict that affects rural poverty reduction in Nasarawa State is the herder-farmer conflict. The herder/farmer conflict situation in Nasarawa State has been interrogated by scholars and analysts from a variety of analytical prisms. An exegesis of some of these contributions is germane in order to situate the subject matter on a sound analytical frame. In his account, Ayih (2003:10-15) associated the conflicts to what he calls “population explosion”, which he attributed to high birth rate and immigration. According to him: People tend to move from Northern and Southern Nigeria into the Middle Belt region where population is relatively low and where there is availability of vast arable land. The consequent rapid growth in population has caused the farmers to struggle for farmland which is becoming scarce by the day. With this development, grazing areas that were hitherto abundant are being taken over by scattered small farms, making grazing in these areas difficult.

Ayih’s contribution is plausible in many respects. For instance, it captures properly the fundamental existential conditions that create the situation of land scarcity and hunger, which in turn, precipitates the herder/farmer conflict. The consequence of this phenomenon is that people are killed and displaced. For example, between January and May, 2013 a total of 88 people were killed in Nasarawa State apart from property worth several millions of naira that were destroyed as result of herder-farmer conflict. Farmers and rural dwellers in the affected communities abandoned their homes and economic activities for their safety and their source of livelihood destroyed thereby impoverishing them. Whatever sound government policies to reduce rural poverty will be an exercise in futility where there is violent conflict among the people.

Corruption

Poverty in Nigeria has been described as pervasive owing to the fact that as from 1981, the nation has witnessed a persistent increase in poverty level. This persistent rise in the nation’s poverty level prompted enunciation of poverty alleviation programmes as from 1986. Since then, the nation has implemented numerous programmes to fight poverty. However, available data reveals that over 60% of the nation’s population is still categorized as being poor. Countries like China and Vietnam whose poverty levels were higher than that of Nigeria for about two decades ago have their poverty levels between 5% and 20% as at today (Abimiku, 2015). It is being argued that corruption which has been seen as a way of life in Nigeria is largely responsible for the persistent poverty situations.

The United Nations Global Programme against Corruption (GPAC) defines it as “abuse of power for private gain”. Transparency International has chosen a clear and focused definition of the term as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. It can also be defined as pervasion or change from the general accepted rules or laws for selfish gain. Corruption has negatively affected the operations of poverty reduction efforts in the country. Corruption has not only robbed the nation of finances that should have been used for development that will benefit all citizens including the poor; but in some cases led to hijacking of funds meant for the poor by the privileged class thereby denying the poor the opportunity to grow out of poverty. Those entrusted with financial resources meant to fight poverty end up enriching themselves through embezzlement. Money meant for the development of rural areas are diverted and cornered into private pockets, this is not an exception Nasarawa State.

Corruption and poverty reduction are intimately related. When the “common wealth” is misappropriated by a few through corruption, the resultant effect is the aggravation of the

poverty level of the populace who become easily manipulated for political and other personal purposes of the leadership which all things being equal constitute a “denial” for poverty reduction efforts. This leads to a vicious circle of more corruption and worsening poverty. The striking effect of corruption on the Nigerian economy can be gleaned from the circumstances in which the country found itself in the last two decades. The fundamental issue about this menace according to Olayiwola (2001), rests on its effect on poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria. Corruption in Nigeria, like in other developing countries is so pervasive that it undermines the state, worsens the poverty level of the populace and hinders economic development. Specifically, its effects on poverty reduction efforts include:

- a) rapid regression into deep poverty and deprivation in spite of the enormous amount of resources which have not only been at the disposal of the country but have been and are substantially spent on poverty reduction efforts;
- b) a society that is gradually losing its social capital of trust, devotion to duty, and communal interdependence with consequences on the poor being total exclusion, powerlessness and hopelessness; and
- c) a polity in which no government which started out pursuing an anti-corruption agenda which is capable of restoring hope for the poor has been known to last and/or knows no peace or is somewhat, destabilized. While in contrast, others with demonstrable overt preference for the venal have tended to survive much longer and enjoyed relative peace.

The fight against corruption must therefore be intensified and sustained in order to bring budget sums within realistic limits and further ensure that projects (particularly projects that are targeted at the poor) are appropriately and timely completed. This position has been accented to by the then Minister of State for Communications, Labaran Maku while briefing the media at the end of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) Meeting of Wednesday, May 26th 2010 where he highlighted that costs for executing projects in Nigeria are 20-30% higher than those of the world and other African countries in the sub-Region and that there was no reason for that (Chiedozie, 2010).

Unemployment

Unemployment is a major factor contributing to poverty in Nigeria. There is a strong correlation between unemployment and poverty. When people are unemployed, their source of livelihood depletes over time. The cost of living becomes high and the standard of living goes down. There are many people in Nigeria and Nasarawa State in particular who lack the opportunity of being employed. As reported by Teshome (2008), the then newly released African Development Indicators report of the World Bank showed that “education, once seen as the surest, undisputed gateway to employment, no longer looks so certain.” This is very true in the case of Nigeria. The fact that you are an educated Nigerian is no guarantee that you will be employed. For example, in Nasarawa State, since the inception of the administration of Umaru Tanko Al-Makura for the past eight years (2011-2019), there has not been any open employment in the State.

Unemployment Rate in Nigeria increased to 23.10 percent in the third quarter of 2018 from 22.70 percent in the second quarter of 2018. Unemployment Rate in Nigeria averaged 12.31 percent from 2006 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 23.10 percent in the third quarter of 2018 and a record low of 5.10 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010. Many graduates in Nigeria wander the streets without anything reasonable to do for a living. The government is capable but unwilling to provide jobs for them. Employment in Nigeria is usually not based on merit but depends on how connected one is with people that have power. This leaves many highly qualified people in poverty as seemingly no one cares to know what they are

capable of achieving. These people are missing out on the income they would have gotten if they were employed. The number of quality jobs in the economy is low and many government resources are misallocated. Unemployment-induced poverty tends to increase the crime rate and violence in the country. Most unemployed youths resort to crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, internet fraud and other forms of fraudulent activities. The reservation wage they get from these activities is typically barely enough to take care of their basic necessities.

Conclusion

Despite various efforts and strategies by successive governments at all levels in the country to fight and reduce poverty, it still persists and is always on the rise. Available statistics show that more than half of Nigerian population resides in poverty, which means that every one out of two Nigerians is in poverty. It is the opinion of this paper that for poverty to be effectively tackled in Nigeria citizens should endeavour to select honest and purposeful leaders in the country to provide good governance that would bring about massive infrastructural development to grow the economy to generate employment, put in place effective corruption fighting mechanism devoid of government interference as well as creating a peaceful environment where people co-exist harmoniously pursuing their economic activities.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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