

Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion in Nigeria: A Dependency Theory-based Insight

Aloh, J. NGWUTA¹, Chiedozie P. NWOSU² and Osmond I. EZE³

^{1,2}Department of Political Science, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, NIGERIA

³Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka NIGERIA

Abstract

Poverty remains an incurable nagging phenomenon which defies many known measures hence the widespread poor access to food and descent living. The work discusses inequality and social exclusion as being dependent on poverty in the African continent as evidenced by the continued gap between the poor and the rich at the micro level. It is more glaring at the macro-economic sphere on the interactions between the advanced and the third world countries hence the existence of visible disparity and inequality. This work maintains that the prevalent poverty in Africa and Nigeria is blamed on the neo-colonial maneuver by the advanced countries; hence the work adopts Dependency Theory as espoused by Fernando Henrique Cardoso to explain the unequal relationships between the developing states of Africa and the developed economies of the world. The study relies on the secondary source of data collection which is premised on qualitative method using Ex Post Facto design analysis. It recommends that Nigeria and by extension Africa should look inward to wrestle themselves from imposed defeatism hence continued dependence on the external economies is tantamount to deepening backwardness of the already fragile economies. More so, there is overwhelming need to diversify the economic base of the struggling economies, so as to pull them out of inequality and social exclusion. The work also calls on the political class to stop superfluous life style that predisposes the ordinary citizens to live in penury and misery.

Keywords: Dependency theory, Inequality, Poverty and Social exclusion in Nigeria.

Introduction

Poverty and inequality in the African countries are synonymous with the continent hence the glowing disparity when compared with advanced countries of the world. Encouraging the monetary stability and economic expansion of the North at the detriment of the African states raises the demand for national control, economic sovereignty and greater access to existing technology. However, the hegemonic disposition of the North through the instrumentalities of advanced technology glaringly throws off the strides of the African people. Accordingly, Ake (1996) noted with dismay how the effect of unfulfilled promises of global development strategies has been more sharply felt in Africa than in other continents of the world. Nigeria's experience in the unyielding hands of inequality aggravated the vicious circle of poverty and therefore perpetuated the low level of development and social exclusion currently in the continent. Nigerian citizens have witnessed all shades of poverty and social depression hence its lack of capacity to wrestle itself from economic quagmire, but every effort to develop presents a gruesome experience of backwardness. Eyiuche (2005) said that it implies a circular constellation of force tending to act and react upon one another in such a way as to keep a poor country in a state of poverty.

So there has been a clear backlash to the disastrous failure of development in the African continent hence the obvious and prevalent level of inequalities and social exclusion. Poverty and inequality in Africa have seriously hindered the continent's abilities to provide the basic needs to the citizens. They have so imposed conditions that interfere with government rights to make sovereign decisions which inhibit development and exacerbate social exclusion. Thus, it becomes imperative to ask the following pertinent and revealing questions: why has Africa failed to develop despite the numerous human and material resources on the land? How can Africa truly achieve her economic recovery in an

overwhelming situation of abject poverty and misery? All financial packages and reforms have become notorious, leaving African countries in penury and utter exclusion from those on the line of development and social cohesion.

The glaring poverty level of Africa has made lenders to spell out conditions that are hard in order to scare them away or be held static in any effort to develop. Akpuru-Aja (1998) clearly captures it well when he said that there are differing loan facilities and/or conditions between the multilateral owners and the rest of the needy countries. Such disparity he notes takes the lead in making policy prescriptions which must be adopted by the African countries for loans to be given to them. The rigid condition of the advanced countries and institutions in dealing with the third world countries exacerbate the precariousness of their economic woes.

Consequently, the inability of Nigeria to continue to look inward for development has continued to undermine her economy to the level that is pathetic and so caused the country to be dependent on external sources which are inimical in every aspect. Nigeria has over the years exported primary goods at very low prices, thereby suffering grave economic backwardness. It is not out of place to ask, 'Can there be any inward solution to the economic predicament of Nigeria? The ruling class in Nigeria has been beclouded by the temporal and momentary gains and so exposed her fragile economy to hostile and draconian conditions imposed by lenders from the imperial countries. In the same vein, Eze (2002) frowned at intensifying the inflow of foreign capital, loans, grant and aids into Nigeria through a structural dependence on imperial metro pole. The unpatriotic public office holders in Nigeria led the country to her pitiable economic condition hence they borrowed without considering its biting conditions on the economy.

Method of Investigation/Methodology

This is a qualitative research paper anchored strictly on the secondary source of data collections which were obtained from a careful study of literature in the forms of Books, Journals, Magazines as well as other works that provided information relevant to the issue under study. In addition, the paper made use of Ex Post Facto (after the fact) designs hence its ability to use previous happenings to determine the cause of the present occurrences.

Clarification of Keywords

Poverty Poverty is relative and comparative. It means different things to different people based on conception, insight and orientation. To some, it could be seen as outright deprivation of quality food, good education, health and other essential necessities of life. To others, it could be understood as the inability to live a life of affluence. Oshewolo (2010) sees poverty to encompass different aspects of deprivation that relates to human capabilities such as consumption and food security, health, education, rights, security, dignity, decent employment.

At the micro level, poverty connotes individual lack of potential and actual ability to provide for one's good and satisfaction. Similarly, Boltvinik (2000) posits that poverty is a living condition which an entity or individual is faced with some economic, social, political, cultural and environmental deprivations such as; lack of good food, poor drinking water, low life expectancy, poor health services, general lack of economic infrastructure and lack of active participation in the decision making process as it affects the individual. Conversely, at the macro-economic manifestation, poverty impacts much on a nation. It makes a country to be absolutely dependent on external borrowing and debt servicing. All the indices which point to development are either completely absent or present at a very negligible level. It is relative and comparative hence Nigeria is not poor when compared to Togo but very poor if compared to United States just as individual poverty is segmental in nature. Poverty in this work is used to mean the perpetual pitiable nature of the economies of the African countries especially Nigeria. The African economy is in comatose condition which presents a vicious circle of poverty aggravated by low per capital income and it leaves no clear sign of early recovery.

Inequality Inequality refers to segmented disparities among people in the society. The disparity could be in the area of income, education, health, gender and all other material and non-material

acquisitions. It distinguishes between people and nations in a wide range of stratum. Inequality could exist among individuals and among countries. It enhances vertical and horizontal disconnects which exacerbate poverty and deprivation. More so, it is alien to equity, justice and fair play. At the individual levels, it shows top to bottom relationships. While at the international arena, it engenders the unequal relationship between the rich and poor countries. One significant thing is that anyone on top lords himself on others and so encourages superior-inferior disposition. Technological advancement has continued to widen the gap between countries and has incurably kept the poor countries poor hence the advanced ones have consistently kept their knowledge away from the reach of the yet to advance ones.

Social Exclusion It is concerned with deprivation associated with hardship. Social exclusion further denotes elusive and relative rejection of people from accepted norms and popular opinion. The society in itself offers challenging marginalization of some group of people which is inimical to good life. It tends to stigmatize between those on the upper echelon of life and those on the lower class as it seems to blatantly encourage poverty and deprivation. Policies that exclude people from any defined life style on the basis of seeming incapacity to engage in any accepted way of life are injurious to the good of any society. It is important to assert that the term “social exclusion” provides a process of rethink to some social issues that encourage disappointment and negation of personal esteem. The peasants, homeless, disabled, socio-culturally and socio-economically disadvantaged persons are the most vulnerable in the ignominious act of social exclusion.

Africa Africa is one of the continents of the world and the second largest after Asia. It is mostly dominated by the black race that has been vigorously exploited by the white men who invaded the land. The continent has about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square miles) land space. It covers 6% of the total surface area of the Earth and about 1.3 billion people with 54 countries. Africa is almost divided into two equal parts by the Equator and most parts lie within the tropical region. The continent is a vast plateau area consisting of narrow coastal strips and has enormous wealth of mineral resources. The rich mineral deposits which are significantly matched by great biological resources accounted for the invasion of the continent by the colonial masters. The African continent remains the most exploited and her citizens the most maltreated by the erstwhile colonial overlords.

Nigeria Nigeria is one of the leading countries in Africa and the most populous Black Country in the world today. It covers a total area of 923,768 square kilometers. It lies within the tropical zone and has Benin Republic on the West with Niger on the North. Cameroon lies on the East and Lake Chad on the North-East. Nigeria has thirty-six States with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. The Rivers Niger and Benue are the biggest in Nigeria and has six geo-political zones. Nigeria is a mono-economic country with oil as the main base but has several untapped mineral deposits. There is no state in Nigeria without an array of solid mineral deposits yearning for exploration. Nigeria is a multi-faceted ethnic nationality speaking about 250 languages with Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba as the dominant tribes. The country is secular and has three major religions namely Christianity, Islam and Africa traditional religion. Nigeria as a third world country exports raw materials and imports finished products which have encouraged dependence on the developed countries.

Theoretical Framework

The Dependency Theory is found most suitable for this work hence the unrelenting reliance of the African economies on the western advanced economies. The Theory which explains the influences of external force on the political, economic, socio-cultural and even the policy making process of a nation is apt for the analysis of the working dynamics of inequality, social exclusion and poverty in undermining economic growth and social coherence in Africa. The conditions portrayed by the three infamous concepts are harsh and their unfriendly dispositions to encourage economic growth in Africa are obvious and overwhelmingly dangerous.

Dependency Theory was first coined by a Brazilian Sociologist Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Akpuru-Aja1998). Also associated with Dependency Theory is Andre Gander Frank who focused on the global economic crisis and how to reposition the trend. Santo (1971) opined that dependency is a

historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favours some countries to the detriment of others and limits the development possibilities of the subordinate economies.... a situation in which the economy of a certain group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which their own is subjected. Dependency Theory is thus based on the proposition that a country is underdeveloped because of its relationship with an exploitive superior economy.

In applying the Theory to this work, it is important to expound the relationship between the poor states of Africa and the unequal relationships in the area of economic, social, political and indeed all aspects of human existence. Financial assistance to Africa by the advanced western countries is a masked effort which has undisclosed intention programmed by the western powers especially USA to further their domination of the Africa economy. Indeed, there is no free meal in international relations; every meal has price tag which must be paid directly or indirectly by the recipient. The widening disparity between the “haves and the have nots” at both the micro and macro levels further demonstrates glaringly the bourgeois and proletariat relationship which exists among the developed and the developing nations. The continued inequalities between the struggling to develop African countries and the already developed countries of Europe and America are further exacerbated by poverty which in real term tends to encourage social exclusion. African countries have over the years experienced deficit trade balance with the advanced economies of the world. This is because Africa is foreign trade based, importing almost all needed consumer goods and machineries. The dependence attachments to those foreign goods make encouraging local production difficult. Despite the obvious fact that the people are very poor, living below internationally accepted poverty level, they still import finished products which results in unfavourable balance of payment.

In such a precarious financial condition, Africa and its countries are left with no other option than to borrow, the conditions notwithstanding. In a similar development, Africa in general and Nigeria in particular have been bedeviled by reckless management of the few available financial resources, egocentric official conducts and absolute insensitivity by the ruling class. The fore goings plunged Africa into the situation that makes dependence on foreign assistance inevitable. It is also noteworthy to assert that a borrower is bound to accept the conditions of the lender if the money should be lent.

Poverty in Africa

It is necessary to assess the conditions for sourcing loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which other agencies controlled by the advanced countries accept and also to analyze very critical if those conditions have helped economic growth or otherwise in Africa. The following according to Akpuru-Aja (1998) are the IMF loan conditions.

The general conditions include: (a) Capacity to repay in hard currency (b) Readiness or preparedness to involve IMF in proposing, designing and executing projects. (c) Evidence of governmental stability, and (d) A guarantee that the recipient country is not reactionary or communist inclined. The specific conditions include (a) Devaluation of currency. (b) Wage freeze (c) Retrenchment of workers. (d) Reduction in government social and welfare expenditures (removal of subsidies) (e) Trade liberalization to allow free flow of capital, labour and technology. (f) Privatization and commercialization of economic realms of public enterprises (g) Reviewing of interest rate periodically.

It is more important to note that having the same lending conditions for all the countries of the world is antithetical to development for the struggling to develop economies of Africa. The above named conditions make it imperative for government to reduce spending on health, education and other welfare services. This is aimed at making provisions for either loan services or repayment. Most of the stipulated conditions lead to further misery for the developing countries. Since the goods from the countries of Africa are exported at pitiable rates, government still needs to export more to have enough to repay debts. Such loan creates less value for labour because there is always the need to have workers retrenched so as to reduce government expenditures. The question which yearns for answer is what happens to those retrenched workers and those who depend on them for survival?

More so, to attract foreign investors, a country that borrowed usually reduces standard of living and even removes regulations and the consequences of such action are always enormous. Most at times, the already poor borrowing nations are forced through unfavourable instrumentalities to peg their currencies to the US dollar and this increases interest rate. It also causes inflation and harsh economic conditions. Some investors are forced out of business just as others pull out their assets to other investment friendly areas to avoid the danger of business collapse. For instance, USA owns 17.09% of the entire IMF quoted capital and a voting power of 16.79% followed at a distance by Japan with 6.13% and a voting right of 6.02%. The whole of Africa does not have 1/3 of USA's voting capacity and no African country is among the first top 20 countries of the Fund just as the continent is not represented in the Board of Directors of the Fund.

The foregoing information exposes the reason behind using the USA dollar as a standard of value in the world market. It also explains the rationale behind the major donor keeping the exchange rate to its favour even at the detriment of the already devastated and poor countries. Smith in Shal (2013) lamented that IMF encourages the so called today's "free trade" which causes millions of children to end up dying each year. This is unfair as it is seen by some to be one way of extraction which serves to maintain unequal free trade. It thus shows how African countries have been socially excluded from most of the happenings in the international economic relations which transfers their wealth from the periphery to the imperial centre. This exacerbates dependency and abject poverty. There is inherently impaired transfer of technology and this encourages reliance on imported finished products and such situation makes the poor economy to be more vulnerable hence its pathetic nature. Shah (2013) notes how YayaOrou-Guidou, a Benin Republic Economist lamented that exporting raw materials and agricultural products from Africa would not help to fight poverty. Those raw materials he added should be processed in the same poor country to help create a multiplier effect. However, the advanced economies will not subscribe to Orou-Guidou's view because such will amount to defeating the primary intentions of the western economy which is to perpetually dominate Africa hence the imperial hegemony. Exporting raw materials at giveaway prices make the exporting country to be a consumer nation which enriches the country with the finished products as it impoverishes itself. In 2012, the price of Nuts dropped tremendously in Senegal as it faced debt repayment problems. Regrettably, to make things worse for Senegal and to further reduce price, US subsidized their own Nuts.

The present efforts by America to produce cars to be driven without petrol in commercial quantity is aimed at punishing the third world countries who depend on petroleum products for national earnings. Stieglitz (2001) notes that privatization creates avenue for some corrupt politicians to sell off state owned ventures. He further remarked that capital market liberalization and outflow of capital happen to seduce speculators, the lenders demand increased prices of essential services such as healthcare, education and food to make provision for what Stieglitz likens to 'opium wars'. Imperial countries and their donors are egocentric and hypocritical because if there is sincere intent to develop poor economies, efforts should have been geared towards encouraging local production of those imported finished goods which are obviously produced with the raw materials sourced locally within the country. What is the wisdom in taking the raw materials away and thereafter export same as finished products to the country that exported the raw materials? That should explain the irony of the lending nations hence the inequality, exclusion and the resolved desire to engrave poverty on the African continent.

The disturbing scenario is that Africa and Africans do not have the capacity to look inwards for the desired solution. There is serious psychological amputation which revolves around to embellish the negative feeling that reliance on the western wherewithal for development is a step in the right direction. In reality, it is deepening Africa's poverty and at the same time closing all avenues for escape. Inequality and social exclusion have grossly devastated economic growth in Nigeria. The need for holistic inclusiveness that will stimulate and improve living standard in Nigeria and other African countries is quintessential for narrowing the inequality gap. It is pathetic that elected government officials in Africa are controlled by the US through its institution like IMF with obnoxious principles hence indebtedness of the continent to the metropolis. The perpetuation of impunity by dubious

government officials with foreign collaborators championed by the indices of inequality and social exclusion leaves no one in doubt of the nefarious activities of the foreign powers claiming to wrestle Nigeria and Africa from the quagmire of endless poverty. Imagine the unabated rape of the Nigerian democracy and erosion of sovereignty in the African region.

The foregoing glaring realities readily explain the asymmetric relationships between the developed west and the snail economic growth in Nigeria. There is absolute lack of honesty in the third world countries' relationship with the overlords who superintend over their affairs in every department of life. The irony of it all is that their grants and loans with their persistent long term economic distorting plans are coated with appealing outer cover juice. One can argue that Africa was underdeveloped prior to contact with the west. The assertion could be believed but the west gradually and systematically compounded the crisis. The financial hemorrhage caused in Africa by the unequal association with the foreign powers is unimaginable and striking. The occasioned imbalance in the world economies can hardly be traced to any other factor except the stringent measures of the institutions that encourage inequalities and exclusions. Inflation which causes serious contraction of saving capacity in Nigeria is as a result of the corresponding realities of events and conditions in the international scene. Dambele (2004) notes that Africa's industrial sector has been among the biggest victims of structural adjustment. From Senegal to Zambia, from Mali to Tanzania, from Cote d'Ivoire to Uganda, all the sectors for the domestic industry have been wiped out with devastating consequences. Ghana between 1987 and 1993 had its own share of the devastation. It made Ghanaian citizens to do menial jobs to earn a living. Their girls and young women were pushed into harlotry in all parts of the globe. Their notorious nature was so unbearable to many African countries to the extent that even the Nigerian government forced them out of the country in "Ghana must go policy" such pitiable condition was made prevalent by the agonizing pains of inequality and social exclusion.

The Nigeria's Experience

Nigeria economy has been in a serious economic quagmire since July 1986 when the country was plunged into structural adjustment programme. Nigeria was unable to meet up with her recurrent expenditures talk-less of capital projects. There was total decay in all facets of the Nigerian existence which resulted in excruciating economic experience. Nigerian sought for any available source of livelihood in order to survive. The Naira exchanged 50k to one US dollar during Shagari's administration (1979-1983). In 2012, it was between N50 and N150.25k to a dollar. Today the story is disturbing because Naira fluctuates between N800 and N900 to one dollar. Nigerians suffer the penury associated with such unfortunate development. The Naira became almost worthless as its purchasing power decreased drastically.

This made those who could have contributed meaningfully to her economic recovery to leave the shores of the country to look for greener pastures. Nigerians have immensely contributed to the development of the West, yet Nigeria remains a dumping ground for the product rejected in other places. China for instance has different qualities of goods for different countries. Nigeria's quality is among the least in the world. The little earned income is spent on goods which do not worth the prices they are bought. Nigerian citizens mostly the semi-skilled are subservient beings in every department of life. It is grossly regrettable that the much inflicted infamy has been elongated. The biting effects could be seen in the following selected sectors among others.

The Agricultural Sector

Nigeria which was known for her agricultural prowess, feeding her citizens and exporting to other countries suddenly became a toothless bull dog. The Northern part of Nigeria was known for groundnut, West for Cocoa just as the East had comparative advantage on palm produce. These goods and more earned Nigeria huge income. Investors were also attracted into the country. Companies like Lever Brothers, UAC, CFAO etc flooded the country and created employment for Nigerian youths. Unfortunately, those companies fled the country when Agriculture was allowed to die off. Nigeria became mono-economic reliant on Oil and everything crashed without mercy. Nigeria has fertile soil,

a good climate and endowed with enabling human resources, yet Nigeria suffers from huge and acute mal-nutrition, Eyiuche (2005) noted that Agriculture accounted for over 70% of the GDP by 1960 but gradually declined to 34.06% by 1973/74.

As has been earlier stated, the decline was as a result of the apparent neglect of Agriculture and preference for Oil. It should be emphasized that Malaysia which is today the world highest producer of palm products took palm seedlings from Nigeria. Today, Nigeria imports palm produce from Malaysia. This further explains Nigeria's inordinate desire to enrich others while impoverishing self. The present effort by the country to diversify base, though late is a step in the right direction. The clarion call to ban the importation of Agricultural products will help to reduce the rate of unemployment and have enough food for the teeming population. Nigeria is capable to feed the entire African continent considering her arable land if well utilized.

The Educational Sector

The Education sector is terribly affected. There is horrific deterioration of the education system of the Nigerian nation. Several educational plans have been articulated for the country without corresponding implementation. The present 6:3:3:4 is not structured to make students self-reliant hence the non-practical approaches. Nigerian students on graduation wait for the non-existent white cola jobs instead of getting involved in entrepreneurial works.

In a similar development, the government has not adequately equipped her secondary and tertiary institutions to provide the much needed practical oriented Courses. The situation where a Professor of Electrical Engineering cannot give directives on how to repair electric bulb talk less of producing it is worrisome, whereas a Chinese technician in the same field can manufacture bulbs and many more. The question is what is wrong with the Nigerian education system? There are over 150 Universities (both public and private) in the country coupled with countless Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, yet Nigeria has paucity of relevant manpower to turn the country around for optimum production. It is funny to note that while our teeming school-leavers are without jobs, the country still need the expatriates to fix her industries, roads and other sectors. This is indeed regrettable and unfortunate, and further gives credence to the ASUU clamour for revitalization of public universities in Nigeria.

The Power Sector

The epileptic power supply in Nigeria is really causing untold hardship to Nigerians. The unreliability of the power sector has greatly disrupted production and productivity. Nigeria is endowed with consumable energy resources but they have remained untapped. The huge amount of money already sunk into the sector notwithstanding, the problem remained unsolved. How can the industries in Nigeria grow hence the contemptible manner? The complete commercialization of the Electricity Distribution Company did not perform the expected magic. The poverty rate in Nigeria is worsening on daily basis with non-availability of power. There is also unimaginable urban drift by able bodied men and women who could have helped to ameliorate the situation. How then can there be true diversification when the wealth of the country is still buried under the ground hence there is no sufficient power supply to tap the resources.

It is laughable to observe that in spite of the nagging plethora of problems in the sector, Nigerian government does not see the need to put a round peg in a round hole. A situation where legal luminaries head the power sector while there are countless qualified Electrical Engineers in the country tells it all. The politicization of virtually everything in the country does not show readiness for pragmatic and robust efforts to realize the desired result. Ukpong observed that capacity constraint was the main cause of electricity failures in Nigeria (Ukpong in Eyiuche 2005). The need to overhaul the sector is obvious and timely.

The Health Sector

The Health sector has serious challenges owing to paucity of fund. The money which should have been used to effectively equip the nation's public health institutions had been used for debt servicing and

rescheduling. The enormity of the amount of money expended on treatment outside the country by affluent Nigerians is unspeakable. Those at the helm of affairs in the governance of the country seek for medical attention in Europe, Asia and America while leaving the country's health sector to waste away.

The middle and low income earners who cannot afford oversea treatment are left to their fate. There is high mortality rate in the country which is inimical to development. The need to fix the health sector cannot be over emphasized hence the need to stop the rush to outside for medical solution. More so, the medical personnel in the country do not have conducive atmosphere to practice and it is manifest in the incessant industrial actions prevalent in the sector. There is no trust in the sector in handling serious health challenges in the country. The absence of the former President Mohammed Buhari in the country for nearly a year while seeking medical care in the United Kingdom is a good pointer to the deplorable conditions of the health sector. A lot of deceases are ravaging the citizens of the country without the corresponding medical care. Nigeria claims to be the giant of Africa yet far below South Africa in basic areas. All these are orchestrated by the effect of the structural Adjustment Programme introduced in the country.

Conclusion/Recommendations and Policy Thrust Options

This work presents a logical and critical argument that exposes the domineering dispositions of inequality and social exclusion in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria and the African continent. The tripartite concepts shroud with real intentions manifesting on implementation as their effects stare negatively on the populace. African leaders should come to grips with the devastation done on the African economies by the west out blown inequalities and social exclusions. The obvious need to look inwards for solution cannot be over emphasized. Having seen that Africa's help cannot come from the western capitalist hegemonic countries, Africans should have self-re-examination and come up with lasting pragmatic remedies not rhetoric to grow their economies and move out of underdevelopment through self-efforts.

In like vein, Ake (2011) noted that the lack of self-confidence has been obvious in the behaviour of many African leaders. He further explained that the states of mind which produce such behaviour and attitude cannot be conducive for development. The cardinal focus to reduce poverty in Nigeria should be to say no to corruption. Vigorous and integrated agricultural development, viable and practical oriented education, uninterrupted power supply with functional and affordable quality health care services are the panacea for accelerating inclusiveness, equality and effective poverty reduction in Nigeria. Finally, it is erroneous to believe that Africa cannot become prosperous without the assistance of the self-esteemed industrial powers and their self-interest serving institutions.

References

- Ake, C. (2001) Democracy and development in Africa. Ibadan. Spectrum Books
- Akpuru-Aja, A. (1998) Fundamental of Modern Political Economy & International Economic Relation..... Changing with the Times. Owerri, Data-Globe.
- Boltvinik, J. (2002) Poverty Measurement and Trends. United Nations Development Programme. SEPED series on Poverty reduction. www.undp.org/poverty/Retriveved25/03/2018 9.45am
- Dembele, D.M (2004) IMF and world Bank in Africa. A Disastrous record online work Retrieved 21/03/2018 6.58am
- Eyiuche, A. C. (2005) Economic Problem of Nigeria. Enugu. Diamond.
- Eze, R.C. (2002). The determinants of Nigeria's Relations Towards the Western Countries. Enugu. Laurambly.
- Okafor, F.C.N (2004) Neo-Democracy and Poverty management in Africa (the ideals, illusions and Realities). Awka. Mercury Bright.
- Oshewolo, S. (2010) Galloping Poverty in Nigeria. An appraisal of the Government Interventionist Policies, Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa.
- Santos, T& DC (1971) "The Structure of Dependence" in KT Fan and Doanld C. Hodges, (ed) reading in US Imperialism. Boston. Porter Sergeant.
- Shah, A. (2013) "Structural Adjustment" Online, March 24, update. Retrieved 20/03/2018 2:15am

Biographical Notes

Johnson Ngwuta ALOH is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ebonyi State NIGERIA. Email: alohjohnson@yahoo.com Phone: 08035090756.

Chiedozie P. NWOSU is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ebonyi State NIGERIA. Email: chiedozie.nwosu@funai.edu.ng Phone: 08039584367.

Osmond Ikechukwu EZE is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA. Email: oi.eze@unizik.edu.ng. Phone: 08036938184