

# Breaking The Cycle Of Poverty: Exploring The 'Poverty Cage' And Opportunities For Nigerian Youth

DR. ALAZIGHA, FRED EBIPADOU<sup>1</sup> and DR. AMANAWA, DAVID EBIEGBERI<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Academic Affairs, Federal Polytechnic, Ekowe, Bayelsa, Nigeria.

[alazighaf@gmail.com](mailto:alazighaf@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Faculty Member/Researcher at the Nubian American Advanced College, LFS Maben Road, off Northern Foreshore, Chevron Drive, Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria.

[david.amanawa@iaue.edu.ng](mailto:david.amanawa@iaue.edu.ng)

**Abstract:** Poverty in Nigeria is a pervasive and persistent issue that has far-reaching consequences for the socio-economic development of the country and disproportionately affects the youth population. The concept of the "poverty cage" refers to the intricate web of systemic barriers that entrap individuals in poverty, restricting access to opportunities for economic advancement and perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage. Understanding the poverty cage requires recognizing the interplay between factors such as inadequate education and skills training, limited employment opportunities, gender disparities, corruption, and political instability, which all contribute to a complex and deeply entrenched problem. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving policy interventions, such as investing in education and healthcare, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and implementing programs to increase access to credit and financial services for marginalized groups. Additionally, programs that promote education and employment opportunities for young people, particularly women and girls, are crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting sustainable development. Furthermore, efforts to combat corruption and promote political stability are essential for creating an environment conducive to economic growth and development. Empowering Nigerian youth through entrepreneurship, vocational training, and digital skills development presents opportunities for poverty alleviation and economic growth, highlighting the importance of investing in youth development to create a brighter future for future generations. By addressing these challenges through a comprehensive approach that involves government, civil society, and the private sector, Nigeria can work towards achieving sustainable development and reducing poverty among its youth population.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Nigeria, Youth, Development, Empowerment

## INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of poverty has been a pervasive and persistent issue in Nigeria, with far-reaching consequences for the country's socio-economic development. Notably, the youth population, comprising a significant proportion of the nation's demographic, has been disproportionately affected by this scourge. According to the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (2019), approximately 40% of the country's population, which translates to over 100 million individuals, live below the poverty line, with a substantial proportion being young people. The World Bank (2019) defines poverty as a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic needs, including but not limited to food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education. In Nigeria, poverty has been exacerbated by inadequate access to education, limited job opportunities, corruption, and political instability (Akinpelu & Ogunleye, 2017; Olorunfemi & Adebisi, 2018).

The implications of poverty on youth development are multifaceted and far-reaching. It can lead to increased vulnerability to social and economic exclusion, decreased life expectancy, and compromised mental and physical health (Hill et al., 2016). Furthermore, poverty can limit access to essential resources such as education and healthcare, thereby perpetuating intergenerational cycles of poverty (Igben et al., 2019). Moreover, it can also undermine the capacity of young people to contribute positively to the economy and society (Adeyemo et al., 2019).

Against this backdrop, addressing youth unemployment and poverty is crucial for sustainable development in Nigeria. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) emphasize the importance of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development through inclusive economic growth and social cohesion (United Nations Development Programme, 2019). This report seeks to contribute to this discourse by shedding light on the poverty cage constraining Nigerian youth and exploring ways to unlock their potential. Specifically, it will examine the factors contributing to poverty among young people in Nigeria, the impact of poverty on their mental and physical health, and potential solutions for addressing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

## UNDERSTANDING THE POVERTY CAGE

The "poverty cage" concept refers to the intricate web of systemic barriers that entrap individuals in poverty, restricting their access to opportunities for economic advancement. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in Nigeria, where a combination of factors has perpetuated poverty among the youth. This write-up will delve into the factors contributing to the poverty cage, exploring the empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks underpinning this phenomenon.

One of Nigeria's primary barriers to economic advancement is the lack of access to quality education (Adesoji, 2013). The country's education system is plagued by inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources, and a lack of qualified teachers (Okeke & Eze, 2017). These challenges have resulted in low academic performance, limited job opportunities, and a lack of relevant skills among young people. According to a study by the World Bank, Nigeria's education system is one of the most underfunded in the world, with public spending on education averaging only 3.5% of GDP (World Bank, 2019).

Another significant obstacle to economic advancement in Nigeria is the limited availability of employment opportunities. The country's labor market is characterized by high unemployment rates, particularly among young people (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The informal sector dominates the economy, with many workers operating outside formal employment arrangements (ILO, 2019). This lack of formal employment opportunities restricts access to social security benefits, healthcare, and other essential services.

Gender disparities also play a significant role in perpetuating poverty among young people in Nigeria. Women and girls face numerous barriers to education and employment, including limited access to resources cultural and social norms that restrict their participation in the labor market (Adeyemi & Adeyemi, 2017). A study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) found that women in Nigeria face significant gender gaps in education, with only 64% of women aged 15-24 having completed secondary education compared to 76% of men (UNDP, 2019).

The poverty cage can be understood through various theoretical frameworks. One such framework is the concept of structural inequality, which posits that social and economic inequalities are perpetuated by societal structures and institutions (Wildeman & Muller, 2012). Another relevant framework is the concept of social exclusion, which emphasizes how individuals or groups are excluded from participating in social and economic activities due to their socio-economic status (Silver, 1995).

The poverty cage is a complex phenomenon perpetuated by a combination of systemic barriers in Nigeria. The lack of access to quality education, limited employment opportunities, and gender disparities all contribute to this phenomenon. Understanding the poverty cage requires recognizing how these systemic barriers interact and reinforce one another. By addressing these challenges through policy interventions and programs to promote education and employment opportunities for young people, particularly women and girls, it is possible to break the cycle of poverty and promote economic advancement in Nigeria.

### **CHALLENGES FACING YOUTHS IN NIGERIA**

The Nigerian youth, comprising over 40% of the country's population, face numerous challenges that hinder their economic and social advancement. This write-up will explore the critical challenges Nigerian youth face, including inadequate education and skills training, high levels of unemployment, gender inequalities, corruption, and political instability.

One of the primary challenges facing Nigerian youth is inadequate education and skills training. The country's education system lacks quality schools, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient resources (Okeke & Eze, 2017). This has resulted in limited access to relevant skills and education, making it difficult for young people to compete in the job market. A study by the World Bank found that only 40% of Nigerian youth have completed secondary education, making it challenging for them to secure employment (World Bank, 2019).

Unemployment is another significant challenge facing Nigerian youth. The country's labor market is characterized by high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Nigeria's unemployment rate among young people (15-24 years) was 34.9% in 2019 (ILO, 2020). This high level of unemployment not only affects young people's economic prospects but contributes to social unrest and instability.

Gender inequalities are another significant challenge facing Nigerian youth. Women and girls face numerous barriers to education and employment, including limited access to resources and cultural and social norms that restrict their participation in the labor market (Adeyemi & Adeyemi, 2017). A study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) found that women in Nigeria face significant gender gaps in education, with only 64% of women aged 15-24 having completed secondary education compared to 76% of men (UNDP, 2019).

Corruption and political instability further exacerbate the challenges faced by Nigerian youth. Corruption affects all aspects of Nigeria, from education and healthcare to employment and business opportunities (ECA, 2019). Political instability has also significantly impacted the country's economy and led to a decline in foreign investment and tourism (Ajayi & Adekanye, 2018).

The challenges facing Nigerian youth can be understood through various theoretical frameworks. One such framework is the concept of structural inequality, which posits that social and economic inequalities are perpetuated by societal structures and institutions (Wildeman & Muller, 2012). Another relevant framework is the concept of social exclusion, which emphasizes how individuals or groups are excluded from participating in social and economic activities due to their socio-economic status (Silver, 1995).

The challenges facing Nigerian youth are complex and multifaceted. Inadequate education and skills training, high levels of unemployment, gender inequalities, corruption, and political instability all contribute to a challenging environment that hinders young people's prospects for a better future. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving policy interventions, programs promoting education and employment opportunities for young people, particularly women and girls, and efforts to combat corruption and promote political stability.

### **POTENTIALS FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

Nigeria's young, who comprise more than 40% of the population, have enormous potential to boost the economy and reduce poverty. Nonetheless, a lack of resources and opportunities has hampered their capacity to support the nation's growth. Economic growth and poverty reduction may be achieved by empowering Nigerian youth via digital skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship. One of the main forces behind economic expansion and employment creation is entrepreneurship. Empowering Nigerian youth to start their businesses can help reduce poverty and unemployment. A study by the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) found that 70% of entrepreneurs in Nigeria are under the age of 30 (SEDA, 2019). Entrepreneurship training programs can help young people develop the skills and knowledge to start and run successful businesses.

Vocational training is essential for equipping young people with the skills to succeed in the workforce. The Nigerian government has launched several initiatives to promote vocational training, including the National Industrial Skills Training Program (NISTP) (NISTP, 2020). Vocational training programs can help young people develop construction, agriculture, and manufacturing skills.

Digital skills are becoming increasingly important for success in the workforce. The digital economy is increasing, and digital skills are becoming increasingly important for success in the workforce. Empowering Nigerian youth with digital skills can help them compete in the global job market. A study by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) found that 70% of Nigerian youth have access to mobile phones, making them an ideal target for digital skills development programs (ITU, 2020).

Mentorship programs can be critical in empowering Nigerian youth by providing guidance, support, and networking opportunities. A study by the African Academy of Sciences found that mentorship programs can increase young people's confidence, self-esteem, and motivation (African Academy of Sciences, 2019). Mentorship programs can also give young people valuable insights into the business world and help them develop essential skills such as communication and problem-solving.

Start-up incubators can provide young entrepreneurs with resources, including funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities. A study by the World Bank found that start-up incubators can increase the chances of start-up success by up to 50% (World Bank, 2019). Start-up incubators can also help young entrepreneurs develop innovation, adaptability, and resilience skills.

In addition to entrepreneurship, vocational training, and digital skills development, other initiatives can help empower Nigerian youth. For example, internships and apprenticeships can provide young people hands-on experience in their chosen field. Internships and apprenticeships can also help young people develop essential teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.

Another important initiative is education reform. Education reform is essential for ensuring Nigerian youth access to high-quality education that prepares them for the workforce. Education reform can involve reforms to curriculum design, teaching methods, and assessment criteria. Education reform can also include infrastructure, technology, and teacher training investments.

Education is the most incredibly effective tool a country has to alter the world. Thus, if appropriately designed and carried out by the relevant stakeholders, the adaption of functional university education and poverty alleviation programs are twin brothers that may empower the youth for sustainable development in Nigeria. In actuality, education is an investment in a nation's future. Furthermore, when considering future employment, education is consistently cited as the most critical criterion. This implies that a country that gives its children a proper education creates a resilient, virtuous nation worthy of imitation (Okoro & Ojo, 2014).

Youth-friendly policies are also essential for empowering Nigerian youth. Youth-friendly policies can include policies to reduce poverty and unemployment among young people. Youth-friendly policies can also include policies aimed at promoting education and training opportunities for young people.

Empowering Nigerian youth through entrepreneurship, vocational training, and digital skills development presents poverty alleviation and economic growth opportunities. Initiatives aimed at supporting youth development, such as mentorship programs

and start-up incubators, can help unlock the potential of young people. By investing in the development of Nigerian youth, we can create a brighter future for generations to come.

### **GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS**

Government policies and interventions to reduce poverty in Nigeria have been implemented since the early 2000s. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have been a critical component of these efforts, with the first PRSP launched in 2002 and subsequent ones implemented in 2005, 2012, and 2017. The PRSPs outline the government's strategy for reducing poverty and are designed to be comprehensive and inclusive. However, a study by Ogunrinde et al. (2020) found that the PRSPs have limited poverty reduction in Nigeria due to inadequate funding, poor implementation, and lack of monitoring and evaluation.

Another important initiative is the National Social Register (NSR), a database of poor and vulnerable households in Nigeria. The register aims to identify and target the most vulnerable families with social protection programs. A study by Olowu et al. (2020) found that the NSR has improved the targeting of social protection programs in Nigeria. However, there are still challenges related to data accuracy and updating. Additionally, there are concerns about the scalability and sustainability of these programs.

The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program is another government initiative to reduce poverty. The program provides cash transfers to poor households in exchange for certain conditions, such as keeping their children in school and seeking medical care. A study by Oni et al. (2020) found that the CCT program has improved the well-being of participating households, but there are concerns about its scalability and sustainability.

The microfinance program is another government initiative aimed at reducing poverty. The program provides small loans to small-scale entrepreneurs and farmers to help them start or expand their businesses. A study by Ajayi et al. (2020) found that the microfinance program has had a limited impact on poverty reduction due to high interest rates, lack of collateral requirements, and inadequate training for beneficiaries.

Despite these initiatives, poverty remains a pervasive problem in Nigeria. According to recent data, over 40% of the population lives below the poverty line. Improving funding, implementation, data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation is essential. Additionally, there is a need for more innovative approaches to poverty reduction that consider the specific needs of different groups in society.

While government policies and interventions aimed at reducing poverty in Nigeria have some strengths, they are hindered by several challenges related to inadequate funding, poor implementation, lack of data, and limited reach. Improving financing, implementation, data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation is necessary. Additionally, there is a need for more innovative approaches to poverty reduction that consider the specific needs of different groups in society.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**

The engagement of civil society and the private sector in poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria has been a topic of increasing interest and debate in recent years. While there are many positive developments and initiatives, significant challenges and limitations also need to be addressed.

On the positive side, civil society organizations (CSOs) have effectively promoted poverty reduction through community-based projects, particularly in rural areas. According to a study by Ogunrinde et al. (2020), CSOs have been crucial in promoting poverty reduction through community-based projects, particularly in rural areas. These projects often focus on improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation and providing economic opportunities and social support to marginalized communities.

The private sector has also been engaged in poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria through various initiatives, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, social entrepreneurship, and public-private partnerships (PPPs). Ajayi et al. (2020) found that CSR programs have effectively reduced poverty through job creation, skills development, and community development. However, another study by Adeyemi et al. (2020) found that CSR programs often lack transparency and accountability, which can undermine their effectiveness.

Despite these strengths, several challenges need to be addressed. Limited funding is a significant challenge for CSOs, which hinders their effectiveness. Additionally, many CSOs lack adequate capacity to implement projects effectively and often face challenges related to a lack of government support and coordination. Furthermore, CSR programs usually lack transparency and accountability, which can undermine their effectiveness.

Another challenge is the lack of inclusivity in many poverty reduction initiatives. Many initiatives focus on urban areas or specific regions of the country, leaving behind marginalized communities such as women, youth, and people with disabilities. A study by

Okeke et al. (2020) found that CSOs often face challenges in reaching these marginalized groups due to a lack of resources, capacity, and access to information.

It is essential to improve funding for CSOs, provide adequate training and capacity-building for CSOs and CSR programs, ensure government support and coordination for CSOs and CSR programs, promote transparency and accountability in CSR programs, and increase the reach of CSR programs to more vulnerable households.

In addition to these challenges, there are several opportunities for civil society and the private sector to work together more effectively to reduce poverty in Nigeria. For example, there is a growing trend towards impact investing in Nigeria, which involves investing in social enterprises or projects that address specific social or environmental issues. This approach can potentially leverage private sector resources and expertise to drive poverty reduction efforts.

Furthermore, there is a need for greater collaboration between CSOs and the private sector to address the root causes of poverty. Poverty is often a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach that addresses multiple factors, such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. A study by Nwosu et al. (2020) found that CSOs often have limited capacity to address these complex issues due to lacking resources and expertise.

To tackle these obstacles and prospects effectively, a more thorough comprehension of the contributions made by civil society and the business sector to Nigeria's attempts to reduce poverty is essential. This necessitates a comprehensive evaluation of the benefits and drawbacks of current programs in addition to a look at the root causes of poverty.

Although there have been a lot of good things happening in Nigeria regarding the involvement of the business sector and civil society in attempts to reduce poverty, there are still a lot of obstacles and constraints that need to be overcome. Gaining a more profound knowledge of the roles played by the business sector and civil society in Nigeria's poverty reduction endeavors is crucial if significant success is to be made in this area.

### **ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITY**

Gender inequality remains a pervasive issue in Nigeria, particularly in the realms of education and employment. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2019), gender disparities in education and employment are significant barriers to the progress of young women in Nigeria. This is because they often face limited access to quality education and employment opportunities, which hinders their ability to participate fully in the economy and society.

In terms of education, a study by Okeke et al. (2020) found that girls in Nigeria are more likely to drop out of school than boys, with 65% of girls dropping out before completing primary school. This is often due to factors such as lack of education, early marriage, and cultural beliefs prioritizing boys' education over girls' (Babalola et al., 2019). Furthermore, a study by Adeyemi et al. (2020) found that even when girls do attend school, they often face gender-based violence and harassment, which can deter them from pursuing their education.

In terms of employment, a study by Nwosu et al. (2020) found that women in Nigeria face significant barriers to entering the workforce, including limited access to job training and mentorship, as well as gender-based discrimination and harassment. According to the World Bank (2019), women in Nigeria are more likely to be unemployed than men, with an unemployment rate of 20.4% compared to 14.6% for men.

Targeted initiatives are required to overcome these gender gaps and advance gender equality and female youth empowerment. For instance, a study conducted in 2020 by Ogunrinde et al. discovered that initiatives that offer mentorship and scholarships to females can boost their rates of enrolment and persistence in school. Additionally, Ajayi et al. (2020) found that programs that provide women with job training and mentorship opportunities can help increase their participation in the workforce.

Promoting gender equality and empowering female youth requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of gender inequality. This includes addressing societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality and promoting policies and laws that protect women's rights and promote gender equality.

Addressing gender inequality is crucial for promoting gender equality and empowering female youth in Nigeria. By providing targeted interventions and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, we can create more inclusive opportunities for all young people in the country.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

Poverty is a widespread problem that has a significant impact on the well-being, educational opportunities, and economic prospects of many young people in Nigeria. Adopting a thorough and multifaceted strategy that addresses the underlying causes of poverty and gives young people the tools, information, and support they require for success is crucial to solving this issue.

A comprehensive school reform program is recommended to achieve this goal. This will entail raising educational standards, expanding educational opportunities, and encouraging entrepreneurship and vocational training. Furthermore, initiatives to boost entrepreneurship will be created to offer aspiring entrepreneurs small company loans, incubators, and mentorship. Programs for vocational training will also be introduced to provide young people with skills in manufacturing, construction, and agriculture.

Digital skills training programs will be developed to equip young people with the skills needed to succeed in the digital economy. Mentorship programs will be implemented to provide young people with guidance, support, and networking opportunities. Start-up incubators will be established to provide resources, including funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities, to support young entrepreneurs.

A coordination mechanism will ensure effective collaboration and partnership between government agencies, private sector organizations, civil society organizations, and international organizations. This will enable the development of a comprehensive policy framework that outlines the government's strategy for reducing poverty among Nigerian youth.

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be carried out to assess the success of government initiatives and policies targeting lowering youth poverty in Nigeria. To guarantee that the interventions are successful and long-lasting, this will make it possible to identify best practices and areas for development. Overall, this comprehensive approach aims to address the complex issues facing Nigerian youth and promote sustainable development in Nigeria. By providing young people with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to succeed, we can break the cycle of poverty and create a brighter future for all Nigerians.

## **CONCLUSION**

The phenomenon of poverty in Nigeria has been a persistent and pervasive issue, with far-reaching consequences for the socio-economic development of the country. The youth population, comprising a significant proportion of the nation's demographic, has been disproportionately affected by this scourge. The poverty cage, a complex web of systemic barriers, entraps individuals in poverty, restricting their access to opportunities for economic advancement.

The lack of access to quality education, limited employment opportunities, and gender disparities are primary barriers to economic advancement in Nigeria. The country's education system is plagued by inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources, and a lack of qualified teachers, resulting in low academic performance, limited job opportunities, and a lack of relevant skills among young people. Furthermore, the labor market is characterized by high unemployment rates, particularly among young people, with the informal sector dominating the economy.

To address these challenges, empowering Nigerian youth through entrepreneurship, vocational training, and digital skills development presents opportunities for poverty alleviation and economic growth. Initiatives aimed at supporting youth development, such as mentorship programs and start-up incubators, can help unlock the potential of young people. Additionally, education reform is essential for ensuring Nigerian youth have access to high-quality education that prepares them for the workforce.

Government policies and interventions to reduce poverty in Nigeria have been implemented since the early 2000s. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have been vital to these efforts, outlining the government's strategy for reducing poverty and designing comprehensive and inclusive programs. However, a study found that the PRSPs have had a limited impact on poverty reduction in Nigeria due to inadequate funding, poor implementation, and lack of monitoring and evaluation.

In conclusion, addressing youth unemployment and poverty in Nigeria requires a comprehensive approach involving policy interventions, programs promoting education and employment opportunities for young people, particularly women and girls, and efforts to combat corruption and promote political stability. Empowering Nigerian youth through entrepreneurship, vocational training, and digital skills development presents poverty alleviation and economic growth opportunities. By investing in the development of Nigerian youth, we can create a brighter future for generations to come.

## **REFERENCES**

- Adebiyi, A., & Olorunfemi, O. (2018). Poverty and inequality in Nigeria: A critical analysis. *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, 21(3), 247-261.
- Adeyemi, O., Adeleke, S., & Ademola, A. (2019). Poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria: A review of the literature. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 10(1), 1-12.

- Adeyemi, O., Ajayi, O., & Olaniyi, O. (2020). Corporate social responsibility programs in Nigeria: An evaluation of their impact on poverty reduction. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 165(2), 241-253.
- Adeyemi, O., Olaniyi, O., & Ajayi, O. (2020). Transparency and accountability in corporate social responsibility programs in Nigeria: An evaluation of the evidence. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 165(3), 421-434.
- Adeyemi, O., Olugbenga-Okojimi, T., & Olabisi-Ojo, A. (2020). An assessment of the national social register in Nigeria: Strengths and weaknesses. *Journal of Social Work Policy & Practice International Journal of Social Policy & Administration*.
- African Academy of Sciences. (2019). Mentorship for young scientists: A review of the evidence.
- Ajayi, O., Adeyemi, O., & Olaniyi, O. (2020). Microfinance program in Nigeria: A review of its impact on poverty reduction. *Journal of Economic Development Studies*, 10(2), 35-46.
- Ajayi, O., Adeyemi, O., & Olaniyi, O. (2020). The impact of mentorship programs on women's empowerment: A systematic review. *Journal of Women's Studies*, 29(2), 123-143.
- Ajayi, O., & Adekanye, O. (2018). The impact of political instability on economic development: A case study of Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and International Relations*, 32(1), 1-14.
- Akintoye, S. A., & Folarin, S. I. (2019). Poverty and education in Nigeria: A review of the literature. *Journal of Education and Human Development*, 8(2), 1-12.
- Akinpelu, A. E., & Ogunleye, T. O. (2017). The impact of poverty on human development in Nigeria. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 18(2), 257-271.
- Babalola, S., Adeyemi, O., & Olaniyi, O. (2019). The impact of early marriage on girls' education in Nigeria: A systematic review. *Journal of African Development Studies*, 23(1), 1-15.
- ECA (Economic Commission for Africa). (2019). Corruption in Africa: A review of the evidence.
- Hill, Z., Curtis, V., & Ives-Falkowska, K. (2016). The effects of poverty on children's health: A systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13(12), 1234.
- ILO (International Labour Organization). (2019). World employment and social outlook: Trends 2019.
- ILO (International Labour Organization). (2020). World employment and social outlook: Trends 2020.
- Igben, E., Okoroji, O., & Nwosu, U. (2019). Poverty and educational outcomes in Nigeria: A systematic review. *Journal of Education and Human Development*, 8(1), 1-12.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (2020). Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2019). Multidimensional Poverty Index in Nigeria: A report on the MPI results.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2020). Labor force statistics: Nigeria.
- National Industrial Skills Training Program (NISTP). (2020). About NISTP.
- National Industrial Skills Training Program (NISTP). (2020). NISTP brochure.
- Nwosu et al. (2020). The role of civil society organizations in addressing poverty in Nigeria: A review of the literature.