MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract - *Poverty is no doubt, a daunting global developmental challenge, just as it is in Nigeria. It continues to manifest despite the colossal amount of money spent in recent past on various poverty alleviation programmes. Even at the end of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, which the Sustainable Development Goals succeeded, about 800 million people globally still live in poverty and half of these number live in 5 Countries of the World, of which Nigeria is included. This study tends to x-ray managing Sustainable Development Goals for Poverty alleviation in Nigeria, with a focus on the UN SDGs goal one. The objective is to examine how the management of SDGs can alleviate poverty in Nigeria; therefore a content analysis approach research design was adopted. Therefore, the study recommends that since the implementation of social safety net programmes, equality of girl and boy child education, improved living standard of the people, as well as the services of non-governmental institution in service of households, can be used to determine the number of people below the global poverty line; effort should be made by the government to ensure that goal one (no poverty) of the UN SDGs, are adequately implemented, using these explanatory variables, particularly, at the grass root where majority of the poor are living, to alleviate poverty.*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty could be a pathetic situation that denies one the ability to reach the required Standard of living, with one of its effects being excessive starvation (FAO, 2018). The fight to end global

poverty has been a long, hard and eventful one with successes and setbacks along the way. Various poverty alleviation strategies in the past had been implemented to save humanity from the incidence of penury. The most recent one is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which saw world leaders gathered in New York to adopt it, at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the 25th of September 2015. Nigeria along with 193 Countries present at the UNGA, embraced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which succeeded the Millennium Development Goals, having its number one goal as "No Poverty". It is assumed that at the end of the implementation of SDGs by the year 2030, the world will be a better place to be, as these goals have the muscle to end poverty, bring about equality and halt climate change.

SDGs with its 17 Goals and 169 Targets have a time frame of 15 years (2015 – 2030) implementation, which is to be achieved not by the North – South dependency model but by Countries looking inward to harness their Domestic Resources and putting it to use and also for the Private Sectors to be involved through initiatives such as UN Global Compact and Impact 2030 (Erskine, 2017). The former, United Nations Secretary, Ban ki-moon had classified the SDGs into six elements, in order to create impression as well as to make it catchy, since SDGs has been criticized to be too wide with its 169 targets, not being quantifiable. The six elements are; prosperity, people, dignity, justice, partnership and planet.

Sustainable Development Goals, are global goals which are interlinked to oversee the basic human needs, universal values, social economic development and to sustain used resources. These made SDGs very crucial to the development of Nigeria, as they present numerous avenues to curb the present and would be poverty problems. It is in view of the above, that the study aims at adding to the growing literature by exploring not only the relationship but also the effect of managing Sustainable Development Goals through, Social Safety Net programme, Equal Quality Education, Good nutrition, Living Standard, Growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the difference in the periodic systemic effect of the implementation of MGDs cum SDGs on Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria. This study is geared towards assessing the progress reports of the impact of SDGs, as a tool to poverty reduction in Nigeria, with emphasis laid on SDGs goal number one of ending poverty in all its form everywhere, officially tagged as: "to end poverty in all its forms, everywhere" (SDGs, 2016).

Statement of the Problem

One of the major challenges facing developing and underdeveloped countries of the world, with Nigeria inclusive is poverty (Akolgo, 2018). More than a billion people live in extreme poverty and poverty in Nigeria is widespread and severe in spite of her vast resources, just as it is widely acclaimed that resource rich countries are slower in development (Kaznacheev, 2017). Nigerian economy is characterized with low per capita income, high unemployment rate, undernourishment, little or no social safety facilities, low industrial utilization capacity and output, lack of access to good health facilities etc. (Akolgo, 2018) In view of this, the rate of poverty has been closely associated with sustained unemployment rate; as such employment performance inversely relates to poverty prevalence (Eze & Odenigbo, 2017).

Failure to research into managing SDGs for poverty alleviation in Nigeria, would limit the offer of suggestions and recommended measures that could enhance the achievement of SDGs for poverty alleviation come 2030. This research will also contribute to the scholarly work that has been done on SDGs, although not much has been written about it.

## *Objectives of the Study*

The specific objectives include to

i. Analyze the relationship between government effectiveness and the proportion of the population living below the global poverty line in Nigeria.

ii. Evaluate the relationship between the systemic effect of the implementation of MGDs cum SDGs and the proportion of the population living below the global poverty line in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Sustainable Development

As indicated by the international Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), sustainable development can be defined as "a form of Our Common Future", otherwise called the Brundtland Report. Sustainable development is the growth that addresses the issues of the present-day without trading off the capacity of upcoming generations in addressing their own needs as well. It comprises of two key ideas: The idea of requirements, specifically the fundamental necessities of the world's poor, to which preference ought to be given; and The thought of restrictions forced, by the condition of modernization and society on the atmosphere's capacity to meet both (present/future) supplies (Beck, 2010).

This is even as Bhandari (2019) states that: "sustainable development as a new way of life and approach to social and economic activities for all societies, rich and poor which is compatible with the preservation of the environment. Sustainable Development in my view could be referred to as efficient management of resources for human survival taking into consideration both the present and future generation".
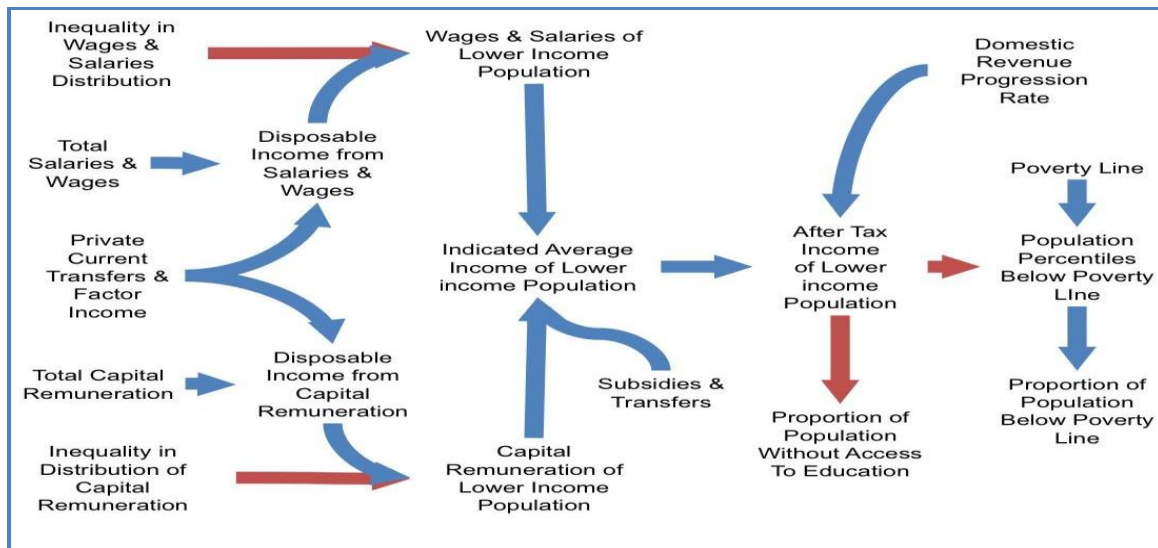
Source; (Rima 2009 and Shresta, Gaydos & Kirkman, 2012)

Fig. 1: Diagrammatic representation of Poverty sector of the SDGs model

The Poverty sector model of the SDGs in Figure 2.3 describes how relationships between GDP, sector production (agriculture, industry, and services), income distribution and redistribution influence poverty at low income population being measured, as the proportion of the population with after tax incomes falling below the national and international poverty lines. In this model, both remunerations from wages and salaries of lower income population and remuneration from capital of the same group are averaged at the point where even with subsidies and transfers fell, within the proportion of the population below poverty line.

Development and sustainability could be in comparison, where both could have conceivable counterproductive impacts, while neoclassical financial specialists accentuate that there is no logical inconsistency among maintainability and improvement (Okoye, 2018). That recommends that there is no advancement without manageability or maintainability without improvement. The idea of improvement is identified with the past western idea of government and expansionism, and in that period it suggested framework advancement, political force, and monetary arrangement,

serving settlers, as an incredible apparatus for minimization and reducing the force of specific nations (Zimm et al., 2018).

Concept of Government Effectiveness

Governance is a multi-faceted concept encompassing all aspects of the exercise of authority through formal and informal institutions in the management of the resource endowment of a state (Huther & Shah, 1998). Its effectiveness refers to whether the public administration does well what it is supposed to do, whether people in these entities work hard and well, whether the actions and procedures of the public organizations and its members help achieve the objectives, and in the end, whether it actually achieves its mission (Rainey & Steinbauer, 1999).

More concretely, government effectiveness is oriented to more closely matching services with citizen preferences, and moving governments closer to the people they are intended to serve, thus ensuring greater accountability of the public sector (Huther & Shah, 1998). Several studies show that improved governance leads to better development outcomes such as, among other variables, economic growth, poverty reduction, public investment, foreign direct investment, and social infrastructure (Gupta et al., 1998; Mauro, 1998; Boswell & Richardson, 2003; McKinney & Moore, 2008), as well as reducing infant mortality (Gupta et al., 1999; Kaufmann et al., 1999, 2004), since countries with high levels of corruption invest more in housing and physical capital than in health and education (De la Croix & Delavallade, 2006; Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008).

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Structuralism Theories of Poverty

Marxism (conflict structuralism) points to poverty as the presence of class barriers in our society. Poverty benefits the dominion of the bourgeoisie; it serves the interest of this affluence class. Nigeria's paradox of poverty in the midst of bounty could best be connected with the primary speculations of poverty in a country where a little fragment of society through their control of state influence essentially seize to themselves and their followers the significant piece of the country's riches as viewed by Chatterjee, (2020), yet infrequently reinvests plundered assets inside the economy while the lion's share poor are committed to a circle of poverty. Basically, poverty inside the structural school of thought progresses that primary elements inherent in either the economy

or potentially to a few interrelated institutional environments, serve to support certain groups over others, typically dependent on gender, class, or race (Bridges, 2016).

Obviously, the quandary of the largely poor in Nigeria embodies the structuralists' position given that at whatever point economic development happens, it is never redistributed by all sectors making it an exceptionally broken society which could be portrayed by the personality of "patron-clienteles" or "neo-patrimonialism" whereby in Nigeria, elected officials, government workers, and members of their ethnic and religious groups assume they have a right to government revenue. This position was additionally uplifted by the report of the UNDP (2010) where it saw Nigeria as a framework that harbors a foundational design of imbalance; inside which only 20% of the populace own 65% of public resources while however much 70% of the whole populaces are laborer, rural workers and artisans. This authentically implies that following from disparities, opportunities for upward mobility are extremely restricted which altogether culminates in barely any fair positions; poor income and low purchasing power of the worker.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Khaleque, Suborna & Baqui (2008) examined the impact of the social safety net programs on the welfare of the poor households during seasonal deprivation –called monga, in the five districts of Greater Rangpur namely Lalmonirhat. Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Rangpur which are monga prone areas. The variables employed includes: monga, age, family size, own room as household characteristics, while Heckman Probit, Propensity Matching Score and Logit Technique were employed as the techniques of analysis, the findings from the study revealed that Vulnerable Group Development (*VGD*) has strong positive effect in reducing poverty while old age pension has no such contribution. The findings also suggest that highly vulnerable groups such as day laborers, beggars are left out from the benefit of social safety net Programs due to their limited coverage and size.

Also, Pradhan, Mohd, & Sulaiman (2013), examined the impact of the Social Security Number (SSN) programs on level of poverty reduction for the period of 1996 to 2011 in Bangladesh. The variable studied includes: Upper poverty line, lower poverty line and spending on SSN, while time series analysis methodology was employed. Statistical analysis indicates negative relationship between SSN expenditure and poverty rates. This implies that SSNs programs have reached the struggling poor as well as have helped the deprived part of the country's

people to pick them up of poverty situation. Similarly, Ahmed, Jahan, &Tuz-Zohora, (2014), examined Social Safety Net Programme as a mean to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh over the period of 2008 to 2014. Variables measured include: Social protection measures; and social empowerment measures, while expository analysis and desk review approach were employed. The finding revealed that all the social safety net programme are capable of facilitating education, health, vulnerability reduction, employment creation, risk reduction etc. and to attain the goal of poverty reduction for the overall welfare of the society, better targeting of beneficiaries and better monitoring and supervision must be ensured.

Hence, the need for country-specific analysis of the relationship between poverty alleviation and SDGs cannot be over-emphasized. Specifically, in Nigeria, researches had been carried out on different poverty reduction mechanism/strategies such as MDGs, Operation feed the nation, Green revolution, Family support programme, National poverty eradication programme, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), etc. which had been executed by different administrative government in Nigeria with still, mixed results. Majorly, since the SDGs programme is still on going, too much attention as not been put on its evaluation and this is very important for feedback on the achievement and impact of the programme. Therefore, this study intends to provide empirical evidences on the impact of SDGs on poverty alleviation in Nigeria for the period of 2000 to 2020. This is current as it also takes into consideration post-covid-19 impact in the analysis.

METHODOLOGY

The paper adopted a singular source of data collection. The secondary source of data generation, which include the use of textbooks written by different authors on the subject matter, journals, magazines, information from the internet and other published and unpublished materials relevant to this work. The data was analyzed using the content analysis approach. This is because of its major dependence on the secondary source data.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of empirical results, the study concludes that there is relationship between people living below poverty line, social safety net (intervention programmes), education equality of both girl and boy child, prevalence of malnutrition, Living standard of the people, growth in GDP and

government effectiveness index in Nigeria. This conformed to Wagner's hypothesis that growth in the right direction of government expenditure causes increase in sustainable economic growth and enhances the living standard of the people. In a nutshell causality tests apparently further indicates that Wagner's school of thought is valid in Nigeria. Both the theoretical and empirical research indicates that extreme poverty can be minimized when the explanatory measurable indicators are within its productive range.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions obtained in this study, it is recommended that;

a. Given that the values of living standard of the people, social safety net (intervention programmes),equality of girl and boy child education as well as the contributions of non-governmental institutions in service of households, can be used to determine the number of people below the global poverty line, efforts should be made by the Nigerian government to implement these explanatory variables, in ensuring that the global targets of Sustainable Development Goals with respect to goal number one(No poverty) is adequately executed, most especially at the grass root where the living standard of the people and equality of education for both sexes are almost absence.

b. Agreed that, access to basic services/technology such as portable drinking water, good roads, sanitation etc. defines the level of living standard of a people, therefore effort should be made by the government to provide these basic amenities to enhance quality of life and in turn alleviate poverty.

c. Government effort should equally be geared towards the enhancement of economic growth rate, by driving the principle of inclusive growth pattern where every economic agent, are encouraged to thrive irrespective of the sector. This became necessary given that, the study result found out that the current per capita income of the economy is yet to affect neither the peoples' living standard nor poverty alleviation purposes.

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