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## IMPACT OF NATIONAL POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (NAPEP) ON GENDER EQUALITY FOR RURAL WOMEN IN MUBI-NORTH AND MUBI SOUTH LGAS OF ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA.

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### Abstract

*The objective of this research work is to evaluate the impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria. This research made use of a mixed methods approach. A mixed methods approach is very useful for research since it allows relevant design variables, which usually guarantees opportunities to achieve the set objectives of the research. This study was conducted in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa State. The target population for this study consist of the 21 Staff of NAPEP and the 604 women beneficiaries of the various poverty eradication programmes in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa State. Using the Taro Yamane Methods of calculating sample population, the sample population for the study was 260 respondents comprising of 20 Staff of NAPEP and 240 women beneficiaries of the various NAPEP programmes in Adamawa State respondents from Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs in Adamawa State. This study utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. These included: Questionnaire, and Focus Group Discussion. The questionnaire method was used because of its reliability in providing required information. It is also recommended as it permits wider coverage at lesser cost. The FGD was used in collecting first-hand information from the pupils in the various sample schools. The FGD was used voluntarily with some selected respondents in the study area this will encourage the respondents to open up and share their experiences. The researcher will discuss with a set of ten staff NAPEP stakeholders and 10 women beneficiaries of NAPEP programme. The FGD comprised open-ended questions that addressed all the objectives of the study. Data collected for this study were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. Data obtained from questionnaire will be quantitatively analyzed using a statistical package for social science research (SPSS) version 20 and this will be guided by the research objectives. The responses from focus group discussions will be qualitatively*

*analyzed thematically, narratively and qualitative content analysis done in line with the research objectives. Through this analysis, it will be possible to outline and summarize the data. The paper concluded that NAPEP is indeed, a conscious effort by Nigerian government to ensure Gender Equality for rural women. Based on the above conclusion, the following recommendations were put forward:- Government should try and monitor all allocations when it is allocated to a region, community or state to avoid diversion.*

**Keywords:** NAPEP, Gender Equality, Rural Women

## Introduction

Poverty is one of the very worst problems facing the world today (Roser & Ortiz-Ospina, 2019). According to the World Bank (2018), an estimated 8.6 percent of the world's population is living in extreme poverty. Though most countries worldwide have seen a decrease in the share of the population in extreme poverty since 1990, around two-fifths have experienced an increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty (Walton, 2019).

Poverty is a ranging economic and social phenomenon that manifests in the inability of the victims to acquire the necessities of life (Ajayi, 2009). He however argued that it goes beyond material deprivation to include insecurity, vulnerability, and exposure to risks, shock, and stress. To be specific the degree of poverty in the rural areas in Nigeria is manifested in the inability of the rural dwellers to have enough food to eat, poor drinking water, low life expectancy, low educational opportunities, low employment opportunities, lack of adequate health care, lack of basic infrastructure, lack of participation in taking major decision that affects their life, high rate of infant mortality, poor nutrition, poor housing, and total government neglect even though those in the rural areas contribute their quota towards attaining national development.

NAPEP interventions are expected to lead to increased income generation opportunities for rural women through support for small-scale businesses, agricultural initiatives, and vocational training programs, the program is expected to facilitate improved access to resources such as microfinance loans, agricultural inputs, and skills development training, enabling women to enhance their economic activities and NAPEP interventions is expected to contribute to community development, which indirectly benefited rural women by creating a more conducive environment for economic activities and social support systems.

The findings from this study can inform evidence-based decision-making, leading to targeted interventions that address the specific needs and challenges faced by rural women. Additionally, it will contribute to existing literature on gender-responsive poverty alleviation strategies and provide valuable insights for future program design and implementation. In essence, by conducting a comprehensive analysis using a mixed-methods approach, this study aims to generate valuable insights that can enhance the well-being and empowerment of rural women in Nigeria.

The objective of this research work is to evaluate the impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to;

- i. Evaluate the impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural

women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

- ii. Determine the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

## Research Questions

In addressing the core problem of this research, the following research questions were raised:

- i. What are the impact National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria?
- ii. What are the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria?

## Research Hypotheses

**Ho3:** National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has no significant impact on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

## Review of Related Literature

### National Poverty Eradication Programmes in Nigeria

The poverty alleviation programmes were formulated to act as the antidote for the reduction of spiraling poverty and manpower depletion in Nigeria (Bakare, 2011). According to the United Nations Development Programme (2014), the objectives also include creating a strategy that aims at eradicating or reducing the degree of poverty; and enabling the delivery of development necessities to support alleviation of poverty (World Bank Group, 2017). It will thereby meet the basic wants and desires of the citizens not minding their status and background. These poverty alleviation programmes also have the goals and objectives of reinforcing the provision of better amenities and infrastructure to reinforce growth and development frameworks that will improve the standard of living of the citizens (Aluko, 2003). However, it will perhaps promote socioeconomic growth by developing prominent economic sectors which will act as the national focus for supporting youth empowerment and development.

### National Poverty Eradication Programme and Gender Equality:

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Nigeria has had a significant impact on gender equality. NAPEP was established to address poverty and promote sustainable development, with a focus on empowering women and promoting gender equality. The program has implemented various initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women and addressing the disparities that exist between men and women in the country. Other key ways in which NAPEP has impacted gender

equality are through its support for women's economic empowerment, initiatives to improve access to education for girls, addressing gender-based violence promoting women's rights creating a more supportive environment for women and reducing barriers to their full participation in society.

### **Challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)**

Despite its positive impact, NAPEP has faced challenges in effectively reaching all segments of rural women. Some of these challenges include:

1. **Resource leakage:** Corruption has been the major problem the country is facing being the 8th oil-producing state in the world. There was a time when the president of Nigeria stated that the problem of the country was not the money but how to spend the money. But despite the enormous resources the country is blessed with, the country is still lagging behind in terms of development which could be attributed to the corrupt practices of the leaders. Segun (2010) observed that corruption is one of the challenges facing the country, many of the richest people in Nigeria got their money through corrupt practices leaving the masses in abject poverty which led to crime, unemployment and communal conflict. Mike (2011) stated that corruption, misrepresentation of project finance and lack of social responsibility as a major reasons that hindered the success of previous poverty alleviation programmes.
2. **Lack of sustainability of the programme:** Past governments had come out with viable policies and programmes that would enhance the living standard of the masses in order to solve the problem of poverty in the country but almost all the programmes could not see the light of the day due to lack of continuity of the programme. The end of the administration led to the collapse of the programme due to the lack of continuity.
3. **Poor coordination:** Lack of proper coordination of the programme by the three tiers of government has contributed to poor performance in Nigeria. Government policies especially on poverty alleviation are good but rivalry between the three tiers of government contributed greatly to the failure of the programme.
4. **Absence of achievable target goals:** Many times government comes out with policies without taking into consideration of the target of unemployed graduates, the type of work preferred by this unemployed graduate and is it achievable. As a result the programme instead of yielding result turned to white elephant project.
5. **Unclear role and responsibility between the three tiers of government:** Nigeria is a federal state with three tiers of government that is the federal, state and local governments. Federal government some time came out with a policies but the division of roles between the three tiers of government has created hiccup to the failure of many of the programme
6. **Lack of efforts from beneficiary:** Also the attitudes of Nigerians constituted hinderance to the failure of the programmes. Youths prefer easy money without any zeal to be independence, they prefer following politician that

will give them money for taking drugs rather than learning viable work for their independence as a result it even deepened the poverty situation in the country.

7. **Neglect of Agriculture:** Neglect of agriculture militates against poverty alleviation efforts in Nigeria. Before the emergence of oil in Nigeria's economy, mostly our foreign exchange earnings came from agriculture. Since early 1970's the attitude of the government and individuals towards agriculture has dwindled to the extent that oil is the only source of generating revenue. The poverty alleviation programmes such as Operation Feed the Nation. (OFN) and Green Revolution which aimed to boost food production in Nigeria suffered lack of continuity and shift in approach, (Arogundade et al., 2011:43). This has contributed to rising level of poverty in the country.
8. **High Population Growth:** The performance of poverty alleviation programmes is also hindered by high population growth rate. Based on the data obtained from past census, the country's population increased sharply from fifty four (54) million in 1963 to eighty eight (88) million in 1991. At present, the country's population has reached one hundred and forty-four (144) million according to the 2006 population and housing census (Ogunleye, 2010:295). With the annual population growth rate of 2.9 percent which is nearly the same with the annual GDP growth rate (3.5 percent) Nigeria's population would double in the next twenty five years. (Ogunleye, 2010). Unless Nigeria manages to bring down population growth rate, it will further aggravate poverty with majority people "unemployed, uneducated, ill clad and disease ridden".
9. **Lack of awareness of poverty alleviation programmes:** Lack of awareness of poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas is another obstacle to its performance. Information about such programmes terminates in the cities while the illiterate poor in the villages do not know what is happening (Adawo, 2010:16).
10. **Excessive corruption in Nigeria:** According to Emmanuel (2016) the excessive corruption in Nigeria is another serious challenge to poverty alleviation programmes. In Nigeria, public funds which are meant for execution of welfare schemes for poor are diverted into private pockets, thus creating untold hardships for the poor. Many poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria could not achieve their desired objectives because of institutionalization of corruption in the system. Commenting on corruption in poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria, Adawo (1999) observes "there is a problem of benefit capture syndrome, the intended benefits are captured by politicians and rent-seeking bureaucrats".

### **Methodology**

This research made use of a mixed methods approach. A mixed methods approach is very useful for research since it allows relevant design variables, which usually guarantees opportunities to achieve the set objectives of the research.

This study was conducted in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa State. Mubi, town, northeastern Adamawa State. The target population for this study consist of the 21 Staff of NAPEP and the 604 women beneficiaries of the various poverty eradication programmes in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa State.

Using the Taro Yamane Methods of calculating sample population, the sample population for the study was 260 respondents comprising of 20 Staff of NAPEP and 240 women beneficiaries of the various NAPEP programmes in Adamawa State respondents from Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs in Adamawa State).

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The FGD was used in collecting first-hand information from the pupils in the various sample schools. The FGD was used voluntarily with some selected respondents in the study area this will encourage the respondents to open up and share their experiences. The researcher will discuss with a set of ten staff NAPEP stakeholders and 10 women beneficiaries of NAPEP programme. The FGD comprised open-ended questions that addressed all the objectives of the study.

Data collected for this study were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. Data obtained from questionnaire will be quantitatively analyzed using a statistical package for social science research (SPSS) version 20 and this will be guided by the research objectives. The responses from focus group discussions will be qualitatively analyzed thematically, narratively and qualitative content analysis done in line with the research objectives. Through this analysis, it will possible to outline and summarize the data,

## Result and Discussion

**Research Question One:** What are the impact National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria?

**Table 1:** Impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Mean	Decision
1	National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) promote sustainable development, with a focus on empowering women	3.66	Accepted
2	NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through promoting gender equality..	3,18	Accepted
3	NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through its support for women's economic empowerment,	3,73	Accepted
4	NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through initiatives to improve access to education for girls,	3.52	Accepted

5	NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through addressing gender-based violence and promoting women's rights	3.35	Accepted
6	NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through creating a more supportive environment for women and reducing barriers to their full participation in society	3.28	Accepted

The analysis in table one above indicates that the Impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria are: National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) promote sustainable development, with a focus on empowering women, NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through promoting gender equality, NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through its support for women's economic empowerment, NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through initiatives to improve access to education for girls, NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through addressing gender-based violence and promoting women's rights and NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through creating a more supportive environment for women and reducing barriers to their full participation in society,

The qualitative findings from the Focus Group Discussion as exemplified by the voices below, illustrate that the Impact of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria are effective:

National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) promote sustainable development, with a focus on empowering women (Dorcas, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through promoting gender equality (Aunty Aisha, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through its support for women's economic empowerment (Salma, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

NAPEP has impacted on gender equality through initiatives to improve access to education for girls (Kulchumi, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

**Research Question Two:** What are the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria?

**Table 2:** the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Mean	Decision
1	Lack of sustainability of the programme	2.83	Accepted
2	Poor coordination	3.22	Accepted
3	Absence of achievable target goals	3.05	Accepted
4	Unclear role and responsibility between the three tiers of government	3.18	Accepted

5	Lack of efforts from beneficiary	3.01	Accepted
6	Neglect of Agriculture	3.13	Accepted

From the analysis in table two above, it is clear that the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria are: Lack of sustainability of the programme, Poor coordination, Absence of achievable target goals, unclear role and responsibility between the three tiers of government and Lack of efforts from beneficiary, Neglect of Agriculture. This is supported with calculated mean scores of 2.83, 3.22, 3.05, 3.18, 3.01, and 3.13 respectively

The qualitative findings from the Focus Group Discussion as exemplified by the voices below, illustrate that the challenges facing National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria are:

Lack of sustainability of the programme and Poor coordination (Nana Aisha 14th April 2024)

Absence of achievable target goals and unclear role and responsibility between the three tiers of government (Lois 14th April 2024)

Lack of efforts from beneficiary and Neglect of Agriculture (Kuve 14th April 2024)

### Testing the Research Hypotheses

**Ho1:** National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has no significant impact on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

**Table 3: Chi-square summary for testing hypotheses 1**

Hypot hesis	Level of significance	Differen ce	Calculat ed t	Critical t	Decisi on
Ho1	0.05	3	7.852	7.815	Rejecte d

From the summary table 3 above it is clear that with 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom of 3, the calculated chi-square of 7.852 is greater than the table value of 7.815 and so hypotheses three is rejected. This means that: National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) has a significant impact on Gender Equality for rural women in Mubi-North and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa state, Nigeria

### Conclusion

The traditional approach to poverty alleviation emphasizes the promotion of economic growth. Today, however, the feasibility of the increase of free market growth for poverty reduction is a subject of considerable controversy in the economic literature. Imperatively the government of Nigeria has to develop strategies towards reducing poverty. NAPEP as one of the strategies is designed to spearhead the government's ambitions programme of eradicating poverty and women empowerment. It is concluded that NAPEP is indeed, a conscious effort by Nigerian government to ensure Gender Equality for rural women. Based on the above conclusion, the following recommendations were put forward:-

1. Government should try and monitor all allocations when it is been allocated to a region, community or state to avoid diversion
2. NAPEP as a programme should be re-examined and possibly re-designed to make it effective in eradicating extreme poverty.
3. The programme should be de-politicized and there should be effective monitoring to check cases of corrupt practices.

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