

Policy Implementation in Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: A Study of Poverty Alleviation Bureau Imo State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the nature of poverty alleviation programmes and policies in Nigeria with a focus on finding out the factors that have hindered successful policy implementation in Nigeria. It has the objective of finding out strategies that can be applied in Nigeria to rescue the current poverty rate in the country. The researcher used primary and secondary methods of data collection to gather the needed data. The data obtained through questionnaires and oral interview were presented in tables and analyzed using the simple percentage. The findings have shown that factors which militate against successful implementation of policy in Nigeria include lack of continuity, corruption, inadequate 'of funds, non involvement of the local people in implementation and political interference. The researcher therefore recommended that for policies to be successfully implemented in Nigeria, there-must be a political will by government, local people must be involved, resources must be adequately mobilized and corruption should be strictly avoided. These ensure efficiency of the implementation process of policies on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Policy, poverty, Nigeria, alleviation and political.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing role and impact of public administration in the lives of people in modern time has engineered much concern about how policies are made and implemented, this work tries to look at the process of implementation of government policies. It is important to note that for any management system or government to effectively carry out the task to achieving its objective, that management system arm itself with the tool of effective policy formulation and implementation to enable it adjust to the environment changes or reach to the demands of the environment. Policy formulation and implementation like decision making requires careful thinking and planning.

However, [1] the success of policies and programmes in poverty reduction remains an issue of argument. This is not based on the premise that previous and subsequent programmes designed, toward alleviating

poverty by various regimes, have yielded a positive result nor became successful. On this note, the federal government introduced Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), during Chief Oiuasegun Obasanjo's regime, which in the course of its development and operation was changed to National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in the year 2000. This is one of the laudable governments Programme meant to bring succor and smiles to the Nigeria poor masses, but never made any headway owing to implementation failure. [2] It is in recognition of the problems that militate against effective execution (implementation) of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria that the researcher has decided to embark on the study "Policy Implementation in Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria using Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau as a study".

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Lack of adequate information and attention to the process of formulating and implementing public policies and programmes has led to lack of impact or low level of impact of most programmes implemented within the country.

This problem has been caused by many inadequacies existing in the process of policy formulation and the inability for adequate consultation even with some key stakeholders, government officials and donor representatives has dominated the initiation of most public policies with the private sector playing no or a minimal role [3]. The low involvement of private sector and civil society in policy formulation was due to the long period of military rule in the country that created a culture of fear and passiveness in national policy issue.

The creation of a more competitive political environment following the re-introduction of civilian rule and a multi party system is gradually changing the scene as civil society and lobby groups find more space to agitate for issues of interest to them. Poor policy implementation has also be seen as one of the major problems in the country's policy process and one of the reason? for this state of affair is lack of continuity, consistency and commitment to programme implementation mutation by succeeding government where such programme are continued, they are starved of sufficient financial resources and well trained manpower to guarantees success [4].

It is in recognition of these ugly trends in the implementation of poverty alleviation policies/programmes in Nigeria that this work sets out to address.

Research Questions

In the course of this work the following research questions include; -

1. To what extent has the national policy pm poverty alleviation been implemented into state.
2. Has national poverty eradication programme been able to reduce

the high rate of poverty and unemployment in Imo State?

3. What are the factors militating against the proper implementation of the

Objectives of the Study

The general .objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of Policy Implementation in Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria; using Poverty Alleviation Bureau Imo State as a Study.

3. To assess how far the programme has reduced poverty and impaired slow the student of people in Imo State.
4. To examine the process extent of policy implementation in Nigeria
5. To determine the problems militating against the proper implementation of the programme in Imo State.

Significance of Study

This work is so essential because it will prove itself as a landmark to policy makers, statesmen, politicians, students, researchers, scholars and even bureaucrats alike which is also reliable and as a veritable guide for future policy formulation and implementation.

It will also provide the platform for more in-depth research into the art and science of policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria especially within the period when administration of development is much harped on by different regimes for much cherished development and economic growth in Nigeria.

This work will expose the flaws inherent with national poverty eradication programme as it concerns the objectives and goals of policy implementation.

Furthermore, the work will also be beneficial to the rural poor masses in a special way. Here, its findings help to enlighten the poor masses of the rural areas on the efforts and programmes of government at alleviating their development problems. It is expected that this work would expose the actual factors that influences and shape the nations policy making process.

METHODOLOGY/RESEARCH DESIGN

Research Design

The research design employed in this work is the survey method in collecting data relating to the study. This method helped to cover the large population size of the study.

Population of Study

The population of this study includes all the staff, political appointees and students of Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau which is put at 237.

Units of Analysis

The statistical breakdown of the current work force of Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau is made of the following units:-

- Staff 77
- Political Appointee 3
- Students 157
- Total number of staff and students 237

Sample Size

The research covered a sample size of 120.

Table 1: Sample Size of Staff Population

Categories	Population	Sample Size	PERCENTAGE %
	77	58	48.3%
Political Appointee	3	3	2.5%
Students	157	59	49.2%
Total	237	120	100%

Researchers field survey 2014

Sampling Technique & Procedure

The research employed the stratified random sampling technique. The research broke down the sample population into three (3) strata. The stratified random sampling technique enables the researcher cover fairly each stratum of staff before using the random sampling technique to cover the remaining sample population.

As the sampling technique used is the stratified random sampling, the researcher broke down the sample population into three strata, namely; Staff, political appointees and Students into which he allocated samples. The researcher then used the simple random sampling to select the respondents from each of the strata having compiled the names of staff from each stratum. The researcher continued the process until each number allocated to each stratum was completed.

Methods of Data Collection

The research used the Questionnaire and interview schedule as instruments for eliciting response or collecting data for the research. Data was collected from personalities in the bureau under study, such personalities includes, Director of Account and General Service (DAGS),

Special Adviser on Poverty Alleviation, Secretary of the Bureau, Planning Officer, Coordinator etc through the use of Questionnaire and personal interviews.

The main sources/instruments of data collection namely; Secondary and Primary Sources.

The Secondary Source, the researcher collected already prepared books, journals and magazines and official documents in order to get the work well prepared. These textbook and journals and magazines provided all the necessary background information and other Quantitative data that cannot be possibly gotten from another sources. The Primary Sources, as a supplement model to the aforementioned data gathering technique, the researcher also made use of oral interview, Questionnaire, and personal observation.

·The Questionnaire used in this study were typed, in which the respondents were provided with two options a "Yes" or "No" Options, the Structured or closed Questions in which respondents were provided with alternatives answers to choose from.

·The researcher used constructive interview in which Questions were written

down and sent ahead of time to management.

· Personal observation the researcher was part of the bureau (ex-student) under study and that afforded him an ample opportunity to collaborate his findings with personal experience and observation.

Method of Data Analysis

The researcher collected the "data and organized them in tabular form, using frequency and simple percentage was used in analyzing them from the Questionnaire and the classification process of data involves tabulation of the opinion in which greater percentage would hold.

Definition and Operationalization of Concepts and Variables

Poverty: This is the inability of one to have the basic necessities of life. That is basically not having enough food to eat, a high rate of infant mortality, low life expectancy, low educational opportunities, poor water, unemployment, inadequate healthcare and unfit housing. [5].

Alleviation: In simple terms, it means to make something less severe (Oxford Dictionary 2000).

Programme: It is a plan of things that will be done or included in the development of something [6]. A programme is a set of decisions or rules designed to implement a particular policy.

Implementation: To make something that has been officially decided start to happen [7]. It is also the process of moving an idea from concept to reality.

Bureau: This is an office or organization that provides information on a particular subject. It also be seen as a government department or part of a government department [8].

Policy: A plan of action agreed or chosen by government, political party or business organizations.

Validity and Reliability

[9] stated that validity is the extent to which a test measures what it is suppose to measure. Hence to ensure validity,

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

This research work focuses on ascertaining the implementation government policies on poverty

instrument must be carefully selected and used so that they can measure what they are said to measure.

In validating our instrument for data collection, we shall be concerned with establishing their content validity to ensure that they measure what they are expected to measure.

Hence, we shall be sure to maintain that Questionnaires are well structured; clear worded and covers a wide representation of the population. And ultimately, we shall ensure validity by insisting that our empirical meaning of the concept under consideration is translated in the questionnaires [10].

On the other hand, [3], in Web Centre for Social Research, stated that reliability is the consistency or repeatability of measures-According to him, it is this explicability of action that makes an instrument reliable.

To ensure reliability in this study, we shall use internal consistency method, whereby- Cross-Checking Questions are built - into the Questionnaires and oral interviews. We shall further ensure reliability of instruments cross-checking our information against many sources and by ensuring that facts and figures collected from various sources earlier stated shall not only be accurate and authentic, [11] but would remain same if the collection is repeated again. In addition, to the above measures aimed at ensuring validity and reliability of the instrument used in the study and the study itself we shall employ external criterion to check how correct the findings of a particular instrument are.

This will be done by comparing the results with existing knowledge as well as our findings from field work, Questionnaires, oral interviews, participant's observations and contents analysis. With the above processes, the validity and reliability of the instrument as well as the study will be ensured [12]; [13].

alleviation in Nigeria, with special emphasis on Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau. Its major focus is to assess how

far these policies and programmes have affected the lives of the poor masses in Imo State [14].

The researcher was faced with a lot of limitations in the course of gathering material for the work. The greatest limitation to this work was the refusal of relevant authorities to make materials needed available to the researcher.

The reason being that most of the materials asked for were said to be classified documents and hence not open to public security. [15] This constraint however, was over-coned through a huge cost to the researcher who employed useful means to obtain alternative documents that yielded the same data that were referred to as classified

documents, Other limitation encountered by the researcher was financial in capacitating as a result of relative lack of fund or inadequate fund at the appropriate time to facilitate the work. Again the researcher had to combine other academic works with the research, so as to meet up with the time frame for the completion of the research [16], [17], [18].

Other constraints include insufficient time, problem of transportation, lack of power supply (light) and poor network (internet). The combination of all these constraints was not easy for the researcher but in the end, the researcher was able to make headway.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Data Presentation

This chapter deals with the presentation of data collected in the course of the study which is quantitative in nature. In analyzing the data collected, table were used in the presentation of data. To make

Table 2: Distribution table

No of Questionnaires Distributed	140
No of Questionnaires Returned	120
No of Questionnaires Not Returned	20
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Researchers field survey 2014

For the analysis, the researcher will be making use of the number of questionnaires returned which are 120 and the calculation will be based on 120.

Section A: Preliminary Question

Question One

Table 3: Distribution of Question One

Options	Frequency	Percentage%
Very High	80	66.6
High	30	25
Undecided	2	1.7
Very low	2	1.7
Low	6	5
Total	120	100%

Researchers field survey 2014

Table 3 above shows that out of 120 respondents, 80 or 66.6% out of the 120 respondents have a very high knowledge of it. On the other hand, only 2 or 1.7% have a very low knowledge of it and 6%

the analysis more practical, pragmatic and authentic, tables will be used in the illustrating the total number of responses to each question with the aid of the tables. Therefore, the analysis will be self explanatory.

How would you rate your knowledge about the issue of policy implementation in Nigeria?

This question was asked to find out how much the respondents know about the issue of policy implementation in Nigeria.

have low knowledge while 2 were undecided.

Question 2

How would you evaluate the policy implementation situation in poverty alleviation in Nigeria?

This question was asked to find out how successful and efficient are the policy

implementation situation in poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

Table 4: Distribution of Question 2

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Highly satisfied	to-	8,3
Satisfied	6	5
Undecided	4	3.3
Highly dissatisfied	70	58.4
Dissatisfied	30	25
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

Total 4 above shows that out of 120 respondents 70 or 58.4% out of the 120 respondents evaluated the policy implementation situation in poverty alleviation in Nigeria to be highly dissatisfying, 30 or 25% of them supported that the system is dissatisfied. On the contrary, 10 or 8.3% of them said that there are highly satisfied and 6 or 5%

supported the system to be satisfied while 4 or 3.3% were undecided.

Research Question 3

Is the National Poverty Alleviation Programme fully implemented in Imo State?

The question was asked to find out the level of implementation of policy on poverty alleviate in Imo State.

Table 5: Distribution of Question 3

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	3	2.5
Agree	49	40.8
Undecided	6	5
Strongly Disagree	60	50
Disagree	2	2.7
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 3 depicts that out of 120 respondents 60 or 50% of the respondents strongly disagree that national policy on poverty alleviation in Imo State is not fully implemented, 3 or 2.5% of the respondents strongly agree to the question asked above while 49 or 40.8% agreed with the above question, 20 or 2.7% disagree and 6 or 5% of the respondents is undecided.

Question 4

Does the policy on poverty alleviation programme able to reduce the high rate of poverty and. unemployment in Imp State? The question was asked to find out whether the National Poverty Alleviation Programme able to reduce the high rate of poverty and unemployment in Imo State.

Table 6: Distribution of Question 4

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	60	50
Agree	30	25
Undecided	10	8.3
Strongly Disagree	15	12.5
Disagree	5	24.2
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

Table 6 above shows that out of 120 respondents 60 or 50% said that the poverty alleviation programme has been able to reduce poverty and unemployment in Imo State, 30 or 25% of the respondents agree while 10 or 8.3% of them undecided. On the other hand, 15 or 12.5% strongly disagree and 5 or 4.2% disagree.

Table 7: Distribution of Question 5

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	40	33.3
Agree	35	29.1
Undecided	10	8.3
Strongly Disagree	20	16.7
Disagree	15	12.6
TOTAL	120	100

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 7, it was very obvious that out of 120 respondents 40 or 33.3% of the respondents strongly agree that the programme has improved the standard of living of the poor masses in Imo State while 35 or 29.1% agree as well, 10 or 8.3 were undecided. On the other hand, 20 or 6.7% strongly disagree while

Question 5

To what extent has the poverty alleviation programme improved the standard of living of the poor masses in Imo State? The question was asked to find out the level or impact of the programme in improving the standard of living of the poor masses in Imo State.

15 or 12.6% also disagree to the above question.

Research Question 6

Has corruption been a major factor responsible for implementation failures of policy on poverty?

The question was asked to ascertain how corruption has been a major factor responsible for implementation failures.

Table 8: Distribution of Question 6

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes-	80	66.7
No	40	33.3
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 8, it was clear that out of 120 respondents 80 or 66.7 of the respondents said yes or strongly agree affirmatively that corruption for implementation failure in Nigeria while on the other hand, 40 or 33.3% also disagree or said no to the question asked above.

Research Question 7

Lack of fund or inadequate resources has hindered successful implementation of government policy alleviation?. The question seeks to find out if inadequate resources have been responsible for the failure of policies implementation in Nigeria.

Table 9: Distribution of Question 7

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	95	79.2
Strongly Disagree	25	20.8
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 9, it was very obvious that out of 120 respondents, 95 or 79.2 of the respondents strongly agree affirmatively that poor resources allocation or lack of fund is contributing to policy implementation failures while 25 or 20.8% strongly disagree that poor

resources allocation is contributing to policy implementation.

Question 8

Do you think that policy implementation failure is contributing to high rate of poverty in Nigeria?

Table 10: Distributing of Question 8

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	107	89.2
No	13	10.8
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 10 depicts that out of 120 respondents 107 or 89.2% of the respondents said "Yes" that policy implementation failure is aiding the rapid growth of poverty in Nigeria while 13 or

10.8% respondents said no o that question.

Question 9

The constant change in government affects negatively policy implementation in Nigeria.

Table 11: Distribution of Question 9

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	68	56.7
Agree	33	27.5
Disagree	19	15.8
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From table 11 above shows that out of the 120 respondents 68 Or 56.7 of the respondents strongly agree that constant change in government negatively affects policy implementation in Nigeria, 33 or 27.5 also hold the same view with the

first group of respondents while 19 or 15.8 disagree with the above question.

Question 10

Do you think lack of political will and negative attitudes of the government have been responsible for policy implementation failures in Nigeria.

Table 12: Distribution of Question 10

Options	Frequency	.Percentage %
Strongly Agree	60	50
Agree	49	40.8
Undecided	6	5
Strongly Disagree	3	2.5
Disagree	2	2.7
Total	120	100%

Research's filed survey 2014

From the above table 12 depicts that out of 120 respondents 60 or 50 % of the respondents strongly agree that lack of political will and negative attitudes of the

government has been responsible for policy implementation failures in Nigeria. 49 or 40.8 agree while 6 or 5% of them neither agree or strongly agree, nor

strongly disagree or disagree. On the other hand, only 3 or 2.7% strongly disagree and 2 or 2.7% disagree

Research Question 11

Can any strategy and measures be adopted to encourage or enhance policy implementation in Nigeria.

Table 13: Distribution of Question 11

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	90	75
Agree	20	16.6
Undecided	2	1.7
Strongly Disagree	6	5
Disagree	6	5
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

From the above table 13 it shows that out of 120 respondents, 90 or 75% of the respondents strongly agree that there can be some strategies and measures to be adopted to enhance policy implementation in Nigeria. 20 or 16.6 agree while 2 or 1.7% of them neither agree or strongly agree, nor strongly disagree or disagree on the other hand, 6

or 5% strongly disagree and 6 or 5% disagree.

Question 12

Do you think that lack of involvement of the local people in policy implementation has been responsible for the failure, of the implementation process in Nigeria?

Table 14: Distribution of Question 12

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	60	50
Agree	30	25
Undecided	10	8.3
Strongly Disagree	15	12.5
Disagree	5	7.2
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

Table 14 above shows that out of 120 respondents 60 or 50% said that the high level policy implementation failures is as a result of non-involvement of the local people in the implementation process 30 or 25% of the respondents agree, while 10 or 8.3% of them neither agree or strongly agree, nor strongly disagree or disagree.

On the other hand, 15 or 12.5% strongly disagree and 5 or 4.2% disagree.

Question 13

To what extent has the implementation of policies on poverty alleviation provided social amenities in Imo State?

Table 15: Distribution table of Question 13

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Very High	10	8.3
High	6	5
Undecided	4	3.3
Very Low	70	58.4
Low	30	25
Total	120	100%

Researcher's field survey 2014

Table 15 above shows that out of 120 respondents or 8.3% of the respondents said that the provision of social amenities through the programme is very high and 6 or 5% said that is high while 4 or 3.3 remains undecided. On the other hand, 70 or 58.4% maintained that provision of social amenities through the programme is very low (dissatisfying) while 30 or 25% also said low to that effect.

Research Findings and Analysis

In this analysis, the data collected from the tables presented above were used to concretely and truly analyze the data.

From the research questionnaire-one, it was deduced from table one that the respondents have good knowledge about the issue of policy implementation in Imo State.

In Question 2, the table also reveals that the policies and strategies applied in poverty alleviation in Nigeria are inefficient, ineffective and inadequate policies.

From Question 3 in table 3, we noticed that the implementation systems of poverty alleviation programmes are very poor.

From the research question 4, table 4 shows that national policy on poverty alleviation in Imo State is not fully implemented.

Question 5 also revealed that the poverty alleviation programme has been able to reduce poverty and unemployment in Imo State.

In Question six, from table 6, we discovered that the programme has been able to improve the standard of living of the poor masses in Imo state.

The research question seven shows in table 7 that corruption has been a major factor responsible for the unsuccessful implementation of policies in Nigeria.

Question eight, shows in table 8 that poor funding contribute immensely to policy implementation failures in Nigeria.

In Question Nine, the tabulated data in table 9 attributed that policy implementation failure is aiding the rapid growth of poverty in Nigeria.

Question ten also revealed that constant change in government negatively affects policy implementation in Nigeria.

In Question Ten as expressed in table 10 shows that lack of political will and negative attitudes of the government towards policy implementation have been a major factor hindering implementation success in Nigeria.

From the research Question 11, table 11 shows that there can be some strategies and measures to be adopted to enhance policy implementation in Nigeria.

The research Question 12 shows that the high level of policy implementation failures is as a result of non-involvement of the local people in the implementation process.

From the research Questionnaire 12, it was deduced from table 12 that lack of manpower or inadequate qualified skilled personnel contributes to policy implementation failures in Nigeria.

The research Question 13 shows in table 13 that provision of social amenities through the programme is very low (dissatisfying).

CONCLUSION

The level of poverty in Imo State is high. More than 70% percent of her populations exist below the poverty line. Government has initiated many programme towards poverty alleviation, but, sadly enough, the more government efforts to reduce poverty, the more poverty spreads. This situation is more painful considering the fact that Imo State has both human and material resources that can be harnessed [19].

But it has been discovered that poverty thrives because those who initiate and implement the programmes are hungry politicians and bureaucrats who siphon money meant for these programmes for personal use.

So for Imo State in particular and Nigeria in general to attain the much desired poverty free society, right things must be done at the right time and round pegs must be fixed in round holes.

SUMMARY

This research work is purely an investigation into Policy Implementation in Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria with emphasis on the Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau.

The discussion of this section is based on the data elicited from the respondents through the questionnaire which was a reflection of the research questions. From question one of the analyzed data of chapter four, it can be adduced that greater percentage of Imo-lites are aware of an existing poverty alleviation programme in their state [20].

From question 2, it is evident that majority of the respondents identified or revealed that the policies and strategies applied in poverty alleviation in Nigeria (Imo State) are inefficient, ineffective and inadequate. This means that as a result of the ineffectiveness and inefficient of policies and strategies adopted cannot yield positive result towards poverty alleviation.

However, we noticed that the implementation process or systems of poverty alleviation programmes are very poor. The data collected and analyzed in chapter four, table 4.1.3 clearly shown that implementation systems of poverty alleviation programmes are very poor and this poor implementation system has a very negative effect on policy implementation in Imo State and in Nigeria at large.

It was discovered that in spite of all the efforts of the government and the private sector in poverty alleviation, the efforts has not been able to reduce poverty and unemployment to its barest minimal as a result of failures in policy implementation in Nigeria.

In other words, corruption has also been identified as a major factor responsible for the unsuccessful implementation of policies in Nigeria. Corruption, has been a big problem for proper and effective policy implementation because so many times there is cases of financial mismanagement, embezzlement of public fund and divert of funds meant for policy i

mplementation by politicians and high government officials and bureaucrats.

It also discovered that political instability or constant change in government is also a major constraint to policy implementation. The findings shows that we lack the culture of -continuity in government because whenever there is change in government the incoming government will not continued with policies and programmes initiated and introduced by her predecessor rather the new government will start initiating new policies which led to abandoning of projects, policies and programmes. This factor is a major constraint to policy implementation and Nigeria is now known as Country that is good in initiating good policies and programmes but have problem of implementing those policies initiated.

As our statistical data of 43.3% representing 52 respondents specified, it is a well known fact that lack of manpower or inadequate qualified skilled personnel's are contributing to policy implementation failures in Nigeria. Some of these policies initiated requires well trained personnel to ensure effective and efficient implementation because some of the policy needs special touch and personnel's with the needed requisite should be assign such responsibility, because if you allow the traditional civil servants to implement it properly at times it led to policy failure because they lacked the needed personnel to do so. Implementation remains the most important aspect of policy, the success or failure of any policy depends on its implementation [21].

Furthermore, from the statistical data in table 9, 89.2% representing 109 respondents, it is a well known fact that policy implementation failure is aiding the rapid growth of poverty in Nigeria. Since 1960 when Nigeria gained her independence both military head of state and democratic leaders has introduced so many policies and programmes which is aimed at reducing poverty but still

poverty remains at high level due to lack of proper and effective implementation system. Some of these policies mean well to tackle the poverty problem but the implementation system could not allow it to see the light of the day, in spite of the efforts of the government to reduce poverty in Nigeria still all efforts prove abortive as a result of lack of implementation system.

From table 8, it shows that poor funding contribute to a great extent to policy implementation failure in Nigeria. Finance is the live-wire of every organization, projects, policies and programmes, some of the .policy implementation failure is as a result of lack of funding. The government at times will initiate policies only on paper and could not fund that policy and this contribute to policy failures in Nigeria.

Our findings also shows that lack of political will and negative attitudes of the government towards policy implementation have been a major factor hindering implementation success in

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings made in the course of this research, we hereby recommend the following;

- The major beneficiaries should as a matter of necessity must be incorporated into the initiation and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes by using the various community leaders. This would enable the government to identify the immediate need of each community.

There must be a political will (positive attitude of government towards policy implementation). Policy implementation is not an individual affair, but a complex issue that brings together various interests. Hence a necessary first step towards ensuring its success is the development of a positive and willing attitude on the part of government weather central, state or local government towards the policy implementation. When this positive attitude is developed, it will generally arouse the interest of every other sector and provide a favourable

Nigeria. This attitudes of the government has a tremendous effect on policy implementation, at times when the political class find out that this particular policy will not favour them, they will develop lassie faire attitudes towards implementation of such policies and also the government at times find it difficult to take a bold step to implement a particular policy without minding its consequences because each policy has its good and bad effect on the generality of the people.

We also realized that non-involvement of the local people in implementation process also hinder policy implementation some policies are made for the masses or local people, starting from the initiation of that policy till the implementation stage the local people will not be given the opportunity to make an input to such policy and at the implementation stage as well so this led to policy implementation failure in Nigeria.

atmosphere for the implementation to succeed.

- There must be the involvement of the local people or the target group in the implementation process. This is another factor that must be considered in implementation of policy because non-involvement of the local people contributes to policy failure in Nigeria. To ensure policy success, local people must be involve in the process of the formulation to implementation stage of the policy to ensure objectivity.
- The importance of this is that it will not only provide favourable conditions for the policy but will also ensure that suggestions, recommendations, security of the local people are achieved and utilized.
- Resources should be adequately provided. For implementation success, government and any other agency

responsible for the financing and or implementing of the policy must ensure adequate and timely provision of financial, human and material resources needed for the success of the project or policy. This will help in ensuring smooth, efficient and effective policy implementation.

- Managers of poverty alleviation programmes or any other agency should be appointed based on credibility and merit. They should make sure that a disciplinary commission should be instituted.
- An evaluation team/committee should be instituted in order to monitor the extent to which the

programmes achieved the desired result.

- Corruption must be strictly avoided. The final basic recommendation which I will make is that in order to ensure smooth and successful policy implementation, corruption must be strictly avoided. Whether embezzlement of implementation fund, supply of fake materials, utilization of cheap and insufficient workers etc all must be avoided if any success is to be recorded in implementation of government policies and programmes.

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