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**POVERTY ERADICATION IN NIGERIA: AN OVERVIEW OF NAPEP IN ENUGU STATE**

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**ABSTRACT**

There is no universally accepted definition of poverty. At the same time, there is always the difficulty in deciding where to draw the line between the 'poor' and 'non-poor'. According to World Bank Report (2002), poverty is the inability to obtain a minimum standard of living. These standards include: lack of access to resources, lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, political discrimination and marginalization. This research work examines the effect of poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria with particular focus on the impact of NAPEP using Enugu State as a case study. Eight (8) persons were randomly selected from each of the seventeen (17) local governments' areas in Enugu State, forming a sample size of one hundred and thirty six (136) respondents. Simple statistical measures were used to arrive at reasonable conclusions. The test of hypothesis was tested using the chi-square analysis. The findings of this research work reveal that NAPEP has not made enough positive impact towards alleviating poverty in Enugu State and in Nigeria at large. Policy recommendations were proffered in the last chapter of this research work.

**Keywords:** Poverty Eradication, NAPEP, Enugu State and Nigeria.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Poverty in Nigeria remains significant despite high economic growth. Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates (averaging 7.4% over the last decade) [1 and 2]. The Nigerian economy is fairly developed with a lot of natural resources such as oil. However, Nigeria retains a high level of poverty, with 69% living on less than \$1 per day [2]. There have been governmental attempts at poverty alleviation, of which the

National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) are the most recent ones [3 and 4].

Poverty simply refers to a state of not being able to afford the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, water, health care, access to productive resources (including education, working skill/tools, etc) and civil rights to participate in decisions concerning socio-economic conditions [5].

The poverty profile in Nigeria showed that the incidence of poverty increased from 28.1% in 1980 to 43.6% in 1985 but declined to 42.7% in 1992 and rose again to 65.6% in 1996 [6].

The United Nation's Human Development Indices (HDI) for 2001 ranked Nigeria the 142nd with HDI of 0.40 among the poorest countries. From 1980-1996, the population of poor Nigerians increased four folds in absolute terms. The percentage of those in abject poverty increased from 62% in 1980 to 93% in 1996 whereas the moderately poor only rose from 28.9% in 1992 to 36.3% in 1996 [6]. The analysis of the depth and severity of poverty in Nigeria showed that rural areas were the most affected.

While major reductions in poverty level have been made in developed countries, developing countries such as Nigeria have not been able to record significant improvements.

The concern over increasing poverty levels in Nigeria and the need for its eradication has led to the conceptualization and implementation of various poverty alleviation-programmes. Some of such programmes initiated by the government to minimize Poverty in Nigeria include:

- The Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (D.F.F.R.I).
- The National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- The establishment of the Peoples Bank of Nigeria in 1989.
- The Better Life Programme (BLP)

- The Family Support Programme (FSP)
- The Agricultural Development Programme (ADP)
- National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA).
- The Nomadic and Adult Education Programme established in 1986.
- And most recently, with the return of democracy on May 29, 1999 the Federal Government embarked on poverty reduction programme which gave birth to the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001 [7].

NAPEP was aimed at eradicating absolute poverty. As at early 2001, NAPEP had four schemes namely;

- Youth Empowerment Scheme
- Rural Infrastructures and Development Scheme
- Social Welfare Services Scheme
- Rural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme.

NAPEP goals include training youths in vocational trades, to support internship, to support micro-credit, create employment in the automobile industry, and help VVF patients [7].

As a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Nigeria is a part of the world league of poverty-fighters through capacity building, capacity acquisition and enhancement. NAPEP was therefore established in 2001 in exhibition of the country's commitment and zeal towards poverty reduction by Obasanjo civilian administration. In addition, in recognition of several factors which had crippled the past policy efforts at poverty alleviation in Nigeria such as inadequate involvement of stakeholders, poor management and implementation arrangements among others, NAPEP was equally created and made to incorporate all the stakeholders namely, the federal, state, local government, civil society research institutions, organized private sectors

and concerned individuals [8]. The overall objectives of the programme were to eradicate extreme poverty in Nigeria through monitoring and coordination of all poverty eradication efforts. Furthermore, these tasks were to be actualized through the established National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) [7]. There is a wide range of NAPEP programmes proposed in the blue print to be implemented in Enugu state, especially several components of the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), which is aimed at providing job training opportunities to graduates and school leavers. There are also the mandatory attachment programme and the capacity acquisition programme [4]. The capacity acquisition programme was meant for holders of First-Leaving Certificate and Secondary School leavers. Participants were trained for three months in trades such as tailoring, plumbing or hairdressing, receiving a monthly stipend of N3,500, after which they were settled with employment and offered trade equipment at the subsidized price. Furthermore, the mandatory attachment programme was for unemployed graduates of universities and polytechnics, and holders of the Nigerian certificate of education (NCE). Trainees were attached to employers for two years in order to acquire relevant job skills. Participants were equally to receive a monthly stipend of N10, 000 for the duration of their attachment [8]. The DFID Report (2008:16), [9], indicates that Enugu state is the second poorest of the five states of South-Eastern Nigeria. Hence, this study is principally aimed at evaluating the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Enugu State.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In an attempt to efficiently eradicate poverty and minimize the sufferings of the masses, the Federal government of Nigeria established a scheme known as the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001. NAPEP was designed to replace the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP). Prior to the establishment of NAPEP, several agencies were created to tackle the issue of

poverty in Nigeria. Despite all the efforts of the government to alleviate poverty, it is very obvious that the rate of poverty in Nigeria is on the increase with over 69% of Nigerians living on less than \$1 per day [10].

It is pertinent to note that poverty is not a phenomenon peculiar to Nigeria alone. In fact, poverty is widely addressed as a global problem. Poverty affects over four billion people world over [11]. Studies reveal that most of the poor people live in the developing worlds of Africa, Asia and Latin America [12]. On the average 45-50 percent of sub-Saharan Africans live below the poverty line of less than one dollar per day. And in Nigeria about 43% of the population was living below the poverty line in 1985 [13]. This figure has been surging upwards to over 69% in recent time. Poverty is indeed a global problem. To this effect the United Nations declared 1996 the international year of eradication of poverty and 1997-2006 a decade of poverty eradication [14]. In pursuance of this target, government in both developed and developing countries became increasingly aware of the poverty problem and several development efforts to alleviate poverty therefore have been embarked upon world-wide. There is a high incidence of poverty in Nigeria today. Especially, the incidence of poverty is very high among the unemployed, the uneducated women and rural dwellers [15]. In 1980, the poverty level was only 28.1% but by 1996 it had jumped to 66.6%. A review of the economic history of Nigeria shows that successive governments have expressed concern of the need to alleviate poverty in the country. Unfortunately, the issues of poverty eradication has proved to be the most difficult challenge facing the less developed Countries (Nigeria inclusive) where majority of the people live in abject poverty. Different poverty eradication programmes have been initiated over the years. Studies by Okojie *et al.* (2001), [16], revealed that poverty eradication could serve as a means through which the government may revamp the battered economy and rebuild confidence in majority of Nigerians.

On assumption of office in 1999, President Olusegun Obasanjo decried the poverty status of Nigerian where over 69% of Nigerians live below the poverty line. He made concerted efforts to prevent it from becoming worse. In response to this, the government introduced a number of poverty alleviating programmes, committees and panels. These include:

- The launching of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy NEEDS, which has poverty reduction as one of the four primary goals [17].
- The Launching of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme,
- The poverty alleviation programme (PAP)
- The constitution of the Ahmed Joda Panel in 1999 and the
- Anjo Abdullahi Committee in 2000 [17].

The immediate concern of Anjo's Committee was the streamlining and rationalization of existing poverty alleviation institutions and the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of relevant poverty alleviation schemes [17].

These resulted to the introduction of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001. Huge sums of money have been invested into NAPEP since its introduction in Nigeria in 2001. Unfortunately poverty level seems to be unresponsive to these windfall of resources addressed towards alleviating poverty in Nigeria. In spite of the huge resources devoted to NAPEP, it is sad to note that, over the years, the contributions of NAPEP towards eradicating poverty in not commensurate with the huge sums of money invested towards that means as a result of corruption, inconsistent policies and deterioration in fiscal discipline etc. The rate of unemployment has continued to rise and the poverty situations escalating!

In a motion titled "Dismal Performance of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)" Senator Kure observed that the level of poverty has

been on the increase with about 70% of the Nation's population currently living below poverty level. He lamented that since the establishment NAPEP in 2001, the agency have not efficiently impacted on the lives of Nigerians despite the huge resources committed to it through budgetary allocations and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) fund. (Daily Champion, Wednesday February 18, 2009 pg7)

He advised the senate to take a careful look at the issues of poverty in Nigeria. He argued that there should have been significant improvements in the living standards of the generality of Nigerians if the amount budgeted for poverty alleviation were properly utilized.

It is against this backdrop that this research work seeks to examine the relevance and impact of the poverty eradication programmes in Nigeria (an overview of NAPEP Enugu State). The question remains: Why has NAPEP not been able to make significant impact in alleviating the poverty level of Nigerians despite the huge sums of money devoted to it?

### **Research Questions**

The questions below were drafted in order to obtain results that will reflect the actual state of poverty eradication in Nigeria with specific reference to the activities of NAPEP in Enugu State. It is hoped that the objective response of the respondents to these questions will provide the basic data needed for the analysis of this study.

Thus, the research questions for this research work are as follows:

- Has NAPEP realized its objective by eradicating poverty in your community?
- What are the necessary areas or NAPEP that needs to be improved?
- To what extent has NAPEP impacted on economic development of Nigeria?

- To what extent can NAPEP be reformed to achieve its set objectives?

### **Objective of the Study**

- To access whether NAPEP has achieved its objectives of poverty eradication in Nigeria and Enugu state in particular.
- To identify areas of deficiencies, problems and failure of NAPEP in Enugu State and Nigeria at large.
- To examine the impact of NAPEP on the economic development of Nigeria.
- Finally, to proffer policy recommendations and solution for NAPEP improvement based on the findings of this study.

### **Significance of the Study**

#### **Theoretical significance**

- This study shall assist the government to make informed policy decisions on issues bordering on poverty and the best possible way to ameliorate its effects.
- This study serves as a guide towards the designing and execution of holistic strategies capable of tackling this hydra-headed menace called poverty.

#### **Practical significance**

- This research work shall go a long way to serve as an addition to the existing literatures about the significance and the impact of NAPEP on the Nigeria.
- This work shall serve as a study guide to students and scholars who wish to conduct further investigations on issues related to poverty alleviation.

### **Definition of Terms**



- **NAPEP:** National Poverty Eradication Programme is a 2001 Programme by the Nigerian Government to address poverty in Nigeria and related issues. It was designed to replace the Poverty Alleviation Programme .
- **PAP:** Poverty Alleviation Programme in Nigeria are means through which the Government aim to revamp and reconstruct the economy.
- **DFRRI:** Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures. It is a Poverty Alleviation Programme created for the mobilization of rural communities and the development rural areas in Nigeria and to function towards the improvement of the quality of the life in the rural areas.
- **NDE:** National Directorate of Employment. it is a programme created to combat unemployment through skill acquisition programme
- **FOS:** Federal office of statistics
- **Poverty Line:** The estimated minimum level of income needed to secure the necessities of life with inferences at one dollar per day. Those who are unable to generate at least one dollar per day are generally referred to as poor people and vice versa.
- **Respondents:** These are people whom the research questionnaires were given to for responses.

### **Research Methodology**

This chapter outlines the methods employed in carrying out this research work. These include, study area description, sources and method of data collection, estimation procedures /data analysis etc.

#### **Design of the Study.**

This research work employed the simple random sampling method. In statistics, a simple random sample is a subset of individuals (a sample) chosen from a larger set (a population) Each individual is chosen randomly and entirely by chance, such that each individual has the same probability of being chosen at any stage during the sampling process. The simple random sampling method simply refers to a kind of statistical analysis in which a sample /portion of the population forms a representative of the

entire population. This method entails the use of questionnaires and was adopted for this research work so that a result that represents the general view of the entire population of Enugu State on NAPEP will be obtained. Decision in this research work will be made based on the adoption of a simple majority.

### **Area of the Study:**

This research work sought to examine the impact of poverty eradication programmes in Nigeria with special focus on the effects and relevance of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on the Economic Development of Nigeria using Enugu State as a study.

### **Climate of the study area**

Enugu State has a humid tropical climate. Mean annual rainfall ranges between 1600mm and 2,500mm (with three to four dry months), with the driest month having at least 29mm of rainfall. Mean monthly temperature ranges between 27°C and 29°C. Vegetation type is rainforest savannah (Anyanwu, 2008).

### **Location of the study area**

Enugu state is a mainland state in south-eastern Nigeria. The city is located on coordinates: 6°21'N and 6°30N and 7°26'E 7°30'E.

It is bordered of on the north-east and north-west by Benue and Kogi state respectively.

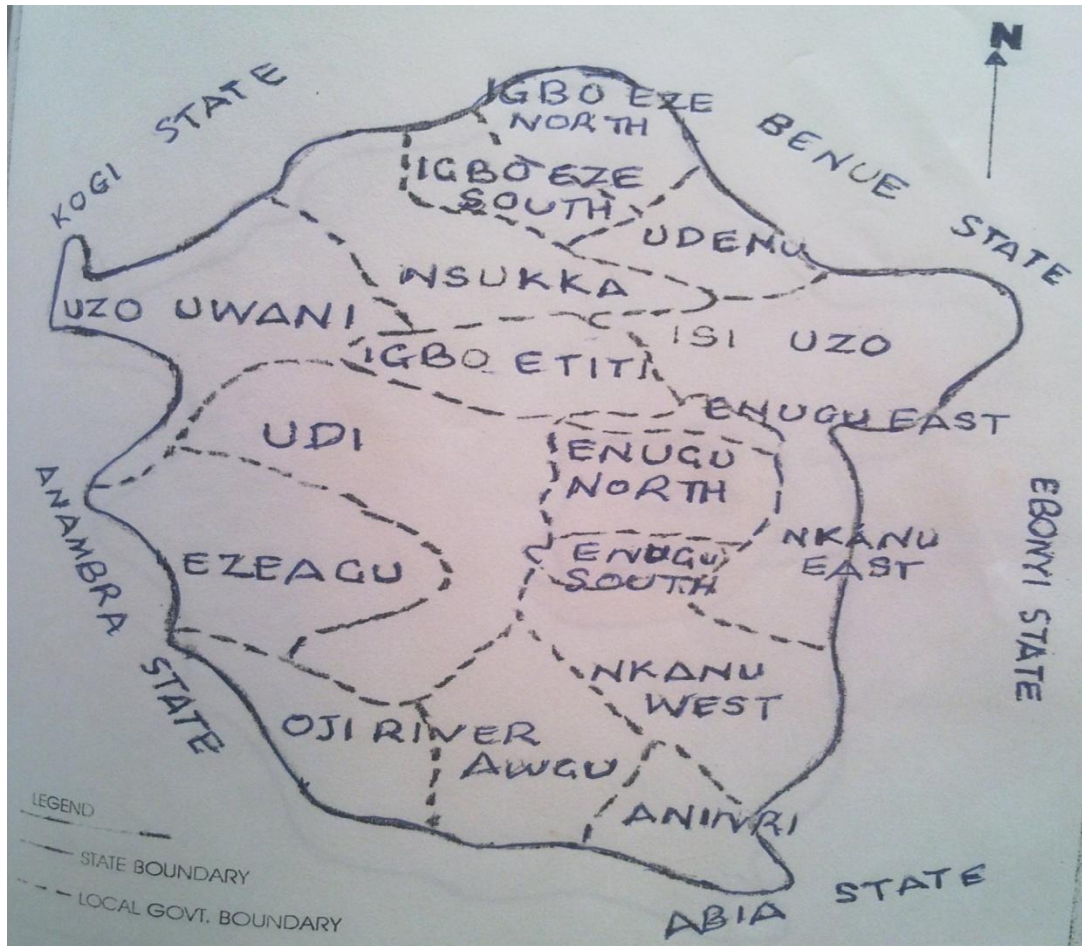
Enugu state is also bordered at the west, east and south by Anambra, Ebonyi and Abia states respectively (see fig1).

### **Political divisions of the study area**

Enugu State is made up of several political divisions with about 17 Local Government Areas.

Figure 1 below is the Map of Enugu state showing the 17 Local Government Areas and the neighbouring states.

Fig .2



0 20km

Source: Ministry of lands and survey, Enugu State.

### Scope of the Study

This research work studied poverty eradication in Nigeria, with specific emphasis on NAPEP using Enugu State as the area.

This study examined the level of awareness of Nigerians on the existence of NAPEP programmes in their various areas of residence.

This research also focused on which of the programmes of NAPEP had a far reaching positive effect on Nigerians.

Other issues covered by this research work include:

- Problems and challenges militating against the successful implementation of NAPEP programmes in Nigeria.
- Means on how best NAPEP can improve the economy of Nigeria
- Collection of opinions from the general public on how to improve the lots of NAPEP in Nigeria.

### **Population of the Study**

Enugu state had a population of 3,267,837 people at the census held in 2006 (estimated at over 3.8 million in 2012) [18].

### **Sample Size**

The sample size for this study was formed by randomly selecting eight (8) persons from each of the 17 local governments in Enugu state. This randomly sampling of 8 persons from each of the seventeen local governments brought the sample size to a total of one hundred and thirty six (136) persons. Thus, this study used a sample size of one hundred and thirty six respondents.

### **Sampling Technique**

The researcher also used the proportionate random sampling method to form the sample size of this study. Eight persons from each of the local Government in Enugu State were randomly selected to lend their view to the questionnaire. It is believed that the responses of these selected few formed a good representation of the opinion of the entire population of Enugu State towards NAPEP.

### **Instrument for Data Collection**

The study used the questionnaire for its data collection. The questionnaire was structured into two parts. The first part contained the personal data of the respondent while the second part contained the responses of the respondents.

The respondents were required to tick “good” against the option that best suited their opinion on each item/question in the questionnaires.

### **Methods of Data Collection**

The researcher personally administered the instruments (questionnaires) to the respondents so as to ensure their safety. The researcher collected back the questionnaire from the respondents and used their responses for data analysis.

Basically the analysis of this study was done using primary data. The responses of the respondents via the questionnaires form the bulk of the primary data that was used in this research work.

A few secondary data from related publications, bulletins, journals, and other reliable government agencies was used in this research work.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Tables, percentages, and Chi-Square were used for easy presentation and analysis of data. Simple statistical percentages were used to arrive at conclusions over some issues.

## **Data Presentation and Analysis of Results**

### **Personal data of the Respondents**

This section of this research work presents and analyses the data collated from the questionnaire. Section A of the questionnaire contains the personal details of the respondents while section B of the questionnaire deals with the subject of this research.

The respondents were randomly selected from each of the seventeen local governments in Enugu State.

Eight (8) persons were randomly selected from each of the seventeen Local Governments forming a total sample of one hundred and thirty six (136) respondents.

**Data from Section A of the Questionnaire**

(A) Correspondents were asked to indicate their sex and the result is as below:

**Table 2:** A table showing the sex distribution of the respondents

SN	Sex of Respondents	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Male	49	36
2	Female	87	64
<b>Total</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above showed that 36% of the respondents are male while 64% of them are female with a total number of 87 persons.

(B) Respondents were asked to indicate their marital status is the result is as below:

**Table 3:** A table showing the marital status of the respondents

S/N	MARITAL STATUS	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Single	68	50
2	Married	51	38
3	Divorced	2	1
4	Widowed	15	11
	TOTAL	136	100

The data in table 3, showed that 50 percent of the respondents were not yet married as at the time of the collation of this report. 38% (51 persons) out of 136 persons were married.

(C) In order to ensure that a comprehensive data of the respondents were obtained, the respondents were asked to tick against the column that suites their age range and the result is as below:

**Table 4:** A table showing the age range of the respondents.

S/N	Age Range	No of respondents	Percentages
1	15 - 40 years	66	49
2	41- 60 years	53	39
3	61 - 70 years	14	10
4	71 years and above	3	2
	TOTAL	136	100

Table 4 above simply tabulates the age range of the respondents. 49% of the respondents are within the age limits of 15-40years. 39 % (53 out of 136 persons) of the respondents falls within the age range of 41-60years. Other age ranges as indicated in table 4. above forms minorities.

(D) The questionnaire also made rooms for the academic qualifications of the respondents. All the respondents indicated their academic backgrounds and the result is as below;

**Table 5:** Table showing the academic background of the respondents;

S/N	Academic Qualifications	No of respondents	Percentages
1	First school leaving certificates and below	5	4
2	SSCE	38	28
3	National Diploma holders	33	24
4	First University degrees and above	41	30
5	Others (please specify)	19	14
	TOTAL	136	100

Because the questionnaires were sampled randomly, considerations were not given as to the academic background of the respondents. The highest category of those who responded to the questionnaire is university degree holders with about 30% of the entire study population. SSCE holders form about 28% of the entire study population. First schoolleavers, HND holders and others form the bulk of the remaining respondents.

(A) Respondents were asked to indicate their employment status and the result obtained is as follows:



**Table 6:** Table showing the employment status of respondents

S/N	Major Employment status/Occupation	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Farmer	30	22
2	Student	20	15
3	Civil servant/employed/self employed/ working class	64	47
4	Unemployed/non working class but not students	22	16
TOTAL		136	100

Civil servants form the bulk of the respondents, forming about 47% of the entire study population. This may be attributed to the fact that the questionnaires were mainly shared around each of the local government head quarters in Enugu state. Farmers, students and the unemployed made up the remaining other percentages of the entire study population.

(F) From the options in table 7, below, respondents were asked to choose the option that best suites the income per month, the result obtained is as below:

**Table 7:** Table showing the monthly income of the respondents;

S/N	REVENUE PER MONTH	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Below 100 thousand naira	88	65
2	100-250 thousand naira	42	31
3	250-500 thousand naira	4	3
4	500 thousand -1 million and above	2	1
	TOTAL	136	100

Since this study examines means of alleviating poverty in our society, this study deems it fit to study the revenue of the respondents with a view to finding solutions on how improve the standards of living. The table show that 65% of the respondents earn below 100 thousand naira monthly, 31% earn between 100-250 thousand naira and above 250 thousand naira forming only about 4% of the entire study population.

### Analysis of Research Questions

#### Data from Section B of the Questionnaire

The data collected from this section of the questionnaire addresses the subject of this study. The research questions from this section is repeated and the responses tabulated accordingly

**Research Question 1:** Are you aware of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)?

Table 8: Table showing the level of awareness of NAPEP among the respondents

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Yes	94	66
2	No	42	31
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 8 above shows that more than 66% of the study population affirms that they know of the existence of NAPEP while 31% do not have a clear understanding of the NAPEP. This simply implies that the responses of this respondent shall form a good data for all the analysis needed to carry out this research.

### Research Question 2

**Do you have any presence of NAPEP's programmes going on in your area/community?**

**Table 9:** Table showing the presence of NAPEP in the various communities of the respondents

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Yes	76	56
2	No	60	44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 9 above reveals that 44% of the respondents do not have NAPEP presence within their localities while 56% affirms the presence of NAPEP in their communities.

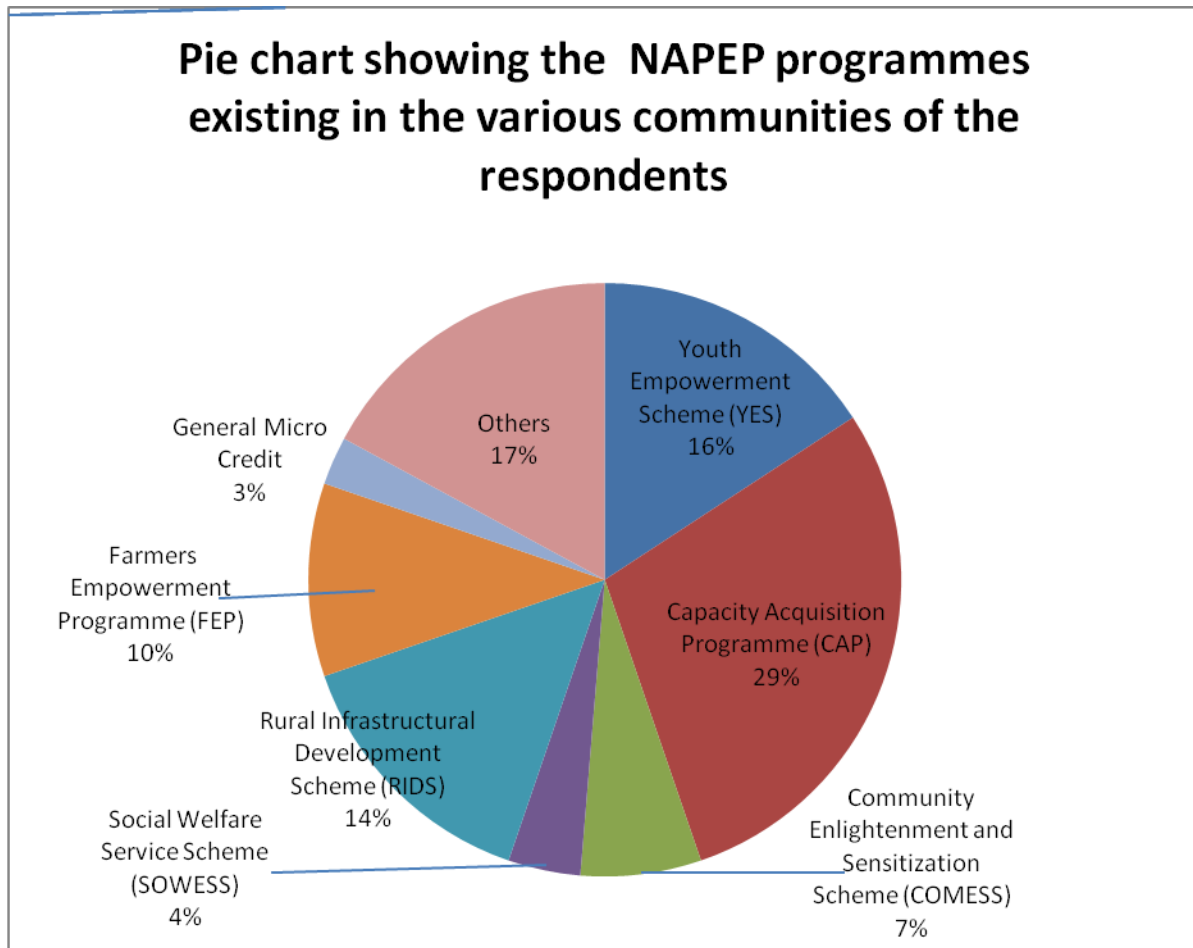
### Research Question 3

**If your answer to question 2 is yes, which of these programmes of NAPEP exist in your area/community?**

**Table 10:** Table showing NAPEP programmes (%) in existence in the various communities under study

<b>SN</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>A</b>	Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)	12	16
<b>B</b>	Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP)	22	29
<b>C</b>	Community Enlightenment and Sensitization Scheme (COMESS)	5	7
<b>D</b>	Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS)	3	4
<b>E</b>	Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS)	11	14
<b>F</b>	Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP)	8	11
<b>G</b>	General Micro Credit	2	3
<b>H</b>	Others	13	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 10 reveals that Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) and Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) constitute the bulk of the programmes of NAPEP prevalent within the society. Others programmes form minor percentages as indicated from the table above.



The figure above reveals that Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) forms the highest sector among the programmes of NAPEP existing the communities of the respondents.

**Research Question 4:** Do you think that NAPEP has helped in improving the standard of living of people in your area/community?

**Table 11:** Table showing responses as to whether NAPEP has helped in improving the standard of living in the communities of the respondents.

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Yes	45	33
2	No	91	67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 11 above reveals that 67% of the respondents are of the opinion that NAPEP has not helped in improving the standard of living in their localities, i.e 91 out of 136 persons are not confident over the affairs of NAPEP. This is a clear indication that NAPEP is short of expectations in the majority of the area covered by this study. However, 33 percent of the study population are of the opinion that NAPEP has actually improved the standards of living

### Research Question 5

Are you a beneficiary of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)?

**Table 12:** Table showing the number of NAPEP beneficiaries among the respondents;

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Yes	52	38
2	No	84	62
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table above, 84 out of 136 respondents say they have not benefited from NAPEP programmes. This brings the percentage of

respondents who have not benefited from NAPEP to about 62%. These no doubt forms a larger percentage of the study population. Only 52 persons affirmed to have benefited from the programmes of NAPEP.

### Research Question 6

If your answer to question 5 is yes, which of the programmes did you benefit from (or are you benefiting from)?

This table shows the category of NAPEP programmes from which the respondents benefited from (note that only 52 persons affirms to have benefitted from NAPEP in question 5 above).

**Table 13:** category of NAPEP programmes

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
<b>a</b>	Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)	12	23
<b>b</b>	Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP)	7	13
<b>c</b>	Community Enlightenment and Sensitization Scheme (COMESS)	4	8
<b>d</b>	Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS)	1	2
<b>e</b>	Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS)	9	17
<b>f</b>	Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP)	6	12
<b>g</b>	General Micro Credit	3	6
<b>h</b>	Others	10	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>



The table above show the distribution of the category of programmes from which the 52 respondents benefited from.

**Figure 4: Respondents who benefited from NAPEP**

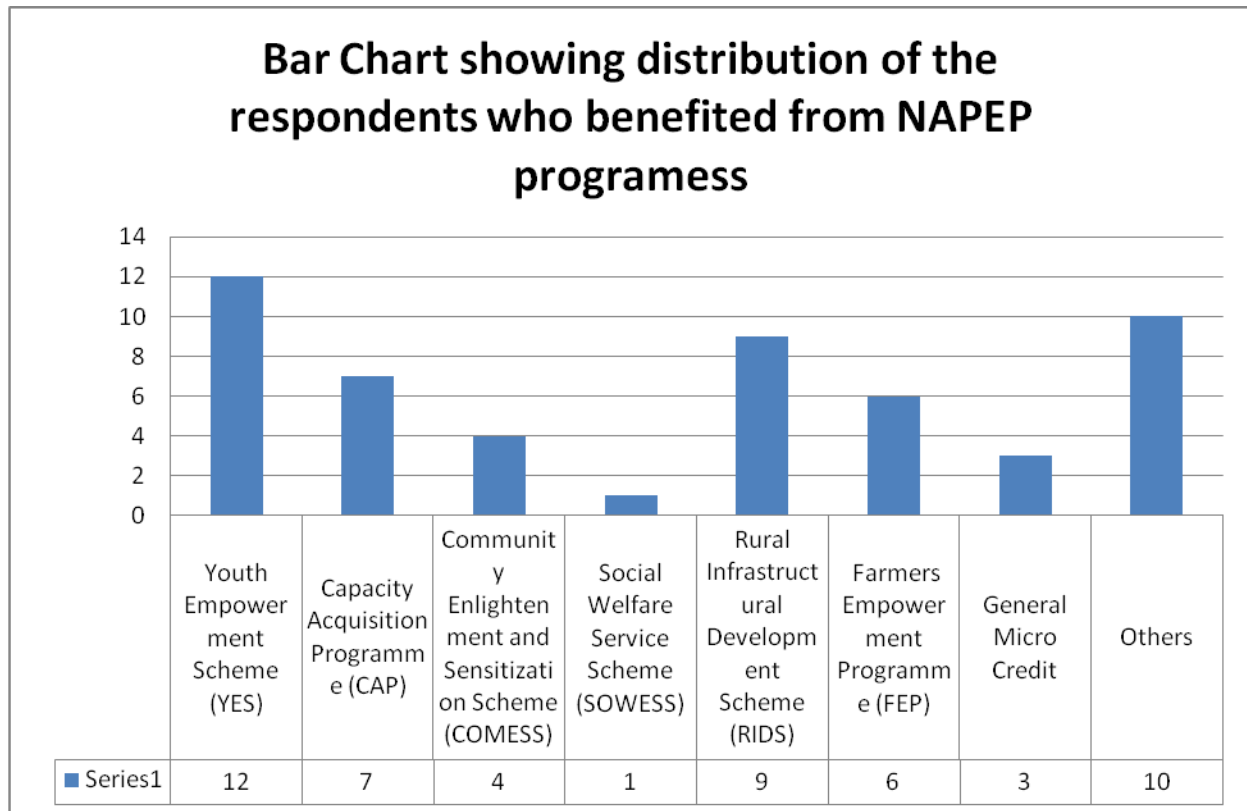


Figure 4 above reveals that 12 out of the 52 respondents that benefited from NAPEP were under the Youth Empowerment scheme (YES). This gives a clear pictorial presentation of the category of programmes of NAPEP and the number of persons that benefit out of such programmes. 9 persons benefited under Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS), 7persons under Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) and so on.

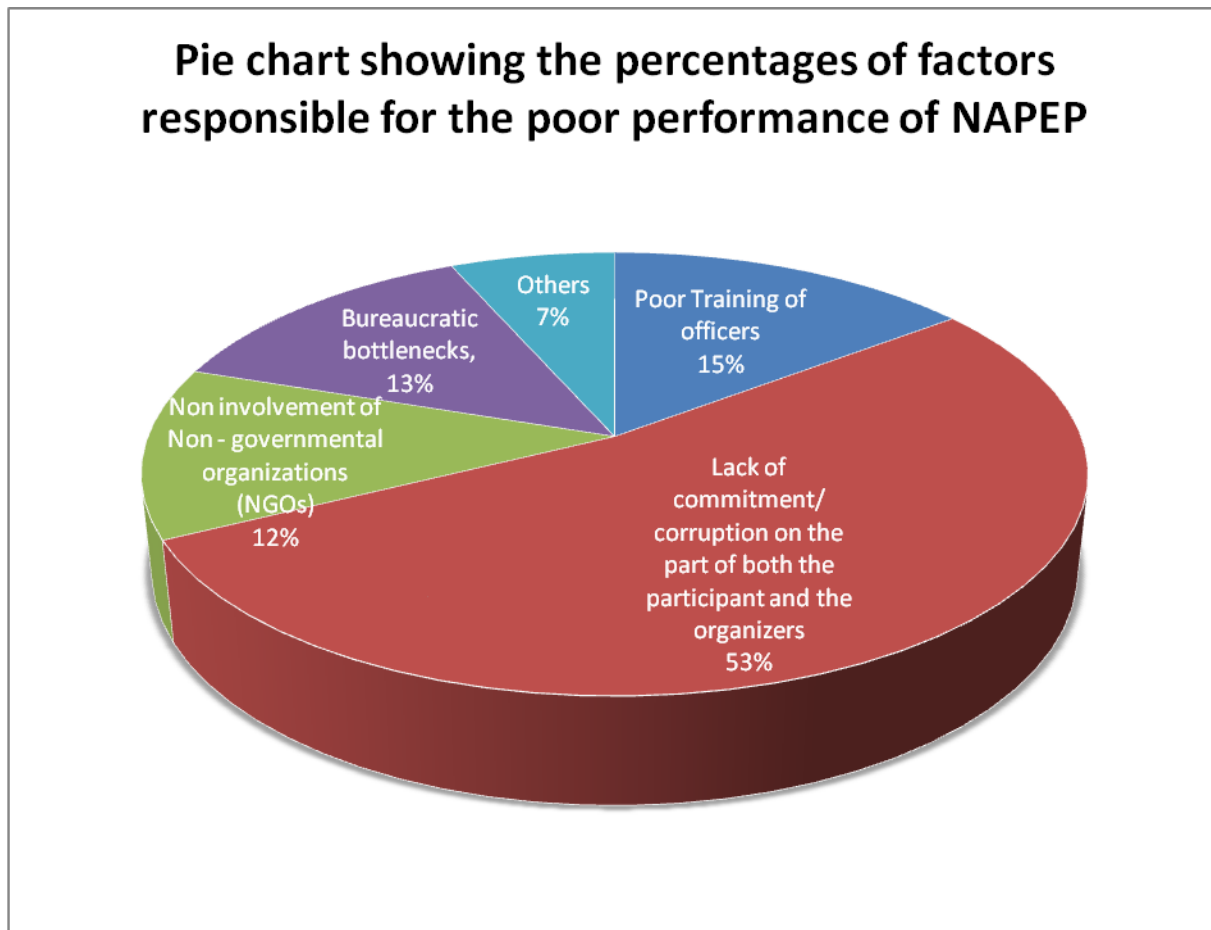
### Research Question 7

Which of these problems do think poses the greatest challenge to the efficient implementation of NAPEP programmes?

**Table 14:** Table showing factors that constitute challenges to the efficient implementation of NAPEP programmes.

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
<b>b</b>	Poor Training of officers	20	15
<b>c</b>	Lack of commitment/ corruption on the part of both the participant and the organizers	72	53
<b>d</b>	Non involvement of Non - governmental organizations (NGOs)	17	13
<b>e</b>	Bureaucratic bottlenecks,	18	13
<b>f</b>	Others	9	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure



Both table 14 and figure 5 are conveying the same message, but figure 5 presents a pictorial form of some of the issue that constitute challenges to the efficient implementation of NAPEP programmes. A closer look on the table and figure above reveals that Lack of commitment/ corruption on the part of both the participant and the organizers constitute about 53% the problems militating against the efficient execution of NAPEP programmes. Other factors militating against NAPEP include, Bureaucratic bottlenecks (13%), etc.

### Research Question 8

**What is your general assessment on the impact of the activities of NAPEP on economic development and the standard of living of Nigerians?**

SN	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages
1	Very positive impact	30	22
2	Fair impact	42	31
3	poor impact	40	29
4	Very poor impact	24	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>

#### HYPOTHESIS:

$H_0$ : National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has not impacted positively on the economic development of Nigeria.

$H_1$ : National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has impacted positively on the economic development of Nigeria.

The formula employed for the calculation of the chi-square results is presented as follows:

$$x^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where

$x^2$  = denotes chi-square symbol

- $x_c^2$  = calculated chi-square
- $x_t^2$  = tabulated chi-square

$\Sigma$  = summation

O = observed frequency

E = expected frequency

$\rho$  = Significance level, 0.05

v = degrees of freedom, 4

The above formula was used to run the chi-square analysis and to evaluate the working hypothesis

#### DECISION RULE

Reject the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) if calculated chi-square  $X_c^2$  is greater than the tabulated chi-square  $X_t^2$ , given the chosen significant level and degrees of freedom, otherwise accept the null

Mathematically:

If  $x_c^2 > x_t^2$ , reject the null hypothesis, i.e adopt  $H_1$ , in this case, otherwise if

$x_c^2 < x_t^2$ , adopt  $H_0$ , given the chosen significant level and degrees of freedom.

**Table 15: A table showing the chi-square analysis of the opinion of respondents on their assessment of the affairs of NAPEP.**

SN	Responses	Observed(O)	Expected(E)	(O – E)	(O – E) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$
1	Very positive impact	30	34	-4	16	0.470588
2	Fair impact	42	34	8	64	1.882353
3	poor impact	40	34	6	36	1.058824
4	Very poor impact	24	34	-10	100	2.941176
<b>Total</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>136</b>			<b>6.352941</b>

The formula for Chi square test is

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where

O = observed event (responses)

E = expected event (responses) =  $\frac{136 \text{ (total respondents)}}{4 \text{ (category of responses)}} = 34$

Hence,

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} = 6.352941 \text{ (chi-square calculated) i.e } X_C^2$$

But the critical value (tabulated chi-square)  $X_t^2 = X_{0.05}^2$  at 0.05 level of significance with 3 degree of freedom is 7.814727764.

Decision — since the  $\chi^2_c$  statistic = 6.352941 <  $\chi^2_{0.05} = 7.814727764$ , hence, we adopt  $H_0$  at the 0.05 significance level.

The table/analysis above simply implies that NAPEP has not made enough positive impact on the economic development of Nigeria, with reference to the hypothesis of this research work.

### CONCLUSION

There are divergent views about the impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme NAPEP and other poverty eradication programmes on the economic development of Nigeria. As usual, in all scholarly issues based on facts and figures, it is rare to find a concept that generates total acceptability. If such acceptability is unchallenged, it is just a matter of time—this is the beauty of research.

On the issue of NAPEP, and its impact on the economic development of Nigeria, some are of the view that there has been no significant impact that these programmes have had on the economic development of Nigeria. While some argue that NAPEP and other poverty eradication programmes have impacted significantly on the economic development of Nigeria, though not without hurdles. From the findings of this research work, it can be inferred that NAPEP has not made enough positive impacted on the economic development of Nigeria, with reference to the hypothesis of this research work.

In the course of the research, Lack of commitment/corruption on the part of both the participant and the organizers were identified as one of the greatest problems that is militating against the success of NAPEP programmes see figure (fig 4)

Other problems militating against the success of NAPEP include:

- Insincerity on the part of contractors

- Inadequate sensitization: Most rural dwellers are not even aware of existing NAPEP programmes: Poor relationship with the communities and poor awareness resulting in poor participation by the rural dwellers. In some cases, NAPEP facilitators are unable to comprehensively define the project.
- The exact and core poor are most times skipped.
- Poor coordination
- Implementation: These programmes are most perfectly implemented on radios, when it comes to real implementation, it is poorly executed and records partiality in project execution.
- False propaganda about the implementation of the programme: The political class hijacks the programmes and the funds meant for it, then go on air and propagate how successful the programme has been. And because of poor supervision and monitoring, the falsehood is undiscovered until the whole programmes collapse.

After evaluating the working hypothesis from the raw data gathered through questionnaires, we conclude as follows:

- While the awareness level of NAPEP and her programmes are quite okay, the implementation level remains very minimal.
- NAPEP has helped in improving the standard of living of Nigerians in the rural areas but not to a very sufficient level.
- Just very few persons are beneficiaries from the activities of NAPEP.
- A lot of people believe that the operations of NAPEP could boost economic development in Nigeria.
- From my rating structure in table 4.2.8, 31% believe that the general assessment of the activities of NAPEP on economic development is fairly good; twenty nine percent (29%) believe that it has been generally poor; eighteen percent (18%) opines that NAPEP has made a very poor impact; and finally, the remaining twenty percent (22%) believe that it has been generally excellent.



- NAPEP, just like previous poverty eradication programmes in Nigeria, has encountered a lot of avoidable problems in the course of policy designing and implementation. This is to show that these problems are not inherent. These problems could be avoided if the recommendations proffered by the researcher are adhered judiciously to.

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