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**SUBSIDY RE-INVESTMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (SURE-P) AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA (2012-2014): AN EVALUATION**

**BY**

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**IAUE/ 2018/POL//PhD/0031**

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**(PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)**

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**DECLARATION**

I, **Amabibi Fedinand** with Registration Number IAUE/2018/POL/M.Sc/0025declare that this dissertation on **“Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria (2012-2014)”** was carried out by me. It is my original work and that it has not been submitted wholly or in part for the award of any degree in any other institution.

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**CERTIFICATION**

**IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION**

**POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL**

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**AMABIBI FERDINAND**

The board of examiners certifies that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science (Public Administration).

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**DEDICATION**

This Thesis is dedicated to God Almighty, my strength and my rock, for the grace to carry out this task successfully.

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**ABSTRACT**.

The study centred on Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE –P) and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria (2012 – 2014). This policy was initiated byformer President of Nigeria Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, to cushion the excruciating economic quagmire of the masses, especially the pervading youth unemployment across the nation. The work perused the legal framework, structure, achievements, and challenges that faced the implementation of the programme and failure of the policy. Institutional theory was adopted as the theoretical framework; while primary source of data was combined from sixteen local government areas in some selected states from the six geo-political zones in the country including two municipalities from the federal capital territory(FCT) Abuja, and secondary source of data such as relevant literature, some available archival materials, journals, published and unpublished articles were utilized, taking into cognizance the limited literature on this topic due to the short life span of the programme. From the findings, the SURE-P policy achieved some milestone successes, nevertheless, it did not fully achieve the set objectives of the programme, and hence some recommendations are made based on its existed achievement and for improvement in subsequent policy formulation, Suggestion was also given, for policy makers to consider before delving into policy making the implication of not continuing with good policy such like the SURE -P in the future.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background to the Study**

Nigeria historically was an agrarian nation, until 1956, when the British Shell Petroleum Company struck oil in commercial quantity in a community called Oloibiri in the present day Bayelsa State of Nigeria. From thence, the nation depended on oil as its major source of sustenance (Olumide, 2011, p.14).

Nigeria is the 14th largest producer of crude oil in the world and has been proven to possess the world’s 8th largest natural gas reserve. The country boasts of four refineries with an installed production capacity of about 445,000 barrels of fuel per day, which was adequate to meet its domestic needs with a surplus for export. Nigeria at the brink of the civil war had a financial breakthrough mitigated by the oil price hike in the world at the time, which spontaneously elevated the nation into the league of major oil producing nations, as she joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1971 (Olumide, 2011). The nation’s influence and wealth grew so rapidly after joining the league of oil producing countries, thus, the government decided to take over and invest fully in the oil sector as against the initial memorandum of understanding (MOU) with British Shell Petroleum Company, and others who came afterwards in 1963, like the Mobil oil, Gulf oil and Texaco, on the 50% both ways agreement. The dependency on oil is not in the best interest of the country, reason being that, the event of oil extinction will portend a great danger to the economy of the nation. Nigeria’s oil fields are situated in the Niger Delta area of the country. The Niger Delta area is seen as the third largest wetland in the world, sustaining lives for the past decades with its flora and fauna. The oil from the Niger Delta has for decades provided the bulk of the wealth of Nigeria no doubt.

Successive governments have failed to diversify the nation’s economy to meet the needs of its citizens socially, economically and politically, rather had initiated various forms of subsidy as a way of accruing more revenue to execute capital projects. Unfortunately, despite the existence of the foremost four refineries built during the era of oil boom in the 1970’s, with an installed production capacity of 445,000 barrels per day, the nation has not been able to harness maximally the natural and human resources to develop itself, as there are few virile industries pervading youth unemployment, maternal and child mortality, decayed academic infrastructure all of which has led to increase in social vices such as kidnapping, robbery, cultism and gangsterism.

No doubt, Nigeria is one of the world’s largest producers of oil but regrettably the country’s mineral resources is yet to translate into any significant improvement in the standard of living of majority of Nigerian citizens. According to NBS (2012), the absolute and relative poverty in the country has increased from 54.7% to 60.9% and 54.4% to 69.5% from2004 to 2010; this scenario is pitiable when it is on record that Nigeria earned over $50billion from oil exports in 2010 alone. With such revenue situation and the pervading poverty in the country it will suffice to aver that the country’s resources may have been inefficiently and ineffectively utilized.

One of the key issues in development is how to deal with poverty. This is because the challenges of poverty and youth unemployment in most regions of the world have been observed to be increasing sharply from the end of 2008. This scenario of rising global youth unemployment has been worsened by the world economic crisis that began in 2009, which eroded the gains recorded in the pre-2008 years. In this regard, the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2012: p11) has reported that: The global youth unemployment rate has proved sticky, and remained close to its crisis peak. At 11.28 percent in 2011 and projected at 12.7 percent for 2012, the global youth unemployment rate remains at least a full percentage point above its level in 2007, nearly 75 million youth are unemployed around the world, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007.

Poverty reduction has become a major focus of economic policy, policy research, analysis and development management. This need becomes particularly compelling in developing countries where poverty is most dehumanizing (Obadan, 2003 p66). A common thread that runs through the various perceptions of “poverty” connotes material and non-material deprivation and lack of control over resources to meet essential needs. If the incidence of poverty runs counter to development aspirations, its alleviation or eradication becomes a worth-while endeavour irrespective of ideology, structural and organizational arrangement.

The partial removal of the petroleum subsidy in Nigeria in a national broadcast of January 1, 2012 by President GoodluckEbele Jonathan made it possible for government to set out an important objective and channel much needed resources to investments in critical areas of need that will stimulate economic growth and citizen empowerment. In order to cushion the effect of the partial subsidy removal on Nigerians especially the poor, government initiated the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), which has eight (8) components namely; the Social Safety Net (SSN), Niger Delta Development, Road Infrastructure, Rail Transport, Water and Agriculture, Selected Power Projects, Petroleum and NNPC Projects and Information and Communication Technology (NPC, 2011).

The Social Safety Net (SSN) component of the SURE-P has three (3) sub-components, which are the Maternal and Child Health Services, Community Services, Women and Youth Employment and Urban Mass Transport (NPC, 2011). As part of the social safety net strategy, government has deliberately placed the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment (CS/WYE) component of the SURE-P on priority agenda due to the urgent need to engage the teeming unemployed women and youth in labour intensive services targeted at rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructure.

For the purpose of this study, emphasis is laid on the Community Services, Women and Youths Employment component of the Social Safety Net of SURE-P implemented across the nation in the year 2012-2014; and aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of poverty cum unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations. In addition, it will help mitigate negative socio-economic consequences of unemployment.

The CS/WYE has three sub-components which includes Community Services Scheme and activities identified by communities, which are required or needed to improve access to public social infrastructures. These services will entail engagement of unemployed poor youths, on temporary basis, to provide needed labour for improvement of public services. Community Services categories are to include infrastructure in health, education, water and sanitation, environment, water transport, physical infrastructure and construction of traffic control.

Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) is a programme where companies (SMEs and Large organizations) were invited to participate voluntarily. Under it, successful candidates were placed in eligible institutions where there was a need of training for a period of one year. During this period, the programme paid a stipend to the candidates. The other advantage provided by the internship programme was the acquisition of sufficient experience by the interns to enable them establish their own enterprises at the end of the internship, and form peer networks for empowering other unemployed graduates. Another gainful aspect of the graduate internship was the prospect for incentives to companies, in form of tax rebates especially the SMEs who will be willing to retain the interns after the period of internship. The short duration of the internship and the high prospects for job creation placed it under short term measure.

Vocational Skills Training Scheme was targeted at the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled youths, who were willing to be trained in specific trades for a given period, to acquire sufficient skills for establishing their own enterprises, with prospects for employing others. Inventory of existing Skills Acquisition Centers set up by various organizations in the public and private sectors, including those owned by Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were used to cut down transportation cost. Where there are no Centers nearby, improvised Centers e.g. Town Hall, Village Square etc were used to enhance training across even the remotely located potential beneficiaries. Participants were guided in the choice of the skills to ensure interest in fast growing sectors. They were paid monthly stipends depending on their level of qualification. After the skills acquisition sessions, participants further underwent training on fundamentals of enterprise management for sustainability (SURE-P Document, 2011).

The Community Services Scheme (CSS) of the CS/WYE had the goal to reduce women and youth unemployment and improve socio-economic infrastructures in rural communities for improved livelihood and economic growth. The overall objectives was to harness the potentials of unemployed women and youth through engagement in labour intensive community services and to expose them to opportunities towards improved employability after the project life, while the specific objectives were: to create employment opportunities for up to 370,000 women and youth in the 36 states of the Federation including the FCT towards improving socio-economic infrastructures; to reduce the vulnerability of unskilled women and youth through exposure to income generation opportunities offered by the scheme; to create good value systems and self-actualization in women and youth through pre-engagement orientation sessions; to enhance societal access to quality social and economic infrastructure and services across the federation.

**1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012),in the national baseline youth survey, more than half of the Nigerian youths, which is about 54 percent are unemployed and this number grows yearly and translates to a pitiable and alarming situation where more of the youths wander the streets in search of jobs. This prevalent situation of youth unemployment had been attributed to several factors ranging from high population growth, deficient school curricula and poor teaching staff which had contributed to the failure of the educational institutions to provide and counsel students with the appropriate skills and knowledge that will make them employable.

Similarly, the absence of virile industries to absorb the teaming competent graduates churned out annually was as a result of the infrastructural deficiency and the debilitating Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) implemented by Nigeria in the 1980’s, which led to the closure of many industries, for which the nation is yet to recover. Again, the inconsistent public policies on employment had also aggravated the youth unemployment ratio.

Furthermore, Iwayemi and Asaju (2014) opined that the policy makers were confronted with inadequate information and data that can form the basis for an effective planning. They observed that employment data are very difficult to obtain, even from the statutory agencies established for such information. The near absence of data posed an obstacle to the policy makers to make an informed decision on how to support the youths in the labour market (p 36).

Poverty alleviation was one of the basic social policies of the past Government towards human developments, especially development of the poor, to create opportunities for them to take part in the socio-economic development, and to contribute to implementation of the objective of wealthy population, powerful country, fair, democratic and civilized society. Poverty alleviation got the first priority in the planning and implementation of the socio-economic strategies in each period, yet there had been persistence in the poverty level in the country. There seem to be the absence of studies of this magnitude on the subsidy re-investment and empowerment programme and its challenges towards youth employment generation in Nigeria. Thus, this work sought to fill the gap by interrogating SURE-P and employment generation in Nigeria in order to ascertain if the reinvestment of the subsidy funds enhanced employment generation and what were the challenges that militated against success of the programme.In recognition of the devastating aftermaths of this unrelenting unemployment generally, youth unemployment and poverty reduction in particular, various levels of government in Nigeria had initiated multitudinous policies and programmes targeted at the reduction of the phenomenon of unemployment and poverty in the country. Some of these programmes and policies are the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) established 1986, the implementation of the 6-3-3-4 educational policy, the Better Life programme for rural women, the Family Support Programme, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

These policy measures seem to have achieved little in spite of its implementation; it is disheartening to state that these catastrophic phenomena have continued unabated. Rather than youth unemployment reduction, there was upsurge in the levels and varieties of this social malaise. Dele (2009) in utter disappointment of this increasing unemployment in the country has averred that; Statistics has it on record that the country records about 40 million unemployed people, majority of who are youths. To a responsive and focused government, the deteriorating unemployment situation in Nigeria should be a source of worry, especially with the attendant social dislocation, exemplified by high crime rate, and youth restiveness (p42). Thus, it became expedient to ask these research questions.

**1.3 Research Questions.**

i What was the legal framework and the Administrative structure of SURE-P in Nigeria?

ii How has the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) funds enhanced Youth Empowerment in Nigeria?

iii. What were the challenges faced by SURE-P towards youth empowerment in Nigeria?

iv. What is the impact of SURE-P on poverty reduction in Nigeria?

**1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of the study was to investigate the performance and challenges faced by the SURE-P policy, whereas the specific objectives are to;

i. examine the legal framework and the Administrative structure of SURE-P in Nigeria.

ii. examine how the SURE-P funds enhanced youth empowerment in Nigeria.

iii. examine the challenges faced by SURE-P towards youth empowerment in Nigeria.

iv. ascertain the impact of SURE-P on poverty reduction in Nigeria.

**1.5 Hypotheses**

HO1 There was no significant relationship between SURE-P and Youth empowerment in Nigeria,

HO2 There were no significant challenges faced by SURE-P towards youth empowerment in Nigeria.

HO3 There was no significant relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

**1.6. Significance of the Study**

The phenomenon of Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) as a strategy for poverty reduction provided insight to the development of an economy. The programme tried to harness the potentials of unemployed youths and women through engagement in labour intensive community services and exposed them to opportunities towards improved employability after the project life. This was aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations.

This study is thus imperative to all strata of government for if strategically adopted as highlighted; it will help to engender development in the country.

Significantly, this work is germane; because it has brought to bear the prevalence of poverty ravaging the people which impede national development. The study provided information on the immediate causes of poverty, possible guide as well as provided opportunity for government to accept and embrace the prevalence of poverty ravaging the populace; thereby channelling its resources to averting impending social menace which will further retard our development. The various programmes harnessed the potentials of unemployed youths and women through the various schemes ranging from, the Vocational Skills Acquisition and Training Scheme(VSATS), the Community Service Scheme(CSS) and the Graduate Internship Scheme(GIS), which exposed them to opportunities and made them employable even after the life span of the programme. The policy tried to reduce the rate of unemployment amongst the youths and some employable women in various communities in the country who had no chance of economic survival. The study is very significant because it has brought to fore the level of poverty and neglect in the land, and the impact of the policy on the youths, who hitherto had nothing to do for a living, but by the end of the various engagements in their training, most of the beneficiaries became employable and employers of labour, thus instead of been a societal menace, there is a redirection in attitude. It will also be a great resource material for future research work.

**1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

Globally, poverty reduction and employment generation are multi-dimensional issues regarding government economic growth strategy. This policy was to improve the living condition of the people by providing the basic amenities of life such as; adequate food supply, housing, water, health care services as well as improved education, transportation and communication services, skills for self-sustenance.

This study is an overview of the core activities of SURE-P programme as a policy within the period 2012-2014. Unfortunately, with the end of the tenure of the former president Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, there was no continuity of the programme by the new regime. The study encountered some challenges in the course of data gathering, as some of the former staff of SURE-P have been redeployed to various ministries and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), hence it became difficult to traverse from one ministry to the other in identifying these staff, furthermore, the officers through whom the required information was needed still have the mind-set of the official secret act. Blatantly, some officers refused to divulge information to the research team, they were rather referred to the official website of SURE-P which has gone moribund since after the tenure of the Dr Goodluck Jonathan, hence, the study was limited to the scanty official records from those who eventually assisted the research team with limited literature on this topic in executing the work. Similarly, due to the insecurity situation in the country which affected free and easy access to and from many states in the country, two states each from the six geo-political zones were randomly explored including the Federal Capital Territory(FCT)Abuja purposively to generate data. Paucity of funds to traverse these areas form part of the limitations to this research work, as money needed for printing, transportation and other exigencies were not sufficiently available, also the nonchalant attitude of respondents toward the research work, which made the researcher to travel repeatedly to distribute and retrieve the questionnaires, Some respondents requested for financial gratification with the claims that the purpose of the research is to make money.

To overcome these limitations of insecurity and lack of finance, the two states in each of the six geo-political zones were randomly selected by ballot, that is, the names of states were written on a sheet of paper and put in a box to be picked randomly, while stipends saved over time for the purpose was utilized to facilitate financial expenses.

**1.8 Operationalization of Concepts**

**Subsidy:** Subsidy is a government deliberate economic policy to bolster the economy through the partial payment or percentage of the cost of production of certain goods and services. It is more or less an incentive which comes in the form of financial aid or support for the production and supply of critical public goods. Furthermore, subsidy is seen as an economic or financial benefits provided by government to support an activity, so as to keep prices low, maintaining the income of the producers of essential products as well as maintaining the level of employment. According to the Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (2012, p18), fuel subsidy can be seen as money used by the government for developmental purposes of which its source is from the masses. Todaro and Smith (2009, p32) referred to subsidy as an assistance given by government especially to industries in order to prevent the industries from winding up. The subsidy could be direct in the form of price control, tax exemptions or the provision of grants; which entails the injection of cash back into the hands of either the consumers or the producers.

**Subsidy Removal:** Nwosu, (2014) averred that subsidy removal is simply the taking away of the money the federal government had paid in order to subsidize the prices of oil. This implies that the price of fuel will be high but the revenue accrued from the removal will be reinvested for the benefits of the masses. Subsidies affect the price or cost of goods indirectly, such that the regulation usually tilts the market in favour of a specific group either for research and development or programmes funded by the government. Successive Nigerian government have continually removed part of their subsidy claiming that the prices paid by Nigerians to use these products are far less than what they should pay, particularly when the product is benchmarked against the prices in the international market. (p18).

**Empowerment:** Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. According to Bailey (1992, p84), empowerment is a process that fosters power in people, to improve their lives, their communities and their society by acting on issues that they define as very vital. It will suffice to adduce at this point that empowerment is a means of assisting, helping and encouraging people to attain a desired goal. Empowerment according to Okon{2014,p55] has no definite definition, but posited that, empowerment is a process that challenges our assumption about the way things are, and can be done. Furthermore, he sees empowerment as a challenge to our basic assumptions about power, keeping, achieving and succeeding. He argued that, the core concept of empowerment is the idea of power and that empowerment is dependent on two major pillars viz:

Firstly, empowerment require the change of power, and secondly, the expansion of power. To demystify the process of empowerment, he opined that, except the holders of power are willing and ready to expand the power by the way of involving the individual or community in the process of policy formulation, empowerment cannot be conceived or implemented. Thus empowerment can be seen as a process whereby the targeted populations for the programme are directly involved in the implementation of the policy to enhance self-reliance, confidence and be stakeholders in the affairs of their lives.

Youth Empowerment: The concept of youth empowerment has been defined severally by different scholars. According to Okoye (2012, p24), youth empowerment is a process through which youths as agents of change gain the skills to impact their world and other individuals, organizations and communities. In his view Obi ( 2012, p14) opines that youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process where young people gain the ability and authority to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Subsidy Re-investment: Subsidy reinvestment as the name connotes and as expressed in the SURE-P policy, is the reinvestment through virement in other critical aspects of the national economy from the revenue accrued from the removal of subsidy in the oil sector.(National Planning Commission, 2011).

**Poverty:** Poverty as a concept has been viewed by several scholars in their individual perspective; most times this concept is defined based on the norms, culture, discipline and social milieu. There had not been a universally accepted definition by scholars, hence we shall consider attempts by few scholars who in their view have postulated definitions based on their viewpoint.

According to Ahmed (1998), poverty is a state of being without access to basic needs, hardship and lack of required resources across a wide range of circumstances. Corner (1997) see poverty as a state of being deprived of the essential needs such as, food, employment, housing and lack of social status. Both scholars were able to give their definitions based on their view points, nevertheless, both definitions averred that poverty exist and poverty is the existence of deprivation of basic amenities of a segment of the society.

**Poverty Reduction:** One pertinent goal of any responsible government is to develop the human capacity of its citizens, This could be achieved by creating jobs, providing the basic social amenities such as; food, shelter, medical care, education and portable water. According to Ajakaiye (1987), poverty reduction is to end poverty by satisfying the priority needs of all people in a way that will not jeopardize the opportunity for the future generations.

Nkom (1990, p. 43) observed that poverty can only be eradicated or at least be reduced, if the poverty alleviation mechanisms are adopted simultaneously using different strategies and instruments, taking into cognizance its multi-faceted complicity. Poverty reduction means gearing all formal activities towards lowering the rate and prevalence of poverty in the country. To have an effective poverty reduction policies, there must be a good knowledge of the socio-economic and characteristics of the targeted poor.

Besley (1997) averred that, poverty reduction is a deliberate government policy in mitigating the wellbeing of its citizens, but observed that an approach to poverty reduction is categorized into two alternatives, viz; technocratic and Institutional. Whereas the former emphasizes targeting and exploring programmes designs that try to direct limited resources to people with the greatest needs, the latter approach notes that the poor lacks political power and that the incompetence and corruption in administration hinder service delivery of the government. Thus two things are expedient to actually eradicate or reduce poverty, which are; developing institutions, change of political structure to enhance improved governance and the attitudinal change towards the poor. Again, the targeted poor need to change their mentality and engage in increased participation in political activities.

Furthermore, Psarcharopoulous (1970) identified three main strategies in the process of poverty reduction:

i) Exclusive reliance in the natural forces of economic growth.

ii) Specific programmes to increase earning opportunities for the poor.

iii) Social programmes targeted at the poor.

He emphasized that each of these proposals holds varying prospect for poverty reduction and opined that targeting the poor by means of social programmes is the most direct approach while considering specific programmes to enhance their earning capacity. Both approaches are direct for immediate impact on poverty reduction.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**2.1 Conceptual Review**

**2.1.1 Concept of Subsidy**

The policy on subsidy or subsidy removal as a way of generating more revenue for the purpose of fast tracking development has been a global phenomenon. Government subsidies have been offered for several decades in some industrialized countries, such as; Morocco, Brazil and Greece, either in the form of indirect support, such as tax incentives or by direct interventions for specific purpose.

Subsidy according to Nwafor (2013) is a programme targeted at every sector of the economy, to mitigate poverty, unemployment, infrastructural decay and other ailing sectors of the economy with the funds accruable to the federal government through the removal of the fuel subsidy.

George (2014, p65), averred that subsidies were introduced in Nigeria in the 60’s to ensure the overall increase in social welfare, which is aimed at assisting the poor to utilize the resource advantage of the country. Several scholars have postulated the concept of re-investment in various forms such as; Nwafor (2013, p 46) who opined that subsidy is any government programme that potentially permits the firms to increase its profits beyond what they would have been in the absence of the government. Furthermore, subsidy is seen as an economic benefit provided by the government to cushion a desired activity, so as to maintain prices and the income of the producers of those essential products. (Nwosu & Ugwuerua, 2014, p56).

Similarly, Oyabure (2011, p39) conceptualized subsidies as those benefits usually given by government to group or individuals in form of price reduction to remove some types of burden that is often considered to be of public interest. He further stressed that in Nigeria fuel subsidy payment only applies when the landing cost of petroleum product based on the import partly exceeds the benchmarked depot price for that product.

According to Ogujiuba (2015,p77), the programme was a 3-4 year programme and a subset of the Transformation Agenda designed to mitigate the immediate impact of the removal of fuel subsidy and accelerate economic growth through investments in critically-needed infrastructure.

It is noteworthy that, while the 2012 budget allocated the best possible amounts to these critical projects, additional resources were allocated to the same projects in the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) to ensure that they are completed at faster rates than envisioned in the 2012 budget.

SURE-P was designed to mitigate the immediate impact of the removal of fuel subsidy and accelerate economic growth through investments in critically-needed infrastructure including investment in Human resources empowerment/development. The proponents of SURE-P said that the programme was basically a cushioning effect of the pains occasioned by the partial removal of subsidy in the downstream sector of the petroleum sub-sector, with a view to transferring the proceeds to more critical needs of Nigerians, especially the infrastructural needs (FMI, 2013).

Schrank and keithly (1999) see subsidy as a kind of employment strategy beneficial to the masses applied by government to reduce unemployment leading to poverty reduction, this can be through financial support by the government. Todaro and Smith (2009) referred to subsidy as an assistance given by government especially to industries in order to prevent the industries from falling. Subsidy can tentatively be defined as any government programme that potentially permits the firms to increase its profits beyond what they would have been in the absence of the government programme (Nwafor, 2013). The views of Nwafor simply refer to the removal of oil subsidy which is taking away the money the Federal Government had hitherto paid in order to subsidize the prices of oil. On the other hand, subsidy could be described as the difference between the actual market price of petroleum products per litre and what the final consumers are paying for the same product ( Majekodunmi, 2013, p.77).

According to John, (2013) subsidy has been a burning issue in the Nigerian economy as those who are supposed to benefit are only partially doing so while the major marketers who are not the actual targets have become major beneficiaries.

**2.1.2 Concept of Poverty**

According to (Ahmed, 1998) Poverty is defined as the state of being without having access to basic needs, often associated with need, hardship and lack of resources across a wide range of circumstances. Corner (1997), defined poverty as a state of being deprived of the essentials of well-being such as adequate housing, food, sufficient income, employment, access to required social services and social status. The two definitions encapsulates all sort of the complex human needs and wellbeing as operationally defined, they did not pin down their definition to a particular discipline or sphere of life; thereby ends up describing the menace than defining, therefore their definitions is being criticized of non-directional. However, they are on the other hand being credited for recognizing some trivial issues regarded as poverty.

According to Gunnar (2013,p79), the economies of developing countries are characterized by low income (productivity or output) leading to low savings and investment which it refers to as vicious circle of underdevelopment.

Bardhan (2015, p35) argues that even if the State allocates a significant part of its budget for poverty eradication programmes, it would not reach the real poor. He argued that the anomalies occur because there is no organized pressure from the intended beneficiaries, (the poor) and the programmes are administered by uncoordinated and corrupt bureaucrats who are unaccountable to the rural poor and insensitive to their needs. The two definitions above are ranked together; that is to say as argued by Bardhan, it is not the allocation of resources for poverty reduction that matters, but as argued by Gunnar it is because the economies of the developing countries are characterized with the vicious problem of poverty, ranging from the low income to savings as in the definition of the variables which has affected investment negatively that equally affects whichever programme that is being design to fight the menace; until the problem is solved all efforts aimed at poverty reduction will be a mirage simply because those in charge of the administration of the programme are not free from blame.

The problems of the poor in the developing countries range from malnutrition, He is vulnerable to diseases, short life span, illiteracy, poor hygienic environment, societal insecurity. The water he drinks is neither safe nor clean, he is either unemployed or underemployed but when he is employed he is overworked and underpaid (Adeyeye, 1985).

According to Ajakaiye (1999), Poverty is defined as “a living condition in which an entity is faced with economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental deprivations”. In addition Amuguo (2003:pp15-21) opined that poverty is the deprivation of elements necessary for human survival”. These include clean water, food, shelter, health, and self-dignity. Deprivation or self-dignity is simply the denial of individual liberty and property, natural rights, political liberty, civil liberty and property. In situations where these elements are far-fetched, the society is left with nothing but “poverty and underdevelopment”.

Jumare (2013:92) in his definition of the concept described poverty as a word which vividly describes the deplorable living conditions of an individual, groups and communities in a state of economic and social deprivation and destitution. Bardhan (1999) in his observation, opined that poverty is ravaging the society for two reasons, one of which is low income, lack of employment and better sources of livelihood, and that even huge chunk of the nation’s budget earmarked for poverty alleviation programme has never gone down to the targeted beneficiaries, due to the uncoordinated implementation structure. And secondly, because the intended beneficiaries are socially incapacitated, they are not able to revolt against the misappropriation of the funds, thus poverty will linger longer than anticipated, except there is a ‘Political Will’ to reverse the trend as it is practiced at present.

Adeyeye (1985) rather than define poverty, stated the menace of poverty on the individual, as he enumerates, poor nutrition, illiteracy, diseases, poor hygiene, vulnerability to infections, hunger, unsafe drinking water which inadvertently results to short life span due to inaccessibility to medical facility. On the other, Jumare (2013) was able to define poverty as a deplorable living condition of an individual, groups and communities in a state of economic and social deprivation. Similarly, Onah (2006) observed poverty as not only the inability of individual to afford the basic needs of life, but poverty reduces the strength, integrity and prestige of the individual to participate in any activities in the society, he noted that, this pervading poverty is reckoned with a particular segment of the society, who are seen as the down trodden.:

However, poverty can no longer be defined in terms of income alone because of its complexity. According to UNDP, poverty is distinguished between income poverty and human poverty. Income poverty to UNDP occurs when the income level of individual falls below a nationally defined poverty line. Human poverty on the other hand is seen as denial or deprivation of opportunities and choices that would enable an individual to live a healthy and creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect for others. For the purpose of this work, emphasis is being given to the income poverty than the human poverty simply because for one to start thinking of freedom, dignity, self-respect etc. one must first of all feed himself or get satisfied so that he can be able to think rationally.

According to Englama and Bamidele (1997) as quoted in Onah (2006) poverty is a state of an individual not being able to cater adequately for his/her basic needs of life, like food, clothing and shelter, meeting social and economic objectives, lack of gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem, education, health, portable water and sanitation which reduces the opportunity of advancing his/her wellbeing. Onah, view poverty in Nigeria as having denied some good numbers of citizens the prestige of citizenship.

Conversely, Nnoli (1989) defined poverty as a section of the population which has been crushed by the power of money. He divided the society into two spectrums; the bourgeoisie and the peasants, he described the bourgeoisie as the rich people who own and control the means of production and therefore enjoy the power of money and the peasants as the poor ones in the society who do not control or own the means of production and hence, they are the victims of the power of money.

In the same vein, Chambers (1995) sees poverty as the lack of physical assets and income, expressing poverty in very broad term such as being unable to meet some physical and none physical basic needs, like food, health care, education, shelter and participation, identity, which are requirements for a meaningful life.

Statistics on income and social indicators show that, poverty in Nigeria is widespread and severe and certainly increasing. According to Federal Office of Statistics (FOS, 1997) and World Bank (1989), the population of the poor in Nigeria was 36.1million in 1985 and 34.7million in 1992, it has jumped to 55.8million in 1997 (Nigerian Human Development Report, 1998). The country thus became one of the poorest countries in the world, the calculation of the country human poverty index shows that it is 41.6% meaning people are extremely deprived, one in every two Nigerians is poor (Human Development Report, 1997). According to the World Bank Reports (1999) and Aliyu (2001), Nigeria’s Human Development Index (HDI) was only 0.416 which placed the country among the 25th poorest countries in the world.

According to the Draft National Policy on Poverty Eradication (2000), poverty includes the condition of:

1. Not having enough to eat

2. Poor drinking water

3. Poor Nutrition

4. Poor Housing

5. A high rate of infant mortality

6. Low life expectancy

7. Lack of education

Furthermore, Nigeria’s life expectancy at birth was 51years, literacy rate was 44% and 70% of the rural populations do not have access to portable water, health care facilities and electricity. The paradox about the poverty situation in Nigeria, however, is the fact that the poverty level contradicts the country’s immense wealth consisting of human, agricultural, petroleum, gas and solid minerals (United Nations, 1996). It is worthy of note that despite the fact that most of the above resources of the country have not been harnessed effectively, available evidence reveals that between 1970 and 2001, Nigeria has earned over $500billion from the export of petroleum products alone (Aliyu, 2001). Only few countries in the world have earned this kind of resources for the development of its economy. That is to say, the case of poverty in Nigeria can be described as that of poverty amidst plenty. Poverty means inequalities in resources, opportunities and in services. When poor people are empowered through resources and services, they can be productive through tacit knowledge, this way; they will become contributors and productive citizens and also be empowered economically. For poverty to be eradicated the bottom top approach will be more effective and people with disabilities are the poorest among the poor people. The vicious circle of poverty and disability is a global phenomenon hence that circle needs to be broken by first empowering the poorest of the poor and the marginalized communities, as long as these groups are not empowered the entire families will be impoverished perpetually, but when they are given the leverage to express their full potentials they become productive, independent and make a living for themselves, their families and their communities and become contributors in the system.

**2.1.3. Subsidy Re-investment:** Subsidy reinvestment as the name connotes and as expressed in the SURE-P policy, is the reinvestment through virement in other critical aspects of the national economy from the revenue accrued from the removal of subsidy in the oil sector.(National Planning Commission 2011).

**2.1.4 Empowerment**

The term empowerment has different meanings in different socio- cultural and political contexts, and does not translate easily into all languages. An exploration of the local terms associated with empowerment around the world always leads to lively discussions. These terms include self-strength, control, self-power, self-reliance own choice, life of dignity in accordance with one’s values, capable of fighting for one’s rights, independence, own decision making, being free, awakening and capability. These definitions are embedded in local value and self-belief systems. Empowerment is of intrinsic value; it also has instrumental value. Empowerment is relevant at the individual level and can be economic, social or political. The term can be used to characterize relations within households or between poor people and other actors at the global level. There are important gender differences in the causes, forms and consequences of empowerment or disempowerment; hence there are obviously many possible definitions of empowerment, including rights based definitions. (Unicef, 2001). In its broadest sense, empowerment is the expansion of freedom of choice and action, it means increasing one’s authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one’s life. As people exercise real choice, they gain increased control over their lives, poor people’s choices are extremely limited, and both by their lack of assets and by their powerlessness to negotiate better terms for themselves with a range of institutions, both formal and informal. Since powerlessness is embedded in the nature of institutional relations, in the context of poverty reduction an institutional definition of empowerment ids appropriate. In a nutshell, empowerment could be defined as an expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives. (Amartya, S, 2014). According to Narayan and Shah (2000), in an institutional context, empowerment is about changing unequal institutional relationships, institutions are rules, norms and patterned behavior that may or may not take organizational form. The institutions that affect poor people’s lives are formal or informal. Formal institutions include the laws and rules embedded in state, private sector and the civil society organizations at the local, national and global levels, as well as international organizations., whereas informal institutions include for example, norms of inferior or superior status, expectations of bribes, networks of kin, friends and neighbors, informal restrictions placed on women inheriting property or the cluster of practices surrounding treatment of widows. State policies and the culture of state institutions shape the actions of all other actors; poor men and women, other excluded groups, the private sectors, civil societies including the unions and faith based organizations and international agencies. When states are captured by the wealthy and powerful and become mired in a culture of corruption, clientism, exclusion and discrimination, even well-meaning policies and programmes fail to promote investment or reduce poverty; hence it is imperative to address the culture, value, and the ethics of institutions since these can defeat formal rules. Finding from the voices of the poor also established that poor people long for institutions that listen and treat them with respect and dignity even when these institutions cannot solve any problems. Furthermore, Nayaran and Shah (2014) opined that generally the poor people are excluded from participation in state institutions that make the decisions and administer the resources that affect their lives. This is what leads poor people to conclude that nobody hears the poor. It is the rich who are being heard or when the rich and poor compete for services, the rich will always get priority. To bring about systemic change or reform, it will require changing these unequal institutional relations that reflect a culture of inequality. Changing unequal institutional relations depend in part on top- down measures to improve governance, changes in the laws, procedures, regulations, values, ethics and incentives that guide the behavior of public officials and the private sector, it also depends crucially on the presence of well informed and well organized citizens and poor people, Obviously, this requires rules and laws and investment of public and private resources to strengthen the demand side of governance, these changes can create the conditions that enable poor women and men to exercise their agency. Abhyankar and Iyer ( 2001) observed that institutional strategies to empower poor people vary from place to place, strategies to enable the poor women to inherit property will differ from strategies to make local schools accountable to parents or have poor people’s concerns reflected in national budgets. Each of these in turn will vary depending on the political institutional, cultural and social context. Strategies also evolves and change over time in any given context, with time, there is generally a movement away from reliance on informal mechanisms towards formal mechanisms, and from direct and more rime intensive forms of participation towards indirect forms of participation, the latter include market mechanisms and paying fees for services rather than co-management. Therefore then, the challenge is to identify key elements of empowerment that recur consistently across social, institutional, and political contexts which to them are;

i) Access to information.

ii) Inclusion and Participation.

iii) Accountability.

i) Local organizational capacity.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social affairs ( UNDESA, 2013) see empowerment as certain liberties exercised by the state and other ruling elites( private / commercial interests) that have an exploitation, impact would be curtailed when decision making regarding use of local resources is owned at the local level. This in turn would mean that leverage or negotiation power is equalized and thus resource sharing equalized, hence poverty reduction would hopefully ensue. According to UNDESA, empowerment is by giving the people a good and quality education that will prepare them to have a carrier and to hold a good job that will make more confident, independent and give them the chance to learn from others and also allow them to earn a good living to help their families, communities, and the society at large. Education is seen as an empowering tool that will help people to change their perspective and condition of their lives by taking action while having knowledge, skills of a trade that make them competitive in the particular productive field. They are of the view that empowerment should not be left in the hands of the government alone but individuals and corporate entities should as well get involved in the empowerment of people for a better society.

Empowering people to achieve poverty eradication implies, developing clearer and more consistent coverage policies that adequately addresses the unique needs of the people with disabilities, this categories of people need to live and participate independently in all aspect of life and ensure them access to every social amenities such as transportation, information communication technologies and other public facilities and services, and eliminating obstacles and barriers to accessibility. Also an all-inclusive education system is required for this category of people to empower their mental capacity, ensuring that they develop their skills and talents, creativity, mental and physical abilities. Empowerment is seen as fundamentally about power, about the power to redefine one’s possibilities and options and to act on them, the power within that enables people to have the courage to do things they never envisage themselves to be capable of. And the power that comes from working alongside others to claim their rights (POVNET, 2013). Similarly, POVNET reiterated that empowerment broadens poor people’s freedom of choice and action, expanding their assets and capabilities and enables them to participate in, negotiates with, influence, control and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives. Furthermore, they averred that empowerment happens when individuals , groups of individuals and or organized groups are able to imagine their world differently and to realize that vision by changing the relations of power that have been keeping them in poverty( World Bank, 2013). According to Du Toit (2012) empowerment is a path out of poverty. He opined that staying poor in today’s world is an effect of world history that adversely incorporates poor people into the current global political economy. It is also an effect of locally embedded processes through which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society within which they live. Furthermore, incorporation is a less familiar term than social inclusion, but it helpfully illuminates the fact that social inclusion is not just a matter of bringing people into society, because they already exist, but of changing the systemic power arrangement that sustain their marginalization. He further buttressed that the approach to empowerment as a path out of poverty is one which views the constraints on the poor people as a product of relationships of unequal power. Mosse, D (2013) averred that the consequences of normal economic and political relations is the ability of the policy makers to create ambience of cordial relationship between the elites and the marginalized. He further opined that as a tool for thinking with, we should consider three major factors or kinds of empowerment that are inter related and iterative, viz; social, economic and political empowerment

**2.1.4.1 Social Empowerment**

According to Mosse, (2013) social empowerment is by taking steps to change society so that one’s own place within the society is respected and recognized on the terms on which the person themselves want to live and not on the terms dictated by others. The extent to which any individual or community can determine for themselves who they are and how they choose to relate with others is determined by structures and relations of power. Power from this perspective is manifested and experienced through institutions ( rule of the game)and discourses( what is thinkable, visible and doable). Observable disparities between particular social groups or classes (for example in terms of standards of living or representation in parliament) indicate the operation of power working through these institutions and discourses. It is people- actors who are continuously reproducing or transforming these institutional and discursive structures and relations, although often, this is done unconscious of the effects our actions may have on others. This is where empowerment comes in as a process whereby people develop a sense of and capacity for agency, individual power within and collective power with others to improve the quality of their social relationship and to secure respect, dignity and freedom from violence, leading purposively or otherwise to changes in the institutions and discourses that are keeping them in poverty.

Donors can help this process by checking that they are not the one’s perpetuating the disempowerment of discourses and institutions, and also support the people’s own efforts. The injury done to people who experience discrimination on the basis of labels are given by society and entrenched ideas about their inferiority or societal taboos around sex, death and dirt goes well beyond that of economic deprivation and lack political voice. When people are treated as lesser humans because of the colour of their skin, their sex, what they do for a living, and where they live, they can come to internalize a sense of lack of worth that profoundly affects their sense of what they can do and what they are able and due by the society. The brakes are put on efforts to support people in empowering themselves politically or economically, unless these are complemented by the systematic revalorization of who are stigmatized and regarded as inferior or lacking by society, advocating their recognition as fully human and as entitled to the same rights and respect as any other humans. Anti-discrimination legislation is important, but in itself, it is not sufficient unless accompanied by deliberate efforts to change prevailing attitudes, language and society’s informal rules of the game. Political leaders who have been prepared to publicly acknowledge discrimination issues can have national impact, for example, in efforts to tackle HIV/AIDS. School textbooks can reveal alternative histories of a country, told this time from the perspective of those who have been oppressed, as in happening now in the Andean region of South America. The mass media can change public perception in relation to those discriminated against because of their sexuality. These issues of recognition matter, because they affect many dimensions of well-being. Good education and health care are not by themselves empowering, as well illustrated by the case of women in Saudi Arabia. The push to extend basic services needs to be accompanied by a parallel emphasis on the way in which services are delivered. Finally, people living in poverty are often spoken for and spoken about by those who are not poor. Mosse (2013) citing Gayatri, S ( 2011) drew attention to the difference between speaking for and speaking about, between in her words proxy and portrait. She observes that those who are spoken about may so internalize the way they are represented, that when they come to represent themselves they simply reproduce the portraits that are made of them by others. People need opportunities and political leadership to recognize and name the discrimination and deprivation they face so they can break the perpetuation of internalized and external discrimination. This means people representing themselves in ways that do not demean them, nor simply reproduce societal discrimination against them. The label ‘’The Poor’’ is a case in point. Such labelling, particularly in moments of crisis , may shift or sustain power relations in ways that trigger social dislocation and prejudice efforts to achieve greater empowerment.

**2.1.4.2 Economic Empowerment**

Economic empowerment is the capacity of poor women and poor men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes on terms which recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible for them to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment means people thinking beyond immediate survival needs and thus able to recognize and exercise agency and choice. Mosse’s guidance on pro-poor growth offers considerable scope in terms of strategies for the economic empowerment of people living in poverty. It explicitly recognizes that patterns of growth matter as much as the rate of growth. While it gives centre stage to markets and private enterprises in the envisaged growth processes there is also a role for policies to increase people’s access to markets in land, labour and capital and for the investment in basic social services, social protection and infrastructure. A concern with inequality, and thus with relative poverty, has been added to that of absolute poverty which dominated the donor agenda through much of the 1980’s and 1990’s. The guidance prioritizes investments in the rural economy, and the agricultural sector, where poverty is concentrated, and specific attention is paid to the enhancement of the poor people’s market access. However more emphasis is required than the postulations of Mosse, which provides to recognizing that market forces alone cannot help those living in chronic poverty. He argued further that inequalities matter to growth outcomes, particularly inequalities in the distribution of assets. The higher the initial inequalities in the distribution of assets, such as education, land or capital, the less likely it is that a particular growth path will lead to declines in poverty. Inequalities are most resistant to change when they represent historical evolution of poverty rights, reinforced by past state policies and persisting social discrimination. Markets tend to reproduce such deep seated inequalities. Those who enter the market without assets must rely on their physical labour to meet their daily needs. They are seldom in a position to negotiate the price of their labour or opt for leisure if they do not receive their asking price. They rarely generate a sufficient surplus from their efforts to benefit from access to land or capital markets, neither do they have the mental security and peace of mind to take the risks necessary to break out of their poverty traps.

By contrast, those with considerable assets at their disposal are not only in a position to determine the price at which they will engage with the market. They are also better positioned to take advantage of ant new opportunities that may emerge and to close off such opportunities to those with fewer endowments. The insecurities associated with relying only on one’s labour for living has given rise to highly asymmetrical patron- client relationships in which people pledge their labour and loyalty to powerful patrons in return for access to land or credit and some degree of protection against contingencies. While the spread of market relations may erode some of these paternalist arrangements, unless alternative sources of security emerge in their place, it will not leave those who have been freed any better off. Market inequalities reproduce themselves because what underpin them are inequalities of power. Those with power are better able to frame the rules of the game to protect their own privilege, or in many cases, to ignore the rules of the game they themselves have framed, for example the agricultural subsidies in the OECD.. There are lessons from the field that can provide insights into how empowerment can be facilitated, they relate

i) to the promotion of the assets of the poor people.

ii) Transformative forms of social protection,

iii) The decent work agenda and

iv) Voice and organization for economic citizenship.

**Assets:** it is clear that land redistribution has been one of the most politically controversial and resisted of redistributive forms. The current focus of donors is on formal tilting of land, while there is a case to be made for this to clear up the legal confusion that surrounds property ownership in some contexts, such as those described by de Soto, formal tilting can also lead to dispossession of vulnerable members of families and lineage groups in countries like Kenya where customary laws upheld a more equitable, but formal distribution. Women are more likely to benefit from the provision of joint entitlements when it is made mandatory rather than optional. While substantive redistribution may not have much of an impact on poverty in more densely populated countries like Bangladesh and Ethiopia, more piecemeal redistribution should not be ruled out as a policy option. In West Bengal. It has led to a greater willingness on the part of farmers to invest in their crops, evidence of their greater faith in the future. In Pakistan, the allocation of unused government land to poor people has helped to mobilize them to claim their rights.

**Social Protection**: Social protection can be designed to address the fundamental insecurity of poor people’s livelihoods, thus providing them with the courage and self-confidence to take risks and protest injustice. There is a strong case for redistribution forms of social protection not tied to employment status, thereby reducing the gap between good and bad jobs in the economy. Cash transfers programme of various kinds, conditional and unconditional are examples of these as social pensions. The regularity and predictability with which these are provided, the acceptability of any conditions and the extent to which it is treated a s a hand out or a right all influence the kind of outcomes reported. In South Africa and Namibia, social pensions have led to improvements in the education of grandchildren. They have allowed pensioners to enjoy access to informal credit from grocery stores and have helped to stimulate local trade. Money transferred through an unconditional cash transfer programme piloted for the very poorest 10% of the population in Zambia was partly used for consumption but also invested in small livestock and assets. It was also used by some female beneficiaries to start up a traditional savings scheme.

At the same time, the evidence to date reveals that conditional cash transfer are not automatically a pathway of empowerment and that they have to be designed carefully to secure that effect. Micro finance, including micro insurance ia also often considered as an instrument that promotes empowerment. As with conditional cash transfers, findings show that the design of the programme is fundamental for such processes to occur. For example, women’s ability to use micro finance to increase incomes and control these incomes are affected by the types of collateral requirements, modes of disbursal, loan size and timing, types of savings product. Micro finance can achieved a great deal in terms of helping poor people to smooth consumption flows and send children to school but it can also lead to indebtedness and exclusion of the very poor if financial sustainability is the rationale of the organizations. Microfinance interventions can also provide the basis for collective action around a range of shared concerns. The trust relationships built up within solidarity based microfinance programmes have been used as the basis for community based insurance schemes. In Uganda, for instance, a health insurance company operates a single risk, not for profit health insurance scheme to cover hospital costs in case of illness.

**Collective Action:** Finally, the importance of livelihoods in the lives of poor people means that they have provided the most frequent basis for collective action. While trade unions are themselves increasingly aware of their failures in relation to those seeking to earn a living from informal activities, there are a variety of innovative forms of associations that have emerged in response to the challenge of organizing these workers. Some organize around specific occupational categories, such as waste pickers, janitors, migrant workers and so on, while others take specific needs as their entry point. Thus, we find organizations that focus on housing needs, others that mobilize around land rights while still others have used credit and savings. This kind of organizations can be seen as an emergent a civil society committed to holding the state accountable to the needs and interest of people in poverty..

**2.1.4.3 Political Empowerment**

The understanding of how political empowerment contributes to pro-poor growth is through increasing equity of representation in political institutions and enhancing the voice of the least vocal so that they can engage in making the decisions that affect the lives of others like them, enhancing their ability to speak about, as well as speak for themselves, gaining recognition as having a right to engage in the democratic process. In the guidance on pro-poor growth policy it is understood that political empowerment of people living in poverty as their capacity to hold the state accountable. It is noted that a well-functioning state is essential for responding to the interests of the poo people and its needs to provide the opportunity for their representatives to influence policy making processes.

Legal empowerment is defined as making legal work for everyone, cross cutting elements in these different types of empowerment. The law is a contributory element to changing the way things are done as well as how people envisage themselves and are seen by others, enhancing their capacity to act to bring about changes in their lives and those around them ( Naresh, p. 2014).

Grindle, (2013) In a comprehensive review of the literature on the links between good governance, growth and poverty reduction argued that international development agencies need to avoid making assumptions about a universal causal link between the quality of governance and development and should avoid taking examples of what works in one place and assuming it will work also somewhere else. In concluding, he opined that there are numbers of analytical frameworks that can guide development practitioners in making decisions about what is more likely to work in a particular context without them having to get involved in higher level discussions about the links between good governance, growth and poverty reduction. These include country based institutional and political economy analysis of state structures and political system of the kind that in fact an increasing number of donors are now undertaking and have been considered. Suggestions were also made that poor people’s political empowerment offers an additional element for inclusion in such analysis, including addressing what to do in weak states not capable of delivering pro-poor policies.

Political empowerment of people living in poverty is a crucial element for consideration linked to concerns about how donors can most usefully support what is often violent and lengthy process of the state formation. Poor people’s mobilization around rights helps to build their individual and collective political capabilities necessary to engage in negotiations over policy, because empowerment is a process by which people learn to think critically about their own circumstances and possibilities, unlearn prior social conditioning and see things differently which tends to be a pre-condition for the kind of collective action that historically has allowed poor and excluded groups to make their voices heard by reframing their relation to institutionalized power. Societal groups whose historical experience has been marginalized from politics and decision making may not have a clear sense of their interests as a group, nor of a n agenda for change. This may require the creation of spaces of their own, within which to begin a process of becoming aware of their specific circumstance as a group and articulating an agenda for action to address the specific inequities that they face. Measures for political empowerment are inadequate if they simply involve establishing quotas so that people from particular groups are officially given seats at the table because they are limited to seeking inclusion within a political system that is fundamentally hostile to historically marginalized social groups. What makes those who occupy these seats able to advocate effectively for change includes a strong sense of their own efficacy, the political skills to be effective and a constituency behind them who will be able to back them at the ballot box and through other forms of political activism. Research into the nature of citizenship, how it emerges, grows and develops, tell us that we must not make general assumptions about how people, particularly those living in poverty understand their roles and responsibilities in the wider community, nor about their expectations in relation to the role of the state that they may feel is distant, absent or even hostile to them.

Political empowerment may originate in struggles over local economic or social issues, for this, donors need to be willing to give support to social movements, including non- project based institutional funding to pay for administrative support and premises, and to support initiatives that include rights to education, economic literacy and other educative programmes that equip members of these groups with the skills and knowledge with which to enter public and the political arenas. It has been argued that empowering the poor through grassroots organizations and popular participation cannot by itself be the solution to systemic reproduction of unequal social relations. Effective change is often based on coalitions between state and civil society actors. One cannot achieve greater inclusion solely or even primarily around civil society. The state and the political parties both have central roles to play, the role of the state is to achieve large collective goals, facilitating co-ordination within the civil society and countering market based exploitation. Political parties have a central role in aggregating interests, negotiating compromise and balancing state power. Such a polity offers the best prospects for excluded and historically subordinated groups to be brought into political processes through a combination of representative and deliberative institutions.

However, as Houtzager (2012) argues, it would be naïve to assume that significant long term shifts in favour of subordinate groups can always take place without violence disruption, while an effective and accountable state may be a necessary condition for poor people’s voices to be effective in shaping policy, by itself it may not be sufficient as Mosse suggests, because of the structures of power relation in society that impede poor people’s representation in politics. The power that people have ( as individuals or groups) depends upon the capacity of others for example, labour leaders and party workers to define social classifications for them and then to speak on their behalf. Political organizations do not reflect any naturally occurring classes, caste, ethnicities, and the like, but rather manufacture these categories through the process of determining who gets political representation. Finally, there are deepening democracy approaches tp political empowerment concerned with sustaining more substantive citizen participation in the democratic process than is often found in representative democracy alone. These include increasingly common models of participatory or co- governance including participatory budgeting, building civil society to hold state institutions accountable and deliberative democratic institutions such as citizens juries.

**2.1.5 Youth Empowerment**

A youth is any individual from the age of 18 and 35 years irrespective of gender. Empowerment can be seen as the means of helping, assisting or encouraging young people to be self-reliant (Okon, 2014, p 79).

Statistically, Nigeria has a youth population of about 6.8 million, aged between 16 and 35 years. 44.3% of these youths do not have any means of survival; hence this figure shows that the majority of youths in the country are living under the minimum standard, thus the call for an effective and sustainable youth empowerment programmes in the country that will change the face of impoverishment. To empower the youths certain core areas need to be considered such as; Financial Youth Empowerment, Educational Youth Empowerment, Moral Youth Empowerment, Skills Youth Empowerment, Agricultural Youth Empowerment. For any nation to thrive, its youths being the leaders of tomorrow, must be empowered to assume that responsibility in the various categories of the empowerment. (Okon, 2014)

Abadua (2012, p9) defined youth empowerment as a three pronged approach that effectively engages young people in works that challenges them in these areas:

(i) Skill development: This is the process where the youths strengthen their skills so that they will know how to efficiently make decisions and positively interact with their peers and act as community advocates.

(ii) Creating Opportunity: This is the process of providing the youths with platforms for decision making and encouraging their full participation in community transformation.

(iii) Creating Awareness: This is the deliberate process of exposing the youths to vital information and necessary resources for analyzing issues that affect their lives and the environment as well as strategies on ways to act as agents of change in the communities. Youth empowerment globally is of utmost importance, because when the youths are empowered, their future and the nation are secured taking into cognizance that the same youths shall be at the helms of leadership of their various countries, empowerment of the youths surely will evit social vices. Obuzuwa (2012) sees youth empowerment as structural, attitudinal and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability and authority to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of others.

**2.1.6 Indicators of Poverty**

The assessment for measuring the level of poverty varies from place to place; this depends on the level of development in a particular location. In some part of Nigeria, poverty could be measured in terms of the lack of food, money, employment, housing, education, whereas, in some other places it could be lack of infrastructural facilities such as, good roads, pipe born water, health care, electricity and telecommunication services. Yet to some, the indication s when the expenditure is higher than the income during the period (Abdullahi,2012). According to World Bank (2013), one of the indicators of poverty is the standard of living of an individual, group of persons and or a community. They also averred that the level of expenditure over income of the house hold is a determinant factor of poverty, as life expectancy, infant mortality, mal nutrition are imminent indicators.

**2.1.7 Causes of Poverty**

There is no one cause or determinant of poverty. On the contrary, the combination of several complex factors contributes to poverty. They include low or negative economic growth, inappropriate macroeconomic policies, deficiencies in the labour market resulting in limited job growth, low productivity and low wages in the informal sector and a lag in human resource development. Bad governance have contributed significantly to poverty in Nigeria, governance problems are widely thought to have been among the major reasons why past poverty alleviation programmes had little effects.

Onah (2006:p80) gave support to this when he said that indeed, poor leadership of various civilian governments in Nigeria contributed to poverty in Nigeria. Achebe (1983) also stated clearly that the trouble in Nigeria is purely the problem of leadership. Other factors which have contributed to a decline in living standards and are structural causes or determinants of poverty include increase in crime and violence, environmental degradation, retrenchment of workers, a fall in the real value of safety nets, and changes in family structures.

**2.1.8 Unemployment**

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO)( 2010), a country’s population consist of two categories, viz; the economically active and the economically inactive categories. ILO buttress that the economically active populations are those of the working group whereas, the economically inactive are those who are without any form of engagement even when they are qualified and ready to be engaged. In the views of Jhingan (2011), unemployment is an unacceptable idleness of an individual or persons willing to work yet could not find one irrespective of the pay system.

**2.1.9 Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria**

Reducing poverty is regarded by many as the most important goal of human development. Indeed, it is widely believed that at its core, development must be about improvement of human wellbeing, removal of hunger, diseases and ignorance as well as productive employment for all. Its first goal must be to end poverty and satisfy the priority needs of all people in a way that will not jeopardize the opportunity for the future generations to attain the objective. More than forty years after independence, poverty remains one of the pressing issues in Nigerian development. It has not only become entrenched and multi-faceted over decades, but has continued to elude efforts made towards its eradication (Ajakaiye, 1987).

Poverty reduction per se has in the recent times attracted global attention and concern, resulting in the existence of varied themes on the subject and, of course, abundant literature. As Nkom (1990, p.43) observed, poverty is too complex to yield to any one dimensional policy solution. Since poverty is caused by multiplicity of factors, no single instrument can suffice to uproot it. The battle against poverty through alleviating mechanisms has to be simultaneous and cohesive, using different strategies and instruments.

Poverty Alleviation means all formal activities geared towards lowering the rate and prevalence of poverty in the country. Effective alleviation policies require a good knowledge of the characteristics and socio-economic conditions of the poor. In most cases, there is mixed feelings on the effect of the policies, strategies and programmes designed to address poverty in Nigeria. The poverty situation in the country has been worsening. Recent studies on the subject and its reduction agencies as well as programmes indicated that considerable gap exists between the target objective – alleviating or eradicating poverty – and achievement. It seems that the efforts of various governments are ineffective and therefore not much has been done to actualize the benefit. For poverty reduction agencies, their results do not seem to justify the huge financial allocations appropriated to them.

The poor people’s perception of most formal poverty alleviation institutions are largely that of ineffectiveness and irrelevance in their lives as government poverty reduction activities contribute little in their struggles to survive and rarely help them to escape poverty. This is compounded by the state of social infrastructure and amenities, which could have eased their poor state of livelihood. The most disheartening and disturbing aspect is the fact that despite the colossal amount of resources committed to these programmes, the poverty situation aggravates, and more people fall into poverty region and condition instead of escaping. This can be attributed to the pattern of the policy put in place and their implementation. Afonja (1996:p35) pointed out that, poverty is an issue, which has generated a lot of statements of intent and attracted policies targeting the poor, such statements are unwittingly populist in nature and due to lack of basic data and understanding of the issue, policies and programmes have been inappropriate or have ended up benefiting the elites rather than the poor.

This makes Oyen (1999:p459) to observe that in most cases policies and programmes on poverty reduction or eradication are political, and in most cases when taken on their face value, it is almost a conscious deception. At best, it demonstrates ignorance of the process leading to poverty reduction.

These views explain largely the continuous state of poverty in Nigeria despite the various policies, programmes and strategies by various governments. This is demonstrated by the fact that the population of the poor, which was about 36.1 million, in 1985 and 34.7 million in 1992 has jumped to 55.8 million in 1997. This shows an escalation by 61 percent in the country’s poor population by 1997 (FOS and World Bank).

In 1988, just two years after the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme, the poverty situation in Nigeria rose to 51 percent. Moreover, by 1998, a decade after, according to the UNDP Human Development Report (1998), Nigeria has become one of the 25th poorest countries in the world, with more than one-third of the country’s population not expected to survive up to the age of 40 years. The report shows that Nigeria’s human poverty index is 41.6, meaning that the people are extremely deprived, with one in every two Nigerians being poor. In this regard, paradoxically, Nigeria, a sub-Saharan African country is being considered as “rich in poor people”. As a means to eradicate poverty in the country, the 1996 national budget had as its major thrust “Poverty Alleviation”. In addition, various workshops and seminars on poverty alleviation were being held in Nigeria. However, the poverty condition continues to worsen.

Akeredolu-Ale (2000) sees the approach to poverty reduction in Nigeria as a technocratic error, whereas, Besley (1997) categorizes the approach to poverty reduction into two alternatives; technocratic and institutional. The former emphasizes targeting and exploring programme designs that try to direct limited resources to people with greatest need, while the latter approach notes that the poor lack political power and that administrative incompetence and corruption hinder service delivery of government. Poverty reduction therefore requires developing strong institutions, and changed political structures, improved governance and changed attitudes towards the poor. It requires enhanced political power of the poor via increased participation. The UNDP has been able to grasp the functional definition of poverty, the strategies to eradicate poverty including instituting a framework that permits the establishment and sustainability of good economic policies.

Three main strategies are identifiable in the process of tackling poverty, namely:

(a) Exclusive reliance on the natural forces of economic growth;

(b) Specific programmes to increase earning opportunities for the poor; and

(c) Social programmes targeted at the poor.

Each of these proposals holds varying prospects for poverty alleviation. Targeting the poor by means of social programmes is the most direct approach, followed by the consideration of specific programmes to enhance their earning capacity. These two are direct for immediate impact on poverty reduction. In practice, the problem with these strategies is that there is a possibility that the benefits may lead to unintended groups. Administratively, they could also be expensive to implement, inefficient in operation and outcome and lack sustainability. Furthermore, any distribution of income from the non-poor to the poor may be at some cost, for instance may result in a limitation on savings, which may lead to retarded economic growth (Onah, 1996).

The economic growth strategy was an indirect approach to poverty alleviation. It was aimed at achieving an untargeted general increase in incomes, which, it was believed, would have invariably lifted the average poor above the poverty line. In the short run, income distribution may be positively skewed, but the assumption was that in the long run, through trickledown effects, poverty reduction, both in absolute and relative sense, would have been achieved. The approach was rooted in the economic efficiency criterion and therefore had the possibility of sustainability. Also in as much as the reliance was on the natural forces of economic growth, the strategies can be said to be devoid of any extensive administrative machinery and would probably cost less to implement.

Poverty alleviation through growth has been challenged as an effective means of tackling poverty both in the short and long run. The growth strategy, according to Onah (1996) would take more than three decades to achieve the intended objectives; a period considered too long and therefore, too expensive a policy option to be adopted by any government. In the 1970s when the basic needs approach held sway, there was wide spread disillusionment with the trickledown effects of growth on poverty; and since the second half of the 1980s, when most African countries have been implementing a growth centred macro-economic adjustment programme. It was generally believed that the programme disproportionately hurt the poor.

**2.1.10 An Overview of Previous Poverty Alleviation Policies and Programmes in Nigeria**

There had been several poverty alleviation programmes by past governments, but sadly none of the robust plans of these governments was able to achieve the expectations of the citizens, rather than making concerted efforts to efficiently and effectively implement the programme, they chose to go on the pages of newspapers and news conferences (Anthony, 2004).

Ahmed,(1980).observed that every government policy seemed to worsen the condition the more, making the citizens lose confidence in their elected representatives.

The first was Gen. Yakubu Gowon’s National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) and the Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB), entirely devoted to funding agriculture. The NAFPP turned out to be a colossal waste and nothing was achieved. There was the much publicized Operation Feed the Nation(OFN) in 1976 by the then military Junta. Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, which expended much money and effort in getting ill–prepared university undergraduates to go to the rural areas to teach the peasant farmers how to farm. A theoretical farming graduate teaching a farmer who makes his/her life out of farming how to farm, what a paradox. The scheme’s only success was in creating awareness of food shortage and the need to tackle the problem (Okeke, 1993).

The 1979 Shehu Shagari’s Green Revolution Programme had the twin objectives of curtailing food importation while boosting crop and fibre production. The overall objectives were big (mechanized) farming. Many senior civil servants and military officers, both in and out of office, used their access to the state resources, to the advantage of the wide range of facilities committed to the Green Revolution. Many private executives also joined these bureaucrats turned farmers. Some new breed farmers were only interested in getting certificates of occupancy for large hectares of land. The lands can then be used for speculative motives, for example, as collateral for securing loans. When the programme ended in 1983, 2 billion naira taxpayers money was wasted. That was more than 2 hundred billion in today’s exchange rate (Ojo, 1989).

Buhari’s regime introduced the “Go Back to Land” programme with variation such as the former River State Governor, Fidelis Oyachilome’s school to land programme and his Lagos State counterpart, Gbolahan Mudashiru’s graduates farming scheme. Initially the Oyakhilome’s scheme worked wonders in Rivers State, made headline news in some newspapers. But like everything in Nigeria, it fizzled out and went into extinction. The major reasons for the failure of all these poverty reduction programmes were based on “faulty philosophy”. Food programmes such as that of Gowon, Obasanjo, Shehu Shagari and Buhari “failed because of the far–fetched objectives of making farmers out of all Nigerians. And that no country attains self – sufficiency in food by seeking to turn all its citizens into farmers rather farming should be left for those whose business is to farm.

Decree No 24 of October 19, 1986 established the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and according to Oyemoni (2003), the NDE was established in October 19, 1986 and was basically meant to combat mass-unemployment and articulate policies aimed at promoting skills acquisition, self- employment and labour intensive potentials. NDE programme was not only on unemployment and vacancies but also engaged with designing employment programmes in the country such as vocational skills development, agriculture, small-scale enterprises and special public works. The directorate however suffered from poor funding and as such could not cope with the needs of the ever increasing number of job applicants in Nigeria. Despite all the problems enumerated above, NDE possesses great potential as an agency for the promotion of skills acquisition and self-employment schemes, and of employment generating programmes.

In 1986, Gen. Babangida established the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) for rural development. This was meant to provide feeder roads, electricity and portable water as well as toilets facilities for the rural dwellers. The project gulped 1.9billion (about N80billion today’s value) without Nigerians benefiting from them.

Various other projects were set up for poverty alleviation purposes; amongst them are the Peoples Bank of Nigeria and the Community Bank for Nigeria. Neither did these financial institutions live up to their expectations, nor did they actualize their aims and purposes. Babangida’s wife Maryam also went into the business of caring for the Nigerian poor. She set up Better Life Programme for Rural Women and ended up making millions of naira out of the BLP officials and friends. The Better Life for Poor Rural Women became the better life for rich urban women.

Similarly, in 1993, Abacha and his wife found a gold mine in the business of pretending to care for the poor. The Family Support Programme (FSP) and the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) were set up. The Nigerian poor again, were taken for a ride. According to the Tell Magazine (1998) “FSP gulped over N10billion of tax payers’ money at a time her husband, Abacha was retrenching helpless civil servants nationwide.

Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) came as an interim measure initiated in 2000 at the wake of the Gen Olusegun Obasanjo’s democratic dispensation to address the problems of rising unemployment, crime wave among the youths and also to increase the level of productivity. The targeted groups were the unemployed (young and old) and it provided job through public work system to some jobless citizen (Obadan, 2001, pp. 172-174). The programme was characterized by uncoordinated operation and politicization which mitigated its success. However, the programme could not stand the test of time and had to give way to a more solid programme. The implementation of PAP generated public outcry and was accused of shoddiness and corruption. Subsequently, the government set up a panel headed by Prof. Ango Abdullahi to review the programme. Problems identified with the programme included over centralization, over politicization, irregular payment and uncoordinated management as well as high-level of corruption. The panel came up with the blueprint recommending National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) to come on board.

Taking into cognizance of the recommendations of the panel, the government, swiftly embarked on the poverty eradication programme which became one of the cardinal areas of focus, as revealed in the approved blueprint for the establishment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), a central coordination point for all anti-poverty efforts from the local government level to the national level by which schemes would be executed with the sole purpose of eradicating absolute poverty. This was the only government embarking on eradication; a shift from the traditional concept of alleviation. Such schemes already identified included: Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Rural Infrastructures Development Scheme (RIDS), Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) and Natural Resource Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS).

On the whole, these schemes were designed to boost government’s ambitious programme of eradicating absolute poverty–a condition where a person or group of persons are unable to satisfy their most basic requirements for survival in terms of food, clothing, shelter, health, transport, education and recreation amongst Nigerians. With a take-off grant of N6 billion approved for it in 2001, NAPEP established structures at all levels nationwide. Under its Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), it trained 100,000 unemployed youths just as 5,000 others who received training as tailors and fashion designers, were resettled. A total of 50,000 unemployed graduates have also benefited from NAPEP‟s Mandatory Attachment Programme MAP, which was also an aspect of CAP.

The programme also established a databank of all unemployed youths in all the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital territory (FCT). About 1.1 million youths were registered. Such data could be used in targeting groups in any future poverty alleviation effort. The difference between NAPEP and past poverty reduction agencies is that it was not a sector project implementation agency but a coordination facility that ensures that the core poverty eradication Ministries were effective. It only intervened when necessary, under its secondary mandate which gave it the right to provide complementary assistance to the implementing ministries and parastatals nationwide.

Duplication of functions by innumerable agencies involved in anti-poverty schemes and programmes in the past had been blamed for their ineffectiveness and outright failure. Having subscribed to the UN-inspired Millennium goals of halving global poverty by 2015, Nigeria has embraced the process of outlining its own Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP) which brought its anti-poverty efforts into the mainstream of the new global thinking that fighting poverty needed to be driven by some acceptable principles. Experts have opined that given our miserable performance in the past, the PRSP held some promises for success because poverty programmes were to be derived in an integrated way from sanitization of each aspect of poverty into its component parts. Government, the poor and stakeholders then worked together to develop an overall plan to make progress, with coordinated roles for sectorial ministries and other agencies.

The failure of the aforementioned programmes partly could be traced to lack of inclusion of the rural poor in all aspects of life development as indicated by World Bank report of Human Development Index 2000/2001. The report stated that “poverty in sub – Saharan Africa is traced to alienations of rural people. According to the report, failure to involve the rural poor who were the real targets in all aspects of development was responsible for the continued development of poverty and rural underdevelopment. The report also noted that gender disparities contributed to some extent a significant proportion of poverty level in developing nation like Nigeria because they were closely associated with poverty, and that the gap between men and women in education and health sectors was greater in developing countries than in developed countries. It was therefore, said that societies that discriminate between men and women pay a significant price in greater poverty, slower economic growth, weak governance and a lower equality of life (Dike, 2004).

Therefore, for poverty reduction to succeed in Nigeria, rural dwellers must be empowered, and the empowerment can only be attainable when rural poor men and women are carried along in all spheres of developmental projects at all levels (planning, implementation and evaluation). The contribution of poverty reduction programmes can be made pronounced when gap in access to resources and opportunities are reduced and have become minimal. To empower the rural poor, their practical and strategic needs must be met; these refers to demands for goods and services arising out of the socially acceptable roles in society; such as the need for health care, good drinking water supplies and strategic needs like equal employment opportunities, access to quality education and their production assets that would help them achieve greater equality relative to that of the elites by changing their position in the society.

According to Ering and Akpan (2012), the federal ministry of finance and the Sure-P document of the financial institutions (FBI) division outlined specific reasons for the discontinuation of subsidy on petroleum products, these are;

i) Huge unsustainable subsidy burden due to the fixed price maintained irrespective of realities in the market.

ii) The huge disparity between the targeted poor and the rich.

iii) The policy was filled with corruption, financial leakages and inefficiencies.

iii) Diversion of resources away from investment in critical infrastructure, thereby

impinging on the resources of the government,

v) The system lacks competition which detered private sector participation in the downstream, as a result of lack of deregulation, critical areas like petrochemical, refineries, fertilizer plants were been neglected, as investors are lukewarm in investing. This could be seen in the licensees refusal to commence the building of the refineries since 2000 due to lack of conducive business environment in the oil sector.

vi) Due to the subsidy, there had been an enhanced smuggling of petroleum products across the borders of Nigeria as a result of the price disparity.

vii) The revenue accrued from the subsidy removal was reinvested in other critical areas of the economy.

viii) The subsidy removal definitely yielded more revenue for the federal government which was used to embark on safety net programmes.

**2.1.11 Effects of Subsidy Removal in some selected Countries and their Intervention Programmes**

Undoubtedly, there would be a multiplier effect on every side of the economy, when subsidy is either reduced or totally removed, the macro –economy, ranging from welfare to relative change in prices of commodities, not leaving the employment and wages; the shift in the resource allocation automatically increases the cost of living, though the impact of the change is determined by the materiality and substitutability of the policy.

For a replication package such as SURE-P in Nigeria to be effective, there was need for a change in the fiscal allocation of resources, considering the welfare of households by setting up safety nets, cash transfer programme.

For the purpose of this research work, experiences were drawn from selected countries which at one time or the other have themselves undergone similar subsidy removal experience and how they were able to surmount that regime.

**Morocco:** This country was able to survive the subsidy regime, because of the implementation of the policy, there was adequate information, through sensitization, campaigns, public hearings and launching of new programmes in the critical sectors of the economy, like in Education, reproductive Health, Health I insurance, but with special attention in the rural areas where the over 70% of the poor people dwell. This well thought out plans involved the series of consultations with industrial groups and retailers, though there was no absolute subsidy removal, the objectives was to cap it at a certain percentage of the GDP and make the system flexible enough to absorb and pass through the price shock.(Yemtsov,2010).

**Thailand:** The Government in Thai in 1991, deregulated the fuel market, but intermittently intervened in the fuel market through an oil fund whenever there was crises in the Asian Financial Sectors, like in 1997. At such times, subsidies are paid from the fund as prices were fixed on diesel and gasoline. However, when the government in power realized that it would not be able to sustain the subsidy regime, it set up an Anti-Poverty Package to be delivered to the targeted poor in mitigating the impact of the global financial crises and high oil prices.These Anti-Poverty Package were;

(i). Free Tap water for households that use less than 50 cubic meter (Mᵌ) per month.

(ii). Free Travel in all none air condition train services

(iii). Free electricity to consumers who use less than 80kwh/month and reducing the tariff for consumers who consume between 81-150kwh/month.

(iv) Free travel on half of the non-air conditioned buses.

(v) Fuel excise tax cut.

**Jordan:** Jordan is one of the countries that also had its time of subsidy regime. In anticipation of the subsidy removal, the system setup the National Aid fund (NAF) which was saddled with the responsibility to cater for the poor, unemployed, the able bodied men who were not participating in the labour force, and such compensation measured between 1/3 and ½ of what the fuel subsidy cost for a year. Provisions were made in form of cash payments in increase of wages to all civil servants, military and security personnel in the various cadre of ranks. Jordan had before 2003, imported cheap oil from Iraq, but decided to end the subsidy regime by 6% of its GDP in 2005.

In that year, the government developed a plan to eliminate fuel subsidy due to the huge financial burden. The government in 2008, adjusted its prices in the electricity, LPG and Diesel, thus, the social risk mitigation package was berthed. This package included the wage increase for civil servants, the security personnel and the military, and also each member of a family of five was compensated. The agricultural sector was not left out as the food subsidies were also stepped up in the wake of the food crises in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region.

**Ghana:** Due to the unexpected increases in oil price in the international market, Ghana spent about 2.2% of its GDP in 2004 to subsidize petroleum products and about 1% of the GDP in supporting the national refinery situated at TEMA, (The Tema oil refinery). By February in 2005, it became obvious that it was no longer sustainable, hence the deregulation of the oil sector. To cushion the immediate impact of the subsidy removal, the government commissioned an Independent Poverty and social impact assessment (PSIA) which was charged with the responsibility of assessing the workability of the subsidy removal policy. This commission in their assessment discovered the benefit disparity between the poor and the elites, thus the government leveraged on the findings, and embarked on wider consultation and persuasive communication for the necessity of the reform and for designing of policies to reduce the impact of higher fuel prices on the poor.

According to Ibrahim and Unom (2011), several strategies were adopted to compensate poor Ghanaians for higher energy prices which included;

i) The elimination of fees for state owned primary and secondary schools.

ii) Increased the number of public transport buses.

iii) Fixed transport fare for public transportation.

iv) More funding in the public health sector.

v) Wage increase by about 15% for civil servants.

vi) Expansion of rural electrification programme.

vii) Maintained its subsidy on kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Because the policy was a pro-poor programme, and its benefits enjoyed by the general poor masses, the demonstration by labour unions became ineffective.

**Indonesia:** In the year 1998, there was a level of political crises and regime change, which was militated by the government’s decision to remove fuel subsidy, which was seen as a pro rich, thus prices of petroleum products were hiked. The government proactively and massively communicated to its citizens through the media and public dialogues, and intimated them of the pro-poor decisions to be taken, to cushion the effect of the fuel subsidy removal. The government initiated the unconditional cash transfer programme (UCTP), to all the three deciles. As a remedial measure, the government embarked on a compensatory programmes by way of cash transfers to the deciles, as incremental hikes in petroleum products are effected. There was a monitoring mechanisms put in place( National Socio-Economic Household Survey) (SUSENAS) to monitor and analyze the effects of the removal, and it was found that the 60% of the benefits went to the top 40%. There was also a quarterly payment for 1 year period and a cash transfer to about 40% of the poor populace to alleviate the effects of the increase of the petroleum products, these programmes were transacted through the post offices, where the poor could directly benefit from the programme to avoid official bureaucracy, hence, external appraisal teams were accepted from the Non-governmental agencies and the research institutes, who eventually reported that though the progamme was not perfect but it was working as proposed (Yemtsov, 2010).

**Senegal**: According to Laan, M (2010) there has been a long desire in Senegal to shift to clean fuels. To overcome this burden of petroleum subsidy, a suggestion of cash transfers were made, making use of the existing structures such as the retirement homes, hospitals and schools to distribute transfers via payments made through banks, private companies and post offices. However, there was the doubt that there might not be guarantee that households would spend the cash transfers on clean fuels, hence further policies to discourage the use of woods and charcoals. Similarly, due to the peculiar prices of petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene in the international market, the government through a policy of taxation and subsidy allow kerosene to be sold cheaper than diesel and gasoline, so as to target subsidies to lower income households (Bacon and Kojima, 2012).

For every successful reduction or total removal of petroleum subsidy across the world, certain factors are been considered, and these factors are firstly, the ability of the government to communicate with the populace and enlighten them about the merits and demerits of the intended policies, secondly, the government must make a concerted consultation across the segments of the society and from the opinions gathered, the policies are formulated and finally, there should be transparency on the part of government, so that the citizens will trust them in the implementation of such policies. Deducing from the implementations of the aforementioned countries that had had their share of the subsidy removal regime, they were all proactive by way of planning ahead before implementation, and in all activities, the poor and most vulnerable were the most considered by way of compensation. In their views Moyo and Songwe (2012) expressed their discontentment in the unfortunate situation of Nigeria in the model adopted in the removal of petroleum subsidy. They opined that, the government did a poor job in the area of planning for the removal of petroleum subsidy, and also there was no adequate communication with the populace on the huge costs of the fuel subsidy and the benefits of its removal, as it was done in other climes. They averred that, in a country where there was already lack of trust between the people and government, communication was very critical, this lack of trust was manifested in the protest against the announcement of the subsidy removal on the day it was announced.

Going by the same experience of the aforementioned countries, it will suffice to say that there are common denominators amongst these countries; viz.

1) The programme was purely a pro-poor policy geared towards mitigating the impacts of the removal of subsidy.

2) All the countries acknowledged the importance of consultation and communication before implementation.

3) There was transparency in the implementation of the policy, hence the success.

As observed by Ibrahim and Unom (2011), that transparency is beneficial to the open public debate necessary for deciding how finances in general and subsidies in particular, should be utilized. They further opined that, reform strategies should be fully transparent at all stages, stating the aims, circulating research findings, setting out the options and discussing implementation proposals and progress. Unfortunately, these cannot be said of the Nigeria’s version of subsidies removal programme. Mitigate the level of poverty and unemployment among women and youths of the country.

**2.1.12 Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-P) and Youth Empowerment 2012-2014, At A Glance**

**2.1.12.1 Historical Background of SURE-P**

The Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) of former President, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s administration, was announced on the 1st January, 2012. However, due to the public outcry by way of national protest, the actual date of implementation of the policy was shifted to the 13th of February 2012, when members of the board were inaugurated with Dr Christopher Kolade as the pioneer chairman.

The Federal Government policy to discontinue oil subsidy was to eliminate the huge financial burden on government and redirect the revenue accruing from the removal to other critical areas of needs that will stimulate economic growth and citizen’s empowerment. In order to cushion the effect of the oil subsidy removal on the poor, the government initiated the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and youth empowerment. The programme has eight (8) components viz, the Social Safety Net (SSN), Niger Delta Development, Road Infrastructure, Rail Transport, Water and Agriculture, Selected Power Projects, Petroleum and NNPC Projects and Information and Communication Technology. The Social Safety Net (SSN) Component of the SURE-P has three (3) sub-components, which are the Maternal and Child Health Services, Community services, Women and Youth Empowerment and Urban Mass transport. As part of the social safety net strategy, government deliberately placed the Community Service, Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE) component of the SURE-P on priority agenda due to the urgent need to engage the teeming unemployed women and youths in labour intensive services targeted at rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructure. This is aimed at reducing the current unacceptable level of unemployment while harnessing manpower towards our national development aspirations. In addition, was to help mitigate negative socio-economic consequences of unemployment.

**2.1.12.2 Presidential Charge and SURE-P Management Committee**

It was for the purpose of accountability and transparency of the federal government’s share of the subsidy removal that President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan set up a twenty one (21) man committee which was headed by Dr Christopher Kolade. He charged the board to redirect the fuel subsidy funds to deliver services in critical areas of the economy such as infrastructure, projects and social safety net programme so as to directly ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians and restore the people’s confidence in the government. In their response, the board chairman expressed the desire of the board to ensure the subsidy funds were judiciously utilized to achieve the presidential mandate, and promised to partner with Ministries, Departments, Agencies, professional bodies and above all with the private sector in this regard.

**2.1.12.3 Sure-P Funding**

The estimated sum of 1.34 trillion Naira per annum was anticipated based on the average crude oil price of $90 USD per barrel, out of which 478.49 billion Naira accrued to the federal government, 411.03 billion Naira accrued to the state government and 203.23 billion Naira accrued to the local government, the federal capital territory (FCT) had 9.86 billion Naira and about 31.37 billion Naira was set aside as transfers to derivation and ecology, development of natural resources and stabilization funds.( Sure-p, document, 2012).

In order to forestall corruption in the system and ensure probity, measures were put in place for proper and efficient disbursement of the subsidy funds. The budget of SURE-P was a legislation of the National Assembly, thereafter, the budget office and the Central Bank of Nigeria verified approvals before the Director General Budget Office authorized disbursement into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. This financial insulation was to ensure that no staff of the agency becomes an emergency contractor on financial matters. (www.sure-p.org, 2014).

**2.1.12.4 Objectives of SURE-P**

The objectives of the subsidy re-investment and empowerment programme were;

(i) To mitigate the immediate impact of the petroleum subsidy discontinuation on the people, particularly the poor and vulnerable segments of the country.

(ii) To accelerate economic transformation through investments in critical infrastructural projects, so as to drive economic growth and achieve the vision 20.20.20.

(iii) To lay a foundation for the successful development of a national safety net programme that was better targeted at the poor and the most vulnerable on a continuous basis.

**2.1.12.5 SURE-P Policy Rationale**

Former president Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s government gave the subsidy reinvestment and empowerment programme Sure-P policy rationale as the unsustainable subsidy burden placed on the government by a fixed pricing irrespective of the realities of the market. The government argued that the targeted beneficiaries did not benefit at all, rather only the richer household’s benefited from the policy, as they consumed larger quantities of the petroleum products instead of the poor and the middle class. Furthermore, the government claimed that the subsidy regime was beset with inefficiencies, financial leakages, and corruption. It was also observed that the government resources came under severe pressure as scarce resources meant for the critical infrastructural development were diverted.

The downstream suffered serious setbacks due to lack of competition, which resulted in the non-participation of the private sector. Private investors shied away from investing due to the lack of deregulation as most licensees became hesitant in the building of the private refineries, petro-chemicals, and fertilizers plants. Inadvertently, the absence of these critical investments had multiplier effects in the areas of youth employment and job generation. Therefore, the government saw the need to do away with the fuel subsidy and reinvest in the critical sectors of the economy that would have had immense benefit to the poor and the middle class instead of the rich households.

**2.1.12.6. Terms of Reference of SURE-P**

The terms of reference are as follows;

1. To determine and liaise with the ministry of finance and ministry of petroleum resources on the subsidy savings estimates for each preceding month and ensure that such funds were transferred to the special account with the central bank of Nigeria.

ii) To approve the annual work plans and cash budgets of the various projects implementation units (PIU) within the ministries, departments and agencies.

iii) To liaise with (MDA’s) and ensure an early disbursement of funds by the PIU’s in order to certify and execute projects.

iv) To monitor and evaluate the execution of the funded projects, including periodic poverty and social impact analysis (PSIA).

v) To update the President regularly on the programme and periodically brief the federal executive council (FEC) on the progress of the programme.

vi) To appoint consulting firms with international reputation to provide technical assistance to the committee in financial and project management.

vii) To appoint external auditors for the funds.

viii) Do other things that were necessary or incidental to the objectives of the funds or as may be assigned by the federal government.

The institutional arrangement and strategies for implementation of the Community Services Scheme/Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE) component of the SURE-P was anchored on a decentralized service delivery model with adequate delegation of authority to different levels and integration of key stakeholders. The arrangement being put in place was aimed at achieving project objectives. The SURE-P Committee provided overall policy guidance and supervisory roles, while an inter-ministerial committee was responsible for oversight and quality assurance roles. A Project Implementation Unit was established in the Federal Ministry of Finance and under the office of the Coordinating Minister for the Economy (CME)/Honorable Minister of Finance. The PMU was responsible for overall management and coordination of the programme nationwide and reported to the SURE-P Committee through the Coordinating Minister of the Economy.

**2.1.12.7 Roles and Responsibilities of Various Stakeholders of SURE-P**

In consideration of the multi-stakeholder interests, roles and responsibilities were defined for each key stakeholder to strengthen accountability and effective delivery. The roles and responsibilities are outlined below:-

**2.1.12.8 SURE-P Board**

The board headed the overall programme to ensure probity, transparency and accountability, reviewed overall programme performance and progress, and provided guidance on critical issues on the programme, approval for budgets and work plans.

**2.1.12.9 Inter-Ministerial Committee**

The committee was chaired by the Coordinating Minister of the Economy/Honorable Minister of Finance with membership drawn from Federal Ministries of Labour and Productivity, Finance, Environment, Youth Development, Culture, Tourism and National Orientation, Lands Housing and Urban Development, Mines and Steel Development and Women Affairs.

The Federal Ministries were responsible for the following:

Provided guidance to central Project Implementation Unit (PIU) on effective programme execution; Supported in project identification process; Resolved implementation bottlenecks related to projects; Ensured support for state PIUs from their corresponding state representatives; Monitored implementation process; Guided in policy changes for effectiveness of the scheme.

**2.1.12.10 Federal Project Inspection Unit (FPIU)**

This was manned by technical and professional team with needed expertise to provide support and guidance nationwide in achieving the objectives of the project. It was responsible for the day to day project management and coordination of overall programmes; Set strategic direction and generic operational guidelines for programme execution in states; ensured partnership with state stakeholders, established and ensured adherence to MOUs; responsible for procurement decisions for overall programme. Approved all beneficiaries related activities selection, deployment etc; Maintained national database of registered beneficiaries and community services for each state; prepared and managed programme budget and funds disbursement to all beneficiaries, supervisors, State Liaison office etc. Aggregated, prepared and submitted regular performance reports on overall programme. Responsible for overall verification, monitoring and evaluation activities across states and capacity building of project team.

**2.1.12.11 State Project Inspection Unit( SPIU)**

A coordinator was appointed by the FGN charged with responsibility of managing the entire project affairs at the state level. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) provided the secretariat and technical support, was responsible for programme execution in the state; coordinated community services identification and ensured state spread; coordinated the beneficiary identification and selection process (through community associations); Enrolled identified beneficiaries into the database; coordinated beneficiaries and supervisors orientation; coordinated deployment of beneficiaries to projects; maintained database of registered beneficiaries; communicated with beneficiaries as required; Aggregated, prepared and submitted regular performance reports on beneficiary activities and project progress for state. Created awareness on CSWYE in Federal, State and LGA/MDA’s in the state; managed project supervisors, conducted routine checks on beneficiaries in the field; prepared monthly payroll information for beneficiaries, resolved complaints and conflicts; developed and executed transition/exit plans for beneficiaries.

**2.1.12.12 Local Government Councils**

Designated CSWYE desk officer at Local Government offices; provided office space for the desk officers; Served as link between communities in the LGA and state level implementation Unit; Reviewed recommended beneficiaries to ensure adherence to guidelines. Provided information on community services in LGAs for which labour was required, provided work materials not provided under the scheme for the identified services; mobilized community leaders on matters related to the project; responsible for confirming the works and priority provided by the communities; certified that works selected for the project were not in conflict or duplication with regular budgetary provisions of the LGA; responsible for certifying the quality of completed works.

**2,1,12.13**

**Local Government Area Community Service,Women and Youth Empowerment Desk Officer**

The Desk officer worked closely with communities in the Local Government Area in identification of services and potential beneficiaries; Compiled database of services and beneficiaries selected in communities in the LGA; submitted to State level PIU data on potential beneficiaries and works in each community under the LGA; collated the reports of supervisors in communities under the LGA and submitted same to the state PIU; conducted spot-checks on supervisors and reported any anomalies to the state office, took part in conflict resolution at LG level and reported all unresolved cases to the state office; took part in monthly M&E of works in communities in their LGAs; Reported to LGA’s on project performance on monthly basis, provided application forms to CDA’s for prospective beneficiaries.

**2.1.12.14 Community Development Associations/Ward Development Committee**

They worked closely with the LGA CSWYE desk, and were responsible for identification of works and potential beneficiaries in their communities; distributed application forms to prospective beneficiaries; reviewed applications, identified and selected beneficiaries in line with guidelines. Responsible for creating awareness and mobilized potential beneficiaries, responsible for mobilizing other resources e.g. work materials for construction works e.g. culverts; be part of the participatory M&E team of works done in their communities, certified completion and quality of work done in their communities before submission to the LGA and the State Implementation Unit. Resolution of conflicts in their communities and reported unresolved cases to the LGA CSWYE Desk; Kept records of works, and potential beneficiaries submitted to CSWYE Desk for onward transmission to the State and the central PIU.

**2.1.12.15 Project Supervisor**

Supervised beneficiaries, activities (in collaboration with implementing MDA’s. staff), prepared and submitted reports on beneficiaries attendance and performance; Provided support during orientation/induction programme for beneficiaries; Acted as first point of escalation for issues relating to beneficiaries; Interfaced with CDAs on project performances.

**2.1.12.16 Beneficiaries**

They carried out the works assigned to them by the supervisor judiciously. They maintained and preserved the tools and equipment in their care, to be safety conscious while on duty, and reported to the supervisor on a daily basis.

**2.1.12.17 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

They propagated the future as essence of Community Services Scheme, monitored the implementation of the scheme both at the Community and State levels; also acted as the interface between the community and the Government towards proper implementation of the project.

**2.1.13. The Potentials of SURE- P programme Implementation in Youth Unemployment and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria.**

In the history of public employment generation for Nigerian youths, a lot of approaches have been initiated towards its successful implementation. Nonetheless, in the life span of the Yar’adua/Goodluck administration, the first to be inaugurated was the Nigerian Youth Empowerment Action Plan (NIYEAP) which initially was meant to be implemented in 2009-2011. However, in the administration of Goodluck Jonathan, which started in 2011, the first youth empowerment scheme that was embarked upon was the Youth Empowerment With Innovation in Nigeria (You Win) programme, which was launched by President Goodluck Jonathan at Abuja in October 2011, with subsequent launching at the various state capitals, including the federal capital territory. In discussing imperatives of the (You Win) programme in his 2012 presidential address to the National Assembly on Monday 12, December 2012, former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan had emphasized that his government was focused on stimulating entrepreneurial activity and setting a framework for young people with creative tendencies to showcase their business insight, build capacity and create jobs. In this spirit and to move beyond the conventional paradigm of job creation, the government partnering with the organized private sector and other development partners took bold steps to initiate the Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (You Win) programme.

In terms of the expectation of the volume of job opportunities to be created, it was stated by the SURE-P Board document (2012:p22) that:

The project was expected to generate 500,000 skilled jobs and 320,000 unskilled jobs opportunities and was to be implemented in partnership with the states, the local governments and the private sector. Then as to how the State Government and the local government were to generate their share of the jobs, an amount of money was mapped out to be distributed to these levels of government based on their usual federal financial percentage allocations. The allocations were calculated on annual basis but distributed monthly, along with other monetary shares to these states and local government for the 2012 distributions to various states and their local governments in Nigeria.

**2.1.14 SURE-P Intervention Areas**

The intervention areas of SURE-P were the social safety net projects as well as the infrastructure development projects. The social safety net projects identified by the SURE-P included; the maternal and child health (MCH) programme, community service, women and youth employment (CSWYE) programme, urban mass transit programme, vocational training schemes, water and agriculture projects. The infrastructure developments identified by SURE-P included, Federal Road Maintenance Agency ( FERMA) preventive roads maintenance programme, Niger Delta Development projects, roads and bridges, rail transport projects, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Nigerian National Petroleum corporation (NNPC) projects.

SURE-P projects were being executed through the projects implementation units (PIU’s) which were domiciled across the federal government ministries, departments and agencies (MDA’s). The funds were shared among the three tiers of government, the federal, and the 36 states including Abuja the federal capital and the 774 local government areas. The federal government got 41% of the subsidy revenue, while the states and the local governments shared the rest of 59%, the details of the safety net and infrastructural projects executed by SURE-P are given below.

• Safety Net.

(a) Mass transit. The focus of the mass transit was to provide mass transit vehicles through loans to operators across the country as palliative measures to cushion the effect of partial removal of Petroleum Motor Spirit( PMS) subsidy. About 8.9 billion naira was disbursed through the mass transit revolving fund scheme to various operators. The structure of the scheme was such that repayments from beneficiaries would have been utilized to acquire more vehicles for subsequent beneficiaries as loans.

• Vocational training. The programme was aimed at tackling the significant challenges of youth unemployment, lack of livelihood, education and enterprise opportunities amongst Nigerian youths by training them in vocational skills and enterprise support, thereby equipping them with tools for obtaining gainful employment and enterprise. The areas of focus of the training were the vocational (hands on) skills, life skills supervision as well as entrepreneurial skills.

• Public works (FERMA).

This project was aimed at creating mass employment opportunities through the implementation of a national road maintenance public works programme. The programme also focused on the provision of safe and motorable trunk roads across the economic zones of the country.

• Maternal and Child Health Care.

The aim of this programme was to reduce maternal, new born mortality and mortality through the utilization of cost effective demand and supply interventions. It also aimed at increasing access to, and providing quality health delivery service to Nigerians

• Community Service, Women and Youth Empowerment Programme.

The aim of the community service, women and youth empowerment (CSWYE) programme was to provide temporary employment for about 370,000 youths (minimum 30% women) in labour intensive community development services and rural development projects. This employment intervention was designed to target large number of unemployed youths from each state of the federation and the federal capital territory (FCT). The second component of this programme was the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), which was designed to enhance the employability of about 100,000 unemployed graduates in the 36 states of the federation and the FCT through internship in interested private and public companies, firms and institutions. ‘

**Infrastructural Development Projects.**

**i) Niger Delta Project (East-West road):** The main road project in the programme was the Niger Delta 338km East West road, spanning from Warri in Delta state through Kaiama (Bayelsa State) to Port Harcourt in (Rivers State) through Eket to Oron in Akwa-Ibom state.

**ii) Railways:** This entailed the rehabilitation and restoration of the abandoned railway infrastructure and the construction of new standard gauge railway lines. This intervention was to provide alternative means of transportation of people and goods across the country.

**iii) Roads and Bridges:** This focused on the completion of core roads projects that will enhance transportation of passengers and goods in the country. The emphasis remained that roads will leverage economic activities and social integration as tangible benefits of the subsidy gains. The road projects included in the 2012 SURE-P budget covered a total distance of 1,664km in addition to two new bridges across River Niger and River Benue. The selected roads and bridges were evenly distributed across the six geo-political zones of the country.

**2.1.15 The Challenges faced by SURE-P Implementation**

The Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme( SURE-P) was seen as a robust interventionist programme that could empower and generate jobs for the teaming unemployed Nigerian youths roaming the streets of the country, but unfortunately that was not to be, as the programme got enmeshed in several factors that mitigated its success. Some of the factors are listed below.

i) According to Onyeje (2014), the non-acceptability of the viability of the programme by the National Assembly was one of the greatest challenges faced by the programme. He further observed that, the National Assembly find the programme as a waste pipe, as they maintained that SURE-P had not either helped in reducing unemployment or in the provision of infrastructure in the country; furthermore, the assembly queried the rationale where both the Federal Ministry of works and the SURE-P claimed to have constructed same roads and other projects, thus seeing the SURE-P as a duplication of responsibility and waste of resources, hence find it difficult to appropriate funds for the execution of programmes as it had lost confidence in the programme.

ii) **Politicization of the Programme:** Affe (2013) believes that the programme was politicized and hijacked by politicians, wherein politicians took over the affairs of the programme and were assigning contracts to their cronies and party men. The programme also had problems because the targeted population of the country were excluded; rather recruitments were made amongst the party faithfuls, thus most Nigerians believed that it was just a mere window dressing programme to compensate cronies.

iii) **The Exclusion of the physically challenged:** The programme was expected to embrace all and sundry within the target group irrespective of class or status but unfortunately some sections or group of people were excluded from the programme, such as the people with disability (Affe, 2013). Furthermore, he expressed his dismay on how the programmme which was meant for everyone in the country eventually became discriminatory as not less than 100 physically challenged drawn from different states were denied such opportunity even when they were ready and willing to participate in the programme.

iv) **Corrupt Political Leadership**: Corrupt political leadership has been the bane of poor policy implementation in Nigeria. Leaders when elected to positions of trust embark on recouping spree; they first of all recoup the money spent during electioneering campaign, therefore lose focus on the reason for their election. Every developmental programme is jettisoned and money meant for job creation through establishment of virile industries was diverted, which inadvertently compound the state of unemployment in the country.

v**) Neglect of the Agricultural sector**: Nigeria which was an agrarian nation from the onset, unfortunately abandoned agriculture since the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in the 1950’s. The agricultural sector had employed more than 60% of the Nigerian population in the 60’s and 70’s but due to the diversion to oil, the nation began to experience decline in employment as employment capacity in the oil industry was very low at the time which rendered most people unemployed as government no longer gave priority to the agricultural sector.

vi)  **Insecurity:** The desire of every responsible government is to have an enabling environment that will promote investments. One of such environment is security; the poor security situation in the country also contributed to the large number of unemployed youths in the country. It is always difficult for investors to come in with their investment when there was no assurance of their safety, and those who were already established were winding up due to the incessant security challenges in the country. Until the government curbs the insecurity situation in the country the number of jobless youths will continue to be astronomically high.

**2.1.16 Failure of Sure-P Policy**

Despite the seeming laudable and robust SURE-P policy as a means of cushioning the excruciating and debilitating economic pains of citizens and dilapidated social and academic infrastructure in the country, the policy fell short of expectation as most of the objectives set out were partially implemented or not implemented in some cases. The failure of the policy was unarguably blamed on several factors which are listed below;

i) There was no formal legal framework with which to commence the implementation of the policy.

ii) Due to the lack of legal framework of the policy, there was no uniformity in the implementation of the programme between the federal government and other tiers.

iii) The technical and the vocational training scheme was a failure as there were no infrastructure ready at the time to accommodate such scheme.

iv) The targeted beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer did not access the funds; therefore, there was no change in status or economic condition.

v) The mass transit scheme which was more or less a revolving loan scheme was centralized only in Abuja, the federal capital territory; therefore, it was not seen as a national scheme but selective.

vi) There was no effective and proper monitoring and supervision of the programmes hence it was hijacked by the same politicians.

vii) The memorandum of understanding (MOU) reached with some public and private sector operators to absorb the graduate interns never saw the light of day, as majority of the interns were not absorbed even after their training, which was a negation of the agreement reached.

viii) The policy was hurriedly packaged due to the exigency at the time, therefore, neglecting referrals from other countries that had gone through similar subsidy removal and the impacts it had on their citizens before importing and domesticating such policy.

**2.1.17 Achievements of the Sure-P Programme**

The reason for the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme was to mitigate the level of poverty among the vulnerable youths and women in the country, to generate employment through safety net of vocational skills training, community service and the graduate internship scheme, and as well as rehabilitating the decayed infrastructure in the health and education sector. In spite of the factors enumerated earlier as the reason for the failure of the programme, it will suffice to acknowledge some milestone achievement recorded by the programme. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012) in the area of employment generation, the federal government resuscitated the once moribund Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) which was responsible for the maintenance of federal roads across the country, thereby creating direct employment of youths across the country.

During the short span of the SURE-P programme, health centres across the country were rehabilitated, some others were upgraded and some new ones built to cater for the health needs of the people. The mass transit scheme which was a revolving loan scheme actually empowered over 4,000 beneficiaries as a pilot scheme, though this was concentrated in the federal capital, Abuja. The programme also took cognizance of the agricultural sector, as provisions were made for mechanized agriculture in the six staple crop processing zones of the country by providing seedlings, fertilizers, machinery and funds to boost agriculture (FMF, 2013)

In the area of infrastructure during the period under review, the government embarked on the recommencement of the construction of the East- West road of the Niger Delta, spanning from Warri in Delta state through Kaiama in Bayelsa State to Port Harcourt in Rivers State then to Eket and Oron in Akwa Ibom State. Similarly, other roads and bridges were also built such as the Abuja-Lokoja, Benin- Ore- Shagamu, Port Harcourt – Onitsha, Kano-Maiduguri, the second Niger Bridge and the Oweto Bridge. Also in the North, the Apo- Karshi roads were also constructed. Other achievements recorded are the rural water scheme, water supply scheme, irrigation scheme and other water related projects. Also, in the area of dredging, the government took the dredging of River Mariga through Zungeru in Niger state.

The power sector was not left out in the scheme of things, as the government also embarked on the Mambilla power plant, Coal power plant and small hydro power plants. Several memorandum of understanding (MOU) were signed by the federal government and some public and private institutions to absorb and train some electrical and mechanical engineers, especially those who would excel in their training with the National Power Training Institute as a way of generating more jobs for the teeming unemployed graduate youths in the country.

Furthermore, over 25,000 women benefited from the conditional cash transfer scheme to improve their maternal and child health care system. The Abuja –Kaduna rail lines and the Lagos- Ibadan rail lines were all part of the achievements of the SURE-P programme within the short span of its implementation (SURE-P Project implementation manual, 2013).

**2.2 Gap in Literature**

One of the responsibilities of any government all over the globe is to provide basic amenities and protect the lives and property of its citizens. Thus the purpose of the policy on petroleum subsidy and eventual subsidy removal in Nigeria by successive governments was to cushion the immediate economic quagmire of the people, especially the poor and the most vulnerable groups in society.

The distribution of the nation’s wealth which is a collective patrimony irrespective of gender, creed, religion or ethnicity and status, ought to cut across all segments of the society, but unfortunately, some groups of persons by sheer unfortunate circumstance find themselves in the group were out rightly neglected and not considered in the scheme of things in the implementation of the policies of government. Though, there are no much archival works on the topic of subsidy reinvestment and empowerment programme and youth empowerment in Nigeria within the period under review, the few works done had entirely left out this segment of persons in their literature.

Previous literatures had written and emphasized either the failure or success of the SURE-P programme, but has failed to give attention to these group neglected in the scheme of things due to their status , which is a misnomer, even though they were part of the targeted beneficiaries of the programme. The physically challenged youths form a percentage of the country’s population, thus neglecting them signifies failure of the policy. Thus this research work brings to fore, the neglect of the physically challenged group of persons, who generally were not included in the policy implementation, even when that group naturally are citizens of the country targeted for the policy implementation.

According to Affe (2013), it is abysmal on how a programme that was meant for everyone in the country irrespective of class and status excluded the physically challenged youths. He averred that no fewer than 200 physically challenged youths with disabilities drawn from different parts of the country expressed their desire to be integrated, possessing the requisite qualification to partake in the programme, yet were denied the opportunity to participate in the sure-p programme. Thus, the question is, was the programme really meant for all and sundry, or for some selected groups? Is it the fault of the physically challenged to be impaired? If so, are they not part of the responsibility of the government to which country they belong.

This work has been able to expose the segregation or the selective nature in policy implementation among citizens by the government in the implementation of national policy. Subsequent research work perhaps may find a solution or postulate ideas on how every segment of the system will be integrated into the national fabric of policy implementation.

**2.3 Theoretical Framework**

A preliminary theory is important for any researcher in order to have a guide on the appropriate approach to use for analysis. According to Yin (2003) with the help of a theory a researcher is guided in defining possible solutions to the problem in the case. Theories developed by Social Scientists to explain the existence of poverty in societies tend to be more concerned with inequality than with poverty. They include necessity theory and natural circumstances theory. All these theories no doubt try to explain the intricacies of high rate of poverty, especially in developing countries like Nigeria. However, due to the fact that this study is an evaluation of SURE-P, birthed to reduce poverty in the country, any or all of these theories might not adequately explain why the programme failed or succeed. Therefore, several theories were reviewed to give guidance to this work but after a careful study the institutional theory was adopted.

**2.3.1. The Institutional Theory (IT)**

The roots of institutional theory which is the one adopted for this research work run richly through the formative years of the social sciences, enlisting and incorporating the creative insights of scholars ranging from Marx and Weber, Cooley and Mead, to Veblen and Commons. Much of postulations carried out at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century was submerged under the onslaught of neo-classical theory, but has experienced a remarkable revitalization. Contemporary IT has captured the attention of a wide range of scholars across social sciences and is employed to examine systems ranging from micro interpersonal interactions to macro global frameworks. Therefore, in understanding institutional theory, this study adopted the IT propounded by Scott (2001).

The justification for the choice is hinged on the fact that the institutional theory will clearly identify the institutional set up of poverty reduction within which the nation’s SURE-P Policy is been implemented and how the institutional characteristics of the Ministries and Agencies impact on policy outputs which is a unique quality of the institutional theory.

According to Scott (2001) “Institutions are composed of cultural-cognitive, normative and regulative elements that together with associated activities and resources provide stability and meaning to social life. Although rules, norms and cultural beliefs are considered central ingredients of institutions, it is however imperative to consider human behaviour which is creating and applying these norms, interpreting meanings or beliefs and formulating, modifying and obeying or disobeying these rules. Hence they cannot be separated from the associated behaviour and material resources (Scott 2001).

Consequently, institutions can either empower or restrain the actor’s behaviour thereby making them more or less capable of operating according to the rules. In poverty reduction this implies that, the actor’s behaviour towards implementing SURE-P programmes on poverty reduction can influence the reduction/alleviation of poverty towards success or failure. In this case, the Ministries, Agencies as institutions can either empower or restrain the behaviour of its employees towards implementing the SURE-P and this can influence the reduction of poverty to its success or failure in the nation. However, critiques of IT believe that there are important empirical problems with the theory. In particular, measurement of institutions and variations in their characteristics pose perhaps the greatest challenges to the use of the theory in a more systematic manner. Another standard critique of IT has been that it is almost inherently static while the world which it seeks to explain is almost inherently dynamic. Furthermore, even the normative element or pillar of an institution that stresses the “logic of appropriateness” has been criticized not to be concerned with change but have a clear concern with institutional development (Peters, 2000).

In spite of the criticisms of the IT by scholars, it still provides a better framework for understanding institutional internal operations and linkages of the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments in regards to poverty reduction in the state. In his approach to institution, Scott identified three main elements or pillars of institutions. These are the regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive which support and form the basis for distinguishing the characteristics of institutions.

**2.3.2 The Elements of Institutional Theory**

There are significantly three pillars of institutions. These are regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive elements which according to Scott (2001) have been identified as the vital ingredient of institutions. When looking from institutional perspectives of poverty reduction, it is essential to consider all these facets as contributing in interdependent and mutual reinforcing ways to a social framework. This will assist in understanding the way poverty reduction programmes can be implemented within a particular social system.

**2.3.2.1 Regulative Pillar**

The regulative aspects of institutions constrain and regularize behaviour with its processes of rule setting, monitoring and sanctioning activities. The regulative pillar is often reinforced by rules and laws resulting to the elements of fear, force and expedient. Often the powerful actors use this type of pillar to impose their will to others through using threats of sanctions. An example is on the use of authority using its coercion power legitimated by a normative framework to support and constrain the exercise of power. In other words, when power and enforcement are being practiced in some cases by the same actors meaning those who formulate the policies are the same implementing it, it is unarguably that the powerful actors will have the capacity to influence the outcome.

The actor is becoming the rule maker, evaluator and implementer. It is considerably significant to involve a third party which is supposed to behave neutral in enforcement. In addition, institutions from a regulative pillars perspective depends on how the rules are interpreted and resolved, design of sanctions and incentives can bring yet another effects (Scott, 2001).

**2.3.2.2 Normative Pillar**

The normative pillar makes use of the role of values and norms, values are conceptions of the preferred, together with the construction of standards to which existing structures or behaviour can be compared and assessed, whereas norms identify how things should be done by defining legitimate means to pursue valued ends. The normative system diverts away from the logic of consequences and put emphasis on appropriateness by defining the goals and objectives as well as the appropriate way to pursue them (Scott, 2001).

**2.3.2.3 Cultural-Cognitive Pillar**

The focal point of this pillar is based on shared conceptions that constitute the nature of social reality and the frames through which meaning is made. It has similar aspects like the normative but stresses on the cultural assumptions of “the way we do these things” as opposed to the normative which looks at “how things should be done”. In this pillar meanings arise in interactions and are maintained and transformed as they are employed to make sense of the on-going stream of occurrences. Moreover a cultural cognitive conception of institutions give emphasis to the manner in which the common framework of meaning is socially constructed (Scott, 2001). The institutional context in which organizations and individuals operate is important to ensuring the necessary incentives and rewards for improved public sector performance hence in this case poverty reduction.

**2.3.3 Relevance of the Theory to the Study**

The Institutional Theory by Scott (2001) gives an insight into what an organization or institution should be as a structure and how her regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive functions helps in the implementation of policies of Community Services Scheme, Graduate Internship scheme and Vocational Skills Training programmes on empowerment leading to poverty reduction. In this case the SURE-P, it is from here its relevance is illustrated in the study of poverty reduction in the nation. In reality, the elements of institutions regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive are not found clearly aligned and is likely one element may undermine the effect of the other.

However, in poverty reduction and empowerment programmes such as sure-p the importance of these elements cannot be undermined as being part of the main factors contributing to the ineffectiveness of poverty reduction. The regulative element of the institutional theory which tends to regularize behaviour with its processes of rule setting, monitoring and sanctioning activities becomes highly relevant to this study because the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments as institutions can make use of their regulative functions to influence the behaviour of their workers or beneficiaries towards the enforcement of the policy guidelines enshrined in the SURE policy. The Ministries, Agencies and the local governments too can deploy the regulative element of this theory to impose sanctions on workers or beneficiaries who fail to ensure the strict implementation of SURE-P.

Furthermore, the normative element of the theory has been useful in constructing standards to which existing structures or behaviour in the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments can be compared and assessed. The normative element explains how the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments as institutions define their goals and objectives as well as the best way they can implement the SURE-P in the state and how their actions must be in line with the laws establishing it.

Consequently, this element identifies how things should be done by the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments by defining legitimate means to pursue their objectives on empowerment leading to poverty reduction in the country. In addition, the cultural-cognitive element stresses the cultural assumptions of “the way we do these things”. In this case, this element provides a better understanding of the institutional way and manner in which the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments implemented poverty reduction and empowerment programmes in the state. If the way and manner they implemented poverty reduction and empowerment programmes in the state seems unsuccessful, the cultural-cognitive element suggest that the way things are done must be changed in order to address the present realities on ground so as to achieve an efficient and effective programme implementation on empowerment leading to poverty reduction in the state. This element further assists the Ministries, Agencies and the local governments in understanding how people’s culture influence poverty reduction and empowerment in the country.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH SETTING**

This chapter described the methodology of the study under the following sub-headings: Research design, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, sources of data, administration of instrument and method of data analysis.

**3.1. Research Design**

The study adopted the survey research design in which both quantitative and qualitative research was utilized through questionnaires.Creswell (2015) opined that survey research design describes situations as they exist in natural setting and determines relationships that exist between specific events. Nwankwo (2013) noted that it is a situation in which a researcher collects data from a large sample drawn from a population and describes certain features of the sample as they are at the time of the study, which are of interest to the researcher without manipulating the independent variables of the study. However, this method is capable of studying behaviour, attitude and responses of the respondents. Similarly, study was also carried out on both large and small groups of population by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelationship of independent and dependent variables, in this case SURE-P and Poverty reduction strategies. The variables related to the study were structured on a four point Likert scale, while group discussion with some volunteer staff and some committee members of SURE-P that implemented the programme were scheduled on appointment. Secondary data or content analysis such as extraction of relevant documents, journals, newspapers, magazines, conference papers, books etc, were also used to complement the research.

**3.2. Population of the Study**

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012) the figure of about 44.3% of the Nigerian youths are unemployed, which translates to about 3,012,400 million out of the total population of the country of about 200,000,000 million. Similarly, Okon (2014) noted that the population of youths of Nigeria is about 6,800,000 million, and about 44.3% of this number is unemployed, which translates to about 3.1 million. Therefore, the targeted population of this study was 3,100,000 million representing the unemployed youths in Nigeria.

**3.3. Sampling Technique**

Stratified sampling technique was used to select 16 local Government from 8 statesand 2 municipalities from the federal capital territory (FCT) Abuja for the study. The eight states drawn from the six geo- political zones are; (North: Bauchi State and TarabaState, South: Rivers State and Cross Rivers State, East: Anambra State and Ebonyi State, West: Oyo State and Ekiti State, and FCT, Abuja) representing rural areas of the statesfor the SURE-P beneficiaries while 18 SURE-P staff were also drawn. These were; the Chairperson committee and their Secretaries, Community Service Officers (CSO’s), and the Desk officers in the selected local government areas using purposive sampling to interview them as efforts made to reach other desk officers proved abortive. The justification for the adoption of this technique was basically because they had adequate knowledge of the issue under review. Most of the SURE-P staff were located at the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) offices and some were as well located in the federal ministry of labour and productivity, while some of the beneficiaries were also located in their various local government areas, as they have a cluster of unions of all beneficiaries, more or less cooperatives of beneficiaries of SURE-P.

**3.4. Sample Size**

The sample size for the study was 3600 which is made up of 3573 SURE-P beneficiaries and 27 SURE-P staff for the study. Taro Yamane method was used to determine the sample size.

**Taro Yamane Method**



Where:

N = the population (3,100,000 was population of the study)

1 = the constant

e = the degree of error expected (0.05)2

n = the sample size

**Hint:**







The sample size of 400 was used for each state including FCT Abuja, thereby making a total of 3600.

**Table 3.4. 1 Distribution of the Questionnaires according to Local Government**

**Area for Vocational Service Scheme**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Names of LGA’s** | **Questionnaires distributed** | **Questionnaires retrieved** |
| 1 | Akuku-Toru | 75 | 60 |
| 2 | Degema | 75 | 68 |
| 3 | Akampa | 75 | 70 |
| 4 | Bekwara | 75 | 62 |
| 5 | Awka South | 75 | 70 |
| 6 | Dunuikofia | 75 | 70 |
| 7 | Afikpo North | 75 | 69 |
| 8 | Ezza North | 75 | 71 |
| 9 | AkinyeleMoniya | 75 | 70 |
| 10 | EgbedaEgbeda | 75 | 71 |
| 11 | Emure | 75 | 66 |
| 12 | Gbonyi | 75 | 72 |
| 13 | Jalingo | 75 | 72 |
| 14 | Gassol | 75 | 71 |
| 15 | Daruo | 75 | 68 |
| 16 | Alkaleri | 75 | 70 |
| 17 | Lugbe | 75 | 73 |
| 18 | Gwagwalada | 75 | 73 |
| **Total** | | **1,350** | **1,246** |

**Field survey, 18/5/2021**

**Table 3.4.2. Distribution of the Questionnaires according to Local Government**

**Area for Community Service Scheme**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Names of LGA’s** | | **Questionnaires distributed** | **Questionnaires retrieved** |
| 1 | Akuku-Toru | | 75 | 72 |
| 2 | Degema | | 75 | 71 |
| 3 | Akampa | | 75 | 70 |
| 4 | Bekwara | | 75 | 70 |
| 5 | Awka South | | 75 | 72 |
| 6 | Dunuikofia | | 75 | 69 |
| 7 | Afikpo North | | 75 | 71 |
| 8 | Ezza North | | 75 | 69 |
| 9 | AkinyeleMoniya | | 75 | 71 |
| 10 | EgbedaEgbeda | | 75 | 71 |
| 11 | Emure | | 75 | 65 |
| 12 | Gbonyi | | 75 | 67 |
| 13 | Jalingo | | 75 | 70 |
| 14 | Gassol | | 75 | 72 |
| 15 | Daruo | | 75 | 71 |
| 16 | Alkaleri | | 75 | 71 |
| 17 | Lugbe | | 75 | 69 |
| 18 | | Gwagwalada | 75 | 73 |
| **Total** | | | **1,350** | **1,264** |

Field survey 18/5/2021

**Table 3.4.3. Distribution of the Questionnairesat the state levelsfor**

**Graduates Internship Scheme (G.I.S) Beneficiaries**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Names of States.** | **Questionnaires distributed** | **Questionnaires retrieved** |
| 1 | Rivers State | 97 | 88 |
| 2 | Cross Rivers State | 97 | 89 |
| 3 | Anambra State | 97 | 90 |
| 4 | Ebonyi State | 97 | 89 |
| 5 | Oyo State | 97 | 89 |
| 6 | Ekiti State | 97 | 88 |
| 7 | Taraba State | 97 | 88 |
| 8 | Bauchi State | 97 | 90 |
| 9 | FCT, Abuja. | 97 | 92 |
| **Total** | | **873** | **803** |

**Field survey, 18/5/2021**

**Table 4.3.4 Distribution of the Questionnaires at the state levels for**

**Graduate Internship Scheme (G.I.S), SURE-P Staff**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Names of States** | **Questionnaires distributed** | **Questionnaires retrieved** |
| 1 | Rivers State | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | Cross Rivers State | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | Anambra State | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | Ebonyi State | 3 | 1 |
| 5 | Oyo State | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | Ekiti State | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | Taraba State | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | Bauchi State | 3 | 2 |
| 9 | FCT, Abuja. | 3 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **27** | **14** |

**Field survey 18/5/2021**

**3.5 Sources of Data**

Primary and Secondary sources of data were explored in the study. This consist of the responses from the beneficiaries and the SURE-P staff/committee through questionnaire. The use of questionnaire was justified on the basis of its reliability, convenience, anonymity and less reactivity; questionnaires were structured in close-ended format for easy tabulation, coding and analysis. The questionnaires were divided into sections (A and .B). Section A consisted of questions relating to the respondents personal data while section B of the questionnaire posed questions relating to the research questions using the four-point likert scale as follows: Strongly Agree(SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree(D) = 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. A total number of 3600 copies of questionnaires were distributed to the respondents who were the beneficiaries for Community Services Scheme, Vocational Skills Training Schemeand Graduate Internship Scheme and SURE-P staff members. However, out of 3600 copies of questionnaires that were distributed, 3327 copies were retrieved for data analyses.The source of secondary data that was explored in this study includes official publication of government, such as the SURE-P Project Implementation Manual on CS/WYE, SURE-P journey so far first edition, journals, articles, Newspapers, Magazines, Conference Papers, Books, Published and unpublished materials and the internet for materials on SURE-P and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

**3.6 Administration of Instrument**

A total number of 3600 copies of questionnaires were administered to the sampled respondents. Out of 1350 copies of questionnaires administered to Community Services Scheme at the local government level, 1264 were retrieved. For Vocational Skills Training Scheme a total of 1350 copies were administered and 1246 retrieved. For Graduates Internship Scheme total copies of 873 were distributed and 803 retrieved, while 27 copies were distributed to SURE-P staff at the state level for Graduate Internship Scheme and 14 copies were also retrieved. Therefore, a total number of 3327 copies were retrieved for data analyses.The questionnaire was used to elicit responses from the respondents on the implementation of the SURE-P programmes in the state, how the programme was able to raise some social infrastructures, met the basic needs of the beneficiaries as well as empowerment which led to poverty reduction; and how the programme directly contributed to the socio-economic development of people and the state.

A Focus Group Discussions (FGD’s) were also held with the beneficiaries to elicit more responses from them, while a total of 18 respondents were interviewed; they are: Chairpersons committee and their Secretaries, Community Service Officers (CSO’s), and some of the desk officers. The reason is to assess official information on the SURE-P programmes and its implementation, outcomes and contribution to the people of the state. Justification for the selection of these categories was because they were the key officers that were directly in charge of the programme at that level (SURE-P and Poverty Reduction strategies) and can provide the study with reliable and official information.

**3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

For the purpose of data analyses, descriptive and inferential statistical tools of analyses were employed in this study. The descriptive tools included the use of frequency counts and mean scores inanalysingand interpreting data collected. While, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used for test of the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.However, the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the analyses of this research. Meanwhile, data generated through focus group discussion, interview and secondary sources were analyzed using content analysis.

**Decision Rule**

The decision rule for research questions was that if the mean gotten from the frequencies count of response item is above 2.5, the item was accepted, while below 2.5 was considered rejected. Therefore, 2.5 was referred to criteria mean, a decision point to accept or reject the mean of a questionnaire item. For the hypotheses testing r-value measures the level of relationship between two variables. Thus; 0.1-0.3= indicates low relationship, 0.4-0.6= indicates moderate relationship, 0.7-0.9= indicates high relationship, while 1.00= indicates perfect relationship. Again, when the p-value (Sig or two tailed) result is greater than 0.05 the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis not rejected, while, if the p-value (Sig or two tail) result is less than 0.05 the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected.

**3.8 Research Setting**

**Brief Background Information on Nigeria**

**The Geography of Nigeria:** Nigeria is a country in West Africa. Nigeria shares land borders with some other African countries; namely Republic of Benin in the West, in the East are Cameroun and Chad, and Niger Republic in the North. In the south of Nigeria lies the Gulf of Guinea and the Lake Chad at its North East. There are notable geographical features in Nigeria, such as the Mambilla plateau, Jos plateau, Adamawa highlands, Obudu plateau, the River Benue and the Niger Delta. Ambazonia lies in the south East of Nigeria, though self-declared but not recognized internationally as a country.

There are four distinguishable climate types in Nigeria where the climate is seasonally damp and very humid. The climate types are:

i) **The Tropical Monsoon climate:** This climate is found in the southern part of the country, influenced by the monsoons originating from the South Atlantic Ocean. A warm moist sea to land seasonal wind.It’s warmth and high humidity gives it a strong tendency to ascend and produce copious rainfall which is as a result of the condensation of water vapour in the rapidly rising air.

ii) **The Tropical Savanna**: This climate otherwise known as the Wet and Dry climate is extensive in area and covers most of the western region of the Nigeria to the central part of the country where it exerts enormous influence on the region. This climate exhibits a well-marked rainy and dry seasons with a single peak known as the summer maximum due to its distance from the equator.

iii) **The Sahel climate**: This climate is the predominant type in the Northern part of Nigeria. It seldom rains in this northern part compared to the southern and the central part of the country. It takes about three to four months of the year( between June and September) to rain after which the rest of the year becomes hot and dry with high temperatures.

iv) **The Alpine climate**: This climate also known as the mountain or highland climate, is found on high regions in Nigeria, they are well above sea levels. Due to their location in the tropics, elevation is high enough to reach the temperature climate line in the tropics; it is a cool mountain climate.

**Political Developments in Nigeria**

Nigeria, politically gained her independence on 1st of October 1960, after almost half a century of British rule. Nigeria became a republic in 1963 with three distinct regions; the northern region, the western region and the eastern region. Nigeria has had longer military rule than democracy due to intermittent military coup d’état. Nigeria has had 23 years of uninterrupted democratic governance since 1999, when the retired General Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo was democratically elected the president of federal republic of Nigeria. Nigeria is a federation thus operating the federal system of government, with three arms of government; the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive; this is to foster checks and balances and also to maintain the rule of law.

Nigeria operates the bi-cameral system at the national level, the house of representatives which is the lower house while the senate is the upper chamber. Thirty six (36) states form the federating units with Abuja the capital as the administrative headquarters. There also exist about 774 local government areas as the third tier of government, which is to bring the dividends of democracy closer to the people. Elections are held every four years for the presidential, national assembly and for the state Governors, while at the local government levels it is usually every three years.

**The Economy of Nigeria**

Nigeria was an agrarian nation until 1957 when crude oil was discovered by the British oil Petroleum in commercial quantity in a village known as Oloibiri in present day Bayelsa state. Nigeria’s economy is one of the largest in Africa and about the 27th in the world. With the discovery of oil, agriculture took the back stage, as the economy now largely depended on the revenue accrued from oil.

Nigeria is endowed with human and natural resources in all the geo-political zones of the country, maximizing the strength of each of the zones to the advantage of the economy. It is blessed with the crude oil which by products range from aviation fuel, petroleum motor spirit (PMS), Diesel (AGO), Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), Kerosene(DPK), Asphalt etc. Nigeria can as well boast of gold, uranium, or, and others, but unfortunately, the inability of successive governments to diversify the economy from been monolithic has led to the stagnation in other areas of the economy.

The turn of events from year 2000 changed the narrative of the nation’s economy as most moribund government agencies were privatized, and the downstream sector too was not left out. The nation’s economy has drastically improved due to the open market policy, in the communication sector, entertainment, aviation, banking sector, maritime. With a little more effort in revamping the agricultural sector, hopefully Nigeria’s economy will once again be reckoned with in the comity of nations.

Nigeria has a population of about 211 million including those in the diaspora. Nigeria’s population is multi-cultural and multi-faith. There are two major faiths in the country, which are the Islam and Christianity, and the traditional worshippers. The land has over 500 languages and hundreds of ethnic groups but the most dominant are the Yoruba’s, the Hausa’s and the Igbo’s, there are also the Ijaws, the Efiks, the Ibibiosetc (NPC, 2020).

The multi-cultural or social diversity has been the strength of the nation, but unfortunately, in the recent past, fundamentalism and extremism has pervaded the different faiths thereby creating a wider divide amongst the various ethnic and religious groups. The social diversity which was once the strength of the nation has become the weakness, as different ethnic and religious militia has taken up arms in defence of their faith and ethnicity. Hopefully the good times of unity in diversity shall be restored when the leaders of these groups of militia shall be properly re-orientated for peace rather than war.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSES**

This chapter presents the analyses of data obtained from the field. 3600 copies of questionnaires were distributed, while 3327 were retrieved for data analyses.

**4.1 Presentation of Data**

**Table 4.1.1: Distribution of Respondents based on Gender**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **Percentage (%)** |
| **Gender** |  |  |
| Male | 2000 | 60.1 |
| Female | 1327 | 39.9 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

Table 4.1 shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on gender, 2000 (60.1%) of the respondents were male while 1327 (39.9%) were female.

 **Fig 4.1: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on Gender**

**Table 4.1.2: Distribution of Respondents based on Age**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **%** |
| **Age** |  |  |
| 15-24 years | 1500 | 45 |
| 26-34 years | 1027 | 31.0 |
| 35 and above | 800 | 24.0 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

Table 4.1.2 shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on age, 1500 (45%) of the respondents were within (15-24)years of age, 1027 (31%) were within 26-34 years of age while 800 (24%) were within the age of 35 years and above

**Fig 4.2: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on Age**

**Table 4.1.3: Distribution of Respondents based on Marital Status**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **Percentage (%)** |
| **Marital Status** |  |  |
| Single | 1600 | 48.1 |
| Married | 1500 | 45.1 |
| Others | 227 | 6.8 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

**Table 4.1.3** shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on marital status, 1600 (48.1%) of the respondents were single, 1500 (45.1%) were married, while 227% (6.8) were in other types of marital status.

. **Fig 4.3: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on marital Status**

**Table 4.1.4: Distribution of Respondents based on Socio-Economic Status**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **Percentage (%)** |
| **Socio-Economic Status** |  |  |
| High | 900 | 27 |
| Low | 2427 | 73 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

Table 4.1.4 shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on socio economic status, 900 (27%) of the respondents were in high socio-economic status, while 2427 (73%) were in low status.

**Fig 4.4: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on Socio-**

**Economic Status**

**Table 4.1.5: Distribution of Respondents based on Academic Qualification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **Percentage (%)** |
| **Academic Qualification** |  |  |
| Postgraduate | 600 | 18 |
| First degree | 800 | 24 |
| NCE/ND | 1200 | 36 |
| O-Level | 727 | 22 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

Table 4.1.5 shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on academic qualification, 600 (18%) of the respondents have postgraduate qualification, 800 (24%) have first degree qualification, 1200 (36%) have NCE/ND qualification, while 727 (22%) have O-level qualification.

**Fig 4.5: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on Academic**

**Qualification**

**Table 4.1.6: Distribution of Respondents based on Category of programme**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **N** | **Percentage (%)** |
| **Programme** |  |  |
| Community service scheme | 1350 | 40.6 |
| Skill acquisition training | 1350 | 40.6 |
| Graduate internship scheme | 627 | 18.8 |
| **Total** | **3327** | **100** |

Table 4.1.6 shows the distribution of respondents for the study based on the type of SURE-P, 1350 (40.6%) were in community service scheme, 1350 (40.6%) were in skill acquisition training, 627 (18.8%) were in graduate internship scheme.

**Table 4.1.6: Graphical Representation of Respondents based on Category**

**of programme.**

**4.2 Analysis of Data**

**Research Question One:** What are the legal and administrative structures of SURE-P in Nigeria?

**Table 4.2.1: Mean Responses for Legal and Administrative Structures of SURE-P in Nigeria**

**Criterion mean = 2.50**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Items** | **4**  **SA** | **3**  **A** | **2**  **D** | **1**  **SD** | **N** | **Mean** | **Remark** |
| 1. | SURE-P hadno legal framework that was recognized by the nation | 530 | 573 | 772 | 1452 | 3327 | 2.95 | Accepted |
| 2. | The administrative structure was not effective | 611 | 640 | 839 | 1237 | 3327 | 2.81 | Accepted |
| 3. | There was no legislation for the establishment of SURE-P | 599 | 679 | 871 | 1178 | 3327 | 2.79 | Accepted |
| 4 | The administrative structure was nationalistic | 627 | 744 | 843 | 1113 | 3327 | 2.73 | Accepted |
| 5 | There was no hierarchical order in the structure. | 1034 | 775 | 732 | 786 | 3327 | 2.38 | Rejected |
| 6 | It had a legal backing | 1118 | 766 | 787 | 656 | 3327 | 2.29 | Rejected |
|  | **Grand mean** |  |  |  |  |  | **2.66** | **Accepted** |

Table 4.1 revealed responses on legal and administrative structures of SURE-P in Nigeria. It showedthat items (1, 2, 3, 4) were accepted because their mean criterion was above 2.50, the reference point to either accept or reject, while items (5, 6) were rejected because their mean criteria was below 2.50. It also revealed that a grand mean of (2.66) was gotten, hence the grand mean was above 2.50, it indicated that the items were accepted as legal and administrative structures of SURE-P in Nigeria.

**Research Question Two:** To what extent didthe Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme enhanced Youth Empowerment in Nigeria

**Table 4.2.2: Mean Responses for Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.**

**Criterion = 2.5**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Items** | **4**  **SA** | **3**  **A** | **2**  **D** | **1**  **SD** | **N** | **Mean** | **Remark** |
| 7. | Sure-P funds enhanced Youth Empowerment | 1308 | 824 | 626 | 569 | 3327 | 2.86 | Accepted |
| 8. | The funds were used for rural infrastructure for the benefits of the youths | 1203 | 824 | 693 | 569 | 3327 | 2.81 | Accepted |
| 9. | The Youths were empowered through skills acquisition | 1108 | 843 | 740 | 636 | 3327 | 2.73 | Accepted |
| 10 | It did not create job opportunities for the youths | 582 | 805 | 787 | 1153 | 3327 | 2.25 | Rejected |
| 11 | Cooperative bodies formed by the Youths were funded | 1416 | 758 | 600 | 553 | 3327 | 2.91 | Accepted |
| 12 | The aim was fully achieved | 618 | 799 | 777 | 1133 | 3327 | 2.27 | Rejected |
|  | **Grand mean** |  |  |  |  |  | **2.63** | **Accepted** |

Table 4.2 revealed responses on Subsidy Re-Investment Empowerment Programme for Youths Empowerment in Nigeria. It showedthat items (7, 8, 9, and 11) were accepted because their mean criterion was above 2.50, the reference point to either accept or reject, while items (10, 12) were rejected because their mean criteria was below 2.50. It also revealed that a grand mean of (2.63) was obtained; hence the grand mean was above 2.50 it indicated that Subsidy Re-Investment Empowerment Programme enhanced youth's empowerment in Nigeria.

**Research Question Three:** What were the challenges faced by SURE-P towards Youth Empowerment in Nigeria?

**Table 4.2.3: Mean Responses for the Challenges Faced by SURE-P towards Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.**

**Criterion mean = 2.5**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Items** | **5**  **SA** | **4**  **A** | **2**  **D** | **1**  **SD** | **N** | **Mean** | **Remark** |
| 13. | Sure-P had a good Coordination and Supervision | 605 | 788 | 779 | 1155 | 3327 | 2.25 | Rejected |
| 14. | The funds were the major reasons for non-performance | 1332 | 822 | 685 | 488 | 3327 | 2.90 | Accepted |
| 15. | Lack of Project Monitoring was also a reason for failure | 1177 | 827 | 756 | 567 | 3327 | 2.79 | Accepted |
| 16 | Sure-P had Political undertone | 1235 | 847 | 686 | 559 | 3327 | 2.82 | Accepted |
| 17 | The fund budgeted was not managed efficiently | 1128 | 818 | 749 | 632 | 3327 | 2.73 | Accepted |
| 18 | All the Youths benefited from the programme | 574 | 787 | 769 | 1197 | 3327 | 2.22 | Rejected |
|  | **Grand mean** |  |  |  |  |  | **2.62** | **Accepted** |

Table 4.3 revealed responses forchallenges faced by SURE-P towards Youth Empowerment in Nigeria. It showedthat items (14, 15, 16, and 17) were accepted because their mean criterion was above 2.50, the reference point for decision, while items (13, 18) were rejected because their mean criterion was below 2.20. It also revealed that a grand mean of (2.62) was obtained; hence the grand mean was above 2.50, it therefore indicated that there were some challenges SURE-P faced towards Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.

**Research Question Four:** What were the impacts of SURE-P on Poverty Reduction in Nigeria?

**Table 4.2.4: Mean Responses for Impact of SURE-P on Poverty Reduction in Nigeria**

**Criterion mean = 2.50**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Items** | **4**  **SA** | **3**  **A** | **2**  **D** | **1**  **SD** | **N** | **Mean** | **Remark** |
| 19. | Poverty was reduced based on the programme. | 1124 | 883 | 723 | 597 | 3327 | 2.76 | Accepted |
| 20. | SURE-P enhanced Youth self-reliance | 1472 | 772 | 592 | 492 | 3327 | 2.96 | Accepted |
| 21. | Income was earned because of SURE-P Skill Acquisition Scheme | 1264 | 855 | 658 | 550 | 3327 | 2.85 | Accepted |
| 22 | Employment was not generated | 511 | 352 | 1206 | 1258 | 3327 | 2.03 | Rejected |
| 23 | There was self-independence of the beneficiaries | 1119 | 819 | 732 | 657 | 3327 | 2.72 | Accepted |
| 24 | It did not contribute towards the growth of the nation | 393 | 238 | 1247 | 1447 | 3327 | 1.87 | Rejected |
|  | **Grand mean** |  |  |  |  |  | **2.53** | **Accepted** |

Table 4.4 revealed responses on impacts of SURE-P on Poverty Reductionin Nigeria. It showedthat items (19, 20, 21, and 23) were accepted because their mean criterion was above 2.50, the reference point for decision, while items (22, 24) were rejected because their mean criterion was below 2.50. It also revealed that a grand mean of (2.53) was obtained; hence the grand mean was above 2.50, it therefore indicated that SURE-P impacted positively on poverty reduction in Nigeria.

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant relationship between SURE-P and Youth empowerment in Nigeria.

**Table 4.2.6: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Results of Relationship**

**Between SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **N** | **α** | **r-value** | **2-tail (p-value)** | **Decision** |
| **SURE-P** | 3327 | 0.05 | 0.78 | 0.015 | **HO: Rejected** |
| **Youth Empowerment** |

Table 4.6 of Pearson's product moment correlation results revealed that r-value of 0.78 with its corresponding p-value of 0.015< 0.05 (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was obtained. This showed a high positive relationship between SURE-P and Youth Empowerment. Since the p-value is less than the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is not rejected. It therefore indicated that there is significant relationship between SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.

**Table 4.2.7: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Results of Relationship between Challenges facing SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **N** | **Α** | **r-value** | **2-tail (p-value)** | **Decision** |
| **SURE-P Challenges** | 3327 | 0.05 | -0.36 | 0.019 | **HO: Rejected** |
| **Youth Empowerment** |

Table 4.7 of Pearson's product moment correlation results revealed that r-value of -0.36 with its corresponding p-value of 0.019< 0.05 (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was obtained. This showed a low negative relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment. Since the p-value is less than the Alpha level, the null hypothesis is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is not rejected. It therefore indicated that there is significant relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria.

**Hypothesis Three:** There is no significant relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

**Table 4.2.8: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Results of Relationship between SURE-P and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **N** | **α** | **r-value** | **2-tail (p-value)** | **Decision** |
| **SURE-P** | 3327 | 0.05 | 0.81 | 0.025 | **HO: Rejected** |
| **Poverty Reduction** |

Table 4.8 of Pearson's product moment correlation results revealed that r-value of 0.81 with its corresponding p-value of 0.025< 0.05 (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was obtained. This showed a high positive relationship between SURE-P and Poverty Reduction. Since the p-value is less than the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is not rejected. It therefore implies that there is significant relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

**4.3 Discussion of Findings**

**Legal and Administrative Structures of SURE-P in Nigeria**

The study revealed that SURE-P had no Legal framework that was recognized by the nation, the Administrative Structure was ineffective, there was no legislation for the establishment of SURE-P, and the Administrative Structure was nationalistic in nature. This finding is in agreement with the studies of Adebiyi (2011) who reported that the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) was announced by the former President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s administration on 1st January 2012 without passing through the National Assembly andinaugurated a board with Dr Christopher Kolade as the pioneer chairman of the boardin order to cushion the effect of the fuel Subsidy Removal on the poor. Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and Youth Empowerment was initiated without passing through the National Assembly for a debate and approval of the programme under review. Amadeo (2013) also supported that there was no legislation for the establishment of SURE-P when he acknowledged that some committee members were formed immediately to oversee the programmes. Erring and Akpan (2012) also corroborated that a board was established to oversee the overall programme to ensure probity, transparency and accountability. The president also charged them to; review overall programme performance and progress, provide guidance on critical issues on the programme, approved budgets and work plans.

Moyo and Songwe (2012) also supported thatthe SURE-P was aimed at tackling the significant challenges of youth unemployment, lack of livelihood, education and enterprise opportunities amongst Nigerian youths by training them in vocational skills and enterprise support, thereby equipping them with the tools for obtaining gainful employment. Nwafor et al., (2006) also supported that there was no legal backing for SURE-P, rather some specific areas were created out of the programme for skill training and empowerment of Nigeria youths.

**Challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria**

SURE-P lacked good Coordination and Supervision, lack of performance due to fund, inadequate project monitoring, had political undertone, lack of proper management of funds meant for the programme andthe lack of plans to sustain the programme.

The Pearson's Product Moment Correlation results revealed that r-value of -0.36 with its corresponding p-value of 0.019< 0.05 (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was obtained. This shows a low negative relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment. Since the p-value is less than the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. It therefore indicated that there is significant relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria. This study is in harmony with the studies of Affe (2013) who supported that the SURE-P was politicized and hijacked by politicians, wherein politicians took over the affairs of the programme and was assigning contracts to their cronies and party men. The programme also had problems because the targeted group of the country was excluded; rather recruitments were made amongst the party faithful thus most Nigerians believed that it was just a mere window dressing programme to compensate associates.

The programme was expected to embrace all and sundry within the target group irrespective of class or status but unfortunately some sections or group of people were excluded from the programme, such as the people with disability.

Iwayemi (2014) also supported when he contributed that employment data are very hard to obtain, even from statutory institutions and agencies established for gathering socio-economic data. Where unemployment registers existed at all, they were limited to urban areas, and, in fact, not all those searching for employment attempted to register. In the absence of such data, policymakers tend to rely on cross-sectional household surveys, which are often inconsistent and full of errors. This lack of data made it difficult for policymakers to understand the nature of the employment challenges and make informed decisions on how to support young people in the labour market. The scarcity of data on informal employment and entrepreneurship in particular was a major obstacle, taking cognisance of the importance of this sector for youth employment. Iwayemi and Asaju (2014) opined that the policy makers were confronted with inadequate information and data that can form the basis for an effective planning. They observed that employment data are very difficult to obtain, even from the statutory agencies established for such information.

Moyo and Songwe (2012) averred that in a country where there is already lack of trust between the people and government, communication is critical. Otherwise the protesters will continue to believe that this is just another plan by Nigeria’s elites to further capture the country’s resources. The lack of communication, consultation and transparency posed a great challenge to the government of the day because winning the trust of the people in the SURE-P became difficult. The rush in putting up of SURE-P without proper macroeconomic studies and forecasts affected the credibility of the programme itself.

There was a poor supervision and monitoring of the programme especially at the grassroots. Some many people that were on the list were not paid, while some ghost names were paid. The aim of the programme was not fully achieved because of poor supervision. Monitoring of the progress of the programme was another challenge that affected SURE-P.

Oyen (1999) observe that in most cases policies and programmes on poverty reduction or eradication are political, and in most cases when taken on their face value, it is almost a conscious deception. At best, it demonstrates ignorance of the process leading to poverty reduction.

**SURE-P and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria**

The study revealed that poverty was reduced due to SURE-P, it enhanced youth self-reliance, and income was earned due to SURE-P skill acquisition scheme, it brought about self-independence to the beneficiaries and also contributed to the national growth.

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation results revealed that r-value of 0.81 with its corresponding p-value of 0.025< 0.05 (which is less than) the chosen level of significance was obtained. This showed a high positive relationship between SURE-P and Poverty Reduction. Since the p-value is less than the chosen level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected, it therefore implied that there is significant relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

This finding is in line with the studies of Ajakaiye (1987) who noted that reducing poverty is regarded by many as the most important goal of human development. Indeed, it is widely believed that at its core, development must be about improvement of human wellbeing, removal of hunger, diseases and ignorance as well as productive employment for all. Its first goal must be to end poverty and satisfy the priority needs of all people in a way that will not jeopardize the opportunity for the future generations to attain the objective. One of the ways to achieve this is by creating job opportunities of which SURE-was one of them. Therefore, there is a relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Besley (1997) supported by outlining the approach to poverty reduction into two alternatives; technocratic and institutional. The former emphasizes targeting and exploring programme designs that try to direct limited resources to people with greatest need, while the latter approach notes that the poor lack political power and that administrative incompetence and corruption hinder service delivery of government. Poverty reduction therefore requires developing strong institutions, and changed political structures, improved governance and changed attitudes towards the poor. It requires enhanced political power of the poor via increased participation.

Three main strategies are identifiable in the process of tackling poverty, namely:

* Exclusive reliance on the natural forces of economic growth;
* Specific programmes to increase earning opportunities for the poor; and
* Social programmes targeted at the poor.

Each of these proposals holds varying prospects for poverty alleviation. Targeting the poor by means of social programmes is the most direct approach, followed by the consideration of specific programmes to enhance their earning capacity. These two are direct for immediate impact on poverty reduction. In practice, the problem with these strategies is that there is a possibility that the benefits may lead to unintended groups. Furthermore, any distribution of income from the non-poor to the poor may be at some cost, for instance may result in a limitation on savings, which may lead to retarded economic growth.

Obadan (2003) also observed that poverty reduction and employment generation are multi-dimensional issues regarding government economic growth strategy. This policy is to improve the living condition of the people by providing the basic amenities of life such as; adequate food supply, housing, Water, health care services as well as improved education, transportation and communication services, skills for self-sustenance. Therefore, SURE-P is one of those programmes that reduced poverty hence it created skill acquisition and employment for the youths.

Nkom (1990) supported the study when he observed that poverty can only be eradicated or at least be reduced, if the poverty alleviation mechanisms are adopted simultaneously using different strategies and instruments, taking into cognizance its multi-faceted complicity. To have an effective poverty reduction policies, there must be a good knowledge of the socio-economic and characteristics of the targeted poor.

The study is also in agreement with the findings of Psarcharopoulous (1970) who identified three main strategies in the process of poverty reduction, thus;

1. Exclusive reliance in the natural forces of economic growth.
2. Specific programmes to increase earning opportunities for the poor.
3. Social programmes targeted at the poor.

He emphasized that each of these proposals holds varying prospect for poverty reduction and opined that targeting the poor by means of social programmes is the most direct approach while considering specific programmes to enhance their earning capacity. Both approaches are direct for immediate impact on poverty reduction. SURE-P impacted positive on the poverty reduction of Nigerians. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between SURE-P and poverty reduction

**4.4 Summary of Findings**

* The study revealed that SURE-P was not having legal frame work and legal backing.
* There is significant relationship between SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria, hence (r 0.78= 0.015 p<0.05)
* There is a lownegative relationship between challenges faced by SURE-P and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria, hence (r -0.36= 0.019 p<0.05)
* There is high positive relationship between SURE-P and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria hence, (r 0.81= 0.025 p<0.05

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1 Summary**

The purpose of this study was to evaluateSubsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria. Chapter one examined the background to the study giving preambles and introducing the readers into what necessitated the study and problems observed which the researcher wanted to find a solution to: In order to achieve this purpose, four research questions and three null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The total population for the study was3,100,000 Nigeria youths. The sample size of the study was3600 respondents drawn through stratified random sampling technique. However, Taro Yamaneformula was used to cut down the population. This sample represented the entire population for the research under investigation. The instruments for data collection was self- structured instrumenttitled''Impact of SURE-P Scale (ISURE-PS). The instrument was validated by two experts in Political Science, faculty of Social Sciences in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Port Harcourt and the researcher's supervisor.

The reliability of the instrument was determined through split half method, using cronbach Alpha to obtain a reliability coefficient of the instrument. Therefore, the reliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained, thereby making the instrument to be reliable for the data collection.

Chapter two dealt with review of related literatures, the reviewed literatures consisted of books, journals, internet materials etc. The chapter was discussed under the following subheading: conceptual review, theoretical framework and the Gap in literature.

Chapter three dealt with the method of investigation which included the Research Design, Population of the Study, Sample and Sampling Technique, Sources of Data, Administration of Instrument and Method of Data Analysis. The Methodology showed that the study adopted descriptive research design.

Chapter four dealt with analyses of data, discussion of findings and summary of findings. Mean scores of the frequency count based on four point Likert modified scale of Strongly agree (SA) =4, Agree (A) =3, Disagree (D) =2 and Strongly disagree (SD) =1 were used in answering the research questions, while Pearson's Product Moment Correlation(PPMC) was used in testing the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

**5.2 Conclusion**

Poverty alleviation, protection of lives and property, provision of basic social amenities and the human capacity building are the foremost priority of every responsible government, thus the government of former President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan conceived the policy of Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme ( SURE-P) and youth empowerment in Nigeria, The objectives of the policy was to harness the potentials of the youths and make them useful to themselves and the society at large, hence the three pronged programmes, viz; The Vocational Skills Acquisition Scheme, the Community Service Scheme and the Graduate Internship Scheme. These programmes gave a new direction to the unemployed youths who were engaged in them. The work has also in the process of assessing this policy, brought to fore the debilitating and excruciating economic quagmire of the people. Furthermore, previous poverty alleviation programmes were also cited alongside SURE-P, to ascertain if SURE-P was the novelle policy that could have changed the economic narratives of the country, unfortunately, in spite of the robust planned process, it did not achieve most of the objectives it was set out to achieve. Nonetheless, the policy from findings was not a colossal failure because by the end of the programme, most of the youths had become economically independent and employable by virtue of the skills acquired, whereas some others became employers of labour. The re-orientation of the beneficiaries of these programmes is an eloquent testimony of the paradigm shift of economic dependence to economic independence, as the youths who were one’s seen as misfits, miscreants and always restive are now fending for themselves. It is expedient to reiterate that some few lessons were also learnt as a result of the implementation of the SURE-P policy. The programme exposed the incompetence of the management of the programme, as the implementation was saddled with corruption, cronyism, inefficient monitoring mechanism of projects due to the party men who were at the helm of affaires, similarly, the implementers of the policy had no enough data of the targeted beneficiaries, and there were no adequate information about the policy to guide them as it was done in other developed climes. Above all, the management of this policy did not give sufficient public hearing to inform the citizens of an impending removal of the petroleum subsidy, the effects, benefits and the plans to cushion the effect of the removal. Inadequate preparation and lack of continuity was seen as bane of most policy summersault in the system.

Similarly, based on the findings of the research, it is worthy to note that there is significant relationship between SURE-P, Youth Empowerment and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria. Many youths benefited in the SURE-P through Community Service Scheme, Graduate Internship Scheme and Vocational Training Scheme, unfortunately, the programme was not sustained due to political interest, lack of effective supervision and monitoring, inadequate preparation, improper record keeping of data and mis-management of funds meant for the programme

**5.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the research.

1. That stronger job creation mechanisms grounded in a deliberate strategy for inclusive growth and social development should be developed by policy makers in order to enhance its quest for employment generation for the youths. Also addressing youth unemployment in Nigeria requires an integrated holistic approach. The World Bank (2008) report advocated for a comprehensive model that will cater for rural development, rural-urban migration, preparation of young people for the labour market and investments in agriculture. 2. Every responsible government should endeavour to create enabling environment to promote investments. This includes provision of power, maintaining of law and order, and adequate security. Development funds should be geared towards providing these facilities in order to pave way for both foreign and local investments, thereby crafting more employment opportunities for Nigerian graduates.

3. Funds for development should also be channelled towards agricultural development, as it is a viable source of investments for young people. There should be a swift transition from subsistence to commercialized farming and non-farming activities should be better packaged to make them really attractive. There should also be adequate investment in rural education, this will boost rural opportunities and reduce rural-urban migration and its concomitant challenges.

4 There is need for involvement of the people at the grassroots in the identification and design of projects that concerns them so that sufficient participation can be achieved. Programmes such as poverty alleviation, should be geared towards provision of sustainable employment so that in the long run, their impacts can trickle down to the grassroots.

5 Policy implementers still need to strategize their approaches to creating employment by going beyond the internship scheme to creating enabling environment for investments through the provision of basic amenities like good roads and constant power supply. This will attract investments that will give Nigerian youths lasting and better employment opportunities than providing ten thousand naira to a graduate after an internship scheme.

6 The leadership should have the political WILL to guide against the endemic corruption, cronyism and party loyalty syndrome, above all ensure to strengthen the project monitoring mechanisms for effective execution of projects.

7 Considering government as a continuum, policies should not be truncated at the end of every regime, but be inherited by the new regime and endeavor to execute and implement such policy for the benefits of the people.

**5.4 Contribution to Knowledge**

The work has brought to forefrom the findings that, severalpoverty alleviation programmeshave been initiated by successive governments without achieving its objectives. Taking a chronological assessment of all these programmes, in spite of the robust plans they all failed due to same factors viz; i) inadequate preparation before implementation. ii) Lack of requisite information about the programme. iii) Inadequate data on the targeted beneficiaries. iv) Lack of political WILL to punish looters of developmental funds meant for programmes. v) Lack of requisite information about the programme. vi) Inefficient and ineffective monitoring of projects, political patronage and cronyism. vii) Duplication of programmes and agencies, such as; FERMA, DFFRI, NDE, SURE-P and the federal ministry of works, who embark on similar work of road maintenance and reconstruction. viii) Lack of existing infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated programmes. The work also revealed that the exclusion of the rural dwellers from the scheme of things had always been a factor for failure in these programmes. Another contribution to knowledge from findings is the great disparity between the elites and the rural dwellers, thus the gap needs to be reduced by way of their (rural dwellers) inclusion in the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies that directly affects them and the provision of the basic social amenities as a way of power spread. Furthermore, this work shall be of immense value to future policy formulators, as they will be better informed and equipped on how other developed climes have been proactive, and managed their subsidy regime in the areas of communication, wider public hearing and consultation, transparency and accountability, above all, poverty alleviation programme should be a pro-poor policy rather than for the elites. This work will add to the limited existing literature for future references and further in-depth research could be made in the same or similar work on subsidy reinvestment and empowerment programme.

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**APPENDIX A**

Ignatius Ajuru University of Education,

Postgraduate School,

Faculty of Social Sciences,

Department of Political Science,

Rumuolumini, Port Harcourt

Rivers State.

July, 2021.

Dear Respondent,

**SUBSIDY REINVESTMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (SURE-P) AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA, 2012-2014**.

I am a post graduate student of the above mentioned University undertaking a Ph.D course in Political Science. I am conducting research on the above mentioned topic.

I will be grateful if you complete the attached questionnaire to enable me obtain relevant information for the study. Your name is not required, the information given will be treated with high level of confidentiality and it will be used for research purposes

Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

**Amabibi Ferdinand**

(Researcher)

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Section A: Demographic Data**

**Sex:** Male ( ) Female ( )

**Age:** 15 – 24 years ( ) 26-34 years ( ) 35 above ( )

**Marital Status:** Single ( ) Married ( ) others ( )

**Social -Economical Status:** High ( ) Low ( )

**Academic Qualification:** Postgraduate ( ) First degree ( ) NCE/ND ( ) O-Level ( )

**Category of Programme:** Community service ( ) Skill acquisition ( ) Graduate internship scheme ( )

**Section B: Questionnaire Items**

**Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) and youth empowerment in Nigeria, 2012-2014**

Please you are required to tick (√) on each item by using the following keys, Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD) to respond to the items below as it may apply to you.

**The Legal and Administrative Structures of SURE-P in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Item** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 1 | Sure-P has a Legal framework that is recognized by the nation |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | The administrative structure was not effective |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | There was a legislation for the establishment of sure-P |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | The administrative structure was nationalistic |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | There was no hierarchical order in the structure. |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | It has no legal backup |  |  |  |  |

**Subsidy Re-investment Empowerment Programme(SURE-P) funds and youth empowerment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Item** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 7 | Sure-P fund enhanced youth empowerment |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | The funds were used for rural infrastructure for the benefits of the youths |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | The youths were empowered through skills acquisition |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | It did not create job opportunities for the youths |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Cooperative bodies formed by the youths were funded |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | The aim was fully achieved |  |  |  |  |

**Challenges faced by SURE-P towards youth empowerment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Item** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 13 | Sure-P had a good coordination and supervision |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | The funds were the major reasons for non-performance |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Lack of project monitoring was also a reason for failure |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Sure-P had political undertone |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | The fund budgeted was not managed very well |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | All the youths in Nigeria benefited from the programme |  |  |  |  |

**Impact of SURE-P on poverty reduction**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Item** | **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** |
| 19 | Poverty was reduced based on the programme. |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Sure-P enhanced youth self-reliance |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | Income was earned because of SURE-P skill acquisition scheme |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | Employment was not generated |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | There was self-independence of the beneficiaries |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | It did not contribute towards the growth of the nation |  |  |  |  |

**APPENDIX B**

**DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GENDER** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | | Percent | | Valid Percent | | Cumulative Percent | |
| Valid | MALE | 2000 | | 60.1 | | 60.1 | | 60.1 | |
| FEMALE | 1327 | | 39.9 | | 39.9 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | 3327 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | Frequency | | Percent | | Valid Percent | | Cumulative Percent | |
| Valid | 15-24 YEARS | | 1500 | | 45.1 | | 45.1 | | 45.1 | |
| 26-34 YEARS | | 1027 | | 30.9 | | 30.9 | | 76.0 | |
| 35 ABOVE | | 800 | | 24.0 | | 24.0 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | | 3327 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SINGLE | 1600 | 48.1 | 48.1 | 48.1 |
| MARRIED | 1500 | 45.1 | 45.1 | 93.2 |
| OTHERS | 227 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | HIGH SOCIO | 900 | 27.1 | 27.1 | 27.1 |
| LOW SOCIO | 2427 | 72.9 | 72.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | | Percent | | Valid Percent | | Cumulative Percent | |
| Valid | POSTGRADUATE | 600 | | 18.0 | | 18.0 | | 18.0 | |
| FIRST DEGREE | 800 | | 24.0 | | 24.0 | | 42.1 | |
| NCE/ND | 1200 | | 36.1 | | 36.1 | | 78.1 | |
| O-LEVEL | 727 | | 21.9 | | 21.9 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | 3327 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |
| **PROGRAMME** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | Frequency | | Percent | | Valid Percent | | Cumulative Percent | |
| Valid | COMM SERVICE SCHEME | | 1350 | | 40.6 | | 40.6 | | 40.6 | |
| SKILL ACQUISITION | | 1350 | | 40.6 | | 40.6 | | 81.2 | |
| GRADUATE SCHEME | | 627 | | 18.8 | | 18.8 | | 100.0 | |
| Total | | 3327 | | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |  | |

**APPENDIX C**

**RESEARCH QUESTION ONE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Sum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| Item 1 | 3327 | 9800.00 | 2.9456 | 1.11503 |
| Item 2 | 3327 | 9356.00 | 2.8121 | 1.12421 |
| Item 3 | 3327 | 9282.00 | 2.7899 | 1.11111 |
| Item 4 | 3327 | 9096.00 | 2.7340 | 1.11427 |
| Item 5 | 3327 | 7924.00 | 2.3817 | 1.15347 |
| Item 6 | 3327 | 7635.00 | 2.2949 | 1.12904 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 3327 |  |  |  |

**RESEARCH QUESTION TWO**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Sum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| Item 7 | 3327 | 9525.00 | 2.8629 | 1.11669 |
| Item 8 | 3327 | 9353.00 | 2.8112 | 1.10396 |
| Item 9 | 3327 | 9077.00 | 2.7283 | 1.11654 |
| Item 10 | 3327 | 7470.00 | 2.2453 | 1.10836 |
| Item 11 | 3327 | 9691.00 | 2.9128 | 1.12410 |
| Item 12 | 3327 | 7556.00 | 2.2711 | 1.11830 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 3327 |  |  |  |

**RESEARCH QUESTION THREE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Sum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| Item 13 | 3327 | 7497.00 | 2.2534 | 1.11694 |
| Item 14 | 3327 | 9652.00 | 2.9011 | 1.08791 |
| Item 15 | 3327 | 9268.00 | 2.7857 | 1.10324 |
| Item 16 | 3327 | 9412.00 | 2.8290 | 1.10480 |
| Item 17 | 3327 | 9096.00 | 2.7340 | 1.11966 |
| Item 18 | 3327 | 7392.00 | 2.2218 | 1.11248 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 3327 |  |  |  |

**RESEARCH QUESTION FOUR**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics** | | | | |
|  | N | Sum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| Item 19 | 3327 | 9188.00 | 2.7616 | 1.10294 |
| Item 20 | 3327 | 9879.00 | 2.9693 | 1.10006 |
| Item 21 | 3327 | 9487.00 | 2.8515 | 1.10330 |
| Item 22 | 3327 | 6770.00 | 2.0349 | 1.04757 |
| Item 23 | 3327 | 9054.00 | 2.7214 | 1.12650 |
| Item 24 | 3327 | 6229.00 | 1.8723 | .98160 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 3327 |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FREQUENCY TABLES**  **Item 1** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 530 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| A | 573 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 33.2 |
| D | 772 | 23.2 | 23.2 | 56.4 |
| SD | 1452 | 43.6 | 43.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 2** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 611 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 |
| A | 640 | 19.2 | 19.2 | 37.6 |
| D | 839 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 62.8 |
| SD | 1237 | 37.2 | 37.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 3** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 599 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 18.0 |
| A | 679 | 20.4 | 20.4 | 38.4 |
| D | 871 | 26.2 | 26.2 | 64.6 |
| SD | 1178 | 35.4 | 35.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 4** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 627 | 18.8 | 18.8 | 18.8 |
| A | 744 | 22.4 | 22.4 | 41.2 |
| D | 843 | 25.3 | 25.3 | 66.5 |
| SD | 1113 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 5** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 1034 | 31.1 | 31.1 | 31.1 |
| A | 775 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 54.4 |
| D | 732 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 76.4 |
| SD | 786 | 23.6 | 23.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 6** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SA | 1118 | 33.6 | 33.6 | 33.6 |
| A | 766 | 23.0 | 23.0 | 56.6 |
| D | 787 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 80.3 |
| SD | 656 | 19.7 | 19.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 7** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 569 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 17.1 |
| D | 626 | 18.8 | 18.8 | 35.9 |
| A | 824 | 24.8 | 24.8 | 60.7 |
| SA | 1308 | 39.3 | 39.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 8** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 569 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 17.1 |
| D | 693 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 37.9 |
| A | 862 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 63.8 |
| SA | 1203 | 36.2 | 36.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 9** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 636 | 19.1 | 19.1 | 19.1 |
| D | 740 | 22.2 | 22.2 | 41.4 |
| A | 843 | 25.3 | 25.3 | 66.7 |
| SA | 1108 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 10** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1153 | 34.7 | 34.7 | 34.7 |
| D | 787 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 58.3 |
| A | 805 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 82.5 |
| SA | 582 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 11** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 553 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.6 |
| D | 600 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 34.7 |
| A | 758 | 22.8 | 22.8 | 57.4 |
| SA | 1416 | 42.6 | 42.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 12** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1133 | 34.1 | 34.1 | 34.1 |
| D | 777 | 23.4 | 23.4 | 57.4 |
| A | 799 | 24.0 | 24.0 | 81.4 |
| SA | 618 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 13** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1155 | 34.7 | 34.7 | 34.7 |
| D | 779 | 23.4 | 23.4 | 58.1 |
| A | 788 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 81.8 |
| SA | 605 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 14** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 488 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 14.7 |
| D | 685 | 20.6 | 20.6 | 35.3 |
| A | 822 | 24.7 | 24.7 | 60.0 |
| SA | 1332 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 15** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 567 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 17.0 |
| D | 756 | 22.7 | 22.7 | 39.8 |
| A | 827 | 24.9 | 24.9 | 64.6 |
| SA | 1177 | 35.4 | 35.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| **Item 16** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 559 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 16.8 |
| D | 686 | 20.6 | 20.6 | 37.4 |
| A | 847 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 62.9 |
| SA | 1235 | 37.1 | 37.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 17** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 632 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| D | 749 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 41.5 |
| A | 818 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 66.1 |
| SA | 1128 | 33.9 | 33.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 18** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1197 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 |
| D | 769 | 23.1 | 23.1 | 59.1 |
| A | 787 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 82.7 |
| SA | 574 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 19** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 597 | 17.9 | 17.9 | 17.9 |
| D | 723 | 21.7 | 21.7 | 39.7 |
| A | 883 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 66.2 |
| SA | 1124 | 33.8 | 33.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 20** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 491 | 14.8 | 14.8 | 14.8 |
| D | 592 | 17.8 | 17.8 | 32.6 |
| A | 772 | 23.2 | 23.2 | 55.8 |
| SA | 1472 | 44.2 | 44.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 21** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 550 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 |
| D | 658 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 36.3 |
| A | 855 | 25.7 | 25.7 | 62.0 |
| SA | 1264 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 22** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1258 | 37.8 | 37.8 | 37.8 |
| D | 1206 | 36.2 | 36.2 | 74.1 |
| A | 352 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 84.6 |
| SA | 511 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 23** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 657 | 19.7 | 19.7 | 19.7 |
| D | 732 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 41.7 |
| A | 819 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 66.4 |
| SA | 1119 | 33.6 | 33.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item 24** | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | SD | 1449 | 43.6 | 43.6 | 43.6 |
| D | 1247 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 81.0 |
| A | 238 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 88.2 |
| SA | 393 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 3327 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**APPENDIX D**

**HYPOTHESES**

**Hypothesis One**

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation output

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations** | | | |
|  | | **SURE-P** | **Youth Empowerment** |
| **Sure-p** | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .780 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) |  | .015 |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |
| **Youth Empowerment** | Pearson Correlation | .780 | 1 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .015 |  |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |

**Hypothesis Two**

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation output

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations** | | | |
|  | | **SURE-P** | **Challenges** |
| **Sure-p** | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .-361 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) |  | .019 |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |
| **Challenges** | Pearson Correlation | .-361 | 1 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .019 |  |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |

**Hypothesis Three**

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation output

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations** | | | |
|  | | **SURE-P** | **Poverty Reduction** |
| **SURE-P** | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .813 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) |  | .025 |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |
| **Poverty Reduction** | Pearson Correlation | .813 | 1 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .025 |  |
| N | 3327 | 3327 |

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

SURE-P: - Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme

SSN: - Social Safety Net

NNPC: - Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation

CS/WYE: Community Services, Women and Youth Employment

CSS: - Community Services Scheme

VSTS: - Vocational Skills Training Scheme

GIS: - Graduate Internship Scheme

SMEs: - Small and Medium scale Enterprises

FBOs: - Faith Based Organizations

CSOs: - Civil Society Organizations

CSO: - Community Services Officer

FCT: - Federal Capital Territory

NDE: - National Directorate of Employment

NAPEP: - National Poverty Eradication Programme

FEAP: - Family Economic and Advancement Programme

NEEDS: - National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

ILO: - International Labour Organization

UNDP: - United Nations Development Programme

FOS: - Federal Office of Statistics

HDI: - Human Development Index

NAFPP: - National Accelerated Food Production Programme

NACB: - Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperation Bank

DFRRI: - Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructure

BLP: - Better Life Programme

FSP: - Family Support Programme

PAP: - Poverty Alleviation Programme

YES: - Youth Empowerment Scheme

RIDS: - Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme

SOWESS: - Social Welfare Services Scheme

NRDCS: - National Resources Development and Conservation Scheme

CAP: - Capacity Acquisition Programme

MAN: - Mandatory Attachment Programme

UN: - United Nations

PRSP: - Poverty Reduction Strategy Process

NALDA: - Nigeria Agricultural Land Development Authority

OFN: - Operation Feed the Nation

WAI: - War Against Indiscipline

MTP: - Mass Transit Programme

NBS: - National Bureau of Statistics

NIYEAP: - Nigerian Youth Empowerment Action Plan

IT: - Institutional Theory

LG: - Local Government

FGDs: - Focus Group Discussions

LGA: - Local Government Area

IBM: - International Business Machine

SPSS: - Scientific Packages for Social Sciences

CME: - Coordinating Minister for the Economy

PMU: - Project Management Unit

PIU: - Project Implementation Unit

MOUs: - Memorandum of Understandings

FGN: - Federal Government of Nigeria

MDAs: - Ministries, Department and Agencies

CDAs: - Community Development Associations

PMS: - Premium Motor Spirit

M&E: - Monitoring and Evaluation

FMI: - Federal Ministry of Information

SUSENAS: National Socio-Economic Household Survey.