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## The Lingering Problem of Urban Poverty

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### **Abstract:**

*The first priority of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is poverty reduction. All member states of the United Nations were saddled with the mandate of implementing sound policies that will halve absolute poverty by the year 2015. Several studies show that the application of the community-driven development (CDD) model will help developing countries in Africa and Asia to reduce the prevalence of poverty and improve the quality of life of their citizens. The last few decades have witnessed increasing debates from development experts, academics, donor agencies and policy makers calling for the adoption of the CDD as a sure model in planning for socio-economic and environmental development. The focus of the CCD project is to reduce community level poverty through the implementation of projects that meets their felt needs. This paper utilizes both descriptive and inferential methods to analyze the quality of life of households in participating and non-participating settlements in a World Bank CCD poverty reduction project in Kebbi State, Nigeria. The analysis makes use of survey data from 704 households in the study area to show the impact of the CDD approach on the quality of life of participants in settlements. The data analysis revealed that poor households in participating and non-participating communities have less education and assets compared to their well to do counterparts. The paper concludes that, promoting community assistance, traditional thrift system and job creation by government will have positive impact on quality of life and poverty reduction programmes.*

**Keywords:** Community-driven development, poverty reduction, Nigeria

### **1.0 Introduction**

One of the leading issues in development debates in contemporary times is how to tackle urban poverty. Poverty is a multi-dimensional issue that affects several aspects of human condition ranging from physical to moral and psychological (Ogwumike 2002). The World Development Report 2000/2001 (World Bank 2001) summarizes the various dimensions of poverty as lack of opportunity, lack of empowerment and a lack of security. The window of opportunity remains closed to the poor masses, and this makes them practically dormant in the society. Their lack of empowerment limits their choices in almost everything and their lack of security makes them vulnerable to diseases, violence and so on.

Correspondingly, a United Nations (1998) statement says: Poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to; not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities.

It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

The international community has adopted the multidimensional approach to poverty with the eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved in 2015. Poverty reduction is the first priority of the Millennium Development Goals. All United Nation member states have to implement sound policies to halve absolute poverty by 2015. Governments in African countries have pursued this vision in their development strategies (Ningaye 2013).

In Nigeria, pervasive and cruel poverty is a reality. There are several effects and deficiencies associated with poverty in Nigeria. It can manifest through lack of food, clothes, education and other basic amenities. Severely poor people lack the most basic necessities of life to a degree that it can be wondered how they manage to survive (Ucha 2010). Poverty is a complex social phenomenon whose scope goes far beyond that of income sufficiency. It can be likened to a general phenomenon of insufficient development. In this way, a person is considered to be poor when he is in a precarious situation and lacks abilities and/or opportunities of development. The result of this situation is low-income, unhealthy condition of life, malnutrition, vulnerability to disease and unclean environment that negatively affect their opportunities of surviving and improving their quality of life. Measuring poverty is not easy due to the multiplicity of factors that make it up. Poverty is a multidimensional and complex phenomenon (Zexian 2007; Ucha 2010).

In Nigeria poverty has become a subject of intense focus and debate by policy makers, researchers and the general public in recent years. These interests gave rise to successive governments in Nigeria to implement different poverty reduction policies and programmes since her independence in 1960. From independence to 2004 a substantial percentage of Nigeria's resources were increasingly invested in poverty reduction. Yet the incidence of poverty in the country continue to linger. Though successive governments have tried to address the issue of poverty so as to improve the quality of life of the citizenry yet the end product of the strategies and programmes has been that of mixed feelings.

Several studies reported the application of community participation in community-driven development (CDD) projects and its impact on poverty reduction (Dongier et al 2003; Khwaja 2004; Mansuri & Rao 2004; Platteau 2004; Galasso & Ravallion 2005). The focus of this article is on the activities of the community-driven development projects in Kebbi state and the extent to which this approach has contributed to the reduction of community level poverty in Nigeria

## **2.0 Literature Review**

### **2.1 Concept of Poverty**

The concept of poverty has been rather problematic. The notion of poverty has undergone three phases in its conception. The first was when poverty was viewed largely in economic terms. Poverty was related to the income level accruable to individuals and households for daily subsistence. The World Bank's measurement indicator of poverty scaled \$1 a day per person adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP) as the absolute poverty line. Any individual who falls below this level is considered to be

living in a condition of absolute poverty. The main critique of this conception of poverty is that poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon that cannot be reduced to income level alone.

The second is access to basic social services of education, health, and water supply improves human condition and the living standards of the people, which are not captured in the income matrix. Thus, non-income indicators of poverty were developed. As a result, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) evolved the Human Development Index (1993) and later the Human Poverty Index (1997) which encompasses these social dimensions of poverty. The UNDP views poverty as the result of a process, and not a state or event. However, the notion of poverty as conceptualised above only views the political process as one of the causal elements of poverty and not its manifestation (Said, 2006).

The third phase in the conception of poverty is that which views poverty from a political economy perspective encompassing economic, social and political dimensions. It reflects the logic of human deprivation, which limits human capacity to function adequately including his/her freedom. Poverty is characterised by the unavailability of income and non-income resources and a denial of voice and power in the political process. Indeed, in an elaborate study conducted by the World Bank on poverty in 2000, the conclusion is that there is need to expand the conventional views on poverty, which focus on income, expenditure, education and health, to include measures of voice and empowerment (Narayan 2002).

The importance of this conceptualisation is that the voice and power of the poor in the political process and governance structure of society is no longer treated as a cause of poverty but also its manifestation. When people are poor they are powerless. There are three major things to be noted about poverty. First, it is a structural phenomenon that has multidimensional perspective. It manifests in economic, social and political arenas. The second is the process nature of poverty. Poverty is not a natural state of affairs nor is it a specific event. It is usually the result of a constellation of forces that undermines the capacity and living conditions of a people. Third, is the relative nature of poverty; poverty has cultural relativism. Apart from the general standards, there are socio-cultural variations to the issue of poverty. What a society considers to be a feature of poverty may not be so for some other societies. This is why caution is necessary in understanding the issue of poverty on a global scale.

The definition of what constitutes poverty differs from one country to another; the general consensus is that poverty is a relative term, and consequently its meaning and parameters or standard of measurement vary from one place to another (Okosun et al 2012). One common feature of poverty irrespective of geo-graphic location is that it involves lack of the basic necessities of survival. Poverty implies absence of basic necessities (Khan et al 2002).

Poverty involves different deprivation that relate to human capabilities, consumption, health, education, security, dignity and decent work. In the article “Economic Analysis of Poverty Levels among Rural Dwellers,” Akintola and Yusuf (2001) defined “poverty as a social condition, characterized by inadequate access to basic human needs (food and non-food) to the sustenance of socially acceptable minimum standard of living in a given society. Its persistence has suggested that it is inevitable in any society.”

Poverty is a condition in which income is insufficient to meet subsistence needs. A more encompassing definition was given by Mkandawire and the United Nations (2005) in which poverty was defined fundamentally as, “a state of deprivation or denial of the basic choices and opportunities needed to enjoy a decent standard of living, to live a long, healthy, constructive life and to participate in employment and in the social, political and cultural life of the community. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to; not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness, and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.” (Gordon 2005). Different definitions of poverty are examined. The UN (2005) definition above suffices and best describes the situation or type of poverty that exists among majority of Nigerians. And it will be adopted as the accepted definition of poverty for this paper.

## **2.2 Urban Poverty**

Poverty stand out amongst the most genuine signs of human hardship and is inseparably connected to human capital development; it is subsequently an issue of worldwide concern. Poverty is a scourge that affect individuals everywhere throughout the world and it is considered as one of the indicators or sign of underdevelopment (Adebayo, 2013). Poverty is multidimensional and complex system, an acceptable method of measuring it presents a number of challenges (Chamhuri, Karim & Hamdan 2012). Beyond low income, there is low human, social and financial capital.

The most common approach to measuring poverty is quantitative, money-metric measures which use income or consumption to assess whether a household can afford to purchase a basic basket of goods at a given point in time. The application of this approach to poverty measurement has received serious criticism for its inability to capture multidimensional poverty adequately especially in developing countries. Carter & May (2001); Filmer & Pritchett (2001); Moser & Felton (2007); Hoque (2014) advocated the use of asset to compliment income and consumption-based measures of welfare and wealth in less developed nations.

Until recently urban poverty studies received low priority on research and development agenda of Nigerian government. Well over two decades poverty studies and policies in Nigeria have been ruled by rural development and poverty reduction. The late renewed enthusiasm for urban issues has been due to the wide spread idea across the board that urbanization is accelerating (Osinubi 2003). In 1970, developing nation’s level of urbanization was 25%. In 1994, expanded to 37% and it is anticipated to be 57% in 2025 (Mehta 2001).

Urbanization is occurring rapidly, with estimates that the number of people living in urban areas will double to more than 5 billion between 1990 and 2025. With this increase, the number of poor in urban areas is also likely to rise. While the dimensions of poverty are many, there is a subset of characteristics that are more pronounced for the poor in urban areas and may require specific analysis (Baharaoglu and Kessides, 2002).

- commoditization (reliance on the cash economy);
- overcrowded living conditions (slums);
- environmental hazard (stemming from density and hazardous location of settlements, and exposure to multiple pollutants);
- social fragmentation (lack of community and inter-household mechanisms for social security, relative to those in rural areas);
- crime and violence;
- traffic accidents; and
- natural disasters.

### **2.3 The Nature and Incidence of poverty in Nigeria**

Nigeria is the ninth largest oil producing country in the world (World Bank 2000). Yet, the incidence of poverty in Nigeria is widespread. Poverty in Nigeria is best captured in the work of Oshewolo (2010); he writes, “Poverty holds sway in the midst of plenty. A situation described by the World Bank (1996) as “bewildering paradox” poverty in the midst of plenty. The World Bank (2000) estimated that about 27% of Nigerians were living in poverty in 1980. This was defined as those living on less than the Naira (Nigerian currency) equivalent of US\$1 per day. By 1985 the proportion of the poor rose to 46% and by 1999 about two-thirds of Nigerians were deep into poverty and fallen below the poverty line.

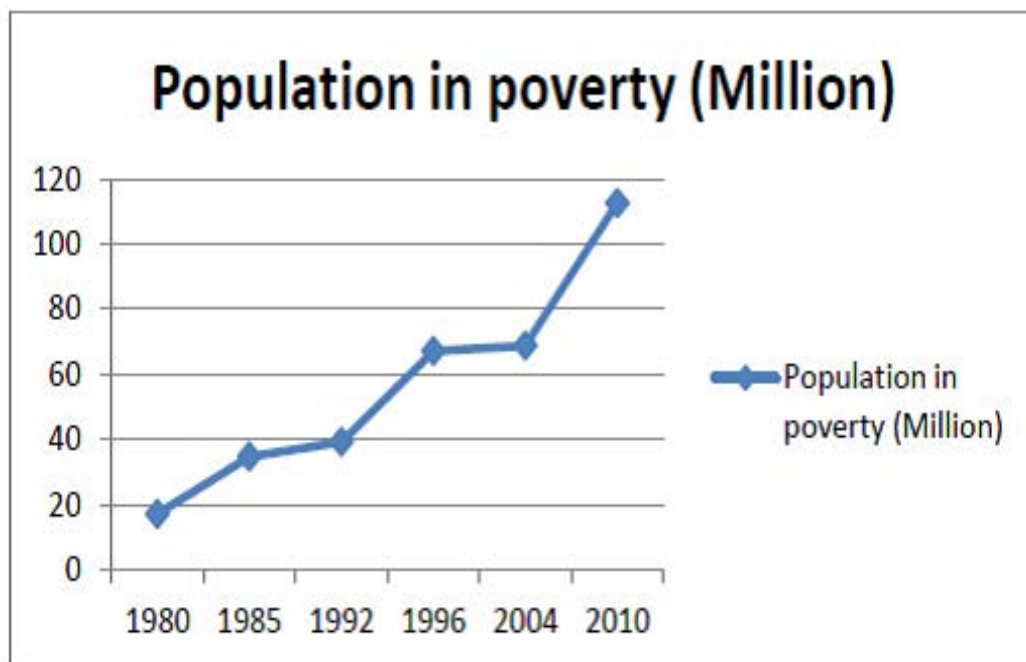
Poverty in Nigeria is expressed in terms of consumption levels, as well as with regards to access to basic services (primary healthcare, basic education, access to potable water and sanitation; and transportation). The factors that caused poverty to rise in Nigeria are multidimensional: unemployment, corruption, overdependence on oil, fallen oil revenues non-diversification of the economy, inequality, poor educational system, political instability among others (Ucha 2010).

The World Bank (2008) reported an alarming increase in poverty rates and the sharp inequality between the rich and the poor in Nigeria. Although there has been steady economic growth in the last few years, Igbuzor, (2006) lamented whether the benefits are evenly distributed, especially to the poor. Nigeria is ranked among 20 countries in the world with the widest gap between the rich and the poor. Figure 1 and 2 presents a graphic picture of Nigeria’s poverty profile and the population living in poverty.

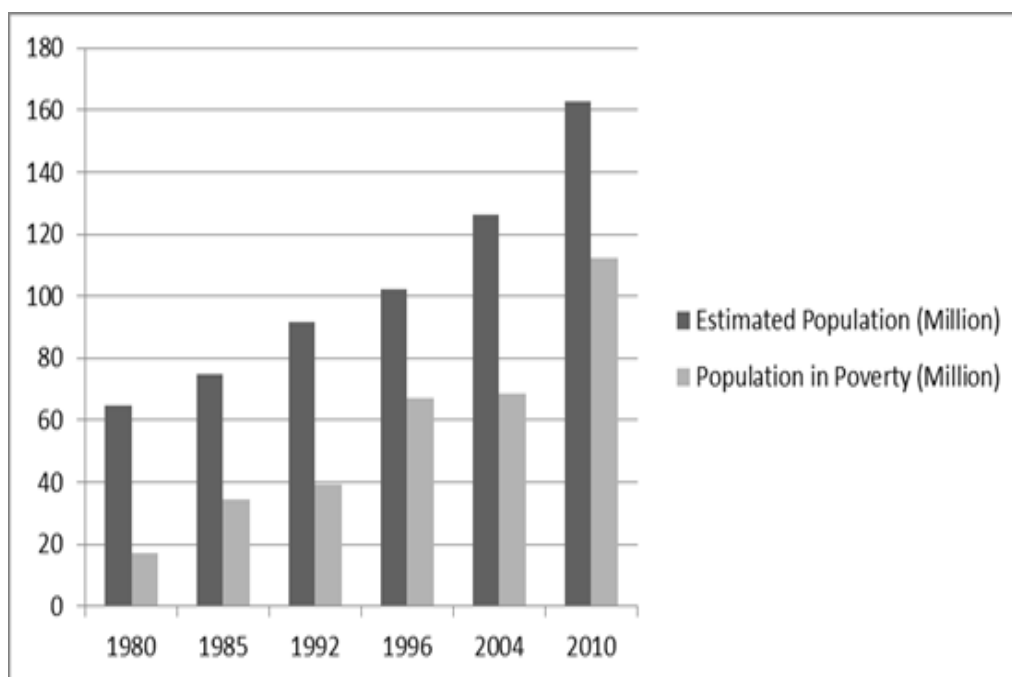
Over the years different administrations made concerted efforts locally through poverty alleviation policies/programs and internationally through aid and loans to alleviate and eradicate poverty in Nigeria. One of such efforts as noted by Oladeji and Abiola, (2000) was from organizations like United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; (UNCTAD), the World Bank, and The Inter-African Development Bank. These donor organizations adopted a policy that half of their loans have to be channeled directly to poverty reduction programs in Africa.

The Department for International Development (DFID) renewed its commitment to the moral imperative to end poverty, by affirming that “ending poverty is the greatest moral challenge facing

our generation.” Other efforts are those by the UN which created the Millennium Development Goal, with one of its focuses on, “ending poverty and hunger (Garces-Ozann 2011).



**Figure 1: NIGERIAN POVERTY PROFILE (1980 – 2010)**



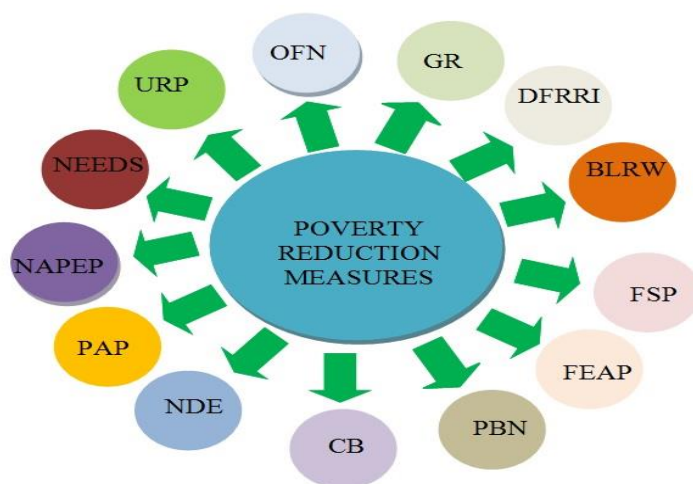
**Figure 2: NIGERIA-ESTIMATED POPULATION VERSUS POPULATION IN POVERTY**

## 2.4 Poverty Reduction Measures in Nigeria

Successive Nigerian Governments had initiated and implemented several policies and programmes, which were aimed at reducing and alleviating community level poverty. From 1985-1999 it is estimated that Nigeria attempted the implementation of twenty three (23) poverty reduction projects. The African Development Fund (ADF) (2000) reported that almost all the projects failed to fulfil their mandates mainly because of political instability and minimal participation of stakeholders in their design, management and evaluation. At the same period poverty in the country increased from 46% in 1985 to at least 66% in 1999.

Some of these programmes shown in figure 3 include Operation Feed the Nation (OPN), Green Revolution (GR), Directorate For Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Community Bank (CB), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and lately National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) among others.

Several claims and counter claims of successes/failures of these programmes by their initiators and critics abound. The failure of these poverty reduction programmes in the past provides fertile ground on which lessons were learned in order to design the new poverty reduction model “the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP).” The new approach embedded the full participation of stakeholders in the selection and implementation of community level poverty reduction interventions.



**Figure 3: POVERTY REDUCTION MEASURES IN NIGERIA**

Despite these measures and Nigeria's relative oil wealth, a significant portion of the country's population lives in poverty. Approximately 70 million Nigerians live on less than US\$1/day (World Bank and DFID, 2005). This is below the target set by MDGs and over one-third live in extreme poverty (defined as those who cannot afford 2900 calories per day) (UNDP 2006). In recent decades,

while Nigeria became a major exporter of oil, the proportion of people experiencing income poverty has increased. Annual per capita income fell to about US\$350 in 2003 (well below the sub-Saharan Africa average of US\$450) (World Bank and DFID, 2005).

Poverty in Nigeria is multidimensional and the Human Development Index (HDI) for Nigeria is low (0.448), giving the country a ranking of 159th out of 177 countries (UNDP 2006). The Federal Office of Statistics (2002); Obadan (2009) confirmed that at least 25% of the undernourished population in West Africa were Nigerians.

## **2.5 Community Driven Development (CDD)**

The community-driven development came into limelight following heated debates concerning the inability of the neo-classical development models to address issues like community participation, poverty reduction, human welfare, equitable income distribution, unemployment and distribution of infrastructures (Madu, et'al 2013). The Community-Based Development (CBD) and its more recent variant Community-Driven Development (CDD) are among the fast growing mechanisms for channeling development assistance. Community-based development is an umbrella term for projects that actively include beneficiaries in their design and management of community-driven development refers to as community-based development projects in which communities have direct control over key decisions, including investment funds.

The CDD ("bottom-up approach") emerged against the conventional "top-down" development approach which had no sustainable impact on the quality of life and living conditions of community members. The CDD model encourages the active participation of community members in identification, preparation and financing of sub-projects that meet their aspirations (Abdoul 2010). This new development model places the people at the centre of decision making concerning their lives, gives voice and absolute power to community members (beneficiaries) over resources and decisions affecting them.

The CDD approach enables community members to express their choices freely and take initiatives on issues affecting their lives (Narayan 2000; Abdoul 2010). This approach is reported to be the most commonly used method by both government and development assistance and programmes (Gillespie 2004; Mansuri and Rao 2004; Platteau 2004). This is partly due to its capacity to implement programmes and projects that are capable of empowering the local people to take charge and manage their development agendas that are sustainable and conform to local demands.

Alkire et al (2001) submitted that CDD approach treat the poor people as asset and partners in community development process. It improve targeting, preference targeting, mechanisms for identifying who benefits, improve public service delivery and improve project sustainability. More importantly, the model focuses attention on the poor and vulnerable groups in the community (Dongier et' al 2004).

## **2.6 Kebbi Community Based Poverty Reduction Project**

Nigeria adopted the Community Based Poverty Reduction Initiative in the year 2000 as a likely remedy for poor social service delivery. The programme which is modeled after the Social Fund Concept (SFC), emphasizes the participation of communities and civil societies in the planning,



execution and management of community level projects. This was in response to the United Nations Declaration on Human Habitat and the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs).

The World Bank, having been convinced of the need to try the community-driven development approach to development in Nigeria, agreed to partner with the Federal Government to establish the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP). In line with this, the Kebbi Community Based Poverty Reduction Project (KBCPRP) was launched in 2001 to experiment the implementation of the programme in Kebbi state. Alongside Abia, Cross River, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Gombe, Kogi, Kwara, Osun, Yobe and Zamfara States.

The thrust of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of the poor communities to identify, plan, implement and maintain micro projects at the community level through Community Driven Development (CDD). The objective of the CDD approach is to empower the communities to express their demands effectively, assume responsibility and be accountable to their projects.

### **3.0 METHODS**

#### **3.1 The Study Area**

##### **3.1.1 Geography**

The study was conducted in Kebbi state, Nigeria. Kebbi state is located in the North Western part of Nigeria and is among the states that implemented the community-based poverty reduction project. The estimated population of Kebbi state is 3.8 million (NPC 2011). Like most of the states in the North Western region, it has low socio - economic indicators. Nigeria is a country in West Africa. Nigeria shares land borders with the Republic of Benin in the west, Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north. Its coast lies on the Gulf of Guinea in the south and it borders Lake Chad to the northeast.

Nigeria is a relative large country which occupies about 923,768 square kilometres. It lies between 40161 and 130531 north latitude and between 20° 40' and 14° 04' east longitude. Nigeria is bordered in the south by approximately 800 kilometres of the Atlantic Ocean, in the west by the Republic of Benin, in the north by the Republic of Niger and in the east by the Republic of Cameroon. The climate of the country generally falls within the humid tropics, since; the country is located close to the equator. The vegetation of the country ranges from mangrove forest on the coast to savannah grass in the far north.

##### **3.1.2 Population**

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and indeed in the black nation of the world with a population of 140 million people accounting for 47% of West Africa's population (and nearly a fifth of Sub-Saharan Africa's). The National Population Commission (2006) estimates the population of Nigeria to hit 163 million in 2010 while the UN, (2013) put the population of Nigeria at 178.5 million.

#### **3.2 Methods of Data Collection and Analysis**

Using quasi-experimental approach, 704 respondents from CBPRP communities, non-participants and non-CBPRP communities were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire. The variables of concern in this study were the socio-economic status of the respondents, their level of participation and location. The chi-square statistics was used to test the relationship between the variables.

## 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Households Socio-Economic Status and Participation

Table 1 revealed that 62.8 per cent and 26.6 per cent of the respondents were between the ages of 18 to 44 and 45 to 54 years respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents were youths and adults that are within the productive years and capable of perceiving the consequences of poverty on their existence. Table 2 shows that 41 per cent of the respondents were from CBPRP communities, 21.6 per cent were non-participants and 37.4 per cent were in non-CBPRP communities.

Table 1: **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND RESPONDENTS LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**

Socioeconomic Status		Cross tabulations Levels of Participation						Significance Level
Variables	Categories	Non	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Total	
<b>Age</b>	18-25	4.8	2.8	8.2	7.8	2.6	26.3	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=70.075</b> <b>d.f=16</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	26-44	6.3	3.1	9.5	9.8	7.8	36.5	
	45-54	7.8	5.8	4.0	4.5	4.4	26.6	
	55-64	2.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.6	8.9	
	65+	0.3	0.9	-	0.1	0.4	1.7	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female	4.3	1.7	3.4	1.6	1.6	12.5	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=14.134</b> <b>d.f=4</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	Male	17.6	12.2	20.0	22.4	15.2	87.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Education</b>	No formal	12.6	7.7	0.9	-	-	21.2	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=589.046</b> <b>d.f=16</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	Koranic	0.6	4.7	1.6	-	-	6.8	
	Primary	8.5	1.4	20.9	0.6	-	31.4	
	Secondary	0.1	0.1	0.1	23.0	1.7	25.1	
	Tertiary	-	-	-	0.4	15.1	15.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Occupation</b>	Student	-	0.3	0.4	-	0.6	1.3	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=547.829</b> <b>d.f=16</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	Handicraft	0.7	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.1	3.6	
	Farming	20.6	12.9	19.3	13.2	1.7	67.8	
	Business	0.6	0.3	2.6	8.0	1.8	13.2	
	Employed	-	0.1	-	1.6	12.5	14.2	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Household size</b>	1-5	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.8	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=47.150</b> <b>d.f=16</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	6-10	3.8	2.8	5.8	6.5	4.5	23.6	
	11-15	10.8	4.5	12.8	10.5	4.4	42.8	
	16-20	4.8	3.7	3.0	4.1	4.7	20.3	
	21+	2.4	2.7	1.3	2.3	2.8	11.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<10000	17.8	5.7	5.7	5.1	0.1	38.1	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=597.940</b> <b>d.f=16</b> <b>P&lt;0.05</b>
	10000-20000	3.8	8.1	12.6	7.7	1.1	33.4	
	20001-40000	2.3	0.1	1.3	10.5	7.5	19.7	
	40001-60000	-	-	0.1	0.7	6.0	6.8	
	Above 60000	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table 2: **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS**

Socioeconomic Status		Cross tabulations Survey Groups				Significance Level
Variables	Categories	CBPRP Participants	Non-participants	Non-CBPRP communities	Total	
Age	18-25	10.5	5.8	9.9	26.3	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=6.870</b> <b>d.f=8</b> <b>p&gt;0.05</b>
	26-44	14.9	8.5	13.1	36.5	
	45-54	11.2	5.4	9.9	26.6	
	55-64	4.0	1.1	3.8	8.9	
	65+	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.7	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	
Gender	Female	5.1	3.1	4.3	12.5	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=.829</b> <b>d.f=2</b> <b>p&gt;0.05</b>
	Male	35.9	18.5	33.1	87.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	
Level of education	No formal	8.2	3.3	9.7	21.2	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=20.464</b> <b>d.f=8</b> <b>p&lt;0.05</b>
	Koranic	1.7	2.0	3.1	6.8	
	Primary	12.2	6.4	12.8	31.4	
	Secondary	11.5	6.1	7.5	25.1	
	Tertiary	7.4	3.8	4.3	15.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>100</b>	
Occupation	Student	1.0	0.1	0.1	1.3	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=16.764</b> <b>d.f=8</b> <b>p&lt;0.05</b>
	Handicraft	2.3	0.6	0.7	3.6	
	Farming	25.9	14.6	27.3	67.8	
	Business	5.1	2.8	5.3	13.2	
	Employed	6.8	3.4	4.0	14.2	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	
Household size	1-5	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.8	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=4.795</b> <b>d.f=8</b> <b>p&gt;0.05</b>
	6-10	11.2	4.3	8.1	23.6	
	11-15	16.8	9.4	16.6	42.8	
	16-20	8.0	4.7	7.7	20.3	
	21+	4.4	2.7	4.4	11.5	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	
Income	<10000	11.1	8.1	18.9	38.1	<b>X<sup>2</sup>=38.800</b> <b>d.f=8</b> <b>p&lt;.000</b>
	10000-20000	16.1	7.0	10.4	33.4	
	20001-40000	9.5	4.5	5.7	19.7	
	40001-60000	3.3	1.7	1.8	6.8	
	Above 60000	1.1	0.3	0.6	2.0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Using Chi-square test, the study generated the findings as shown in Tables 1 above. The study revealed a significant relationship between households' socio-economic status (age, gender, level of education, occupation, household size and income) and the degree of participation. The degree of participation was determined by the application of the following scale: non, low, moderate, high and very high participation.

#### 4.2 Households Socio-Economic Status and location

The result of the Chi-square test in Table 2 presents a significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of respondents and their places of residence. Except household size that has no significant relationship with location (CBPRP communities, non-participants and non-CBPRP communities).

## 5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Poverty is a complex phenomenon and the fight against it requires a comprehensive approach that is all-encompassing. Government cannot fight and win the war against lingering poverty alone in any country, be it urban or rural poverty. The onus of poverty reduction rest squarely on the synergy between the government, private sector and the citizens. Such collaboration will explore both the physical and mental resources imbedded in communities over time in order to subdue poverty. In this regard, the fight against poverty will start from the mind of the people, combines with the flow and availability of resources from the government. The best strategy for poverty reduction in Nigeria is that which incorporate empowerment that will teach the poor how to create wealth for themselves, the promotion of community level assistance, and the revival of traditional thrift system and job creation by public authorities.

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