

THE IMPACT OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIAN ECONOMY(1999 – 2018)(USING FOSTER, GREEN AND THORBECKE APPROACH)

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DOI: 10.36108/ljerhrm/8102.01.0130

Abstract

The study assesses the impact of democratic system of government on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The data were collected through structured questionnaire from a sample of 400 respondents drawn from 6 purposively selected wards, 24 purposively selected villages and lower classes are randomly selected from each village. The data analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics and other tests. The study found that the respondents are earning an average of N1, 054.84 daily in the study area, about 81.5 percent of the respondents live above poverty line. This has shown that, the respondents have benefitted from some of the poverty alleviation programs provided by the Nigerian government during this democratic dispensation. Thus, the study recommends that the government should establish more policies toward poverty alleviation programs in the study area. Also government should make access to poverty alleviation programs in the most remote areas simpler and more accessible in the study area.

Keywords: Democracy, Government, Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth

1. Introduction

Successive and different governments since 1999 have been establishing various poverty alleviation programs with the aim of eradicating the level of this pandemic but the impact of these programs have little significance to the lives of Nigerian citizens. The main debate on poverty in development economics centres mostly on the interface between economic growth and poverty. While on the one hand some argued that unless an economy is able to generate steady growth, poverty reduction or alleviation cannot be achieved. Economic growth usually has a spill-over or “pull-up” effect on poverty alleviation in an economy (Said, 2006).

The widespread of poverty has adversely affected Nigeria its consequences manifest in the country in almost every area. This is caused by poor democratic governance and high level of corrupt practices in Nigeria by the leaders. These have continued to hinder development in the country and hence affected negatively the hope and aspirations of Nigerians since independence. Nigeria is blessed with abundance of natural resources that include oil and gas, mineral resources and vast agricultural land which are vital to the economy and the world at large. Oil accounts for about 40 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 70 percent of the government revenues and 90 percent of government receipts (Gberevbie & Iyoha, 2004).

The stability of democracy in Nigeria depends to a very large extent on the ability of the governing elites to eradicate poverty (Yakubu & Jonathan, 2010). Although democracy is believed and perceived as a core value of development, despite the massive revenue from oil, 69 percent of million Nigerians are living within the poverty bracket. Nigeria has been unable to translate the huge natural resources at her disposal to the development and improvement of her citizens' living standard and other social welfare benefits (Leke & Oluwaleye, 2015).

Nigerian government needs to provide good atmospheric environment and effective institutions with clear rules of economic engagement to reduce transaction costs, correct market imperfections and make non-market allocation of resources in some instances through any means in order to reduce this abject poverty in the country. The essence of institutions in this case is simply to support the economy to push Nigerian citizens out of the challenges they are facing; it is not to give primacy to politics, democracy or governance in poverty issues but for the welfare of Nigerians. However, in recent times, new thoughts have begun to emerge on the notion of poverty, its causes and the strategy to combat it. Government at federal, state and local levels has become a key issue in the discourse on poverty. Poverty is a policy issue that exists in the political domain. Poverty, inequality and governance are now seen to be inseparably related because without good governance and leaders, bad policy would be made, the

people would have neither voice nor power and the economy may likely deteriorate. Similarly, when poverty and inequality persist in a society it weakens the political process and promotes deficient governance. Government provides the institutions, legal and political framework not only for the design of poverty reduction policies but also for the enhancement of the capacity of the poor people to deal positively with and improve their living and material conditions. Government is to ensure the active participation of the poor in its choice of decisions that affects and empowers them (Said, 2006). Therefore, this study examines the impact of democratic system of government on poverty alleviation in the Nigerian economy.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Poverty is a universal issue of discourse and a problem that affects socio-economic status of the people in a country whether in a developed or underdeveloped country. The level and severity of poverty in Nigeria is absolute and more pronounced especially in the remote rural areas where they mostly depend on farming and the ability of government to provide support to the farmers in terms of farming support programs is not encouraging at all. The wide spread and raising of poverty in Nigeria is attributed to the lack of good governance and leaders, mismanagement of the country's resource endowments, corruptions and weak institutional capacity among others in the country. Nigerian is new and immature in practicing democratic system of government and government has continued to provide little support to its citizens in order to eradicate or reduce this endemic problem, in spite of the country's level of its natural resource endowment.

Moreover, cost of governance in Nigeria is very high, has little impact on its citizens and most of the government policies and programs for the enhancement of the living standard of the people have negligible impact on the lives of the citizens but the government officials have been benefitting more from it. These set of people continue to inflate contracts and perpetuate other vices by government officials for their personal enrichment and benefits. Nigeria is facing the challenge of corrupt practices by the Nigerian leaders, access to political office has become most do affairs. The public office in Nigeria serves as a source of acquiring personal wealth and protection. No matter the amount of revenue generated by the government, the living standard of the people remain worse due to poor management and corrupt practices by the public office holders in the country (Gberevbie & Iyoha, 2004).

Thus, poverty alleviation policy programs pursued by the various administrations and the possibilities to eradicate poverty, achieve income redistribution, wealth creation and social welfare benefits depend substantially to the large extend on the commitments of the Nigerian political elites. And most of the elites are more concerned with their personal benefits rather than for the collective benefits of the Nigerian citizens. However, the belief and assumption of democracy and its ideology is that it offers more participation and opportunities for its citizens but in the context of Nigeria, these possibilities are very difficult to enjoy by the citizens more especially rural dwellers.

As against this background, this study intends to examine and proffer solutions to the following question based on the statement of the problem. Does democratic system of government alleviate poverty in Nigerian economy?

In view of the above, the main objective of the study is to assess the impact of democratic system of government on poverty alleviation in Nigerian economy.

H₀: Democratic system of government has no impact on poverty alleviation in Nigerian economy.

2. Literature Review

The Concept of Democracy

The concept of democracy has been defined by various scholars. The basic root for defining democracy still remains "people power" based on the origin of the words from Greek demos which means "people" and kratia which means "power". The "people power" usually implies government by the people exercises power and policies either directly or indirectly by elected government (Rose, 2017). Democracy is defined as government of the people, by the people and for the people. In a democratic dispensation, the interest of people takes the major concern in the policy and decision making process by the elected government (Aminu, Gbenga & Bolaji, 2014).

The Concept of Poverty

The term poverty has been defined in various literatures by different scholars. For instance, Sabina and Gisela (2016) posited that any individual earning below US\$1.90 per day fall under the poverty level. According to

Mohammed (2009) poverty is defined as lack of command over basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. From political economic perspective, it defines poverty as encompassing economic, social and political dimensions. This reflects the logic of human deprivation, which limits human capacity to function adequately including his/her freedom. Poverty is characterised by the unavailability of income and non-income resources and a denial of voice and power in the political process (Said, 2006). Opayemi (1995) defined poverty as those having no access to the basic necessities of life such as food, clothes and decent shelter. Thus, according to the definition of the World Bank 1990, 1991 and 2000 cited in Rose (2017) poverty is pronounced as deprivation in wellbeing with many dimensions including not only material deprivation (measured by an appropriate concept of income or consumption) and low levels of education and health but also vulnerability and exposure to risk voicelessness and powerlessness.

On the issue of poverty alleviation Okoli and Izueke (2013) defined poverty alleviation as a means of making poverty more bearable. It serves as a pain reliever to the poor people. It means removal of the causes of the pain. Many past regimes pursued poverty alleviation programmes at the utter neglect of poverty reduction.

In this study, poverty is defined as any person whose income earning per day is below US \$1.90 and he is considered as poor. Poverty alleviation is a means through which people have access to basic requirements of life such as good food, portable water, health facilities, quality education and social amenities for enhancement of the capacity of people.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria

Nigerian government since 1999 has been introducing different poverty programs with the sole aim of curbing the menace of poverty in Nigeria. In a study by Yakubu and Jonathan (2010), they identified some poverty alleviation programs established by different administration in Nigerian. The democratic era under Obasanjo's regime witnessed the introduction of the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) designed to provide employment to 200,000 unemployed youths all over the country. It was also aimed at inculcating and improving better attitudes toward a maintenance culture in urban and rural roads and public buildings. By 2001, PAP was phased out as a result of structural inefficiency and fused into the newly created National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) consists of four schemes namely: Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS), Special Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS), Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). Others programmes during the administration of Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari are Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN) in 2011, Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program known as (SURE-P) in 2012 and Social Investment Programme like N-power.

Empirical Review

Many literatures abound on poverty alleviation in Nigeria but this study has identified a few of them. Bello, Toyebi, Balogun and Akanbi (2009) investigated the impact of government programmes towards poverty alleviation on the inhabitants of Nigeria with special reference to Asa and Ilorin West Local Government Areas of Kwara State. A focus group discussion (FGD) of 4 groups (2 males and 2 females) was conducted from which scenario questionnaire was raised. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed to see the impact of those policies on the inhabitants using household income as a proxy. The Sen's Gini coefficient revealed that agricultural sector is the highest income-contributing sector and worst hit income inequality group with about 84 percent of total population in high poverty margin/region among the sectors. The study also revealed the existence of either one poverty alleviation program at one time or the other, but often the policy targets were at variance with the outcome. The study suggested that there is need to evaluate the performance towards reappraising and adjusting the instruments employed by the programmes, refocused on the important sector(s) in the area of finance and credit facilities and organized buffer stock against agricultural or bumper harvest in order to sustain price stability.

In a work of Yakubu and Jonathan (2010), the study assessed the impact of poverty alleviation programmes of government on the rural dwellers in Nigeria from 1999 to 2009. It argued that the various poverty alleviation programmes put in place by government had not made any meaningful impact on the lives of majority of rural people who were living below poverty line. Under the present democratic dispensation, the rural folks that constitute significant segment of the Nigerian society live in abject poverty and are neglected in terms of socio-economic and political well being. The poverty alleviation programmes of government that supposed to bring succour to rural folks were urban-biased. The study concluded that democracy could not thrive in an impoverished society where people live below one dollar (\$1) per day.

Rose (2017) reviewed poverty situation in Nigeria in the light of current economic recession and given the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The study was motivated by observations on household expenditures and the expenditures of the national legislature (an index for democracy) which were taken as proxies for the interaction between distribution and growth in reducing absolute poverty. National data for the period 2003-2010 were examined and descriptive statistics were employed to answer the research question. Unsustainable discrepancies exist between households expenditures and the expenditures of the national legislature indicating unacceptable income inequality that help to explain high poverty rates in Nigeria. The Nigerian national legislature consumption expenditure was 67.62% of total resources required to eliminate absolute poverty in 2003-04 and 124.81% in 2009-2010. A single member of the Nigerian legislature on average expended ₦118.17 millions in 2003-04 and ₦533.58 millions in 2009-2010 whereas per capita households' consumption expenditure for the same period was a paltry ₦4,029.70 and ₦7,212.30 respectively. The magnitude of disparities indicate each poor Nigerian required only 0.01 % of resources consumed by each member of the Nigerian legislature in 2003-04 and only 0.004 % in 2009-2010. There is evidence of significant effects of non-income dimensions of inequality in Nigeria and also the suggested view that the growth effect on poverty was greater than the inequality effect. The results also indicated eliminating absolute poverty and the practice of western democracy might be mutually exclusive in Nigeria. The study recommended that Nigeria needs to restructure constitutions that are in line with the country's specific economic traditions and patterns as a key channel for poverty reduction.

Aminu, Gbenga and Bolaji (2014) investigated the impact of democratic dispensation on the performance of the Nigerian economy between 1983 and 2012. The study divided the period into two (military and democracy i.e. 1983-1998 and 1999-2012). The study employed descriptive statistic and multiple regression analysis (OLS), causality as well as Johansen co-integration technique. The Johansen co-integration result had shown that there was no co-integrating equation; implying the absence of long run relationship between economic growth and democracy in Nigeria. The results revealed that there was no causation between GDP and poverty as well as between GDP and democracy, one-way causation existed between corruption and GDP, but the causation runs from GDP to corruption which implied that corruption cannot cause GDP but GDP does cause corruption, one-way causation existed between democracy and poverty, but the causation runs from poverty to democracy and not the other way round, also that one way causation existed between corruption and democracy, but the causation runs from corruption to democracy which implied that corruption cannot cause democracy but democracy does cause corruption.

The causality result further revealed the existence of bi-directional causation between corruption and poverty which implied that corruption can cause poverty and poverty can also cause corruption. Most importantly corruption causes poverty more than poverty does cause corruption. The main concern of this study was to find out whether or not that democracy can cause growth in output in Nigeria. The study revealed that there was no causation between GDP and democracy in Nigeria. The results of OLS indicated that unemployment, corruption and democracy were statistically significant while the coefficient of inflation, poverty, and the constant were found statistically insignificant. The result further revealed that change in unemployment rate, inflation rate, poverty level and corruption level raised output in the economy while change in democracy reduced output in the economy. The result of descriptive statistics revealed that on the average GDP was higher during democracy than during the military, unemployment rates, poverty level and corruption were found on the average be higher during democracy than during the military, inflation rate on the average was higher during the military than during democracy.

Ernest (2014) examined the impact of government expenditure policy on education and poverty reduction in Nigeria. An integrated sequential dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) model was used to simulate the potential impact of increase in government expenditure on education in Nigeria. The model was simulated with a 2004 social accounting matrix (SAM) data of the Nigerian economy. The increase in government expenditure on education raised the TFP level by 66% for all productive sectors by 2015. The overall national poverty head-count (P0), poverty gap (P1) and poverty severity (P2) rate fall by 22.32, 24.83 and 10.34 percentage points respectively, much more than any of the other government expenditure scenarios. This represented 41.02% decrease in poverty head-count level. This was not too far from achieving the millennium development goal (MDG) of reducing poverty by 50% in 2015. This implied that the sector was highly significant for promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. The MDG target for Nigeria was to reduce the percentage of population living in relative poverty from 54.41% in 2004 to 21.40% in 2015. Moreover, on poverty impact, the three measures of poverty decrease more for urban households than for rural households. The rural and urban poverty headcount rate (P0) declined by 10.30% and 18.04% percentage points. This represented 16.28% and 41.77% decreases in rural and urban poverty respectively. The result had shown that government expenditure on education could be significant for poverty reduction. The growth elasticity for poverty reduction for Nigeria shown that, an

increase of 1% in education services would reduce the national, rural and urban head-count poverty (P0) levels by 1.25%. It implied that increasing government expenditure on education services has great impact on poverty reduction. The results had shown that the reduction in poverty level in the urban sector was not far from achieving the millennium development goal (MDG) of reducing poverty by 50%.

Theoretical Literature

The Sustainable Livelihoods approach theory was developed by Krantz (2001). The concept of Sustainable Livelihood is an attempt to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty reduction. This has been found to be too narrow because it focused only on certain aspects or manifestations of poverty, such as low income, or did not consider other vital aspects of poverty such as vulnerability and social exclusion.

The conventional approach had shown that increase in income lead to poverty reduction. This indicated that more attention must be given to the various obstacles, factors and processes which either affect or enhance poor people's ability to make a living. The area of departure between the conventional approach that is old Integrated Rural Development approach and sustainable livelihood approach is that the sustainable livelihood approach does not necessarily aim to address all aspects of the livelihoods of the poor. The intention is rather to employ a holistic perspective in the analysis of livelihoods to identify issues of subject areas where an intervention could be effective for poverty reduction, either at the local level or at the policy level. There are three insights into poverty which underpin this new approach. The first is the realization that economic growth may be essential for poverty reduction, there is the realization that poverty as conceived by the poor themselves is not just a question of low income, but also includes other dimensions such as bad health, illiteracy, lack of social services, etc., as well as a state of vulnerability and feelings of powerlessness in general. Finally, the Sustainable livelihood approach recognized that the poor themselves often know their situation and needs best and must therefore be involved in the design of policies and project intervention to improve their lives. The Sustainable livelihood approach emphasis on involving people in both the identification and the implementation of activities by the government and nongovernmental organisation where appropriate for achieving the required outcome of the approach.

The assumption of the sustainable livelihood approach is that policies and projects taken in the interest of the poor should increase their wellbeing. Although the sustainable livelihood approach was not explicit on the types and specific policies programs and project the government must embark upon to improve the wellbeing and increase the rate of employment in the country.

3. Methodology

This section deals with the methodology used for the study. The choice of methodology is guided by the desire to attain the objective and hypotheses of the study. The study is on the impact of democratic system of government on poverty alleviation in Nigerian economy. This section therefore focuses on the selection of the study area, population size used in the study, methods of data collection and techniques for data analysis.

Lere Local Government area is located at latitude 11°00 North and 10°48 North Northern limit and west longitude 8°30 East and 7°36 East and accessible by roads that covers an area of 596km² with high concentration of farmers. Lere LGA shares boarder with Plateau, Bauchi and Kano state.

Multi stage sampling technique was employed. In the first stage, purposively selection of wards in Lere LGA was selected in which 6 out of 11 were used which includes; Saminaka, Lere, Yarkasuwa, Dan Alhaji, Sabon Birni and Gure kahuggu ward . In the second stage, 24 villages were purposively selected out of the villages. In the third stage, respondents were randomly selected in each of the village.

The population of Lere LGA at 3.0% growth rate of population in 2018 according to National Population Commission was 482,354 based on projection. There are several approaches to determining the sample size. These include using a census for small populations, imitating a sample size of similar studies, using published tables, and applying formulas to calculate a sample size. The formula of determining sample size in a research include; Yamane (1970) formula is more appropriate for determining sample size for infinite population that is unknown and the higher the sample size the better, Kish (1965), Cochran (1963), Krejcie and Morgan (1970) and others. This study employed the Yamane (1970) formula because the population of the study area is known based on projection. Using the formula, the estimated sample size was 400 respondents.

The study adapted the questionnaire from the study conducted by Bello, Toyebi, Balogun and Akanbi(2009). The questionnaire was designed following World Bank Living Standard Measurement Pattern that would achieve the objective of the study. The most important part of the questionnaire is the scenario format; this scenario was the

recognition of governments' effort on alleviating poverty among the rural populace in the study area. The first scenario questionnaire reads; the government has poverty alleviations programs that could support its citizens in terms of improving the standard of living of the people, especially in terms of creation of employment, capital releases and training and infrastructural development. Are you aware of any poverty alleviation programs provided by government? This part of the questionnaire then considered questions along this above scenario. The second scenario checked the impact of Nigerian government programs during democracy on the lives of the people in study area. According to Marxist theory, in a modern capitalist economy, there are three social classes; the upper class, middle classes and lower class or respondents. Therefore, the questionnaires were administered to the respondents to elicit information from them in the study area. This study employed the quantitative as a method of data analysis in order to answer the research questions. The study used Statistical package for Social Sciences SPSS version 21.

Mathematical Representation of Foster, Greer and Thorbecke Model

Using the mathematical model developed by Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) for poverty measurement, the model would be of great important to ascertain the level of poverty in the study area, where(respondents) are above the poverty line during democratic dispensation in Nigeria from 1999 - 2018.

There are various methods that existing for the measurement of poverty such as; The Sen index, the Kapteyne line, the Thon index, Leyden's line, the Deeleck line, the Hagenaars index and three I's of poverty (TIP) curve (INE, n.d). However, this study employed Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) mathematical model because is more appropriate and simple for determining impact of poverty. Therefore, the model was used to achieve the objective of the study which could be specified as:

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1-p}^H \left[\frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_i} \right] \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

- Where:
 P = Poverty
 Yp = Poverty line
 Yi = Average income of respondents household (N)
 H = Number of household below the poverty line
 N = Total number of household

α = Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) Index which takes the values 0, 1, 2. From the model in equation (1) the following indices or measures could be obtained:

(a) Head Count Ratio: This index measures the proportion of the population that is classified as poor. If alpha value equal to zero ($\alpha = 0$) from equation (1) the poverty index becomes:

$$P = \frac{H}{N} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

(b) Poverty Depth (Gap): This index measures the extent of poverty as it reflects the distance the poor are from the poverty line. If alpha value equal to one ($\alpha=1$) from equation (1) the poverty index becomes:

$$P_1 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1-p}^H \left[\frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_i} \right] \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

(c) Severity of Poverty Index: This is the mean of the squared proportion of poverty gap. If alpha value equal to two ($\alpha = 2$) from equation (1) the poverty index becomes:

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1-p}^H \left[\frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_i} \right]^2 \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

4. Interpretation and Discussion of Results

Table 1: Socio-Economic Status of the (Respondents)

Variables	Sample size N=400	Variables	Sample size N=400
Gender	Percentage (%)	Age	Percentage (%)
Male	79.3	21 – 40	33.7
Female	20.7	41 – 60	49.6
		> 61	16.7
Marital Status		Level of education	
Single		No formal education	
Married	26.0	Primary education	6.2
Divorced	66.0	Secondary education	15.8
	8.0	Post secondary	62.1
			15.9

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From Table 1, the socio-economic status of the respondents, the distribution of the respondents according to gender characteristics shows that out of 400 of the respondents 79.3 per cent of them are male while 20.7 per cent are female. This shows that the men are the majority in the study area. In terms of marital status, the distribution is highly skewed towards the married people as 264 of them which comprises of 66.0 per cent of them are married, 26.0 percent are single while 8.0 per cent are divorced. This shows that majority of the respondents are married in the study area.

Furthermore, the age distribution of the respondents shows that the majority of the respondents 49.6 percent are youth between the age of 41 and 60. A total of 33.7 percent of them are distributed between age 21 and 40, while 16.7 per cent of them are greater than 61 years. This has indicated that majority of the respondents are youth in the study area.

Moreover, on the level of education of the respondents 62.1 percent attend secondary education, 15.8 percent attain primary school level, and 15.9 percent attain post secondary school level while 6.2 percent have no formal education. Therefore, the study shows that majority of the respondents are secondary school dropout in study area.

Table 2: Mathematical Measurement of Poverty Using Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) Formula

TIPRE (N)	MRI (N)	PL (N)	HCR	PGR	PD	PS
1,265,803.50	3,164.51	1,054.84	18.50%	38.00%	7.03%	3.00%

Source: Authors computation 2018

Where TIPRE= Total income per respondent equivalent daily: the value was gotten by dividing each respondents income by the sample size raised to the power of 0.7 being equivalent scale expressed as $Y/n^{0.7}$. The income per respondent equivalent was summed up and is given below.

$$\text{Total Income per respondent equivalent} = N1, 265,803.50$$

Mean Respondents Income (MRI)

$$\text{Mean respondents Income} = \frac{1,265,803.5}{400} = N3, 164.51$$

$$\text{MRI} = N3,164.51$$

Poverty Line (PL)

$$\text{Poverty line} = \frac{1}{3}(\text{MRI}) = \frac{3,164.51}{3} = N1, 054.84$$

$$\text{Poverty line} = N1, 054.84$$

From the results obtained above, the study shows that the respondents’ average daily income during the democratic dispensation is above poverty line because N1, 054.84 is greater than N684, which is equivalent to \$1.90 at N360 Nigerian Naira exchange rate per dollar (using market rate).

$$\text{Total income of the poor respondents} = N56, 472.00$$

$$\text{Average income of the poor respondent} = \frac{56,472.00}{74} = N763.40$$

Head Count Ratio (HCR)

$$HCR = \frac{74}{400} = 0.185 \text{ or } 18.5\%$$

The Head count ratio (HCR) is the proportion of a population that exists or lives below the poverty line or cannot afford to buy the basic basket of food. From the result obtained this has shown that out of 400 respondents 18.5% of the respondents are living below poverty line.

Poverty Gap Ratio (PGR)

$$PGR = \frac{1,054.84 - 763.14}{763.14} = 0.38 \text{ or } 38\%$$

The PGR shows that the poverty gap ratio is the average shortfall of the total population of respondents that 3percent of the respondents could not meet the poverty line as shown from the result in the study area.

Poverty Depth (PD) = HCR X PGR

$$PD = 0.185 \times 0.38 = 0.0703 \approx 7\%$$

The povertygap index is an improvement over the povertymeasure headcount ratio which simply counts all the people below a povertyline, in a given population in the study area, 7 percent of the respondents that is 28 of the respondents are required to bring the respondents that are poor up to the poverty lines. Furthermore, it is the total percentage of people that are close to the poverty line and are struggling to move out of the level of poverty line in the study area.

Poverty Severity (PS) = HCR X (PGR)²

$$= 0.185 \times (0.38)^2 = 0.0267 \approx 3\%$$

Poverty severity among the respondents is 3 percent that is 12 respondents. This simply means that 3 percent are the poor among poorest respondents in the study area. This has shown that democratic system of government has no any impact on the lives of these set of people in the study area.

5. Summary and Conclusion

Summary of Findings

The study has revealed some important findings as shown from the results obtained. The Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) poverty measures indicated in table 2 revealed that only 18.5 percent that is 74 of the respondents are living below the poverty line while 81.5 percent that is 326 of the respondents are earning more than \$1.90 threshold of the poverty line. The poverty headcount, depth and severity were, 0.185, 0.0703 and 0.0267 respectively. This shows that 18.5 percent of the respondents live below poverty line per day, while 7 percent of the respondents’ that is 28 of the respondents are required to take them up to the poverty line. The poorest among the respondents is 3 percent that is 12 respondents.

Moreover, the result of the study reveals that income obtained through poverty alleviation programs by the government have made the respondents earned above the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in the study area.

Conclusion

From the results obtained in this study, the conclusions to be drawn from the results is that the respondents had benefitted from some of the poverty alleviation programs provided by government during this democratic dispensation. Thus, the respondents earned an average of N1, 054.84 per day and 81.5 percent of the respondents lived above poverty line using the international benchmark of 1.9 dollar per day in the study area.

Recommendations

The government should establish more policies toward poverty alleviation programs in the study area. Government should encourage its citizens to participate more actively in poverty alleviation programs provided by the government to earn more income in order to reduce the rate of poverty in the study area.

Government should make access to the poverty alleviation programs in the most remote areas simpler and accessible in the study area.

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