

## **Critical Analysis of Government Intervention in Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Discourse of OGUN and Oyo States, Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** The level of poverty in Nigeria is on the increase in spite of various poverty alleviation programs formulated and implemented successive governments. A recent report by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) attested to this assertion and maintained that the country is the poverty capital of the world. On this premise, the study examined the role of government intervention in poverty alleviation in Ogun and Oyo States. The study adopted convergent parallel design. The population of the study was 1,220 (150 officials of the National Directorate of Employment and 1,070 beneficiaries) in Ogun and Oyo states. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used for collection of quantitative data while interview guide was used for collection of qualitative data. The response rate of the questionnaire was 80%. Descriptive statistics was employed in the analysis of the quantitative data, while qualitative data were content analysed. The study concluded that majority of the respondents in Oyo State did not benefit from many of the government's poverty alleviation programmes compared to that of Ogun State. It glaringly showed that government's efforts in alleviating poverty was poor and unimpressive in Oyo State than in Ogun State. The study, therefore, recommended that there is need for government to complement the efforts of the NDE at state level through provision of funds and infrastructures that will help in the realization or actualization of alleviating poverty.

**Keywords:** Poverty Alleviation, Government, Ogun State, Oyo State, Employment.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The severity and magnitude of poverty in Nigeria is alarming, disturbing and a great cause for worry. This unwholesome phenomenon is a dangerous signal of adverse effect for the development of the nation (Ogunshina & Badaru, 2014). In Nigeria, people are no longer "suffering and smiling", as Fela Anikulapo Kuti sang, but, suffering and dying. Hence, the growing incidences of poverty and its accompanying problems. These are indeed critical issues of concern and contention (Iwuoha & Obi, 2012). Sadly, Nigeria is a country that is tremendously blessed with abundant human and natural resources. Paradoxically, the citizens are poor in the midst of abundance. According to Awoniyi, Mufutau & Oladeji (2014), however, in 1999, United Nations declared that out of 182 countries surveyed using indices such as life expectancy, education, income and purchasing power, Nigeria was ranked 158<sup>th</sup> in position. In 2013, another survey was conducted among 186<sup>rd</sup> countries using the same indices, Nigeria was ranked 153<sup>rd</sup>. This is far below her rank in 1998. Again, the UN in 2016 classified Nigeria as the 152<sup>nd</sup> poorest nation on human development index. By 2018 the percentage of Nigerians living in poverty rose to 86.9 million which represents nearly 50 % of its estimated 180 million population (Kazeem, 2018).

Over the years, however, successive governments in Nigeria have tried to address the problem of poverty through various programmes having identified poverty as one of the major obstacles to national development in the country. In a bid to tackle this impediment to development, the Nigerian government of various administrations embarked on different poverty alleviation programs such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) of 1976 under the military regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Green Revolution of 1982 under the civilian administration of late President Shehu Shagari, Directorate of Foods Roads and Rural Infrastructures

(DFFRI), under the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida, Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) up to the National Poverty Eradication Programme, NAPEP under the administration of General Olusegun Obasanjo, The Seven Point Agenda under the administration of Late President Musa Yar'Adua and Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN) under the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan were all attempts made by various governments in the country to curb the menace.

Similar efforts were also made at the federating units to corroborate the efforts made at the federal level. Paradoxically, the level of poverty in these states is on the increase and has affected the masses tremendously. The objective of this paper, therefore, is to do a comparative discourse of Ogun and Oyo State governments' intervention in poverty alleviation.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted convergent parallel design. The population of the study was 1,220 (150 officials of the National Directorate of Employment and 1,070 beneficiaries) in Ogun and Oyo states. Stratified sampling technique were used for collection of quantitative data while interview guide was used for collection of qualitative data. The response rate of the questionnaire was 80%. Descriptive statistics was employed in the analysis of the quantitative data, while qualitative data were content analysed. Secondary data were obtained from documentary data such as books, journals, articles, NDE publications and internet sources relevant to the study.

### **Concept of Poverty**

Poverty is a global phenomenon which affects continents, nations and people differently. It affects people in various depths and levels at different times and phases of existence. There is no nation that is absolutely free from poverty. However, it is more disturbing and gruesome in developing countries (Sambo & Bawa, 2017; Anumudu, Umar & Madu, 2013). Poverty has a long history and is often directly related to exploitation of one group of people by a more aggressive or wealthier group of people. Poverty can be described as a threat to human survival and development. Yunus (2016) emphasized that poverty occurs when individuals do not have access to adequate shelter, water, food, amenities and services that could enable them to live and work effectively and to conform to customary behaviors in the society.

Essentially, Poverty is a state in which a person is having insufficient spendable resources to maintain a standard of living deemed by international standards to be adequate. Norbert (2005) reiterated this position when he stated that poverty is a condition or situation where persons or groups of persons are unable to access basic elementary requirements for human survival in terms of food, clothing, shelter, health, transportation, education and recreation. Yunus (2016) corroborated this position by stating that the poor are individuals or groups who lack or are deprived of food, shelter, health facilities and freedom to achieve the inherent potential of their capabilities, which determine their present and future existence and survival. He further reiterated that poverty is the absence of a certain level or at least a minimal level of affordability to health care, nutrition, sanitation, rest, shelter, literacy, intellectual aspirations, positive freedom, enjoyment, dignity and security. The totality of these values determines a good standard or otherwise Taiwo and Agwu (2016) reasoned that poverty is a condition in which people live below a specified minimum income level and are unable to provide the basic necessities of life needed for an acceptable standard of living.

### **Poverty Alleviation**

Poverty alleviation connotes that there are two groups of people in the society. Those who are rich on one hand and those who are poor on the other hand. It stipulates that a pro-active measure must be taken to promote masses oriented policies and property rights especially in the re-allocation of values in a just manner. The implication of this is that a consensus must be reached among the bourgeois in the capitalist system to forego some of their benefits at the expense of the proletariats. It is not a simple act as some people erroneously believe, or simple economic growth to reduce poverty, improve inequality or job opportunities, such economic growth must be inclusive of all sectors of the society, individuals, government agencies and stakeholders to manifest a significant transformation. However, poverty alleviation and poverty reduction are used interchangeably and it involves economic and humanitarian measures that are well planned by government or nongovernmental organizations to lift people out of poverty. It is meant to encourage the poor to create wealth and improve their living conditions for a better life.

### **Theoretical Framework-The Culture of Poverty Theory**

The culture of the theory of poverty was propounded by Oscar Lewis in 1959, also known as the vicious circle of poverty and this theory argues that living in conditions of pervasive poverty will result to the development of a culture or subculture that is adapted to those conditions. The culture is characterized by pervasive feelings of helplessness, dependency, marginality and powerlessness. Furthermore, Lewis (1959)

described those living within a culture of poverty as having little or no sense of history and therefore bereft of the knowledge to alleviate their conditions through collective actions, instead focusing solely on their troubles. Yunus (2016) corroborated this position by stating that the poor are those trapped in a culture of poverty which they tend to adapt to and cope with. The poor behave in a particular way and their major idiosyncrasies are strong feelings of marginalization, vulnerability, dependence and inferiority. They need voluntary support to psychologically gear them up to take advantage of the opportunities that may come their way. For instance, in Nigeria, there are voluntary associations like the Community Based Organizations (CBO's), Cooperative Societies and Youth Associations and well as government initiatives. These groups and government are in existence to provide self-help in alleviating poverty. However, this theory has been criticized under the premise that poverty does not come about solely from accepted cultural lifestyle.

This theory is relevant because it explained the reasons for poverty and why poverty alleviation schemes have not helped the poor especially in developing countries.

## II. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

**Table 1:** Respondents Reaction to the question on the efforts of Government in Alleviating Poverty in Ogun and Oyo States.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes of Government	Oyo		Ogun	
	Benefitted to a great extent	Not Benefitted at all	Benefitted to a great extent	Not Benefitted at all
Skill Training Programmes for Youth Empowerment	6 (1.3%)	11 (1.83%)	13 (2.17%)	9 (1.5%)
Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars	5 (0.83%)	12 (2.69%)	14 (2.34%)	8 (1.37%)
Training Programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals	6 (1.3%)	11 (1.83%)	13 (2.17%)	9 (1.5%)
Agricultural Support Programmes	7 (1.17%)	12 (2.69%)	15 (2.5%)	5 (0.83%)
Provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture	4 (0.68%)	16 (2.67%)	12 (2.69%)	7 (1.17%)
Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures	5 (0.83%)	11 (1.83%)	17 (2.84%)	6 (1.3%)
Provision of lands for self-agriculture	4 (0.66%)	13 (2.17%)	15 (2.58%)	7 (1.17%)
Training and empowerment on general ICT skills	8 (1.37%)	12 (2.6%)	14 (2.34%)	5 (0.83%)
Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing	9 (1.5%)	16 (2.67)	10 (1.67%)	4 (0.66%)
Carpentry	5 (0.83)	11 (1.83%)	17 (2.84%)	6 (1.3%)
Bead making	6 (1.3%)	18 (3.1%)	11 (1.83)	4 (0.66%)
Auto mechanic	7 (1.17%)	15 (2.58)	12 (2.6%)	5 (0.83%)
Photography	3 (0.51%)	12 (2.6)	19 (3.1%)	5 (0.83%)
Tailoring	5 (0.83%)	14 (2.34%)	13 (2.17%)	7 (1.17%)
Painting/Interior Designing	7 (1.17%)	10 (1.6.7%)	17 (2.84%)	5 (0.83%)

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2018)

Decision rule

SA = 5, Agree =4, Undecided=3, D = 2 Disagree, SD= 1 Strongly Disagree

Table 1 above presented data on the efforts of Government in alleviating poverty in Ogun and Oyo States which revealed that (11 respondents representing 1.83%) did not benefit in government's Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment in Oyo State while only (6 respondents representing 1.3%) responded to the affirmative that they benefited in government's Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment in the

state. On the other hand,(13 respondents representing 2.17%) in Ogun State indicated that they benefited in government's Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment in the state while (9 respondents representing 1.5%) noted that they did not benefit in government's Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment. This implied that a large number of the respondents who were not beneficiaries of the government's Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment were from Oyo State than in Ogun State. On the second item,(12 respondents representing 2.0%) in Oyo State claimed via data shown that they did not benefit from government's Business and Self-employment training programmes and seminars, on the other hand (5 respondents representing 0.8%) stated that they benefitted from government's Business and Self-employment training programmes for youth empowerment in Oyo State. Similarly,(14 respondents representing 2.34%) in Ogun State signified that they benefitted from government's Business and Self-employment training programmes for youth empowerment while (8 respondents representing 1.37%) did not benefit from government's Business and Self-employment training programmes for youth empowerment. This showed that on the issue of government's Business and Self-employment training programmes, government is not making efforts particularly in Oyo State according to the data provided above. Basically majority of the respondents in Oyo State have not been beneficiaries of this Programmes compared to that of Ogun State.

Item three revealed that (11 respondents representing 1.83%) indicated that they were not beneficiaries of government's Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in Oyo State,(6 respondents representing 1.3%) claimed through data obtained that they benefitted from government's Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in the state. In Ogun state equally, (9 respondents representing 1.5%) stated that they were not beneficiaries of government's Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in the state while (13 respondents representing 2.1%) noted that they benefitted from government's Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in the state. This implied that more individuals were beneficiaries of government's Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in Ogun State compared to Oyo State which portends a dangerous phenomenon in the state because the physically challenged individuals who are not beneficiaries will be unable to contribute their own quota to the development of the state thus accentuate poverty particularly in Oyo State.

On agricultural support programmes, data above showed that (12 respondents representing 2.0%) did not benefit from government's agricultural support programmes in Oyo State while (7 respondents representing 1.17%) indicated that they were beneficiaries of government's agricultural support programmes. In addition, (5 respondents representing 0.83%) signified that they did not benefit from government's agricultural support programmes in Ogun State and (15 respondents representing 2.58%) noted that they were beneficiaries of government's agricultural support programmes. This showed that the government has made visible efforts in providing agricultural support programmes for majority of individuals particularly in Ogun State compared to Oyo State thus accentuating poverty especially in Oyo State. On the issue of Provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture (4 respondents representing 0.66%) revealed that they were provided with loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture from government in Oyo State, on the other hand (16 respondents representing 2.6%) claimed that they were not provided with loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture by government in Oyo State. In Ogun State,(12 respondents representing 2.6%) noted that they were provided with loans /grants for self-employment in agriculture from government and (7 respondents representing 1.17%) however stated that they were not provided with loans /grants for self-employment in agriculture by government. This implied that government has not supported enough farmers in the provision of loans /grants for self-employment in agriculture which has slowed down agricultural development and not aided farmers in establishing bigger and more industrialized farms thereby not alleviating poverty among farmers in Oyo State compared to Ogun State. Item six indicated that (11 respondents representing 1.8%) in Oyo State accepted that government did not Provide Microcredit financing for agricultural ventures for them while (5 respondents representing 0.8%) stated that government did Provide Microcredit financing for agricultural ventures for them.

In Ogun State also (17 respondents representing 2.8%) acknowledged that government provided Microcredit financing for agricultural ventures for them whilst (6 respondents representing 1.0%) claimed that government did Provide Microcredit financing for agricultural ventures for them. This suggested that the government has not reached out adequately to the farmers especially in Oyo State compared to Ogun State in providing Microcredit financing for agricultural ventures that will support the development, increase and improvement of farming that will consequently alleviate poverty. Item seven revealed that (4 respondents representing 0.6%) in Oyo State stated that government provided lands for self-employment in agricultural activities while (13 respondents representing 2.1%) stated that they were not provided lands for self-employment in agricultural activities. Similarly, in Ogun State (15 respondents representing 2.5%) observed that government provided lands for self-employment in agricultural activities while (7 respondents representing 1.1%) noted that they were not provided lands for self-employment in agricultural activities. The implication

was that since a vast number of respondents particularly in Oyo State stated that they were not provided lands for self-employment for agricultural activities, compared to Ogun State. This apparently revealed that the chances of helplessness and unemployment which accentuates poverty in the state is higher in Oyo State than in Ogun State.

On Training and empowerment on general ICT Skills in Oyo State, (8 respondents representing 1.3%) noted that they were beneficiaries of Training and empowerment on general ICT Skills by government, (12 respondents representing 2.0%) claimed that they were not beneficiaries of the Training and empowerment on general ICT Skills by government. In Ogun State, (14 respondents representing 2.3%) emphasized that they were beneficiaries of the Training and empowerment on general ICT Skills by government while (5 respondents representing 0.8%) stated that they did not benefit from government's empowerment on general ICT Skills by government. This therefore meant that there are higher chances of individuals who are not beneficiaries or empowered by government in putting pressure and over reliance on government for jobs thus increasing the propensity for poverty in the states which is worse of in Oyo State where there are more non beneficiaries of government than in Ogun State. Item nine revealed that (9 respondents representing 1.5%) in Oyo State believed that they benefited from government's Entrepreneurial training in Hairdressing/Barbing, meanwhile (16 respondents representing 2.6%) claimed that they did not benefit from government's Entrepreneurial training in Hairdressing/Barbing. In Ogun State also, (10 respondents representing 1.6%) stated that they benefited from government's Entrepreneurial training in Hairdressing/Barbing and (5 respondents representing 0.8%) noted that they did not benefit from government's Entrepreneurial training in Hairdressing/Barbing. This suggested that majority of respondents who were not beneficiaries of the government's Entrepreneurial training in Hairdressing/Barbing were more in Oyo State than in Ogun State which therefore meant that those who were not beneficiaries of government's Entrepreneurial training are likely going to fall under the category of the unemployed and unemployable since they have no skill or opportunity to be employable which will consequently increase the level of poverty in Oyo State than in Ogun State.

On the issue of government's Entrepreneurial training in carpentry (5 respondents representing 0.8%) in Oyo State stated that they benefitted from government's training in carpentry, (11 respondents representing 1.8%) indicated that they did not benefit from government's training in carpentry. For Ogun State, (14 respondents representing 2.3%) signified that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in carpentry while (9 respondents representing 1.5%) stated that they did not benefit from government's training in carpentry.

This represents another group of people particularly in Oyo State which constitutes the higher number of non- beneficiaries than in Ogun State who are unemployed and lack skills to be employable or self-employed which apparently means an increase in poverty in Oyo State than in Ogun State.

Item eleven indicated that in Oyo State (6 respondents representing 1.0%) revealed that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in bead making while (18 respondents representing 3.1%) claimed that they were not beneficiaries of government's training in bead making. While in Ogun State, (11 respondents representing 1.8%) stated that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in bead making and (4 respondents representing 0.6%) stated that they did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in bead making. The implication of this was that the majority of respondents who were not beneficiaries of government's training in bead were in Oyo State and they apparently constituted the large population of the unskilled and inevitably poor in Oyo State than in Ogun State.

On item twelve (7 respondents representing 1.1%) in Oyo State stated that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in auto mechanics on the other hand, (15 respondents representing 2.5%) claimed that they did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in auto mechanics. Similarly, in Ogun State, (12 respondents representing 2.0%) indicated that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in auto mechanics meanwhile (5 respondents representing 0.8%) noted that they did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in auto mechanics. The resultant effect therefore meant that a higher percentage of people in Ogun State were beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in auto mechanics than in Oyo State which invariably implied that individuals in Oyo State were more deprived from getting employed or creating a means of employment for themselves and others and consequently becoming unskilled, vulnerable and poor.

On item thirteen it was revealed that (3 respondents representing 0.5%) acknowledged that they were beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography, (12 respondents representing 2.0%) claimed that they did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in photography in Oyo State. In the same vein, (19 respondents representing 3.1%) were beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography in Ogun State and (5 respondents representing 0.8%) were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography. This implied that majority of the respondents especially from Oyo State were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography compared to Ogun State. Thus their inaccessibility to be beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography in Oyo State

unavoidably made them unskilled, unemployable and unable to generate employment for themselves thus making them susceptible to poverty than in Ogun State. Data obtained indicated in Item fourteen that (5 respondents representing 0.8%) in Oyo State benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring while (14 respondents representing 2.3%) did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring. In Ogun State also, (13 respondents representing 2.1%) benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring and (7 respondents representing 1.1%) did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring. This shows that a larger percentage of the respondents in Oyo State were not participants of government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring compared to that of Ogun State. Therefore, their inability to benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in tailoring made them more helpless, deprived and vulnerable to poverty thus adding to the majority of people who are unemployed, unemployable and poor in Oyo State.

Item fifteen revealed that (7 respondents representing 1.1%) in Oyo State indicated that they benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in painting/interior designing meanwhile (10 respondents representing 1.6%) stated that they did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in painting/interior designing. Lastly, in Ogun State, (17 respondents representing 2.8%) benefitted from government's entrepreneurial training in painting/interior designing while (5 respondents representing 0.8%) did not benefit from government's entrepreneurial training in painting/interior designing. This revealed that more individuals were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in painting/interior designing particularly in Oyo State when compared to Ogun State and this shows that the government has not put in as much effort as it should in alleviating poverty particularly in Oyo State where there is higher level of poverty than in Ogun State.

### **III. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The answer to research questions was reflected in the results presented in Table 1 of the questionnaire. According to responses gathered from the respondents, the results comparatively revealed that Majority of the respondents in Oyo State did not benefit from many of the government's Poverty Alleviation Programmes compared to that of Ogun State. Findings from item one, table 1 for instance, revealed that in Ogun State 1.5% of respondents claimed that they did not benefit from the Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment, while 2.17% benefitted from the Skill Training Programmes for youth empowerment. Similarly, In Oyo State, only 1.3% admitted that they benefitted from government's Poverty Alleviation Programs in Skill Training Programmes for Youth Empowerment and 1.83% did not benefit at all from the Skill Training programmes for youth empowerment. This findings showed that government's performance in alleviating poverty was poor and unimpressive in Oyo State than in Ogun State.

However, Ekong and Ekong (2016) affirmed that many Nigerian youths graduate from school without the needed skills that will enable them function in today's emerging society. Hence, the government found it necessary to establish skill training programs as a means of empowering as many youths in order to reduce unemployment and consequently poverty. Nevertheless during an interview with the HOD of the Vocational Skill Training Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun state, he emphasized that government can only go as far as providing skill training programmes for youth empowerment but the youths themselves have to be willing to be trained in skill acquisition. Moreover, in contemporary society, it has now become a necessity for youths to acquire skills to complement their various university degrees because it is no longer enough to be considered well educated or employable if you do not possess relevant skills particularly in the areas of ICT. So the bottom line is that the knowledge and application of skills can open up business opportunities for individuals and others that facilitate collaborative poverty alleviation that will reduce poverty.

In Item two, another poverty alleviation program of government is the Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars where 2.0% of respondents in Oyo State stated that they were not beneficiaries of this programs while 0.8% acknowledged that they benefitted from the Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars. Then in Ogun State, 1.5% stated that they did not benefit from the Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars. Meanwhile, 2.17% of respondents noted that they benefitted from the Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars. This finding therefore revealed glaringly that more respondents in Ogun State benefitted from government's Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars than in Oyo State. Following this, Metu & Nwokoye (2014) opined that the knowledge and application derived from Business and self-employment Training Programmes and Seminars by individuals play a major role in alleviating poverty and propelling economic development in such a way that these seminars accelerates business multiplication and development. Such seminars when applied potentially transforms traders to industrialist and finally to multinational conglomerate entities. Nevertheless, the HOD for the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State in an interview emphasized that the government realized that they have to provide businesses and self-employment training programmes and seminars so that poverty alleviation can be effective and so that the poor and

unemployed youths can understand the importance of entrepreneurship as a key to unlocking vast employment opportunities and not to solely rely on government but instead support the government through their innovative business ideas gotten from business training seminars in generating employment for themselves and others.

For Item three, 1.83% established that they did not benefit from the Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in Oyo State while only 1.3% of respondents benefitted. Similarly, 1.5% of the respondents noted that they did not benefit from the Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals, while 2.17% of respondents benefitted from the training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in Ogun State. This findings from item three therefore revealed that there were more respondents who did not benefit from the Training programmes for the disabled and physically challenged individuals in Oyo State than in Ogun State. Ibekwe, Obiajulu, Oli, Nwakwo, Mathias & Ufomba (2018) opined that the relegation or exclusion of the physically challenged who are poor in the poverty alleviation programs of Government has adverse negative consequences for a successful poverty alleviation programme. In essence, a poverty alleviation program of government cannot truly be successful without the inclusion and training of the physically vulnerable individuals. Also, for poverty alleviation to truly have an impact on those with special needs, support gadgets like wheel chairs, walking staff and eye glasses need to be provide so that they can fit in and function effectively in the society. Nevertheless, During an interview with the HOD for the Vocational Skill Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State, he substantiated this point of view by stating that it is of importance to train or empower poor individuals who are physically challenged or vulnerable and not sideline them since they form part of the society and when equipped with the needed skills suitable for their individual conditions, they can become employers or employable despite their physical conditions. What this means is that their physical challenges will not bar or limit them from maximizing their capacities especially when trained in providing employment for themselves and others, once there are support systems that will help them.

Findings from item four, table 1 indicated that 2.67% of respondents claimed that they did not benefit from government Agricultural support programmes in Oyo State, while 0.68% of respondents benefitted from government's agricultural support programmes. Similarly, in Ogun State, item four, table 14 showed that 1.1.8% did not benefit from government Agricultural support programmes meanwhile, 2.69% did. The findings therefore suggested that as far as Agricultural support programmes are concerned, there were more beneficiaries in Ogun State than in Oyo State. Following this, Adereti & Fadare (2017) observed that majority of the rural populace in Nigeria either depends entirely on farming and farming activities for survival and generation of income or depends on these activities to supplement their main sources of income. The validity of this statement becomes evident when it was realized that over 90% of the country's local food production comes from farms .Hence, having realized the enormous poverty the farmers face and the threat of famine, and food insecurity on the country, successive government devoted considerable attention to alleviating its scourge through various aid programmes, some of the time in collaboration with the civil society and donor agencies. Some of these programmes include the Agricultural Development Programme (1975), Operation Feed the Nation (1986), National Fadama Development Programme I (1992), Special Programme on Food Security (2001), National Fadama Development Programme II (2004), and National Fadama Development Programme III (2008-2013). This was substantiated by the HOD for the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State who explained that for any poverty alleviation programme to make an impact, the issue of agriculture cannot be over looked. Agricultural support by government is a very cardinal part of alleviating poverty because when agriculture is well supported, the issue of hunger, malnutrition and diseases becomes minimal .Food stuffs become cheaper and accessible to all regardless of social status. What this means is that the more government supports agriculture, the more food becomes affordable and available for all. In the same vein, Findings from item five, table 5.10 indicated that 2.67% of respondents signified that they did not benefit from government's provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture in Oyo State while 12.4% of respondents claimed that they benefitted from government's provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture.

Also, 1.17% in Ogun State acknowledged that they did not benefit from government's provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture while 2.69% stated that they benefitted from government's provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture. This findings therefore revealed that more respondents were beneficiaries of government's provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture in Ogun State than in Oyo State and this. However, according to Ellis (2013) he observed that it has been the vision of well-meaning governments to ensure the development of agriculture through the provision of loans/grants for self-employment in agriculture especially in rural areas where agricultural activities are more dominant. Since agriculture contributes to the country's GDP, the provision of loans and grants for farmers to enhance modernized farming and facilitate the harvesting of good quality agricultural produce is pivotal not just in improving on agriculture but to also facilitate self-employment particularly in the rural areas in alleviating rural poverty. This validated the position of the HOD of the Rural Agricultural and Training Programme in

Ogun State who emphasized that to reduce the high prevalence of rural urban migration by rural dwellers in search of white collar jobs which by the way puts more pressure on urban centers and is a leading cause of urban poverty and unemployment, it is imperative that government provides loans and agriculture to discourage youths from moving to urban centers and abandoning agriculture which will thereby lead to self-employment for farmers. What this implies that for self-employment in agriculture to happen, government needs to take agriculture seriously by provision of loans and grants for farmers to make farming easier and more appealing to the youths. In like manner, Findings from item six, table 1 signified that 1.83% of respondents stated that they did not benefit from the Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures in Oyo state while 0.83% of respondents indicated that they benefitted from the Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures. Similarly, in Ogun State, 1.3% claimed that they did not benefit from the Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures and 2.84% of respondents noted that they benefitted from the Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures. This finding therefore showed that more respondents in Ogun State were beneficiaries of the Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures than in Oyo State. For Ellis (2013) he noted that the essence of the Provision of Micro credit financing for agricultural ventures by government in alleviating poverty is to stimulate banking habits among farmers who are rural dwellers and mobilize resources locked up in the rural areas into the banking system to facilitate agricultural development. However, he emphasized that it is unfortunate that Nigeria has suffered decline in the contribution of agriculture to its exports as a result of neglect of the sector by government which mainly comprises of small scale farmers. Sadly, this situation has resulted in increase in food importation. The resultant effect is a decline in income which could have been used to improve the socio economic status of the country. He further stated that government's provision of credit facilities is a catalyst to agricultural development as well as a panacea to farmers problems of small farm size, low output, low income and low socio-economic status of farmers. Following this, during an interview with the HOD of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme in Oyo State, he emphasized that the provision of micro credit financing for agricultural ventures helps poor farmers in working with more modernized farming equipments that will encourage increase in farm produce and reduce manual and strenuous labour. It also helps them in being financially independent as they are able to expand their farms which also means an increase in employment opportunities for farm workers.

Findings from item seven, table 1 showed that 0.66% of respondents in Oyo State stated that they were beneficiaries of government's provision of lands for self-agriculture while 2.17% of respondents in Oyo State indicated that they did not benefit from government's provision of lands for self-agriculture. In the same vein, 2.58% of respondents in Ogun State noted that they were beneficiaries of government's provision of lands for self-agriculture then 1.17% of respondents signified that they did not benefit from government's provision of lands for self-agriculture. This finding therefore implied that there were more beneficiaries who benefitted from government's lands for self-agriculture in Ogun State than in Oyo State. In juxtaposing this findings, Oyakilomen and Zibah (2014) argued that provision of support mechanisms for agriculture by any government serious about poverty alleviation is critical to achieving speedy poverty alleviation. Moreover, it is the single most important productive sector in most low income countries. The potentials of agriculture to generate more income and employment generation in crops and livestock, forestry and fishery particularly in the rural areas depends largely on the investment and support of government. Similarly, (Adetayo, 2014) reiterated that the role of agriculture in poverty alleviation cannot be over emphasized because agriculture plays an important factor for economic growth. The contribution of Government to agriculture accelerates the process of industrialization. Following this, in an interview with the HOD of the Rural Agricultural Training and Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State. He noted that the essence of any poverty alleviation programme is to provide an enabling environment and an opportunity for as many poor individuals from every sector as possible to be less vulnerable and empowered. Therefore, one of the best things a government can do in alleviating poverty is to provide lands for farmers to engage in their respective agricultural ventures.

Item eight, table 1 showed that 1.37% of respondents benefitted in the Training and empowerment on general ICT skills in Oyo State. Meanwhile, 2.6% of respondents did not benefit from the Training and empowerment on general ICT skills. Then in Ogun State, 2.34% of respondents benefitted from the Training and empowerment on general ICT skills meanwhile 0.83% of respondents did not benefit from the Training and empowerment on general ICT skills. This finding apparently showed that there were more beneficiaries of the Training and empowerment on general ICT skills of in Ogun State than in Oyo State.

However, according to Oyebisi (2018) he noted that the role of government in empowering the poor and/or unemployed individuals on ICT skills especially with the aim of poverty reduction cannot be over emphasized because Technology is always connected with obtaining results and resolving most modern day problems, central of which is poverty reduction through employment generation in various sectors of ICT. Therefore, the knowledge gotten from training and empowerment of individuals in ICT is capable of solving the poverty problem when individuals are empowered with ICT Skills which they can function with in various industries. In addition, the empowerment of individuals on ICT Skills contributes to industrial innovation and



channels the potentials of unemployed/poor youths into technological development which brings about the multiplication of employment generation. In addition Aderonmu (2017) reiterated that the poverty and unemployment crisis is not insurmountable provided ICT is deployed with purpose and vision. For instance, the amazing growth in technology makes the ICT sector itself a major source of jobs this days. The ICT is one of the fastest growing field in which the contemporary world cannot function without. Therefore when government contributes in the empowerment of individuals in ICT, it helps individuals in taking advantage of massive opportunities in the ICT job market which will consequently assist in reducing the unemployment and inevitably poverty rate in the country. An indirect impact is in the multiplying effect that ICT professionals have on the economy. It should also be noted that one new job in the ICT company creates up to three to four indirect jobs.

What this means therefore is that transportation, education, tourism, hospitality, finance, marketing, publicity, entertainment, building and construction, manufacturing and maritime are some of the areas that benefit tremendously from ICT deployment. Moreover, the employees of ICT firms will pay for food, transport, clothing and housing which in itself will generate more business opportunities for other sectors around the ICT firm. This in essence implies that ICT has become indispensable because we are in the digital age where everything revolves around technology. Therefore, through ICT, Nigerians can tap into jobs within the digital supply chains which is capable of tremendously reducing unemployment and poverty drastically. Nevertheless, in an interview with the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State, he emphasized that concerted and intentional efforts by government in training of the poor with affinity for science and technology on the knowledge of technology skills provides a very fertile ground for employment generation especially in technology businesses in modern times like this.

On Item nine also, 1.5% of respondents in Oyo State acknowledged that they were given Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing in Oyo State while 2.67% of respondents did not benefit from the Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing. In Ogun State on the other hand, 1.67% of respondents benefitted from the Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing. While 0.66% of respondents claimed that they did not benefit from the Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing. This findings comparatively showed that more respondents benefitted from government's poverty alleviation Programme in Entrepreneurial Training in hairdressing /Barbing in Ogun State compared to Oyo State. According to Odigwe (2017) observed that provision of poverty alleviation Programmes that deal in entrepreneurial Training skills creates a sure means for individuals to gain required skills in increasing the productive power of a nation and complement governments effort in alleviating poverty. Moreover, entrepreneurship is now recognized worldwide as a basic means of promoting and improving innovative activities and capabilities which is capable of triggering multiple employment opportunities and reducing poverty. Odigwe (2017) emphasized that it is the willingness and ability of an individual to seek out investment and be able to establish and run an enterprise successfully. Of course with the entrepreneurial Training of government for poor and willing individuals which gives them a platform to be employers of labour and creators of wealth. However, in an interview with the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Oyo State, he reiterated that that Entrepreneurial skill training is an integral part of alleviating poverty whether for graduates who cannot find jobs or the uneducated. The bottom line is for government to provide an entrepreneurial skill through poverty alleviation programs in which will help individuals alleviate poverty.

Item ten, table 1 revealed that 0.83% of respondents in Oyo State noted that they were beneficiaries of the entrepreneurial training programmes of government in Carpentry while 1.83% of respondents acknowledged that they did not benefit from the entrepreneurial training Programme of government in carpentry. Then in Ogun State, 2.34% of respondents stated that they were beneficiaries of the entrepreneurial training programmes of government in Carpentry 1.5% of respondents indicated that they did not benefit from the entrepreneurial training Programme of government in carpentry. This finding apparently revealed that there were more beneficiaries of government entrepreneurial training in carpentry in Ogun State than in Oyo State. Which showed that the government made visible efforts in alleviating poverty in Ogun State through entrepreneurial training programmes in carpentry than in Oyo State. Following this, Odigwe (2017) affirmed that training and retraining is very essential in entrepreneurial improvement. In addition, acquisition of entrepreneurial skills provides a better orientation to entrepreneurial training programs of government in the course of alleviating poverty. In the light of this, the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Oyo State during an interview emphasized that governments provision of entrepreneurship training programs is a means of empowering individuals so that they will be able maximize their expertise to the development of the economy and removing some unemployed youths off the labor market. On item eleven, 1.3% of respondents stated that they were beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Bead making in Oyo State while 3.1% of respondents claimed they did not benefit from governments Entrepreneurial Training in Bead making. In Ogun state, 1.83% of respondents admitted that they were beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Bead making while 0.66% of respondents stated that they did not benefit from governments Entrepreneurial Training in Bead making. The implication of this finding therefore

revealed that more respondents in Ogun State were beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Bead making than in Oyo State. Following this, Odigwe (2017) argued that entrepreneurship training in skilled work is the impartation of skills and knowledge on an entrepreneur before he embarks on a business venture. According to the HOD for the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Oyo State, he affirmed that the essence of entrepreneurial training in any skilled work at all is for the recipient to make wise business decisions that will add value to his products and accelerate development for his business in such a way as to give room for employment opportunities for others.

For Item twelve table 1, indicated that 2.6% of respondents in Ogun State acknowledged that they were beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Auto mechanic while 0.8% of respondents believed that they did not benefit from governments Entrepreneurial Training in Auto mechanics. Similarly, in Oyo State, 1.17% of respondents benefitted from governments Entrepreneurial Training in Auto mechanic and 2.58% of respondents did not benefit from governments Entrepreneurial Training in Auto mechanics. This findings therefore showed that more respondents happened to be beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Auto mechanics .which also indicated that more respondents were empowered in Ogun State than in Oyo State, which gave them the opportunity to be more skilled than respondents in Oyo and thereby revealing a reduction of poverty in Ogun State than in Oyo State. In the same vein, 3.1% of respondents were beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography and 0.8% were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography in Ogun State. In Oyo State, 0.51% of respondents were beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography and 2.6 % admitted that they were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography .This implied that majority of the respondents especially from Oyo State were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography than in Oyo State. Thus their inaccessibility to be beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in photography unavoidably made them unskilled, unemployable and unable to generate employment for themselves thus making them susceptible to poverty compared to beneficiaries in Ogun State. This was substantiated by Zannah, Latiffi, Raji & Waziri (2017) who emphasized that individuals who are empowered with skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship contribute immensely to productivity in a nation's economy and productivity results in development and duplication of industries, which apparently creates opportunities for employment and consequently alleviate poverty. However during an interview with the HOD of the Vocational Skill Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State, he buttressed this point when he opined that lack of skills inevitably makes individuals vulnerable to unemployment and automatically poverty. Fundamentally, it is an instrument used to alleviate poverty.

For Item fourteen table 1, 10.67% of respondents in Oyo State stated that they were beneficiaries of governments Entrepreneurial Training in Tailoring while 22.2% of respondents acknowledged that they were not beneficiaries of government's entrepreneurial training in Tailoring. Also, in Ogun State 29.3% of respondents stated that they benefitted from the Entrepreneurial training Programme of government in tailoring meanwhile 5.8% of respondents did not benefit from the Entrepreneurial training Programme of government in tailoring .This finding invariably revealed that more respondents in Ogun State benefitted from the Entrepreneurial training Programme of government in tailoring compared to Oyo State. This was corroborated by Adetayo (2014) who emphasized that empowerment of individuals by government in entrepreneurial skills shows the willingness and seriousness of government in meeting the needs of the people especially in alleviating their poverty. In other words empowerment of people in entrepreneurial skills by government helps individuals contribute in building the economy and invariably reducing the teeming population of the unemployed and poor. This was substantiated by the HOD of the Vocational Skill Development Programme of the NDE during an interview who reiterated that one of the effective ways government contributes to the lives of the people in alleviating poverty is through skill acquisition. Entrepreneurial training in skill acquisition does not just benefit the individual, it empowers the individual to empower others.

Item fifteen, table 1 revealed that 1.17% of respondents in Oyo State benefitted from the Entrepreneurial training Programme of government in Painting/Interior Designing while 1.67% claimed they did not benefit from governments training on Entrepreneurial training Programme in Painting/Interior Designing. In Ogun State, 2.84% of respondents benefitted from governments training on Entrepreneurial training Programme in Painting/Interior Designing and lastly 0.83% did not benefit from governments training on Entrepreneurial training Programme in Painting/Interior Designing. This finding proved that many respondents in Oyo State did not benefit from all of the governments entrepreneurial training programmes as much as respondents in Ogun State which invariably provided no platform for empowerment, thus this situation accounted for a higher rate of poverty in Oyo State than in Ogun State. This, therefore, proves Adetayo (2014) point when she emphasized that government training in entrepreneurial skills is the process of investing in individuals to train them on how to take calculated risks in order to produce goods and services and make profit out of it in order to give them a leverage in alleviating poverty. However, when there is no support or intervention from government in training individuals in entrepreneurial skills, then poverty will be inevitably increase because people without training or

support cannot escape poverty. Nevertheless, during an interview with the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun State, he argued that government's support in entrepreneurial training is pivotal in guiding and raising individuals not only to avoid careless business decisions detrimental to their business growth but to create a multiplying effect for as many entrepreneurs as possible in self-employment and income generation.

#### IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Findings from this study comparatively revealed that Majority of the respondents in Oyo State did not benefit from many of the government's Poverty Alleviation Programmes compared to that of Ogun State. It glaringly showed that government's efforts in alleviating poverty was poor and unimpressive in Oyo State than in Ogun State. The study, therefore, recommended that there is need for government to complement the efforts of the NDE at state level through provision of funds and infrastructures that will help in the realization or actualization of alleviating poverty. In making its effort work, there is also a need to ensure that there is a monitoring agency at the state levels that checks or monitors funds to ensure that the funds are used for its intended purposes in alleviating poverty and are not diverted or misappropriated for pecuniary purposes.

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