

URBAN POVERTY AND HOUSEHOLDS' LIVELIHOOD IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS, SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA: A DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the effect of urban poverty on households' livelihoods in Sokoto metropolis using a survey dataset for a sample of four hundred and eight (408) respondents. In the analysis, this study used descriptive statistical techniques such as simple percentage, bar chart, pie chart, mean and standard deviation. From the results, this study reveals that urban poverty has negative effect on households' livelihood in the study area. This is manifested in forms of poor nutrition, rise in starvation and hunger, disruption of income, poor housing conditions, high risk of infectious diseases and rise in the incidence of crime and violence. Others negative manifestations of urban poverty on households' welfare are low living standard, low life expectancy, increase in unemployment, lack of fund to finance children education and rise in the use of drug. Based on the results, this study recommends the following: firstly, government should invest more in real sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing in order to create more employment and reduce poverty. Secondly, government and relevant stakeholders should focus more on human capital development such as education (especially entrepreneurship education) and health sectors. Finally, there is need for the government to collaborates with relevant financial institutions and wealthy individuals to construct more housing estates at subsidize prices with view to improve the housing condition.

Keywords: Urban poverty, Households, Livelihoods, Descriptive survey, Sokoto

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social problem and an issue of serious concern in all countries of the world. Poverty is seen as insufficient access to basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing and Medicare. Due to its effect on the well-being of households, it

has captured the attention of policymakers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), philanthropists, politicians, academics, researchers among others around world (Akinbode, 2013; Ogunniyi, Adepoju & Olopade, 2011). The complex nature of poverty and its multiplier effect on economic, social and psychological aspects of households led to the declaration of 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations. In the same vein, the 17th day of October every year was designated as the “International Day of Eradication of Poverty” worldwide. As noted by World Bank (2000) in the year 2001, about 1.1 billion people of the world population had consumption levels below \$1 a day suggesting that this class of people were absolutely poor and 2.7 billion lived on less than \$2 a day (Akinbode, 2013).

The poverty episode is more obvious in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and South America than it does in the developed countries. Garba (2006) asserted that about 15% of Nigeria’s population were poor in 1960; the number rose to 28% in 1980. Furthermore, the Nigerian Living Standards Survey (NLSS) report released by the National Bureau of Statistics covering the year 2019, shows that 40.1% of the Nigerians are classified as poor by national standards. The report further added that about 82.9 million Nigerians are estimated to be poor (National Bureau of Statistic-NBS, 2020). In Nigeria, Poverty gap is getting wider every day with the top rich 10% of the population controlling about 43% of the nation’s wealth. The record also, shows that 52.1% of the rural dwellers are poor, while 18.04% of the urban dwellers were estimated to be poor. Moreover, 4 out of 10 individuals in Nigeria has real per capita expenditure less than ₦137,430 per year, which implies ₦376.5 per day (NBS, 2020). Abiola and Olaopa (2008) noted that the negative effects of poverty on households’ wellbeing in Nigeria are manifested in hunger, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, poor access to credit facilities, and low life expectancy as well as a general level of human hopelessness. The forgoing effects of poverty are associated with inadequate access to safe and portable drinking water, lack of access to health facilities, low income, poor standard of education, low empowerment in both youth and women and pollution in both rural and urban areas in Nigeria (Efem, Akpan & Umoren, 2010).

Additional factors that lead to the increase in poverty in Nigeria are persistent decline in the purchasing power, high inflation and increase in income inequalities. Even though most of the poor people live in the rural areas, urban poverty is becoming a source of concern. Recent studies show a persistent and worrisome trend in urban welfare indicators, specifically among the urban slum-dwellers (World Bank, 2019). However, the recent report of National Bureau of Statistic release in

2020 shows that the urban poverty rose to 71.57%. Report further stated that Sokoto state is the poorest state in Nigeria with poverty headcount rate of 87.73% (NBS, 2020).

There are few empirical studies (Shamaki, Rostman & Adamu, 2013; Dansabo, 2015; Mustapha, Yusuf & Abdullahi, 2019) conducted that are linked to poverty in Sokoto state. But the study of Shamaki, Rostman and Adamu (2013) focused on poverty and maternal health in Sokoto. Study of Dansabo (2015) focused on the assessment of developmental impact of poverty eradication programmes, while the study of Mustapha, Yusuf and Abdullahi (2019) focused on microfinance and rural poverty reduction. To the best knowledge of this study, there is no study that specifically investigated the effect of urban poverty on households' livelihood in Sokoto metropolis and this study sought to fill in the research gap. Furthermore, the study of this nature is justifiable because knowledge on the effect of urban poverty on households' welfare will guide the government at all levels in making an informed policy decision. In addition, knowledge on how poverty affect the socioeconomic activities and psychological behavior of households' livelihood will also help the government and donor agencies in implementing their developmental programmes.

To achieve the objective, this study is divided into five sections including this introduction, section two deals with theoretical frameworks and literature review, section three comprises data and methodology, section four and five contains results and discussions, and conclusion and recommendations respectively.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty is viewed as the long-term deprivation of essential human needs to which an individual, household, community or nation are subjected, a situation considered inadequate for a decent living. It can further be seen as the root-causes of underdevelopment and lack of capability to function and feed well in the society (Ajibola, Loto & Enilolobo, 2019). World Bank (2000) describes poverty as low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life. However, the forgoing poverty definitions did not distinguish between urban and rural poverty. Consequently, Baker and Schuler (2004) noted that urban poverty is characterized by commoditization (reliance on the cash economy),

overcrowded living conditions (slums), environmental hazard (pollutions), social fragmentation, crime and violence, traffic accidents and natural disasters.

As noted by Ofem, Akpan and Umoren (2010), urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that affect the wellbeing of households' and causes deprivations such as lack of access to employment; adequate housing and services, social protection, lack of access to health, education and personal security. It is often characterized by cumulative deprivations as it is closely related with asset ownership. The more assets people have, the less vulnerable they are to poverty. According to Oyesiku (2000) urban poverty phenomenon is a consequence of lack of income and opportunities to generate income, deficiency in provision of goods, deprivation and lack of rights or lack of opportunity to participate in social and political decision making, insufficient capability, social and economic exclusion mechanisms.

The theoretical underpinning of this study is the anthropometric theory of poverty developed by Alphonse and Bertillon in the year 1890. This is due to the fact that income measures of poverty alone do not capture all dimension of poverty. Anthropometric measures represent more of people's wellbeing because they measure the outcomes of income or consumption and check whether person's income is converted to its wellbeing. It has been argued that anthropometric measures are needed to adjust up or down the conventional economic measures of poverty, because the economic measure is too narrow and does not adequately capture facets of standard of living captured by anthropometric theory of poverty (Wakeyo & Derege, 2017). Therefore, use of anthropometric indices (i.e., birth weight, height of age and nourishment) will capture more dimension of people living standard that enables us to assess poverty level and its effect on household livelihood.

Empirical studies related to the topic were conducted by Esubalew (2006), Tesfaye (2006), Awan and Igbal (2010), Yonas et al, (2012), Etim and Udoh (2013) and Beshir (2017). These studies reveal that there are many factors that causes the incidence of urban poverty in their study areas. For instance, Esubalew (2006) investigates the causes of urban poverty in Amhara region of Ethiopia and found that average monthly income, family size, level of education and incidence of diseases as the significant determinants of urban poverty.

In additional development, Tesfaye (2006) conducted a study on urban poverty in Ethiopia and his results suggested that income growth and income redistribution are the useful instruments in reducing the poverty rate in the urban cities of Ethiopia.

Similarly, Awan and Igbal (2010) estimated the causes of urban poverty in Pakistan using a sample of 330 households and found that employment in public sector, investment in human capital and access to public amenities reduces urban poverty while employment in the informal sector, greater household size and female dominated households increases the urban poverty incidence.

Yonas et al. (2012) added the volume of empirical findings by analyzing the causes of urban poverty in Ethiopia and their results suggested that households with history of poverty continue to perceive themselves as poor even if there is an improvement in their material consumption. Also, Beshir (2017) estimated the sources of urban poverty in Southern nations, Nationalities and Peoples' region in Ethiopia. By applying a survey dataset of 5,015 urban households, found that marital status, family size, total dependence, education level, savings habit and energy sources as significant determinants of urban poverty in the region.

Ebang (1986) examined the structure of urban poverty in Calabar metropolis Nigeria. He found that the people's annual income, educational level, occupational distribution, residential status and psychological factors are the significant determinants of urban poverty. Furthermore, Ayoade and Adeola (2012) examined the effect of poverty on rural household welfare in Oyo state Nigeria. They found that the main causes of poverty are low-income level and lack of access to good health and house size. Also, Mustapha, Yusuf and Abdullahi (2019) investigate the effect of microfinance on rural poverty reduction in Goronyo Local Government Sokoto State. Their study suggested that microfinancing has significant positive effect on poverty reduction.

Apata, et al., (2010) estimated the sources of rural poverty in southern states of Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Ekiti Nigeria. Using a sample size of 500 small scale farmers, find that access to micro-credit, education, participation in agricultural workshops and seminars, livestock assets and access to extension services have significant influence on reducing poverty of the households. Finally, Dansabo (2015) assessed the developmental impact of poverty eradication programmes in Sokoto State using a survey dataset for a sample of 1888 households. His finding shows that poverty eradication programmes have insignificant impact on poverty reduction due to high level of poverty in the study area.

However, the gap identified from the existing literature is that, there is no study that examined the urban poverty-households' livelihood nexus in Sokoto State.

Therefore, this study fill in the research gap by conducting a descriptive survey on the link between urban poverty and households’ livelihood in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

3. METHODOLOGY

The main data source for this study is primary in nature. The dataset was collected using structured questionnaire from sample households in the study area. This is imposed by both the fact that research in identifying the effect of urban poverty on households’ welfare is best done using questionnaire as used in many similar studies conducted on the topic. Such studies include Baker and Schuler (2004), Akinbode (2013), Dansabo (2015) and Mustapha, Yusuf and Abdullahi (2019) among others. Additionally, the justification of using questionnaire is given by absence of the secondary dataset on the variables that will be used by this study. The population of this study is the entire households in Sokoto metropolis. Sokoto metropolis consists of Sokoto North, Sokoto South, and some parts of Kware, Wamakko and Dange Shuni Local Government areas. According to National Population Commission (NPC), the population of the target LGAs is 1,265,400. Based on the population of this study, the sample size will be 427. The respondents to be selected in each local government area were computed using proportional allocation formula and presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Proportion of the Respondents in each Local Government Area

s/n	Local Government Areas	Population	Sample Size
1	Sokoto North	314,500	106
2	Sokoto South	266,800	90
3	Kware	181,000	61
4	Wamakko	242,000	82
5	Dange Shuni	261,100	88
Total		1,265,400	427

Furthermore, the sample size was computed with margin error of 5% (0.05) and confidence level of 95% using sample size calculator published in 2018 by Relief Applications. Additionally, the respondents were identified using simple random sampling technique. In the survey instrument, this study used Likert scale in form of Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly disagree. The decision rule is that, an average of 2.5 and above was considered as agreed, while an average of 2.49 and below was considered as disagreed. According to Yusuf, Gambari, Daramola, Badmus and Isiaka (2018), a mean of 2.5 was used as a criterion to decide the mean scores for four-point items. Hence, the mean criterion of 2.5 was calculated from the sum of 4+3+2+1 divided by 4. Finally, the data was analyzed using descriptive techniques of data analysis such as simple percentages, tables, charts, mean and standard deviation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents and discusses empirical results for the analysis of the effect of urban poverty on households' livelihood in Sokoto metropolis. A total number of four hundred and twenty-seven (427) questionnaires were administered to the respondents in the study area. However, only four hundred and eight (408) questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents while nineteen (19) were missing. This represents 4.45% of the total questionnaires. This also indicates that there was about 95.55% response rate from the respondents and it is very adequate for making general inferences for the study. Consequently, the results are divided into two; the first part contains biodata of the respondents while the second part is effect of urban poverty on households' livelihoods. Beginning with biodata, the results are summarized and reported Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

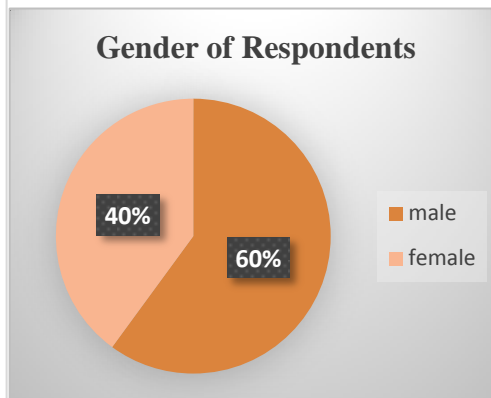
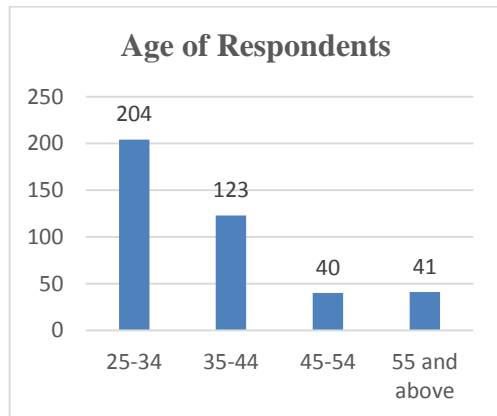


Figure 1: Age of the Respondents.

Figure 2: Gender of Respondents.

From Figure 1 shows that 204 (50%) of the respondents are between 25-34 years of age, 123 (30.1%) of the respondents are between 35-44 years of age, 40 (9.8%) of the respondents are between the age of 45-54 and 41 (10%) of the respondents are between 55 and above years of age. This means that the majority of the respondents are between 25-34 years of age. Furthermore, Figure 4.2 revealed that out of the sample survey of 408 (100%) of the respondents, 245 (60%) percent of the respondents are male and 163 (40%) percent of the respondent are female. This implies that majority of the respondents in this survey are male.

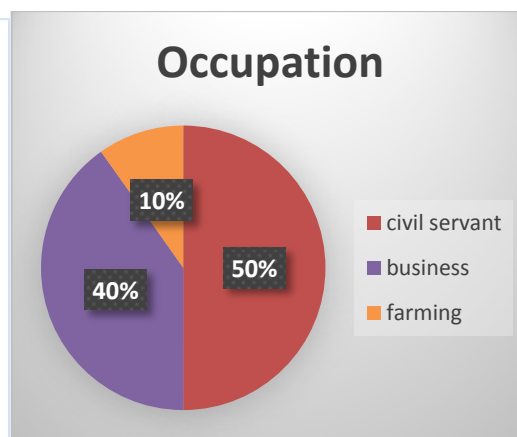
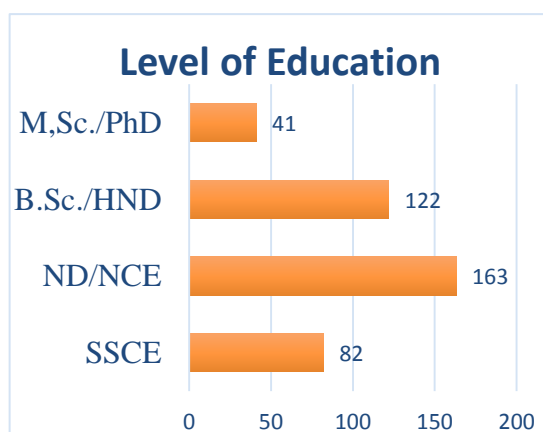


Figure 3: Level of Education of the Respondents.

Figure 4: Occupation of the Respondents.

Figure 3 provide information on the level of education of the respondents. Results shows that 82(20.1%) of the respondents had senior secondary school certificates, 163(40%) of the respondents are either the holders of National Diploma (ND) or

Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE), 122 (29.9%) of the respondents had Degree or HND education while 41 (10.1%) of the respondents had Master’s degree or PhD. Thus, the results show that majority of the respondents are those with ND or NCE. Furthermore, Figure 4 shows that out of the 100% (408) sample survey of the occupation of the respondents, 50% (204) of the respondents are civil servants, 40% (163) of the respondents are into business while 10% (40) of the respondents are into farming activities. Thus, the highest percentage of the respondents are civil servants with 50% out of the sample survey of 100%. However, the results of the effect of urban poverty on households’ livelihoods in Sokoto metropolis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Urban Poverty and Households’ Livelihoods

S/N	Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.	Decision
1.	Poor nutrition	3.3971	0.6644	Agree
2.	High level of starvation and hunger	3.2990	0.6415	Agree
3.	Low-income level	3.2990	0.7829	Agree
4.	Poor housing condition	3.2990	0.6415	Agree
5.	High incidence of infectious diseases	3.6985	0.4594	Agree
6.	High rate of crime and violence	3.3995	0.9191	Agree
7.	Low standard of living	3.5000	0.5006	Agree
8.	Low life expectancy	3.1985	0.3993	Agree
9.	Increase the incidence of unemployment	3.2990	0.9025	Agree
10.	Lack of money to finance children education	3.3995	0.6648	Agree
11.	Drug dependence /abuse	3.5000	0.6723	Agree
Cumulative Mean		3.3898		
Decision Mean		2.5000		

Source: Field survey, 2022.

In Table 2, the results show that urban poverty has negative effect on households' livelihoods in Sokoto metropolis. This is because the cumulative mean 3.99 is greater than the decision mean 2.5. This implies that urban poverty led to: poor nutrition; high level of starvation and hunger; decline the income level; create poor housing condition; high incidence of infectious diseases and high rate of crime and violence. In addition, the results evidence that urban poverty is associated with low or poor standard of living, low life expectancy, increase the rate of unemployment, lack of money to finance the education of children and high rate of drug abuse. The finding is in line with findings of Abiola and Olaopa (2008), Ofem, Akpan and Umereun (2010), Oyesiku (2000) and Iwan and Igbal (2010).

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results, this study concludes that urban poverty has negative effect on households' livelihood in forms of poor nutrition, rise in starvation and hunger, disruption of income, poor housing conditions, high risk of infectious diseases and rise in the incidence of crime and violence. Others are low living standard, low life expectancy, increase in unemployment, lack of fund to finance children education and rise in the use of drug. The study therefore recommended that Government should invest more in real sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. This is because the sectors have the potential to accommodates all types of labour and that will create more income generating activities vis-à-vis poverty reduction. Government and relevant stakeholders should invest more on human capital development such as education (especially entrepreneurship education) and health sectors. This will bring in more and efficient manpower in the real sectors, hence help to improve productive capacity and reduce the incidence of poverty sand improve the status of welfare in the study area. Finally, there is need for the government to collaborates with financial institutions and wealthy individuals to construct more housing estates at subsidize prices with view to improve the housing condition.

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Appendix

PART A: BIODATA

1. Age of the respondent
 - a. 25-34
 - b. 35-44
 - c. 45-54
 - d. 55 and above
2. Gender
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
3. Level of Education
 - a. SSCE
 - b. ND/NCE
 - c. B.Sc./HND
 - d. M.Sc./ PhD
4. occupation
 - a. Civil Servant
 - b. Business
 - c. Farming

PART B: Urban Poverty and Households’ Livelihood

Instructions: For each of the following statements, circle the option of the 4-point scale (SD = Strongly Disagree, D = Disagree, A= Agree and SA = Strongly Agree).

S/N	Statements	SD	D	A	SA
URBAN POVERTY AND HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS: Poverty has led to:					
1.	Poor nutrition				
2.	High level of starvation and hunger				
3.	Low-income level				
4.	Poor housing condition				

5.	High incidence of infectious diseases				
6.	High rate of crime and violence				
7.	Low standard of living				
8.	Low life expectancy				
9.	Increase the incidence of unemployment				
10.	Lack of money to finance children education				
11.	Drug dependence /abuse				