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## **POVERTY AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY**

### **UBÓSTWO I BRAK POCZUCIA BEZPIECZEŃSTWA W NIGERII: STUDIUM EMPIRYCZNE**

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#### **Abstract:**

Nigeria is a nation blessed with intellectuals, technocrats and abundant mineral resources, yet the majority of the citizens live in abject poverty. The effect of poverty is pervasive. A poor man is a problem for society and even unto himself. He is always angry, never productive and seeks succor in militia activities. Poverty to a large extent is the root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Thus, the study examines the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. A descriptive method was adopted and data was collected via a survey of six hundred (600) respondents using non-probabilistic sampling techniques. We anchored our investigation on some basic

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propositions arising from the frustration-aggression theory. Data collected were analyzed using correlation and linear regression analysis with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21. The results among others showed that poverty has a positive and significant relationship with insecurity in Nigeria ( $r = 0.783$ ). As predicted, the study also revealed that poverty exerts a positive and statistically significant impact on insecurity in Nigeria ( $r^2 = 0.716$ ). Therefore, the study recommends among other Nigerian government at all levels should care more about the welfare of the people by attending to their essential needs.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Insecurity, Frustration, Security, Nigeria

### **Streszczenie:**

Nigeria jest krajem obdarzonym intelektualistami, technokratami i bogactwem zasobów mineralnych, ale większość obywateli żyje w skrajnej nędzy. Skutek ubóstwa jest wszechobecny. Biedny człowiek stanowi problem dla społeczeństwa jak również dla samego siebie, zawsze jest zły, nigdy produktywny. Ubóstwo w dużej mierze jest podstawową przyczyną braku poczucia bezpieczeństwa w Nigerii. Niniejsze badanie analizuje związek między ubóstwem a brakiem poczucia bezpieczeństwa w Nigerii. W badaniu przyjęto metodę opisową, a dane zebrano za pomocą ankiety przeprowadzonej wśród sześciuset (600) respondentów przy użyciu nie probabilistycznych technik próbkowania. Badanie oparto na kilku podstawowych twierdzeniach wynikających z teorii agresji frustracyjnej. Zebrane dane zostały przeanalizowane za pomocą analizy korelacji i regresji liniowej za pomocą pakietu statystycznego dla nauk społecznych (SPSS) wersja 21. Wyniki między innymi wykazały, że ubóstwo ma pozytywny i znaczący związek z brakiem poczucia bezpieczeństwa w Nigerii ( $r = 0,783$ ). Zgodnie z przewidywaniami badanie wykazało również, że ubóstwo wywiera pozytywny i statystycznie istotny wpływ na brak poczucia bezpieczeństwa w Nigerii ( $r^2 = 0,716$ ). Dlatego badanie zaleca między innymi, aby rząd Nigerii na wszystkich szczeblach bardziej dbał o dobrobyt ludzi, zaspokajając ich podstawowe potrzeby.

**Słowa kluczowe:** ubóstwo, brak poczucia bezpieczeństwa, frustracja, bezpieczeństwo, Nigeria

### **Statement of the problem in general outlook and its connection with important scientific and practical tasks.**

Nigeria is a nation blessed with intellectuals, technocrats, and abundant mineral resources, yet the majority of the citizens live in abject poverty. In recent times, Nigeria has witnessed amongst others the following forms of crimes; financial crimes, transnational organized crimes, armed robbery and other related types of stealing, kidnapping, farmers herdsman clashes, political assassination, vandalization of government infrastructures, insurgency by Niger Delta Militant and terrorism by Boko Haram Sect (Adegoke, 2015; Osawe, 2015). Poverty is one of the factors responsible for the emergence of a militia group involving the use of a heavy weapon and improvised explosive

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devices (IEDs). It has become a major problem widely acclaimed nationally and internationally as demanding urgent attention especially in Sub-Saharan African countries, Nigeria inclusive (Abati, 2006; Ikyase & Namu, 2018).


In Nigeria today, the poor living conditions of the majority of the citizens have reached phobic dimensions and have defied all solutions offered due to the institutional fragility of the state and high level of corruption in the country. Poverty is easily cited in Nigeria like an elephant in a river. It is another form of modern slavery in Africa. The effect of poverty is pervasive. A poor man is a problem for society and even unto himself. He is always angry, never productive and seeks succor in militia activities for survival. Poverty is a product of economic marginalization, unemployment, inequality and uneducated is the root cause of the rising spate of insecurity in Nigeria today and recent xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Against this backdrop, this study investigates the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria and highlight what is required to be done, policy-wise, by the federal and state governments in addressing the problem of poverty and dealing with the seemingly intractable and hydra-headed insecurity to avert some unintended backlash that may threaten the very existence of Nigeria as a federation.

#### **Analysis of latest research where the solution of the problem was initiated.**

The notion that poverty breeds insecurity has been a contentious issue within the academic arena. While some scholars believed that there is a direct link between poverty and insecurity, others argued that insecurity is caused by other factors. Empirical evidence suggests that poverty and inequality breed conflict, ill-feelings and insecurity (Awojobi, 2014; Oduwale, 2015; Etim, Duke & Ogbinyi, 2017). Oluwa, 2010 cited in Awojobi, (2014) posited that good governance is the primary function of an efficient, visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective well-being of the citizenry through well-conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programs. Therefore, the task of ending poverty and insecurity in Nigeria is to accelerate the pace of economic development and Consideration should be given to making poverty alleviation an explicit constitutional issue and be incorporated in the nation's overall development/policy management framework.

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### **Aims of paper. Methods.**

The aimed of the study was to examine the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. The descriptive methods and causal research design were adopted and data was collected via a survey of 600 respondents comprises of Christian leaders, Muslim leaders, leaders of Civil Society groups, Traditional leaders and Youth leaders randomly selected in each geopolitical zones as shown below.

**Table 1: Population of the Study**

Geopolitical Zones	Christian Leaders	Muslim Leaders	Civil Society Groups Leaders	Traditional Leaders	Youth Leaders	Total
North-West	Sokoto(20)	Kaduna (20)	Zamfara (20)	Kebbi (20)	Kano(20)	100
North-Central	Plateau (20)	Kwara(20)	Niger (20)	Kogi(20)	FCT (20)	100
North-East	Taraba(20)	Adamawa (20)	Bauchi(20)	Borno (20)	Yobe (20)	100
South-West	Lagos (20)	Osun(20)	Oyo (20)	Ogun(20)	Ekiti(20)	100
South-South	Bayelsa (20)	Akwa-Ibom (20)	Rivers (20)	Delta (20)	Edo (20)	100
South-East	Ebonyi(20)	Anambra(20)	Enugu (20)	Abia(20)	Imo (20)	100
<b>Total</b>	120	120	120	120	120	600

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork, 20

### **Sampling Technique**

The positive non-probabilistic method was adopted to target respondents with knowledge about the specific issues captured in the study. The sample was drawn from the six geopolitical zones to elicit views on the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected were analyzed using correlation and linear regression analysis with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21.


### **Exposition of main material of research with complete substantiation of obtained results. Discussion.**

#### **Poverty.**

The perception of what institute poverty has unfolded over time and varies amongst nations in size and scope. Therefore, universally accepted definitions have become

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very difficult to emerge (Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle & Udaw, 2013). However, there are universally accepted indexes of what constitutes poverty. These indicators are group into three broad categories as contained in the universally accepted definition to mean absolute, relative and material poverty. Absolute poverty means the inability of a person or group to provide the material needs for physical subsistence and protection of human dignities such as food, shelter, clothing, potable water, healthcare services, basic education, transportation, and gainful employment. Relative poverty means the inability of certain sections of the society to satisfy their basic needs as well as inadequate income to enhance active participation in societal activities to the extent that it limits the actualization of one's potentials. Material poverty is the absence of ownership control of physical assets such as land and other resources that land produce or the subsists on land such as animals and birds (UNDP, 1996 & 2010; UN, 1999). In a nutshell, poverty is a lack of access to empowerment, income and healthcare services.

According to Nwagwu (2014:22), "to be poor is to be powerless. It also means being despised and looked down upon. It means being treated unfairly. Most significantly, it means being lacking things that translate into good, physical and mental health. Karl Marx noted that the key to the class structure is economics. The extent of an individual's wealth is the determining factor for success in a number of crucial areas, including the chance to live and the chance to obtain possessions and education that are highly valued in society". Poverty, therefore, is an abject state of being in which an individual is incapable of utilizing resources around him to improve himself economically, socially, politically or otherwise. In the view of Jolaosho (1996), poverty means a man's inability to afford decent food, shelter, clothing and recreations which are the basic necessities of life without these basic necessities, life is miserable and short. According to Adefolalu (1992), poverty is caused by what may be called 'exogenous forces' or forces outside an individual's control such as overpopulation, high standard of living, high cost of living, inadequate education, unemployment and environmental degradation, and is also caused by forces that operate within the victims as exemplified by individual responsibility and welfare dependency, and are thus self-created. Poverty can also arise from changes in average income or changes in the distribution of income when there is cut in salary, loss of job or source of living or even retirement from well-paid service, then poverty is obvious (Garga, 2015). In the view of Oduwole (2015), the causes of poverty in Nigeria include environment degradation, inappropriate macroeconomics policies of Nigerian governments, low productivity and low wages in the

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informal sector, low economic growth, a lag in human resource development, large family size, a fall in the real value of safety nets, inappropriate planning and neglect of the private sector, limited growth of investment and technological innovation, retrenchment of workers and increase of ghost workers in payroll of many states and high level of corruption in the country. The effects of poverty from the foregoing include severe malnutrition, food insecurity, illness, child and elder abuse, drug dependence, high rate of disease, homelessness, depression, high rate of mortality, eviction, high rate of crime and violence among others.

### **Insecurity**

The concept of insecurity would be best-understood by first presenting the concept of security. According to Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese and Ogunde, 2011 cited in Ighomereho and Akpo-Robaro (2015:80), is “the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threats to their lives or properties”. Security, simply put, is the protection of the lives and property of members of the political community. It is the fundamental reason for the existence of a state (Ikyase & Namo, 2018). Security however, can be further describes as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance of knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one’s community or neighborhood and by people around. It focuses on the emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group that can offer one protection) (Nwanegbo, Umara & Ikyase, 2017). Ighodalo (2012) sees security as the protection of citizenry from hunger, disease, poverty, unemployment and natural disasters. In countries where appropriate development paradigm is in place and practiced, the citizens enjoy the high standard of living demonstrated by the willingness of the government to provide the basic necessities of life in terms of jobs, portable water, electricity, affordable housing, decent foods, roads among others. Where there is security, there is likely to be an absence of fear, threat, anxiety, tension and apprehension over the loss of life, liberty, goals and values. Therefore, addressing the absolute and material poverty of Nigerians is security.

In the views of Igbuzor (2011), anything that can pose a threat to one’s existence or that harm or makes life un-pleasurable can be classified as insecurity. Insecurity is the antithesis of security. However, because of the very many ways in which insecurity affects human life and existence, the concept of insecurity has usually been ascribed

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different interpretations in association with the various ways in which it affects individuals or groups. Some of the common descriptors of insecurity include want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, doubtful, inadequately guarded or protected, lacking stability, troubled, lack of protection, and unsafe (Kukati, 2012). Beland, 2005 cited in Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2015:80) defines insecurity as “a state of fear or anxiety stemming from concrete or alleged lack of protection”. In a nutshell, insecurity is a state of vulnerability of harm and loss of life, property or livelihood.


Nigeria state today is grappling with continuous rising incidences of insecurity, repeated pattern of attacks on individuals and agitations from ethnic cleavages. The indicators of the prevailing insecurity cases in Nigeria include the marauding herdsmen militancy, the new face of militancy in the Niger Delta, Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East, the vociferous separatist agitations in the South-East, and the spate of kidnappings, armed robberies, abductions and other forms of violent crimes, all of which are creating survival, stability and security challenges for the nation. Like in many other societies, the sources of insecurity in Nigeria have been trace to a number of factors such as ethnoreligious conflicts, rural/urban drift borders, weak security system, unemployment, low level of economic development, poor governance, weak institutional capacity, political instability and poverty (Nwanegbo *et al.*, 2017).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework for analyzing the influence of poverty on insecurity in Nigeria state involves the adoption of frustration-aggression Theory. This classical theory explains why people, especially the youths engage in violence (riots, rebellion, coups, criminal activities, etc). Criminality among the youths especially the lower-class has been attributed to various forms of frustration such as lack of money or failure to achieve respect derived from economic disadvantages (Greenberg, 1977). This assumption is further reiterated by the frustration-aggression theory which argues that frustration simply means the act of preventing someone from making an advancement, progress or success in life, this blockage likely result to dissatisfaction in an individual or group who turn to react in a violent manner (aggression) as an indication of protest against hindrance to succeed. When these occur, it can produce feelings of anger, which in turn can generate feelings of aggression and aggressive behavior (Zumve, Ingyoroko&Akuva, 2013). Frustration breeds hostility and produces anger (an emotional readiness to aggression). Ivo and Feierabend, 1972 cited in Adegoke (2015) ap-

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plied the frustration-aggression theory in a study of political instability within 84 nations. It was found that when people in rapidly modern nations become urbanized and literacy improves (as being experienced in Nigeria today) they become more aware of material improvement.

The inability to handle the situations of insecurity has among others been attributing extensively to the failure of the state to coordinate itself and meet up with its basic responsibility of protecting the citizens. With the rising spate of insecurity across the length and breadth of the country, Nigeria can be referred to as a Fragile State. The fragile state as articulated by Sara (2008) is the term used for countries facing severe developmental challenges such as weak institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, unemployment, low level of economic development and poverty. Salawu (2010:348) a leading proponent of the frustration-aggression theory in Nigeria, argues that “one of the major causes of what we now see as ethnoreligious conflicts in Nigeria is the unfortunate breakdown of such indigenous vehicles of social control of human behaviors that characterized the Traditional African Societies, such as the family units, pre-school age indigenous education and native laws, religion and traditional political system that molds character, creates value to human life and care for the well-being of all citizens. The dysfunction of these traditional institutions has increased the marauding herdsmen militancy; the new face of militancy in the Niger Delta, the ethnic and communal violent conflict, the vociferous separatist agitations in the South-East, Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East and other forms of violent crimes and has seriously undermined the very essence and existence of state security agents in Nigeria”. He linked failed state to mass poverty, illiteracy and unemployment which forced people especially the youths into crimes in order to survive. Poverty has a direct link to frustration which breed aggression behavior that manifested as crimes and violent conflicts in Nigeria.

### **Poverty and Insecurity in Nigeria**

The increase rate of sectarian violence, crimes and terrorism are connected with unemployment (Adegoke, 2015) and poverty is the product of unemployment (Nwagwu, 2014). Poverty breeds a high rate of state insecurity which borders on ethnoreligious conflicts, indigenes and settlers divide, armed robberies, abductions, kidnapping and other criminal activities in Nigeria. Poverty and unemployment have served as main ingredients to nursery beds (breeding ground) for numerous ethnoreligious crises in Nigeria. This is because the country has a mighty reservoir of poverty- gripped people

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who out of frustration, are readily available for warmongers, willing to serve as mercenary fighters (Nwagwu, 2014). Ighodalo (2012:171) asserts that “poverty is a principle cause of political, social and economic conflict in the country. Poverty is antithetical to the principles and core values of democracy. Poverty in the midst of plenty creates disaffection among the populace and leads them toward violent behavior. It constrains the ability of the people to make independent choices and participate actively in decision-making and it reduces their self-esteem and ability to extract accountability from those they elect”.


Poverty is responsible for the unrelenting pace of youth militias in Nigeria (Jike, 2017). This supports the assertion of Nwagwu (204:33) who posits that “the Niger Delta youths, the movement for Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) the Oduduwa People’s Congress (OPC) and the insurgence of the Boko-Haram (a religious faceless sect without ideology) comprised young people without salary-earning jobs. The incidence of suicide bombing, terrorist attacks, kidnapping, destruction of lives and properties, armed robbery, vandalization of corporate facilities (such as the power holding installations and oil pipelines), car-snatching, drug abuse and other criminal acts are unlawful activities associated with these groups”. Similarly, Nwagbosa (2013) holds that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country.

In spite of the myriad policies and programs initiated by successive Nigerian government such as Better Life Programme (BLP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), SURE-P, N-Power, Trader money, etc., as lofty and laudable as they seem, their inability to affect the real target (the youths), reflects the lacuna between policy formation and implementation in Nigeria. Maduagwu, 2006 cited in Toby and Akani (2014) has noted the following amongst the reasons why the past poverty alleviation programs failed in Nigeria:

- (i) The politics personal rule – a distinctive type of political system in which the rivalries and struggles of powerful willful men, rather than impersonal institutions, ideologies, and public politics, or class interests which are fundamental in shaping political life.

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- (ii) The top-down-big-men from the Abuja approach – the master-servant relationship associated with the programs to alleviate poverty.

The rising crime rate in Nigeria's today is a symptom of a much more serious, deeply rooted problem of which studies have associated it to a high rate of poverty (Osawe, 2015; Etim, Duke & Ogbinyi, 2017). Therefore, there is a direct relationship between poverty and the high rate of insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria.

In line with the review of the literature, the following objectives and null hypotheses were formulated for the study.

**Objectives of the Study:**

- i. To examine the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria
- ii. To evaluate the effect of poverty on insecurity in Nigeria.

**The hypothesis of the Study:**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria

H<sub>2</sub>: Poverty does not have a significant effect on insecurity in Nigeria.

**Data Presentation, Analysis, and Interpretation**

**Reliability and Validity of the Instrument**

A structured questionnaire was designed to elicit needed information from the respondents. The reliability was established through a trial test conducted on 40 respondents in the south-South zone who also took part in the study. Cronbach Alpha method was used to establish the internal consistency of the instrument as shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Reliability Statistics of variables**

Scale	No. of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Poverty	9	0.753
Insecurity	11	0.714

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2019

The results yielded a coefficient of 0.753 and 0.714, which satisfied the general recommended level of 0.70 for the research indicators (Cronbach, 1951). Experts also judged the face and content validity of the questionnaire as adequate. Hence, researchers' satisfied both the reliability and validity of the scale.

**Table 3: Distribution of Questionnaire and Response Rate**

S/N	Geopolitical zones	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Retrieved	Percentage (%)
1	North-West	100	51	8.5
2	North-Central	100	66	11.0
3	North-East	100	42	7.0
4	South-West	100	62	10.3
5	South-South	100	75	12.5
6	South-East	100	69	11.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>60.8</b>

**Source:** Researcher’s Fieldwork, 2019

Out of the 600 questionnaires administered across the six (6) geopolitical zones, 365 were retrieved and analyzed given us a response rate of 60.8%.

**Table 4: Correlation Metrix**

Variables		Poverty	Insecurity
<b>Poverty</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.883**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	365	365
<b>Insecurity</b>	Pearson Correlation	.883**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	365	365

\*\* Correlation is significant at 0.05 levels (2-tailed)

**Source:** Researcher’s Fieldwork, 2019

Table 4 shows the correlation between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. There exists a significant positive high correlation between poverty and insecurity ( $r = .883$ ,  $n = 365$ , &  $P < 0.005$ ). This implies that poverty has a strong and positive relationship with insecurity in Nigeria. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

**Table 5: Moderated Linear Regression Analysis showing the Effect of the Independent Variable on the Dependent Variable.**

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	R <sup>2</sup>	Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	Co-efficient	F-stat	R. Sig.	T-stat	T-sig.	D.W
Insecurity	Poverty	.785	.743	.319	22.513	.000 <sup>a</sup>	-.212	.000	1.927

Source: Researcher’s Fieldwork, 2019


In table 5, drawing on the model summary displayed by the linear regression analysis, we observed that R<sup>2</sup>value which is the coefficient determination was 0.785. This implies that poverty accounts for a 78.5% increase in insecurity in Nigeria. While the remaining 21.5% causes of change in insecurity are explained by other factors not included in the model, but taken care of by error turns. The Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>value which was 0.743 in the linear regression model further indicated that coefficient of determination, when adjusted for the degree of freedom, yielded approximately 74.3%. The Durbin Watson statistic, which is 1.927, implies the absence of serial autocorrelation in the regression analysis and therefore, the model can be relied upon in making policies related to the subject matter. The F-statistic value of 22.513 at prob(sig.) = .000<sup>a</sup>conducted at 5% level of significant depicted in the regression results revealed that overall, there exists a statistically significant linear relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. Similarly, the T-statistic of -.212 at P-value (sig.) of .000 obtained in the model which is less than 5% or 0.05 level of significant also indicated that there is a significant relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. The coefficient of 0.319 further indicated that a one percent increase in poverty results in a 31.9% increase in insecurity in Nigeria.

**Discussion of Findings**

The results amongst others revealed that there is a strong and positive relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. This finding is an agreement with Osawe (2015) and Etimetal’s (2017) studies which revealed a direct relationship between poverty and insecurity. As predicted, the results also showed that poverty exerts a positive and statistically significant impact on insecurity in Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with Ighodalo’s (2012), Nwagwu’s (2014), Adekoge’s (2015) and Jake’s (2017) views that poverty is responsible for the spate of insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria.

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## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The study has shown through its perceived findings that poverty has a strong and positive impact on insecurity in Nigeria. Also, the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria was confirmed. From the findings of this study, we concluded that poverty in the midst of plenty creates disaffection among the populace and leads them toward violent behavior, it constraints the ability of the people to make independent choices and participate actively in decision-making and it reduces their self-esteem and ability to extract accountability from those they elect. Poor people are those without money and other resources required for good conditions of life, which include good medical care, decent food, shelter, clothing and other social amenities. In spite of the myriad policies and programs initiated by successive Nigerian government such as Better Life Programme (BLP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), SURE-P, N-Power, Trader money, etc., as lofty and laudable as they seem, their inability to affect the real target (the youths), reflects the lacuna between policy formation and implementation in Nigeria. Based on the empirical and theoretical findings of this study, the following policy recommendations were made:

1. The government at all levels should intensify effort to ensure national security, political stability, economic stability, provision of adequate welfare services and other infrastructural development in Nigeria.
2. Consideration should be given to making poverty alleviation an explicit constitutional issue and be incorporated in the nation's overall development/policy management framework.
3. Maintenance of price and exchange rate stability in order to create a healthy balance of payment and strengthening of the existing poverty alleviation programs for effective performance.
4. There is an urgent need to upgrade social welfare services, especially for the disabled and the aged people as these categories of the citizenry are more vulnerable to poverty.
5. Government at all levels should institute policies to protect the citizenry from hunger, natural disasters, disease, unemployment, poverty, etc., also there should be

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sufficient participation of the grassroots people in the identification and implementation of projects and programs affecting their lives.

6. The government of Nigeria should institute effective policies on birth control and family planning especially in the rural areas.
7. More research should be carried out on the perception of unemployed youths towards the government's policies and programs of poverty and unemployment reduction in Nigeria.

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