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EDITORIAL

This Journal is a Publication of the Institute of Education, University of Ilorin, Iloirn. The Journal Publishes the reports of both theoretical and empirical researches in all areas of education. Since its inception in 1988, it has been subscribed to by distinguished scholars from within and outside of the country a fact which has conferred on it the status of an internationally recognized Journal.

The Journal continues to welcome articles from contributors with a promise that our high standard will not only be sustained, but also always improved upon.

Professor N. Y. S. Ijaiya
Editor-in-Chief

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BENEFICIARIES AND NON –BENEFICIARIES PERCEIVED CAUSES OF POVERTY AND THE PROGRESS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATON PROGRAMME IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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Abstract

The study investigates causes of poverty as perceived by the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin metropolis. The concept of poverty and its causes was discussed extensively. Two research questions were raised and answered. Descriptive survey was used in the study. Three hundred and seventy five (375) beneficiaries and three hundred and eighty (380) non-beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation programme constituted sample for the study. The data generated from the study was subjected to statistical analysis of frequency count and percentage as well as mean score. Any figure above means score of 2.5 was considered acceptable decision while below 2.5 was considered as rejected decision on the causes of poverty. Result of the findings revealed that inadequate access to financial assistance, inadequate access to vocational skills, illiteracy and lack of people's participation in development programme were found to be the causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis. It was recommended among other that adult literacy programme should be included in future poverty alleviation programme, and the government should wage anti-corruption crusade on the officials of the programme was well as creation of awareness campaign for the people.

Background to the Study

Poverty, refers to the state of being very poor. It can also refers to lack of basic human needs, such as clean water, nutrition, healthcare, education, clothing and shelter, because of the inability to afford them (Wikipedia, 2006). Poverty refers to a set standard which is consistent over time and between countries. The World Bank define extreme poverty as living on less than US $1.25 per day, and moderate view poverty as socially defined and dependant on social context, hence relative poverty is a measure of income inequality. Relative poverty is measured as the percentage of population with income less than some fixed proportion of median income.

The income dimension poverty defines poverty as a situation of low income or low consumption. This has been used for constructing poverty line. Accordingly, people are counted poor when their measured standard of living in terms of consumption is below the poverty line. Thus, the poverty line is a measure that

separates the poor from the non-poor. The poor according to Garuba (2004), are those who are unable to obtain an adequate income, find a stable job, own property or maintain healthy condition.

Obadan (1997), explain that poverty refers to lack of physical necessities, assets and income. it is a sub-set of the general condition of deprivation which include poverty, social inferiority, isolation, physical wideness, vulnerability, powerlessness and humiliation. United Nation Department of Public Information (1996), describe poverty as having various manifestations which include lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition ill-health; limited or lack of access to education; and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality form illness, homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environment; and social discrimination and exclusion.

From all these definitions, one can deduce a broad conceptualization of poverty as follows;

* Poverty is lack of access to basic needs and goods
* Poverty is the result of lack or impaired access to production resources:
* Poverty is the our come of inefficient use of common resources.

Therefore, poverty is a condition of deprivation and lack of basic needs for life of when the supply of such needs is grossly inadequate. Those basic needed includes; food, water, clothing, housing, medicine, literacy and so on (UNDPI, 1996).

The realization of the prevalence and negative consequences of poverty in many society has motivated government and non-government organization to map out strategies and programme to combat the menace. The efforts of the Kwara State government in this direction cannot be overemphasized. Specifically, the state government established Poverty Alleviation Programme Board with th responsibility of designing programme and projects that will alleviate poverty among Kwawans, especially the people of Ilorin metropolis. Despite government intervention in this regard people are still wallow in abject poverty, it is against this background that this paper tends to examine the causes of poverty as perceived by the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin metropolis with a view to find ways of ensuring the poverty is reduced among the people of Ilorin and Kwara State in general.

Causes of Poverty and its Effect in Nigeria

The causes of poverty are many and varied; they range from individual, socio-cultural to national and international dimensions. Studies on the causes of poverty reveal varied number of attribution factors of poverty in Nigeria. For instance Elijah and Ogunlade (2006), Identified that the main causes of overty in Nigeria are umemployment, polygamy, business failure, uneven distribution of income, sickness and environmental degradation. While others were sharp differences in perception between men and women of others were sharp differences in perception between men and women of other factors such as gender discrimination, bad economy, bad leadership corruption and overpopulation as well as lack of family planning.

In another study carried out by Ogunlela and Ogungbile (2006). Causes of poverty was inked to the country's production base that has remain narrow and weak. They argued that Nigerian economy has remain largely dualistic and

monolithic, in that the economy depends on the one primary product for export. The emergence of oil sector led to the neglected of the agricultural sector, leading to unfavourable consequences on the overall national economy.

Reveyemamu (1992), noted that the scarcity of alternative energy sources and where it is available, the high cost of fuel, have led to resort of cutting down trees for firewood and char coal. This had led to serious soil erosion and serve flooding which has further reduce soil fertility. Thus reducing the prospects for increased yield and hastening the pace and intensity of poverty incidence. Similarly Obadan (1991), observed that the intensification agricultural production resulting from increasing population, and lack of fund to finance acquisition of capital and equipment has brought to the fore, evidence of an increasingly overworked soil. The constant drought in the Northern Nigeria and erosion in the Eastern part of the country. This also compounded the poverty level of the country. Also, lack of good governance, mismanagement of economy by incompetent technocrats and corrupt politicians further compound the problem of the poor.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used for the study to find out the causes of poverty as perceived by the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Kwara State poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin metropolis.

Research Questions

The study intends to survey the perception of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programme on the causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis.

In view of this, the following research question were raised

1. What are the types and nature of Kwara State Poverty Reduction projects Board or programme in Ilorin metropolis?
2. What are the people perceive causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised all 4, 569 beneficiaries of the Kwara State Poverty Reduction Project Boards Poverty Alleviation programmes in Ilorin Metropolis (KIWPRPB). And 35, 520 members of the registered community based organization in Ilorin metropolis bringing the total up to 39, 089 that constitute the population for the study.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Sample Size

The sample size of this study comprised of 357 beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programme and 380 non-beneficiaries who are members of registered Community Based Organization (CBO) in Ilorin Metropolis, totaling 737 respondents. A minimum sample size established for the study was based on Kiejeie and Morgan (2006) table for determining sample size from a given population.

Sampling Techniques

This study employed systematic random sampling techniques in selecting poverty alleviation programme beneficiaries and members of the registered Community Based Organization in Ilorin metropolis. The techniques was used because, it allows everybody to be chosen and this measure fair representation of the population. The beneficiaries was selected at the secretariat of the three local government include: Ilorin West, Ilorin East; and Ilorin South. The beneficiaries were assigned random numbers and at every 5th person the sample was chosen until required numbers of sample was obtained. The same procedure was used in selecting non-beneficiaries that were members of Community Base Organization in the Metropolis.

Instrumentation

For the purpose of the study one set of questionnaire were prepare. The questionnaires contain two sections A and B. "A" seek to obtain personal data of the respondents whole section "B" contains question on the causes of poverty. The responses had the levels of rating i.e. agree, disagree and no response. In addition to this was the oral interview designed for the officers of the Kwara State poverty reduction project board. the interview seeks to identify types and nature of Kwara State Poverty reduction project board's programme in Ilorin Metropolis.

Data Analysis Techniques

Simple percentage was used to analyze demographic characteristic of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Oral interview was used to answer research question 1. While weighted mean calculation was used to answer research question 2. below are the diagrammatic representation of each result.

Table 1: Demographic data of the respondents.

S/N	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Sex		
	Male (Beneficiaries)	119	16.2
	Female (Beneficiaries)	253	32.3
	Male (Non-Beneficiaries)	290	38.3
	Female (Non-Beneficiaries)	90	12.2

RQ1: What are the types and nature of poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin metropolis?

This research question was answered using interview responses from the official of the Kwara State poverty reduction project board and result is presented in table 2.

Table 2: Types and nature of the poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin.

Programme types	Nature
Youth and women empowerment	Skills acquisition and employment generation through clean and green.
Financial assistance and infrastructural development.	Soft leans and provision of water in the community.

Sources: Kwara State SRPB, 2010.

RQ 2: What is the causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis?

This research question as answer using mean score and result were present in table 3.

Table 3: Causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis as perceived by poverty alleviation programmes beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries.

S/N	Causes of Poverty	Beneficiaries weightier mean x	Beneficiaries mean score x	Non Beneficiaries weightier mean x	Non-Beneficiaries weightier x	remark
1.	Inadequate access to employment opportunities	1, 025	2.9	1, 127	3.0	Accepted
2.	Inadequate access to markers	1,036	2.9	1,080	2.8	Accepted
3.	Inadequate access to financial assistance	1, 003	2.8	1, 066	2.8	Accepted
4.	Inadequate access to vocational skills	997	2.8	1, 025	2.7	Accepted
5.	Illiteracy	1,064	3.0	1,130	3.0	Accepted
6.	Lack of people participation on development programme	905	2.5	1,260	3.3	Accepted

Note: 2.5 and above was set by researcher as the acceptable region while any figure below 2.5 fall in the ejection region

Discussion of the Findings

Finding from the research question one which sought to identify the types and nature of the poverty alleviation programme in Ilorin metropolis revealed that the poverty alleviation programme can be classified into two categories. Those that have direct immediate impact on the people such as, provision of soft loans, job opportunities and infrastructures that have direct connection in improving the quality of lives of people in the metropolitan city. The other category of the programme does not have immediate direct impact on the poor but can yield long term beneficial result to the poor. These includes vocational skills acquisition and environmental sanitation exercise.

Finding form research question two indicated that perceive causes of poverty in Ilorin metropolis are attributed to inadequate access to employment opportunities, inadequate access to vocational skills, illiteracy and lack of people's participation in development programmes.

It is obvious that lack of good governance and mismanagement of economy by corrupt politicians could be held responsible for all the causes identified above which could further compound the problem of the poor.

Conclusion

From the findings above it is evident that poverty really exist among people in the communities that constitute the metropolitan city of Ilorin. It is also clear that the state government established an intervention programme designs to alleviate poverty level of the people by providing them with some basic necessity of life. For sustainable development, yet the people still languish in abject poverty.

it can be explicit put in assertion that all the highlighted perceived causes of poverty above capable of having multiplying effect on the people if they are not adequately taking care of, by the government. It is no gain saying that for any problem to be solve the root cause need to be adequately taking care of.

Recommendations

In view of the findings above the following recommendation emanated as part of researcher view on the way forward ion combating poverty in Ilorin metropolis and Kwara State as well as Nigerian at large.

1. Adult literacy programme should be included in the poverty alleviation efforts of the state government.
2. The government of Kwara State through its agency on poverty alleviation can embark on community assessment needs on the causes of poverty among people in the state with a view to combating the menace with an appropriate programmes.
3. Anti-corruption crusade can be another way of reducing poverty in the state. That is government should check corruption in all ministries, agencies and those involved be brought to book, irrespective of their position and influence in the society.
4. The "buttom-up" approach become important strategy in ensuring poverty reduction in the state community based approach is viable method that will enable government to understand the felt needs of the people.
5. Creation of awareness campaign for the general public in order to understand government various alleviation programmes will to some extent reduce the level of apathy in the people.

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