

**IMPACT OF THE N-POWER PROGRAM ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA (2016-2020)**

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**ABSTRACT:** This study examined the effect of n-power program on poverty alleviation in Nigeria; a study Enugu state, 2016 - 2020. The study sought to assess how N-Power programme of President Mohammadu Buhari administration had achieved its target of poverty alleviation in Enugu state between 2016 – 2020 and examine the constraints that undermine N-power programme in poverty alleviation in Enugu State. The study was descriptive and relied on secondary sources of data collection and used content analysis to analyze its data. The study found among others, that N-Power programme has assuaged unemployment, built capacities of young graduates, increased disposable income, stimulated economic value chain and has enhanced investment of youths in within the period of 2016-2020. While it was challenged by decentralization of authority, correct BVN information, objective decision on recruitment, selection of candidates with requisite training and conversion of N-Power beneficiaries to permanent staff would make N-Power programme formidable for reduction of unemployment in Nigeria. The study recommended that government should endeavour to make N-Power job permanent, candidates with skills and knowledge into N-Power programme and that government should decentralize N-Power programme to both state and local government levels, equally, beneficiaries should endeavour to submit correct BVN to the management of N-Power for easy payment of stipends. All these can enhance N-Power to alleviate poverty in Enugu state.

**Keywords:** N-Power Program, Poverty Alleviation, Unemployment, Economic Value Chain, Youth Investment

## **INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria is bequeathed with rich human and natural resources. Given this wealth in economic potentials, it is ironical that Nigeria is still rated as one of the poorest countries of the world, placed at 164 position out of 188 countries on Human Development Index ranking. Nigeria is suffering not only from poverty, income inequality, low income, unstable growth, but also from unemployment, economic and political instability, and poor investment (Dike, 2022).

The scale of economic inequality in the country has reached an extreme level, in spite of the numerous government poverty alleviation programmes initiated since 1980s till date. Nigeria is lagging behind the 2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target No. 1 set by the United Nations General Assembly which is to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” by 2030 (Kolawole and Omobitan, 2015). With poverty level at 67.1 percent and the enormity of

the challenge, it is not surprising that the 2015 target of 21.4 percent poverty level was not met by Nigeria (Faloye and Bakare, 2015). The concern over increasing poverty levels in Nigeria and the need for its eradication has led to the conceptualization and implementation of various targeted and non-targeted poverty alleviation programmes. Unfortunately, the issue of poverty alleviation has proven to be the most difficult challenge facing the country with a large majority of the populace living in extreme poverty (Faloye and Bakare, 2015). According to Kolawole and Omobitan (2015), poverty in Nigeria is a paradox. Paradox in sense that, poverty level in Nigeria contradicts the country's abundant wealth of both human and natural resources. That is, there is poverty in the midst of plenty and inequality in the face of economic growth.

However, in the pursuit to better the standard of living of Nigerians, several programmes were introduced and implemented at different periods by different administrations such as: Operation Feed the Nation of 1977 (OFN), the Green Revolution of 1980, Directorate of foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRFRI), the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAP), the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Agricultural Development Project (ADP) amongst many others. The major objective of these programmes amongst other things was to reduce and possibly eliminate poverty that has affected Nigeria's economy for decades and to reduce the inequality between the populace. In addition, effort has been committed by successive governments to bring about significant reduction in youth unemployment, subsequently leading to poverty reduction. One of such programmes is the N-power scheme initiated by the Buhari-led administration in 2016.

In 2004, like other countries of the world at UN millennium summit that signed to the Millennium Development Goals, Nigeria established NEEDS as its own version of poverty reduction and Eradication programme. The NEEDS document contains the following actionable goals: Increase average per capital consumption by at least 2% a year; Create about 7 million jobs by 2007; Increase the percentage of the population with access to safe drinking water to at least 70% by 2007; Increase immunization coverage to 60% by 2007; Significantly increase school enrollment rates, especially for girls, and increase the adult literacy rate to at least 65% by 2007. (Source: NEEDS Document, 2004). It is pitiable to disclose that Nigeria did not meet the targets of MDGs as contained in the NEEDS document and never made it at the expiration of the period before the SDGs.

Poverty is widely acknowledged as a major global development challenge which draws development attention since the beginning of this millennium. This is why the United Nations (UN) in its millennium summit at New York City in the year 2000 agreed to reduce poverty by half in 2015, and to eradicate poverty everywhere in all its forms by 2030 through the adoption of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To further emphasize the important of poverty reduction and to re-enforce the MDGs, the United Nations in 2015 had another summit with the theme "Eradicating Poverty in all its Dimension and Addressing Inequality." At the end of the summit, the over 149 member states signed and adopted the global popular Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which has 17 goals and 147 targets aimed at eradicating poverty and sustaining a conducive environment for the present and future generations.

Nineteen years after the MDGs and three years after the SDGs, the Brookings Institution (2018) reported that Nigeria had overtaken India as the poverty capital of the world with 86.9

million people living in extreme poverty. This was confirmed by British Prime minister, Theresa May (2018) who said, “Much of Nigeria is thriving, with many individuals enjoying the fruit of a resurgent economy, yet 87 million Nigerian live below \$1 and 90 cents a day, making it home to more very poor people than any other nation in the world.” Meanwhile, researches have revealed that there is a positive relationship between population and poverty growth rate in Nigeria. According to World Poverty Clock (2020), 105 million Nigerians lived in extreme poverty as at May, 2020. This translates to 51% of Nigeria’s population in the same year. As projected by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2018), “over 40% of the world’s poorest people would live in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo by 2050.”

However, the Federal Government of Nigeria as led by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 introduced the N-Power programme as a deliberate effort to pull Nigerians out of poverty through capacity building, investment and direct support to N-Power beneficiaries as a component of National Social Investment programme (NSIP). As an employability enhancement programme, N-power is designed to help young Nigerians between the ages of 18-35 years to improve their income status, acquire and develop life-long skills to become solution providers in their employability and entrepreneurial skills, improve public service delivery in key focus areas and to derive social, economic and financial inclusion (Akpan, Essien & Essien, 2015).

N-power is a National Social Investment Programme of the Federal Government aimed specifically at job creation and youth empowerment through human capital development. In essence, one of the objectives of the programme was to boost the human capital of the Nigerian labour force (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). The human capital boost appears to be in area of youth employment which was intended to be addressed through youth empowerment. Nigeria still remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently released the 2019 Poverty and inequality report in Nigeria, which highlights that 40 percent of the total population, or almost 83 million Nigerians, live below the country’s poverty line. Nigeria’s poverty profile is grim and embarrassing for a country endowed with humongous human and natural resources. Evidence has shown the level of abject poverty in Nigeria following the collapse of crude oil prices between 2014 and 2016. In the wake of 2016, the economy was thrown into its first recession, as the economy shrank by 1.6%. Hence, poverty stands at 33.1% in Africa’s largest economy. In 2018, the rate of population growth was higher than economic growth rate which culminated into a slow rise in poverty. Likewise, World Bank (2018) reported that almost half of the Nigerian population lives below the global poverty line of \$1.90 per day with attending unemployment rate at 23.1%.

The N-Power Knowledge programme is a ‘Training to Jobs’ initiative, essentially ensuring that participants can get engaged in the marketplace in an outsourcing capacity, as freelancers, as employees and as entrepreneurs (Federal Ministry of Youth Development, 2009). Indeed, the programme is carefully designed in such a manner that if well implemented, can help in further addressing the challenges of empowerment and subsequently, reduce poverty among the youths. But then of course, there appears to be some confusion of some sort in the way and manner the programme is being handled. The programme could not kick off in most states as scheduled. Some of the controversies included the fact that the names released so far are reportedly fraught with ‘ghost names’ (Bennel, 2017).

The high rate of unemployment among the youth in Enugu state contribute to the high rate of poverty and insecurity in the local government areas that was connected to lack of job to the teeming youths. Therefore, the researcher intends to investigate why, despite of the establishment of N-Power and other programmes embarked upon by the federal government to alleviate poverty in the land, the phenomenon continued unabated in the local government area which had resulted in unending social vices like incessant kidnapping and armed robbery in different parts of the state. The study will assess the implementation of N-power programme as poverty reduction strategy in Nigeria using Enugu state as a focusing point.

### **Problem Statement**

Poverty and unemployment remains one of the biggest social problems in Nigeria today. Available data from NBS (2010) shows that more than half of Nigerians population is currently living in squalid livelihood and has consistently remained a worrisome phenomenon demanding urgent national attention. This is not unconnected to the fact that the poverty rate continues and had remained unabated in society, which gives room for other social vices such as armed robbery, burglary. To tackle this problem, successive Governments of Nigeria have implemented a range of measures, including NAPEP, SURE-P and currently the NSIP initiative. The NSIP initiative is envisaged to address a range of social problems such as curbing the incidence of poverty, teeming youth unemployment, entrepreneurship orientation and increasing school enrolment

The N-power initiative, which is the job creation component of the policy aims at reducing poverty and unemployment and is targeted at the Nigerian youths. However, creating a policy and its implementation to achieve set goals appear to be mutually exclusive in the Nigerian context. Efforts by successive governments to combat the excruciating poverty and monumental unemployment as well as other initiatives geared toward alleviating the precarious situation surrounding the Nigerian youths and to enhance the quality of life had ended in fiasco, as a consequence of abysmal and porous implementation of the said programmes. There are some noticeable challenges in the N-Power Programme of Buhari administration and they are; insufficient information, non-payment of stipend to participants as at when due, bribery and corruption, wrong Bank Verification Number (BVN) and overbearing hands of politicians in the Programme.

To salvage these situations there is the need for the training of educated men and women who can function effectively in their society in which they live in terms of self-employment and self-reliant which N-Power program is out to provide. The aim of this study is to assess the effect of the N-power programme in poverty alleviation through three salient areas via employment generation, economic well-being and skills enhancement.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study has both broad and specific objectives. The broad objective is to examine the effect of the N-power programme on poverty alleviation in Enugu state. The specific objective is to;

1. examine the constraints that undermine N-power programme in poverty alleviation in Enugu State

### **Research Question**

Based on the objectives, the study raised the following research questions to guide the study:

1. What are the constraints that undermine N-power programme on poverty alleviation in Enugu State?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses are formulated to guide the study

1. Policy inconsistency and inadequate commitment are the constraints that undermine N-power programme on poverty alleviation in Nsukka local government area of Enugu State.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **N-Power as a Social Intervention Programme**

N-Power is a programme that provides a platform where most Nigerians can access skills acquisition and development. At this time however, the initial modular programmes in N-Power are designed for Nigerian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35. One needs to meet the minimum requirements (if any) for the respective programme. Generally, selection is based: On one's expression of a genuine interest in whichever area you decide; passing the relevant tests; willingness to push beyond comfort zone; and ability to show flair to develop all the skills you need to be the best you can be (N-Power Information Guide, 2017). While there are fixed requirements along the way, we will be relying on you to take ownership of the process and take the lead in shaping your route, by making the most of the training that you will receive. For the purposes of N-Power, Graduate means any post-tertiary qualification including an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) or Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) or as may be specified by the programme ((N-Power Information Guide, 2017).

The key N-Power Programmes include N-Power Agro, N-Power Tax, N-Power Health, N-Power Teach. The N-Power Volunteer Corps is the post-tertiary engagement initiative for Nigerians between 18 and 35. It is a paid volunteering programme of a 2-year duration. The graduates will undertake their primary tasks in identified public services within their proximate communities. All N-Power Volunteers are entitled to computing devices that will contain information necessary for their specific engagement, as well as information for their continuous training and development. In 2016, the Federal Government engaged 200,000 N-Power Volunteers. In 2017, the Federal Government is enlisting 300,000 more. The June 2017 Application, is only open to the Graduate Category. N- Power volunteers provide teaching, instructional, and advisory solutions in 4 key areas (Bennel, 2017).

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development. Despite the current high level of unemployment, harnessing Nigeria's young demography through appropriate skill development efforts provides an opportunity to achieve inclusion and productivity within the country. Large-scale skill development is the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme. N-Power is also linked to the Federal Government's policies in



the economic, empowerment and social development arenas. N-Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. The modular programmes under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. The N-Power Volunteer Corp involves a massive deployment of 500,000 trained graduates who will assist to improve the inadequacies in our public services in education, health and civic education. Some of these graduates will also help in actualizing Nigeria's economic and strategic aspirations of achieving food security and self-sufficiency (Federal Ministry of Youth Development, 2017).

N-Power programme under the national social investment programme, is the federal government of Nigeria's direct intervention to tackle youth unemployment and re-energize public service delivery in four key sectors (Education, agriculture, health and vocational training). This mandate will be achieved by training and providing Jobs for millions of young and unemployed Nigerian graduates between the ages of 18- 35 across the 774 local government of Federation. This is in line with Mr. President's goal to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years. N-Power is a scheme set up by the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari since 8 June 2016, to address the issues of youth unemployment and help increase social development. The scheme was created as a component of National Social Investment Program, to provide a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development and to ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what necessary to find or create work (Buhari, 2016).

According to N-power Nigeria (2023), "Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development. Despite the current high level of unemployment, harnessing Nigeria's young demography through appropriate skill development efforts provides an opportunity to achieve inclusion and productivity within the country. Large-scale skill development is the main policy thrust of the N-Power Programme." N-Power is also linked to the Federal Government's policies in the economic, employment and social development arenas. N-Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. The modular programmes under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. The N-Power Volunteer Corp involves a massive deployment of 500,000 trained graduates who will assist to improve the inadequacies in our public services in education, health and civic education. Some of these graduates will also help in actualising Nigeria's economic and strategic aspirations of achieving food security and self-sufficiency.

N-Power is preparing young Nigerians for a knowledge economy where, equipped with world-class skills and certification, they become innovators and movers in the domestic and global markets. Nigeria will have a pool of software developers, hardware service professionals, animators, graphic artists, building services professionals, artisans and others. N-Power also focuses on providing our non-graduates with relevant technical and business skills that enhance their work outlook and livelihood (Okogbo, 2017). The N-Power program is classified into two namely the graduates' categories and Non-graduates' categories. The graduates' categories are as follows:

N-Teach: The N-power tech programme has deployed 900,000 beneficiaries to primary schools as teaching assistants in various primary schools in the country. N-Power has been able to train and send N-Teach recipients to schools thanks to collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The quality of education provided in these schools has improved as a result of the massive influx of new teachers. (Bennel, 2017).

N-Health: Young graduates are taught to serve as support health assistants through the N-Power Health program. The N-Health programme lasts for a year and each beneficiary is entitled to 30,000-naira monthly stipend for work done. since its inception, Over 150,000 N-Power beneficiaries have been assigned to Primary Health Care facilities across the nation. Together with the NPHCDA and the Ministry of Health, this is accomplished. (Akujuru & Enyioko, 2019).

N-Agriculture: The N-power Agro program trains young graduates and gives them content across different farming modules to enable them to prepare for the role of an agricultural extension/ support worker. N-Agro volunteers serve as middlemen to support the stimulation of the agricultural value chain. They are primarily stationed at farms around the nation, and their primary duty is to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to produce the highest possible yields and output. N-Power, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, has deployed over 300,000 Agric extension officers across the country (Odey & Sambe, 2019).

Non-Graduate Programme Categories:

N-Knowledge program has helped to reduce the effects of the difficult business environment in Nigeria by providing a source of scheduled revenue as well as empowering youths in globally competitive sectors such as the industry focusing on the creative arts and ICT. The N-knowledge programme is categorized into N-Tech hardware, N-Tech Software, and N-Creative.

The N-Skills programme is designed to improve the quality and relevance of skills delivered using a certification system to ease the transition of target beneficiaries to full-time skilled employment, self-employment, and/or further their education. It targets marginalized and disadvantaged populations, including those with primary or no formal education.

### **Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the poverty alleviation measures implemented so far have focused more on growth, basic needs and rural development approaches. The first was the *Farm Settlement Option* introduced in 1960's. The intention of the Nigerian government was to develop both the export and cash crops. In 1972, the scheme collapsed but birthed the *National Accelerated Food Production project*. The projective was to create an avenue for testing and adapting agricultural research findings and making such available to farmers. In 1973, *Agriculture Development Project (ADP)* was established to provide credit facilities for the development of agricultural projects, in order to promote integrated rural developments. It was partly financed and executed by the World Bank, but became moribund after a brief spell. *Operation Feed the Nation* came on board in 1976 to arouse in Nigerians, the habit of cultivating food and cash crops in order to be self-reliant. It only succeeded in arousing the awareness of increasing food production without any appreciable increase in agricultural

production. In 1977 the *Rural Banking Scheme* was designed to bring banking nearer to the people at the grassroots through granting of credit facilities. In addition the Federal Military Government in 1978 introduced *Austerity Measures* by banning the importation of some goods and placing others on license. Government expenditure was greatly reduced and emphasis was placed on the consumption of made-in-Nigeria goods. But the measures were relaxed in 1979.

During the pre-SAP era, poverty reduction was never the direct focus of development planning and management. Government only showed concern for poverty reduction indirectly. For example, the objectives of the first National Development Plan in Nigeria included the development of opportunities in health, employment and education as well as improvement of access to these opportunities. These objectives, if achieved could no doubt lead to poverty alleviation.

Similarly, the Fourth National Development Plan, which appeared to be more precise in the specification of objectives that are associated with poverty reduction, emphasized increase in real income of the average citizen as well as reduction of income inequality, among other things (2019). During this era national development plans, many of the programmes which were put in place in Nigeria by the government (either wholly or in association with international agencies) had positive effects on poverty reduction although the target population for some of the programmes were not specified explicitly as poor people or communities (Ogwumike, 2019). For instance, the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), and the Rural Banking Programme (RBP). Most of these programmes were designed to take care of such objectives as employment generation, enhancing agricultural output and income, and stemming the tide of rural – urban migration, which no doubt affected poverty reduction.

Despite some significant degree of success made by some of these programmes, most of them could not be sustained. In fact, with time, many of them failed as a result of diversion from the original focus. For instance, the Rural Banking and the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme at many stages failed to deliver the desired credit for agricultural and rural transformation because a lot of savings were mobilized in the rural areas only to be diverted to urban areas in form of credits/investments. Other notable poverty reduction related programmes that were put in place in

Nigeria before the advent of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) include Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) set up in 1977. Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE) set up also in 1977, Green Revolution established in 1980, and Low Cost Housing Scheme. Both OFN and Green Revolution were set up to boost agricultural production and improve the general performance of the agricultural sector among other things. These programmes made some laudable impacts; they enhanced the quality of life of many Nigerians. But the programmes could not be sustained due to lack of political will and commitment, policy instability and insufficient involvement of the beneficiaries in these programmes (CBN Enugu Zone, 1998).

Conscious policy effort by government towards poverty alleviation began in Nigeria during the era of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). The severe economic crisis in Nigeria in the early 1980s worsened the quality of life of most Nigerians. The government made



determined effort to check the crisis through the adoption of SAP. However, the implementation of SAP further worsened the living conditions of many Nigerians especially the poor who were the most vulnerable group. This made the government to design and implement many poverty alleviation programmes between 1986 and 1993. Also under the guided deregulation that spanned the period 1993 to 1998, more poverty reduction programmes were put in place by government. A summary of various anti – poverty programmes which the government of Nigeria had put in place since 1986 is presented in the table below.

**Table 1: Anti – Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria between 1960-2020**

Programmes	Year Established	Head of Government	Target Group	Nature of Intervention
National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP)	1972	General Yakubu Gowon	Peasant Farmers	To educate farmers; fund agriculture; increase food production
Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB)	1972	Yakubu Gowon	Peasant farmer	Agricultural Financing
Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)	1976	Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo	Rural dwellers	To educate farmers; increase food production
River Basin Development Authority (RBDA)	1976	Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo	The entire society	To harness Nigeria's water resource potentials for multiple uses
Green Revolution	1979	Shehu Shagari	The entire society	To curtail food importation; boost crop and fiber production; mechanized farming.
War Against Indiscipline (WAI)/Go Back to the land	1983	General Muhammed Buhari and Brigadier Babaunde Idiagbon	The entire society	War against indiscipline/increased food production
Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)	1986	General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Rural Dwellers	Feeder roads rehabilitation, rural water supply and rural electrification
National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	1986	General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Unemployed Youths	Skill acquisition; Self-employment; Labour intensive work scheme; Training, Financing and guidance
Better Life Programme (BLP)	1987	General Ibrahim	Rural Women	Self-help and rural development programme,

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		Badamosi Babangida		skill acquisition
Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN)	1989	General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Under privileged in rural and urban areas	Encourage saving; provision of loans and credit facilities
Community Banks (CB)	1990	General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida	Rural residents and micro enterprise in urban areas	Securing loans and credit facilities
Family Support Programmes (FSP)	1994	General Sanni Abacha	Families in rural areas	Health care delivery; child welfare; youth development; Improved family nutrition
Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)	1998	General Sanni Abacha	Rural dwellers	Credit facilities to support the establishment of cottage industries; create employment opportunities
Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)	2000	General Olusegun Obasanjo	Unemployed youths	Reduce unemployment and crime wave; creating a credit delivery system for farmers; increasing adult literacy rate and healthcare delivery; training and settlement of university graduate; developing small industries.
NAPEP	2001	General Olusegun Obasanjo	The entire society	Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES); Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS); Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS); Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS).
National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	2004	Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	The entire society	To provide easy access to health services
National economic empowerment strategy (NEEDS)	2004	Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	The poor in the society	Government reformation, growing private sector, access to health education, welfare, employment, empowerment, security

**African Journal of Social and Behavioural Sciences (AJSBS)**  
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				and participatory governance
Youth development scheme established in Nigeria (YouWin)	2011	Dr. Goodluck Jonathan	Unemployed Youth	To empower the Nigerian youths by providing grants to small business owners
Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P)	2012	DR. Goodluck Jonathan	The entire citizens of Nigeria	To address critical infrastructure projects and social safety net programmes with direct impact on the citizens of Nigeria
The N-Power (Nigeria) program provides young Nigerians with job training, education	2016	Chief Muhammadu Buhari	Unemployed Youths	To address the negative effects of poverty
The Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT)	2016	Muhammadu Buhari	Students	To directly support impoverished individuals by providing no-strings-attached cash,
The Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP)	2016	Muhammadu Buhari	The entire citizens of Nigeria	Micro-lending investment program targeting entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on young people and women.
The Home Grown School Feeding Program (HGSF)	2016	Muhammadu Buhari		To increase school enrolment by providing meals to students

Source: and Researchers' Compilation, 2024

Many of these programmes had varied impact on poverty alleviation. For example, the establishment of the Directorate of Food, roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was not only a radical departure from the previous programmes, but also recognized the complementarities associated with basic needs such as food, shelter, potable water, etc. DFRRI had tremendous impact on the rural areas. For instance, between the time of inception in 1986 and 1993, DFRRI had completed over 278,526 km of roads. Over 5,000 rural communities benefited from its rural electrification programme (See CBN Annual Reports). This integrated approach to rural development, no doubt, provided for the necessary basic infrastructures that can stimulate the growth of agro – allied small – scale enterprises in rural areas. Furthermore, DFRRI impacted positively on food production. For instance, there was a steady and significant rise in agricultural output as shown by the index of agricultural production between 1986 and 1993 (CBN, Statistical Bulletin, December 1998). However, DFRRI could not achieve many of its objectives due to many factors which include lack of standards for project harmonization and effective mechanisms for co-ordination among the three tiers of government and between DFRRI and the levels of government (CBN Bauchi Zone; and Enugu Zone, 1998). Hence, with time DFRRI could not sustain the tempo with

which it started, and it ended up not living up to expectation and became defunct (National Planning Commission, 1994)

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was the main organ for employment creation during this period. The objectives of NDE include: to design and implement programmes to combat mass unemployment; and articulate policies aimed at developing work programmes with labour intensive potentials. Given that poverty manifests itself in the form of unemployment and underemployment, the schemes/Programmes of NDE could be said to have poverty alleviation focus. For instance, the directorate has four main programmes that not only creates jobs but also enhances the productivity and income earning potentials of the youths and other beneficiaries. These programmes include; the Vocational Skills Development Programme (VSD), the Special Public works Programme (SPW), the Small Scale Enterprises Programme (SSE) and the Agricultural Employment Programme. Available evidence shows that NDE has achieved remarkable progress in respect of its various programmes. Some of these include:

- The training of over 766,783 persons (including the disabled) in the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme between 1987 and 1996.
- Those who have benefited from the Resettlement scheme were over 106, 854 at the end of 1996. The School on Wheels Scheme had engaged youth 15,317 unemployed youths as at the end of 1994.
- The Special Public Works Programme has created jobs for over 154,910 persons between 1987 and 1996 (see Central Bank Annual Reports, 1992 – 1996). Besides, NDE as one of the institutions that survived the SAP era, has continued to articulate development policies and programmes with labour intensive potentials aimed at solving the unemployment problems in the country. However, the Directorate has not been adequately funded. Thus it has not been possible for NDE to cope with the needs of the ever increasing number of job applicants in the country.
- The Better Life Programme (BLP) was set up to enhance the quality of life of rural women, among other objectives. Poverty in Nigeria is a rural phenomenon and the rural women are worst hit by the dreadful malady of poverty; this is due to lack of basic skill and education necessary for gainful employment. The targeting of women in the fight against poverty will no doubt reduce significantly aggregate level of poverty in the country. The Better Life Programme, therefore, tried to harness the potentials of rural women and thereby impacted positively on their economic activities and incomes The BLP improved the quality of life of many women through the distribution of various inputs, granting of easy credits, and the establishment of various educational/enlightenment programmes. Based on available evidence, Ogwumike (2019) concluded that the BLP made tremendous impact with regard to poverty alleviation.

In specific terms, the achievements of BLP include the following: formation of 11,373 women cooperatives by 1993; the establishment of 3,613 processing mills as well as the distribution of farms inputs such as fertilizer to women who ordinarily would not have had access to such inputs though they carry out the bulk agricultural activities. However, the success of the programme was short – lived. The programme was not only hijacked by position – seeking individuals but the resources set for the programme were diverted and used for personal enrichment.

The People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN) was set up to encourage savings and provide credit facilities for the underprivileged in both urban and rural areas. Also, Community Banks (CB) were established to provide banking facilities for rural dwellers as well as to support micro – enterprises in urban areas (Oladeji and Abiola, 2018). These two banking schemes were established in recognition of the indispensable role of finance in poverty alleviation. Although the two banking schemes had some success, many of their goals and objectives were never realized. The schemes have been bedeviled with many adverse factors including corruption and gross mismanagement. For instance, late Tai Solarin resigned as Chairman of peoples Bank because of alleged corruption/executive rascality that characterized the management of the bank.

The Family Support Programme (FSP) was set up to provide health care delivery, child welfare, youth development, and improved nutritional status to families in rural areas. Also, the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) was established to provide credit facilities to cooperative societies to support the establishment of cottage industries in both rural and urban areas. The programme was also designed to create employment opportunities at ward levels, encourage the design and manufacture of appropriate plants, machinery and equipment and provide opportunities for the training of ward – based business operators. (Oladeji & Abiola, 2018). In a nutshell, both FSP and FEAP were designed and set up to improve the quality of life of rural dwellers. Although the FSP recorded several remarkable achievements such as the establishment of many nursery and primary schools, construction of many public toilets and the setting up of many vocational schools. Many of these projects were not properly executed and could not be sustained and many of the poor in several communities did not actually benefit from these projects while they lasted.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that most of the poverty alleviation strategies adopted in Nigeria were well focused on rural areas and on the agricultural sector. This is because poverty in Nigeria is largely a rural phenomenon with agriculture accounting for the highest incidence over the years. Besides, poverty reduction depends to a large extent on the agricultural sector, because the sector not only provides food for consumption as well as raw materials for manufacturing activities, it is the main employer of labour especially in the rural areas.

Other several programmes such as National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), and the Strategic Grains Reserves Programmes (SGRP) have one way or the other impacted positively on the agricultural sector and by implication reduced poverty. Similarly, in the health, education and housing sectors there are several poverty reducing programmes which were implemented. For example, the Primary Health Care Scheme and the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme. Although the guinea worm eradication programme recorded a tremendous success, the effectiveness of the primary health care programme was grossly reduced due to inadequate funding, lack of equipment, essential drugs and trained manpower (see Egware, 2017).

In the housing sector, the National Housing Policy has brought about the national housing fund managed by the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria. The Federal Housing Authority and various state governments have been involved in the direct construction of housing units. However, despite the efforts put in place in the housing sector, it is a common knowledge that many Nigerians do not have decent accommodation. Many people live in congested rooms.



Indeed, many Nigerians lack adequate accommodation and some are homeless as they sleep under bridges at night in many parts of the country (like Lagos) due to lack of adequate housing facilities or high cost of accommodation. The National housing scheme needs to be re-focused so as to make it accessible to majority of Nigerians.

We can go on and on appraising various poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria. As stated earlier, on the whole, poverty alleviation programmes/efforts in Nigeria failed to produce the desired results. The major reasons for the failure of poverty reduction related programmes in Nigeria include programme inconsistency, poor implementation, corruption of government officials and public servants, poor targeting mechanisms and failure to focus directly on the poor (Egware, 2017).

At the inception of the current democratic government, many Nigerians were meant to believe that poverty alleviation is the ultimate goal of the present government. The Government embarked on Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), which aimed at job creation. However, at the end of 2000 budget implementation, many Nigerians were yet to feel the impact of government poverty alleviation programme, like the monster called fuel shortage, poverty seems to have defied the efforts of the current regime. Several reasons may be responsible for this, including the failure to identify the poor and the nature of their poverty. There is no doubt that unemployment is a major problem in Nigeria today. But poverty is not synonymous with unemployment. Some of the poor are employed and some are unemployable. Sustainable poverty reduction will therefore require not only the proper identification of the poor (including their characteristics and survival strategies), but also a multi – pronged approach given the multidimensional nature of the poverty problem.

The present government has already taken steps to rationalize the various agencies whose activities impact on poverty alleviation. There is still need to examine the laws that give rise to or perpetuate poverty. This will require radical review of ownership of assets, access to social services with particular emphasis on education and health. The government has also tried to reduce poverty in recent time through upward review of salaries and wages. For example, those who were pushed into temporary or transitory poverty, especially in the civil service and during SAP, are gradually being moved out of poverty through this process. However, the inflationary trends which often accompany such increases in wages need to be checked by ensuring that aggregate supply of goods and services is increased. This calls for incentive structures that can encourage adequate investment in the real sectors of the economy.

### **N-Power and Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: The Nexus**

In making the social and economic impacts of Nigerian graduate stable and healthy, N-power programme came on board to address such public issues of concern through the adoption and implementation of desired goals and objectives. Abbas (2013) thus observes that, since poverty generally permeates social, economic and political activities of every society, the phenomenon remains a concern that must be checked and addressed by all critical stakeholders. This will mean, identifying and developing an effective policy framework within international, national, and local resources for the benefit of all citizens, especially the poor. The N-power programme of President

Muhammad Buhari has greatly impacted on the social and economic livelihoods of Nigerian youths (Lai, 2018).

In buttressing this, evidenced from N-Power Programme (2016) confirmed that no fewer than 6.8 million Nigerians out of the projected 10 million have benefited from N-Power, among other National Social Investment Programme of the Buhari Government. As noted in the write up of Jude (2017), the figure represents nearly 70 per cent success rate in the implementation of the programme. He added that besides the 6.8 million direct beneficiaries, 1.75 million persons comprising cooks, farmers, poor and vulnerable household members, have also been impacted as secondary beneficiaries of the programme. He noted that all the 36 states of the federation and the FCT are participating actively in at least one aspect of the programme. Adetayo (2017) reported that 200,000 and 300,000 N-power beneficiaries were respectively recruited nationwide in 2016 and 2017, known as Batch A and B.

The unemployed graduates cum volunteers, were engaged and paid N30,000 as monthly stipends and equipped with electronic devices that prepared them with new skills and ideas beyond the duration of the programme. Although, not all the beneficiaries were equipped with the electronic devices. While majority of the Batch A category had the privilege to receive the electronic devices, the Batch B volunteers were not even though, the selection of devices was included in the process of registration. Adetayo (2017) notes that the volunteers are being engaged for N-Agro, the agricultural component of the scheme, N-Tax, designed to support the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), N-Health and the N-Teach. He adds that N-Build can boast of 10,000 artisans who were verified, supplied with toolboxes for three months training and assigned to 160 skills centres in 22 states.

Adetayo (2017) concludes that no fewer than 20,000 persons had been considered for taking part in hardware, creativity and software category training. In addition, the cost-benefit analysis of the programme indicates that a careful implementation of the programmes would deliver a positive return to the country's GDP both in the short and long terms. This N-Power job creation initiative –if executed properly — will be one of the best things this present administration will have put in place. Jude (2017) affirms that the newly launched jobs portal of the Federal Government “npower.gov.ng,” has recorded over 400,000 successful registrations since it opened for submissions at on Sunday, June 12, 2016. He commends the efforts of the government as well as the social media for the tremendous power of accountability and the successful registration of registrants.

Affirming the extent to which N-power has impacted on the lives of beneficiaries, Jude (2017) points out that some beneficiaries who had no job before their selection and those with meagre salaries from their previous engagements, glorified the programme for positively impacting on their socioeconomic livelihoods. He also agrees that the programme has greatly affected their lifestyles and changed their status. The survey conducted by Jude (2017) corroborates with the statement stated above by highlighting how N-power programme has economic and social benefits to individuals and society at large. He opines that with N30,000 as monthly stipends, the scheme at least empowers beneficiaries to meet basic needs.

### **Gap in Literature**

From the literature reviewed, we found out that the meaning of N-Power and poverty alleviation as different concepts. Scholars such as Law (2018); Jude (2017); Egwere (2019);

Akujuru and Enyioko (2019); Obadan (2017); Farmanesh (2015); Obadan (2017); Kwaghe (2016); Irobi (2018); Na’Allah (2014); Buhari (2016); Bennel (2016) and host of others have carried out studies where they examine the poverty, poverty alleviation and N-Power respectively, their relationships and effect on the social, economic and political life of Enugu state.

However, some of the studies reviewed above made a generalized investigation on the impact of N-Power on poverty reduction without an in-depth demonstration of how N-Power programme affects poverty alleviation in Enugu state.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Economic Survival Theory, which was adopted by the researchers as the framework for the presentation and better understanding of this research work was introduced by Adam Smith in 1776 and was used in explaining the concepts of small-scale industry and employment creation by Gilder in 1981. The Centre-piece of the proponents of this theory’s argument focuses on what Gilder (1981) referred to as the “movement from poverty to wealth”. This theory posits that small-scale industry is prevalent among people affected by political upheavals or people victimized by discrimination or oppressed by marginalization. Thus, it is possible for people who have lost their jobs to corporate downsizing to become entrepreneurs. They do this not by choice but by sheer will to survive. Mbaegbu (2008) argued that having lost their means of livelihood, these people now channel their creative energies to small-scale industries, usually after the initial period of inertia and despondency. A phenomenon that Gilder (1981) refers to as the movement from poverty to wealth.

### **Tenets**

The theory assumes that small-scale industrialists are more prevalent among people who are:

1. Oppressed by marginalization
2. Suppressed by discrimination
3. Victimized by circumstances; and
4. Affected by political upheavals

### **Application of the Theory**

Based on the tenets of the theory, those who were oppressed by marginalization could be reintegrated into the society through N-Power program thereby utilizing their potentials in the field of endeavour they were employed. Therefore, anchoring on the theory of economic survival, some unemployed group in Enugu State could be gainfully employment if properly adopted the categories of N-Power jobs.

To grapple with loss of jobs caused by lower capacity utilization, factory closure forced migration; many Nigerians have adopted this Economic Survival model for sustenance based on the second tenet of the theory which stated is against suppressed discrimination. The theory becomes more appropriate viewed against the background of the high rate of poverty engendered by both educated and uneducated unemployment in the country.

Since the jobs are non-existence or negligible in quantity compared to the influx, N-Power program has become the only visible alternative to create jobs for the teeming youths in Enugu State. It is noteworthy that the average Nigerian, and their government at all level including those of Enugu State have also come to this realization in full and have therefore set different machineries and in motion formulated to several programmes to promote small-scale industrial development in the country towards minimizing poverty and unemployment.

In Nigeria, the Igbo race is cited as correlating these attributes with greater success in economic activity as the Igbos travel to any part of the world for material success. As the assumptions of the theory stated above, the Igbo race where Enugu state belongs to, in the country, due to oppression by marginalization, suppressed by discrimination, victimized by circumstances like civil war, and affected by political upheavals, the important of the theory cannot not be undermined. In order to mitigate those effects on the citizens, the people of Enugu state therefore, relied on the option of engaging in small-scale industries for survival.

However, the researcher is of the strong opinion that the position of the Economic Survival Theory cannot be taken hook, line and sinker. While the theory had the capitalist, pro-western Europe industrial outlook, it is pertinent to point out that there exist substantial N-Power programs indigenous to the people in the study area. Therefore, the desire to improve living standard of Nigerian youths through the establishment of N-Power program to create jobs in different anchors will reduce poverty level and rate among the people of Enugu state.

### **Study Area**

Enugu State is a mainland state in South-eastern Nigeria, created in 1991 from the old Anambra State. Its capital and largest city is Enugu from which the state derives its name. The principal cities in the State are Enugu, Agbani, Awgu, Udi, Oji-River, and Nsukka. Enugu State is one of the states in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The state shares borders with Abia and Imo states to the south, Kogi state to the North west, Benue state to the Northeast, Ebonyi state to the East and Anambra state to the West.

The capital city of Enugu State, is approximately 2 ½ driving hours away from Port-Harcourt, where coal shipments existed in Nigeria. Enugu is also located within an hours-drive from Onitsha, one of the biggest commercial cities in Africa and 2 hours-drive from Aba, another very large commercial city, both of which are trading centers in Nigeria. The average temperature in this city is cooler to mild (60 degree Fahrenheit) in its cooler months and gets warmers to hot in its warrior months (upper so degree Fahrenheit) and very good for outdoor activities with family and friends or just for personal Leisure (Nwokwor, 2007).

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The study adopted ex-post facto research design. In social sciences research, ex-post facto design studies facts that have already occurred and are investigated to reveal a possibility of relationship between variables by detailing the present condition and searching retrospectively for certain factors that contributed to it.

### Population of the Study

The Population of the study comprises of total number of N-power programme beneficiaries between the periods of 2016 to 2020, which is 16,546 in Enugu State. That means, the population of the study comprises of batch A and batch B of N-power programme beneficiaries in Enugu State.

**Table 1: Population Distribution of N-power Beneficiaries in Nigeria between 2016-2020**

YEAR	NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED
2016 (Batch A)	200,000
2018 (Batch B)	300,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>500,000</b>

Source: N-power portal, 2023

**Table 1: Population Distribution of N-power Beneficiaries in Enugu between 2016-2020**

YEAR	NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED
2016 (Batch A)	7,546
2018 (Batch B)	8000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>16,546</b>

Source: Enugu State N-Power vocal person, 2023

**Table 2: Breakdown of N-Power categories in Enugu State**

S/No	N-Power Programmes/Officials	No of Beneficiaries
1	N-Health	1866
2	N-Agro	4192
3	N-Teach	10,098
4	N-Tax	37
5	N-Build	258
6	N-Tec h (Hardware)	95
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16546</b>

Source: Enugu State Economic Planning Commission - Report and Presentation on N-Power achievements held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### Source and Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection for the study was documentary. The study used secondary data collection which include journal articles, N-Power bulletins and pamphlets, Newspapers, interview conducted with N-Power stakeholders, magazines among others. Therefore, relevant information required for the study were generated through literatures and N-Power bulletins such as the justifications for adopting N-Power as an employment strategy in 2016

### Method of Data Presentation and Analysis

The data collected for this study were analysed using evaluative technique which is content analysis. Here data from N-Power and other relevant documents were analysed based on the hypotheses thematically.



## DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Data generated for the study were presented and analysed using content analysis and information gathered from previous studies on relevant studies which is ex-post-facto analytical method of analysing data based on data generated for another study by different scholars that are related to the current study. This will be carried based on the hypotheses formulated for the study as follows:

**Hypothesis:** Policy inconsistency, inadequate commitment to public course, and corruption are the constraints that undermined N-power programme on poverty alleviation in Enugu State.

Over centralization is one of the challenges to N-Power towards creating employment in Enugu state, lack of training facilities was one of the challenges facing N-Power towards employment generation in Enugu state; supply of wrong BVN information is one of the problems facing N-Power towards generating employment in Enugu state, Nepotism is one of the challenges facing N-Power towards creating employment to youths in Enugu state; and weak policy framework affected implementation of N-Power program in Enugu state;

### Finding

Based on the responses of the respondents above, the researcher found out that challenges to N-Power towards employment creation in Enugu state include over centralization of power, lack of training, nepotism, wrong BVN, short-term empowerment programme and weak policy framework.

### Discussion of Findings

N-Power programme was child birth of the federal government of Nigeria in 2016 to 2026. The programme is under the National Social Investment Programme and it is the federal government of Nigeria's direct intervention to tackle youth unemployment and re-energize public service delivery in four key sectors (Education, Agriculture, Health and Vocational Training). This mandate will be achieved by training and providing jobs for millions of young and unemployed Nigerian graduates between the ages of 18-35 across the 774 local governments of the federation.

The above explanation indicated that N-Power programme is a top-down approach to tackle unemployment challenges in the country and this made it possible for the t to miss the target group because most of the people captured were employed persons that were relatives to the political office holders. It encouraged nepotism which one of the corrupt practice anex in the country

N- Power Graduate Categories - The N-Power Graduate category also known as N-power volunteer corps is the post tertiary engagement initiative for Nigerians between the ages 18 and 35. It is a paid volunteering programme of 2-year duration. Therefore, it is a short-term programme and as such it cannot solve the problem of unemployment in Enugu North Local Government Area coupled with the poor remuneration it accrued to the beneficiaries.

This study found that some systemic interruptions such as insufficient information and wrong Bank Verification Number (BVN) have been identified as factors threatening to wreck the implementation of N-Power programme in Enugu state within the period under study. This was against the intention of the Federal Government that introduced the social safety net to reduce the rate poverty and graduate unemployment plaguing the country as was observed by Bennel (2017).

Under the programme, the first batch of 200,000 participants are to be paid N30, 000 a month and deployed by the respective state governments and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to their different places of assignment, including classrooms as teachers (Federal Ministry of Youth Development, 2009). But this study found out that some months into the programme has started facing different challenges, with about 13,000 participants alleging that they have not been paid their monthly stipend. This study equally gathered from the fieldwork that some beneficiaries who spends N80 daily on transportation to work, have also not received their stipend for a number of months. Additionally, they were indebted to their neighbors who usually bail them out of financial difficulties in the hope that they would defray same once their stipends are paid. A good number of participants in the programme are frustrated because their expectations were yet to be met, three months after the programme kicked off. This was also against the assumptions of the government that introduced the program

The findings reveal that the implementation of public policy in Nigeria is characterized by weak institutional frame work, over politicization of policies, lack of political will on the part of government, non-involvement of the beneficiaries and corruption among others. Weak policy implementation is also, characterized by corruption, lack of continuity in government policies, inadequate human and material resources, all of which often lead to implementation gap, i.e. the widening of the distance between stated policy goals and the realization of such planned goals. lack of need assessments, corruption, too many points of agenda, inability to properly identify problems, lack of continuity, lack of political will, inadequate resources, white elephant projects. Samson and Stanley (2014) collaborated the above assertions when they identified some of these consequences to include:

**Underdevelopment:** Any country that is underdeveloped cannot feed her citizens neither provide jobs for all. When citizens are well to do they will in turn be productive in the country by contributing their quota to its growth and development. What the country gives her citizens shows to a large extent the state of her development. Suffice to say that the state of any economy directly reflects in the life style of her citizens.

**Less patriotism by citizens:** These days a lot of persons are no longer interested in the things that happen in Nigeria due to lots of failure in policy implementation.

**Non-improvement on human capital:** Public policies, besides solving the problems of the people, are also meant to improve on the human resources of the society. It is human capital that is the fulcrum and lever of nations. Public policy failures hinder the development and improvement of human capital.

**Waste of resources:** Public policy failures are waste of human and materials resources that were put into it during and after formulation. The entire process of public policies is no mean task. If the policies fail to achieve its desired results, then the colossal human and material resources put in from formulation to the implementation stages are wasted. The resources

could have been devoted to other areas which need more attention in the country. It is the people's resources or commonwealth that are used in making and implementing policies.

### **Summary**

This study examined effect of N-power program on poverty alleviation in Nigeria; A focus on Enugu state, 2016 - 2020. The study reviewed the critical issues in N-Power programme in Nigeria with the aim of finding its impact on poverty alleviation among the youths in Enugu state. In addition, the study covered the key dominant issues in social intervention programme and employment creation in the country. Therefore, the objective of carrying out this research was to examine the constraints that undermine N-power programme in poverty alleviation in Enugu State and suggest ways by which poverty alleviation programme can be achieved through government intervention.

The study delves into the views, opinions and ideas of scholars to present a holistic investigation with the adoption of the Economic Survival Theory developed by Adam Smith in 1776 and was used in explaining the concepts of N-Power and poverty alleviation by job creation by Gilder in 1981. The Centre-piece of the proponents of this theory's argument focuses on what Gilder (1981) referred to as the "movement from poverty to wealth". The theory posits that N-Power is prevalent among people affected by political upheavals or people victimized by discrimination or oppressed by marginalization. Thus, it is possible for people who have lost their jobs to corporate downsizing to become entrepreneurs. They do this not by choice but by sheer will to survive.

The research design for the study was descriptive and utilizes secondary sources of data collection while the method of data analysis was qualitative descriptive. The following were found from the study that over centralization of authority, lack of training, nepotism, wrong BVN and short-term programme.

### **Conclusion**

This research study was an analysis of the effect of N-Power programme on poverty alleviation in Nigeria with emphasis on Enugu State. based on the data analysis and findings of the study it can be inferred that the present situation of youths in Enugu State one can infer that there is no significant relationship between N-Power programmes and poverty reduction. By this we mean that N-Power programmes have not reduced the poverty level among the youths. This was because of the challenges that does not allow for good implementation of the programme which include policy inconsistent, lack of adequate infrastructure, insufficiency of fund, gap in communication and lack of transparent selection. Therefore, the researchers concluded that the above listed problems were allowed to penetrate because our ruling elites were not committed to policies and programmes designed for the poor masses. They were using these challenges to manipulate, manage and control the programme for their own benefits.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the three findings of the study, the following recommendations were proffered:

1. Beneficiaries of N-Power program should endeavor to submit their correct account details to the government so as to receive their stipends as at when due.
2. Government and the stakeholders should try to ensure that the beneficiaries are communicated easily through their agents so that their money reach them at the end of every month.
3. There is the need to decentralize authorities of N-Power programme in Nigeria thereby expanding the horizon of the programme, through reactivating moribund industries and enterprises. This will enable the authority to alleviate poverty through generating more jobs for youths.
4. Government should try to make N-Power program permanent job by elongating the period beneficiaries would service as is applicable to civil service

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