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## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF A DISAGGREGATED POVERTY INDEX BY GEOPOLITICAL ZONE: THE NIGERIA EXPERIENCE

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### Abstract;

*Poverty can be provoked by wrong government policies. Focus of this paper was to evaluate the present poverty index of states in the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The paper anchored on “Social Exclusion and Social Capital Theory”. Materials were sourced from internet, journal articles and textbooks. Analyses were conducted using descriptive statistics of tables, frequency, percentages and graphs. Result showed that poverty status of 87.72 per cent for Taraba state. Adamawa state had 75.41 per cent being second to the highest in North-East geopolitical zone. North –West poverty index revealed that its highest was 87.73 percent found in Sokoto state compared to 87.72 percent. North-central (Middle Belt) Niger state is worse hit with poverty at 66.11 percent. South-East in figure 4 showed that Ebonyi state has higher poverty level of 79.76 percent and Cross River state had poverty level as high as 36.3 percent from the South-South. It was recommended that federal government should be truthful in her fight against terrorism in the geopolitical zones. The real arrested bandits and terrorists should be arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment without option of fines. Sponsors of terrorism should be given equal sentence as given to the terrorists to serve as deterrent to others who may wish to be part of terrorism through sponsorship.*

**Keywords;** Poverty Index, Geopolitical Zone, Nigeria

## Introduction

Globally, it is considered as living below standard if the basic things of life are not provided or not available for the average citizens. In every home, parents are supposed to ensure that the household are well taken care of. Where an average citizen of a country is not able to experience self sufficiency in feeding, secure a paid job, cloth him or herself, afford shelter and train his children (of average family size) as recommended by world health organization, the person is considered leaving below average. And this reduces life span. Life expectancy of people within such region are said to be poor. Globally the metrics for measuring standard of living is the dollar. The poverty rate of every country is assessed by the income per capita of her citizens especially where a citizen lives below \$1 per day. (World Bank Report, 2000). It is observed that even with the seven hundred and ten naira per dollar (N710) exchange Nigeria is in her worst economic crisis on daily basis. (Guardian Newspaper, 2022). The concept “poverty” has got wider discussion among members of academia from the late 1980s following a stringent bite from the economic crisis that led top Austerity Measure or Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). Poverty in has been viewed from different dimension: non-monetary aspect, vulnerability and association, livelihood, access to food (Ajakaiye & Adeyeye, 2022). The inclusion of income was as a result of its capability in making individuals participate in the societal economy. The broadening of poverty concept lingered to 1990s which advanced to the inclusion gender as one of the measurement variables.

In measuring poverty, according to the capability approach, it is argued that capturing the perceptions of poor people is fundamental to understanding poverty. Poverty is a multi-dimensional issue in the society in the sense that it is understood differently in many quarters; the government and none-governmental, absolute or relative. Worrysome is the linking of poverty to destitution. When one is reduced to begging, it becomes convinced that it will take a longer time to disentangle the individual from the grips of want and has not.(Garba, 2006).Poverty dehumanizes a personality as nest necessities elude persons in poverty situation. The assertion is that poor people lack basic things of life such as clothing, shelter, food, educational opportunities. As posited by Gbosi cited in Amao, Ayantoye and Fanifosi, (2017). Poverty is associated with destitution where fundamental needs are not met by people in need of them. These people’s standard of living is very derogatory, lack standard and without decent environment. Most times the quality of air is polluted. Here, minimum standard of living with good infrastructure is highly not attainable (Oyekale & Yusuf, 2010). The question raised it whether these programs have positively affected living standard of the people or they all ended are mere ceremonies. The take a stand on this issue, it is imperative to conduct a comparative analysis of a disaggregated poverty index by geopolitical zone according to the states in Nigeria.

## Literature Review

### Conceptual Explanations

**Poverty Index:** failure of Human Development Index (HDI) gives rise to the establishment of poverty index in a country, explained to be where (i) the percentage of the population without access to safe water (ii) the percentage of population without access to health services and (iii) the percentage of malnourished children under five. Poverty index is the measurement of the poverty level in terms of income. It is explained when the society is divided into two parts/groups with one individual being poor and the other existing below the poverty line (Ubi, & Effiom, 2010).

**Geopolitical Zone:** geopolitical zone is created out of trade or political struggle among countries or ethnic groups world all over. It is not limited to countries but has taken

international dimensions usually to take advantage of instituted trade relationship or political grabbing. In Nigeria, this was established out of suggestions made by Nigeria's former vice president Dr. Alex Ekwueme for political fairness and equity especially as it concerns rotation of presidency (Chinweuba, Sunday & Charles, 2014).

### **Approaches to Poverty Determinants**

Poverty is socially influenced by large numbers of factors in different perspectives. Explaining poverty as a simple task of determining the duration, either long-term, short-term or persistent poverty. Poverty can be conceived as lack of access to basic consumption elements and services that modify human body physiology or that adds to environment to better living the standard. These shortages may bridge accessibility to social integration. Life can be enjoyed irrespective of disability or health conditions. This is true in the sense that innovations have brought better technologies to assist disabled individuals to effectively perform or participate in certain activities. These dimensions of poverty are not limited to;

**Objective Poverty;** this is an explanation of both relative and absolute poverty levels.

**Relative poverty:** this is a societal poverty phenomenon. A perspective considered under a clear disadvantages situation. This could be social or financial undertone below other inhabitants within the same environment. According to Ngoma & Mayimbo, (2017) could be associated to inequality between the poor and the rich. This measurement criterion is a function of societal development under study and cannot be attributed to other climes with better living standard.

**Absolute poverty:** under this concept, basic needs of an individual are not covered explaining lack or absence of basic things of life in goods and services (clothing, housing, food etc.). The linking of poverty to destitution is not limited to a particular country. Such classification of poverty is accepted or Applicable world globally (Mendonca dos Santos, (2017). Measuring absolute poverty takes several ways such as income poverty/gap, incidence of poverty/head count ratio, composite poverty, physical quality of life index (PQLI), the human development index (HDI) and the augmented physical quality of life index (Olayinka, 2019).

**Persistent poverty or long-term;** this type of poverty has been explained to mean situation where one is seen to be poor without improvement consistently for two to three previous years (EUROSTAT). This type of poverty is not a transitory situation as members of the family can remain the same without changes in terms of financial capacity.

Answer to how possible does poverty migrate to different levels or strata is a question waiting for explanation. Poverty mobility can be studied with migration and non-migration of residents to another country. But where a country is not developing in both financially, infrastructural or technologically, migration or institutionalization of development oriented governance becomes imperative.

**Multi-dimensional Deprivation;** this deprivation is synonymously linked social exclusion or society's inaccessibility to necessary goods and services be it basic or not, in this case, poverty is measured with variables that are non-monetary and deprivations indicators through the adoption of monetary variable breakdowns. There exists different perceptions to each poverty measurement with information on how comprehend each view

**Subjective poverty;** this is the perception of individual member of a household on their family situation. This is the influence of perception of household situation about poverty as a subjective view of financial situation as against the objective focus though observations and measurement variables.

### **Poverty Measures**

In the measurement of poverty, there exist poverty lines used in understanding or categorizing poverty levels (those poor and those not poor) as a function of how high or lowly placed in the society. These lines are considered as barriers to participation to most activities in the society and accesses to certain things of life. These lines of poverty could be absolute or relative poverty lines.

### **Poverty Measures**

According to Kazeem, (2018), there possible factors considered as determinants of poverty. In other words, they are criterion to measurement of absolute poverty. These variables or determinants are not limited to; Age and education of household members (head), Location variable (rural or urban), Ownership of household assets, Access to basic social services, Composition of household size, Households remittances etc., Sector of employment and level of income

### **Federal Government Implemented Poverty Emancipation Programmes**

Policy programs such as “the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), the Rural Banking Programme (RBP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE), Green Revolution, Low Cost Housing Scheme, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Peoples Bank (PB), Community Banks (CB), Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI); Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA); Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP); Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Family Support Programme (FSP); National Directorate of Employment (NDE); Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF); National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP); National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS); Seven Point Agenda (SPA); Nigeria Vision 20:2020”, N-Power and Trader-moni, N-Care programme to reduce the effect of poverty on the citizens as a result of Covid-19 among others (Urama & Iheama, 2019). With the projected 2022 figures, the number of poor persons in Nigeria has had a four year increase of 14.7% from the 2018/19 figure of 82.1 million to the projected 95.1 million in 2022 (World Bank Report, 2021).

### **Indicators of Life Basic Needs**

Poverty is the state of having few material possessions or little income. Poverty can have diverse social, economic, and political causes and effects. Standard of living is a transformation of life of an individual with emphasis on level of income, comforts and services available, generally applied to a society or location, rather than to an individual. Standard of living is relevant because it is considered to contribute to an individual's quality of life. According to Darling, cited in Sameti, Esfahani and Haghghi, (2012), indicators of life basic needs explain those consideration is given to basic things that give individuals a decent life. In their studies, they argued that nutrition, water supply, health, nutrition, basic housing, education, sanitation and more. These basic needs are shown in the table below;

Table 1. Availability of basic Needs as Indicators of quality Living Standard

Basic Needs	Indicators
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Calorie supply per head or calorie supply as a percentage of requirement.</li> <li>▪ Infant mortality per thousand death</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Life Expectancy</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Literacy</li> <li>▪ Primary school enrollment at a percentage of the population aged five to fourteen</li> </ul>
Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infant mortality per thousand death.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of population with access to possible water</li> </ul>
Water supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of population with access to possible water</li> </ul>

Source: Culled from Sameti, Esfahani & Haghghi, (2012).

The health of every citizen is important to remain strong and be able to work and generate income. Good health is another necessary indicator of ability to fend for one live. It is only one is on good condition we agree that poverty index has dropped. The ability of train one's children is an evidence of being out of the clutches of poverty. It is only a sound mine that can accommodate educational tress. "Cleanness is said to be next to Godliness" this is a true fact due to the fact that no good health can immanent from unhealthy environment. The quality of the water one drinks is important as it help for healthy leaving and ability to work and earn income.

### Brief History of Creation of the Six Geopolitical Zones

The issue of geopolitical zoning in Nigeria began as a result of a proposal by Dr. Alex Ekwueme under General Sani Abacha's government. The intention was to institute equity, probity and fairness in Nigeria's political arena. The proposal was for country to be divided into six (6) geopolitical zones. It was to help in closing the parity and gap found in power sharing. The geopolitical zones are as shown in the map below;

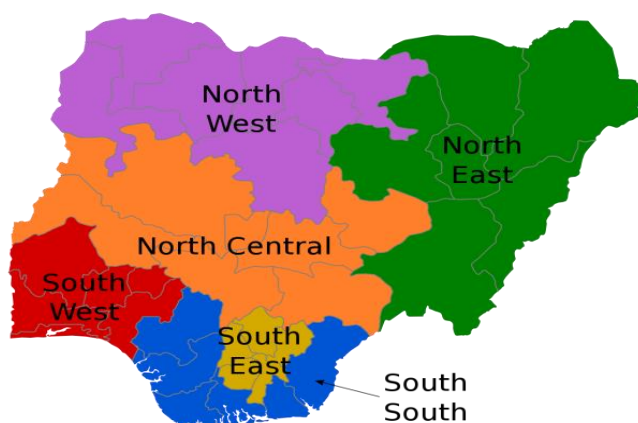


Table 3: Nigeria Geopolitical Zones and their states.

Geopolitical Zones	States
(1) North – Central (Middle Belt)	▪ <i>Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa, Niger, Plateau, and Abuja.</i>
(2) North – East	▪ <i>Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe.</i>
(3) North – West	▪ <i>Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara</i>
(4) South – East	▪ <i>Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo;</i>
(5) South – South (Niger Delta)	▪ <i>Akwabom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Rivers, Edo, and Delta.</i>
(6) South – East	▪ <i>Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo.</i>

Source: Wikipedia, 2022

Every geopolitical zone shared a common cultural heritage, abundant natural resources and common cultural heritage with same economic activities. Oil resource of the country is domiciles within the South-South region/geopolitical zone where all oil exploitations and explorations take place. Diamond, gold and other mineral resources are found mostly at the northern part of the country. Nigeria is a country with about 450 languages, 174 local government areas and 400 ethnic groups. Under federal character, political, economic, employment, resource allocation and educational resources are shared among the zones with South – South (Niger Delta) currently collection thirteen percent of the monthly revenue based oil derivation formula. The region Niger Delta is still agitating to increase of the thirteen percent derivation.

## Theoretical Framework

### Social Exclusion and Social Capital Theory

This paper is anchored on Social exclusion tends to explain deprivation and disadvantage rather than lack. Exclusion is linked to problems relating to unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown and the inability to participate effectively in economic, social, political and cultural life and in some characterizations alienation and distance from mainstream society” (Duffy, 1995). Social exclusion and social capital theory is a theory that explains poverty occurrence that recognizes the importance of the structural societal characteristics and the situation of certain groups. This theory is of the view that there are certain approaches that focus most on understanding the intrinsic processes that allow deprivation to arise and persist. The theory acknowledges that poverty is attributed to illiteracy levels, lack of general resistance due to malnutrition, lack of access to health care, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, etc. as measurement indicators,

### Empirical Review

Several studies have been advanced by scholars on the topic under discussion (Ubi & Effiom, (2010): Chinweuba, Sunday & Charles, (2014): Amao, Ayantoye & Fanifosi, (2017). Widening the discussion on the issue is the work of Jaiyeola and Choga, (2020): Assessment of poverty incidence in Northern Nigeria. Focus of the study was on the utilization the regions natural resources as an avenue for reducing poverty in the North. The paper adopted Foster-Thorbecke Pa class poverty and headcount ratio for analysis. The study revealed poverty persistence in all zones but most extreme in the Northern region with little change between the waves.

Empirical study of poverty in Calabar and its environs was investigated by Ubi & Effiom, (2010). Focus of the study was on the effect of demographic variables income, (educational status, age, occupational status of heads of households and household size) poverty status of the people of Calabar. Analysis of data was carried out using Ordinary least squares linear regression model was used for analysis. Result showed that income inadequacy, large size of household were responsible for the poverty status in Calabar and its environs.

Amao, Ayantoye and Fanifosi, (2017) conducted a multidimensional analysis of poverty and its determinants in rural Nigeria. Focus of the study was on the application of happiness, safety, peace, livelihood, security, dignity and respect as multidimensional determinants of poverty. Alkire-Foster MPI approach was adopted for the analysis through decomposition of the geopolitical zones. Findings revealed a poverty ratio of seventy-eight percent than the previous poverty status. Poor head counts of forty-one percent with about sixteen percent poor household. More of the living conditions of the inhabitants contributed to the poverty status of the people. The paper recommended prioritization of the people's living condition as a target to getting the people out of poverty.

Issues, concepts and theory of poverty in Nigeria were investigated in the work of [Ade-Lawal](#), (1986). Focus of the study was on public affairs decision as determinants of policy measures. The paper adopted an interpretational phenomenological approach for the analysis. the paper discovered that poverty is the most serious social problem undermining progress in the world today. Every decision arrived at by is informed by their own "theories" of the phenomenological understanding of men of public affairs determines the policy measures taken in addressing issues of poverty.

Bello and Abdul, (2010) investigated poverty reduction in Nigeria. Focus of the paper was on poverty situation, given the economic growth and millennium development goals (MDGs). Panel data analysis consisting of pooled model, fixed-effects, random-effects and weighted least Square were adopted for analysis. Result revealed that, a unit increase in per capita Gross Domestic product (GDP) will lead to about zero point six percent increase in poverty. A unit increase in Millennium Development Goal expenditure has no substantial reduction on poverty within the period. Biometric techniques should be adopted to capture those who are actually considered poor in the society to enhance effective data base. Poverty dimensions and contributing factors in Nigeria was studied by Ucha, (2010). The study focus was on contributing factors to poverty in Nigeria. Systemic reviews of factor that contribute to poverty were addressed. It was found that there are linkages between key factors and feedbacks from the various dimensions of poverty in Nigeria

## **Methodology**

### **Study Design**

This study is an ex-post factor design. it investigated possible variables that may have led to the poverty status of the states in the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

### **Analytical Techniques**

Data was analyzed with descriptive statistics techniques of frequency tables, percentages, bar and pie charts. This explains the status of each state in terms of poverty level in the country, in present economic situation.

### **Data Presentation**

Data obtained were presented in the table below, reflecting the poverty status of the states for the period/year under study.

**Table 4: Poverty Index by Geopolitical Zone**

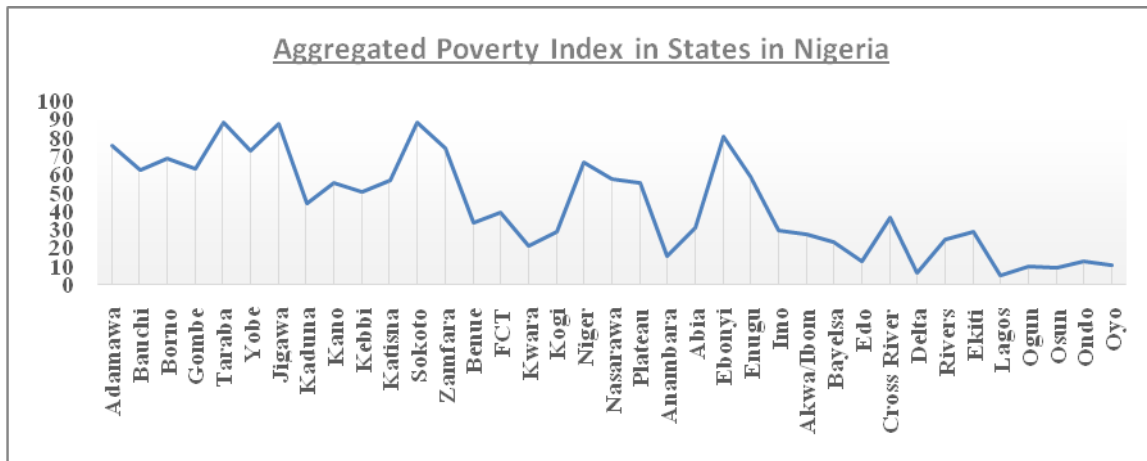
<b>GEOPOLITICAL ZONES</b>	<b>STATES</b>	<b>POVERTY INDEX (%)</b>
<b>North-East</b>	<b>Adamawa</b>	75.41
	<b>Bauchi</b>	61.53
	<b>Borno</b>	68.2
	<b>Gombe</b>	62.31
	<b>Taraba</b>	87.72
	<b>Yobe</b>	72.34
		<b>427.51</b>
<b>North-West</b>	<b>Jigawa</b>	87.02
	<b>Kaduna</b>	43.5
	<b>Kano</b>	55.1
	<b>Kebbi</b>	50.2
	<b>Katisna</b>	56.42
	<b>Sokoto</b>	87.73
	<b>Zamfara</b>	73.98
	<b>453.95</b>	
<b>North-Central (Middle Belt)</b>	<b>Benue</b>	32.9
	<b>FCT</b>	38.7
	<b>Kwara</b>	20.4
	<b>Kogi</b>	28.5
	<b>Niger</b>	66.11
	<b>Nasarawa</b>	57.3
	<b>Plateau</b>	55.1
	<b>299.01</b>	
<b>South-East</b>	<b>Anambra</b>	14.8
	<b>Abia</b>	30.7
	<b>Ebonyi</b>	79.76
	<b>Enugu</b>	58.13
	<b>Imo</b>	28.9
		<b>212.29</b>
<b>South-South Niger Delta</b>	<b>Akwa/Ibom</b>	26.8
	<b>Bayelsa</b>	22.6
	<b>Edo</b>	12.0
	<b>Cross River</b>	36.3
	<b>Delta</b>	6.0
	<b>Rivers</b>	23.9
		<b>127.6</b>
<b>South-West</b>	<b>Ekiti</b>	28.0
	<b>Lagos</b>	4.5
	<b>Ogun</b>	9.3
	<b>Osun</b>	8.5
	<b>Ondo</b>	12.5
	<b>Oyo</b>	9.8
		<b>72.6</b>

Source: World Bank, 2022.

### Analysis Results and Discussion

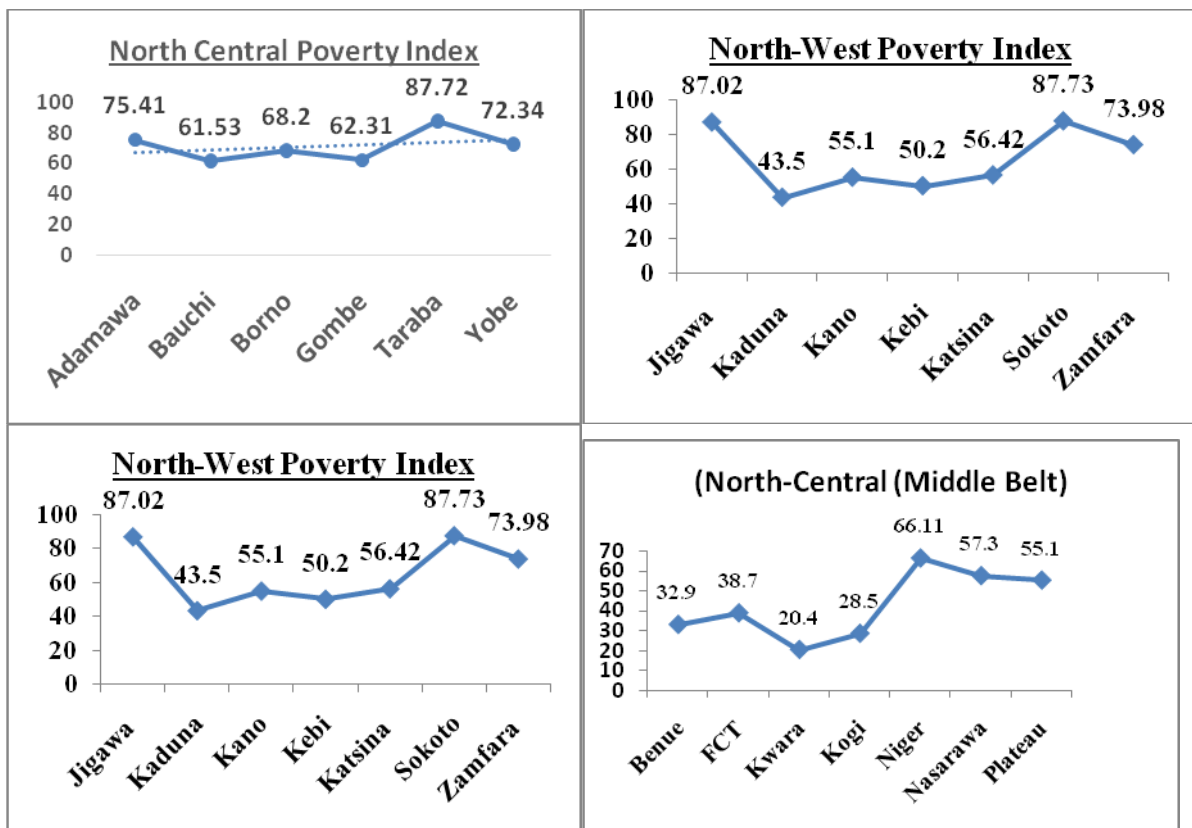


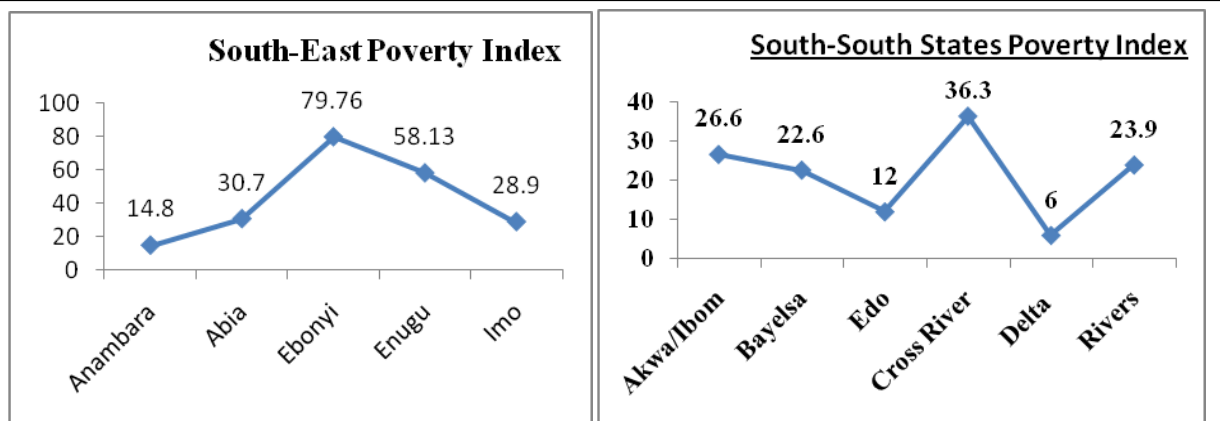
**Fig. 1. Aggregated Poverty Index among States in Nigeria**



Aggregated poverty index among the states in Nigeria revealed that Sokoto state in the North-West has the highest with about 87.73.76 percents. This could be attributed to the insurgency activities in the Northern part of the country. This was followed by Taraba state (North West) with about 87.72. In the South-East, Ebonyi state had 79.76 per cents poverty index. In the North-Central (Middle Belt) revealed Niger state with about 66.11 per cent poverty index while South-South has Cross Rivers state with 36.3 poverty index and 28.0 per cent for Ekiti state respectively in the South-West geopolitical zone.

**Fig. 2. Disaggregated Poverty Status of all the Geopolitical Zones**





### Poverty Index in North-East Geopolitical Zone

Results of analysis of North-East in figure 1 revealed a poverty status of 87.72 per cent for Taraba state. This was followed by Adamawa state with 75.41 per cent being second to the highest in North-East geopolitical zone. It is a revelation of effect of insurgency in that state. Adamawa state is one of the states most ravaged by Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria. Borno state revealed 68.2 per cent. This explains a little shift in effect of migration of terrorists activities and lack of birth control in Northern part of in Nigeria. This result conformed with the findings of Ubi & Effiom, (2010) that large size of household were responsible for the poverty status in parts of Nigeria, Calabar and its environs. It also agreed with the findings of Amao, Ayantoye and Fanifosi, (2017) that poor headcounts of forty-one percent with about sixteen percent poor household. More of the living conditions of the inhabitants contributed to the poverty status of the people. These North –East States have been bedeviled with the unwholesome activities from these bandits who rape, maim, kidnap, kill and bomb innocent Nigerians on daily basis.

### Poverty Status of North-West Geopolitical Zone

As shown in figure 2, the North –West poverty index revealed that its highest was 87.73 percent found in Sokoto state compared to 87.72 percent highest poverty level recorded in North – Central mostly in Taraba state. This is also orchestrated by the insurgency infiltrating from North-Central. The least record was 20.4 percents found in Kwara state. This is as a result of attacks on farmers whose farming activities is predominantly the occupation of the people as their herdsman were being attacked and cows rustled by the terrorist bandits and women were being prevented from cropping for fear of being raped.

### Poverty Status of North-Central Geopolitical Zone

Analysis results in figure 3 revealed that for North-central (Middle Belt) Niger state is worse hit with poverty at 66.11 percent. This can also be attributed to effects of terrorism in the northern part of Nigeria. This is followed by Nasarawa state with 57.3 per cent level of poverty. The lowest in the North-central is Kwara state with 20.4 per cent poverty level. Comparatively, it could be observed that states in the upper or northern part of North-central were most ravaged by poverty due to insurgency activities.

### Poverty Status of South-East Geopolitical Zones

A disaggregated analysis of poverty index of South-East in figure 4 showed that Ebonyi state has higher poverty level of 79.76 percent almost what was obtained in most states in North-central and North-East. This is also as a result of Fulani Herdsmen attacks on the indigenes of the state which has prevented people (men and women from going to farms for cultivations. Cultivated farm lands were being destroyed before maturing to harvest stage. Even the matured crops are both being harvested due to fears of kidnap and rape. Again, communal

clashed among communities became aggravated and that women and children were being abducted or killed. These fuelled inter-communal crises have worsened existing poverty in the state. the poverty situation in South-East is also not devoid of the sit at home order of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in an effort to register their grievances to federal government as part of strategies to demand for freedom and self rule out of Nigeria led federal government.

### Poverty Status of South- South Geopolitical Zones

South-South poverty index was analyzed in figure 5 with cross River state showing poverty level as high as 36.3 percent. This is followed by Akwa/Ibom state and Rivers States with 26.6 and 23.9 per cents respectively. Three distinctive factors were said to be responsible to poverty state of South-South geopolitical region. The First is federal government neglect of the region. No infrastructure, enabling environment for businesses to thrive. It has become so real that federal government of Nigeria does not want to develop the South-South states where oil exploitations are still active. This is a region that lays the golden egg. Multinational companies have continued to ignore giving attentions to host communities without meaningful infrastructure to show for her sacrifices. Second are militancy activities due to accumulated anger over neglect by the federal government. Third is intentional unemployment which has made the youths to take up the issue of vandalization of oil pipes to survive. The effects are felt on the revenue that accrues to multinational companies operating in the region. Consequently, multinational oil companies have refused to continues honoring their corporate social responsibility by not employing the indigenes, provide hospital facilities and engage the youths in vocational based-rehabilitation programs.

### Poverty Status of South –West Geopolitical Zone

South-West geopolitical zones poverty index found that Ekiti state with 28.0 percents had the highest poverty status in the geopolitical zone. This was followed by Ondo state with 12.5 percents. Third on the poverty level in the geopolitical zone are Ogun and Oyo states reflecting 9.3 and 9.8 per cents respectively. Only Ondo state is the only state from South-West geopolitical zone that is among the oil producing states.

### Aggregated Analysis of Nigeria Geopolitical Zones

OVERALL GEOPOLITICAL ZONESPOVERTY INDEX (%)	
Geopolitical Zones	Poverty Status (%)
North-East	427.51
North-West	453.95
North-Central (Middle Belt)	299.01
South-East	212.29
South-South (Niger Delta)	127.6
South-West	72.6

### Aggregated Poverty Index of all the Geopolitical Zones

Cumulative, it could be observed from the results in table 3 and Fig. 7 that worse hit by poverty is North-West with 453.95 per cent North-East reflecting 427.57 per cents. This result clearly explains that impact of terrorism has greatly shifted from North-East to North-West. This was followed by North-Central with 299.01 per cent. Cumulatively South-East, South-South and South-West had poverty index of 212.29, 127.6 and 72.6 per cents respectively. South –West geopolitical zone has the lowest poverty index in the country.

### Conclusion

Lingering state of the nations is fast becoming the reason for unresolved poverty crisis in all the six geopolitical ones in Nigeria. Poverty Index in the six geopolitical zones is attributed to

activities of terrorism in the North-East, North-central and North-West, militancy activities in the South-East and South-East unknown gum attacks, pipeline vandalism and non-response to corporate social responsibilities by multinational companies. Findings revealed poverty status of 87.72 per cent for Taraba state. Adamawa state had 75.41 per cent being second to the highest in North-East geopolitical zone. North –West poverty index revealed that its highest was 87.73 percent found in Sokoto state compared to 87.72 percent. North-central (Middle Belt) Niger state is worse hit with poverty at 66.11 percent. South-East in figure 4 showed that Ebonyi state has higher poverty level of 79.76 percent and cross River state had poverty level as high as 36.3 percent from the South-South.

### Recommendations

If poverty index in Nigeria is to be ameliorated, implementation of the following recommendations will be of great help;

- Federal government should be truthful in her fight against terrorism in the geopolitical zones.
- The real arrested bandits and terrorists should be arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment without option of fines.
- Anyone found sponsoring terrorism should be given equal sentence as given to the terrorist to serve as deterrent to others who may wish to be part of terrorism through sponsorship

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