



### Reversing poverty trends in Africa: case of Nigeria and others countries

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#### Abstract

*Extreme poverty is a major issue in many Africa, it's crucial that we address it right now since it negatively impacts people's lives. These issues include not having access to enough food, a safe place to live, clean water to drink, adequate reading and writing skills, the death of many babies and mothers, a large number of people lacking jobs, and a sense of weakness and helplessness. In order for the poor to earn more money and obtain more employment, the economy must be strengthened, this will help to reduce poverty. This can be accomplished by altering current procedures to better utilize resources. Additionally, it entails seeing to the fundamental requirements of the impoverished. Giving small loans to folks who wish to launch enterprises is another way we can assist. We must ensure that, there are effective channels for selling what individuals produce and create incentives for corporations to lend a hand. Finally, by providing grants, social safety nets and money directly to those in need, we can guarantee that they receive it.*

**Keywords:** poverty, inefficiency, economy, inequality, malnourishment, manifestations, proportion, population, development



## **Introduction**

A significant issue that impacts many people worldwide is poverty, it can manifest itself in various ways, such as not having access to sufficient resources for a good life, going without food or shelter, becoming ill, lacking access to clean water or an education, dying young, being marginalized or treated poorly, lacking employment, and having a high rate of infant and maternal mortality. Getting rid of poverty has been viewed as being extremely crucial for society because it has such negative effects on people's wellbeing. Therefore, eliminating poverty and hunger was a key objective of the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in September 2000 and the current Sustainable Development Goals agenda 2030.

While poverty exists in every nation, it is more prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa. The causes of poverty in these nations are nuanced, inconsistent economic policies that don't aid the poor and actively work against them are among these causes. Additionally, it is difficult for the poor to get employment and earn enough money. Government assistance, which could include low-interest loans and training, is insufficient for them. These nations still employ antiquated farming practices and have poor infrastructure. The powerful take advantage of the underprivileged, and the government doesn't provide adequate assistance.

People in these nations are not well educated or skilled, and social issues and disputes are common. The government doesn't handle money efficiently, and the poor don't have access to resources like land or money, (Liu et al., 2020). Even while we have achieved considerable progress in the last 20 years in reducing poverty, according to Beegle, Christiansen, and Bapna (2016), we still need to do more. In addition to reducing the rate of extreme poverty, we must also reduce the overall number of individuals experiencing it. This is a crucial step towards eradicating poverty because, despite the possibility that more people would be classified as poor, the total rate of poverty can still drop.

## **Prospects to lessen poverty in Africa**

It claims that in order to succeed, we must ascertain who the poor are, the extent of poverty in various regions of the world, the causes of poverty, and methods for assisting the poor in improving their lot in life. Additionally, we must eliminate anything that makes it challenging to end poverty. Because there is data that suggests economic growth can occur while poverty worsens, we need to re-evaluate the notion



that it will always help to reduce poverty. By providing them with improved access to things like essential services, employment opportunities, markets for their goods, information, financial resources, and social protections that can keep them from being vulnerable, we need to concentrate on assisting the poor.

With leaders who are dedicated to social justice, empowerment, equality and the rule of law, poverty can be reduced and the living conditions of the poor can be improved, according to the experience of developing nations with rapid economic growth. According to Sneyd (2015), with effective leadership, we can assist end the extreme suffering of the poor and stop the cycle of poverty, hunger, and sickness in some parts of the world. Sneyd, (2015) is adamant that, markets may aid in a nation's economic development, but they frequently ignore or undervalue particular regions, leaving them impoverished and unable to find relief. He thinks that alongside markets, the government ought to provide infrastructure, health care, and education.

According to the World Bank,2017; Acemoglu and Robinson, 2012; Beegle and Christiansen, 2019). The primary cause of poverty in areas where farming is the primary occupation is a lack of agricultural output. They contend that the ownership of the land and the incentives provided to farmers by the governments and institutions they are a part of are to be blamed for the low agricultural production. More people are now poor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank estimates that, between 88 million and 115 million people will become severely poor as a result of the pandemic in 2020. Between 23 million and 35 million more individuals will fall into poverty in 2021, bringing the overall number of people living in extreme poverty to between 110 million and 150 million.

The World Bank also notes that, even before the epidemic, improvements to people's lives in the world's poorest nations were not occurring quickly enough to raise their incomes, improve their standard of living, or lessen inequality. According to Coates, many nations were failing to make progress toward attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and poverty was increasing worse in some places in February 2020.

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claim that although some success made in lowering poverty in the past 20 years.

We still have work to do. In addition to reducing the rate of extreme poverty, we must also reduce the overall number of individuals experiencing it. This is a crucial step towards eradicating poverty because, despite the possibility that more people would be classified as poor, the total rate of poverty can still drop. For example, the proportion of Africans living in poverty decreased from 54% in 1990 to 41% in 2015. However, there were 413 million impoverished individuals in 2015 as opposed to 278 million in 1990. This demonstrates the necessity for robust, well-thought-out policies that foster justice and long-term success while simultaneously assisting in the expansion of the economy. These regulations should also emphasize crucial issues like education, health and equality for gender.

The greatest obstacle to development initiatives continues to be pervasive poverty. Unemployment, starvation, illiteracy, low status of women, environmental degradation, and restricted access to social and health services, particularly reproductive health services, are a few of the problems associated with poverty. High rates of fertility, high rates of sickness and mortality, and low levels of economic production are the results of these poverty-induced conditions. The end of poverty requires sustained economic growth and development, but more crucially, gender equality in society is now recognized as a precondition for women's empowerment. Women also frequently struggle to strike a balance between their reproductive and productive responsibilities; as a result, they suffer the most when these two domains (reproductive and productive) collide, aggravating the feminization of poverty.

#### **Justification for the Study**

Gender inequality still permeates most Nigerian areas despite previous efforts by the government to include women's issues in the development agenda. Therefore, there is currently a push for a new strategy that would not only ensure women's empowerment but also sustainable development for the nation through gender equality policy initiatives. This strategy could help balance power dynamics between men and women and change the institutions that continue to support gender injustice, poverty, and underdevelopment.

A development strategy that aims to help both men and women escape poverty and raise their standard of living must include promoting gender equality. Therefore, eradicating poverty is not only

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a matter of human rights but also a requirement for achieving sustainable development.

### **Current discourse**

#### *Reducing Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa*

In Sub-Saharan Africa, numerous nations have developed plans to fight poverty. To help the lives of those who are weak and destitute, these programs are being implemented. According to Banerjee, Benabou & Mookherjee, (2006) in Kenya, where a large portion of the population lives in poverty, the government has a plan to combat it. The plan calls for ensuring that the economy expands swiftly and remains robust, assisting the poor in earning more money, improving their quality of life, ensuring that everyone is treated equally and has a voice in decisions, as well as ensuring that the government functions well and that people feel safe. To help minimize the high cost of borrowing money and the quantity of debt owed inside the nation, the government has implemented significant adjustments. This is meant to promote further grow small and medium scale business thereby reducing poverty.

Promoting agricultural and food production is a crucial step in the effort to fight poverty in Africa Padulosi et al., (2013). This emphasis is justified by the fact that the majority of Kenyans are farmers and reside in rural areas. The government of Kenya is taking certain steps to aid in reducing poverty in the agricultural sector. To assist farmers in producing more crops, they are providing them with cheaper seeds and fertilizers. They are also enticing farmers to raise very profitable crops. To assist farmers in watering their crops, irrigation projects are being repaired and expanded. And to aid with their financial difficulties, they are providing farmers with more affordable loans. Farmers are aided by the government since it has made it simpler for them to sell products by improving infrastructure in the rural areas.

This will provide the less fortunate with greater chances to sell their wares, gain money, and find employment. To boost the number of agricultural products sold to foreign nations, significant efforts are being made. As a result, we will stimulate more farming domestically and attract more foreign investment. Other measures are being taken in Kenya to fight poverty, to make money, they assist others in launching small enterprises. Additionally, they are contributing funds to help low-income families with the expense of healthcare and education. There are initiatives in place to feed students at schools. Additionally, they provide employment for residents of rural areas

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through public projects. They are funding young people's training to having skills in doing different works.

With the assistance of foreign partners, Kenya and other impoverished nations in Sub-Saharan Africa have been providing aid to those in need. This supports struggling families and lessens extreme poverty. Everyone who applied received the initial cash payments without any restrictions. Many nations have modified their cash transfer policies as a result. They are now dependent on an individual's income level and have various requirements that must be satisfied. This is crucial because cash transfers must go to the most vulnerable and underprivileged families where resources are scarce.

In Egger and other scientists, a study was conducted on a scheme that distributed money to residents of rural western Kenya. The initiative had positive benefits on both the households that received the cash and those that did not, according to the study. Households were able to save money and purchase more, thanks to the cash transfer program. People had more money to spend, which helped local companies prosper. Families had access to enough food, and the kids attended school more frequently and were healthier. Additionally, the training improved participants' self-esteem and gave women more power over their lives. Additionally, the money-giving initiative had a favorable effect on the local economy, and this effect persisted for a considerable amount of time.

Cash transfer schemes have proven to be effective at reducing severe poverty by providing financial assistance to the most impoverished families, (Boccia et al., 2016). This functions best when the programs are enhanced and specifically created to assist individuals who are most in need. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, Kenya has been having difficulty alleviating poverty since March 2020. According to estimates, this epidemic has increased the number of poor people in Kenya by 2 million as a result of its impact on employment and income (Kansiime et al., 2021). The virus control measures used had a significant influence on the economy. Owners of enterprises made less money, and many individuals had trouble getting enough to eat. Additionally, this endangered numerous lives and jobs.

### **Methodological Approach**

This research will be analyzed based on qualitative analysis, as defined by Jongbo (2014), qualitative descriptive analysis means a process of analyzing information gathered in a research work verbally

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to discover its relationships amongst variables. Adopting this method is appropriate as the study will rely extensively on secondary sources of data as data were collected from (books, journal articles, and newspapers). Therefore, this study has been based on the use of mono-method qualitative as research findings using this method always supplement each other. Application of the mono method provides either of these, a rich explanation which is (qualitative) or accurate evidence which is (quantitative).

### **Conclusion**

A major issue for Africa, in order to significantly reduce poverty and enhance people's lives, diligent and sustained efforts are required. Despite the fact that poverty is frequently measured and assessed in terms of income, it is actually a complicated problem that affects many different areas of well-being, including having enough food, clean water, decent sanitation, good health, a safe place to live, education, access to services, and human rights. The most impoverished regions, according to the World Bank, are South Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because there are many poor people in certain places as a result of a high population and low level of wealth. Various reports also indicate that, the majority of the population in these nations are made up of young people. Therefore, concentrating on these may aid in lowering poverty.

Various strategies are now being developed in developing nations to reduce poverty and vulnerability while improving people's lives. Promoting equitable economic growth is crucial because it helps to boost production of goods and revenue while ensuring that everyone gains from it. There are numerous approaches to promote fair economic growth. These include spending money on things like infrastructure and technology, allowing more commerce with other nations, assisting small and medium-sized enterprises, stimulating the economy, ensuring economic stability, and streamlining government operations and policies. These can promote corporate growth, strengthen the economy, increase employment, and lower poverty.

### **Recommendations**

Microfinance organizations that provide loans to small borrowers who are unable to obtain loans from traditional banks can help to eliminate poverty. These microfinance organizations also assist people in saving money and using it to increase their income. In poor nations where the majority of enterprises are tiny and have limited access to funding, microfinance institutions are extremely important. According

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to the research, microfinance has helped people in disadvantaged areas get jobs and take care of their basic requirements, which has decreased poverty. By improving their economies' productivity and competitiveness, developing nations can help lessen poverty. We may accomplish this by making adjustments to our institutions and economy, such as reducing corporate operating costs, strengthening ties across various economic sectors, ensuring the safety of private property, reducing corruption, and increasing the accountability of individuals in charge of public administration. We need to make tax systems more efficient, support small businesses, assist the poor, and allocate more funds for crucial initiatives like disadvantaged children's access to healthcare and education. Additionally, by altering tax rules, we can increase employment and thereby lower poverty. It is crucial to establish specialized programs that assist particular groups who are neglected in general attempts to eliminate poverty in emerging countries. These programs need to be carefully thought out and contain measures that safeguard and support these groups.

To assist combat poverty and vulnerability, many developing nations are started to provide direct financial contributions to individuals. By sharing their expertise, supplying additional resources, and offering support to implement poverty reduction strategies, private businesses and international organizations can contribute to the decrease of poverty in underdeveloped nations. In order to successfully eradicate poverty in Africa, we must focus on areas where it is prevalent and employ cutting-edge tactics that will benefit the greatest number of the poor. If everyone pulls together, concentrates on the basic needs of the poor, works to develop the economy for all, assists the poor in taking charge of their own lives and future; and incorporates poverty reduction into national policies and activities, this aim can be accomplished.

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