

Extended Abstract

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Paper/Poster Title	Analysis of National Poverty Reduction Programmes on Poverty Rates in Nigeria
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Abstract prepared for presentation at the 98th Annual Conference of The Agricultural Economics Society will be held at The University of Edinburgh, UK, 18th - 20th March 2024.

Abstract	200 words max
<p>Despite Nigeria's population strength and growth potential, Nigeria's human development has been significantly limited by high rates of poverty. This study empirically analyses the effects of the Nigerian government's national poverty reduction programmes on poverty rates in Nigeria in the last decade. Specifically, the study reviews Nigeria's poverty alleviation programmes, examines the country's poverty trend, and analyses the effects of poverty alleviation indicators on the country's poverty rates and their implications for future poverty reduction and economic growth policies. The study utilises a set of time-series datasets obtained from Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the World Development Indicators of the World Bank. Data is analysed using the trend analysis and the Auto-regressive Distributed Lagged time series estimation model. Findings suggest a situation of persistent poverty with increasing poverty rates in the country. Furthermore, it is suggested that the indicators of poverty alleviation strategies significantly influence the country's poverty rates differently.</p>	
Keywords	Poverty Reduction Programmes; Poverty Rates; Nigeria
JEL Code	E2, E6, E7, I31, I32, I38 see: www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php?class=Q)
Introduction	100 – 250 words
<p>Poverty, a state of pronounced deprivation in well-being, is a global issue, as indicated in the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG1). To achieve SDG1, several strategies have been implemented by all countries, including Nigeria. Over the years, poverty alleviation programmes were developed to eliminate or reduce poverty rates while facilitating the delivery of development opportunities needed for poverty eradication. In the last decade, the Nigerian government's poverty alleviation efforts have focused on a) macroeconomic stabilisation policies on the exchange rate, prices, debt and fiscal sustainability; b) industrialization, trade and economic growth to foster jobs creation, revenue and foreign exchange growth for strengthening government services and infrastructural development; c) redistributive programmes aimed at enhancing the incomes of the poor through asset creation and fiscal inclusion; d) structural policies and institutional reforms to improve the transmission of economic policies. In Nigeria, poverty has been a major welfare challenge and the bane to sustainable economic development. As of the year 2022, about 41% and 63% of Nigerians live below the poverty line and are multi-dimensionally poor, respectively. About 72% of the multidimensionally poor populace are rural dwellers engaging in agriculture as their major livelihood source. The country's poverty situation has</p>	

currently worsened due to high inflation rates caused by the removal of petroleum subsidies by the current government in May 2023. According to the country's NBS estimate, the majority of the country's poor are predominantly in Agriculture and are mostly residents of the northern parts of the country.

Methodology

100 – 250 words

This study utilised time-series datasets (2013 to 2023) on Nigeria's poverty rates and important socio-demographic and macroeconomic indicators used to operationalise the different dimensions of Nigeria's government poverty alleviation strategies. The datasets were obtained from Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the World Development Indicators of the World Bank. The indicators used as a proxy for the poverty alleviation strategies dimensions include exchange rate, interest rate, population, consumer price index, unemployment, inflation, gross capital formation, school enrolment, gross national income, and public resources spent on austerity programmes, among others. These variables were estimated using the trend analysis and the Auto-regressive Distributed Lagged time-series estimation model, with appropriate diagnostic tests such as co-integration bound test, serial correlation, and heteroscedasticity carried out.

Results

100 – 250 words

The study results confirmed that poverty has been a consistent long-term economic issue in Nigeria, with the trend of the country's poverty rate likely to increase over the next few years unless appropriate welfare and growth-enhancing interventions are implemented. The incidence and severity of poverty varies across the rural and urban populace, as well as along the different geo-political zones of Nigeria. Furthermore, poverty is persistently higher and severe in the rural areas, where most of the country's agricultural activities take place. Most importantly, the study indicates the significant effects of the modelled socio-demographic and macroeconomic variables on the country's poverty rates.

Discussion and Conclusion

100 – 250 words

Nigeria's poverty situation is a serious welfare issue in Nigeria, as it is a bane to the full attainment of economic potential as individual Nigerians and collectively as a country. Given this realisation, the Nigerian government has invested in some poverty reduction strategies to reduce poverty and set a path for economic prosperity in the country. This study set out to analyse Nigeria's poverty situation over the past decade, forecast the country's future poverty trend, and assess the effects of the government's poverty alleviation strategies on Nigeria's poverty rates. The trend analysis of Nigeria's poverty rate over time will serve as a guide to national and international policymakers in the development of appropriate and effective poverty reduction strategies for the country. Arising from the study's findings, the government should ensure the proper implementation of poverty alleviation and growth-enhancing strategies by focusing on the poverty alleviation indicators that relate negatively to poverty rates in the country to achieve a significant and sustainable reduction of the country's endemic poverty incidence.